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The Lanark Era

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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The zipline brought smiles at Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm on Sunday, which opened its outdoor sliding hill and activities for the final day of the Pakenham Frost Festival. See more photos on page 12. Gena Gibson photo

White Lake residents want significant road upgrades

By Gena Gibson
Era staff

An in-depth report and survey created by a working group of White Lake property owners has led to concrete requests to Lanark Highlands Township council: Create a comprehensive road-improvement plan for Darling-White Lake area, and a firm commitment to implement the plan in the 2024, 2025 and 2026 budgets.

Specifically, the group asks for the township to resurface Snye Road and part of Peneshula Road to tar-and-chip status, resurface part of Pickerel Bay Road to tar-and-chip, and improve the remaining gravel roads.

Larry Paquette, who co-authored the study with Matt Moffitt, presented the report and its requests to council at last Tuesday's committee-of-the-whole meeting. Paquette said he was bringing with him "the voices of 175 people that responded to our survey," noting that while the report does include negative comments, he was not at the meeting to criticize the roads department or council.

He said the report made it clear the township is not following provincial standards under section 44 of the Municipal Act, and "the Darling-White Lake community needs your help."

In the survey, Paquette and Moffitt found that 65 per cent of people do not feel safe using the roads in the Darling-White Lake area, which includes 11 kilometres of tar and chip and 23 km of gravel.

"We are isolated in the northeast corner of the township, with no direct link to the other populated areas of the township," Paquette pointed out. He explained that a working group began last spring to gather information about Darling-White Lake, looking at the tax roll, the township budget and financial statements to determine the area's impact on the township's finances.

The report notes that local property owners and residents do not have access to all services in Lanark Highlands, so a user-pay approach would be a more equitable means of distributing the cost. They said services not used included conservation authority, livestock, animal

control, cemeteries, culture services, economic development and the arena.

The assessment value in Darling-White Lake, Paquette said, is \$130.4 million, almost double that of Lanark village, with the cost of services used by Darling-White Lake calculated to be \$631,000 using a 9.6-per-cent distribution rate. That rate was determined based on the 374 dwellings in Darling-White Lake and the total number in Lanark Highlands of 3,883.

"There is a wide disparity between the revenues we generate and the services we use," Paquette noted.

He added that the area is the second most densely populated in the township, with 11 dwellings per kilometre as opposed to 6.2 per kilometre in Lanark Highlands as a whole.

Coun. Allison Vereyken disputed Paquette's assertion that White Lake pays double the taxes of Lanark village, \$130.4 million versus \$70 million. She asked if Paquette and Moffitt had confirmed any of the numbers with treasurer Christina Beushaw, and when Beushaw said they had not, Vereyken reiterated the information was incorrect.

She also pointed out that as an amalgamated township, council has to look at the whole township when making decisions.

"We have had limited budgets for years and we have a large number of roadways," she said. "We have poor roads throughout the entire township. I just want to make that clear."

She also questioned the assessed values and actual tax dollars, without having confirmation from the treasurer, and asked if the working group was asking for all 30 km of roadway in Darling-White Lake to be addressed in the next three years.

Paquette said yes, "based on the fact that we're contributing a surplus of \$400,000 each year." He added that he is a retired certified management accountant and the work was reviewed by a certified general accountant, so he believed his numbers were sound.

"What about the other 400 km of

See page 2

New chief for Lanark Highlands

By Era staff

Lanark Highlands Township has a new fire chief, just days after current chief Gene Richardson announced plans to leave for the same role in Rideau Lakes Township.

Stephen Rothwell, who became deputy chief for training and prevention last year, will take on the role on Feb. 16. Richardson's last day is this Friday.

Rothwell is the current public-works manager with Montague Township since 2020, in addition to his part-time role as deputy fire chief in Lanark Highlands. He has been with the Lanark Highlands Fire Service as a volunteer for 13 years, beginning as a junior firefighter and transitioning to volunteer firefighter and then station captain.

"I am very excited to be joining the Township of Lanark Highlands, which is where I was born and raised," Rothwell said in a township press release last Friday. "I'm looking forward to this opportunity to serve the community, and work with an outstanding group of firefighters."

Last Tuesday, Rideau Lakes Township posted a notice announcing Richardson

as its new fire chief, with a start date of Feb. 12. Richardson spent almost five years as fire chief with the Lanark Highlands Fire Service, following volunteer positions with BBD&E station of Drummond North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Rescue for 25 years.

Rideau Lakes had hired Mark McFalls as the interim fire chief on Jan. 2, after interim chief Andy Moore left for the Town of Perth's fire department as deputy chief in December.

In Lanark Highlands, Richardson was one of the longer-serving fire chiefs in recent memory. He began in late April of 2019, after serving as captain since 2009 with DNETV Fire Rescue.

Previous chief Bill Bell had left in October of 2018, just before the municipal election. Deputy Chief Dave Smith took on the duties until the township hired Richardson in April of 2019.

Since 2013, the township has had five fire chiefs – Rod Black from 2013 to 2015, Cameron Morehouse from 2015 to 2016, Morgan Alcock from 2016 to 2018, and Bell in 2018.

Richardson was also a councillor in Tay Valley Township from 2018-2022.

Inside this week's Era

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Couple gives large donation



Page 9

Tay Valley seniors will benefit from grant

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Police seek help in finding trailer stolen from D/NE

The Lanark County OPP is seeking assistance from the public to help identify the person(s) responsible for a theft of a cargo storage trailer from a residence in Drummond-North Elmsley Township sometime overnight on Saturday, Jan. 20.

The unknown suspect(s) stole a 6x12-foot black Haulmark storage trailer worth over \$6,000.

If you have any information on this or any other crime, please call

Lanark County Crime Stoppers anonymously at the toll-free number 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477). All calls to LCCS are confidential and phone calls are not taped.

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For more information on Lanark County Crime Stoppers or to make a tax-deductible donation to the organization, please visit the website at www.lccs.ca or contact the Lanark County OPP.

Crime Stoppers – working together to prevent crime.

Residents want road upgrades

From front page

roadway in our township?” Vereyken asked. Paquette said that in the last 20 years since amalgamation, only one or two road projects had been done in the area, so it is contributing to a surplus to the township.

“Part of the logic as well, there’s a population density that’s not being recognized,” he added. “We’re equivalent size to Lanark village, and we don’t have sidewalks, we don’t have street lamps, we don’t have Christmas lights, we don’t have an arena. What we’ve got is roads and waste disposal, that’s what we receive from the township that amounts to anything.

“We don’t want an arena, we don’t want a library. What we want are good roads, and that’s our priority.”

Deputy Reeve Bill King countered that they do have a library and an arena, even if it is a distance away.

“My son plays in the Pakeham arena just as much as he does in the arena close to his house,” he said. “You’re getting into the weeds in a way.”

Vereyken said she didn’t agree with the methodology, pointing out that she is not asking the province to not have to pay education taxes because she has no children.

Coun. Steve Roberts, who is the representative for the Darling-White Lake area, said council used to do a road tour at the beginning of each administration, but not this term. He said he has highlighted the concerns with Snye Road over the years, and council declined to pay \$80,000 to fix the worst areas.

He asked council members to drive the road, and consider the requests as soon as possible due to the urgency.

King said he had driven “every square inch of the roads in Ward 2,” and had read the report thoroughly. He said he thought it would be interesting to see how the report compared to a roads report the township had commissioned by an independent third party.

“Some members of council actually voted against that, which I don’t understand why they did that, but they did,” he added. “They’ll be absolutely working to provincial standards, and will give us the most up-to-date information available.”

Coun. Ron Closs pointed out that staff brings recommendations for roadwork, not council members.

“The start of Snye (roadwork) will probably be in the budget for this year,”

he said. “To do the whole eight (km) – there’s no way we’re ever going to do it in one shot, we don’t do any road that length in one shot, it’s just not going to happen. We would have to increase our budgets by a massive amount.”

He added that the township has more bridges rated catastrophic, which is large amounts of money.

“With all due respect, we don’t have any bridges and we don’t have a large culvert,” Paquette responded.

Closs said council had to look at it objectively, and that Snye Road will be done.

“We’re only graveling 20 km a year,” he added. “That’s all we’ve budgeted for for years. If there’s some magic way we can figure out to get more money to do that, we’re all on board.”

Roberts said Snye Road had been near the top of the list in previous years, and had gotten bumped.

“That’s the roots of frustration of people – quite patiently waiting for repairs to come, and then somehow having a problem.”

He said he believed Paquette’s numbers, but would welcome the treasurer spending time verifying the tax-roll information.

Survey results

Paquette said the survey results “speak loud and clear and represent a shout for help.” More than 90 per cent disagree that Lanark Highlands has attended to the needs of the area, with more than 90 per cent disagreeing they get good value for tax dollars.

“Many residents believe they are out of sight out of mind, except at tax time,” Paquette suggested. “We need to talk, we need more communication, we need more consultation. We need you to be better. We need you to do better for Darling-White Lake.”

He said he had seen the township do better when responding to two or three complaints about the removal of the sidewalk on Mill Road in Lanark village.

“If you can respond to three complaints in the village, I’m hopeful you can respond to 175 requests in Darling-White Lake.”

“Residents of Darling-White Lake are not just taxpayers,” he said. “We are your shareholders, but most importantly, we are people like you. We have families, we have children, we have grandchildren, and we want the same level of services when it comes to roads.”

Beautification efforts could spread beyond village

By Gena Gibson
Era staff

The hanging baskets and flower barrels will return to Lanark village this summer, with Lanark Highlands Township council looking at the possibility of expanding the reach of its beautification efforts.

Green Acres Greenhouses and Landscaping had the only bid for the supply of plant materials and services for the baskets and barrels in Lanark village, which includes watering, maintenance, and weeding the flower beds outside the municipal office. The cost was about \$11,960 for 2024 and \$12,320 for 2025.

Coun. Marina Summers asked if the services could be spread throughout the township.

“I find it excessive

See page 3



Hanging baskets (shown last summer) will return again this year in the village. Lanark Era file photo

Contractor charged with fraud

By Era staff

Police have charged a Stittsville contractor with fraud following an investigation that began in November.

The Lanark County OPP

says a Beckwith Township resident reported at that time that they had paid a large advance to a contractor for a construction project. A determination that the money had been misappropriated led to

a charge of fraud over \$5,000 against a 30-year-old Stittsville resident on Jan. 22.

The accused has been released, and is scheduled to appear in Perth court on March 4.

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Municipal grants, awards approved

By Gena Gibson
Era staff

The McDonald's Corners Agricultural Society was the big winner in the municipal-grant sweepstakes, with the committee recommending to Lanark Highlands Township council that it provide \$6,400 to purchase outdoor event equipment.

Organizations applied last year for municipal grants, and the committee reviewed the applications to determine which were eligible and worthy of township funding. The Lanark Highlands Public Library requested almost \$2,300 for CO2 meters and items related to health and home safety, while the Tatlock Hall Association requested \$2,000 and received committee approval for play structure upgrades and its sports field and the Lanark and District Civitan Club requested and received approval for \$2,000 for Canada Day fireworks.

The school council at Maple Grove Public School requested \$10,000 for laptops and the White Lake sports centre committee (in the former fire hall) requested \$5,400 for resurfacing the indoor pickleball court, with the committee deeming the projects ineligible or not worthy of funding.

Coun. Jeannie Kelso, who sits on the committee, told council at last Tuesday's committee-of-the-whole meeting that the committee felt the

Maple Grove and White Lake requests were related to capital items, rather than the municipal grant committee's mandate to fund new or ongoing events that would have a positive outcome for the community.

The total funding requested was almost \$28,100, with the total funding approved \$12,700. Kelso pointed out that more than \$3,300 from 2022's grant program had moved forward to 2023, and council approved \$1,280 of the \$16,680 budget for a remainder of \$3,400.

She said the committee suggested that council increase the grant amount to \$25,000 from the original \$10,000, which would leave a surplus of about \$12,000 to carry over into the 2025 grant program. The other option would be for council to leave the amount at \$10,000 and approve on a year-by-year basis, rather than putting money away for future years.

She said during Christy Melvin's brief tenure as facilities/community-affairs manager late in 2023, the committee had asked her to prepare a history of the municipal grants program, and the funding requests and actuals, to show the historical need for an increase.

Coun. Marina Summers pointed out that she found it interesting the committee had denied the White Lake and Maple Grove applications as capital projects, "because I feel that Tatlock Hall's

choice and the McDonald's Corners ag hall equipment are also both capital."

"I think that there's some thought that needs to go into where these applications are coming from, and ensuring that we are being equitable to the entire township," she suggested.

She said she had discussed the Maple Grove application with a school council representative, and understood how funds are stretched thin in individual schools.

"Yes, we need to put pressure on school boards," she agreed. "But I was disappointed to see that no support was given to that one."

Kelso said the White Lake hall is a township-owned building, so capital expenditures would be covered under a different fund. She said the floor issue was considered a liability, so it would be the township's insurance and the township's liability.

Treasurer Christina Beaushaw added that as a township asset, it will be a council decision to upgrade a facility, rather than a grant given to an individual group. She said it will be on the list for budget discussions.

With the school council request, she said the committee did consider partial funding, "but again, we were working under the assumption that we weren't going to have carry-over funds, and those two asks alone put us close to the \$25,000 mark."

Summers added that because the cheques for the 2023 funding were issued to community groups less than a month before the deadline for the 2024 applications, some groups did not apply because they felt it would be in bad taste when they had just received a cheque.

Councillors Steve Roberts and Ron Closs felt it was not the time to look at increasing the funding, but rather during budget deliberations.

"We have to be very cautious, we have no idea what's coming forward in our budget," Closs pointed out.

Two achievement awards approved

The municipal grants committee also received nominations for the 2023 Achievement Awards. Marthe and Glen Bucci nominated the Lanark Era for business with the best community impact, and Brian Cairns nominated Brenda Guiney for the senior volunteer award.

Both were approved by the committee, with no applications for the volunteer achievement award or community spirit award. Reeve Peter McLaren said Lanark County had received an application for the volunteer award, but because the recipient had to work in at least two communities, county officials suggested applying for the Lanark Highlands award.

Kelso said the committee had not received an application.

Fatal collision involving four vehicles closes Hwy. 7 for hours

By Era staff

A 54-year-old Tweed man died in a crash on Hwy. 7 near Westshore Road, between Perth and Innisville, on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

First responders from the Lanark County OPP, Lanark County Paramedics and Drummond/North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Rescue received the call about 10:15 a.m. The collision involved a transport truck, a pick-up truck and two passenger vehicles.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene, with another person transported to hospital with life-threatening injuries. The highway was closed for several hours, with the Lanark County OPP continuing to investigate after the road reopened with assistance from OPP traffic collision investigators and a collision reconstructionist.

Police ask anyone who witnessed the collision or who may have dashcam video to contact the investigators at the Lanark County detachment at 1-888-310-1122.

Lanark Highlands council briefs

Lanark Highlands Township council discussed the following issues at its Jan. 23 committee-of-the-whole and council meetings.

Action tracking list will be on agenda

Council will discuss an action tracking list at its next meeting on Feb. 13, with one item removed that would need to be discussed in closed session.

Coun. Marina Summers had requested that an e-mail with a list of items sent to councillors be added to the agenda. Reeve Peter McLaren explained that it would have to be in camera due to personal information, which Summers said she disagreed with.

Coun. Allison Vereyken then said she would like to add the list, which involves items that have been directed to staff but have not yet been completed or brought back to council, to the next meeting agenda with the personal item removed. Summers seconded the motion, which passed with the majority of council.

"I have two thoughts about the list, one is I like the fact that it will let everybody know how seriously understaffed we are, and how we're demanding too much of our staff, and my second thought is, maybe we should have a little informal policy that every time we add something to the list, we should take something off, because we're never going to get from here to there if we keep putting things on the list that we just don't have the staff to do," said Deputy Reeve Bill King.

"I look forward to a great discussion in two weeks," Summers answered.

Levy increases for conservation authority

The draft budget from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority includes increases that will raise Lanark Highlands' levy from \$35,707 to almost \$38,320.

The City of Ottawa pays the largest share by far for MVCA, with Lanark Highlands' levy a very small portion of the overall budget.

Carnival looking for \$1,000

The Frosty Fling winter carnival committee will officially ask Lanark Highlands for a \$1,000 contribution to help with costs.

Coun. Marina Summers, who sits on the committee, said the township has approved a \$5,000 buffer in case the carnival is not successful. The committee had applied for municipal grants in the past, but Summers said it was told that was not an appropriate avenue, so the committee will write a letter requesting funds.

Beautification efforts could spread beyond Lanark village in 2025

From page 2

how many there are in a very short street," she admitted. "(I wonder) if it's possible for them to be in all the hubs in our township."

Acting clerk Amanda Noël said it was an initiative to consider, but believed the business had to place its order for flowers last November for the upcoming season. Summers asked if it would be possible to change the commitment to one year, and look at a change for 2025.

Coun. Steve Roberts agreed, adding that while "flowers are great and

everything, and I have no real complaint with the beautification efforts, once flowers are done, there are three more seasons that leave the main street sort of barren."

He said driving through other towns in Lanark County, banners offer heritage and aspects of that specific community.

"It really does make the streets look good," he suggested. "Maybe this is something that we could defer and have some kind of consultation with council and look at some things that we could do that would give us more of a year-round benefit."

He said a reduction in baskets or barrels could allow for other beautification efforts.

"Once the flowers are there, they require considerable amounts of care, and at the end of the flowering season, it's vacant," he said.

Reeve Peter McLaren said facilities/community-affairs co-ordinator Chelsea Rath, who is on maternity leave, had looked at lights such as those in Perth in the past.

"They're exceedingly expensive, those things," he cautioned.

Deputy Reeve Bill King said it sounded like a good initiative to involve

citizens and community groups, and find a way to partner with people in the village and other hamlets in Lanark Highlands.

Summers asked to edit the original motion to look at changing the contract to one year, and added that beautification is under the recreation advisory committee's responsibilities. Noël said the motion could remain the same, approving both years, and staff will ask the contractor before final approval in two weeks whether the quote for 2024 services would remain the same if 2025 was not included due to a possible change or expansion.

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LETTERS

White Lake residents deserve better

Dear editor:

At last week's council meeting I, on behalf of the Darling White Lake community, made an appeal to the council for essential road improvements. Last February, a DWL working group formed to address escalating concerns about deteriorating road conditions, crucial for the community's safety.

DWL houses nearly 374 dwellings (for comparison's sake Lanark village has 382 dwellings according to 2021 census). Additionally, DWL features four campsites with 438 seasonal trailer parks. The population of DWL can reach 2,500 in spring, rising to nearly 5,000 during peak summer periods, making a reliable road network paramount.

Based on our calculations, DWL contributes 14.5 per cent of the township's tax base with approximately \$1.1 million in 2023, however, given its isolation from many services available in Lanark village (a two-hour round-trip away), the group estimates DWL incurred a \$631,000 service cost to the township.

This discord highlights the level of contribution DWL makes to the township. While it is generally understood the nature of taxation doesn't mean a one-to-one relationship between taxes and service, it is felt this level of contribution further supports an investment in DWL roads.

Lanark Highlands manages around 34 km of DWL roads, a mix of tar and chip (11 km) and gravel (23 km). DWL has a high dwelling density, with 11 households per km compared to the township's overall 6.2 per km.

The group surveyed roads and identified concerns, noting some gravel roads are good, while others face challenges due to insufficient maintenance gravel. Hard-surface roads like Cedar Cove and Peneshula are in good condition, but Snye Road (tar and chip) has declined significantly over the last 20 years.

The group undertook an online community survey. The highlights:

- 65 per cent feel unsafe on DWL roads
- Over 90 per cent believe they don't get value for tax dollars
- Dissatisfaction with road conditions and township responsiveness

The group urges a comprehensive road improvement plan under Section 44 of the Municipal Act. The request includes renewing Snye, Peneshula and Pickerel Bay roads with tar and chip, and improving remaining gravel roads.

It also requests a firm commitment by township and council to budget for these basic essential improvements in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

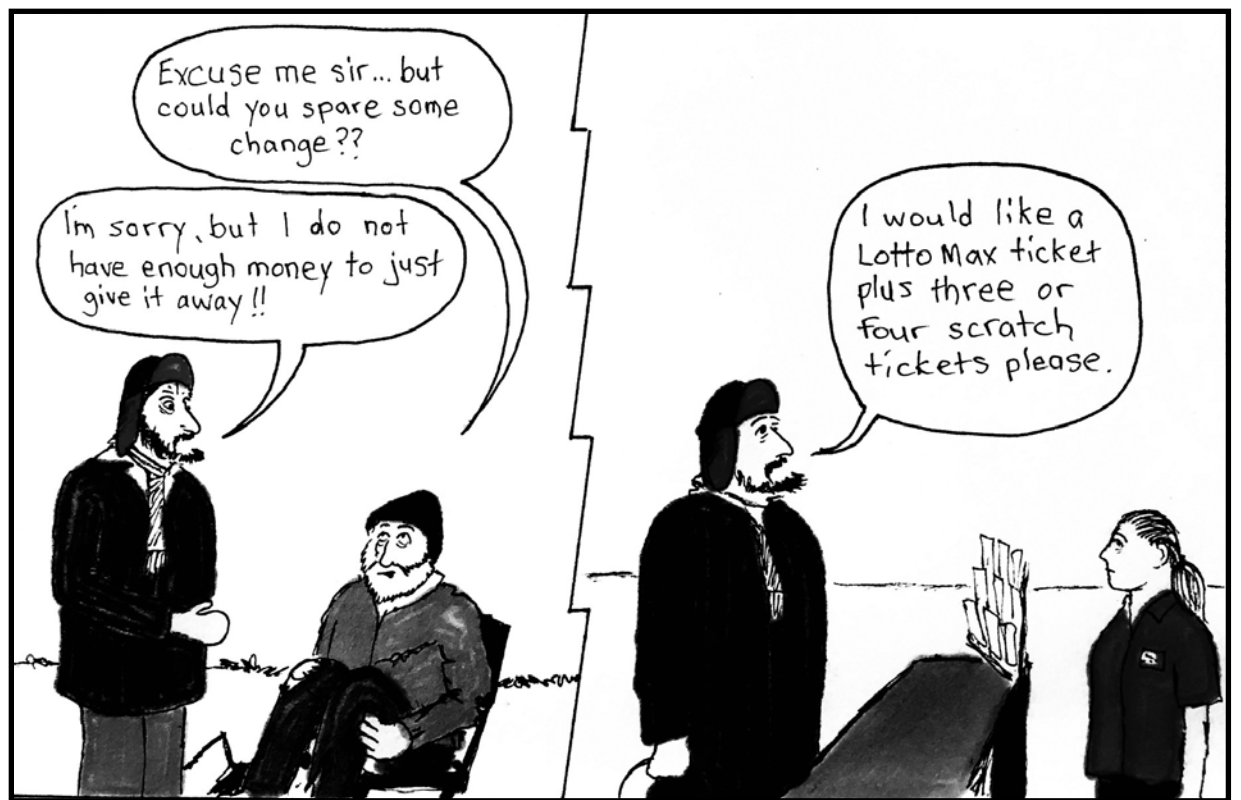
While some may characterize the work as divisive, it is not the intent. Like it or not, the isolation and neglect felt by residents in DWL is real. The phrase "out of sight, out of mind" is often coined.

Certainly, issues regarding roads are pervasive throughout the township and that is recognized. However, as the township budgets and prioritizes road infrastructure going forward it was important to remind the township and council of the needs, concerns and contributions of the DWL community and request a commitment for improvement to the area's roads.

The working group believes moving forward it would be beneficial for the township to consider a township-wide community working group. This group could prioritize road-maintenance initiatives factoring in community input and overall need. Such an inclusive approach could foster better communication between residents and the township, ensuring a more comprehensive and fair distribution of resources for road improvements.

Larry Paquette, DWL roads working group

EVERYDAY LIFE



Steve Myers cartoon

Delegations should be treated better

Dear editor:

Question: What's the point of having a local delegation speak to council?

Answer: So that citizens can bring concerns to Council members' attention.

Last Tuesday night, a delegation from White Lake presented council with a report on:

The condition of roads in the White Lake area, and for how long poor road conditions have existed there;

The risks presented by those conditions

The growing population that is affected by the conditions;

The results of a survey in White Lake, which confirmed roads as a major local issue

The fact that the White Lake area provides much more in municipal taxes than it gets back in terms of services provided.

The response by most members of council was to

go on the defensive: Had the presenters confirmed their data with the treasurer? Did they not realize that municipal tax funds from across the township are pooled – and local disbursements are not returned to a specific area dollar for dollar? Were they aware that an engineer's road study was delivered to council on Dec. 11, 2023 (which, it was implied, gave better data)?

Pretty defensive. Pretty representative of this council's reluctance to hear from the community – even though it's common sense that seven people – ANY seven people – can't possibly be aware of all the issues that need attention in the township. They should appreciate input from members of the community – not automatically see it as disruptive and unnecessary.

As someone who has led community consultations professionally, here's the

approach I think should have been taken:

"Thank you for the work you have put into your research and presentation. We would like to have more detail about your data, but we understand that the basic premise of your presentation – that the roads in your area are in bad shape, and that repairs on those roads have been promised for years but have not been forthcoming – is a serious matter that needs attention. Would your committee be willing to sit down with council within three months to see what solutions we can come up with?"

Now, if we had a municipal asset management plan in place (which the province has required since 2018) this would presumably not even be an issue: there would be a long-term agreed system in place for keeping municipal assets in good

shape.

Actually, the township hired consultants to prepare a draft asset management plan for Lanark Highlands. They presented their proposal to council just before COVID shut down open council meetings, so I was at that presentation.

Basically, the report said that the purpose of creating an asset management plan is to allow a municipality to balance the desired ideal against financial reality, and to compare the urgency of one set of needs against another. There is no one "right" answer.

One council member asked, "How are decisions like that to be made?" And without missing a beat, the consultant said, "You have to consult with the community."

No such consultations have ever been held in Lanark Highlands.

Susan Berlin

We want your letters! E-mail us at lanarkera@primus.ca or drop off your letter at the Era office at 66 George St. You can also mail to The Lanark Era, P.O. Box 40, Lanark, ON, K0G 1K0. Letters must be 500 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and accuracy.

VIGNETTES FROM OTHER ERAS

Comings and goings related to Era documented in 1924

125 Years Ago ~ 1899

Mr. R.R. Drysdale has purchased a monster hog from a Clayton farmer that when dressed weighed 533 pounds.

Mr. R. Ferrie has moved from the stone house on South Street to the large frame dwelling adjoining Mr. James Drysdale's residence, owned by Mr. Arch. Affleck.

Births:

Ennis – At Fallbrook, on Jan. 30th, to the wife of Mr. Robert Ennis, a son.

Doyle – At Ferguson's Falls on Jan. 26th, to the wife of Mr. William Doyle, a son.

100 Years Ago ~ 1924

Just about two weeks ago Lanark tied Perth's second best team in a game of hockey. The score stood 3-3. Owing to snow falling made ice heavy and hard for the players to hold the puck in their stick. But even at that was it fast? Well I should say so. Yes, and every person that was there got their money's worth. Put a band around your hat, mark it on Wednesday night, Feb. 6th, and watch these two teams clash again, both anxious to break the tie and score a winning goal. The Perth boys are coming out strong and holding the bit in their teeth ready to go. But watch the Lanark six. Look for the stuffed man in goal this time. He is determined they shall not pass and with mighty Wilson and Young on the defence there will be little chance. The forward boys are in good trim and ready to go the limit. Gregg says he is getting old, but we don't believe him, not at the pace he travels. Forbes like a little game bird is there from the first blow of the whistle and Merrill, whew! Did he play hockey in the last game. Say, he just played rag with them and on heavy ice. What will this boy do on fast ice? Dobbin to the sleigh, bring along father, mother, sister and brother to a real fast and exciting game of hockey on Wednesday night, February 6th. Game called for at eight o'clock sharp. And after the game don't forget we are going to have a real time in the Town Hall with good music – a Dance.

Mr. James N. Dobbie, proprietor of the Clyde Hotel, passed away yesterday noon after a long period of illness. The

funeral will take place Thursday at two o'clock from his late residence to the Lanark Village cemetery.

Miss Bessie Currie left Monday evening for Canton Ohio, where she has a position awaiting her arrival. Miss Currie has been a faithful employee of the Era staff for two years and we wish her every success in the land across the line.

Mr. George Charbonneau, who has been employed as a clerk with General Motors, Oshawa, has returned to Lanark to enter as an apprentice to the printing trade in the Era office.

Bennett & Maguire of Carleton are in the Village wiring the Baptist manse, and intend start working in Zion Congregational Church tomorrow.

Mr. John Pepper visited on Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pepper in the Village. Mr. Pepper has given up his work in Toronto and is on his way to Los Angeles, California, where he will go into the printing business on a much larger scale. He still holds an interest in some of his enterprises in Toronto. Being a product of the Era office and a Lanark boy we wish him success in Los Angeles.

75 Years Ago ~ 1949

Reeve Lorne Gemmill, of the Township of Dalhousie and North Sherbrooke, was unanimously elected warden of the Lanark County Council for 1949 at the January session which opened in Perth on Tuesday afternoon, January 18th. His nomination was moved by Reeve W. Asa Roe, of Carleton Place, and seconded by Reeve Lorne Stewart of Lanark Township, both escorting him to the chair to the applause of the members. Warden-elect Gemmill stated it is 37 years since the township of Dalhousie and North Sherbrooke was represented in the warden's chair.

W.E. Steele, of Kemptville, District Forester of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, recommended that if Lanark council desires to protect the diminishing supply of deer and give them a chance to propagate, a motion might be passed requesting that Lanark County be excluded from the area designated by order-in-council in the

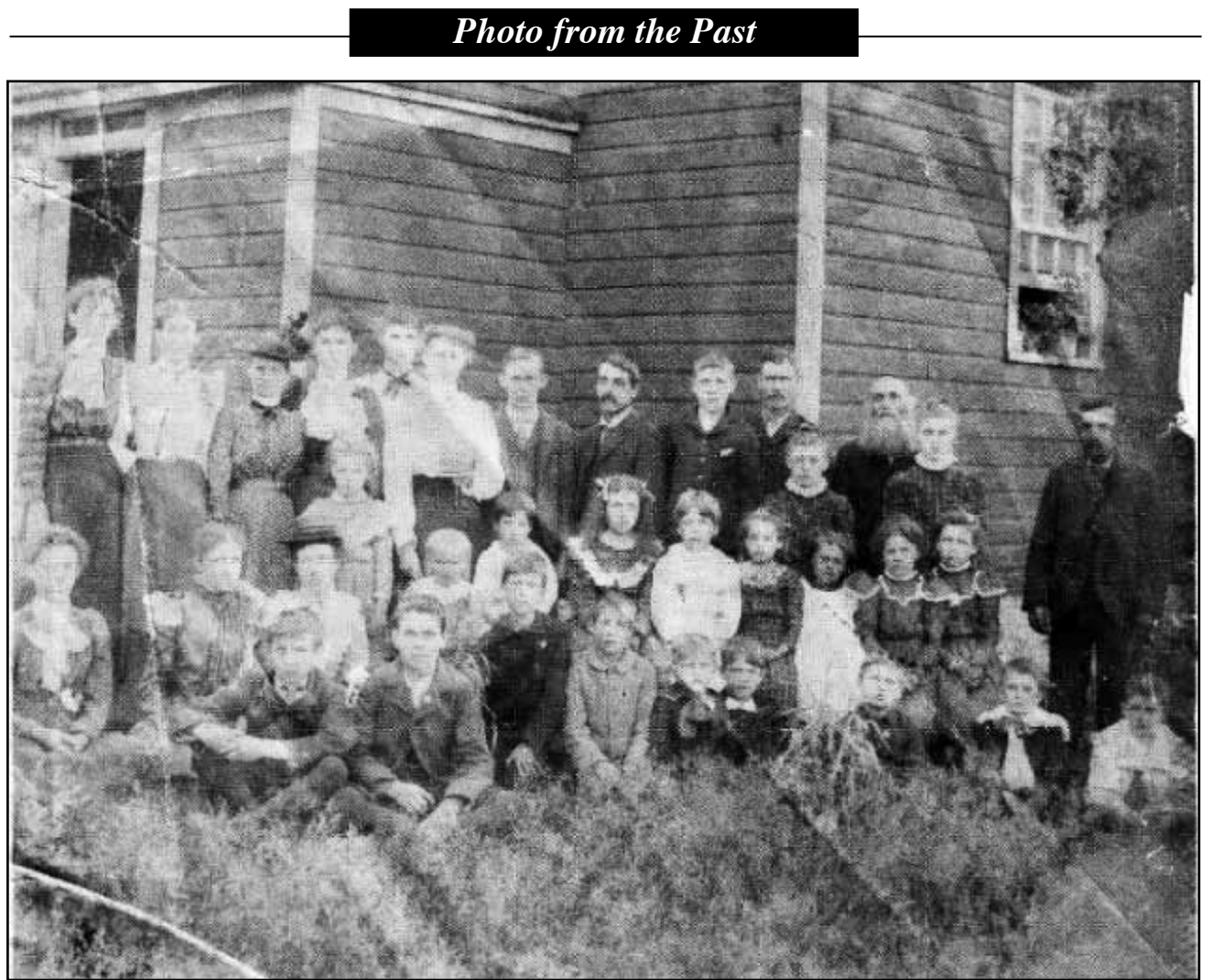


Photo from the Past

This photo from the 1890s was taken of students at a schoolhouse on Bathurst Line, just west of Con. 9A. Dan Hunton also has a photo from 1918 at the schoolhouse, and is looking for photos, dates or more information on this school, as he is working on a history of the Bathurst Line area. He says it seems the old schoolhouse has been forgotten in Dalhousie township history, but the foundation is still visible and on his family property. He can be reached at dan_hunton@hotmail.com.

Game and Fisheries Act as open for deer hunting. Game and fisheries officers agree that Lanark County is being overhunted and the Department would be glad to have the co-operation of the county council in closing the county for deer hunting for one or two years. Council was requested to endorse a resolution passed by Frontenac County council that each county council in Ontario offer a bonus of \$2 for each fox destroyed providing the Provincial Government pay \$3 for each fox destroyed and that an open season be secured for the year.

Another store for the service of Lanark and district came into being this week when the firm of Lanark Electric, under the ownership of Messrs. Bill Sawdon and Russ Ellis of Perth, opened its doors to the public. Situated in the old postoffice building in the centre of the village, the new firm has an admirable location from which to serve the people residing in this area. The new store will cater entirely to those persons wishing to purchase electric appliances or to have them repaired. Among the articles offered for sale are radios, radio phonographs, re-

frigerators, home freezers, phonograph records, electrical farm equipment and lighting features.

50 Years Ago ~ 1974

The January thaw washed out the Perth winter carnival snowmobile rally scheduled for Sunday. The 40 mile route along the Tay River was tested Saturday and rally officials found snow conditions were not suitable for the event. The Tay Valley Snowmobile Club Saturday provided free rides for children in Stewart Park; this event was well patronized.

Attention: Lanark Village council enjoins snowmobilers who drive their vehicles within the village to do so with care and caution. Reckless and discourteous operation of snowmobiles could result in a by-law prohibiting their use on village streets. -Lanark Village Council

Birth:

Ferguson – Barrie and Cynthia (Craig) are proud to announce the birth of Stacey Lynn, 6 lbs. at Galt, January 25th. A sister for Chuck.

25 Years Ago ~ 1999

Lanark County council

has approved a plan to buy 240 acres of farmland near Balderson for possible use in the future as a county-wide landfill operation. Only Lanark Highlands Reeve Larry McDermott voted against the decision, citing environmental concerns and the fact that no decision has been made about what kind of garbage disposal system is best for the county. A county committee is still studying various options. No commitment has been made to use the Balderson site for landfill. However purchasing the land will offer nearby landowners within 500 metres of the site the option of selling their properties to the county, or of seeking financial compensation.

Five men have been fined a total of \$3,000 for illegal hunting last November in the McDonald's Corners area. The men were travelling in a small pickup truck at night when a doe was fired on by a high-powered rifle by one of the occupants. After missing the animal, the men moved to a nearby location where MNR conservation officers had established a deer decoy to catch illegal hunters. Several shots were fired from inside the vehicle at the "deer" before the men

were apprehended.

As it stands now, it looks like Lanark Highlands taxpayers will have two fewer council members to vote for in the next election. But nothing's for sure. In the space of two hours Tuesday council flip-flopped from the majority favouring the deputy reeve being elected at large, to the majority feeling that post should be filled by council itself. Councillors were meeting in committee and searching for consensus rather than putting each issue to a vote. Almost all councillors believe council should be reduced from a total of nine to seven, and a majority believe the reeve should continue to be elected at large. All currently favour keeping the ward system but most want the boundaries changed, and most want to get a series of public meetings on the calendar as soon as possible to let taxpayers have a say about the proposed changes.

Members of St. Andrew's United Church in Lanark are attempting to raise \$30,000 by September to obtain a low-cost loan to replace worn-out roof shingles on the church and adjoining hall. The total cost is \$74,600.

Almonte hospital receives largest gift ever of \$1.2 million

The Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation received its largest gift ever, \$1.2 million, in December, from long-time summer residents Gene and Millie Simpson.

"We are so grateful to the Simpsons who, after 24 years of receiving great care from our chief of staff, Dr. Graeme McKillop, a couple of stays at the Hospital and a few visits to our emergency department, decided to show their appreciation and gratitude with this extraordinary act of philanthropy," said hospital president and chief executive officer Mary Wilson Trider.

Although the Simpsons spent most of their lives in California where they met and married, Millie grew up in Carp, and has family throughout the surrounding region. When the hospital was being renovated in 2004, the Simpsons made a donation so that one of the patient rooms could



Gene and Millie Simpson have turned their appreciation for the Almonte hospital into a \$1.2-million donation.

Photo courtesy of the Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation

be named in memory of Millie's parents, Wallace and Velma Cox.

Her mother lived at

Fairview Manor for a few years. Each spring since 2000, Gene and Millie travelled from their home

in Santa Barbara, Calif., to spend summers in Almonte.

"We are quite pleased

to be in the position to make this gift," said Gene and Millie. "It is quite evident to us after discussions with Mrs. Trider, Dr. McKillop and other staff members, of the need and the benefit to those who live in Almonte and the surrounding area that this donation will bring.

"We have been quite fortunate to have elected to live in Almonte where our medical care has been exceptional during our stays in this friendly town."

Foundation board chair Rob Scott said, "This gift is truly transformation(al). The hospital and manor have many pressing equipment needs, and we are very fortunate that people like the Simpsons, and many others in the community, place so much value on local health care that they are willing to support it with donations.

"As a foundation board, we are committed to working with the

hospital board and senior staff to ensure that this unprecedented donation makes a significant and lasting impact on patient and resident care and that it leaves an enduring legacy to Gene and Millie for their incredible generosity."

The AGH FVM Foundation works with the community to raise funds provided to the hospital and manor to purchase replacement and new clinical equipment. Although the provincial government funds the operation of the hospital and manor, funds are not provided for replacement or new clinical equipment.

As well as addressing annual equipment needs, the foundation is currently in the final phase of a \$3.2-million campaign to fund the hospital's first CT scanner, expected to be operational by this summer.

Courtesy of the Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation.

Opportunities coming to learn about basic income

Many people in Lanark County and beyond are struggling to feed themselves, cover their housing costs, and more generally endure during these challenging times. Thus, there is no better time for working-age adults to access a basic income that would help stabilize their lives.

Basic income is money distributed to eligible people, regularly, reliably, and without work requirements, and which, absent other income, should meet basic human needs. With the support of basic income, people are better able to meet their basic needs, participate in society, and live with dignity.

Basic Income is not new! Canada has several programs based on this concept, including the Canada Child Benefit for families with children under 18 and the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Old Age Security for seniors. Basic Income could provide the same kind of support to those in between - adults ages 18-64.

Lanark Basic Income Network is a group of citizens advocating for basic income as an essential pillar for fostering individual, family, and community well-being, stimulating local economies, and advancing a more equitable society. Consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we support that everyone has the right to a minimum income level to meet basic needs.

No one should live without access to secure, affordable housing, sufficient and nutritious food, a range of health-care services including mental health, quality child care, and other vital social supports.

In a country as rich as Canada, the human cost of poverty is devastating including, in financial terms, at least \$80 billion per year. Beyond the risk of poverty, there is the ongoing risk of vulnerability to hardship.

Imagine...what would you do if you

were in a violent domestic situation and needed to start over? You had a stroke and could no longer work? Your spouse experienced a traumatic brain injury and required round-the-clock care? Your child was diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and needed immediate treatment? You lost your job due to downsizing or automation?

The 2017-2018 Ontario Basic Income Pilot Project was prematurely cut short. Nonetheless, from the abbreviated pilot and other studies in Canada and around the world, we have learned that basic income fosters improvements to mental and physical health, that people secure better jobs or retrain/return to school, and that people generally have more satisfying, less stressful lives.

LBIN offers opportunities throughout Lanark County to learn more about basic income and to engage in advocacy in support of basic income. Coming up are three free "Basic Income 101" events to learn about what basic income is, how it works, and how it can benefit you and your community.

The first took place at the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit office in Smiths Falls last night (Monday). The second is Saturday, Feb. 10 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Almonte Public Library, 155 High St. in Almonte.

The third is Saturday, Feb. 24 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Perth and District Union Public Library at 30 Herriott St. in Perth.

We hope you can attend one of these events! RSVP is not required but is helpful as seating may be limited. Please e-mail lbineventsrsvp@gmail.com

For more information, please contact LBIN at lanarkbasicincome@gmail.com.

Submitted by Lanark Basic Income Network.

Health-care supports needed: ROMA

Rural communities are disproportionately impacted by Ontario's health-care crisis, according to a new report published by the Rural Ontario Municipal Association.

The paper, titled Fill the Gaps Closer to Home, was presented at the 2024 ROMA conference held in Toronto Jan. 21-23. It calls for different approaches and solutions to help bring improved primary health and mental health care services to people in rural communities, and provides 22 recommendations.

"While the health-care crisis impacts both urban and rural communities, rural Ontario is different," said ROMA chair Robin Jones. "Our findings reflect the desperation shared by many residents and local leaders.

"This is a priority for rural municipalities because it impacts our residents' quality of life, and we are the ones who must manage the costly social and economic consequences of the health care crisis."

According to the data, rural Ontario municipalities contribute more than \$480 million to health and social service programs, despite not having equitable access.

Rural communities face a number of challenges, including lack of primary-care providers and mental-

health resources, frequent emergency-department closures, and acute shortages in health-care workers and recruitment. Additionally, travel time for rural Ontarians to access these services is significant.

Among the 22 recommendations in the report, specific asks to the province include:

- Fixing primary care by creating new and integrated models to deploy health-care providers more effectively in rural areas, and to help shift demand from emergency rooms.

- Uploading a significant portion of health-care costs from rural communities back to the provincial government.

- Building on current efforts to expand scope of practice for community health-care providers like nurses, nurse practitioners and paramedics.

- Requiring Ontario Health Teams to include municipalities at the table. ROMA's data indicates that too few rural communities have been engaged.

The report indicates that these changes can start today. In some rural communities, collaborative efforts that align with ROMA's work have already begun.

"Rural communities are being proactive and working together on local and regional initiatives,

but we still need provincial support," said Prince Edward County Mayor Steve Ferguson. "In the Hastings-Quinte region, municipal, health-care and post-secondary partners have founded Health PULSE - Partners United in Local Solutions for Everyone - in an effort to take a coordinated, unified approach to addressing the healthcare challenges in our region."

Quick facts:

- Rural Ontarians are losing primary care providers at a rate of 12 per cent per year - four times faster than people in urban centres.

- With current patient loads, it takes three new primary-care physicians to replace one retiring family doctor.

- An estimated 525,000 rural residents are lacking a primary-care provider.

- In both 2022 and 2023, there were more than 600 temporary emergency-department closures in rural Ontario.

- 60 per cent of municipal representatives surveyed said that their community lacked mental-health and addictions support.

- 65 per cent said there was no access to walk-in clinics locally.

Submitted by the Rural Ontario Municipal Association.

Happy Place & Friends Photo of the Week



PRETTY PILEATED - Winter is all about woodpeckers here at our Happy Place. We have featured fairly recently on our social-media pages the small downy woodpecker who is six inches long and the larger hairy woodpecker at nine inches. Taking it up to what I'd call a big and beautiful size is our largest woodpecker, the pileated. These three species are residents here all year round. This is Astral, our female pileated woodpecker. She is almost a foot and a half long at about 17 inches or 43 centimetres. Her territory is shared with her lifelong mate Pleiades. This range includes our entire property of 100 acres plus probably a fair bit more, as they often utilize up to 200 acres to find large enough trees to build a new nest cavity every year and to forage for insects, especially carpenter ants, for themselves and their young. In the winter, Astral loves to come in for a suet snack however, so far, we have never spotted Pleiades at our feeders. You can see a video of her on our page @happyplaceandfriends on Facebook and @happyplacegang on Instagram, plus go see previous posts about our other woodpeckers. Astral has the very flashy pileated woodpecker red cap, however she does not have a bright-red moustache like her mate. This red band referred to as a moustache extends back along the cheek from the male's beak on either side of their face. Her 'stache is black. She also has a dark forehead while Pleiades has a red forehead that connects to his red cap. Astral loves to call as she is coming in for suet. It's kind of like a hello and a request to quickly make sure the suet cage is full. She always finds a good amount of suet to eat in a choice of three feeders in our backyard. This one is her favourite suet cage because when she's finished she just hops up the post and flies off. See you again tomorrow Astral! #bigbackyardbird -Mom

Photo courtesy of facebook.com/happyplaceandfriends

Skies always hold wonders, even without spectacles

Compared to most months, this one has nothing particularly exciting, spectacular or easily available to jangle your nerves or give you that hit of adrenaline, but then again, there's a whole universe on display every clear night just begging to be rummaged in and rambled about with trusty binoculars or modest telescope. Who knows what you might stumble on!

There are sights to see this month that will give you a good feeling of wonder and reflection. Saturn is available for viewing early in the month on the western horizon soon after sunset.

On the 10th, a very new moon is a bit south of Saturn. An added bonus that evening would be to find Neptune 15 degrees above and a bit left of Saturn. Binoculars, at least, are necessary, but a modest telescope would be better.

Jupiter is a bright gem high in the south just after sunset through February and the dance of the four Galilean moons are easy to follow through your binoculars every night. It sets about midnight early in the month but earlier as the month progresses.

The Great Red Spot storm revolves with Jupiter's turbulent atmosphere every 10 hours and

What's Up in the Night Sky?

By Fred Barrett

you might be out at a time to catch a glimpse of it.

On Feb. 22, there's a special sight to see about an hour before sunrise. Find a nice low southeast horizon and the reward will be a view of Mars a little less than a degree south of Venus.

Highlights this month:
Feb. 2: Last quarter moon.

Feb. 8: The moon passes four degrees south of Mars at 2 a.m.

Feb. 9: New moon.

Feb. 10: The moon is at perigee - 356,000 km. The moon passes 1.8 degrees south of Saturn at 8 p.m.

Feb. 12: The moon passes 0.7 degrees south of Neptune at 2 a.m.

Feb. 15: The moon passes three degrees north of Jupiter at 3 a.m. The moon passes three degrees north of Uranus at 9 p.m.

Feb. 16: First quarter moon.

Feb. 22: Venus is 0.8 degrees north of Mars an hour before sunrise in the southeast.

Feb. 24: Full moon. This moon is called the Full Snow Moon since

February is the snowiest month of the year. With the weather being so squirrely in recent times, perhaps it should be renamed the Full Freezing Rain Moon! That gets my vote.

Feb. 25: The moon is at apogee - 403,952 km.

Feb. 28: Saturn is in conjunction with the sun.

Keep looking up! There are an infinite number of sights to see. And watch for those late-night sporadic meteors!

Don't forget to check out events at the North Frontenac Dark Sky site, or, as it's known now, the North Frontenac Astronomy Park. Also check the Lennox and Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area for observing opportunities this summer.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada website <https://rasc.ca> has a listing of astronomy events for Ontario and the Kingston branch of the RASC website lists events happening, especially in our area.

Feel free to contact me with questions or observations at fred.barrett2@sympatico.ca

CLERGY CORNER

"The Chief End of Man"

Rev. Eric Green
Lanark Baptist Church

What's the point of life anyways? If we surveyed the community regarding this question, you would hear a plethora of answers. Some would say there is no point. You live, you die, and you pay taxes in the meantime. Others say it's about self-fulfillment. Those of a philanthropic mindset would argue that life is about serving fellow mankind. Ultimately, our culture tells us life is what you decide to make it.

However, as Christians we confess that the Bible alone answers this existential question. The

Scriptures not only tell us that God created us but also rebuke the idea that His creatures have the right to determine their purpose. Instead, we see that we were created in order to know, serve, and worship God above all things. Furthermore, it is only in fulfilling our chief end that we will know true satisfaction and joy in life.

However, it's not long into the Bible that we see we failed to fulfill our chief end. Instead of supremely delighting in God, we sinned against Him. Consequently, our sin has separated us from God, rightfully making us the objects of

his wrath. Now, insert the glorious Gospel! God provided a rescue! The Lord Jesus Christ lived the sinless life we couldn't and bore the wrath that we deserve on the cross. On the third day He rose again in order to grant those who trust in him everlasting life. And this means simply more than just living forever. Everlasting life is about being empowered to once again fulfill our chief end. We are saved from sin and hell in order to once again delight in God and enjoy him forever. You may be alive, but are you tasting the true purpose of life? Surrender to Christ today!

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Support Local



Tay Valley receives \$60,000 grant for seniors' sports, rec

The Ontario government is investing \$60,000 in Tay Valley Township.

Tay Valley is receiving an Inclusive Community Grant for its accessible age-friendly sports and recreation activities programs.

"Tay Valley Township has been a community leader in acknowledging the growth of our senior population and anticipating the attendant needs of aging in place," said Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MPP John Jordan "I want to join with Minister Cho in celebrating a shared vision for moving forward with a collaborative model for healthy lifestyles in a rural environment.

"With this funding, Tay Valley's progressive team can establish the framework for a variety



Tay Valley Township recently received a \$60,000 provincial grant to add seniors' programs to its slate of sports and recreation activities. Provincial seniors and accessibility minister Raymond Cho and Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MPP John Jordan (centre) joined Tay Valley clerk Amanda Mabo, Coun. Greg Hallam, Coun. Marilyn Thomas and Coun. Wayne Baker for the cheque presentation.

Photo courtesy of Tay Valley Township

of programs and events that reach out and bring people together. Knowing there's a targeted struc-

ture in place for ongoing activities makes it easier to commit to a positive change for the better – a

change that benefits not only Tay Valley seniors, but the community as a whole."

Tay Valley will see 50 new accessible age-friendly sports and recreation activities/programs for 300 local senior residents with this funding from the province.

"Inclusive communities help people with disabilities and seniors take part in community life by removing barriers," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "Through the Inclusive Community Grants program, we are fighting social isolation and helping Ontarians stay active and independent."

Currently the township offers no sports and recreation programming for seniors and those with limited mobility other than a seniors' choir.

"Tay Valley Township is pleased and excited to receive the province's

support for our forthcoming accessible, age-friendly sports and recreation programming," said Reeve Rob Rainer. "The funding will help the township offer new programs, especially for older adults and people with disabilities, which will promote physical and mental health, reduce social isolation, and enhance the quality of community life for participants."

Ontario is investing in a total of 15 community-based projects as part of the 2023-24 cycle of the Inclusive Community Grants program. Inclusive and age-friendly communities work to promote accessibility and active living for people of all ages and abilities.

Submitted by Tay Valley Township.

County deals with reduced funding for administering child care

Here are the highlights from the Lanark County council meeting held Jan. 24.

Reduced funding for child-care administration

Council received a report from director of social services Emily Hollington outlining a provincial funding reduction in child care administration. Lanark County is a service manager for child care.

At the community services committee meeting earlier this month, Hollington explained the funding was initially reduced in two phases: from 100-per-cent provincial coverage to a 50/50 municipal/provincial cost share in 2021, and then a drop from 10 per cent to 5 per cent for the administration funding threshold in 2022. As part of pandemic recovery, the province restored the funding that year and provided a "one-time transitional grant" that offset the reduction for each year up to and including 2023.

The ministry has announced a change to the child-care funding formula will be implemented later this year and plans to fully implement the administrative funding reduction starting this month. "This change was unexpected and accounts for a cumulative impact of \$85.5 million to Ontario's service managers."

The \$337,000 reduction for Lanark County was announced after the 2024 county budget was passed and will have to come from the county levy/reserves. Hollington said some additional funding has been provided by the province to support the new Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program implementation, but "does not align with the scope and complexity of the program," which comes with increased administrative responsibilities.

"While the federal-provincial CWELCC agreement allows for a 10-per-cent administration funding threshold, Lanark County is receiving only 2.3 per cent of its allocation." The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has indicated it will advocate on this issue on behalf of all service managers.

Update on employment services transformation

Council received an update on the employment services transformation that launched this month within the Ontario Works program.

Ontario Works supervisor Kaitlyn Murray provided the update at the community services committee meeting earlier this month and explained the provincial program aims to be more efficient, streamlined and focused on outcomes.

"It integrates employment support services originally provided by Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program into a transformed Employment Ontario to create one system."

Murray said administration funding is now tied to performance outcome targets set by the province, including:

- 100 per cent of OW adults and ODSP non-disabled

adults with participation requirements to have an action plan

- 30 per cent of OW adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements to be referred to Employment Ontario

- 16 per cent of OW cases to exit to employment
- 20 per cent that exit OW do not return to the program within one year

A new common assessment tool helps to prioritize clients who are ready for referral to Employment Ontario and to determine barriers to employment. It includes a mental health and addictions screener administered by staff.

Murray said staff training has been increased "in preparation for the sensitive and complex situations staff are faced with."

Murray noted the province reduced administration funding by 22 per cent as of Jan. 1, which is reflected in the 2024 county budget. The caseload continues to increase, however, with more than 800 benefit units (households) currently – an average of 90 per caseworker.

Employment Ontario will now provide clients with all employment-related supports for job search and retention, including financial supports, while Ontario Works provides supports to clients to help them stabilize their lives and overcome barriers to employment.

"Although the ministry has expanded the participation benefits available to clients, the funding has been reduced," Murray added.

Council supports tax credit increases for volunteer firefighters

Council has supported a resolution distributed by the Municipality of Wawa requesting the federal government to amend the Income Tax Act to increase the amount of tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

The original resolution notes there are 90,000 volunteer firefighters and about 8,000 search and rescue volunteers in Canada who respond to thousands of incidents each year. Volunteer firefighters account for 71 per cent of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders. Many receive some form of pay on call or receive funding to cover expenses, but do not draw a living wage from firefighting.

"Without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage."

The federal tax code allows the volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of service were completed in a calendar year, which works out to \$450 per year.

"These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required,"

the motion states.

Council backing Smiths Falls advocacy

Council passed a motion directing the community services committee chair and warden to attend a delegation at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference last week to support advocacy by the Town of Smiths Falls regarding the impact of low Ontario Disability Support Program rates on individuals and the community.

Coun. and Smiths Falls Mayor Sean Pankow explained 14 per cent of its population is in receipt of ODSP. The rates have been frozen, meaning many have long lived in poverty that is being exacerbated by rising costs for housing. He said this translates into an increased burden on municipalities and service agencies.

"Increased needs impact wait times for service, emergency rooms, housing needs and policing," he said. The discussion will return to council to consider seeking a delegation at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference this summer.

Seeking review of social and economic prosperity

Council has passed a motion asking the province to undertake, with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

This follows a policy update issued by AMO that asks for the provincial government to work with municipalities on such a review, including revenues, costs and financial risks and an analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs.

The motion, introduced by Coun. and Tay Valley Reeve Rob Rainer, notes the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life.

"Nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year."

It adds municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not increase with inflation, and municipal infrastructure needs will increase as the population and housing grows. "Municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges, like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises...while inflation, rising interest rates and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity."

The motion further notes "property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income redistribution programs for those most in need" and more provincial investment is needed.

Submitted by Lanark County.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Call (613) 259-2220; e-mail: lanarkera@primus.ca

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are published free for non-profit & charitable groups, one week before event.

Jan. 30 - Stitching Circle, 3-5 p.m., Lanark library, 75 George St. Bring your project & chat. Drop-in.
Jan. 31 - Card Program, 10 a.m.-noon, Lanark library, 75 George St. Cards, bean bag toss, cribbage, euchre. Drop-in.
Feb. 1 - Family Movement Storytime, 10-11 a.m., Lanark library, 75 George St. Story, stretches & crafts, all ages. Drop-in.
Feb. 1 - LEGO Spike: Hopper Race, 1-3 p.m., Lanark library. Ages 8+. Registration: lanarklibrary.ca or 613-259-3068.
Feb. 1 - Mahjongg at ABC Hall, 1 p.m. Games, lessons. Freda Russell blueheron2018@gmail.com / 613-273-2571
Feb. 1 - Crafts & Chat, 1:30 p.m., Lanark Learning Centre, 67 George St.
Feb. 1 - Weekly Musicians Circle. ABC Hall Bolingbroke, 7 p.m. All musicians and genres welcome. dpollard@kingston.net.
Feb. 2 - Euchre, Watson's Corners Hall, 1 p.m. \$5.
Feb. 2 - Storytime, 10-11 a.m., Lanark library, 75 George St. Stories, songs & crafts, all ages. Drop-in.
Feb. 3 - Snow Road Snowmobile Club Breakfast, 8-11 a.m. at Clubhouse, 1106 Gemmill Rd., Snow Road Station.
Feb. 3 - Free Community Breakfast, 9-11 a.m. St. George's Anglican Church Clayton, 2786 Tatlock Rd. Donations accepted but not required. Info: 613-256-9010
Feb. 3 - Witchcraft & Wizardry Escape Room, 10-11 a.m., Lanark library. Free. Register: lanarklibrary.ca/613-259-3068.
Feb. 3 - Da Vinci's Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, Lanark library, 75 George St. Child-led crafts/building, all ages. Drop-in.
Feb. 3 - Gentle Yoga, 2-3 p.m. Lanark library. Led by Tula Yoga for Adults. Free. Registration required: lanarklibrary.ca
Feb. 4 - Old Tyme Country Dinner & Dance, Clayton Community Centre, 2-6 p.m. Bar 2 p.m., supper 5 p.m. Adults \$18, children 6-10 \$8, under 6 free. Musicians free.
Feb. 5 - All About Euchre, 1:30 p.m., Lanark Learning Centre, 67 George St.
Feb. 6 - TED Talks, 1-2 p.m., Lanark library, 75 George St. Topic: The science behind how sickness shapes your mood. Drop-in.
Feb. 6 - Stitching Circle, 3-5 p.m., Lanark library, 75 George St. Bring your project & chat. Drop-in.
Feb. 6 - Witchcraft & Wizardry Escape Room (ADULT group), 6-7 p.m., Lanark library, 75 George St. Free. Registration required: lanarklibrary.ca or 613-259-3068.
Feb. 7 - Card Program, 10 a.m.-noon, Lanark library, 75 George St. Cards, bean bag toss, cribbage, euchre. Drop-in.
Feb. 8 - Mahjongg at ABC Hall, 1 p.m. Games, lessons. Freda Russell blueheron2018@gmail.com / 613-273-2571
Feb. 8 - Weekly Musicians Circle. ABC Hall Bolingbroke, 7 p.m. All musicians and genres welcome. dpollard@kingston.net.
Feb. 8 - By the Falls Music Social open mic and social time, 1-4 p.m., Ferguson's Falls Community Hall, 1362 Ferguson's Falls Rd.

Religion

CENTRAL LANARK PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH
Office: 613-264-7590
Sunday, Feb. 4

Middleville 11 a.m.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF MABERLY-LANARK
Info: Anne Graham
613-259-2207.
Sunday, Feb. 4

St. Paul's Lanark 11 a.m.

ST. ANDREW'S, LANARK UNITED CHURCH
Office - 613-259-3380
Email: lanarkbalderson@bellnet.ca
Sunday, Feb. 4

Lanark 9 a.m.

SACRED HEART PARISH
613-267-1043
Fr. Charles Enyinnia
Fr. Paul Mawalla
REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE
9 am Wednesday (Hour of Adoration following)
9 am Thursday
9 am Friday
5 pm Saturday
9 am Sunday

LANARK BAPTIST CHURCH
York St., Lanark
lanarkbaptistchurch.com
Rev. Eric Green
Office: 613-259-3173
Sunday, Feb. 4
10:30 a.m.

PRESBYTERIAN PASTORAL CHARGE
Moderator Rev. Carey Jo Johnston
careyjohnston@literacyinternational.ca

705-341-7739
Sunday, Feb. 4
Combined Service
McDonald's Corners 11 a.m.

BETHESDA FELLOWSHIP
St. Andrew's Church Hall
Lanark
613-720-9428
www.holiness.ca
Rev. Bruce North
Sunday, Feb. 4
6 p.m.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CLAYTON
https://stgeorgechurchclayton.webs.com
stgeorgesclayton@gmail.com 613-256-4566
Sunday, Feb. 4
9 a.m.

BOYD'S UNITED CHURCH
Rev. David Stevens
david.stevens.cell@gmail.com
613-267-5913
Service and Sunday School
Sunday, Feb. 4
11 a.m.

RIVER OF LIFE AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH
Fallbrook Road, Balderson
Sunday, Feb. 4
9:45 a.m.

"Let us turn our hearts away from the world of matter and live in the spiritual world! It alone can give us freedom! If we are hemmed in by difficulties we have only to call upon God, and by His great Mercy we shall be helped. -" Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, pp. 109-110.
The Baha'i Faith

Don't see a church in your area?
See perthareachurches.ca
for worship at other churches.



PERMANENT FULL-TIME POSITION PUBLIC WORKS TECHNOLOGIST

(Posting #2024-03)

The Township is seeking applicants for a Public Works Technologist. A complete job description is available at www.lanarkhighlands.ca. Please ensure that we receive your resume no later than 4:00 p.m., February 16th, 2024.

Township of Lanark Highlands
"Public Works Technologist #2024-03"
75 George Street, P.O. Box 340
Lanark, ON K0G 1K0
E-mail: hr@lanarkhighlands.ca
Fax #: (613) 259-2291



PERMANENT FULL-TIME POSITION MANAGER OF PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES / CBO

(Posting #2024-02)

The Township is seeking applicants for a Manager of Planning and Building Services / Chief Building Official. A complete job description is available at www.lanarkhighlands.ca. Please ensure that we receive your resume no later than 4:00 p.m., February 16th, 2024.

Township of Lanark Highlands
"Manager of Planning & Building Services CBO #2024-02"
75 George Street, P.O. Box 340
Lanark, ON K0G 1K0
E-mail: hr@lanarkhighlands.ca
Fax #: (613) 259-2291



FOOD HANDLING COURSE
Hopetown Community Centre
Feb. 28, 2024 9am-4pm
Cost \$50 – need 10 more attendees
RSVP BY FEB 1ST
Marg 613-259-2719 or
Middlevillefair1867@gmail.com

9	1	3	2	8	5	7	4	6
7	6	4	3	1	9	8	5	2
8	2	5	7	4	6	3	9	1
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4	3	2	1	9	8	6	7	5
3	4	8	9	5	1	2	6	7
1	5	6	8	2	7	9	3	4
2	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	8

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M	O	L	A	R	A	P	P	A	R	E	L	E	D		
G	O	T	O	G	R	E	A	T	L	E	N	G	H		
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Notice

If you are in need of a box of food, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Lanark Highlands Food Pantry. We are located at St. Andrew's United Church, 115 Clarence St. in Lanark village. Hours are Tuesdays 1-4 p.m., Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Lanark Highlands Food Pantry accepts non-perishable food and money donations. You can choose to mail in your donation to Lanark Highlands Food Pantry, Box 41, Lanark, ON, K0G 1K0. To make an online contribution, go to Canadahelps.org and specify Lanark Highlands Food Pantry.

Notice

The ReUse Centre at McDonald's Corners does not accept bulky items in the winter months due to limited storage space. You can still give and receive bulky items through this ReUse column. Ads are free as long as no money is changing hands. Email your reuse ads to us at lanarkera@primus.ca.



Bird Sighting Reports

Lise Balthazar at birderseeyview@gmail.com
or call the Era at 613-259-2220

Puzzle answers from page 11

H	P	L	F	E	G	A	R	A	G	H	C	L	O	S	E	T	S	M	H
Y	A	N	D	I	B	E	L	O	N	G	I	N	G	S	G	O	E	O	U
B	P	E	O	E	B	Y	A	T	T	P	D	R	F	I	H	E	C	O	U
Z	M	G	K	T	T	N	E	M	E	S	A	B	R	B	D	D	N	E	B
Z	R	G	A	D	M	H	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	H	A	C	G	H
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Death Notice

MYERS

MYERS, EVELYN SHIRLEY



Myers, Evelyn Shirley Peacefully at the Perth Site of the Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital, Shirley passed away on Thursday, January 18th, 2024 at the age of 83. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Donald Warren Myers, Shirley was the loving mother of William (late Linda), Brian and Kathy (Pierre), Predeceased by Murray, Carla, Karen and Robert. She was the cherished Nanny of Carla (John), Randy (Stephanie), Tamara (Pete), Desiree (Dylan) and Shane (Katrina), and the great-Nanny of Reid (Cassie), Jesse (Madi), Joshua, Gaige (Delaney), Johnathan, Samuel, Addison, Joey, Manning, Hunter, Riley, Rory, Barrett, Camden and Zeke. Beloved great-great Nanny of Brooks. Shirley will be dearly missed by her siblings Holly (Carl), Judy (Sam), Jane (Ron), Eleanor and Rodney, predeceased by Margaret, Betty, Ricky and Billy. Shirley loved her family immensely and dedicated her life to them. She worked at Brown Shoe factory for a number of years, and volunteered her time with AlAnon and A.A. She will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by her nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Friends paid their respects at the Blair & Son Funeral Home, 15 Gore St. West, Perth on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. The funeral service was held in the chapel on Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Interment at Elmwood Cemetery. In remembrance of Shirley, donations to Easter Seals (Merrywood Camp) or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Blair & Son Funeral Home
Perth
condolences to:
www.blairandson.com

Notice

Get support - there's help!
Call Lanark County Interval House at 1-800-267-7946 or 613-257-5960.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Call (613) 259-2220; e-mail: lanarkera@primus.ca

WATSON'S CORNERS COMMUNITY HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 What's Happened - What's New - What's for You
 Come along and find out!
ALL WELCOME
 Monday, February 12th, 6:00 pm



CANADIAN RIVER CRUISING
 Experience the beauty and history of the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Rivers on a classic Canadian riverboat. Request our free travel brochure.
1-800-267-7868 www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com
253 Ontario St., Suite 200, Kingston, ON K7L2Z4 TICO #2168740



TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

COMPANY ADVERTISING ON TOWNSHIP ZAMBONI


The Township is seeking proposals from qualified bidders for the placement of their own advertising on the Township Zamboni at the Lanark and District Community Centre.

Deadline for submission of the proposals is **4:00 pm on February 16, 2024.** Submission instructions are included in the RFQ that is posted on the Township website.

Township of Lanark Highlands
 Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works
 75 George Street
 Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0 T: 613-259-2398 ext. 239
 E: publicworks@lanarkhighlands.ca
www.lanarkhighlands.ca

LIVE AUCTION SALE
 Saturday, February 3rd, 2024
 Auction: 10:00am | Viewing: 9:00am
LANARK & DISTRICT CIVITAN HALL
 2144 Pine Grove Rd, Lanark, ON K0G 1K0
Local Estate & Consignment Auction!
 Money & Coin Collection, Stackable Washer & Dryer, Chest Freezer, Quantity of Hand & Power Tools, Ryobi Gas Pressure Washer, Dust Collector, Mechanics Tool Chest (Full), Fire Pit, Floor Drill Press, Garden & Yard Tools, Antiques, Collectibles & Much More!
 See www.theauctionhunt.com for updates.
Jim Beere, Auctioneer
613-326-1722
Call to book your auction today!


Lanark Highlands Public Library
 Tues: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wed: 1-4 p.m.
 Thurs: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Fri: 1-6 p.m.;
 Sat: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
CLOSED SUNDAY/MONDAY
(After hours use drop box beside main doors)



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HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION
Finding answers. For life.

SUDOKU

9				5	7	4	6
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		1	6	7			3
	8			3			2 9
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Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

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53							54			55	56		
57										58			
59										61			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Become less intense
 - 6. Variety of pear
 - 10. Religion native to China
 - 14. Type of tooth
 - 15. Fitted out
 - 17. Make every effort
 - 19. Autonomic nervous system
 - 20. Complete
 - 21. Alternate name
 - 22. River in France and Belgium
 - 23. Miami's mascot is one
 - 24. Turfs
 - 26. Most cognizant of reality
 - 29. Broad volcanic crater
 - 31. Canadian surname
 - 32. Satisfaction
 - 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
 - 35. Collide
 - 37. Immune response
 - 38. Feline
 - 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
 - 40. Thin strip to align parts
 - 41. Containers
 - 43. Convicted American spy
 - 45. Breathe noisily
 - 46. Taxi
 - 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
 - 49. Swiss river
 - 50. I.M. ___, architect
 - 53. Have surgery
 - 57. Formal withdrawal
 - 58. Dutch and German surname
 - 59. Square measures
 - 60. 2,000 lbs.
 - 61. Degrade someone

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Siberian river
 - 2. Blessing
 - 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
 - 4. Principle underlying the universe
 - 5. Work unit
 - 6. Yellow edible fruits
 - 7. Gemstone
 - 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
 - 9. Evergreen tropical tree
 - 10. Reality TV star Richards
 - 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
 - 12. Stakes
 - 13. Antidiuretic hormone
 - 16. Make warm again
 - 18. Light beams
 - 22. Lethal dose
 - 23. Terrorist group
 - 24. Kids love him
 - 25. Naturally occurring solid
 - 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
 - 28. Popular cuisine
 - 29. Partner to cheese
 - 30. Type of horse
 - 31. ___ Diego
 - 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
 - 35. Most shrewd
 - 36. It may be for shopping
 - 37. Midway between south and southeast
 - 39. A stock of foods
 - 42. The bindings of books
 - 43. Swiss river
 - 44. Megabyte
 - 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
 - 47. Dutch colonist
 - 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
 - 49. Sun or solar disk
 - 50. Popular type of bread
 - 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
 - 52. Association of engineering professionals
 - 53. Young women's association
 - 54. City
 - 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
 - 56. Pointed end of a pen

See puzzle answers on page 10

LANARK COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-222-8477

ORGANIZING WORD SEARCH

H P L F E G A R A G H C L O S E T S M H
 Y A N D I B E L O N G I N G S G O E U D
 B P E O E B Y A T T P D R F I H E C O U
 G M G K T T N E M E S A B R B D D N E B
 Z R G A D M H E Z I N A G R O H A C G H
 H K Y I E Y G I A D P O A M Y T K T A L
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 E Y S F R T L D E G U S T O R A G E R I
 Y Y A P D E L A E K S L N T Y R K S A D
 S R T H B Y T T N R S R Z R E G Z R G E
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 I A A Y K H F O Z U I T R L P K N T B R
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 D F S I T S T Y I M D S N E P K P U G U

WORDS

ATTIC
 BASEMENT
 BELONGINGS
 CATEGORY
 CHORES
 CLEAN
 CLOSETS
 CLUTTER
 DONATION
 FILED
 GARAGE
 GARBAGE
 HAZARD
 HOARDING
 LABEL
 MESS
 ORGANIZE
 PATTERN
 PROFESSIONAL
 SORTED
 STORAGE
 SYSTEM
 TASK
 THINGS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



Ballpark project under budget; work planned for this spring

By Gena Gibson
Era staff

With the winning bid for improvements at Clyde Memorial Ballpark in Lanark village coming in well below the budgeted amount, staff will look at adding projects to use more of the funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Lanark Highlands Township learned it had received \$149,400 in Trillium funding in October. Council awarded a tender for infield rehabilitation to Mar-co Clay for \$81,930 in November, and staff then issued a tender for new fencing and posts. The low bid by Troy Property Maintenance Ltd. was about \$29,630, much lower than its three other competitors at \$48,000, \$67,340 and \$100,560.

Acting clerk Amanda Noël told council at last Tuesday's com-

mittee-of-the-whole meeting that the two projects would leave \$37,320 in Trillium funding.

Coun. Steve Roberts asked why there would be such a variance in pricing, when "fencing is pretty linear."

"If that's what they submitted, and it is compliant to the tender at \$30,000, I guess we're good," he added.

The work should take place in the spring, before baseball season. Facilities/community-affairs manager Chelsea Rath, who is on maternity leave, said at the time of receiving the Trillium funding in October that the ballpark needs other renovations, including the boardwalk and new roofs on both dugouts, and she hoped to include the project in the 2024 budget to include all the renovations in the same time frame.

The Pakenham Frost Festival started last Monday with evening games, and ended on Sunday with outdoor activities at Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm. Those activities including sliding, ziplining, playing on large bales of hay, and warming up inside with hot chocolate and hot dogs. The Pakenham and District Civitan Club sponsors the annual Frost Festival, with events including a movie night, trivia night, pub night, vintage snowmobile show and more, all taking place in and around the village of Pakenham.

Gena Gibson photos

Perth looking for feedback on active transportation

By Era staff

Perth is launching its active transportation plan, and wants residents to give feedback through a survey and a public meeting.

The town, in collaboration with Parsons Inc., have focused the plan on developing sustainable, healthy and enjoyable transportation options such as walking, cycling and rolling. The town says the plan is not just for enhancing mobility, but will also look to create a healthier, more cohesive community.

The process will look at different transportation options while focusing on accessibility, safety and the joy of active travel.

"We are committed to creating a vibrant, accessible Perth, where active transportation is an integral part of everyone's daily life," director of com-

munity services Cathy McNally said in a press release.

The study should be finished this summer, with the town giving information on how to get involved, along with more information on the plan itself, at Perth.ca/ATP.

The survey closes Feb. 12. It asks questions about whether you walk, jog or cycle to work, school or for personal fitness, and how comfortable you feel walking, cycling and jogging on sidewalks, trails and bridges in Perth. Other questions include what destinations in Perth you travel to by walking, jogging or cycling, and locations you would like to see connected to, expanded or enhanced cycling routes.

A public meeting is planned for the spring. Comments can be sent to cmcnally@perth.ca or austin.shih@parsons.com.

Babies of 2023

Did you, or someone you know, have a baby in 2023?

We would like to help celebrate this happy news in our Feb. 13 issue.

For only \$30 tax included, you can

include a photo, along with

date of birth, name,

parents' names and siblings.

E-mail lanarkera@primus.

ca or drop off the photo and

information at the Era office

at 66 George St. in Lanark village.

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, Feb. 8