Urine trouble: Council defeats animal urination bylaw

BY DESMOND DEVOY

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It doesn't take a whiz to see, or, rather, smell, the problem.

In fact, Perth town hall staff were allowed their animal "to urinate on posed bylaw "unenforceable." downtown business area sidewalks or pedestrian laneways in the town of Perth," read the draft bylaw, written dogs have defecated. by council clerk Lauren Walton.

Coun. Judy Brown had asked that Report findings the motion be deferred to allow the Improvement Area (BIA) to look at it and provide comment, but other members of council were concerned about how such a bylaw would be enforced.

Certain areas of downtown smell, said Brown during Perth town council's committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 3. She said that one pedestrian alleyway in particular "is absolutely horrible," she said. The stench is "so obnoxious it could be considered a health and safety issue."

"I think we should go ahead and debate this (now)," said Mayor John Fenik, stressing that "I don't know how in Heaven's name we can issue a ticket," for such an offence.

"A dog is not going to tell you when it will urinate. I don't see any way a bylaw enforcement officer can issue a

\$75 ticket," said Fenik.
Coun. Jim Boldt agreed, stating "we might as well ban dogs from the main streets," referring to heritage areas like Gore Street and Foster Street. "What I would rather see us do is see us revisiting our dogs defecating on the sidewalk (policy)," he said.

Coun. Riq Turner is well known as

a former member of a local rock band — and he still plays gigs on occasion — and noted that the urine may not all be caused by animals.

"We're blaming the dogs ... (but there is) a likelihood that a lot of this is human," Turner said, specifically "late at night (with) people going from

Turner joked that the only way to tell would be through DNA testing,



Photo submitted by Kieran Devoy

While Dubh the cat is not responsible for any of the animal urination problems in downtown Perth - he lives in Scarborough, Ont., after all - council defeated a by-law to fine animal owners whose pets urinate downtown, because of enforcement concerns.

but Deputy Mayor John Gemmell, who was about the foul smell predominantly emanating "there will be no DNA (testing)!"

with this bylaw, I could never walk downtown proposing a \$75 fine for anyone who with my dogs again," he said. He called the pro-

in particular who "do not pick it up," after their in public places."

Downtown Heritage Perth Business complaints have been increasing in recent years visiting town.'

chairing the meeting, jumped right in to say, from the pedestrian laneways and/or Downtown Business Area sidewalks in town as a result of Coun. Ed McPherson owns two dogs, and animals urinating in these areas," she wrote. "Staff have had to regularly wash away urine from these pedestrian laneways to help reduce the unpleasantness of moving thorough these McPherson also heaped scorn on dog owners areas and the health and safety of our residents

Walton added that there was a cost to tourism The bylaw motion was defeated unanimously. too, since, "most of the pedestrian walkways are connected to parking lots and are therefore the In her report, Walton wrote that "public first place our visitors experience when they are

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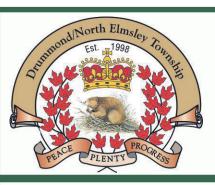
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Meetings:

Council/Committee of the Whole September 11 & 25 5:00 pm

Municipal Office & Landfill
Site will be Closed
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Reminder 2018 FINAL TAX BILL

Installment due date September 28.

2018 Municipal Election Where to Vote:

Drummond Ward Electors:

If the roll number on your Tax Bill begins with <u>0919 919</u> you are an <u>elector of Drummond Ward</u> and you vote at:

Drummond Hall- 1920 Drummond Concession 7, Perth, ON

North Elmsley Ward Electors:

If the roll number on your Tax Bill begins with <u>0919 908</u> you are an <u>elector of North Elmsley Ward</u> and you vote at:

Municipal Office- 310 Port Elmsley Road, Perth, ON

Voting Dates and Times:

Advanced Voting

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13 Wednesday October 17 **Election Day**

10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 22

*Residents of the Rideau Ferry Country Home are eligible to vote at the Rideau Ferry Country Home: 1333 Rideau Ferry

Are you on the Voters' List?

The Township of Drummond/North Elmsley is encouraging all voters to check to see if they are on the Voters List for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections occurring in October, 2018 by visiting www.voterlookup.ca.

Employment Opportunity – Planner Salary Range \$65,029.48 - \$76,491.76

The Township of Drummond/North Elmsley is accepting applications for a full-time Planner. The Township Planner will review development applications, new policy initiatives, site plans, severances, respond to planning inquiries, process land use planning applications to ensure conformity with the Official Plan, Zoning Bylaw and Provincial Policy Statement and act as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment.

A complete job description is available on the Township's website at: www.dnetownship.ca.



REMINDER Last Weekend for 2018
Household Hazardous Waste Depot is
September 1st 8am to 12 pm

128 Patterson Crescent, Carleton Place

Visit www.dnetownship.ca

■ NEWS

'OLD BASTARDS' MAKE \$600 DONATION TO TABLE FOOD CENTRE

DESMOND DEVOY

desmond.devoy@metroland.com

For a group that claims its members are a bunch of "old bastards," they are actually quite a generous bunch.

Now, in case you are wondering, yes, for a family newspaper, the Old Bastards Vintage Motorcycle Club comes by its name honestly - it's based in Bastard Township, which is now the Bastard Ward of Rideau Lakes Township.

The group does a lot of fundraising for charities across eastern Ontario and western Quebec, and they roared into Perth on Tuesday, Aug. 21, to donate \$600 to the Table Community Food Centre.

The donation, made at Stewart Park that evening, was proposed by local Perth



Ramsey Hart/ The Table Community Food Centre

From left, Kristian Bostlund, a Perth-based member of the Old Bastards Vintage Motorcycle Club, presents Ramsey Hart, executive director of The Table Community Food Centre, with a cheque for \$600 in Stewart Park on the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 21, as fellow club members Lincoln Pearce (club president) and Michael Hannah look on.

member Kristian Bostlund. Bostlund was joined by club president Lincoln

Pearce, and fellow member

Michael Hannah, who presented the cheque to the Table's executive director Ramsey Hart that night.



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Paulina Hrebacka/Metroland

Family fun at the Frosty Fling

The Frosty Fling brought many families out to the Lanark Civitan Club over the weekend of Friday, Jan. 26 to Sunday, Jan. 28 for fun activities such as sledding, arts and crafts, horse-drawn wagon rides, a talent show, a pancake breakfast, and much more. Pictured, from left: Haley Lortie-Lynch, Laura Lortie, Sadie Lortie-Lynch, and Madison Georgadis get creative at the craft table.

Beyond '50 Shades of brown': Public has say on colour palette

BY DESMOND DEVOY

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puce or pink, you can do so — on your own dime.

public on Wednesday, Jan. 24, with development been "no decisions, it's simply gathering informa-

and protective services director Forbes Symon tell-tion. It's been a journey." ing the crowd gathered in the council chambers at If you want to paint your front façade purple or Perth town hall that the meeting was "about us formal process that will be undertaken as changes talking to you about ideas that are being contem- to the colour palette will require a change in the The issue of the colour palette for the downtown plated." With input from the public, "we (staff) will town's bylaws under the Ontario Heritage Act. heritage conservation district came back to the take that information back to council. There have

After the public meeting, there will be a more

See SHADES page P2











From FRONT page

"This (meeting) isn't part of it (that process)," explained Symon.

Community services director Shan- it is hard to undo." non Baillon read out a letter from Carl Bray, who "was a really good re- Public input source for us," which called painting on wood "a reversible intervention." Right now, to change the colour on a business façade, "a heritage permit is watching paint dry. required," said Baillon.

Heritage districts are in place "mostly to protect the buildings," Baillon explained. There are roughly ed. "We are a living town." 135 heritage districts across the province, and most of them have a "recommended colour palette but not a mandatory colour palette," said Baillon. The town polled the provincial heritage district network and got 14 responses back — of which 12 had a recommended colour palette, but no mandatory one. That is why Perth is looking "at making some changes to the bylaw," such as "not to require a permit for wooden façade features," and use the paint colour of your choice, she said.

However, if a business in the district wishes to utilize town funds, like community investment plan renovation grants, to spruce up a façade, then the business will have to adhere to the colour palette.

The proposed change to the bylaw would see that a business would not "require a permit for wooden façade features.

One of those in attendance asked about the barber shop on the intersection of Foster and Wilson streets, which has red, white, and black colours. Symon explained that those colours are consistent with the company's logo, but he agreed that "that's a fair point ... the exemption process is sometimes a slippery slope." Pointing to the 100-plus page bylaw on a nearby table — of which only two paragraphs deal with paint — he called it a very complicated document." He has worked hard, for all of his career, on such documents and "it's not perfect. It's never 100 per cent. (But) you work to get it right. There has been a real change.'

One of the challenges facing town hall in administering a colour palette is that "taste is a very, very difficult thing to regulate," said Symon. "I personally like red doors. My wife does not. Taste is a very personal thing. Whenever government regulates taste ... it can be a rub."

In a lighter comment, he urged those in attendance to remember that tastes can change. About 40 years ago, for example, "avocado green was a very popular colour when I was a kid in the '70s." With this bylaw change, "we are moving away from 'Thou shalt follow the colour," to something different. "If you don't want any free government money, and paint it on your own dime," you can, he said.

One attendee noticed that some

businesses could have vinyl on their front facades. While the bylaw under discussion was only looking at wood, not brick or stone, staff conceded

that the wording could be adjusted to was the painter who painted the front bit brighter than we had expected." tools, not rules," he said. cover vinvl.

"Painting masonry is a no-no," said Symon. "It's bad for the masonry and

lery made sure that a meeting about is with me. I'm the painter.' paint was far more exciting than

"we're not dead. We are not a muse-

façade of the Shadowfax store pur- He half-jokingly said that his paint ple this past summer, which brought crew was not made up of "crackheads the changes were "wise." The debate about the current ongoing debate.

"We were pretty close to what was low the rules." there," said Ponte in choosing a colour that he and the owner believed was owner wished to paint using their own good idea to take the issue out of lo-Colourful comments from the gal- close to the existing colour. "The fault colours, the town would not pick up cal, invested hands, and give it to an

He added that "we didn't cover anything that wasn't already covered," Emmet Cameron told staff that with paint. One of the challenges that said Symon. businesses on that side of Foster Street

and bikers," and that they tried to fol-

the tab for the paint, but would help out with covering labour costs.

"That's still a work in progress,"

Richard Schooley, former owner um," and that the changes were need-face is that they are "pounded with of Crain and Schooley Insurance on shades of brown," he said. sun every day," especially in the sum- Gore Street, said that "we got where Painter Joe Ponte admitted that he mer months. "It did come out a little we got with peer pressure and with set," with different colours, he added.

John McKenty agreed, saying that over the palette has "created a lot of emotional discussion on both sides. Ponte asked if, per chance, if an It separated people." He said it was a expert to look over.

Pete Blier, owner of The Stone Cellar and Mex and Co. restaurants, got a laugh of his own when he said that "Perth needs to move beyond 50

"We have to attract the younger



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