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COMMUNITY

# SAVING SPECIES DURING ROADWORK

## GROUPS COME TOGETHER TO GUARD TURTLE EGGS

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A partnership between the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Shawanaga First Nation, Archipelago Township and construction crews ensured the protection of species at risk during a recent road overhaul.

As part of the Community-Nominated Priority Places project funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada, reptile mortality studies were conducted along Skerryvore Community Road that was due for renovation in 2020.

The project included collecting turtle eggs in the construction areas, training construction crews, upsizing culverts and testing of alternative mitigation efforts like the installation of rip rap (large stones) along shoulders. The stones discourage females from laying eggs.

"Staff were only able to collect 40 per cent of the eggs, because the rest were predated by animals," said biosphere conservation biologist Tianna Burke. "It



Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve conservation biologist Tianna Burke (left) and species at risk technician Kayla Martin head out on Skerryvore Community Road in Archipelago Township to record turtle and snake sightings as part of the Community Nominated Priority Place for Species at Risk.

IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY

GBBR photo

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COUNCIL

# ARCHELAGO ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## COUNCIL INVESTIGATES POSSIBLE NEEDS STUDY

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Although the Town of Parry Sound tried and scrapped public transit more than a decade ago, the need for transportation in the West Parry Sound area remains.

At its March 11 committee of the whole meeting, members of Archipelago Township council discussed the possibility of public transportation within its municipality and the district.

Here are eight quotes from council members about the issue.

1. Something as simple as a livery boat going in and out — and maybe a morning or afternoon to, say, the Ojibway (Club) or San Soucie as a way to jump off — that was a concept. Or, if that's viable. It may not be, but it's just something worth exploring." — Archipelago Township Reeve Bert Liv-erance

2. "The Town of Parry Sound



Archipelago Township Ward 1 Coun. Laurie Emery.

Laurie Emery photo

initiated a transportation system, I'm guessing, five years ago, and it struggled for probably close to three (years) before they had no choice but to shut it down. That was right in the town itself ... the ridership was minimal even on the first day ... I don't be-

lieve this could ever get off the ground." — Coun. Rick Zanussi

3. "The community advisory committee for the nursing station here in Pointe au Baril before COVID was talking about this with Donald Sanderson so there is the need within the community; also,

within the Brit community for seniors for doctors' appointments." — Coun. Laurie Emery

4. "There's a lot of individuals that work in Parry Sound that don't have driver's licences. People don't realize that they rely on other people — and there's also people in Parry Sound who don't have driver's licences, who could probably have jobs here in Pointe au Baril ... With the aging population, there is a great need." — Coun. Laurie Emery

5. "Let's not think of conventional transportation ... they are very expensive to run, but there are needs within the community ... These are actually appointments for using the institutions within West Parry Sound. I would give it some more thought, but I'm not advocating creating a transportation system in the conventional sense ... but would certainly engage in a discussion." — Coun. Scott Sheard

6. "It's very complicated. I'm not saying that Seguin (Township) shouldn't study it, but they

See 'I THINK', page 2

# SEGUIN COUNCILLOR'S MOVE TO STOP FUNDING MUSEUM DEFEATED

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Seguin Township council defeated a resolution brought forward by one of its members, suggesting the municipality withhold some or all 2021 funding to the West Parry Sound District Museum, following an incident during a closed session of the board.

Last month, Seguin Township Coun. Daryle Moffatt told council he resigned from the museum board after another member used "inappropriate and offen-

"I don't think it's appropriate that we mix funding of the museum with personal matters involving codes of conduct or differences between two board members. This thing got far too much press; way more than it deserved."

— Coun. Rod Osborne

sive language toward me."

Moffatt suggested the township consider withholding funding the museum due to the slight and the organization's lack of a code of conduct.

The museum asked for \$17,500. "I don't feel supporting an organization that does not have a

code of conduct with regards to its board and the behaviour of a board member is something that we should be supporting," Moffatt told council during its March 1 meeting.

Although Moffatt couldn't speak to the particulars surrounding the statement uttered

during the Feb. 25 board meeting, in a March 6 blog post, resident and museum board member Jo Bossart admitted it was he that made the offensive remark.

Bossart said he used the words "bitching and moaning" and had

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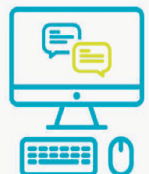
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### COMMUNITY

## PARTNERS WORK TO SAVE SPECIES DURING ARCHIPELAGO ROADWORK

Continued from page 1

takes a single turtle to lay about 1,200 eggs before it can replace itself in the wild."

"That being said, more than 1,000 baby turtles from 40 nests within the construction zone were released into the wild."

"It was super awesome that summer, because we gave a the turtle population a huge boost," she said.

And seeing crews who initially were wary about the new mitigation efforts become excited about the hatchlings' release was especially heartwarming, Burke said.

"They couldn't believe that these turtles had come out of such tiny eggs, they wanted to take pictures to show family. Now that they're trained, I like to think that the next time they're on a site, this will be in the back of their mind," she said.

Additionally, there was a reduction in species at risk management costs for the project of about 65 per cent.

"What was also amazing to hear is that the whole community was supportive during construction project, because they knew that all working stakeholders were going the extra mile in caring for the local reptile population," said Archipelago Township manager operations Greg Mariotti. "Staff from Halls Construction totally bought into the idea and they hadn't really appreciated how important protecting our species at risk was until they received training and support from staff at GBBR. You don't often hear of residents bringing coffees to construction crews as their road is being dug up. This project really brought everyone together."

The project truly did foster community spirit, including the teachings from Shawanaga First Nation member and biosphere Maawaanj'iwe (brings peo-



Tyler Reeves, 9, gets ready to release a baby snapping turtle back into the wild, Aug. 25, 2020

Dave Reeves photo

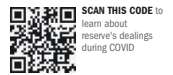
ple together) manager Sherrill Judge and summer student and member of Wausausing First Nation Gracie Crafts, who incorporated a semaa (tobacco) offering into the daily road surveys. This signified a step toward a "two-eyed seeing" cultural approach to the conservation work that incorporates both Indigenous and western scientific ways of learning and sharing knowledge.

Living on Skerryvore for more than a decade and an ecologist by trade, Dan Reeves said he and his family have often come across many species at risk and enjoyed the opportunity playing a part in keeping them safe.

"The additional measures undertaken by the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, other partners like Shawanaga First Nation and with volunteer assistance by local residents

was fantastic — helping both the individual animals removed from construction areas and providing additional educational opportunities for the community," Reeves said. "It would be great to see further programs dedicated to the identification, rescue and hatching/release of species that may be impacted by construction in the future."

**STORY BEHIND THE STORY:** We wanted to know how a partnership between stakeholders proved successful to ensure the protection of species at risk during a recent construction project on Skerryvore Community Road in Archipelago Township.



SCAN THIS CODE to learn about reserve's dealings during COVID

### COUNCIL

## FORMER MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER SUGGESTED WITHHOLDING 2021 FUNDS

Continued from page 1

Moffatt not abruptly left the online meeting, he would have apologized.

At its April 6 meeting, Seguin Township Coun. Gail Finnsion was appointed the new councillor representative on the museum board.

Also at the meeting, Moffatt presented a resolution suggesting the township withhold funding until the museum opens in May or June and until "board governance issues are rectified ... At such time, council will review the funding request to determine the appropriate amount to continue to the museum," reads an excerpt of the resolution.

Many councillors spoke out against the move.

"I don't think it's appropriate that we mix funding of the museum with personal matters involving codes of conduct or differences between two board members," said Coun. Rod Geshorn. "This thing got far too much press, way more than it deserved. I don't think it would look good if we mix these two is-



DARYLE MOFFATT

ues — the board of governance and the issue that happened, the resignation, the reappointment and the funding request."

Coun. Art Coles said as a regional asset, the municipality should continue to support the museum financially and suggested Finnsion could share council's wishes during the next meeting.

"There may be operational issues that could be improved, I would quite clearly wish that," said Coles. "I would provide funding for this year and give them conditions for 2022 funding based on their preparedness to improve their marketing or whatever their other issues are."

Moffatt reminded council that it withheld funding from Park to Park in 2020 and that this resolution isn't

going to stop funding, just reduce the amount of funding.

"I believe that the museum board needs to be clear and clear, and I will give them the benefit of the doubt at this time that they will move forward and set up their protocols and procedural bylaws. At this time, I don't think we should withhold any of their 2021 grant monies. Just proceed as normal," said Coun. Ted Collins.

Mayor Ann MacDiarmid said after speaking with museum chair Rob Wood at length, she was excited about the direction the organization was heading.

(Wood) indicated to me that he took the chair position because he truly believed the museum needed to be resolved. There are a lot of things to reimagine it ... I was quite excited about what his leadership is," she said.

Except Moffatt, all members of council voted against the proposed resolution.

The museum's next board meeting is April 22, where a code of conduct will be presented to members.

## 'I THINK WE SHOULD BE VERY, VERY CAUTIOUS': MANNERS

Continued from page 1

need to spend a lot of time looking at other locations to try and implement this. Well, there was an expressed need here, too, but it dissipated quickly because of the awkwardness of it ... I think we should be very, very cautious about

this because no matter what, there is going to be a subsidy that is required."

Coun. Earl Manners — "I've been involved in other jurisdictions as well where busing was attempted and failed miserably and failed at great cost in the rural areas. I think doing this survey is a great idea. Col-

lecting the information: What's the demand? Who's the target market and then how can that demand be satisfied?" — Chief administrative officer John Fior

"I think anything we do has to be on a purely voluntary basis. There might be a possibility of subsidizing it a bit ... other services clubs do it. I just feel that anything we do would have to be organized through one of them and probably on a voluntary basis." — Coun. Peter Frost