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Thursday, June 24, 2021

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Golf Fore Hospice 2021 draws golfers, volunteers for a great cause

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

WALKERTON – The golfers had their Golf Fore Hospice 2021 tee times booked months ago. Volunteers stepped forward to help everything run smoothly and even the weather co-operated.

Event chair Nancy Baillie said nervousness about the weather disappeared when a magnificent rainbow crossed the sky above the Walkerton Golf Course early Tuesday morning, June 22.

By mid-morning, everyone was enjoying the sunshine – perfect golfing weather for one of the best fundraising events around.

It will be a while before the final total from the golf and auction are compiled, but the fact that tee times were booked solid well in advance of the event speaks volumes. Check next week's paper for an update.

Even if you weren't able to golf, there's still time to contribute – make your cheque payable to Residential Hospice of Grey-Bruce South Build.



Pauline Kerr Photos

Keith Ellis – general manager of the Walkerton Golf and Curling Club, Nancy Baillie – chair of Golf Fore Hospice, and Joe Rys, who started Longest Day of Golf and used the concept as a fundraiser for hospice, were among the many who participated in this year's event. Right: Tee times were booked solid months ago for the Golf Fore Hospice event.



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Thompson named Ontario's minister of agriculture

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

TORONTO - Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, former education minister and most recently, government and consumer services minister, has been named the new minister of agriculture.

She replaces long-time agriculture minister Ernie Hardeman as part of a cabinet shuffle that saw several cabinet ministers take on new portfolios.

"I am humbled to be given this new post and I pledge



to Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities that I will work hard on their behalf," Thompson said in a press release on June 19. See THOMPSON on page 7

Troubled bridge over Brockton waters leads to emergency council meeting

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

BROCKTON – People of a certain age will probably remember a gently beautiful song about a "bridge over troubled waters." In this case, the waters are fine but the D. S. Weis Memorial Bridge has its troubles – to the tune of \$188,361.80 in additional work.

The bridge on Concession Road 8 between Sideroad 10 and Bruce County Road 3 will be completely closed until at least late August. A detour along Concession Road 10 remains in effect.

Brockton council held a special emergency meeting on June 15 to

deal with the matter. The project is already underway; when the asphalt was removed from one side of the bridge, it revealed deterioration was much greater than anticipated.

Gregg Furtney, director of public works, said he'd been called to an emergency site meeting the previous week. Because the work is already in progress, a decision couldn't wait for the next regular council meeting. A special meeting of council was held to ensure the project stays on schedule.

Council was presented with two options.

Option one is a patch repair in the amount of \$73,910.20.

See FURTNEY on page 2



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Furtney: 'Doing nothing is off the table'

Continued from front

While a viable option, Furtney told council additional work would likely be required in five to 10 years. The bridge would have to remain closed longer, because the work would have to be done on one lane first, and then the other. The seam in the middle is a concern for both engineers and contractors.

Option two is the one Furtney recommended and council approved – a full concrete overlay at an estimated cost of \$188,361.80. This is the one that makes the most sense, said Furtney. It will last two to three times longer than the repair, and with the need for additional work with option one, could end up costing less in the long run.

With option two, the bridge will need to be completely closed sooner than expected, but there's a good chance the work will take less time. And the seam in the middle will not be a concern.

The detour on Concession 10 is already established.

Furtney explained in his report that these issues often arise with bridge rehabilitation work, as inspectors can only see what's on the surface. He likened it to a home inspection – they look, but they're not breaking open walls.

Coun. Steve Adams said that the situation is unfortunate, but "we need to do the right thing. There was no way to know what was there until the asphalt was off." He pointed out the shorter time



Pauline Kerr Photo

Rehabilitation work on the D. S. Weis Memorial Bridge north of Walkerton on Concession 8 is not progressing as scheduled. An emergency council meeting was held last week after deterioration turned out to be worse than anticipated, necessitating additional work.

means less time for traffic control and also less asphalt needed, which could mean some savings. "We need to do this right," he said.

Deputy Mayor Dan Gieruszak noted that no one knows what the second lane will look like once the asphalt is off.

Coun. Dean Leifso commented about the "unusual circumstance.

This is based on a best estimate." "What alternative does council have?" asked Coun. Tim Elphick. Using Furtney's home inspection analogy, he continued, "We've already opened up the walls and we have to do something." "Doing nothing is off the table," agreed Furtney.

Earlier in the process, replacing the bridge might have been an

option, but not at this point, with work already underway. He said the bridge should last another 30 years.

"We should know within a week how bad the other side is," said Furtney.

Other concerns discussed by council included the detour, the hardship for farmers trying to take their winter wheat off, and

trying to get heavy loads up the hill.

Furtney said he'd update council when he has more information including regarding timelines.

The additional work will be funded through borrowing.

Background

The repair project originally went to tender in April 2020. The recommendation was to not award the tender at that time, to re-evaluate the costs and to re-tender later in the year.

At that point, GM BluePlan Engineering Ltd. estimated the construction cost to be \$505,000. The sole bid had come in at \$731,448. The reason for the lack of interest in the project and the high price submitted was possibly due to COVID-19, according to a letter from GM BluePlan.

The project appeared in the 2021 budget at an estimated \$750,000.

In March of this year, the project again was put out to tender. Of the five submissions, council accepted the lowest, from National Structures Inc., at \$697,106.27 plus HST. That tender amount included a \$60,000 contingency fund.

Furtney said staff do not want to use the \$60,000 contingency fund at this time, with the project just starting.

The municipality has a binding contract with the company.

The original plan was for the project to take eight weeks to complete, with one lane open to traffic for much of the time. A full-lane closure was expected for the first three weeks of August. The bridge is now completely closed.

Busy agenda for Brockton council

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

BROCKTON – Mayor Chris Peabody commented on this week's council agenda, saying there are a number of matters that are of community interest.

The first is the new five-municipality police services board. Brockton's preference would be for a stand-alone board, said the mayor. Barring that, he'd prefer to see a board with one vote per municipality, although the situation is up for debate.

The new board is based on the South Bruce OPP detachment area that includes Brockton, Kincardine, Huron-Kinloss, Arran-Elderslie and South Bruce.

Also on the agenda are health and safety requirements for municipal contractors. Peabody said he'd prefer to follow Bruce County's rules – they have more experience with contractors, he said.

Check next week's paper for council coverage.

Peabody commented on Tuesday's Golf Fore Hospice event. "It's a great community event," he said.

Variant of concern identified in Hanover COVID outbreak

25 cases, 38 high-risk contacts associated with the outbreak

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

GREY-BRUCE – The number of new cases of COVID-19 in Grey-Bruce has leveled out at around five per day.

However, the cumulative 1,433 confirmed cases include 403 cas-

es of variants of concern.

There are 42 active cases with 115 active, high-risk contacts.

Two confirmed cases are currently hospitalized in Grey-Bruce, with an additional person hospitalized outside Grey-Bruce. Three cases have been transferred in from other areas.

The main area of concern right now is the index case associated with the outbreak in Hanover is the Delta variant. This means the variant is expected in subsequent cases associated with the outbreak. As of June 15, there were 25 cases and 38 high-risk contacts associated with the out-

break.

Unlike ordinary COVID-19 tests, it takes about 10-14 days to confirm the Delta variant. It's considered of concern because it is more transmissible.

Both first and two-dose vaccinations are effective in reducing the hospitalization rates from the Delta Variant.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit stresses that mixing vaccines is "safe, effective and ensures everyone can receive their second dose sooner. Full vaccination is the greatest protection against COVID-19 and its variants, including the Delta variant."



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Englishman fights for ‘freedom to fly’

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

HANOVER – There’s nothing Phil Englishman would rather have been doing on recent sunny winter days than taking to the skies over Brockton in his Cessna 172. He could be flying – he’s in good health and has the documentation to prove it. He has to pass a medical every two years and stay up-to-date on safety requirements (he passed the annual safety course only a few days ago). He can’t get his plane out of the hangar at Saugeen Municipal Airport (known as the Hanover airport) because a pile of snow and a large concrete block have been placed to block access, part of a dispute between Englishman and the airport commission.



Pauline Kerr Photo

The latest salvo in the dispute between The Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission and pilot Phil Englishman involves a large concrete block and a pile of snow placed in front of the entrance to

“That would be like the town telling you, you weren’t safe to drive and putting rocks in front of your garage door,” he said. The dispute has been ongoing, following an alleged incident in August of 2020, and includes a cheque for annual access fees that Englishman said was delivered to but not cashed by the airport commission, a subsequent charge of trespassing (a \$65 ticket) that remains before the courts, demands by the airport commission regarding a parking space and shed at Englishman’s hangar, repeated complaints by the airport commission to Transport Canada, and now the concrete block. Englishman said the trespassing case was to have been heard in court this week, but was postponed. Regarding the complaints to Transport Canada, he said he’s heard from them and they’re not even going to investigate.

A letter has been sent by Doug Ronan, a director and Eastern Vice-Chair of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA), to the mayors and councils of Brockton, Hanover and West Grey, and the Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission. The letter addresses “the unfortunate series of events that has led to the ‘termination of access to taxiways and runways’ of one of our longtime members and former COPA board member, Phil Englishman, at the Saugeen Municipal Airport...” “There goes freedom to fly,” commented Englishman.

Englishman explained that the airport’s taxiways and runways are under federal jurisdiction, while the airport property itself is owned and operated by the three municipi-

palities of Brockton, Hanover and West Grey. He has a hangar on private property adjacent to the airport. Ronan outlined in the letter some of the things Englishman has done for the airport including involvement with numerous Aerobatics Canada annual competitions and organizing the highly successful national COPA convention in 2012, both of which brought pilots from all over North America to the airport. He noted the airport used to be a key destination for many pilots in days gone by, when they’d fly in for Sunday morning breakfast at the restaurant prior to its closing.

Many local youngsters had their first flight in a small plane thanks to Englishman’s support of and participation in the Young Eagles program. Englishman chaired the committee that brought the Snowbirds to the airport in 2017, and raised \$15,000 so the airport could have the latest and safest instrument approach technology. Although Englishman didn’t go into detail about “the incident” that occurred in August of last year and Dan Gieruszak, chair of the airport commission, declined to comment on it, Ronan’s letter described what happened – an attempt

See LOCAL on page 7

Brockton mayor looks forward to change in structure of county’s homes committee

PAULINE KERR

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
pkerr@midwesternnewspapers.com

BROCKTON – Mayor Chris Peabody, who chairs the county’s homes committee, is looking forward to a change in the committee structure regarding long-term care homes. During Thursday’s meeting of the county’s homes committee, a recommendation is coming forward to revise the committee’s name to the long-term care homes committee of management. Peabody said he’s been seeking the change for some time. “It reflects the more serious nature of governance,” he said. He explained it’s not unlike the increased responsibilities involved in managing a water system. Said Peabody, “I’ve never been comfortable with the committee (the present system). The change will enhance the significance of caring for our most vulnerable citizens.” According to the county report, a committee of management “has oversight functions to ensure the corporation complies with the *Long-Term Care Homes Act* ... Every member of the committee of management shall exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances, and take such measures as necessary to ensure that the corporation complies with requirements under the Act.” Peabody also commented on the COVID-19 outbreak at Brucelea Haven. “As with everything in this pandemic, there’s good news and bad news. The good news is we entered green ... and on the same day, the bad news was an outbreak at Brucelea Haven. Let’s keep the staff member who tested

Elmwood bank closing May 3

Continued from front

more branches. Today, most are decreasing their physical footprints because of the emergence of additional banking solutions, most notably online and digital tools,” said NCU President and CEO Richard Adam. “For Northern, this decision helps support the continued long-term financial viability of our organization. We must ensure the ability to meet the changing needs of our members and deliver on the community-based projects we remain committed to supporting in the areas that we serve in our ‘Northern’

communities. We have always been proud of our northern roots, which remain firmly planted.” The company says the True North Hub, telephone support, and banking service centre will operate with expanded hours leading up to the closure, while in-branch staff will help transition members to their nearest branch. NCU says all banking, other than cash transactions, can be done using NCU’s online and telephone services. “It was important to us to know, with confidence, that we had many ways to support the needs of members of all abilities in all communities,” said

Adam. “We can now say this for certain, with 24 branch locations across Ontario, secure online and mobile banking, the True North Hub toll-free call center, with live Northern staff members, a network of over 40,000 surcharge-free ATMs and online e-products with the ability to set up investments, credit lines, mortgages and more, firmly in place.” According to Woolley, the Elmwood branch currently services 860 members and has three employees. “We are working diligently to provide opportunities for all staff,” said Woolley. “The employees will remain with the organization until May 3, 2021, which will provide opportunities for other roles.”

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March 8, 2021



High school student turns spare time into sweet fundraiser

SPECIAL TO HERALD-TIMES

WALKERTON – Kinsley Cobean, 17, is in Grade 12 at Walkerton District Community School.

She's an active young woman who found herself with plenty of spare time, since COVID-19 meant no school sports or other extracurricular activities.

Before Christmas she started making hot chocolate bombs, a sweet treat guaranteed to keep winter's chill away. If you aren't familiar with them, just Google hot chocolate bombs. If you are on social media, check out Kinsley's mom Betty Cobean's Facebook or Instagram page.

Kinsley made a lot of the treats to share with family and friends over the holidays. After Christmas she continued to make them and decided to see if anyone might want to purchase them. Using her mom's Facebook and Instagram pages, she launched the Valentine's Day Hot Chocolate Bomb with some fun packaging. She decided she would donate \$1 from each one she sold to the Walkerton Food Bank.

She sold 422. Some customers gave a bit extra donation and

Kinsley topped up the donation to \$500. She dropped by the food bank last week with the cheque and Hot Chocolate Bombs for all the volunteers.

She plans to continue with the project, and will decorate the tasty treats to the customer's request – birthdays, anniversaries, company colours, St. Patrick's Day and Easter.

For Easter she is offering candy inside in addition to the traditional hot chocolate and marshmallows. They sell for \$5 each, \$1 of which will be donated to the food bank.

Donating to the food bank has become a family tradition for Kinsley. Years ago, her grandparents gave her and her brother \$50 each for Christmas and encouraged them to donate half to a charity. They chose the Walkerton Food Bank and their grandparents took them down to make the donation. Ever since then, it has been their charity of choice because it is making such an impact on the community.

For more information, email kcobean03@gmail.com or check out Bettyanne Cobean's social media pages.



Contributed Photos
Kinsley Cobean has turned her hot chocolate bombs (right) into a major fundraiser for the Walkerton Food Bank. Above: Walkerton Food Bank volunteer Dianne Waram accepts a donation from Cobean.



West Grey discontinuing library operations in Elmwood

Operations to cease March 30

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD-TIMES

ELMWOOD – Elmwood is losing its library.

In a press release on Feb. 23, the West Grey Library announced it will discontinue operations at the Resource Centre

in Elmwood on March 30. The centre has been working out of the basement at St. John's Lutheran Church following the closure of the standalone branch several years ago.

The West Grey Library stated services and programs for West Grey residents will still be available out of the Neustadt, Ayton and Durham branches, along with no-fee membership for local users through the Bruce

County Library.

"As in many other rural areas in Ontario, we are challenged with providing programs and services over a vast geographic area with a small population base," said West Grey Library Board Chair Malcolm Beddoe.

The West Grey Library says the Elmwood location has been operating with declining usage since moving to the church basement.

The press release also cited information from the Administrators of Rural and Urban Public Libraries of Ontario regarding targets for appropriate levels of library service for communities. "Comparisons show that West Grey Public Library is operating out of too many facilities," states the release.

Beddoe added, "We have a responsibility, as does the Municipality, to manage our resources

prudently so we can provide the best possible library services for all West Grey residents. We are acutely aware of that responsibility."

Details and updates will be posted outside the branch, online through the West Grey Library's Facebook account, and on the West Grey Library website at www.westgreylibrary.com.

Local pilot, airport commission involved in dispute

Continued from page 2

to announce his intention via radio, which failed because of the amount of traffic on the frequency, followed by a "perfectly legal" procedure used when a plane has no radio or the radio isn't functioning, for landing on the runway Englishman determined to be safest.

Gieruszak did state, "Part of the responsibility of the airport commission is to ensure the safety of the flying public and

the communities we serve." He didn't comment on the nature of the complaints to Transport Canada, but said, "We will continue to do so if we see any activities that are unsafe.... We will take the measures to ensure safety."

The airport commission chair said, "People from all over the province use the airport, and we will ensure all use the rules and regulations established by Transport Canada."

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Bruce Power makes \$1 million commitment to beat COVID-19

Be a Light: Beating COVID-19 Together campaign will support double-down effort in Grey, Bruce and Huron counties

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD-TIMES

TIVERTON – Bruce Power announced the launch of Be a Light: Beating COVID-19 Together on Nov. 19. Through this campaign, focused on Grey, Bruce and Huron counties, the company will make a \$1 million commitment and work with public health, county and municipal governments, chambers of commerce, hospitals, local MPs and MPPs, and community organizations to redouble efforts to battle the pandemic.

Ontario is at a critical juncture in the pandemic, having made significant progress by implementing extensive testing and controls, ensuring personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and reopening the economy. Despite this and with promising

progress on a vaccine, elected and Public Health officials have called upon everyone to do their part by taking immediate action in the days and weeks ahead to continue being diligent in taking the necessary precautions against the virus.

“As a region, we’ve been successful in battling COVID-19 together and we can see a light at the end of the tunnel; however, now is not the time to let down our guard,” said Dr. Ian Arra, medical officer of health and CEO for the Grey Bruce Health Unit. “We need to double down on the 3 Ws that will get us through this, including washing your hands frequently, watching and maintaining physical distance, and wearing a mask correctly in indoor public places. “We’re extremely grateful to

Bruce Power, which continues to be a leader in our region with helping our residents protect themselves, their families and the community against this dangerous virus, and lending a hand to people and organizations in need.”

James Scongack, executive vice-president corporate affairs and operational services for Bruce Power, encouraged community members to swiftly act on the advice of elected and public health officials.

“By working together as a community, we’ve all done many amazing things throughout Bruce, Grey and Huron counties to keep our communities safe since the start of the pandemic and we now need to double down,” Scongack said. “We are contributing to this in a positive way as everyone can make a difference, and this \$1 million campaign recognizes the broader and long-term challenges we face at this critical time.”

Bruce Power’s efforts will focus on the following five areas:

Public awareness, using community newspapers, radio stations, television and social media to reinforce the guidance from Public Health officials to stop COVID, especially as Bruce-Grey-Huron moves into colder weather and the holiday season;

Providing protection by working with the community to place temperature monitoring and other technology, along with the availability of personal protective equipment in higher risk or traffic areas;

Buy Local. In the face of necessary restrictions put in place by public health experts, local businesses continue to face challenges throughout our communities. Bruce Power is making a \$50,000 investment to further leverage the Grey-Bruce-Huron Strong platform that was created earlier during the pandemic and amplify the Buy Local effort;

Mental and Physical Health. Bruce Power will support community organizations which promote mental and physical health

activities and programs through the duration of the Be A Light: Beating COVID-19 Together campaign, and;

Lending a Helping Hand. Bruce Power will be working with food banks, long-term care facilities and community organizations to support these organizations and individuals during this period of time and will direct all funds in association with Buy Local.

In the coming days, Bruce Power will be announcing specific contributions and initiatives associated with each of these five areas as time and action is of the essence to respond to the urgent situation Ontario and our communities face.

Unity is more important than ever and Bruce Power is committed to working with our elected officials at the federal, provincial, county and municipal levels and Public Health officials to support their work and our collective commitment towards making a positive difference.

Plan the Bruce: Good Growth Project maps out future patterns

SPECIAL TO HERALD-TIMES

BRUCE COUNTY – The Plan the Bruce: Good Growth project will provide an overview of the county’s forecasted population and jobs growth for the next 25 years and directions for growth management.

These forecasts and directions will inform the broader Plan the Bruce project to develop the new Bruce County Official Plan as well as other county initiatives and pro-

grams.

The planning and development committee had the opportunity to provide feedback on draft analysis to date, which included data on growth drivers and disruptors, labour force trends, commuting patterns, regional economic opportunities, and much more. An interim report is expected in early in 2021 and the final discussion paper will be presented in March 2021 after public and stakeholder engagement.

Restaurant rejection leads to feces fiasco

GEORGIAN BLUFFS – An Arran-Elderslie resident is facing multiple charges after being accused of defecating on the floor of a Georgian Bluffs restaurant last week.

On Nov. 20 at 6:04 a.m., officers from the Grey Bruce OPP detachment responded to a threats complaint at a restaurant located on Highway 6 and 21.

Staff told police that a customer had entered the restaurant before the dining room opened to the public. Staff asked the customer to leave, at which point police say they “became irate” and defecated on the

floor of the restaurant. Police say that the accused also threatened an employee before leaving the restaurant.

Officers found the suspect near the restaurant and had to use a taser during the arrest.

The accused, 43-year-old Arin Vleck of Arran-Elderslie, was charged with mischief and uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm.

The accused was been released on an undertaking and is scheduled to appear in Owen Sound court on Jan. 14, 2021 to answer to the charges.



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Lisa Thompson, MPP
Huron-Bruce

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