

Bird of a feather



VISITORS TO CANATARA PARK often stop to admire this great egret, seen here coming in for a landing on Lake Chipican. But even veteran nature photographer Ronny D'Haene was surprised when this image popped up full-size on his home computer screen. "I've taken thousands of shots and maybe a dozen times I've verbally said, 'Wow,'" admitted D'Haene, whose photos of local wildlife often grace the pages of The Journal. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society, which was formed in part to halt the killing of the elegant birds, whose feathers were once used to decorate hats.

RONNY D'HAENE Special To The Journal

Mercury cleanup

NEW ANALYSIS OF RIVER INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION ENCOURAGING

CATHY DOBSON
THE JOURNAL

Sediment contaminated with mercury on the floor of the St. Clair River is recovering naturally and won't require dredging after all, say analysts leading the cleanup.

Instead, they propose capping the contaminated areas with a layer of fine gravel.

"Mother Nature is a wonderful thing. Generally, we're seeing positive trends in terms of recovery," said Betsy Henry, a principal scientist with Anchor QEA and part of a team hired to finalize engineering and design plans. Henry spoke during a recent public information session about three priority areas believed to have been contaminated with mercury by Dow Chemical decades ago.

Dow left Sarnia in 2009 after removing all the contaminated sediment along its stretch of property on the St. Clair River. But three remaining "hot spots" are a cleanup priority: near the Suncor Energy dock, the Shell Canada loading dock, and Guthrie Park between Sarnia and Corunna.

Continued on 3

Backlog prevents upset drivers from taking road tests

TROY SHANTZ
THE JOURNAL

Young people who need a drivers' licence for work are having an extremely difficult time getting one in Sarnia because of a backlog for road tests.

"It's so bad right now. I'm not understanding how Sarnia

DriveTest is getting away with this," said Nicole Mongrain, of Journeys Driving Academy.

"Just from my driving school alone we have, I think, between 30 and 35 (road tests) that have been cancelled. There's nothing (available), not until December."

Government drive test centres opened June 14 under Step 1 of Ontario's reopening

roadmap, but the backlog of new drivers trying to get a G2 licence could now stretch into 2022.

The problem is compounded locally by there being just a single driver examiner on duty in Sarnia.

"We have a few students right now that this is their third time being canceled due to the pandemic," said Mongrain.

Booking a test is next to impossible because the online and phone systems are so backed up, she said.

"We're on the website two or three times a day, if not more, and we can't even get through once. I've written so many emails to Bob Bailey (asking him) to do something about this."

Continued on 3

DEAR READERS:

We will not be publishing an edition on July 15. The next regular print newspaper will be July 22. For the latest local news, visit the website at www.thesarniajournal.ca or on Facebook.

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