



Planned County's Official Plan set to be amended



Performance Annual Jazz festival set to swing this summer

ONCE MORE, THE PANTHERS ENTER THE FRAY



PECI Junior Panther prop Katelyn Deroche tries to maintain a grip on the ball against the Garth Webb Secondary School Chargers during 2023 Barbarian Cup action at Centennial Secondary School Field on Sunday. While the Panthers would fall in their opening game, they managed to top Streetsville 29-5. For more, see Page 22. (Jason Parks/Gazette Staff)



Lack of parkland in new development plans dismays residents

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STAFF WRITER

While the world burns, red tape is getting in the way of green space in Prince Edward County. New residential development is in the works — but while Picton sprawls, parkland and other green spaces are becoming an endangered species.

A new development application from the Cleave Group's Port Picton Homes is just the most recent example. It proposes a 7.4-acre development west of Talbot Street, carved out of the West Meadows project and bounded by the Millennium Trail. It contains no parkland. The group is applying for a mixed-use residential development of 15 single detached and 43 town homes, with an "open space block" that gives access to the Trail.

Developers are able to pay "cash-in-lieu" for parkland deficiencies, that is, when there is not enough parkland in a development to meet pro-

vincial standards. Also called "park monies," cash-in-lieu means paying to avoid having to build a park. The money is collected by the municipality, and can only be used for purchasing new parkland. Any update to existing parks cannot be funded with this stream of money.

Cash-in-lieu applies to all subdivision applications above four units.

When asked by *the Gazette* how the lack of green space in new development fulfills the Provincial Policy Statement's requirement for "healthy, active communities," County spokesperson Mark Kerr provided some examples. In the Talbot street proposal, for example, "The applicant will convey an area of open space to create a pedestrian link to the Millennium Trail," he said, referring to a narrow strip of land located between two of the proposed houses.

See **PARKLAND**, page 23

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