



Wingham Advance Times

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North Huron council approves funds for new AC unit at Alice Munro Library

CORY BILYEA

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WINGHAM – The Alice Munro Public Library in Wingham contacted the township on June 2 to report the air conditioning unit that services the central part of the library had stopped working.

Staff attended the library to try to fix the problem, according to a report to council on June 19 from Gregg Furtney, director of public works, but were unsuccessful.

“Unfortunately, staff had to call in a service team to take a look and it was reported that the existing five-tonne air conditioner was not repairable,” said Furtney.

“Although the library is run by Huron County, the Wingham library building is owned and maintained by the Township of North Huron,” Furtney added. “As such, the maintenance and repair/replacement of the air conditioner unit is the township’s responsibility. As we head into the summer months, it is important that a new air conditioner unit is purchased and installed.”

Under the township’s Purchasing of Goods, Services, and Construction Policy, staff asked three companies to provide a quote on purchasing and installing a new five-tonne air conditioner unit.

Three local companies quoted on the work:

- Gable Electric, Plumbing, and HVAC Ltd. – \$4,920;
- Montgomery Industrial Services – \$7,124; and
- Moran Mechanical and Electrical Ltd. – \$7,982.70.

Council approved the lowest bid, awarding the contract, including installation, to Gable Electric, Plumbing and HVAC for \$4,920.

The funds to purchase and install this new air conditioner unit will come from the Library Wingham Reserve Fund.



Cory Bilyea Photo

PLAY FOR UNITED WAY – Maitland River Elementary School held a play-a-thon event on Friday, June 16, raising funds for United Way Perth-Huron and having a catered lunch from Subway. Students were encouraged to bring a loonie or a toonie to donate to the United Way. See further coverage on page 15.

North Huron receives audit results

Seebach: Budget process made surplus appear larger than actual amount

CORY BILYEA

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NORTH HURON – North Huron council received the results of its annual financial audit during its regular council meeting on June 19.

According to Paul Seebach from Seebach and Company Chartered Professional Accountants, the township is in accordance with the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Seebach presented the results of the audit and explained how the budget format made it appear that the township had a surplus amount of \$2.9 million, but the actual amount was far less than that.

“We have to produce them using pre-set accounting policies. We have to capitalize assets, where in your budget, you actually expense assets. Our statements don’t show reserve transfers as income or expenses... so they’re

there, but they don’t hit the income statement,” Seebach said.

“So I what I’m trying to say is, when we go through this and you see your surplus of \$2.9 million, don’t get too excited, because that doesn’t include reserve transfers of \$2.6 million,” stated Seebach. “So if you take the 2.9 (million) minus 2.6 (million), your surplus is more like a couple hundred thousand dollars.”

Explaining further, Seebach talked about some of the large projects on last year’s budget that didn’t get completed, telling councillors that these big-ticket items are part of the reason for the appearance of a large surplus. The Blyth dichlorination plant, work on the Wingham washrooms, a lot of the sewer/water work at Hutton Heights, and the Wingham Standpipe project are all waiting to be completed. Seebach said most of those things would be set aside in 2023.

“You have more money sitting around because you didn’t do it,”

Seebach said, adding that once those projects are paid for, the reserve funds will reflect a more accurate snapshot of the township’s finances.

Seebach added that the township also had yet to spend all its federal gas tax funds and that \$630,000 is showing on the financial statements as a deferred liability.

Seebach said that the reserve funds are sitting at \$19.4 million, but \$10.2 million of that is set aside for water and sewer projects.

The township’s debt is down also, Seebach said, from \$413,000 to \$315,000.

“There was no new debt taken out, you actually finished paying one loan. So now you only have one loan, which you know, six, seven years ago, you might have three or four loans and now you’re done to one,” said Seebach.

“As far as the audit, it’s a clean auditors report. It states that financial statements present fairly in all material respects, financial performance and cash flows to the year ended.”

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CANADA DAY FEATURE
Let's celebrate our home and native land
See pages 12-14

Planes, cars and bikes fundraiser set for this Saturday at Wingham Airport

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WINGHAM – The Wingham Independent Motorcycle Club (MC) is revving up their engines for what they hope will be its most significant fundraising event to date.

The club’s second annual barbecue at the Wingham Airport includes a new addition to the event: inviting anybody with a plane, a classic car/truck or a sweet ride (motorcycle) to join in their efforts to support the local school breakfast clubs and have a great time while doing so.

“This is an all-ages event, so please bring out the family and your finest set of wheels. Let’s make this the biggest event of the summer,” John Towton, Independent MC spokesperson, said. “Please reach out to me or another MC member with questions. As always, the proceeds will be going to the local breakfast school programs.”

See **PLANES** on page 7



Wingham Advance Times

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Council parks changes to downtown parking bylaw

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NORTH HURON – North Huron’s parking bylaw will remain the same, with two-hour parking between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

A report from North Huron’s Director of Public Works and Facilities, Jamie McCarthy, said that during the Sept. 19 regular council meeting, Rachel King, general manager of the Blyth Festival, raised concerns regarding the two-hour parking limit on the main street in Blyth. King mentioned the time limit was too restrictive and suggested consideration be given to a four-hour limit on the main street in Blyth.

The festival maintains that a two-hour parking limit doesn’t allow its guests the opportunity to shop or dine locally.

McCarthy reminded council that sidewalks were put in from the community centre to the downtown core at great expense to the township to give festival guests access to unlimited parking.

Coun. Kevin Falconer spoke about one business owner who is against the four-hour parking because their clients wouldn’t be able to park in front of their hair-cutting business if someone was parked there and attending the festival.

The subject of being fined while parked in the downtown core for more than two hours came up, specifically that there wasn’t a dedicated parking bylaw enforcer on staff; the only time parking violations are reported is when a complaint is filed with the township.

Council deferred the bylaw update on Sept. 19, to consult with the local Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) and conduct public consultation regarding the request.

The township’s Economic Development Officer, Demetri Makrakos, reached out to the Wingham BIA and Blyth BIA to ask for feedback on the parking times and administered a survey that was emailed to all businesses that could be affected.

“Over the course of three weeks, nine responses were received,” the report said. “An invitation for BIA members to meet in person was also scheduled at Town Hall to solicit more feedback. Unfortunately, there was no attendance at that meeting.”

See **COUNCIL** on page 2



LEST WE FORGET – A large crowd gathered in Wingham for the Remembrance Day service at the Wingham Cenotaph. Pictured: Veteran Randy LeBlanc (front right) joins Wingham Legion members at the Nov. 11 service. For additional photos from the Wingham service, see page 8. For photos from the Teeswater service, see page 9.

Cory Bilyea Photo

Teeswater Medical Centre campaign reaches \$2M

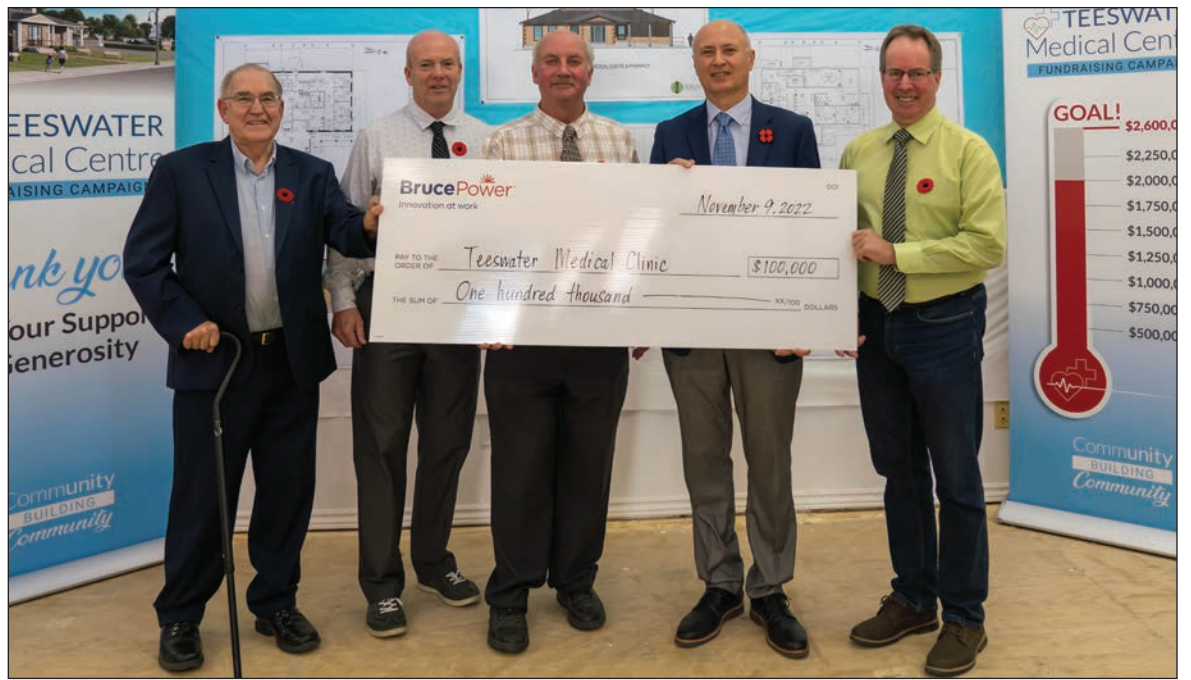
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TEESWATER – A generous donation from Bruce Power brought the Teeswater Medical Centre \$100,000 closer to its \$2.6 million goal to renovate the existing building into a state-of-the-art medical facility, including space for a new doctor, a pharmacy, and other healthcare professionals.

Bruce Power’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Mike Rencheck, joined several local dignitaries, fundraising committee members, and business owners at the facility on Nov. 9 to present the cheque and unveil the new total on the fundraising thermometer keeping track of the calculations.

“We are proud to support the Teeswater Medical Centre and its committee’s goal of providing a new, state-of-the-art facility that will include enhanced access to medical care,” said Rencheck. “As a leading clean energy provider for the province, we believe that our rural communities, the people who live there, and health care professionals working here deserve top-notch care and advanced medical facilities.”



Cory Bilyea Photo

ONE STEP CLOSER – Bruce Power presented a donation of \$100,000 towards the Teeswater Medical Centre (TMC) fundraiser on Nov. 9, bringing the project closer to its \$2.6 million goal. Pictured, from left: South Bruce Mayor Bob Buckle, TMC Fundraising Chair Dwight Leslie, TMC Committee Co-Chair Larry Hayes, Bruce Power President and CEO Mike Rencheck, and TMC Committee Co-Chair Paul Cronin.

As part of its commitment to supporting local health care, Bruce Power and its supplier partners have committed \$3.65 million to local hospital foundations and medical clinics across the region since 2019. This sup-

ports local efforts to provide the latest equipment and services while recognizing our hospitals and clinics’ important work and services to residents and visitors. “This donation is another step forward in giving our residents

access to improved medical facilities and services,” said Paul Cronin, co-chair of the Teeswater Medical Centre Building Committee. “We are making this

See **TEESWATER** on page 11

No change in Morris-Turnberry election results

Recount requested by Michie results in identical vote counts as election night

MIKE WILSON

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MORRIS-TURNBERRY – A recount of the votes casts in the Morris-Turnberry municipal election has resulted in no change

to the results announced on Oct. 24.

Christopher Michie, one of the six candidates seeking four seats on Morris-Turnberry council, requested the recount on Nov. 1. In the original count, Michie fin-

ished fifth in the six-person race, one vote shy of the fourth-place finisher Jodi Snell. Michie received 586 votes, while Snell received 587 votes. Current Deputy Mayor Sharen Zinn, who finished third, received 590 votes. Kevin Freiburger received the most votes at 720, while Jamie McCallum was second with 689 votes. Dale McFarlan finished sixth

with 328 votes. In the recount results released on Nov. 9 by Morris-Turnberry, the vote counts were exactly the same. Michie was present for the recount.

The 2022-26 Morris-Turnberry council will be comprised of Mayor Jamie Heffer (acclaimed), Freiburger, McCallum, Zinn and Snell.

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Fall CAR CARE

SEE PAGE 3

Chi Cheemaun pays tribute to man who named her in annual tradition

Family talks of Donald Keeshig's dream to keep the Anishinaabe language alive

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A hush came over the people gathered on the shore of Georgian Bay as *The Chi Cheemaun* rounded the corner and turned to begin its journey past the Cape Croker Lighthouse, where family and friends gather each year to witness an annual tradition that honours the man who named the famous ferry.

Donald Keeshig won a contest in 1974 after hearing about the new ship sailing through the waters of Neyaashiingmiing. He felt the name should be in Anishinaabemowin (the Ojibway language). *The Chi Cheemaun* (The Big Canoe) was born.

As waves gently lapped on the rocky shore, Donald's daughter, Joselyn Keeshig, recalls the time of the contest and her dad's love for his first language, Anishinaabemowin, as he thought about the name he would enter.

"His first language was Anishinaabemowin. So, he always interpreted the world through that language, right?" she said.

The sun broke through the clouds, spreading warmth to the people gathered there. A small fire provided a continuous layer of smoke, creating the ambiance of the olden days as they held a gentle conversation and remembered their beloved Papa.

Joselyn recalled a childhood memory of storytelling time with her dad when he would share tales with the kids in Anishinaabemowin and then translate the stories into English.

"But he would get stuck on words, and we'd all be sitting around in a circle, and he'd say, 'OK, children, give me a word for this.' So we'd all find a word and throw it at him, and he'd say 'ah, kind of.' So we'd dig again for another word and another word. Pretty soon, we're looking in the dictionary, and we're all you know, throwing words at him until he would find just about the right translation for today.

"So you can imagine with seeing what the big canoe was going to look like, and envisioning in his mind how it was going to travel through these waters. It's quite remarkable."

Donald's granddaughter, Polly Keeshig-Tobias, described her Papa's love for the language in a tribute, saying, "My grandfather was not a highly educated man. He left the reservation around 16 to earn a living. He raised his nine children in English. Later in life, he realized the importance and the desire of young people to learn our language and began teaching community language classes.

"He had once translated 'rainbow' in words and gestures as: 'sunlight captured through raindrops produces coloured ribbons in the sky.' His understanding of the Ojibwe language is my understanding of knowledge."

Joselyn talked about how Polly's words resonated with her.

"So her interpretation of that is that through my dad, through my Papa, she understood the language, but to her it meant he had the knowledge. It was so power-



ful. It speaks about the language and speaks a lot about where dad came from, you know, growing up here in the community in the 1950s."

In those days, so many barriers were put in place that the Anishinaabeg could not speak their language without experiencing trauma. That fear was instilled in them by forces like the *Indian Act*, residential and day schools, and all those things forbidding the speaking and learning of Anishinaabemowin and all other Indigenous languages.

"He was one of the few that actually stayed and kept that language," said Joselyn. "So one thing he wanted in life was to keep the language alive. He always felt really bad that he never taught his children."

She found out later in life that the fear of seeing his children be reprimanded for speaking the language drove him to make that decision.

"He thought we would do better in life and there wouldn't be any punishment if we spoke English and went to school and became educated. And as he got older, it became a real tenderness for him, you know, why he didn't teach the children. He would often say, 'I wish I taught my children the language.' But now it's there, travelling the waters and for everybody to see. That is his contribution."

As the elaborate image on *The Chi Cheemaun* (depicting the Woodland-style artwork inspired by famous Indigenous painter Norval Morrisseau) came into view, an indescribable sensation filled the air as Donald's relations lined the shore in anticipation of the now renowned blowing of the horn to honour his memory.

As the Aunties sang songs for the children, the great-grandchildren of Donald, who were there to begin their own tradition of hearing *The Chi Cheemaun* blow its horn for their Papa, his friends and relatives shared memories about the

first time the horn blew for Donald Keeshig at the Cape Croker lighthouse.

Barney (Beegs) Keeshig, Donald's cousin, recalled that day with fondness and a little mischief as he recounted how he convinced Donald to accompany him to the lighthouse for a bit of peace and quiet to share some stories.

Unbeknownst to Donald, Beegs had contacted *The Chi Cheemaun* office, hoping to speak to the "head honcho," Susan Schrempf (former Owen Sound Transportation Company CEO) to arrange what is now the tradition to honour the man who named the ferry.

"So, we waited for that boat, hoping that Susan would come through. And it was getting late. So we waited and we talked and I'm starting to run out of stories and Donald, he says, 'Beegs (My Indian name is Beegs) what's going on here?' He says 'why are we here?' I says, 'Oh, I just wanted to bring you down here, it's quiet, have a few good stories.'"

Beegs remembers thinking, "Where's that damn boat?" as he ran out of ideas to keep Donald occupied while they waited.

"All of a sudden, out of the fog, that boat came in," Beegs said. "He looked at the boat, he looked at me and he said, 'What the hell is going on?' And I said, 'Just a minute.' As it got even with us, you could see all the people out there waving at us and then [the ferry] gave three blasts. And he looked at me. I says, 'That's for you. They're recognizing you.'"

In a quiet voice, Beegs said, "He was so proud."

The family went on the first trip of *The Chi Cheemaun* from Tobermory to South Baymouth, Joselyn recalled.

"They had a big parade and they even got a room up in Tobermory, where we could go and stay in this motel. Dad was riding on the car and waving like the king and this big picture over here on his

whose vision of the Anishnaabeg language is forever emblazoned on its side, for all nations to see that the language lives on.

Schrempf attended Donald's funeral, Beegs said.

"She made a promise to his family that every year they went by the Cape here, they'd give him a salute."

The anticipated moment arrived as the ferry got as close to the rocky shore as possible, with people visible on the multiple decks of the big canoe. One person on deck unveiled the Chippewas of Nawash flag, which flew proudly as folks cheered.

The horn blasted once; then, three long blasts filled the bay as *The Chi Cheemaun* once more paid tribute to Donald Keeshig, honouring his family and friends who gather each year to remember a great man.

The beautiful boat sounded two more times as it drifted past, all eyes on shore following *The Chi Cheemaun* until she disappeared around the corner en route to her final destination in Tobermory.

As the waves tumbled high up onto the beach, the people there slowly gathered up their chairs, gave each other long hugs and quietly walked back up the hill to return to their homes, warm with the memories of their loved one and firm in their desire to continue to promote the Anishinaabe language in honour of Donald Keeshig's legacy.

Many Indigenous languages in Canada are endangered. This resulted from a history of restrictive colonial policies. They prohibited the speaking of these mother tongues. In an attempt to assimilate Indigenous people into Canadian society, the Indian Act and residential schools forced Indigenous people to abandon their languages. Residential school students caught speaking these languages were punished. Even after these schools were shut down, loss of language knowledge and the fear of speaking Indigenous languages lingered. This inhibited the passing of these languages from one generation to the next.

Rice, Keren. "Indigenous Language Revitalization in Canada." - The Canadian Encyclopedia.

Cory Bilyea Photos

(Above) *The Chi Cheemaun* (The Big Canoe) turns towards the shores of Georgian Bay while making its journey from Owen Sound to Tobermory on May 4. (Inset) The anticipated moment arrived as the ferry got as close to the rocky shore as possible, with people visible on the multiple decks of The Big Canoe. (Left) Donald Keeshig's family and friends have gathered every year since 2016 to watch the *Chi Cheemaun* pass by and blast its horn in tribute to the man who named her. Left to right - Mike Desjardine (son-in-law), Darlene Johnston (niece), Tony Keeshig (son), Chase Akiwenzie (gr. granddaughter), Jesse Akiwenzie (grandson), Joselyn Keeshig (daughter), Towdy Akiwenzie (daughter), Nadine Desjardine, (daughter), Harper (7 months), Henrick (4) and Anna Desjardine (granddaughter).

lap and you know, they had a big dance and we got to go on the boat and we went over to Manitoulin."

Donald passed away shortly after this first honouring by *The Chi Cheemaun*, only to witness this tradition on its first journey. However, his memory lives on each year as his family and friends gather at the Cape Croker Lighthouse and line the beach to watch and hear *The Big Canoe* blast its horn in great tribute to the man



Joselyn Keeshig holds the painting gifted to her dad when he won a contest to name the new ship. Donald Keeshig's grandson, 3-year-old Henrick, has his toy *Chi Cheemaun* up to the painting as he realizes they are identical.

Listowel Hockey Days, Jan. 28-29



Cory Bilyea Photos

The inaugural Listowel Hockey Days event was held at the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex in Listowel on Jan. 28-29, with 15 LMHA teams in action over the course of the weekend, with proceeds going back into the organization. Pictured, clockwise from above: Game action on Saturday; signage for the event courtesy of Sign Gypsies North Perth KW; a battle for puck possession; Representatives from the Memorial Arena Park (MAP) 59 committee attended the event to help raise awareness of the Feb. 28, 1959 arena collapse – from left, survivor Keith Bender, Nancy Kaufman, sister of Rick Kaufman who died in the collapse, and survivor Peter Leppard.



Ironmen prevail in weekend PJHL contests

BULLDOGS	FINAL	0
IRONMEN		4

DAN MCNEE

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WINGHAM – Points are at a premium with the 2022-23 PJHL regular season beginning to wind down, and the Wingham Ironmen picked up four they desperately needed over the weekend to maintain pace with the teams they're chasing in the North Pollock Division standings.

With nine games remaining before the start of the postseason, fourth-place Wingham (19-11-2-1) knocked off the Kincardine Bulldogs (16-13-3-1) 4-0 on Friday and then held off the Walkerton Capitals (4-25-1-1) 4-3 the following night to remain five points back of Hanover and Mitchell, who currently hold down second and third place, respectively. The Ironmen have some heavy lifting over the next two weeks, with their next five games against clubs ahead of them in the standings.

On Jan. 27 at the North Huron Westcast Community Complex, the Ironmen concluded a five-game home stand in style over the visiting Bulldogs, taking a 4-0 decision.

Garrett Golley recorded his PJHL-leading seventh shutout of the campaign with a 16-save effort. Matt Tolton's power-play marker 2:27 into the second period would stand up as the game winner, with Nate Bloomberg, Patrick Galloway and Aiden Joyce also scoring in the contest.

Tolton, Bloomberg and Galloway each finished with a goal and an assist.

Wingham's first three goals were scored on the man advantage, as the Ironmen held the Bulldogs to single-digit shot counts in every period.

Carter Garvie took the loss in the Kincardine net with 23 saves.

Ironmen 4, Capitals 3

Heading out on the road for the first time in three weeks, Wingham's balanced scoring was again on display as the Ironmen held off the Capitals in Walkerton for a 4-3 win on Jan. 28.

The Capitals took an early lead on a Clayton Fitzsimmons tally 8:42 into the first period, before Kyle Stanbury responded at 11:15 with his 21st of the season. JJ Lavigne restored the Walkerton lead five minutes later with his fifth goal of the campaign.

But the Ironmen would take control of the game in the middle frame, with Austin Becker and Josh Pham scoring a minute and a half apart to make it 3-2. Walkerton's Jett Morningstar tied the game at 12:58 of the period, but Pham would strike again 41 seconds later to give Wingham back the lead for good.

Golley and the Wingham defense would do the rest in a scoreless third period to preserve the win for the visitors.

Stanbury finished with a goal and an assist, as did Morningstar and Lavigne for Walkerton. Golley made 25 saves for his second win in as many nights, while Russ Sebben topped 29 shots in the Capitals' crease.

Cyclones host Siskins Friday

Continued from page 9

Listowel scored four unanswered goals to put the home side in a deep hole midway through the game. Vader and McGillivray also continued their hot hands of late with goals in consecutive games; Vader once again finished with a goal and an assist. Jewitt and Jayden Steele contributed a pair of assists each, while backup goaltender Riley Arts' 21-save performance earned him his first win since Nov. 25, 2022.

Daniel McCuen scored Caledon's lone goal in the second period, while Ethan Kowatsch made 37 saves. Listowel was awarded a penalty shot for the second

consecutive night and was again unable to convert, with Kowatsch stopping Ben Smith late in the second period.

Upcoming Games

The Cyclones hosted the Ayr Centennials (24-15-2) in a make-up game on Jan. 31, but as of press time that result is unknown. Listowel opens its February schedule against the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins (30-9-2) Friday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kerr Complex; the Cyclones also travel to Brantford (2-37-2) to face the Bandits on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Brantford District Civic Centre.

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