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PLUS

Thursday, July 13, 2023

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Mike Wilson Photo

HERE FISHY, FISHY, FISHY! – Dozens of enthusiastic youngsters, along with their parental units, attended the Fishing Derby at the Bluevale Dam on Sunday morning. Despite the rain, spirits were high and the fish were biting. See this week's *Wingham Advance Times* for additional photos.

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Bat in ACW tests positive for rabies

SPECIAL TO THE PLUS

ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH – Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is reporting that a bat located in Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh has tested positive for rabies.

HPPH says the bat was sent in for testing after biting an individual. That individual is receiving rabies post exposure prophylaxis, which prevents them from getting rabies.

This is the first animal to test positive for rabies in 2023, and the fourth animal in Huron-Perth to test positive since January 2020, according to HPPH. All animals testing positive have been bats.

“This latest positive result reminds us that rabies is present in

Huron-Perth,” says Dale Lyttle, senior public health inspector. “If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, or if infectious material (such as saliva) from a bat gets into your eyes, nose, or an open wound, wash the affected area thoroughly and seek medical attention immediately.”

About rabies

Rabies is a viral disease and is fatal to humans and other mammals. The rabies virus is commonly spread by wild animals such as foxes, skunks, raccoons and bats. Humans can be exposed to rabies when they come in contact with saliva from an infected animal, usually through a bite or scratch. Saliva may also come in contact with the moist tissues of

the mouth, nose, eyes or an open wound (e.g. cut).

If you have been bitten or scratched by an animal, you should:

- wash the wound immediately with soap and water;
- seek medical attention; and
- contact Huron Perth Public Health at 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3670 to report the incident as soon as possible.

How to protect your family and pets from rabies

- Bat-proof your home or cottage, by sealing openings where bats may enter.
- Caulk holes in your home's exterior, even those as small as one-quarter to one-half inch in diameter.

- Tighten screens, cap your chimney, place draft guards under doors leading to the attic and outside, and fill plumbing fixture holes with steel wool or caulk.

- Keep doors tightly closed when going outside and coming back indoors.

- Keep pets up-to-date with their rabies vaccination. In Ontario, it's the law that all cats and dogs over three months of age be vaccinated against rabies.

- Stay away from wild animals, dogs and cats you don't know, or animals that are acting strangely. An animal acting strangely could be a sign that it is sick.

- Keep pets away from wildlife. Prevent your pets from running free in the neighbourhood, and keep them indoors at night.

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Emergency funding approved for Wingham Columbus Centre HVAC unit

CORY BILYEA

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NORTH HURON – Director of Public Works Gregg Furtney submitted an emergency funding request to North Huron council at its June 5 meeting, asking for funds to replace one of the rooftop heating/air conditioning units that has failed.

Furtney explained that one of the two existing units that provide heating and cooling to the main hall at the Wingham Columbus Centre Community Hall has stopped working. He further stated that staff had attempted to “get parts and repair the unit,”

but due to the age of the unit, parts are no longer available.

“The contractor that services the rooftop units explained that the only other option is to replace the unit completely,” Furtney said. “Until then, the remaining and existing rooftop unit will be working overtime to compensate for the second unit that is out of commission.”

Additionally, there is ductwork and electrical work, gas piping, a new base, some insulation modifications required and the rental of a crane to remove and replace the rooftop unit.

Due to the timing of the unit’s failure, Furtney said he is requesting a sole-

source emergency purchase, as outlined in the township’s Purchasing of Goods, Services, and Construction Policy.

Furtney explained that the lead-time to get this unit is 28 weeks, which puts the installation into November, and that an additional three to four weeks would be needed if the purchase were tendered.

Cliff’s Plumbing and Heating regularly services the North Huron Westcast Community Complex and other township facility rooftop and HVAC units, Furtney said. He recommended that council consider purchasing the unit from them and authorize the installation by the

same company that is already familiar with the units.

The total for the unit and the installation is \$33,700 plus applicable taxes. The repairs would be funded from the Wingham Recreation Reserve Fund.

Deputy Reeve Kevin Falconer asked about replacing both units at the same time, given they are the same age, to avoid hiring a crane twice should the second unit fail.

Furtney said the second unit is still operational,

and will be needed for the upcoming summer season to keep the building cool. As well, because this was an emergency, they didn’t consider replacing both units in their request.

Council approved the request unanimously.

Fundraiser launched for Gorrie family who lost home to fire

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GORRIE – An online fundraiser has been launched to assist a Gorrie family who lost their home to a fire over the weekend.

The fire, which Howick, Wingham and Grey Township firefighters responded to around 8:45 p.m. on June 3, occurred at the home of Stan Beckner and his partner, Sabrina.

Firefighters reported no injuries; however

two beloved family pets were lost to the blaze.

Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze, however the home sustained heavy damage.

A GoFundMe page has been launched by Tammy Beckner, Stan’s sister, who says the family “lost everything they own” in the fire. “They were very fortunate to make it out, but also lost two beloved pets,” writes Tammy.

See GOFUNDME on page 5

Hutton Heights subdivision infrastructure tender awarded

Continued from front

The fund’s objective is to accelerate the supply of housing across Canada. Incentive funding can be used for prescribed uses, which fall under four categories:

1. Investments in Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plans.
2. Investments in affordable housing.
3. Investments in housing-related infrastructure.
4. Investments in community-related infrastructure that supports housing. This funding can be applied to base funding and top-up

funding.

There is also a financial bonus for providing affordable housing units.

Furtney said, “The timing for this funding opportunity is perfect. Staff have just received the tender results from the request for proposal (RFP) related to the ‘housing-related infrastructure’ for Phase 2 of the Hutton Heights residential development project. The Township of North Huron has a ‘shovel-ready’ project to submit to the Housing Accelerator Grant Fund.”

Furtney recommended that the senior management

team write and submit the application for the total amount, plus “some additional project work that is necessary at the wastewater treatment facility, downstream of the Hutton Heights development. To be approved for some or all of the funding needed for this project would be a ‘win’ for the municipality.”

Clerk Carson Lamb will prepare a bylaw for the June 19 regular meeting to enter into an agreement with Omega Contractors Inc. for Phase 2 of the Hutton Heights servicing project.



Mike Wilson Photo

With June 1 marking the start of Pride Month in North Huron, the Pride flag was raised on the flag pole in front of town hall in Wingham last Thursday. No official ceremony was held this year for the flag raising. Within hours of the flag being raised, a pair of signs appeared on the construction fencing in front of town hall expressing opposition to the flag being raised. This isn’t the first time such an occurrence has happened with the Pride flag in Wingham; last year, the flag pole was vandalized the day before the flag raising ceremony.



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Contributed Photo

The Walkerton Capitals U11 Girls B squad went undefeated at the 41st annual Walter Gretzky Tournament in Brantford, Feb. 24-26, claiming the championship in the process. The Caps started the weekend with a pair of shutout wins over Guelph (7-0) and Brantford (2-0) on Friday, Feb. 24. On Saturday, Walkerton defeated Sudbury 3-1 and Stratford 7-0 to finish first in Pool B and earn a berth in the semifinals. The semifinals on Sunday saw Walkerton win a close 2-1 game over Mooretown. In the final on Sunday afternoon, the Caps earned a hard-fought 1-0 win over Ayr to win the championship. The team includes players: Olivia Filsinger, Charlotte Fitzsimmons, Emma Wettlaufer, Mae Bodendistle, Hayley Walter, Kate Todtz, Harper Middleton, Marley Aitken, Addison Kuntz, Reese Wilson, Brinley Corley, Jessica Farrell and Charley Murray. The coaching staff includes: Dave Farrell, Bob Wilson, Susan Kuntz and Derek Wettlaufer.



Mike Wilson Photos
The Walkerton Capitals U13 LL #1 team travelled to Palmerston on Feb. 23 for a playoff game against the Minto Mad Dogs. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. As of Feb. 27, the Capitals sit in third-place in the six-team WAAA Silver South group with three games remaining. (Above) Axel Schuler's first period shot barely squeaked through the pads of Minto Mad Dogs U13 LL goalie Sawyer Schiestel. (Right) The Capitals celebrate Schuler's goal.



Capitals look to continue winning ways, play three games this week

Continued from page 8

fought back and regained the lead with a power-play goal by Carson Stutzman, assisted by Brett Harrogate and Fritzeley; and a short-handed goal by Fritzeley from Shore. Three minutes later, the Capitals tied the score with a goal by Ewald, assisted by Durrer and Keegan Fischer, to send the game into overtime.

At the 1:27 mark, Durrer scored his third of the night, assisted by Tichbourne and goalie Logan Bromley. The final score was 5-4 for Walkerton.

With only a handful of games left in the regular season, the Mount Forest Patriots lead the North Pollock Division with 61 points. Hanover are second with 56, and Mitchell and Wingham each have 53. Kin-cardine has 40 and Walkerton has 16, while Goderich has 14.

Goderich played again in Walkerton on Wednesday, March 1 – results of that game were not available at press time.

On Friday, March 3, the Caps host the Mitchell Hawks for at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, the Hanover Barons visit Walkerton for a 2:30 p.m. game – the final scheduled game of the regular season.



Pauline Kerr Photo

One entertaining element at Walkerton Jr. C Capitals' games is when the young players take over the ice at intermission. Sunday's intermission game featured the Walkerton Capitals U7 squad.

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Mike Wilson Photos

RURAL RESPONSE – Crews spent nearly 17 hours battling a shed fire at Berlett Farms on Line 87, north of Listowel, on Thursday, July 6. Two coveralls were on fire when crews arrived shortly after midnight. The cause of the blaze is unknown, and no injuries were reported.

Firefighters battle Line 87 coverall blaze at Berlett Farms, July 6

Three dozen firefighters from three departments respond to fire

MIKE WILSON

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LISTOWEL – The cause of a July 6 shed fire on Line 87, north of Listowel, is unknown at this time.

North Perth Deputy Fire Chief Dennis McEwen told the *Banner* that the Listowel and Atwood stations were paged at 12:12 a.m. last Thursday to a shed fire at Berlett Farms.

“Two coverall sheds were on fire when crews arrived on the scene,” said McEwen.

McEwen said one coverall contained a large amount of hay and some machinery, while the other coverall contained a large amount of straw.

The Monkton station and Minto Fire – Palmerston were called for assistance before crews arrived on the scene. Mapleton Fire/Rescue was also called to provide tanker assistance. A total of 35 firefighters were on scene.

After nearly 17 hours, the final crew left the scene at 6:46 p.m. on July 6.

Thankfully, no injuries were reported.

As of Friday, the cause the fire



is unknown, nor is the extent of the damage.

The department also commended the property owners for providing the 911 dispatcher with a clear address and access instructions.

“The owners provided useful information about the fire that was related to responding crews in advance of our arrival,” said the department on social media July 6. “Knowing your 911 location is critical to getting the help you need in an emergency.”

‘Road closed sign is not a suggestion’

Throughout the day, tanker trucks were travelling up and down Line 87, then headed into Listowel to fill trucks with water in front of the Food Ba-



rics plaza. Line 87 was closed between Road 164/Highway 23 and Road 157, with signs posted at both ends, to allow emergency crews to safely do their jobs.

However, that didn't stop several motorists from driving down the road.

“Motorists are reminded that a road closed sign is not a suggestion,” wrote the department in a social media post Thursday night. “The road has been closed to allow emergency personnel and apparatus to work

safely without on-lookers. The road will be re-opened when it's determined it's safe to do so. Please don't go around barricades. You may be putting yourself and others at risk.”

The department is also reminding drivers that in Ontario, the law requires motorists to slow down and move over when they see an emergency vehicle with lights flashing approaching.

If you are unable to move over safely, you must slow down to 60 km/h.

Student donates candy stand earnings towards Westfield playground project

MELISSA DUNPHY

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LISTOWEL – For Emmett Neves, being an entrepreneur comes quite naturally. The eight year old aspiring tycoon is always coming up with ideas and trying to make something to sell.

“He always tries to sell

stuff at the end of our lane. And no one ever stops because we live in the country,” explained Emmett's mom, Lisa Neves.

From freezies to candy, he is always hustling and learning the value of hard work. But what he needed was a new location for his next business, as his laneway wasn't cutting it. So, they finally came

up with an idea. Emmett could run his business in Listowel, and sell his goods at his brother's baseball game.

“Where there are actually people!” joked Lisa.

Emmett decided on running a candy stand at the baseball game in May, to sell lemonade, Ring Pops and treat bags. He raised a total of \$128 from his small but mighty stand.

People from all over the park came to buy from him, with even the opposing baseball teams shopping at his little market.

However, next came the hard lesson for Emmett: expenses. It was important for Lisa to teach Emmett the importance of money, so when it came time to crunch numbers, Emmett needed to pay

off his “supplier” (A.K.A Mom) for buying the goods for the stand as well as supplying him with a float. It was time to teach Emmett the good ol' lesson of how expenses and income work to create an overall profit. And when it was time to tally final numbers, he had made a total profit of \$93.

And Emmett, being a generous soul, decided it was a no-brainer to donate the money towards the fundraiser for playground upgrades to North

Continued on page 3

North Perth signs Galbraith camp lease

MELISSA DUNPHY

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NORTH PERTH – North Perth council approved signing the agreement between Maitland Conservation (MC) and the municipality for the lease of the Galbraith Conservation Area. Amy Gangl, manager of programs for North Perth, brought forth a draft lease agreement for the conservation area at the July 10 council meeting.

Per council's direction, staff sent an expression of interest to MC with regards to leasing the conservation area. Municipal staff then met with MC staff in April to discuss terms for the lease agreement, after which MC staff presented the terms to their board members at their May meeting, and was given final approval from MC. The agreement grants use of the Galbraith Conservation Area on an annual basis. North Perth can terminate the lease by giving 12 months written notice to MC.

As for financial implications, entering into a lease agreement with MC for property maintenance and upkeep is estimated at \$13,000 per year.

North Perth has received that financial support from Perth County for one year.

Financial support from a private citizen has also been identified.

Continued on page 6