



Serving the Community since 1866

Listowel Banner

PM43702524

Thursday, September 28, 2023

\$1.50 per copy (includes GST)

WILLIAMS DRAINAGE

www.williamsdrainage.com

1-800-565-6478

Quality Farm Drainage Systems

Follow Us!



‘They need to get their act together’

Perth County council wants province to help resolve court closures

MIKE WILSON

mwilson@

midwesternnewspapers.com

PERTH COUNTY – Two members of Perth County council – Dean Trentowsky and Todd Kasenberg – want to see some action from the province after receiving a report on Sept. 21 about last-minute court closures in Stratford.

According to the report from Annette Diamond, director of legal/corporate services for Perth County, there were three last-minute court closures “due to a lack of judicial resources.”

“All of the cases on these dockets need to be adjourned to already full dockets,” wrote Diamond.

Incident reports were submitted to the Ministry of the Attorney General for each of the closures.

Trentowsky asked how the ministry reacts to these reports.

“When you file these incident reports, what’s their reaction?” he asked.

Trentowsky added that in his experience, “when you have three failures, it’s a case of systemic failure of the system, and that causes hardship on our staff as well, in our system.”

“What’s the province prepared to do to stop this from reoccurring? That’s the main question,” he said.

CAO Lori Wolfe said the ministry “take it as information for their reporting purposes,” adding that Perth County is not alone in experiencing court closures.

“I don’t think the reaction is perhaps a sense of urgency or anything like that,” said Wolfe. “When we have that court closure, we report and we record what the backlog is.”

Wolfe added that the province has changed to download some authorities from a justice of the peace to court

clerks in an effort to work through some of the administrative matters that are backlogging the system.

“It’s been frustrating for staff, and it’s been frustrating for the public,” said Wolfe.

“There’s a lot of prep work that goes into preparing for those particular days... and then last minute, we don’t have a justice of the peace. That’s a problem.”

Wolfe offered to have staff outline what the impact of these closures has on their workloads, and a plan to remedy that, for a future report.

Trentowsky thanked Wolfe for the remedial action plans, which he said is missing from the ministry.

“It’s been frustrating for staff, and it’s been frustrating for the public.”

– Lori Wolfe
Perth County CAO

Kasenberg commented that he wanted to take things a step further, and have council prepare a resolution on behalf of the county calling for the province to become more involved in solving this issue.

“We’re sitting, as everyone’s said, there’s frustration, there’s money, and there’s failure in the system,” said Kasenberg. “I think it’s time that we tell the province we’re not happy about that. They need to get their act together.”

Council passed a motion to have a resolution prepared that calls on the Ministry of the Attorney General to address deficiencies in the system and request an action plan on how to remedy them.



Dan McNee Photo

FEELING FUNNY – The Ranch 100.1FM held its third annual anniversary bash at the Listowel Legion and Parkview Gardens on Saturday, Sept. 23, which featured a number of musical acts, a classic car show, wing night, and plenty of fun and free activities for the kiddos. The event raised approximately \$20,000 for various local causes, charities and service organizations. Pictured: Kolbie Greig, 9, and Madelyn Casserly, 10, get a little silly after indulging in some free ice cream at the event. See more photos inside on page 6.

North Perth to petition county for Kurtzville speed limit reduction

Council advocates for 50 km/h speed limit, potential for Community Safety Zone

DAN MCNEE

dmcnee@

midwesternnewspapers.com

NORTH PERTH – The Municipality of North Perth will advocate to Perth County council for a potential speed limit reduction on Line 88 through the village of Kurtzville.

Wallace Ward Coun. Lee Anne Andriessen brought forth a notice of motion to North Perth’s regular council meeting on Sept. 18, outlining a request to have the speed limit lowered from the current 60 km/h down to 40 km/h. As well, whether or not additional traf-

fic-calming measures be considered, “including the installation of electronic signs that reveal traffic speed.”

As part of the agenda package, details of the notice of motion read: “Perth Line 88 in Kurtzville is a heavily-traveled road with traffic moving to and from cottage areas to the north and this road also services local businesses with truck traffic as well.”

Coun. Andriessen addressed her notice of motion during North Perth’s regular council meeting on Sept. 25.

“Both Coun. (Marc) Noordam and I have re-

ceived comments from residents in Kurtzville based on their concerns about speed on that highway in Kurtzville,” she told council. “A lot of new families have moved into that area with young children and continue to have these concerns.”

Coun. Sarah Blazek, in conversation with members of the North Perth Ontario Provincial Police detachment, said this is “not really a policing issue.”

“It’s very difficult for them to enforce traffic infractions that are less than 20 km over the speed limit, because it

Continued on page 7

CRABBY

J O E S
BAR • GRILL

OPEN DAILY

Sun - Thurs: 11 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Fri & Sat: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.

110 MAIN ST. W. LISTOWEL
519-291-1010

WHAT'S INSIDE

Opinion pages 4-5

Women/Business.... pages 8-9

Rural Warriors..... page 11

Classifieds..... pages 13-15

RIDE program nabs impaired driver with loaded handgun

SPECIAL TO THE BANNER

NORTH PERTH – One person is facing several charges following an impaired driving investigation in the Municipality of North Perth.

On Sept. 21 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Perth County Ontario Provincial Police officers were conducting a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) roadside check on Perth Line 88 in North Perth. Officers stopped a vehicle with a lone occupant. During the investigation, it was determined that the driver had consumed alcohol.

The individual was arrested and transported to a local operations centre for further testing where they blew over twice the legal limit. During the investigation, officers discovered a loaded handgun beside the driver’s seat, and two long guns elsewhere in the vehicle.

A 35-year-old North Perth man is facing the following charges under the Criminal Code: Operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs, operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), careless use of firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition (three counts), breach of firearms regulation – transport firearm or restricted weapon, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, carrying concealed weapon, possession of firearm at unauthorized place, occupant of motor vehicle knowing there was a prohibited or restricted weapon, and

Continued on page 2