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Nicole Beswithrick photo

CANADIAN CRUSHER - Monster Trucks All Out made an appearance at the Listowel Fairgrounds this past Saturday, despite the mud and rain, with the grandstands full of action fans of all ages. Monster trucks participating in the event were Bucking Bronco, Waddled Up, Outfoxed, and Canadian Crusher (pictured above). Between the monster truck action, there were ATV and dirt bike races, as well as entertainment from Horsepower the horse mascot for the event.

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Municipality of North Perth granted funds for new Innovation and Business Centre

KELSEY BENT

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
kbent@midwesternnewspapers.com

LISTOWEL - North Perth was successful in a funding application for the creation of the North Perth Innovation and Business Centre, proposed to be located at the recently-acquired municipal building in downtown Listowel.

According to a report from Manager of Strategic Initiatives Jessica McLean, a funding application was sent to a provincial program focused on economic development and strate-

gic economic infrastructure earlier this year. "At this time staff are advising council this funding was received and request approval for the mayor and clerk to sign the provincial contribution agreement," McLean said.

The funding is proposed to be allocated to the creation of the North Perth Innovation and Business Centre through minor renovations to the space in the municipal building located in downtown Listowel (104 Wallace Avenue), which the municipality purchased in October 2023. "In the future, it is proposed that the space will be used to offer business support, innovation and enhance the network-

ing capacity of local entrepreneurs and business owners," McLean wrote in her report.

The provincial cost-share funding percentage is 30 per cent of incurred paid eligible costs, up to the maximum awarded funds of \$17,350.

McLean told council further details on the project and municipal contribution will be provided in the 2025 municipal budget process.

Without discussion, council unanimously passed a motion to sign the provincial contribution agreement.

See related photo on page 7

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North Perth approves Attainable Housing Community Improvement Plan

KELSEY BENT

Local Journalism Initiative Report
kbent@midwesternnewspapers.com

NORTH PERTH - Council unanimously approved the North Perth Attainable Housing Community Improvement Plan (CIP) at its Aug. 12 meeting.

The CIP will allow the municipality to contribute financially to private landowners to support development projects through

five proposed financial incentive programs:

- Planning and building permit grant, which could cover 50 per cent of the eligible fees for a proposed project or property, up to a maximum of \$5,000. This may include costs associated with zoning bylaw amendments, minor variances, site plan control, and other development fees.
- Tax increment equivalency grant, which could stimulate in-

vestment by deferring part of the increase in property taxes for qualifying housing projects. This could be provided over 10 to 15 years with 100 per cent of the tax increment being provided in year one, and gradually reducing by 10 per cent each year.

- Development charges (DC) rebate program, offered by the Development Charges Act, which could be in the form of a DC waiver, with a maximum value of

100 per cent of the applicable development charges based on the number of attainable units that are being provided by the proposed development. (\$10,000 to \$15,000 per property)

- The additional dwelling unit grant program could provide incentives to add a secondary suite to a primary unit. The maximum value could be 50 per cent of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per property, or up to

\$15,000 if the proposed project meets the definition of a sustainable building.

- Commercial and rental housing conversion and expansion grant may provide up to \$20 per square foot of expanded or converted space, up to \$10,000. A maximum of \$20,000 or 50 per cent of eligible costs per property if the proposed project satisfies the CIP requirements of a sustainable

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