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## County endorses province's proposed changes to definition of 'affordable housing unit'

By Pauline Kerr

Bruce County council has directed staff to inform the minister of municipal affairs that the county supports changes to the definition of "affordable residential unit" under Bill 134, the Affordable Homes, Good Jobs Act.

When Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, was introduced in 2022, the definition of "affordable residential unit" under the Development Charges Act, was, 80 per cent of the average market rent or average purchase price. Prior to the definitions in Bill 23, affordable housing, as defined by the province, had always been tied to household income.

The report presented to the county's executive committee elicited "significant feedback" from municipalities, and through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, that affordability "needed to include the standard measure that housing cost no more than 30 per cent of household income."

On Sept. 28, the minister of municipal affairs and housing introduced Bill 134 that would incorporate the income component "for the purposes of exemptions from development charges." The definition now states the income based affordable rent or purchase price will be set out in an affordable residential units bulletin issued by the minister of municipal affairs and housing.

As stated in the report, "the minister shall determine the income of a household that is at the 60th percentile in the local municipality, and identify the

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### Family of characters

This group showed off their hand-made costumes while participating in the Spooktacular event last Saturday in downtown Kincardine. Back row from left is Colton as the Hamburglar; Wyatt as Grimace; Carter as Ronald McDonald. Front row from left Cheyenne as a witch; Jameson as Jack Skeleton; Lydia as a vampire queen and Zeke as Spiderman. (Liz Small photo)

## A beauty of a show prepping for opening night Kincardine Theatre Guild puts finishing touches on beloved story

By Liz Small

The Kincardine Theatre Guild (KTG) spent the weekend fine tuning and rehearsing for their upcoming production, "Beauty and the Beast – The Broadway Musical". This enchanted show is the first from KTG since "Grease" in 2019.

The cast of 43 was selected from about 95 people who auditioned earlier this year. Director Jen Neil, said the cast is 'starting to gel'.

"We're in a really good place right now and we're getting closer to having everybody ready to go for opening night."

The musical was slated for 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic. The planning for this show

started long before that for Neil and now, after nearly seven years of visualizing and planning, it will finally be reality.

"It's so close now, I can almost taste it."

Cast members, some veterans and many who are new to KTG, have already many hours and a number of weeks preparing for the show, hailing from Kincardine, Port Elgin and Goderich.

"It's a huge commitment," said Neil. "Wait 'til you hear them. We have one of the best ensembles. Everybody's been so excited."

New to the KTG stage is Julia Trelford, cast as Belle. The 17-year-old, who hails from Port Elgin and attends grade 12 at Saugeen District Secondary School, has been performing in some way since she

was young.

She's always been interested in musical theatre, singing and performing. While she loves musical theatre, she has found a new passion in classical music.

"I love singing in German and Italian, too," she said.

This role is not new to Trelford, as she played Belle in a junior production when she was 12.

"I've always loved Beauty and the Beast. I've seen it a ton of times."

Trelford said the show is coming along nicely and she's really been enjoying it.

"Everyone's so nice here and so supportive," she said. "It's a really great community here. I'm having

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