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BEEF TIPS



A judge gives a little advice to one of the competitors in the Novice Beef Showmanship competition during the Highgate Fall Fair Saturday. 4H Clubs from across Chatham-Kent came to show at the one-day event. **For more coverage of the Highgate Fair, see page 12.**

Heather Wright Photo

Water Wells First banned from blocking turbine construction: plans protests at MOE

Heather Wright
The Herald

Water Wells First members won't be able to stop construction of the North Kent Wind project.

Superior Court Justice Kirk Munroe ruled the community group concerned about the quality of their well water can't stop the wind energy company from putting up 34 turbines in North Kent.

About 20 members of Water Wells First blocked the site of a North Kent One wind turbine construction on Bush Line from Aug. 29 to Sept. 8. Pattern Development served a notice of injunction on Water Wells First Spokesman Kevin Jakubec saying there was a potential for violence if the protesters were allowed to continue blocking the site.

The request for an injunction also named Cindy Soney - the traditional head of the Crane Clan of Turtle Island - who stayed with the citizen group at the site of the wind turbine construction.

She twice told local police and Pattern Development's construction workers they had no right to be on the land because it had not been ceded and was still under Indigenous control.

Justice Munroe Monday granted the company's request, noting the protests had been escalating before the occupation and tensions were still high in the community as Water Wells First continues to try to convince the Ministry of the Environment, Pattern Development and the Muni-

pality of Chatham-Kent - part owner of the project - that the pile driving for the towers is damaging water wells. So far, Jakubec says 13 wells have been affected.

Justice Munroe also ruled Soney's claim to the project wasn't valid since tradition clan leaders are not recognized by government and the Walpole Island First Nation approved the project and bought into it.

Jakubec wasn't opposed to the injunction saying he wasn't about to break the law. But he says the group will continue the protest, now pressing the ministry to do its job.

"Protests I think, directed at the Ministry of the Environment, would be appropriate at this stage, if the ministry refuses - denies to collect sediments."

Jakubec wants the MOE to meet with well owners and explain why they won't test the black sediment which has been clogging wells. Jakubec says their tests show there is heavy metals in the sediment which Water Wells First says is dangerous to humans.

"We're finding filtration very difficult... we think that's why the ministry is acting the way it is; because they know there is not a real technical fix to this. That's scandalous... before we didn't have this risk in the water."

Jakubec says Water Wells First is considering legal action against Pattern Development. "I see us going after them for damages... for anyone with an affected well."

'Treat the addiction not the substance'

Heather Wright
The Herald

The opioid crisis may be getting all the headlines, but officials at Westover Treatment Centre in Thamesville say alcohol is still the main substance their clients use.

The treatment centre held its annual general meeting Friday night and in 2016, over 600 people came to the centre for residential treatment. Another 200 received counselling services.

While provincial and federal governments struggle to deal with the rising number of opioid deaths in

Canada - an estimated 2,400 in 2016 - only about 20 per cent of Westover's clients have opioid addiction issues.

Mike Hannon, program manager at Westover says alcohol is "by far" still the biggest problem in the region. About half of the clients at Westover are alcoholics.

"It is not helpful that opioid is being viewed different than any kind of addiction," he says. "There are still thousands more people die of alcoholism each year than opioid addiction."

Hannon says methamphetamines are also "problematic" in Chatham-

Kent.

"We service more people on meth than on opioids. It (Meth) is an insidious drug, it is more problematic than people are aware," says Hannon.

"It's cheaper, you can make it, it's not hard to make and it has an intense long lasting high." That makes it a drug of choice in the area.

He's concerned the focus on one form of addiction is not helpful. "There is an addiction epidemic and the substance is immaterial," says Hannon. "It is more important that the addiction period gets addressed."

SEE WESTOVER PG. 2

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