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- Check the stand daily to ensure the water level doesn't go below the base of the tree.
- If you live in a dry climate, use a humidifier to keep the tree hydrated.
- Use LED string lights. They generate less heat, preventing the tree from drying out and reduce the risk of fire.
- Remove fallen needles from around the tree often to keep your space tidy and minimize the fire hazard.

Once your natural Christmas tree has served its purpose, consider recycling it. Many communities offer recycling programs for Christmas trees, where they're repurposed for mulch or other environmentally friendly uses.

THE RECORD

SERVING STORMONT, DUNDAS AND RUSSELL COUNTIES



PM40050631R8905 Volume 131, Number 22 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, December 5, 2024 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)



South Dundas 100 men who care making a difference once again

When the votes had all be counted, there were three groups who would receive funding courtesy of South Dundas 100 men who care. From left: Arnold Scheerder and Terry Triskle, Dundas County Hospice, Wendy Waldroff, Morrisburg Waterfront Committee, Scott Corden, South Dundas 100 men who care committee, and Kristina McDermott and Marije Harbers, House of Lazarus. See page 3 for the full story.

Tinkess Photo

CPKC makes a stop in Finch with early present for Community Food Share

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

FINCH – In what has become an eagerly awaited symbol of the holiday season, the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City (CPKC) Holiday Train once again made a stop in Finch. The train, emblazoned with Christmas lights and featuring a specially designed car with a drop-down stage almost the full length of the car arrived in Finch shortly after 2:30 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 28. After a few minutes to prepare, the show began right on time at 2:45 p.m.

While a dusting of snow would have been the perfect scene-setter, a cold rain was all that Mother Nature could muster, but it didn't seem to affect the mood of the large crowd who were there to partake in a bit of holiday spirit and some good music. They were not disappointed.

Continued on page 6

Sharing comfort and joy in your community

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – As the holiday season approaches and with it the cold weather, there is a need for people to lend a helping hand to ensure everyone has warm clothing and some special treats for the holiday season. Sadly, in the tough financial times we are currently in there are many in our area which need some assistance in ensuring a happy and healthy holiday season is enjoyed.

Throughout our area there are many organizations working to make sure everyone has a happy holiday with plenty to eat and warm clothing. Many of the local schools are holding food drives during the holiday season to help ensure there is food available for people during the holiday season.

There are opportunities to make donations of cash or new toys during many area Santa Claus parades, to philanthropic organizations, local churches and by taking an angel from one of the many area angel trees. Angel Trees are trees with paper angels with the age and gender of a child in need attached to it which community members can select, attach it to a gift and return the gifts to the location hosting the angel tree by a specified date.

Recently the firefighters from North Dundas Fire Station 4 in Chesterville announced that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be travelling around the streets of Chesterville leaving the fire station at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. "Santa will be departing our station, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. along with firefighters and vehicles. It is

Continued on page 2



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Sharing comfort and joy

Continued from the front

our intent to have Santa ride on the '53 Heritage Pump although that will be a game day decision." commented North Dundas Station 4 Fire Prevention Officer Sean Donovan. It was noted that food donations will be accepted by the firefighters accompanying the couple which will be provided to The Food Pantry at Christ Church United in Chesterville. Donovan mentioned how Mike Dean Local Grocer will be accepting food donations in support of the event.

As in years past the North Dundas Christmas Fund (NDCF), working collaboratively with local food banks, schools, churches, Lions Clubs and area branches of the Royal Canadian Legion as well as Winchester BMR and the Winchester & District Memorial Hospital to

make the holidays bright for all.

During the North Dundas Parade of Lights on Sat., Dec. 7, volunteers will be walking the parade route, accepting monetary donations to the NDCF and as well donations of non-perishable food can be placed on one of the lead floats.

Angel trees are located at the Bank of Montreal; Winchester and District Memorial Hospital, Winchester BMR, Lactalis offices, and St. Clare's Anglican Church in Winchester. Angel trees are located at St. Daniel's Catholic Church and Nationview Public School in South Mountain, while in Chesterville angel trees are located at Chesterville at Chesterville Public School, St. Mary's Catholic School, ScotiaBank and St. Mary's Catholic Church as well as North Dundas District High School.

St. Mary's Catholic School; Nationview Public School; NDDHS; Chesterville

Public School and Winchester Public School will also be participating as a drop-off location for the Christmas Hamper Food Drive, with Winchester BMR accepting donations of new snowsuits of any size.

In the Municipality of South Dundas, The South Dundas Christmas Exchange is working with other local welcomes all donations to purchase food for the Christmas Dinner Boxes. Bonnie McNair explained this year donations can be sent by e-transfer or can be picked up with information provided by calling her at 613-543-3344. She mentioned there are Angel Trees located in Morrisburg at ScotiaBank as well as the Bank of Montreal and in Iroquois at River Rat Treasures.

The Finch Recreation Committee is working with the Finch and District Lions Club and the North Stormont Amalgamated Recreation Committee to ensure residents of the municipality can enjoy a happy

holiday season. For more information or to make a donation can reach out by email to finchrecreation@gmail.com.

In South Stormont the Ingleside Firefighters Association were out and about during the 2024 Santa Claus Parade and Food Drive held on Sat., Nov. 30. Those attending the event were invited to provide non-perishable food or cash donations to firefighters walking along the parade route. People were able to register for the South Stormont Christmas Hamper by contacting the Ingleside Thrift Store and Food Cupboard operated by the House of Lazarus Community Outreach Mission, with food and new toy donations accepted until early December.

It is important to remember during the hustle and bustle of this holiday season there are many who need a helping hand to celebrate. Let us remember those less fortunate than us this year and help those who help others.

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Working for a worthy cause

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Members of North Dundas Fire Station 4 in Chesterville have raised over \$8,700 so far this year for Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC), which brings to a total of \$100,078 raised since 1985. On Nov. 25, members of NDFS Station 4 were joined by MDC Representative Lauren DeRoche to acknowledge this amazing accomplishment.

Since it began in 1954, Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC) provides support to people impacted by neuromuscular disorders and their families in a variety of ways including program and service delivery, research investment and serving as an advocate for this community.

“This year marks the 70th anniversary for firefighters and Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Firefighters have been supporting



From the left: Station 4 Chief Mike Gruich and Deputy Chief David Lannin, MDC Representative Lauren DeRoche, Station 4 MDC Chair Sean Donovan, Firefighter Todd Malo, Station 4 Captain Kent Merkley, Station 4 firefighters Josh Seely and James Thompson.

Courtesy Photo

MDC since 1954 with the Chesterville station making their first contribution in 1985.” said Fire Prevent Officer for the Chesterville Station Sean Donovan.

He continued how the firefighters in Chesterville wished to “mark this significant milestone by setting our goal to exceed our all-time donation amount and exceed the

\$100,000 mark” which was accomplished. Donovan mentioned funds were received from a number of events including the “Rooftop Campout during Art on the Waterfront, our annual boot drive in October and collected during the demolition derby. We also accepted online donations throughout the year.”

“For 70 years dedicated and passionate Fire

Fighters across Canada have helped fill the boot in their local communities, providing important support and hope to the neuromuscular community, and the North Dundas Chesterville Fire Department is an excellent example of this passion and dedication. Thanks to their support, and the support of more than 600 Fire departments and associations, Muscular Dystrophy Canada is able to continue its life-changing work, to meet the needs of the neuromuscular community in ways that matter most to them. Funds raised by Fire Fighters helps save lives by fueling future discoveries and ensuring Canada is prepared to provide access to new life-changing treatments, while also filling the immediate need for advanced treatment and care options. Thank you to the North Dundas Chesterville Fire Department for your incredible achievement and for being a dedicated champion of our community!” said Muscular Dystrophy Canada CEO Stacey Lintern.

A heartfelt thank was extended by Donovan on behalf of NDFS 4 to “our residents for their continued support. We could not be more proud of our community here in Chesterville.”

South Dundas 100 men who care are back and making a difference

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – After a hiatus brought on by the pandemic, the South Dundas 100 men who care held their first meeting on the evening of Nov. 27 at the Morrisburg Royal Canadian Legion.

Any time there is an extended break in the life of an organization there can reasonably be a bit of worry over whether things will bounce back or not, but in this case any worry was quickly dispensed with, as \$9,600 dollars was raised (and there may yet be a bit more to trickle in.)

Scott Corden is a member of the South Dundas 100 men who care committee and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event. He admitted that they weren't sure what to expect, but with a reasonable crowd on hand, and approximately fifty people who couldn't attend, but had already sent in their donation, things were starting to look promising. He added that the board had heard that this was a method of fundraising that many people prefer.

“What we've heard from the guys is we want to come in, we want to hear about these things. We want to, you know, do our duty, and we want to go home,” said Corden. “Everybody's busy,



Scott Corden is a member of the South Dundas 100 men who care committee and acted as master of ceremonies for the group's event on Nov. 27. Tinkess Photo so it's not a formal dinner or a banquet or anything. We're trying to respect, you know, the time that people come in, but they do enjoy hearing from different groups, some of them they've never heard of before or they don't know very much about.

“So, it was an opportunity here, and a wide range of groups as well. So, we open our doors and invite people to come in. There's always lots of takers. So again, a wide range of requests. And what we've heard from presenters before, too, is, even though they may not be awarded money that night, it's good advertising for them, and they'll get individuals that come up to them later and say, you know, how can I

help? Or here's some money, or, you know, can I offer something in kind or my time?”

On this evening, there were ten (10) charities that set up information tables and gave three- or four-minute speeches to promote their cause. Each of the donors then chose three of the ten charities, in no particular order, with the top two or three, depending upon their request, receiving some or all the funding they requested. For this session, the committee had agreed to put a cap of \$5,000 on requests.

When all the votes were tallied, Dundas County Hospice came in first and received their full \$5,000 request to be used in their programming.

The House of Lazarus came in second, with their \$3,000 request to be used to purchase a computer, a printer and a year's worth of internet service for their warming hub in the Anglican Church manse.

In third was the Morrisburg Waterfront Committee, who received \$1,600 of their \$5,000 request to be used in their fundraising for a multi-sport pad. Any additional funds that trickled in were to be directed to them as well.

At the conclusion of the evening, Corden, on behalf of the other members of the committee thanked everyone for coming out. “Once again, thank you for your donations and helping to make South Dundas such a great place to live,” said Corden.

If you would like to donate, but were unable to attend, you can do so by giving your donation to any of the following committee members: Scott Corden,

Nick Lee, Mark Lewis, Chuck Irvine, Wally Baker, Miles Harrison, Doug Jarvis, or Jack Barkley.

For more information on South Dundas 100 men who care, or to become one, you

can visit their website at www.100southdundas.ca.

(Susan Marriner of Marriner Design had donated her time and skill for the website development.)

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Making the holidays last beyond the calendar

The holiday season is a time when the world fills with a sense of magic. Streets are adorned with twinkling lights, homes resonate with laughter, and a spirit of togetherness lingers just long enough to make us wish it could last forever. How often though, do we find ourselves lamenting that the season came and went in the blink of an eye? It's as if we spend weeks preparing for one or two days, only to feel like they disappeared as quickly as they arrived.

This year, why not challenge yourself to make the holiday season more than just a date on the calendar. Look for ways to infuse its essence into our

lives, creating a celebration that lingers in our hearts and actions long after the decorations have been packed away.

One reason the holidays feel so fleeting is that we try to cram too much into them. Between shopping, hosting, decorating, and attending events, the season often becomes a whirlwind of activity. Instead of doing it all, focus on what truly matters. Could fewer commitments mean more quality time with loved ones? Could a simpler menu or scaled-back gift-giving free up moments to reflect on what the season means to you?

Take the time to pause and savour the little things;

a cozy cup of hot chocolate, a heartfelt conversation, or an evening walk to admire the neighbourhood lights. These can stretch the joy of the season far beyond its usual bounds.

Gift-giving is often treated as an obligation, with hurried purchases and last-minute wrapping leaving us feeling detached from the process. Online shopping has only magnified this sense of detachment. But gifts should mean something, both to the giver and the receiver. Instead of defaulting to store bought items, consider creating something with your own hands or sharing an experience together. Write a letter recalling time spent together, prepare a favourite desert, or plan a day to spend with someone.

Even more impactful is extending generosity beyond your circle of family and friends. Many Canadians struggle during the holidays, and gestures of kindness such as a donation to a local food bank, volunteering at a shelter, or adopting a family in need, can turn the holiday spirit into a ripple of

goodness that extends well beyond December.

Traditions anchor us, giving the holidays their comforting sense of rhythm and meaning. Whether it's decorating the tree, baking a particular treat, or reading a cherished story, these rituals create memories that endure. However, it's also important to evolve. Creating new traditions, such as a winter hike, or an annual family movie night can keep the season feeling fresh and exciting.

Traditions don't have to be elaborate or expensive. What matters most is the sense of connection they foster. They serve as a reminder that the holidays are about people and experiences, not just dates or possessions.

One of the easiest ways to make the holidays last is to carry their values into the months ahead. The generosity, kindness, and goodwill that define this time of year don't have to be boxed up with the ornaments. Could you commit to volunteering regularly, checking in on an elderly neighbour, or practicing gratitude daily? It could be as simple as trying

to, every day, think of something you are grateful for.

Likewise, consider maintaining a slower pace and focusing on relationships year-round. Take time to celebrate life's small moments, whether it's a casual dinner with family or a long-overdue phone call with a friend.

The end of the year naturally invites reflection. Use this time to think about what the holidays mean to you. Is it about faith, family, community, or simply the chance to rest and recharge? Reflecting on the season's deeper meaning can help you focus on its joys, rather than getting caught up in its demands.

As you look to the year ahead, set intentions to carry the lessons of the season forward. Maybe it's practicing mindfulness, spending more time outdoors, or prioritizing relationships over material things. Intentions grounded in holiday values can give the year a sense of purpose and continuity.

One of the richest ways to extend the holidays is through storytelling. Gather your loved ones to share memories of past holidays — both the humorous mishaps and the

heartfelt moments. Documenting these stories, through writing, photography, or video, creates a treasure trove of joy to revisit year after year.

Sharing stories doesn't have to stop with your own family either. Reaching out to seniors, newcomers, or other community members to hear their holiday traditions can broaden your perspective and create connections that enrich the season.

At its heart, the holiday season is about connection: connection to others, to our traditions, and to the values that give life meaning. By slowing down, being intentional, and looking beyond the calendar, we can transform the season from something fleeting into something lasting.

So, this year, as you hang the lights and wrap the gifts, ask yourself: How can I make this season linger in the hearts of those I love? How can I ensure its spirit guides my actions long after the new year begins? How can I make these memories something I will treasure.

The answers to those questions are the real gifts of the season. May we all unwrap them with care.

Terry Tinkess

TAGWI Report

By Talia Crooke
Student Reporter

A week with the Warriors



November has flown by, and this last week was no different!

The senior Warriors girls' and boys' hockey teams played in exhibition games Long Sault against schools in our area. Our intermediate hockey team took on the North Dundas Devils in an exhibition game, as well.

On Thursday, our intermediate volleyball players travelled to North Dundas to play a warmup game before the start of their regular volleyball season.

The highlight of our week was celebrating St. Andrew's Day with a school-wide assembly filled with things like Scottish trivia, an accent challenge, a weight challenge and performances from our schools very talented Highland Dancers, a bagpiping performance from our staff member Mr. Mackenzie and special Celtic songs sung by the talented Abigail MacLennan, Owen MacDonald, and our school's English, Drama and Music teacher Mr. McMullen!

Coming up at Tagwi, our 2025 prom committee is hosting a trivia night at Butler's Restaurant in Ingleside! Please visit our Facebook or Instagram page to register your teams of four and join us for a night of fun on Dec. 6, 2024!

Calling all 2024 graduates! Tagwi is hosting a graduate breakfast for our past students to come and share their post-secondary experiences with our upcoming graduates. Please RSVP by Tues., Dec. 10 if you plan on attending.

To our valued supporters

We want to firstly, THANK YOU for your continued support during this postal strike. We are continuing to print The Record and having it distributed throughout our readership area. We have listed the locations where you can purchase a copy plus, we have distribution at the local libraries. Please see our listing on page 10 in this week's publication for the locations.

If you are a current subscriber to the print version, we will be extending your subscription by the length of time the strike has disrupted the distribution through Canada Post. Some local businesses have offered to extend the service of providing subscribers with a copy of the paper, please inquire at your local location to see if they are one of the businesses helping us through this time.

We do realize the impact this strike is having

and are working to find an alternative distribution option.

We do sincerely appreciate your continued support of purchasing the paper at these local businesses and your continued support of local business.

Sincerely,
Linda Vogel
Business Manager

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Seasonal sounds

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – There are many traditions associated with the Christmas season, but certainly one of the most pleasing is the holiday concerts which are held throughout the area. There were two holiday concerts held on Dec. 1, the first Sunday of the Advent season, to the immense enjoyment of those in attendance.

At 2 p.m. in the Sandtown Advent Christian Church located in the Lost Villages Museum in Ault Park South Stormont, over 50 people gathered to enjoy holiday music. The church provided a setting, beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, for musicians Ed O'Brien and Marie Cameron to provide a selection of familiar Christmas songs. After a warm welcome from Lost Villages Historical Society Jim Brownell, the concert began with people invited to sing along with the duo. Following the concert, there was the opportunity for fellowship at the nearby Lost Villages Brewery.

The same afternoon, Tilted Steeple Productions in collaboration with the Anglican Parish of South Dundas presented "A Christmas Jubilee!" in the historic St. James Anglican Church in Morrisburg. Close to 200 tickets were sold for the event which featured the Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de la Montérégie from



There was a fantastic turnout for A Christmas Jubilee held in St. James Anglican Church in Morrisburg on Dec. 1. Thompson Goddard Photo

Montreal under the direction of Georges-Étienne d'Entremont, and featured guest soloist Margaret Whisselle and The Jubilee Singers.

The concert featured several selections which included classical music from composers Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Strauss and Mikhail Glinka. The event concluded with The Jubilee Singers performing Hallelujah from the Messiah composed by Georg Friedrich Haendel, with a mid-concert Carol Singalong with the audience singing several Christmas favourites.

"I would like to thank all the performers for sharing their talents with us" commented Bob Ruddock, one of the organizers of the event. The concert was organized as a fundraiser in support of the community ministries of the Parish of South Dundas which include the Apple Tree Ministry, Martha's Ministries and the Community Hub and Warming Centre in Morrisburg.

"We wish to extend our

sincere appreciation to our contributors, financial and in kind, thanks to whom ALL the expenses related to the concert have been covered, which means that the totality of the proceeds from ticket sales is going to help people in our community" said Isabelle Delage in her opening remarks after thanking the volunteers, the

performers and the public for their support.

More information on the Parish of South Dundas can be found on their social media pages and website located at www.southdundasanglicans.ca. With information on the Lost Villages Historical Society available on their Facebook page as well as their website located at www.lostvillages.ca.

Mail isn't moving due to strike, taxes will still be due as scheduled

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

SOUTH DUNDAS – While the current Canada Post labour difficulties are causing more than a few headaches for small businesses in Canada, local governments who typically rely on the mail system to send and receive invoices and payments may soon start to feel the pinch as well. Tax rates are being set for 2025 and initial payments are usually due in February, if not sooner.

In this area most lower tier municipal governments have posted advise on their websites advising rate payers of ways that they can keep their tax and water accounts up to date. South Stormont, for example, posted on Facebook information including a link to their website where they explain, in depth, how payments can be made and how to continue to access township services. (www.southstormont.ca/CanadaPostStrike).

The thing is most of the solution suggested have been in place for years. You can make payments in-person during regular business hours, you can make payments through telephone or online banking, or you can set up a pre-authorized payment plan.

The important thing to remember is that regardless of whether you receive your tax or water bill or not, you still are required to make the payment by the date it is due. If you don't know how much you owe or what the due date is, a phone call or email to the township will help you to obtain that information. Please be patient and courteous, you probably won't be the only one looking for the information.

Each community may have slightly different procedures for the payment of tax and water bills, so you are encouraged to visit the website of the community in which you live to obtain the correct information.

For your convenience, here are the websites in our coverage area:

southstormont.ca, southdundas.ca, russell.ca, northstormont.ca, northdundas.ca

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Rev. Daniel Wallace
Special to The Record

As a father with 5 children ages 10 and under, Christmas is an exciting time. My wife and I enjoy buying gifts for our children and waking up Christmas morning to see their excitement as they unwrap their gifts under the Christmas tree. I remember as a child the excitement of Christmas morning. I remember one Christmas, I believe I was nine years old, my parents bought me a Batmobile with a Batman action figure, I still remember the excitement I felt. Whether someone is giving a gift or receiving a gift, gifts can elicit great joy and excitement. Having said that, I believe there is one gift that should elicit more joy in us than any other gift we could ever give or receive, the gift of God himself. The apostle Matthew, in his Gospel declares, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23, ESV). The heart of the Christmas story is about God stepping out of glory and humbling himself to take on human flesh, this is referred to as the incarnation. One of the most important questions we can ask in this life is, "why did God take on human flesh?" We find the answer just a few verses earlier in Matthew's gospel "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (vs. 21). The Christmas story is ultimately about a rescue, God coming down to earth to rescue us from our sins. The prophet Isaiah declared "but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear" (Isaiah 52:2). God in his great love, came on a rescue mission to forgive us, and restore us to a right relationship with Him. God desires to walk in close friendship with all his creation, sin stood in the way, but Jesus made a way. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, there is hope for all. I pray that your Christmas is filled with laughter, excitement and joy but more than that, I pray it will be filled with the greatest gift, His presence.

- OBITUARY - CAROLE VILLENEUVE



Passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, Carole Villeneuve of Chesterville, age 71. Loving mother of Kimberlea Villeneuve (Wayne Serrette) of Chesterville. Dear sister of Louise Robillard (late Paul) of Russell, Bob Villeneuve of Ottawa, Paul Villeneuve (Diana Maloney) of Russell and Denis Villeneuve of Ottawa. Dear aunt of

Christianne Robillard, Sabrina Reynolds, Shannon Albert-Gray, Sarah Holmes, Allison Villeneuve, Eric Robillard and Colin Charbonneau. She was predeceased by her parents Armand and Bertha Villeneuve (nee Grenon). A Celebration of Carole's life will be held at the Marsden McLaughlin Funeral Home in Chesterville on Saturday, December 7 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Donations to the J.W. MacIntosh Senior Support Services would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. If you are making your donation online or by cheque directly to the charity, please include the following note with your gift "please notify the family". Online condolences may be made at marsdenmcLaughlin.com.

Church DIRECTORY

Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The United Church of Canada CHRIST CHURCH UNITED
5 Casselman St., Chesterville
Office Ph.: 613-448-2532 Email: ccuchesterville@gmail.com
MINISTER: Rev. Blair R. Paterson, B.A., M.Div.

Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our weekly worship service.
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
AVONMORE-FINCH-MARTINTOWN
ST. JAMES - CHALMERS - ST. ANDREW'S**
PASTORAL CHARGE Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet BBA, BTh, MDIV
Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Email: revlgaudet@gmail.com

December 8th, 2024 - Sunday Advent 2 - The Sunday of Peace. Worship with Rev Lois in a Joint White Gift Sunday worship service in St. Andrew's, Martintown at 10 a.m. followed by a pot luck lunch. Please bring non-perishable food items or children's toys in white tissue or white bags to go to needy families in our area. Come one - come all! No services in Finch or Avonmore this morning. **Sunday Evening** - The Christmas Cantata "The Promise of Light" under the direction of Patsy Timmers and Lisa Zeran will be performed at Chalmers, Finch at 7 p.m. Freewill Offering. All welcome.

**ST. LUKE'S-KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Finch)
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Avonmore)
ST. JAMES-ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Gravel Hill)**
INTERIM MODERATOR: Rev. Robert Adams
Email: minister@stjohnscornwall.ca www.avonmorefinch-presbyterian.ca
Office Phone: 613-932-8693

December 8th, 2024 - Donna McIlveen
Please note that 10:30 a.m. services will be in St. Andrew's, Avonmore for the month of December. No services in Finch.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Morewood
ST. ANDREW'S - Chesterville ST. PAUL'S - Winchester**
Minister: Rev. Ed Charlton Email: edcharlton12@gmail.com
Service Times: St. Andrews Chesterville at 9 a.m.,
St. Paul's Winchester at 10 a.m., and Morewood Presbyterian Church at 11:15 a.m.

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Pastor Scott Sayers
E-mail: Pastor.Scott@mail.com Office: 613-448-2272
**Please join us for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. at the
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Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

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We are open and invite you to join us for services! We are continuing to live stream our Sunday morning services at YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPyDABz4REc-A76-EvrA>
Sunday School Classes & Nursery have resumed.
Please contact the church office for information on mid-week meetings or any other questions.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226
Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick
infostmarysrussell@rogers.com Website: www.stmarysrussell.ca
Sunday Service:
Holy Eucharist and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
You can phone or e-mail the church for the invitation to attend worship via Zoom.
St. Mary's Church is engaged in actively sharing God's unconditional grace and love.

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Visit us online for Sunday Service at our links below.
On Facebook at The Anglican Parish of North Dundas at St. Clare's.
On YouTube at St. Clare Anglican.

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Weekend Mass: Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Fr. Oliver Wekesa (Parish Administrator)
Cindy Morgan (Parish Secretary)

CPKC Holiday Train

Continued from the front

Shawnee Kish took the stage first and got the crowd warmed up with a mix of holiday music as well as some of her own tunes. The Mohawk singer-songwriter was a 2022 JUNO nominee for Contemporary Indigenous Artist of the Year, tied to her acclaimed self-titled debut EP.

In 2023, she released her highly anticipated follow-up EP, *Revolution*, which landed her another two JUNO nominations in Adult Alternative Album of the Year and Contemporary Indigenous Artist of the Year.

Kish was followed by Tyler Shaw, who had many in the crowd of approximately 500 singing and dancing. Shaw is a multi-Platinum-selling artist, music producer and actor. His music has been nominated for multiple JUNO awards, including nods for 'Breakthrough Artist of the Year,' 'Pop Album of the Year,' 'Adult Contemporary Album of the Year' and 'TikTok JUNO Fan Choice.' He has opened for massive international artists, including Shawn Mendes and Alessia Cara, and toured with Selena Gomez.

In between the two artists, short speeches were made by Michael Lazaris,



CPKC Holiday Train presented a cheque for \$4,000 to Jane Schoones, the Community Food Share team lead. From Left: Michael Lazaris, representing Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry MPP Nolan Quinn, North Stormont Deputy Mayor Steve Densham, and Community Food Share team lead Jane Schoones, accepting a cheque for \$4,000 from a member of the CPKC Police.

Tinkess Photo

representing Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry MPP Nolan Quinn, North Stormont Deputy Mayor Steve Densham, and Community Food Share team lead Jane Schoones, who accepted a cheque for \$4,000 from CPKC Holiday Train.

While each event is free, CPKC encourages every attendee to make a monetary or heart-healthy food donation to ease hunger needs in their community. The people who attended this year clearly understood the importance of contributing, something that Schoones

recognized following the event.

"Community Food Share is immensely grateful for the generous \$4,000 donation from CPKC," said Schoones. "Additionally, thanks to the amazing community and visitors to the Holiday Train, we collected 1,168.45 pounds of non-perishable food and received \$2,168 in monetary donations. Wow, what an outstanding accomplishment!"

Even though the CPKC Holiday train arrives on the rails, stays for approximately an hour and then rolls off to the next stop, an event like

this doesn't happen without a lot of effort and coordination from many different people. Schoones, on behalf of Community Food Share offered a heartfelt thank you to:

- The Township of North Stormont CAO Calder, Fire Chief, the Fire Department, and the Public Works team for assisting with parking, road closures, and setup throughout the day

- All CFS volunteers and South Nation Conservation volunteers for collecting food and monetary donations

- Shawn, for his gift of time and the use of his trailer.

- The Finch Lions, for warming us up with delicious hot chocolate.

- And, of course, the Grinch, for bringing holiday cheer to the event!

As the stage folded up, and the train pulled away, its lights now even brighter in the diminishing daylight, those in attendance may have experienced what may well now be a family tradition. What they might not have realized though, is that through their generosity they just may have managed to make Christmas just a bit brighter for someone in need.

Reflecting the spirit of Morewood

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

MOREWOOD – During the Christmas lighting ceremony in Morewood on Nov. 29, it was announced resident Ian MacDonald was the winner of the recent logo contest of the Morewood Recreation Association (MRA).

MRA President Brent Richard explained association members decided it would be a great idea to have a logo to represent it. He mentioned it was decided to hold the contest which would involve having people submit their entries with the winner chosen by the community.

"Originally, the MRA was going to vote on the best logo, but because the MRA is a community-based organization, we felt it

was important that the community had a say in what logo represented their recreation association." Said Richard in a message to The Record. He continued how there were 21 logo entries, with the top four designs posted for 48 hours on the organizations Facebook page and the design receiving the most votes won.

MacDonald, a local artist, explained he wished the logo to reflect the community in a happy and fun manner, with the tractor, cow and barn reflect the rural nature of the Morwood area. He received an Amazon gift card for his winning logo which was presented to him during the 2024 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.



From the left: Artist Ian MacDonald is shown with MRA President Brent Richard in front of the new logo for the Morewood Recreation Association.

Thompson Goddard Photo

Babies of 2024

The Record/Villager will be featuring the **Babies of 2024** in the January 2nd, 2025 edition.

If your child was born in 2024 or December 2023, and you would like to have him/her included in this keepsake edition, email the form below along with a clear picture to *The Record/Villager*.

Your Baby's Name:

Date of Birth:

Mom and Dad's Name:

E-mail: ads@etceterapublications.ca

Cost: \$40 (taxes included)

Deadline for submission is December 20, 2024.

Benny Johnny Jones

Sample Ad

December 20th, 2023

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Visit northdundasparadeoflights.ca for more details.
Register online or by emailing info@northdundasparadeoflights.ca

Large turnout and plenty of good will at Ingleside's annual Santa Claus parade

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

INGLESIDE – To borrow a phrase from Charles Dickens, “A Christmas Carol”, when speaking of the Ingleside Santa Claus parade, “It is said of Ingleside, that they know how to keep Christmas well!”

And so it has been for every year of Ingleside's perennial Santa Claus parade. Combine the lights, the decorations, lots of emergency vehicles, floats, horses, an unusual number of well-decorated ATV's, one MP, lots and lots of smiling children and one very popular large man in a red suit and you have the makings of a party, or the twelve days of Christmas, which is what the Ingleside Santa Claus parade feels like each year!

With only a trace of snow in the air, and relatively pleasant temperatures for this time of year, it was a perfect night to get out and greet the jolly man in the red suit and the crowd started to form early, but in a very organized fashion. People gathered on both sides of the road along the parade route, and many fortunate individuals who



As Santa rolled through Ingleside, he reminded the children that while Christmas was only 25 days away, there was still time to get your name on the “nice” list.
Tinkess Photo

happened to live on the route could also be seen sitting comfortably inside.

The parade started with members of the South Stormont Fire Department, accompanied by Sparky the Fire Safety Dog walking the route and picking up the bins that had been placed to gather

donations of non-perishable food items for the Firefighters food drive. A short time later the actual parade, led by an OPP cruiser, began.

From that point on, things went off like clockwork, without much of a gap between floats and everything else that went into the

celebration. It was impossible to count how many times “Merry Christmas” was shared, or how many candy canes were handed out, but let's just say it was a lot.

For many, the greatest pleasure in attending a Santa Claus parade is watching the faces of the young children as they wait to see Santa, as well as many of their favourite cartoon characters. Chase, from Paw Patrol is always popular (or should I say pup-ular) and a bonus this year is that he appeared twice!

When Santa rolled by in his sleigh, he reminded children that he was checking his list, but that there was still time to make it to the “nice” list. All too soon, with a smile and a wave he was gone, and it was time to go home. Some left with memories of parades past while for others this was the beginning of what may become a yearly tradition. This isn't the only evening of the year that Ingleside displays its community spirit, but it seems to be the one that provides the most joy to the most people at no individual cost. We could all use a bit more of that.

City of Cornwall to host exciting World Junior Championship games

The pre-tournament schedule for the 2025 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Junior Championship has been announced, and the City of Cornwall is pleased to announce that the it has been selected as one of seven communities to host games from Dec. 19 to 23. In total, 11 games will be played throughout Eastern Ontario on the Road to the World Juniors.

The road begins and ends in Ottawa, with three games scheduled for the Nation's Capital and Arnprior, along with Belleville, Brockville, Cornwall, Hawkesbury and Kingston. Over five days, all 10 competing teams will be on the ice.

Cornwall will be hosting 2 exhibition games at the

Cornwall Civic Complex. On Fri., Dec. 20 at 7 pm Finland will be taking on Slovakia, while on Mon., Dec. 23 Team USA and Finland will hit the ice for a 4 pm game. Tickets for the two exhibition games in Cornwall are on sale now at the Benson Centre and Cornwall Aquatic Centre Box Office, as well as online at through TicketPro <https://tproontario.ticketpro.ca/en/pages/IIHF?aff=coc>.

In addition to the 2 games, Finland and Slovakia will hold pre-tournament camps at the Cornwall Civic Complex and the Benson Centre from Dec. 16 to Dec. 23.

“Once again, the City of Cornwall is proud to be hosting teams from around the world as part of the 2025 IIHF World Junior

Hockey Championship”, said Cornwall Mayor Justin Towndale. “We value our continued partnership with Hockey Canada, and look forward to showcasing our community as we host the training camps and games.

Other Ontario communities hosting pre-tournament camps ahead of the holiday hockey tradition including Arnprior (Latvia), Belleville (Czechia and Sweden) Brockville (Switzerland), Carleton Place (Kazakhstan), Kingston (United States) and Ottawa (Canada and Germany).

“This year's World Juniors will celebrate hockey in Eastern Ontario, and we are thrilled to have these communities play host to practices and games leading up to Boxing Day,” said Dean McIntosh, senior vice

president of revenue, fan experience and community impact for Hockey Canada. “We know fans and volunteers in each community take immense pride in welcoming the world, and we look forward to seeing the excitement build as the 10 teams prepare

to compete for a gold medal in our Nation's Capital.

Canada will open its exhibition schedule with a pair of games at TD Place in Ottawa, taking on Switzerland on Dec. 19 and Sweden on Dec. 21 before facing Czechia at the Canadian Tire Centre on

Dec. 23. All three games begin at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT. Limited individual game tickets remain available for 2025 IIHF World Junior Championship in Ottawa. Fans can secure their seat by visiting Hockeycanada.ca/WorldJuniors.

ROAD TO THE WORLD JUNIORS

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	DEC 20	
	7 PM	
	VS.	
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2025 OPP Canines Calendar to provide support for two charities

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

ORILLIA – For more than 50 years, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Canine Unit handlers and canines have been supporting frontline and specialized policing functions to help in

keeping Ontarians safe. Between aiding in search and rescue, tracking wanted persons, detecting narcotics, and searching for firearms, explosives and physical evidence, the OPP specially trained canines still found time to put their best paws forward

for charity. The 2025 OPP Canine Calendar is more than just a collection of canine photos, it's a collection that represents some of the best-trained canines in Ontario, who are known for their strength, agility and determination.

Through the sale of their calendar, they provide a beacon of hope and support for the under-resourced youth of Ontario and also help preserve the OPP's heritage. All proceeds from the calendar sales go to the OPP Youth Foundation and the Friends

of The OPP Museum. The charities thank everyone for their generosity as last year's calendar sales raised more than \$30,000 for these two worthy causes. Each calendar costs \$20 and can be purchased at the OPP Off Duty Shop by visiting oppshop.on.ca.

The 2025 OPP Canine Calendar is more than just a collection of canine photos, it's a collection that represents some of the best-trained canines in Ontario, who are known for their strength, agility and determination.

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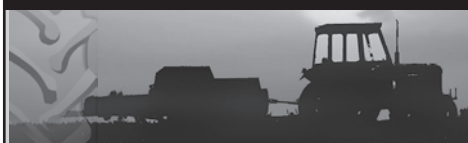
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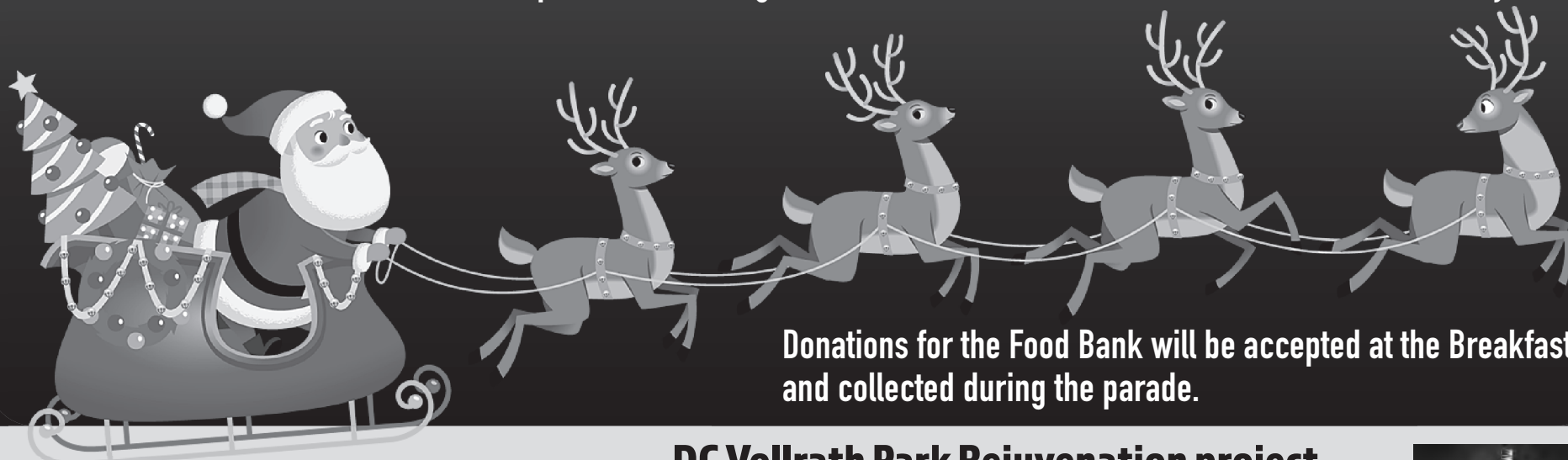
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2024

Breakfast with Santa – Arena Hall
(Finch & District Lions Club)
8 a.m. to 12 p.m. • Breakfast Buffet
9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Santa Visits

Santa Claus Parade – Village Streets
6:30 p.m. • Floats organized at
Moran's yard
7 p.m. • Parade Begins

Santa and Social Time – Arena Hall
(Finch Recreation/St. Bernard's Knights of Columbus)
8 p.m. (Following the Parade)

- Visit Santa
- Enjoy Free Hot Chocolate & Other Goodies
- Social Time with Friends and Family



Donations for the Food Bank will be accepted at the Breakfast and collected during the parade.

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COMING EVENTS

AVONMORE CHRISTMAS ARTS CRAFT & BAKE SALE

At Tagwi Secondary School on Sat., Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch available at noon both days. www.avonmorefair.ca. 22

80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MARIE (LINK) MARCELLUS

Friends and family of Marie (Link) Marcellus are invited to drop in to help celebrate her 80th birthday on Sun., Dec. 15 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Riverside Heights Recreation Hall. 23

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	6							
2				9				7
3	1							6
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		6						
					9	4	3	
5		7		4			2	
		4			1		8	
9				3	7			

Level: Intermediate

SUDOKU

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

Like puzzles? Then you'll love Sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your Sudoku savvy to the test!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

4	5	9	7	3	2	1	8	6
3	8	7	1	5	6	4	2	9
1	2	6	8	4	9	7	3	5
5	3	4	9	6	8	2	7	1
6	7	8	3	2	1	9	5	4
2	9	1	4	7	5	3	6	8
6	4	2	5	8	7	9	1	3
7	1	7	5	6	3	8	4	2
3	9	8	1	2	4	5	6	7

LD Excavation & Demolition – Clearing your path

CHESTERVILLE – LD Excavation and Demolition may be a new company but they do not lack in their experience and drive to complete the tasks you need.

Finding someone with as much ambition and drive as Leeroy DeJong, the business owner, is a rare occurrence, but if you're fortunate enough to have him work with you, you will quickly come to the same conclusion.

DeJong grew up on a dairy and cash crop farm just outside of Chesterville. He is no stranger to operating equipment and so it explains the passion he has for his new business. He opened his operation in June of this year, and, with a bit of scheduling it allows him to service his clients and still be an active part of the family farm.

How long has DeJong been operating a shovel? "Well, officially seven years but I have been running a shovel for my parents since the age of 10, he says happily."

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



LD Excavation and Demo may be a new company but they do not lack in their experience and drive to complete the tasks you need. Courtesy Photo

After having spent the last few years working full time for a local company and servicing the Ottawa area, DeJong wanted to branch off on his own and work with local people. There is a huge demand for these services, and he is looking forward to pleasing those who present an opportunity to him.

At some point, when starting a business, you must bite the bullet and purchase the equipment you need. In DeJong's case that meant purchasing an excavator and a float so he can roll right up to your location when you need him. He will prepare your site to your specifications and then haul away any excess materials that needs to be removed.

In addition to clearing land, DeJong can complete bush removal and haul the excess product away, and even do site clean-up and demolitions.

If you have some land in need of clearing, site preparation or demolition, you can reach out to Leeroy DeJong at 613-227-9756 or by email at info.ldexcavation@gmail.com.

If you would like to have a light shined on your business, please contact us at: editor@etceterapublications.ca or call us at 613-448-2321.

Pin Tales

Stormont Ladies: Ladies' High Single, Pat Middleton 271; Ladies' High Triple, Pat Middleton 587. Team Standings: Pat 123.5, Judy 101.5, Susan 87.5, Angela 87, Rejeanne 80.5.

Monday Men's: Men's High Single, Josh Cinnamon 282; Men's High Triple, Jacob Cinnamon 650; Men's High Average, Frank Jerome 231. Team Standings: East-Ont 71, Alley Cats 61, Raiders 51.5, Alley Rats 39 A-Team 34, Country Boys 33.5.

Defenders: Men's High Single, Blaine Symonds 251; Men's High Triple, Blaine Symonds 604; Ladies' High Single, Natalie Juhasz 237; Ladies' High Triple, Fredda Symonds 564. Team Standings: The Missplits 150.5, Soggybottombowlers 133.5, Split Happens 126, Hasbeans 124.5, The Sixty Niners 117.5, Pin Pals 104.

Wednesday Ladies: Ladies' High Single, Asharon Shaver 171; Ladies' High Triple, Sharon Shaver 461. Team Standings: Corinne 198, Lorna 189, Sharon 188, Mary 159, Janice 146, Deborah 132.

Finch Mixed: Men's High Single, Danny StPierre 287; Men's High Triple, Danny StPierre 713; Ladies' High Single, Grace Tilley 240; Ladies' High Triple, Grace Tilley

635. Team Standings: The G.G's 110, Team #4 101, Ballers 99, Dick Heads 85, Balls To The Wall 80.

Thursday Seniors: Men's High Single, Bas Vanwinden 171; Men's High Triple, Bas Vanwinden 422; Ladies' High Single, Tina Serviss 184; Ladies' High Triple, Tina Serviss 515.

Avonmore Mixed: Men's High Single, Mike Byvelds 251; Men's High Triple, Mike Byvelds 645; Ladies' High Single, Joan Benton 226; Ladies' High Triple, Cortnie Labelle 513. Team Standings: Mike 168.5, Luke 138, Jen 135.5, Mary 134, Jeannette 124.5, Monique 118.5.

Williamsburg Mixed: Men's High Single, Dane Miskowicz 213; Men's High Triple, Dane Miskowicz 571; Ladies' High Single, Donna Leach 193; Ladies' High Triple, Tania Well 488. Team Standings: Dane 73, George 63, Danny 58, John 58, Tania 56, Leslie 52.

Winchester Odd Couples: Men's High Single, Corey Tshoumy 283; Men's High Darryl Britton 677; Ladies' High Single, Pat Middleton 213; Ladies' High Triple, Pat Middleton 523. Team Standings: Meat Loaf 89, The

Partimers 76, The Crew 74.5, Mad Handicappers 74.5, The Youngens 52.

Youth Bowling Canada

YBC Peewees: Girl's High Single, Emma Gagne 79; Girl's High Double, Emma Gagne 150; Boy's High Single, Maximus Power 115; Boy's High Double, Maximus Power 208. Team Standings: Bruins 56, Kings 51, Stars 34.

YBC Bantams: Girl's High Single, Raelynn Drapeau 125; Girl's High Double, Vanessa Bissonnette 214; Boy's High Single, Brandon Leach 137; Boy's High Double, Brandon Leach 263. Team Standings: Senators 40, Leafs 38, Sabers 37.

YBC Juniors: Girl's High Single, Danika Bissonnette 226; Girl's High Triple, Danika Bissonnette 518; Boy's High Single, Merrick Richer 225; Boy's High Triple, Merrick Richer 541.

YBC Seniors: Girl's High Single, Lindsay Burnett 197; Girl's High Triple, Lindsay Burnett 461; Boy's High Single, Sam Tessier 195; Boy's High Triple, Sam Tessier 575. Team Standings: Red Wings 113, Jets 105, Flames 95, Blackhawks 81.5, Oilers 81.5.

Temperature's rising at Morrisburg Firefighter's Association Chili Cook-Off

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The temperature outside had turned decidedly cooler on Sat., Nov. 30, so what better time could there be for the second-annual Morrisburg Firefighter's Association Chili Cook-Off to take place!

This year there were 13 chili chefs competing, and each according to organizer Bill Chafe, literally brought something different to the table.

"If you will take a look around, you will find that some are serving family recipes while others are trying something new," said Chafe. "We have a couple in here who have smoked a brisket, and they're serving brisket chili. We have the Mayor's Cincinnati style spaghetti. So, there's a wide variety, something for everybody."

Chili with brisket sounded very good, and

there was one with maple syrup for a touch of sweetness, but Mayor Jason Broad's Cincinnati Chili sounded interesting.

"So last year, with my wife finishing the top three, I needed to change my recipe," said Mayor Broad. "I made mostly a bean recipe last year. This year, I decided to go with the gold star, Cincinnati style chili. What I've made tonight is the chili sauce with the pasta and cheese, and that's the three star. You can go for four star, which will have onions, or five star with beans, but that's what I brought tonight: Cincinnati style chili."

There is, it seems, a whole science to this.

"There's a whole science here, for sure, for sure," added Mayor Broad. "A great meal on a cold evening and a good fundraiser and team builder with the fire hall and the guys."

Proceeds from the event benefit the Morrisburg Firefighters Association, and they'll use the money to purchase equipment. "Our municipality does supply the fundamentals, the basics," said Chafe, "But we do some fundraising throughout the year to purchase a few extra tools, pieces of equipment that will make our jobs a little easier, sometimes a little more efficient."

"There's always something. You know, a good example is like, when it comes to auto extrication, you have the jaws of life. Those are critical tools, but there's other tools you can purchase that will, in certain situations, help you do the job a little quicker or more safely."

Chafe mentioned that he hoped to have 100 or more people pass through before the night was over. He emailed the next day to report that between the chili, and the silent auction,



South Dundas Mayor Jason Broad was confident that his Cincinnati Chili would be well-received by the judges in the second-annual Morrisburg Firefighter's Association Chili Cook-Off.

Tinkess Photo

the event had been very successful.

"When the dust settled, we raised just over \$2500 last night," said Chafe. "But even better than that, as far

as our fighters are concerned, we had the opportunity to welcome our community into their firehall, share a warm meal together, and have a laugh

as we head into the busy holiday season."

There is more than one way, it seems, for a chili cook-off to give you that warm all over feeling!

2024 Russell Asset Management Plan shows \$400 million in infrastructure assets

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

RUSSELL – Since at least 2017, Russell has developed an asset management strategy. In the summer of 2024, members of the community were invited to share their thoughts by completing an asset management survey. Recently, administration provided an update on the current state of the Township’s infrastructure, as part of the presentation of the 2024 Asset Management Plan (AMP). This update highlighted the Township’s strong position, with 77% of its assets rated in fair or better condition. Maintaining and improving this status, however, requires ongoing commitment and strategic planning.

Russell Township has nearly \$400 million in infrastructure assets, which require an annual funding requirement of \$10 million to keep these assets operational and in good condition. Government grants currently help bridge the gap between funding and annual needs, but reliance on external support is not a sustainable long-term solution.

As a result, The Township has adopted a forward-thinking asset management strategy to meet these challenges. There are five components to this strategy:

1. Meeting Annual Replacement Requirements: Within six years, the Township aims to align its funding strategy with annual replacement needs. This ensures assets are renewed before reaching the end of their useful life, avoiding costly emergency repairs and financial burdens on future generations.

2. Progress Highlighted by the 2024 AMP: The submission of the 2024 AMP demonstrates significant progress in evaluating the Township’s infrastructure. It provides a detailed and accurate overview of assets, showing that The Township is on the right track while identifying areas for improvement.

3. Strengthening the Asset Management Team: To support this effort, the Township has added a technical resource to the asset management team. By combining technical and financial expertise, they are creating a more accurate and comprehensive AMP, with streamlined database updates and improved data management processes.

4. Updating and Optimizing Data with GIS Technology: The asset management team will update the database with all the latest studies conducted by the Township in recent years, leveraging Geographic Information System (GIS) data to enhance accuracy and streamline processes.

5. Revamping the Asset Management Committee: A restructured committee will now include staff working directly on tangible projects, ensuring more hands-on expertise. These members will meet monthly to discuss updates, adjustments, and studies, promoting a collaborative and dynamic approach to asset management.

The administration is already planning the development of the 2025 AMP, building on the foundation laid by the 2024 plan. Over the next six months, they will refine their strategies to further enhance the evaluation and management of Russell’s infrastructure assets.

Through this proactive approach, the Township will demonstrate dedication to financial sustainability and responsible asset management. By ensuring that funds are available when needed and assets are renewed on time, the community’s infrastructure will be protected while also safeguarding future generations from unnecessary financial burdens.

Russell Township Joins the White Ribbon Awareness Campaign

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

RUSSELL – From Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, Russell Township is proudly participating in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global initiative to end violence against women and girls.

This period includes the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Dec. 6, which commemorates the tragic 1989 École Polytechnique massacre in Montreal, where 14 young women lost their lives.

This year, Maison Interlude House invited municipalities within the United Counties of Prescott and Russell to join the White Ribbon Awareness Campaign. This international movement, the largest of its kind, calls on men and boys to take an active role in promoting gender equality, healthy relationships, and a new vision of masculinity.

Wearing a white ribbon is a visible and meaningful way for men to stand in solidarity against sexism and gender-based violence. At the Nov.



At the Nov. 25 council meeting, elected male council members and male administration staff members in attendance displayed the white ribbon as a show of their support for the principles of the cause.

Courtesy Photo

25, 2024, Council Meeting, Russell Township’s male elected officials and staff were proudly wearing the white ribbon to demonstrate their commitment to this cause. This action is part of a larger effort across the region, where other municipalities and community partners have also shown their support.

Violence against women remains a pressing issue, many consider it to have reached epidemic proportions, and it impacts communities

everywhere. Maison Interlude House provides vital support to over 500 women annually in Eastern Ontario, offering shelter, resources, and hope.

By wearing the white ribbon, men send a strong message that they must play a critical role in the fight against gender-based violence. From Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, all residents are encouraged to reflect on this issue, take part in raising awareness, and commit to actions that foster respect and equality in their community.

In 2025 budget, Russell Council tries to balance forward thinking with current trends

Terry Tinkess
Record Staff

RUSSELL – Over the past several months, Council and staff members

in Russell have worked to create a balanced 2025 budget that reflects the community’s priorities while addressing the

financial challenges they face. Following consultation with residents through surveys, public meetings, and working

sessions, the budget was approved on Nov. 12, 2024.

Like many households, the Township is feeling the effects of inflation. Rising costs for daily goods and services (Consumer Price Index) and construction projects (Construction Price Index) are creating challenges for all municipalities across the province.

When you add to this, the unexpected and unprecedented increase in OPP policing fees, revealed late in the budgeting process, there is little doubt that the process experienced significant pressure. These fees, which the Township cannot control, account for a notable portion of this year’s tax adjustment. To address this, the Solicitor General is being actively lobbied to provide relief for municipalities facing this unexpected burden.

Despite these challenges, Council worked closely with staff to develop a responsible plan that balances current needs with long-term goals. Central to this plan is our Asset Management Policy, which ensures we are setting aside funds now to maintain and replace aging infrastructure as needed, avoiding sudden and significant tax increases in the future.

Some residents have expressed concerns that the

newly initiated recreation complex is fuelling this year’s tax increase, but according to Council, that is not the case.

Since 2018, the Township has reportedly been setting money aside for this project through small annual increases, which have compounded over time. This financial plan was put in place to ensure residents will not experience a major tax increase as the project begins or when the complex opens.

Council intends to follow this financial plan while actively pursuing grants to further enhance the project’s financial sustainability. The recreation complex remains a key investment in our community’s well-being, but it has not impacted the 2025 tax adjustment.

The average household will see a \$15 monthly increase in 2025 property taxes, lower than the \$19 originally proposed. This increase can be broken down as follows:

- \$5/month: Increased OPP policing fees.
- \$10/month: Maintaining current services, upgrading infrastructure, and funding reserves for future needs.

It’s important to note that municipal taxes account for only 40–50% of your total tax bill. The remaining

portion goes toward:

• United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR): Regional services.

• School Board taxes: Supporting local education.

This municipal tax increase is focused on delivering essential services and ensuring long-term planning while impacting only a portion of your overall tax bill.

This year’s budget focuses on both immediate needs and long-term priorities:

• Fire Services: Investments in firefighter training and equipment to enhance community safety.

• Infrastructure Upgrades: Maintaining roads, water systems, and public buildings to avoid costly future repairs.

• Future Planning: Allocating \$15.75 million—30% of the operational budget—to reserves, to ensure the ability to replace or repair aging infrastructure and support critical capital projects that strengthen the community’s resilience and economic health.

Council believes that the 2025 budget reflects a commitment to maintaining high-quality services while securing the Township’s long-term financial stability.

The budget will be available online next week at www.russell.ca/budget.

Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your energy is impressive and contagious this week. You can put it to use tackling tasks that you have been putting off. A surprise message could brighten your weekend.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, review your budget and consider a new investment opportunity. This week brings a chance to reconnect with someone special. Don’t avoid vulnerability, as it could enhance things.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

You might find yourself in discussions that lead to exciting new projects, Gemini. Be open to collaboration and work on improving your communication skills. Time for fun comes later.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 21

This week is all about self-care, Cancer. Take some time to focus on your emotional well-being and nurture it as much as you can. A midweek work opportunity could arise.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, dive into artistic pursuits or share ideas with others this week, as your creativity will be shining brightly. A social engagement may bring new connections that lead to exciting prospects.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Get down to business and organize your workspace or tackle a project that has been pushed aside, Virgo. If you feel overwhelmed, be sure to ask for some help from those you trust.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it’s all about balance this week, something you know a lot about as the scales sign. Make time for both work and play so you can make the most of every opportunity.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Intensity and passion might define your week, Scorpio. Delve into a project that excites you. By the middle of the week, news reaches your ears and it could be very exciting.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

This is the week for exploring new ideas or planning a trip, Sagittarius. It’s only a matter of time before you realize that adventure awaits. Get started on what awaits.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, try focusing on your long-term goals this week. Strategic planning will pay off in the long run. If you need help, seek a mentor who can offer advice.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

A surprise opportunity might arise for you midweek, Aquarius. Don’t hesitate to snatch it up quickly, as others also might be interested. Leave weekend plans open for now.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if you feel your emotions are running high this week, try to channel your feelings into a creative project that will use them in a smart way. A friend may call asking for advice.