Sports

ALNWICK/HALDIMAND TOWNSHIP

Council plans road tour

Spring is in the air, we all know that tune. Things are in full swing here in Alnwick/Haldimand.

Under the watchful eye of Arryn McNicol our municipal treasurer, this year's budget is being brought forward for us to painstakingly go through to make sure that there is zero waste. This process is labourintensive; we have to stretch every dollar to make sure that we are fiscally responsible to you, the taxpayer. McNicol is busy making sure that we receive all our grants and rebates. Thank you, Arryn, your expertise is very much appreciated.

For the most part, the Special Events Bylaw is finished. With just a little more tweaking it will be complete. As well, the Noise Bylaw is in its final stage. It has taken a great deal of research to make certain that these two bylaws will be enforceable and protect our residents. Thank you, Terry, Robin and Mike for your com-



Joan Stover COUNCIL CORNER

mitment and expertise.

We will be going on a road tour with Cam Ward, our public works superintendent, as he shows us the many kilometres of roads he and his team take great pride in keeping in tip top shape. Thank you, public works, for keeping our roads safe, sanded and ploughed.

Next on the agenda will be a building tour. There are three fire halls, three libraries, four community centres, an arena and two municipal offices to tour. Safety and accessibility at our buildings, is essential so that everyone can enjoy our facilities. Thank you to all who take great pride in keeping our buildings in such great shape.

On Saturday, April 16, I will be participating in Cops for Cancer, a fundraising event, and shaving my hair off. It is an honour for me to dedicate this to my Mom, Beatrice Prentice. Fifty-six years ago, Mom underwent treatment and continues to live a cancerfree life. The great hair shave-off will be at the Northumberland Mall from 2 to 4 p.m. I invite you to come out and be part of this campaign and help find a cure.

If you are new to our municipality: Welcome. You will find some wonderful groups and organizations to join.

Please continue to call, I look forward to hearing your ideas and as well you issues and concerns.

Joan Stover is an Alnwick / Haldimand Township councillor, representing Ward 1.

Broadband project coming in late 2012

VALERIE MACDONALD

Northumberland Today

NORTHUMBERLAND — Northumberland County residents and businesses should be able to join the Eastern Ontario Regional (Broadband) Network by the last quarter of next year, network spokesman David Fell told county councillors recently.

This is a project to create a "network superhighway with higher (Internet) speeds, bandwidth and efficiency that currently exists" under the auspices of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC), of which Northumberland County is a member, according to Fell's presentation. The EOWC is contributing \$10 million of the cost to build the internet network.

It will be a "large capacity network that will service (95% of clients)...with up to 1.5 Mbps and at least 85% with up to 10Mbps," Fells said.

In addition to individual, business and organizational customers, local Internet service providers (ISP) can also come onboard "over time," he said in response to a question posed by Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs.

companies providing Internet service to clients. Eagle's founder, Tom Copeland, says the new network has done a poor job of communicating with companies like his about their participation and cost.

"There has been so much secrecy... and the release of information has been so controlled," Copeland said when contacted at his Cobourg office.

The connection between

towers, satellites and fibre optics to customers is referred to as the "final mile" and will be contracted out to ISPs. Asked if his company would put forward a tender bid, Copeland replied, "We certainly won't be bidding the contract for the final mile, primarily because of the prequalifications are very onerous" from a financial perspective.

Even though the network is promising that, over time, local ISPs can buy in at the same price as the winning bidder, they will be put at a disadvantage, he said.

"If I can't serve you across the new network when it launches, you'll probably switch," Copeland said.

Unless the new service provided is poor, getting back that customer will be next to impossible, he added.

Ninety-five percent of the population in Eastern Ontario is expected to be connected the high speed/high capacity Internet via an optical fibre backbone built by Bell and Bell Aliant (at a cost of \$55 million), satellite service through a contract with Barrett Xplore Inc. (at a cost of \$21 million) and the final mile through a local or area internet service provider, again through a tendered contract.

The objective is to provide both urban and rural users the internet service at affordable rates, Fell's presentation stated. When asked he said he was not in a position to talk about the end user pricing except to say it would be near urban pricing.

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