



OPP REPORT



Dump truck collides with hydro pole

On July 16, at approximately 11:26 a.m. members of the Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision involving a dump truck and a hydro pole on Wellington Road 39 just north of Wellington Road 30, Guelph-Eramosa Township.

Investigation revealed that a dump truck travelling southbound on Wellington Road 39 left the roadway and entered the west ditch. It then crossed over to the east ditch and struck a hydro pole.

There were no injuries reported as a result of the collision. The damage to the pole has caused a disruption to power in the area and a Hydro One crew was on scene working to restore power.

Wellington Road 39 between Wellington Road 30 and Wellington

Road 51 remained closed for approximately five to six hours.

The cause of the collision is still under investigation.

Racing charge

On July 14, at approximately 8:27 p.m., an officer from the Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) was conducting radar enforcement and monitoring traffic on Eastview Road near Davis Street, Guelph-Eramosa Township. A male driving a 1999 Toyota was observed well above the posted speed limit. The vehicle was locked on radar at approximately 120 km/h in a 60 km/h zone.

His driver's licence and vehicle were seized for a period of 7 days as per statute.

A 22 year old Guelph man has been charged with Race a Motor Vehicle contrary to the Highway Traffic Act. He is to appear in Guelph

Provincial Court on September 2, to answer the charge.

Vehicle seized

On July 20, at approximately 2:36 a.m. members of the Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were conducting radar speed enforcement and monitoring traffic on Highway 6 near Laird Road in the City of Guelph. Police observed a 2003 Nissan Sentra travelling southbound well above the posted speed limit. The vehicle was locked on radar at approximately 143 km/h in an 80 km/h zone.

His driver's licence and vehicle were seized for a period of 7 days as per statute.

A 21 year old Hamilton man has been charged with Race a Motor Vehicle contrary to the Highway Traffic Act. He is to appear in Guelph Provincial Court on August 19, to answer the charge.

County launches signage plan project

The County of Wellington is excited to officially launch its first ever Wellington Signage Plan Project. Approved in the County's 2015 Economic Development budget, the plan will utilize signage to create a unified look and feel across Wellington County and distinguish Wellington from its neighbouring municipalities. In addition, the initiative will create a for-profit programme that local businesses can use to leverage their exposure.

"The County takes great pride in all aspects of its capital projects," says Jana Reichert, Wellington County's Economic Development Officer. "We know this Signage Plan will be in accordance with this and be reflective of our history and our strengths as a region."

The Signage Plan will incorporate three phases to be implemented over the next several years. These phases are defined as entrance signs on County boundary roads, directional/way finding signage and business/tourism signage. Residents and businesses will be engaged through an online survey (www.wellington.ca/signage) and public information sessions throughout the summer. Those living in

the north end of the County participated in two focus groups on July 22 in Harriston and Fergus. Two additional focus groups will be held on August 5:

- Centre 2000, 14 Boland Drive, Erin (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)
- Puslinch Community Centre, 23 Brock Street South, Aberfoyle (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

The County is working closely with member municipalities, recognizing that communities are at different stages with respect to signage and that each has a distinct identity.

In 2014 as part of its Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) Project, the County conducted 278 in-person interviews to help it identify and focus on the most important issues. Signage and promotion of the community was a top priority. Noted in one response, "One does not know where the County starts and stops and more importantly, how Wellington differentiates itself from its neighbours." Wellington is unique in that it has the most neighbours in the Province of Ontario.

A draft plan is expected to be ready for early Fall.

Annual croquet tournament

By: Vivien Fleisher

About 70 players came out to the Ninth Annual Nassagaweya Croquet Tournament last weekend for the grueling three-day competition.

Elora native and professional cro-

quet player Brian Cumming - who is a five-time winner of the Canadian Open Association Croquet Championship - made it to the finals on Sunday with partner Nick Mitchell. Local musicians *The Retrievers* were competitors by day and entertainers by night.



Vivien Fleisher photos

The bear facts

By: Vivien Fleisher

There was an unverified report of a black bear sighting near Rockwood Conservation Area last weekend, and although it was believed to have been outside the park, it does give one pause: a late-May encounter in a Newmarket backyard ended with a black bear's shooting, a result few wanted as evidenced on social media. It also indicates that changes to their environment - especially increased development - are driving them into urban areas.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources site says that their presence reflects a healthy ecosystem; although that's cold comfort should you ever come face to face with one. Everything they do is related to getting their paws on food. So whether you're a homeowner or a

camper, it's in everyone's interest to run a tight ship and avoid attracting them unnecessarily.

Black bears mostly eat plant material in summer but a quick and easy meal can always trump that. Strict management of garbage, keeping barbecues clean and stored between use, properly storing food when camping, and even giving up feeding the birds will all go a long way toward keeping them out of your life. They're no different than us: once they figure out where to find a good meal, it goes to the top of their list. It's the black bear equivalent of a fast food joint. All of these measures are beneficial anyways, so adopting them in general will stave off other problems in the urban environment.

If you do see a bear - or worse - have an encounter. Though it may be

hard to convince oneself in the moment, they are just as scared of us and maybe more, and will be looking to escape the situation. Perhaps easier said than done, you need to stay calm. Also, avoid cornering a bear, which sometimes simply means leaving them a way out. A threatened bear will make noise to try to scare you off, which is your cue to get out. They often stand during an encounter to see and catch your smell, not out of aggression. And, the Ministry emphasizes that attacks are exceedingly rare.

Whether a bear was near the park two weeks ago or not, it pays to know the facts. Overall this year, the Ministry has experienced fewer calls but if you do see one that's hanging around, the number to call is 1-866-514-2327. And of course, in an emergency call 911.