



TOWNSHIP DIGEST

MORE MEDICAL SERVICES?

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott delivered his “unqualified support” to add a new medical laboratory and diagnostic imaging services to the East Wellington Family Health team at the Rockwood medical centre last week at Queen’s Park.

In a statement in the Ontario Legislature, Arnott urged the Minister of Health to approve the project, noting local residents in under-served communities must travel up to 47-kilometres and wait long hours for lab services, adding, “Our seniors and people with chronic conditions like diabetes deserve better.”

Arnott argued that granting a new specimen collection centre licence for the East Wellington Family Health Team would improve health service to the local and surrounding populations, facilitate recruitment and retention of physicians, support health professionals, give patients an alternative to the local emergency department and provide care to seniors closer to home.

BRIDGE REPAIR NOW

Mill Road will be closed between Watson Road and Baseline Road for approximately six weeks this summer so Guelph/Eramosa Township can immediately rehabilitate a bridge on Mill Road west, sooner than planned.

Council chose to rehab the aging structure at a cost of \$214,265, cheaper by almost \$50,000 than option two, which was to leave one lane open during most of the construction. A consultant said the bridge is in “pretty good condition” but monitoring showed barrier posts continue to deteriorate, leading staff to recommend moving the project into this year’s work to be completed “as soon as possible.” The project funding came from a budget amendment approved by council recently to delay another bridge project and use bridge reserve funds so the project doesn’t impact property taxes.

SURPLUS TRAILER

Three top Township staff who worked out of a construction trailer in the parking lot of the Brucedale HQ for almost five years are not sorry to learn Council approved selling the office trailer for between \$9,500 and \$13,000. The trailer cost \$23,740 in 2008.

The \$1-million expansion of the municipal offices makes the trailer obsolete – and means staff no longer scurry across the parking lot in all kinds of weather to use the washroom. Money from the sale will be used to extend concrete curbing along the side of the new building.

GREEN THUMBS

Over 80 Rockwood Centennial School students from four classes planted donated seeds and seedlings in the Community Garden at the school last Wednesday. Some of the food grown – including tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, peas, carrots and onions – will be distributed through the Rockwood and Erin food banks.

All are invited to get involved with the Community Garden – the next meeting is Tuesday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m., at the school or email rockwoodcommunitygarden@gmail.com



GREEN THUMBS: Rockwood Centennial School students Erika Merhar (left), Liam Corbett and Alexa Paton helped prepare the beds and plant vegetables in the Community Garden located at the school last Wednesday. Some 80 students in four classes worked on the garden. – Submitted photo

Citizen group alleges a ‘secret information exchange’ with Hidden Quarry application

Allegations of backroom talks in connection with the proposed Hidden Quarry application between Rockwood and Acton angered and exasperated several Guelph/Wellington Township councillors on Monday night.

Rockwood’s Dan Kennaley, a Woolwich Township planner who was speaking on behalf of the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) in opposition to the quarry on Highway 7 at the Sixth Line, alleged the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and the applicant have information the Township and public were not privy to.

He said the CRC is concerned with the GRCA process for formulating comments on the proposal, including the “secret information exchange” between James Dick Construction and the GRCA. “How is this contributing to an open and transparent planning process?” Kennaley asked, adding the CRC is particularly concerned with a GRCA comment in April that it is “satisfied with the response regarding the identification and protection of Significant Wildlife Habitat on this site...”

Kennaley said the CRC questions what response the GRCA got from the applicant concerning significant wildlife habitat, and on what basis they came to the conclusion that they were satisfied.

Kennaley asked Township Council to intervene in the GRCA planning process – a repeat request – and again, Mayor Chris White explained the GRCA is an independent body and Council will respond, once it gets the GRCA final report on the quarry application, which requires a Township rezoning and a provincial aggregate licence. “I have difficulty with that kind of comment being made in public,” White said about Kennaley’s allegations of backroom talks, again suggesting the CRC contact their GRCA representative, Erin Councillor John Brennan.

Township Councillor Doug Breen wanted to be very clear about what Kennaley had to say about the GRCA. “When you use the phrase ‘secret information’ exchange between the GRCA and applicant...are you actually saying that as a planner you don’t trust the GRCA to be open and transparent,” Breen asked,

prompting Kennaley to respond, “Absolutely,” adding he stands by his comments as a member of CRC and as a professional planner.

“You know the process works...but to go off half-cocked and to go off commenting on and questioning things we haven’t even seen, and demanding information on report that may or may not have even been done...is this what the Township of Woolwich wants you saying in public?” an increasingly frustrated Breen said, adding Kennaley should not “get people whipped into a frenzy.”

Both White and Breen were even more frustrated when Kennaley admitted the CRC had not asked the GRCA for the information it wants, before implying, using inflammatory language, that they are holding back information needed to make an informed decision.

Mayor White stressed Council will get answers to all of the questions before making a decision on a rezoning to allow the quarry which would produce 700,000-tonnes of aggregate annually. “This is our community too – we live here...” White said.

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NEIL YOUNG’S SHADOW

Frank Wilks, leader of the band *Buffalo Springfield Revisited* will tell his story and sing the songs of his rock and roll life in the shadow of Neil Young at the Century Church Theatre on June 29.

Billed as *I’m Not Neil Young: The Musical*, the event also includes a Neil Young tribute show. For information call 519-855-4586.