

The ROCKWOOD Miller



Guelph / Eramosa COUNCIL CHIPS

By: Vivien Fleisher

Site Plan Application for Self-storage Expansion

Dan Currie presented the site plan application for Robert and Yolanda Fellows' proposed addition of seven new buildings/structures to their existing self-storage business at 8572 Highway 7. Under the Wellington County Official Plan, the lands are designated Rural Employment Area, and under the Town, Rural Industrial with a special provision. The 3.8 hectare site, a former horse farm, currently features five self-storage buildings, with six of the prospective ones to go in behind, and the seventh near the entrance. The process since 2014 has involved plans and drawings prepared by planning consultants, landscape architects and engineers making the rounds for review by several agencies before a collaborative review process took all comments into consideration for refinement. With revisions made, the only thing left is

approval of a letter of credit from the Fellows, with Currie recommending council approve the project. Councillor Woods inquired as to whether the building met code, but Mayor White pointed out that the application in question related to site plans only.

Modernizing Ontario Municipal Legislation Act

Before presenting a report on Bill 68—"Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act 2017"—acting clerk Amanda Knight warned the document was 'text heavy'. Initiated by the Province in 2015, last November, after a second reading the government introduced Bill 68 after a lengthy consultation process to focus on accountability, transparency, financial stability, responsiveness and flexibility at the municipal level. The bill received Royal Assent in May. Knight's report outlined key amendments to that act, in particular the ones that will impact Guelph/Eramosa. All mu-

nicipalities are required to appoint an integrity commissioner. A joint one will be appointed to handle all seven within Wellington County and this commissioner now has the power to conduct an inquiry into any matter received by a person acting in the public interest. Meetings are not much different, but clarity around their definition was added, which is that a quorum of members must be present, and that the discussion be about any matter that "materially advances the business or decision-making of the council". Mayor White expressed concern at the ambiguity of some of the changes, with Councillor Wolk asking, "Who's going to determine the template for what the norm should be?" Mayor White responded that although they have to revise their own bylaws, "It really doesn't fundamentally change anything", before adding that they'll have time to do it before the deadline passes.

Long weekend wrap-up on county roads

Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers were active on area highways, trails and waterways over the long weekend and are pleased to report that there were no serious motor vehicle collisions over that time period. Officers investigated 17 motor vehicle collisions throughout the county ranging from minimal injury to property damage only.

As part of the Provincial Move Over initiative, officers were focussing on drivers who failed to slow down and/or move over for emergency vehicles and tow trucks that were parked on the roadside with their emergency lights activated. Locally 29 drivers were charged for failing to "Move Over" and issued Prov-

incial Offences Notices for those charges.

While enforcement and education of the motoring public was directed at the Move Over legislation other traffic act violations that affect traffic safety were not ignored. Wellington OPP issued a total of 194 Provincial Offence Notices over the three-day initiative including the following:

- 100 Speeding Violations
- Four Seatbelt Infractions
- One Distracted Driving
- Four Liquor Licence Charges
- Five Insurance related charges

Other moving violations under the Highway Traffic Act as

well as Marine safety enforcement were also issued.

"Campaigns like the Move Over Campaign are important for us to remind drivers of the importance of respecting emergency vehicles and to ensure the safety of those who stand and work alongside our roadways. A simple manoeuvre like moving over when a driver sees an emergency vehicle parked with its lights on will help to ensure the safety of everyone in the area," said Detachment Commander Scott Lawson, "Couple that with the help of those motorists who choose to operate their vehicles in a safe manner, we see positive results with respect to the severity of collisions which obviously benefits all of us in Wellington County".

Preteens in stitches at the Rockwood Library



By: Vivien Fleisher

Every day for an hour after lunch this week, six kids sat down in front of brand-new sewing machines at the Rockwood Library to master the art of sewing, or to pick it up for the first time. Aimed at all skill levels, this one-week camp is part of a brand new program throughout the Wellington County Library. They recently purchased six Janome machines with the first stop at the Puslinch branch in July. The plan is to visit all fourteen branches over the coming year. Rockwood lucked out, getting the machines during summer break and were able to offer a day camp.

The machines barely

made a sound in the library setting, and neither did the kids who were focussed on the intricacies of following a pattern, threading the machine, playing with the tension to get it just right. Sisters Nadia and Sarah Ceccato had sewn before. Nadia signed up because she and her Mom "thought it would be nice. I've sewed before and belonged to other clubs." Grace Geldert, nine, said, "I love sewing. I've done it with my Mom. I've made pillows and stuffies."

Library assistants Daniella Trotta and Sarah Sebele were kept busy helping with the project of the day: a library card holder. The pattern was de-

ceptively simple; if you've never followed a pattern before, it's a bit like a puzzle, but for those new to the craft, the sense of accomplishment once it's figured out is what gets people hooked. On day one, the kids learned to hand sew; next is a coaster, and the final project is a small bean-bag monster—a cute one of course.

An evening workshop for adults is planned August 24, but the machines are available for all to use until they head to the Erin branch for the month of September. For more info or to register for the adult class, email rockwoodlib@wellington.ca or call 519.856.4851.

OPP conducting a neighbourhood canvass in Rockwood

The Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) canvassed residences in the Town of Rockwood on August 12 in regards to a rash of Break Ins and Vehicle Entries. The OPP have been investigating an increased amount of reported thefts and vehicle entries.

While canvassing residences about these Break Ins and Vehicle Entries, members of the OPP Auxiliary Unit also educated the public about the Lock It or Lose It and Crime

Stoppers programs.

The Lock it or Lose It campaign is a crime prevention program that reminds the public to lock their vehicles and to remove the valuables and keys from within. This helps reduce the motivation and likelihood of these types of property crimes. Crime Stoppers allows anonymous reporting of crimes.

If you do suspect that your vehicle has been entered or see suspi-

cious activity related to this type of crime, the OPP wants you to report it immediately. Any person with information regarding criminal activity should contact the Wellington County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip on-line at www.csgw.tips. You may be eligible for a reward from Crime Stoppers of up to \$2,000.