

Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh council

Council will be informed of MOE report

By Dominique Milburn
Goderich Signal Star

Elaine Hardy, of the Ministry of the Environment, indicated to council through e-mail that she would inform Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh councillors the moment that the MOE report on wind turbines is released.

"I will receive an email from them just as soon as the report is released," Hardy wrote to clerk, Mark Becker.

"It's pretty self-explanatory here," Becker said. "[We still have] no idea when the report is going to be released."

Guns

With just two councillors in opposition, council has agreed to allow Sunday gun hunting. In September of 2006, A-C-W voted against Sunday gun hunting suggested by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The federation, in a letter to council, stated reasons behind the proposal, including reducing losses suffered by farmers as a result of crop damage, and public safety concern with a growing population of deer. A-C-W will forward their decision to the MNR.

Bridge inspections

A-C-W intends to make an on-line application for construction-ready municipal infrastructure projects in 2008.

The province allows on-line applications to be made until Feb. 15, and A-C-W intends to submit one application for the replacement of the River Mill Line bridge.

B.M. Ross and Associates have recently completed inspections of the bridge in question, and all other bridges within ACW.

The company carried out a site review of the 72 bridges in A-C-W to address provincial regulations which stipulate that all bridges are to be inspected by an engineer every two years to identify any safety concerns. It was noted that the condition of some structures has continued to deteriorate and a few immediate safety concerns were identified.

The steel beam guiderails at structure 45 on River Mill Line are no longer attached to the structure, and only supported by posts. B.M. Ross suggested that the guiderails be reattached and maintained regularly, or the structure be replaced.

The review primarily consisted of a visual site inspection of the bridge structures. Occasionally, a hammer was used to test the soundness of the concrete components. Of the 72 52

are located in Ashfield, while Wawanosh claims 12, and Colborne eight.

Mammoth parade

Look out, the Lucknow Reunion Committee has requested a detour.

The celebration committee has requested to reroute traffic on the day of their 150th anniversary parade through A-C-W.

According to committee members Marilynne and Dale Gilchrist, a "mammoth" parade is set for Saturday, July 26.

They asked that council permit the use of Zion Road, Harper Line, and Tower Line exclusively from 10 a.m. until the parade is completed.

Councillors agreed to supply barricades and allow use of the roadways.

Plowing

Council has been looking into extending the hours of snowplowing service.

Public works superintendent Brian Van Osch prepared a report for councillors at the Jan. 22 meeting which outlined the current policy status of surrounding municipalities in regards to keeping the roads clear in the case of a snow event.

Currently, A-C-W, like Central and North Huron, and Huron-Kinloss, has no set policy, and operate their maintenance

equipment in one shift.

The County of Huron regulates two shifts per day, and all follow minimum maintenance standards.

"All other municipalities I contacted do not have or want a policy to set snowplowing hours," Van Osch told council in his Jan. 22 snowplowing report. "They all agree that this would set the Township up for liability issues. All municipalities follow the minimum maintenance standards, as does A-C-W."

In the case of heavy snowfall or ice, A-C-W currently has equipment operating from 5 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Council was asked to review the current plans, and consider adding a policy to regulate specific times during harsh weather.

"A set time could bind legal issues," Van Osch told Council.

Reeve Ben Van Diepenbeek suggested to Van Osch that it was at the discretion of him and the lead hand to determine whether to staff the equipment for a second shift.

"We could leave it at [your] discretion in conjunction with the lead hand to decide whether or not to go out in the evenings," said Van Diepenbeek.

Council has agreed to leave the current snow plan as-is for the time being.

Forthcoming Marriage



Kevin and Barb Pletch
and
Ken and Deb VanBeeK
are pleased to announce
the engagement
of their children
Tania Pletch
and
Andrew VanBeeK
Their wedding
will take place
September 20th, 2008.

Auxiliary increases donation

Twenty-five members of the Auxiliary to Wingham and District Hospital attended the January meeting and heard that, because of their efforts at fundraising in 2007, the Auxiliary will be able to increase its donation to the hospital this year.

The Auxiliary will provide funds to purchase several items on the hospital's wish list, including a vital signs monitor, two venoscopes and a bariatric wheelchair.

Successful projects during the past

year were: two rummage sales, operation of the gift shop in the front lobby of the hospital, monthly bridge games in Wingham and Lucknow, and a well attended poinsettia tea in December.

The Auxiliary provided supplies for the teen volunteers to make gifts for patients at Christmas time.

President Shirley Kaufman chaired the meeting and thanked members for their hard work.

Helen Rintoul, board representative reported to members

on the ongoing activities of the Board. She and Verna Steffler answered members' questions on the redevelopment project and the Local Health Integrated Network.

The New Year's baby was born on Jan. 11, and was presented with a gift from the Auxiliary.

Members were urged to attend the spring conference in Palmerston on April 28, and to volunteer for jobs at the spring rummage sale on April 16 and 17 at the Wingham Legion.

New guide for Huron trails

Thanks to funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation, and to many hours of effort from volunteers, The Maitland Trail Association (MTA) has announced the publication of the Maitland Trail and Associated Trails in the Goderich Area guide.

The guide offers full colour detailed maps and informative text describing conditions that might be found on the trails as well as pointing out places of geographic, historic and cultural interest. This information will enable local residents and visitors to use the local trails and appreciate the natural beauty of the Maitland River Valley, and enjoy walking and hiking in the area.

The 48 km. Maitland Trail, from Goderich to Auburn, is divided into five sections with a map for each section. These detailed maps show contour lines, landmarks and distances. MTA volunteers checked the trail distances using GPS (Global Positioning System) units. Geographic Information System (GIS) computer mapping was then contracted to the County of Huron planning and development department.

The guide also features detailed maps and descriptions for the following Goderich area trails: Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (GART); Maitland Woods;

Millennium Trail; and the Sifto Loop.


In addition, a physical and biological overview of the Maitland River Valley is included.

Copies of this guide are available from: Tourism Goderich Info Centre; Riverline Nature Company Kingston St in Goderich; County of Huron planning and development department, Court House Goderich; Finchers in Goderich and from

Maitland Trail members. The guides cost \$15, with MTA members receiving a discounted price of \$10 per copy.

Proceeds go towards MTA and are directed to the costs of trail maintenance.

Happy 75th Birthday



Come celebrate
Nan Gore's 75th Birthday
at a
Come-and-Go Tea
at Blyth United Church
Saturday, February 9
1:30 - 4:00
Best wishes only

Birthday Wishes to Lawrence Plaetzer

We wish you many more satisfying times of farming, teasing, card game challenges, curling games, Lonestar viewing, chasing the squirrels out of the birdfeeder, dining at the Grand View and excursions with friends and family. We are blessed to have you enriching our lives with your love, sense of humour, enduring support and dedication to us and to keeping the fire from going out in the woodstove!

Happy 80th on Feb. 9!!!
With love, pride and appreciation — your family

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