the north dundas TIMES
Reaching by direct mail to over 5,500 homes and businesses in Winchester and area
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Field fire poses challenge for ND fire service

by Brandon Mayer

A field fire in the area of County Road 3 and Lafleur Road between Winchester and Chesterville is under control after giving North Dundas firefighters a challenge that lasted several days. The fire began some time around May 13. After battling the fire for several days, the blaze seemed to be out, but fire vehicles returned on May 19. As of late last week, the fire was still smouldering, but was controllable.

A resident whose mother lives across the road from where the fire burned explained that the fire resulted from "burning slash piles on recently cleared land". The resident suggested that the original fire started back in March, and flared up again on May 13 as a result of gusty winds and warm weather. "The land is boggy, and the fire has gotten into the peat, which means it could burn for a while," the resident speculated.

The fire was significant enough that many area fire departments outside of North Dundas were called in to help. These included fire services from Russell, Embrun, North Stormont, and North Grenville. As is typical in times of need, local businesses stepped up to the plate to provide food and drinks for firefighters who were working on scene. "To keep all the firefighters fueled with food and beverages, a huge thank you goes out to Louis' Restaurant, Foodland, Milano Pizzeria, and Mr. Mozzarella," reads a social media post from the Township of North Dundas. "Thank you again to all of the fire services who jointly worked together to control the blaze and keep the community safe."

Two days after the fire was considered to be under control, the resident whose mother lives across the street noted that the smoke hadn't yet gone away, which is when fire vehicles returned. "Any time the wind blows from the north, my mother's yard fills with smoke, and it infiltrates the house," she said. "I spoke with someone at the Township this morning, and he told me the fire is difficult to fight because the ground where it's burning is too soft and boggy for heavy equipment, and the fire burned through hoses placed on the ground."

Moorewood Station Chief Ken Byers informed the Times on May 24 that the fire was "still smouldering" as of that day. "We are monitoring daily!" said Chief Byers. "The main challenge to putting it out is that the wind keeps refuelling the piles."

As usual, the Times extends a word of "thanks" to local and area firefighters for their diligent work in keeping residents safe, and for keeping this blaze from spreading.

A lonely pizza slice

by Brandon Mayer

I love a good riddle, don't you? Here's one: "I am valuable, but I am hated. I am sought after, but I am chased away. I am a basic necessity of life, but I am subjected to scorn and resistance. What am I?" Having trouble answering? No problem, it's a tough one. The answer is "housing".

Think about it just for a moment. Housing is one of the most desperately sought after commodities in our current economy. I personally know of several young people working full time hours at decent paying jobs who simply can't afford to move out of their parents' house. I was working about 35 hours per week when I moved out of my parents' house. I was single, had no savings, and absolutely no "allowance" from my parents (which I know some people get well into adulthood). Just me, with those 35 hours per week, and I was able to get an apartment and pay all my bills with money to spare each month. This wasn't very long ago. What on earth has happened to our economy since then?

This has been written about on several occasions in the Times, but it's worth explaining again. We simply don't have enough houses and apartments in Canada. When demand is higher than supply, prices go up. Think of it this way: if you had the last slice of pizza on the planet, you'd be rich. Someone who really likes pizza would undoubtedly give you an exorbitant amount of money for the pizza, just for the chance to savour that one last slice. There wouldn't be anything innately more valuable about the pizza – same ingredients, same cooking process, same product – but the rarity adds value. The true value of a product or service is measured only by what someone is willing to pay.

Housing has become a lonely pizza slice. Same appliances, same square footage, same amenities… but when there are not enough housing units to go around, a person who has been looking for a place to live for months will have no problem paying a price that they know is obviously unfairly high, so long as they have the money. This is why there have been some recent cases of houses being sold sight unseen to the highest bidder. When my wife and I bought our house in 2021, we considered it a miracle that we were actually able to negotiate the price. Very few have had that opportunity in recent years.

Thinking back to our lonely and extremely valuable pizza slice, there is only one thing that could drive the unfair price of the pizza down: more pizza slices. That's how housing works, too. I'm sure I'm not the only one who remembers the days when apartment buildings would have a sign out front as a permanent lawn ornament, bearing only the words "apartment for rent" and a phone number. The existence of multiple empty units gives a potential tenant bargaining power. It doesn't take long for a landlord with vacant units to realize that it's better to be paid something for them rather than nothing at all, even if the rent being earned is not as high as previously hoped.

In our current economy, it is a privilege for young people to have their own place. People are bunking with friends, couch surfing, or remaining with their parents simply because the alternative is homelessness. This is a reality that can't last forever. It's not a happy situation for anyone. I personally know of a few people who have remained in unfavourable living conditions because there is nowhere else to go. A basic necessity like housing should not be for the wealthy only.

Problems are no fun without solutions, aren't they? The solution to overpriced housing is more housing, much like making a batch of pizza slices would lower the price of the last pizza slice on earth. Is it going to happen overnight? Of course not. Developers know the price they can get for units currently, and so they are going to overcharge for them – such is the nature of business. As time passes, however, and an increasing number of housing units get built, we will eventually return to the way things should be, where both landlords and tenants have negotiating power to settle on rent rates that are fair.

Many agree that supply and demand is the main determinant of housing prices, and most agree that housing affordability is a hugely important issue both locally and nationally. Why then, do we scream at developers to go away any time they come within 10 kilometres of our borders? We want housing, but we don't want it near us. We want young people to be able to live normal, independent lives, but we don't want to give them anywhere to do so. We want more stores and amenities, but we resist having new neighbours in our community to help keep these resources open. My only question is… why?

I can understand concerns about massive new housing developments that completely change the character of the community. The recently proposed new development in the Ormond area is not, in my opinion, one that would be unreasonable in terms of aesthetics, but I do concede that it would cause a waste of valuable farmland, and that it could create water supply issues for others in the area. This latter point shows a need for a greater water focus not just for Winchester and Chesterville, but for all of North Dundas, though that is a discussion for another day.

Residents absolutely deserve a say in developments that are proposed to be built near their homes. But developments need to go somewhere, so perhaps with each rejected site, a new one nearby should be suggested instead so as not to scare interested developers away. There is no doubt that new homes are needed, the problem is figuring out where to put them that keeps everyone happy. Perhaps it would be easier to teach pigs to fly.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Congratulations and thank you for your article "What is it saying?" in the May 18, 2023 issue of the North Dundas Times. You have clearly presented the case against the creation of private hospitals and have, hopefully, given your readers food for thought. In my opinion, and you seem to agree, the core of the problem with our current healthcare system is underfunding by the provincial government and an inadequate payment formula for family doctors - also created by the provincial government.

In the proposal for private hospitals, I see a chilling similarity to our provincial government's reaction to the disproportionately high number of COVID deaths in for-profit nursing homes as compared to government and non-profit homes - that is a massive investment of public money in these same for-profit nursing homes. Private hospitals, like private nursing homes, would be simply another way for money to talk on behalf of those who have it. There would be no pretense of equity; the richer would get more and the poorer would get what the government is willing to invest in their care - which, as we are seeing presently, isn't adequate.

While I generally agree with what you say, I have a bit of a problem with your comparison of the Canadian and American healthcare systems in which you suggest that they are similar except for the sources of funding; ie. taxes in Ontario and insurance premiums in the U.S.. In Ontario, the 'Ontario Health Premium' decreases with income (so the poorer pay less) while in the U.S., the insurance premiums for a given level of care would be the same regardless of income. Thus your statement; "in both jurisdictions everyone has access to the same healthcare system" would not be true since the wealthy American can 'buy' more health care than his poorer neighbour.

Keep up the good work.

Best regards
Doug Long

Chesterville bridge closure leaves some residents annoyed

A bridge on County Road 43 over the South Nation River in Chesterville is now officially closed for rehabilitation, a project that has been on local radar since at least January. The bridge is completely closed to motorists, with County Roads 7 and 9 being used for a detour. The speed limit has also been reduced to 40 km/h in certain parts of the village to make the village safer during the heavier traffic period while the work is underway.

One Chesterville resident who spoke to the Times questioned why the detour route crosses the Canadian Pacific Railway line twice at grade – once on County Road 9 at the turn off from County Road 43, and once on County Road 7 in the north end of the village. This could cause frustrating delays for motorists when a long or slow train is passing, or when railway maintenance vehicles are using the crossings to set up their hi rail trucks on the tracks.

A few social media users commented that in light of the work being done to the County Road 43 bridge, it would be nice if the Township could plan to fix the culvert on nearby Forward Road as well. This was a concern also expressed by the resident who spoke to the Times.

The work being done to the bridge, while inconvenient, is certainly necessary. Council voted earlier this year to have the road completely closed during the work rather than having one lane open with a traffic control system, since it saves costs and the work can be completed sooner.

The work on the bridge is expected to be completed some time in October. County Road 43 will remain closed in the Chesterville bypass section until then.

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May 16 Council meeting packed heavy with municipal business

by Brandon Mayer

On May 16, the regularly scheduled meeting of North Dundas Council was jam packed. The meeting began with three mandatory public meeting segments. One involved a proposal to amend some of the Township's building permit fees. No comments or questions were received from members of the public or members of Council related to this proposal.

Another public meeting topic involved a request from the Wellings of Winchester development for a zoning amendment to allow the developer to build 50 new model homes while awaiting upgrades to the sewer system. A comment on this proposal was made during the meeting by Dr. Bart Steele who lives next to Wellings of Winchester. He sought assurance that before any further development takes place, the existing fence line will remain intact. He explained that the Wellings development has already "obliterated" some of the natural fence line (trees, etc). Calvin Pol – the Township's Director of Planning, Building, and By-law Services – answered that staff will look into how much of the fence line can be preserved once the planned drainage is installed.

Another comment on the same matter was received from Kyle Steele. He raised concerns that because his property is adjacent to the Wellings property, he has been dealing with the sounds of construction – including heavy equipment reverse alarms and explosions from blasting – for the last few years. Director Pol agreed to request that the developer install a fence for the purpose of mitigating noise pollution and the movement of construction garbage over the property line, though it is unclear if the developer will follow through with the request.

The third proposal for which a public meeting was held was to pass a by-law allowing all local businesses to open on public holidays, rather than just businesses that meet certain exemption criteria. Provincial regulations allow businesses to open on statutory holidays only if they are exempt, or if a municipal by-law is in place. Members of Council were supportive of the idea of local businesses making their own decisions regarding when to open.

Routine business was taken care of next, including the appointment of Councillor Matthew Uhrig to the Ad Hoc Rural Education Committee. Council members had a chance for a chuckle when Deputy Mayor Theresa Bergeron "nominated" Councillor Uhrig for the role, and Mayor Tony Fraser joked that it was a "quick comment". Councillor John Lennox raised his hand to add only the words "thank you", which elicited more laughter. Councillor Uhrig "humbly accepted" the appointment.

Later in the meeting, Council received information regarding tenders and quotes for things such as speed radar signs and a roof replacement at the Joel Steele Community Centre. Council also considered a few by-laws, including one to adopt the 2023-2033 taxation rates, and one to repeal a by-law that regulates the use of ATVs locally.

The meeting ended with Mayor Fraser discussing an item that was not on the agenda. This was regarding a study done for the intersection of County roads 7 and 43 in Chesterville. The Mayor briefly discussed some options for making the intersection safer. Far more business was packed into the May 16 meeting than what can be reasonably summarized here. Readers are encouraged to view a recording of the meeting at https://www.youtube.com/live/

Farmers invest back into their communities by supporting local projects

by Ethan Wallace, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The belief in the strength of community and of giving back runs deep in Ontario, particularly in rural areas of our province. Two years ago, when many farming and rural communities were struggling under the burdens and impacts of the pandemic, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) created its Revive Fund.

It's a program that provides funding to help our 51 county and regional federations plan, develop and launch projects and initiatives in support of agriculture and their local communities – and our local organizations have stepped up with many impactful ideas.

Over the past two years, OFA has invested more than $200,000 to support projects in 36 counties and regions across Ontario. These run from farm and road safety signage and training to teaching people about farming, promoting local food, supporting food banks and more.

I farm in Huron County and our local federation of agriculture partnered with agricultural businesses in our region to do a Slow-Moving Vehicle signage campaign. We replaced faded or missing signage and stickers on farm equipment to help raise awareness among both farmers and motorists of how critically important road safety is, especially at busy times of the year like planting or harvest when there is more equipment on the road.

And this year, we're taking advantage of our unique position near Lake Huron's cottage country to promote food and farming to cottagers and tourists on the way to the lake. We'll be handing out insulated OFA Farms and Food Forever bags to long weekend grocery shoppers with information about Huron County as well as a copy of the popular Real Dirt on Farming publication to give them some insights into what agriculture is all about.

Other Ontario projects this year will focus on agri-tourism, bus tours for local municipal leaders or food influencers, signage to help passersby identify crops, events that focus on the future of farming, and even a weather station program that will help the local community benefit from more detailed weather forecasting.

I'm proud of how our local federations of agriculture have embraced this fund and have identified needs in their communities that they can help address with their innovative project ideas. It's also great seeing OFA, as a provincial organization, support more investment in initiatives like the Revive Fund that will help bridge the gap between urban and rural residents.

Farming is most often thought of as something that happens far from our urban centres and that is relegated to small towns and rural areas with few connections to towns and cities. After all, less than two percent of Canada's population is involved in farming and the closest many Ontarians ever get to a farm is shopping at a local farmers' market or visiting an agri-tourism attraction near an urban area.

We all need to eat, but farming and food production also support and influence every major aspect of life in our province, from jobs and food security to health care and the environment, which makes agriculture in today's world as much urban as it is rural.

When I think of the cottagers who come to Huron County for the weekend, for example, where we live and what we do might be quite different, but there is more that connects us than we might think. We share many common values like family, community, a love of food and a desire to protect the environment so we can leave a better world to our children.

You can learn more about the many impactful local projects that have been supported through the Revive Fund on the OFA website.

Tid bit musings

by Elva Patterson Rutters RSSW

With Mother's day behind us and Father's day looming, perhaps it is mindful to acknowledge your beliefs, ideals, and reflections on these two events in reference to expectations. Whenever there are expectations not met, there is disappointment and often deep hurt. Three keys words whether uttered or written-"Happy Mother's/Father's Day" can make a huge impact on a parent's self- esteem. Where do you stand on acknowledgement of everything your parents' did for you? have you talked issues out with the parent for clarification? Withholding affection from a parent is termed "parental abuse."

It is very easy to focus on the things you did not receive or get to do. Make a list of the things you did experience and you might be surprised to acknowledge your parent did the best they could with what resources they had. The fundamental components on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (food, shelter, clothes, safety) were most likely achieved thro careful budgeting and efforts to fulfil those needs. Again distinguishing "needs" from "wants" is imperative. For the "in-law" critical of the spouse's parent, bear in mind, that spouse is a wonderful blend of that parent's love and attention. Perfection is not possible, present only with God. The ability to resolve differences is a sign of maturity.

Unfortunately for all too many, the two celebratory/appreciation days go by without acknowledgement. Parents are stymied as to why this child negates them and chooses to be alienated. Sending out an olive branch may work but may also be rejected. Mind you overt abuse and neglect elicit a different consideration where forgiveness does not equate to reconciliation. Stop to consider your perceived interpretation and measure it against how someone else may interpret the same behavior. Bear in mind, there are three sides to every story, his, hers and the truth! Even the Bible instructs that we are to "love one another" but also "honor your parents so your days shall be long on this earth." There is a differentiation between love and honor. In a self-centred society, concern for others is minimized.

Leave the onus on the adult child for their behaviors. You can only control your own reactions. If you are estranged, at least talk it over with the parties involved knowing no one is infallible. When the child was young you were "responsible for" them but as they grew your role changed to "responsible to." like a bird that feathers the nest making it real cozy for the hatchlings, she then takes out that down and the nest becomes more uncomfortable encouraging the babes to fly on their own wings. This is a parents' role to allow the child to learn from teachings and experience their ability to be independent. Showering a child with everything- car, house, etc- diminishes their ability to learn accountability.

A parent's role-modelling and attitudes are absorbed by the child. Watching a child at play indicates the dynamics in the family home. Exposure to a crass environment (swearing, drug/alcohol dependency, smoking, theft, murder, abuse) may not be what you desire your offspring to emulate, yet you knowingly expose your child to that. Why? Keep in mind there is a time after the death of a parent, you experience " I wish I had... That void hurts over and over.

Now is the action time. Karma bites and bites hard and deep!

Baldwin's Birds

Three's Company

As the month of May passes rapidly by, I hope, as you probably do, that its' horribly variable weather will settle down to more of a summer variety than what we have been getting this week. Our sympathetic thoughts went out to those of you who were participating in last weekend's Buskerfest. There were a few sad looking, soaking wet birds hanging about our place on that day who didn't seem to be enjoying it either. Followed up, for the past couple of days, with temperatures that are are a bit "nippy around the knee caps", for those of us who have prematurely taken to wearing our summer shorts, it hasn't been too jolly a week at all!!

(I know it serves me right for jumping the gun!!)

Anyway, enough doom and gloom and on with some good stuff!

We got another very brief sighting of the Brown Thrashers that I had high lighted in my last article and the Bluebirds have been very busy looking after their brood in one of our nesting boxes, although we have yet to see a really good sign that the chicks are actually there, i.e. no heads popping out of the box entrance hole begging for food. The odd time though, we have spotted a Bluebird a little dumpier and not so mature looking as their more colourful parents do.

Our nesting Robin, above one of my garage doors, was also able to get her brood out of the nest without us being able to witness the event, as we have been able to in past years. We just hope that the young had matured enough to fly and that they haven't become a victim of something more sinister! Nothing untoward points to such a happening so we'll keep with the positive thoughts. At least one pair of Robins are definitely still with us, as they feed either on the front grass or that in the rear of the house. They also give us plenty of entertainment, when they take to the water bath for a quick dip! Surprisingly, they haven't been alone in this sort of activity recently as Cowbirds, Chipping and White-throated Sparrows have been observed doing the same! We even saw a Bluebird partaking too, which is quite a rare sight for us. Maybe you have been able to witness some of this sort of thing going on in your own backyard,- I hope so. Stay safe and well.

Cheers,
John Baldwin

Four arrested in national labour human trafficking case

submitted by OPP

Police have arrested four individuals in a labour human trafficking investigation that had links to Ontario, Alberta and Quebec.

The investigation, named Project FOXTROT, began on February 13, 2023 when Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) members received information of suspected labour trafficking involving foreign nationals from Mexico who were being exploited. The victims were recruited online and promised work permits and good paying employment in Canada.

The victims were expected to work at various recycling facilities in Red Deer (Alberta), North Bay (Ontario) and Sault Ste Marie (Ontario), and Levis (Quebec). They were housed in several short-term rentals around Canada and in the basement of one of the accused people in Simcoe County. Payment for the accommodation was taken from the victims' wages, which was less than had been promised.

On May 16, 2023, the Provincial Human Trafficking Intelligence-led Joint Forces Strategy (IJFS) members from the OPP, Anishnibek Police Service, Toronto Police Service, Peel Regional Police and Halton Regional Police Service executed search warrants at locations throughout Simcoe County and the Greater Toronto Area.

As a result of the investigation, on May 16, 2023:

A 72 year old from Etobicoke was arrested and charged with three counts of Human Trafficking of Persons as per Section 279.01, and three counts of Material Benefits in Trafficking of Persons as per Section 279.02 of the Criminal Code. He was released on an undertaking and is scheduled to appear in Brampton Court on July 17, 2023.

A 33 year old from Simcoe County was arrested and charged with three counts of Human Trafficking of Persons as per Section 279.01, and three counts of Material Benefits in Trafficking of Persons as per Section 279.02 of the Criminal Code. A bail hearing has been scheduled for May 23, 2023.

A 53 year old from Halton was arrested and charged with three counts of Trafficking in Persons as per Section 279.01 of the Criminal Code. He was released on an undertaking and is scheduled to appear in Brampton Court on July 17, 2023.

A 27 year old from Simcoe County was arrested and charged with one count of Trafficking in Persons as per Section 279.01, and one count of Material Benefit in Trafficking of Persons as per Section 279.02(1) of the Criminal Code. She was released on an undertaking and is scheduled to appear in Brampton Court on June 26, 2023.

The three male victims range from 27 to 42 years old. All victims were provided services through the OPP IJFS Victim Specialist and FCJ Refugee Centre.

IJFS partner agencies who supported this investigation also included Barrie Police Service, Kingston Police, Ottawa Police Service, Greater Sudbury Police Service, Quebec City Police Service, York Regional Police, Durham Regional Police Service, Niagara Regional Police Service and Waterloo Regional Police Service. The Canada Border Services Agency and Ministry of Labour provided assistance.

If you or someone you know is being trafficked, call your local police. The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking has resources available for victims and survivors of human trafficking on its website at canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca. A national hotline is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-833-900-1010.

"Project Foxtrot demonstrates the exploitation of human trafficking victims in plain sight and the necessity of the IJFS and its partners to help unmask this crime," said Detective Inspector Jordan Whitesell, OPP IJFS Lead. "It serves as a stark reminder that human trafficking remains a largely clandestine and complex crime that easily goes unnoticed. We must come together to educate ourselves, recognize the signs, empower survivors and provide hope to victims to combat this hidden threat. We cannot fight this alone."

ABOUT THE IJFS

On March 6, 2020, the Government of Ontario announced funding to establish the IJFS, consisting of full-time investigators and analysts who are assigned to participating police agencies across Ontario, including municipal and First Nations, along with additional resources to the OPP. The IJFS has increased the capacity for policing by assisting in identifying, investigating and disrupting multi-jurisdictional human trafficking organizations operating within Ontario.

The 21 participating police agencies include: Anishinabek, Akwesasne, Barrie, Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Niagara, OPP, Ottawa, Peel, Peterborough, Six Nations, Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Treaty Three, Waterloo, Windsor and York.

Alyse Jean (AJ) Brown Summers

September 22, 1940- May 12, 2023

On May 12 in Courtney, B.C., our sister passed peacefully. AJ was born in Winchester, attended school there and commerce high-school in Ottawa. She married Bart Brown of Kemptville where she lived many years. AJ is predeceased by her parents Art and Alyse Summers, sister Evangeline, daughter Sherril, and husband Bart. AJ is survived by her daughter Debbie, granddaughters Kim and Laura, sister Louise, brother Dan(Melody), her great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. At her request cremation has taken place and there will be no funeral.She was a much loved, kind, funny lady and we miss her greatly.

Weed spraying stirs up controversy

by Brandon Mayer

Weed spraying season is underway in North Dundas and as usual, it has stirred up debate about whether the practice is a good one or a bad one. The spraying was contracted out to a third party contractor, and commenced on May 15. Now halfway done, the spraying is expected to continue until approximately mid-June.

A notice posted by the Township of North Dundas states that it's expected that around 800km of ditches in the United Counties of SD&G will be sprayed to kill noxious weeds. Residents have the option to post "no spray" signs to avoid having the chemical spray on their properties, and in the modern era, they can now also digitally identify the location of their "no spray" signs so that the contractor can be notified ahead of time.

A few locals took to social media to voice concerns over the weed spraying, questioning the safety of spraying chemicals in ditches adjacent to residential properties which typically source their drinking water from private wells. Some have commented that they wish the practice of spraying the weeds would be eliminated altogether.

Many people are likely unaware that the Township is obligated under law to perform the annual spraying. The purpose, as set out in Ontario's Weed Control Act, is to control noxious weeds that have the potential to infest agricultural land and severely hurt crop yields and crop quality. The noxious weed control is therefore done to protect the food supply chain.

"Noxious weeds are much more than an inconvenience," reads an article published by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "Invasive and noxious weeds threaten Ontario's plants and animals and can be harmful to crops, livestock, humans and our natural environment. Ontario's Weed Control Act facilitates the control of noxious weeds on lands in close proximity to lands used for agricultural or horticultural purposes. Under Ontario's Weed Control Act, farmers and landowners have a legal obligation to manage noxious weeds species on their properties."

The Act does not stop at requiring farmers to control noxious weeds. It also sets out rules for local governments, including upper tier municipalities (locally, this is the United Counties of SD&G) and lower tier municipalities (locally, the Township of North Dundas). "The Act requires single tier or upper tier municipalities to appoint a weed inspector," reads the OFA article. "Lower tier municipalities are also required to appoint a weed inspector. Lastly, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has the authority to appoint a provincial weed inspector. If notified about noxious weeds on lands close to ones used for agricultural or horticultural purposes, the weed inspector can order the weeds destroyed. If weeds are not destroyed within a set time, the municipality can use its staff to destroy the weeds, and add the cost to the property owner's tax bill."

The OFA supports spraying activities and expects its members to obey local and provincial spraying regulations since infestations of noxious weeds can significantly limit crop yields. The organization specifically supports the spraying of ditches because of the way that off-farm weeds can make it more difficult to control on-farm weeds if left unmanaged.

Does this make "no spray" signs inherently irresponsible? Not at all. Landowners can have any number of reasons for not wanting spray on their property, such as a having a nearby garden or water well, family members who present with allergies following spraying, or pets who are inclined to play in or eat chemically treated grass. While spraying is certainly not the evil and deadly activity that some people make it out to be, the decision of "spray" vs "no spray" rests on individual households.

'Art in the Branches' welcomes NDDHS Art Students

Art on the Waterfront 2023 is this weekend!

submitted by Margaret MacDonald

It's nearly that time of year again, and we're delighted to announce that in a little over two weeks, Art on the Waterfront will be returning to Chesterville, once again bringing you an incredible lineup of artists, vendors, and live music performances!

Held on Saturday, June 3rd, and Sunday, June 4th, this free two-day event will feature a Kids' Zone, where kids of all ages will get to enjoy various arts and crafts activities, performers, a model train show, a colouring contest, and a Kids' Talent Show on the main stage. Beyond that, there will also be the live music and entertainment you've all come to expect, a beer tent with food provided by the Chesterville Fire Department, and the many talented artists who will be joining us from across Ontario to proudly display and sell their wares.

On Sunday this year, we're honoured to welcome some varied cultural events, such as 29-year-old hip hop artist Cody Coyote, who has become a leading and passionate voice in Ottawa's Indigenous community, and Sunsdrum (Inuit throat-singing, drum dancing, traditional singing and games). We will have a number of Indigenous artists, some of whom will be offering workshops, such as Wild Feather Creations (all weekend) and a Japanese Oto-Wa Taiko Drumming Workshop on Sunday.

Start your day off with a pancake breakfast from 8-10 a.m. at The Gathering House, before making your way to the Gazebo for the opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. on Saturday. On Sunday, there will be a Church service running from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

From there, visit the local artists, artisans and vendors who will be setting up shop throughout the festival grounds. At noon, stop by the beer tent for live music, food and refreshments which will be running until 6 p.m. on Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Please note that, due to bridge construction, a detour from County Road 34 to County Road 7 (Main Street) is planned through Chesterville during Art on the Waterfront. As a result, booths cannot be situated on Main Street this year and will be relocated to King Street.

For more information about the schedule of events, visit www.artonthewaterfront.ca. We look forward to seeing you there!

$17,500 OTF grant supports post-COVID recovery for Winchester Curling Club

submitted by Amy Martin

On May 11, a representative from local MPP Nolan Quinn's office met with the membership at the Winchester Curling Club to hear more about the $17,500 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) that will be used to support the Curling Club in promoting its activities. The project will be completed over the next few months through the purchasing of equipment, including street curling and new signage, as well as assisting in the development of a new website.

"This investment by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to assist in the promotion of the Winchester Curling Club is great news for many in our community," said Nolan Quinn, MPP for Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry. "There are many in the community who benefit from the CurlingClub now and in the future."

In addition to the grant to support the promotion of the Curling Club, advertising efforts will be undertaken to encourage new members to join the Club. The Curling Club is used by a variety of community members not only for curling, but for meetings, celebrations and fundraisers. And thanks to the $17,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Curling Club will be better positioned to attract new members post-COVID.

"The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be overstated," said Casandra Spruit, President of the Winchester Curling Club. "This grant will better support the Curling Club in not only growing our membership, but in advertising the newly renovated space for members of the community to use. We also want to congratulate the Ontario Trillium Foundation on 40 years of granting and building healthy and vibrant communities across the Province."

The Winchester Curling Club is committed to providing curling programming from curlers just learning to curl (all ages) to seasoned curlers looking for a fun recreational way to stay active during the winter months. If you wish to enquire about the curling programs offered or about using the space for your meetings or hosting an event, please visit the website at: www.winchestercurlingclub.com.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations, celebrates 40 years of grant-making in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested over $110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

Mythunderstandings

Notes from above ground

by David Shanahan

Of the very many myths and misunderstandings (hence, mythunderstandings) about Christians and Christianity that are current in society today, there is one which has me really quite puzzled. It is probably the one I come across most often: the idea that Christians

are, to put it bluntly, mindless morons. That they have put their brains to one side in order to blindly believe, without evidence, in the supernatural, miracles, and such like. I have seen comments online about how these unsophisticated people believe in "fairytales", in a big meany in the sky who watches over them in case they do anything fun or enjoyable in any way.

The reason this one has always puzzled me is because, fifty years ago when I became a Christian (one Sunday afternoon in April 1973), I was a university student at the time and the group through which I came to the Lord (as we say) was a collection of academic staff and students from all levels and many disciplines, including Medicine, Engineering, Chemistry, History, and so on. Not the kind of people you would think were unthinking, uncritical believers in fairytales.

In the half-century since those great days, I have continued to ask questions, deal with criticisms from friends and otherwise, and acted on the assumption (reasonably) that if something was true and real, there would be answers to all questions. And so I have found it. I have been encouraged and inspired by incredibly intelligent people, from

Saul of Tarsus, Augustine, Martin Luther, through to C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Martin Lloyd-Jones, Jim Packer and Francis Schaeffer. There are too many to count over two thousand years of testimony and experience.

This is not to say that you have be some kind of intellectual to be a Christian, not at all. People from all walks of life, all levels of education, all cultures and ethnicities, through centuries, have all believed the same things (with minor exceptions). Critics claim that Christianity and belief in God cannot be proved, nor can it be falsified, therefore it is not acceptable, not "real". But surely, millions of subjects, over countless years, constitute a good sample of repeatable experiences adding up to some serious evidence of something?

But this criterion, so beloved by modern society, that the only reality is what can be proved through the scientific method, is itself unscientific. Someone once wrote that: "The scientific method is the most reliable way of understanding the natural world. This, in the opinion of many academics and pedagogists. It is the root of scientific discovery, and knowledge. The test is to have others repeat the process and get the same results. The same with opinions: they have to be verifiable. One's opinion is merely that, nothing more."

I think this sums up the prevailing ideology, but is seems more than a little contradictory. Opinions have to be verifiable, and the scientific method is best in the opinion of most. But how is it verifiable? When it is claimed that the supernatural, miracles, religious belief, is not verifiable, where is the proof of that? How can you claim the scientific method is the best, when that is an opinion also? Things are not as cut and dried as some would have us believe.

Science and Christianity are not at all incompatible. C. S. Lewis wrote: "But why anything comes to be there at all, and whether there is anything behind the things science observes - something of a different kind - this is not a scientific question. If there is 'Something Behind,' then either it will have to remain altogether unknown to men or else make itself known in some different way. The statement that there is any such thing, and the statement that there is no such thing, are neither of them statements that science can make."

We used to talk about the sciences, now we talk about Science, as though there is a monolithic discipline, and not separate strands such as physics, biology, paleontology, etc. Scientism, as it came to be called, is the belief system that claims that Science will find all the answers to life's mysteries, and will eventually do away with the need for miraculous and supernatural experiences because we will then know the natural explanation for it all.

But this topic goes deeper and wider than whether or not Christians are sane or moronic. The fact is that society has become divided into two main blocks, not based on gender, ethnicity, education, or any other parameter. The really fundamental difference between the two is that one, the secular post-Christian society, believes there is no purpose or meaning to the universe or the individual, as we are all simply cosmic accidents, produced by the random and undesigned coming together of atoms and molecules over vast stretches of time. There is no Creator, no purposeful design and destiny for humanity and the universe. Of course, no one, or very few, can live in the day-to-day world and act as if this was true. The horror would be too much.

Christians see the world very differently. They know of a Creator, a Person, who planned his work before the universe began. It and we have purpose and meaning and a destiny after this life. The world is not as it was made, we have rebelled and tried to be gods to ourselves, but that is another story to tell. Next time, we can look at two statements that reflect these different perspectives. One is by the French-Algerian philosopher, Albert Camus, who, looking at life and the world around him, wrote: "There is only one really serious philosophical problem, and that is suicide," in his essay The Myth of Sisyphus. The other is by King David: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour." [Psalm 8: 3-5] We should talk about this again.

Early Hormone Therapy has benefits

It was surprising news in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. There's another about-turn among scientists studying hormone therapy (HT) as a treatment for symptoms of menopause. This time, researchers have produced findings that suggest benefits to healthy women who start HT early in the transition to menopause.

Women have long been perplexed by conflicting advice on hormone replacement, and this new study doesn't offer universal guidance. The bottom line remains, HT is a complicated business, requiring patients and doctors to weigh many factors in deciding for or against.

Dr. Iliana Lega of the Women's College Hospital and the University of Toronto has this to say, "Menopausal hormone therapy is the first line treatment of symptoms in the absence of contraindications." That clarity may be overly simplified, and she adds that patients and doctors need to consider symptoms before and during menopause and to discuss treatments based on personal preferences and potential risk factors.

Those risk factors have been well publicized. Many studies have suggested leaning away from HT due to associated increased risk of breast cancer, stroke, and cardiovascular disease. But new findings offer important insights for younger women.

Previous studies have shown an increased risk of breast cancer in women taking HT. However, this new study reports the risk is much lower in people aged 50-59 years and in those who start HRT in the first 10 years of menopause.

Increased risk of ischemic stroke (blood clot) has been a concern for women older than 60 years who start HT 10 years after the start of menopause. But new findings suggest that the risk is reduced for those younger than sixty.

Furthermore, data from the Women's Health Initiative trial show a possible reduction in coronary artery disease with HT among younger menopausal patients, specifically those who start HT before 60 years of age or within 10 years of the start of menopause.

Be sure to discuss the issues with your surgeon if you are scheduled for a hysterectomy. Leaving ovaries in place can preserve natural estrogen function for a time. But removal of ovaries and use of HT eliminates any future risk of ovarian cancer. Of course, most saved ovaries do not develop a malignancy. So, sparing one or both ovaries in younger patients should be a matter for discussion.

There are other benefits of hormone therapy in the treatment of menopausal symptoms. Reducing the severity of hot flashes is the main one. Another is reduced fragility, with one large study involving over 25,000 women aged 50-79 showing that HT reduced the risk of any fracture by 28 percent, a major osteoporotic fracture by 40 percent, and a hip fracture by 34 percent. HT can also offer relief from mood swings, vaginal dryness, and joint pain.

The cognitive effects of HT are debated. Past research questioned the impact on risk for dementia. Other research found benefits including reduced "brain fog" and reduced risk of Alzheimer's.

Dr. Pauline Maki is a specialist in menopause and cognition in the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She notes, "Women who initiate hormone therapy before their final menstrual period show increased blood flow to the hippocampus and better verbal memory compared to nonusers."

The message is that "timing is everything" in decisions around hormone therapy.

That's not easy to action given menopause may begin up to 10 years before the last menstrual period and can last more than 10 years. For some women, the symptoms are intense. Others never know that the menopause has come and gone.

So get informed guidance from your doctor and start the discussion early.

Sign-up at www.docgiff.com to receive our weekly e-newsletter. For comments, contact-us@docgiff.com. Follow us on Instagram @docgiff and @diana_gifford_jones

UCDSB Now Accepting Applications for Vacant Trustee Position

Due to the recent resignation of the incumbent Trustee there is now a vacancy for the position of Trustee for Ward 7 – North Dundas and South Dundas for the Upper Canada District School Board.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Board of Trustees will receive applications from eligible individuals for this position until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

If you are interested in serving as a member of the Upper Canada District School Board, apply to Ron Ferguson, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board at ron.ferguson@ucdsb.on.ca.

When applying please provide the following information:

- a resumé or summary, including past accomplishments and community involvement and related experience;
- a letter of intent outlining the reasons why you wish to serve on the Board and how you feel you can contribute to its overall effectiveness. The applications will be available for review by the public, if requested; and
- three references from the community.

Applicants will be screened, and a short-list of candidates will be created. Finalists will be interviewed in public session during the Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

The successful applicant will be sworn in at the Wednesday, June 21 Board Meeting and will serve until the end of the current term, which is Nov. 14, 2026.

For further information please contact the Upper Canada District School Board at 613-342-0371 or 1-800-267-7131.

SNC conservation areas are now open!

submitted by Erin Thorne

Summer is right around the corner and a sure sign of the changing of seasons is the reopening of South Nation Conservation's (SNC) seasonal properties! All parks and boat ramps are now open to the public.

SNC has now installed safety and debris booms ahead of its water control structures throughout the region, including Crysler, Casselman, Russell and Plantagenet. Higher than normal water levels this spring are beginning to decline and docks were installed at the following Conservation Areas and partner boat launching sites before the May long weekend:

High Falls and Doran Park Conservation Areas (Casselman)
St. Albert Conservation Area (St. Albert)
Crysler Park Boat Launch (Crysler)
Embrun Boat Launch (Embrun)
Cass Bridge Conservation Area (Winchester)
Jessup's Falls Conservation Area (Plantagenet)
Chesterville Waterfront Docks and Boat Launch (Chesterville)
Spencerville Mill Riverside Park and Boat Launch (Spencerville)

Additionally, the following seasonal sites without docks have re-opened:

Oak Valley Pioneer Park Conservation Area (Winchester Springs)
McIntosh Memorial Park Conservation Area (Berwick)
Findlay Creek Boardwalk Conservation Area (Ottawa)
Reveler Conservation Area (Crysler)
Mill Run Conservation Area (Augusta)
Alfred Bog Walk (Alfred)

SNC reminds anglers that it is unsafe and illegal under the Federal Fisheries Act to fish within 23 metres of a dam: please do not fish near dams or use water control structures to access rivers. Fish congregate in these areas to pass over dams and access fish ladders and fishing prevents many fish species from spawning, which poses significant risks to fish populations. Please use safe and appropriate fishing locations.

All SNC Conservation Areas and seasonal parks are now open for public use with portable washrooms being installed at most of the following sites:

St. Albert Conservation Area (St. Albert)
Jessup's Falls Conservation Area (Plantagenet)
High Falls Conservation Area (Casselman)
Warwick Forest Conservation Area (Berwick)
W.E. Burton Conservation Area (Russell)
McIntosh Memorial Park Conservation Area (Berwick)
Cass Bridge Conservation Area (Winchester)
Robert Graham Forest Conservation Area (Brinston)
Nokomis Park (Limoges)

"Now that water levels are beginning to decline, we are thrilled to open our boat launches and seasonal Conservation Areas ahead of the May Long Weekend" said John Mesman, SNC's Managing Director of Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach. "Our team has been busy restoring properties and trails since the April 5th Ice storm and visitors may still see some partial trail closures to support tree management, but our parks will remain open to enjoy this summer."

SNC reminds users to please keep their pets on leash, not to litter or remove plants from Conservation Areas, and to be respectful and courteous to other visitors.

SNC manages 20,000 acres of Community Forest in Eastern Ontario and many of the public, day-use Conservation Areas have been donated to the Authority through SNC's Land Securement Program to help maintain natural legacies for donors and to provide people a place to step outdoors and into nature.

SNC is a not-for-profit, community-based environmental agency that relies on donations and self-generated revenue to protect and enhance the local environment across its 4,441 square-kilometre jurisdiction on behalf of its 16 partner municipalities.

For a complete list of Conservation Areas managed by SNC, please visit: www.nation.on.ca/recreation/about-recreation.

Fill-a-Bag stocks shelves for the summer

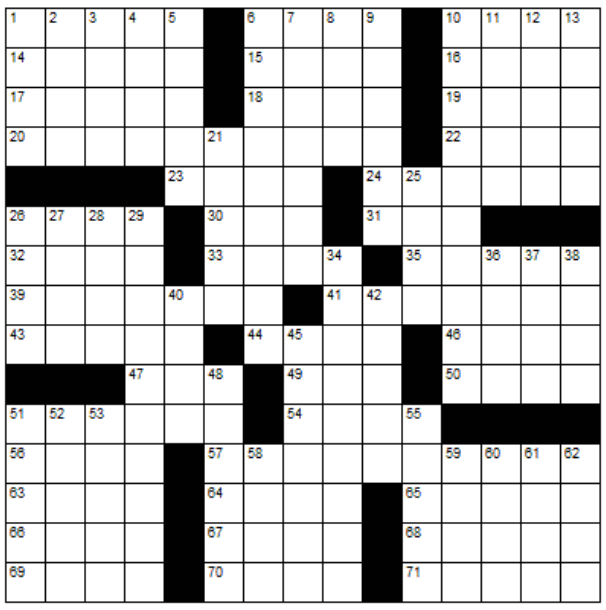
submitted by Jim Millard

Community Food Share's biggest food drive of the year, Fill-a-Bag, was successful in providing food for the organization's food banks for the coming summer. CFS Administrator Jane Schoones who coordinated the event was enthusiastic in her gratitude for the residents who supported the event. In all, approximately 17,000 pounds of non-perishable food and close to two thousand dollars were collected from the villages in the counties of Dundas and Stormont. Over 150 volunteers donated their time to prepare the bags, deliver them on May 6 and pick up the filled bags from over 40 routes on May 13. Again this year, we were joined by employees from Lactalis in Ingleside who covered the routes in that community.

Despite the impressive numbers from this year's drive, totals were actually down by about 6,000 pounds from last year. With an increased demand from the growing CFS client base, organizers suspect that it will be necessary to reach out to the community in late August or September.

Thanks are extended to the volunteer teams who delivered the bags and collected the donated food, to Shawn and Shawn for the use of their trailers and to the Foodshare volunteers, staff and students who worked at the two food banks in Morrisburg and Winchester weighing and recording the donations. Thanks also to Iroquois Foodland, Morrisburg ValuMart and Winchester Foodland where missed Fill-a- Bag donations can be dropped off in the bin.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1. Sword
6. Bothers
10. Gorillas
14. Devotee
15. Exude
16. Prison room
17. Sea
18. Completed
19. An abandoned calf or lamb
20. Marginal
22. Decorated, as a cake
23. Oceans
24. Snakes
26. Beast
30. Consumed
31. Expected
32. Person, place or thing
33. Adriatic resort
35. Empower
39. Denounce
41. Assault
43. Medieval sword
44. Chutzpah
46. Away from the wind
47. Which person?
49. Seven in Roman numerals
50. Its symbol is Pb
51. Pizazz
54. Mild expletive
56. In this location
57. Brusquely
63. You bake with it
64. Uncluttered
65. Small and light boat
66. Dispatched
67. Plum variety
68. Fund
69. Earl Grey and orange pekoe
70. Managed with difficulty
71. Writing tables

DOWN
1. Amorphous mass
2. Slang term meaning insane
3. Assert
4. Not alive
5. Sea eagles
6. Keeping apart
7. Amended
8. Eager
9. Distributed
10. Inadvertent
11. Tranquility
12. Patriarch
13. Sleighs
21. Domain
25. Song for 2 voices
26. One single time
27. Sticky substances
28. Litter member
29. Gifts
34. Imposed
36. Expunge
37. Fertilizer component
38. Got a good look at
40. Reflected sound
42. Assumed name
45. Arithmetic mean
48. Citrus
51. Specter
52. Embankment
53. Sporting venue
55. Cut into cubes
58. Nose
59. Windmill blade
60. Terminates
61. Glance
62. Evergreens

Solutions to last week's Sudoku

Easy

9	8	7	5	1	6	3	2	4
5	2	3	9	4	8	1	6	7
6	4	1	3	7	2	5	9	8
3	9	8	2	5	4	7	1	6
1	6	4	8	9	7	2	3	5
7	5	2	1	6	3	4	8	9
8	3	6	7	2	5	9	4	1
4	1	5	6	3	9	8	7	2
2	7	9	4	8	1	6	5	3

Medium

5	7	8	6	2	9	4	1	3
6	1	2	7	4	3	9	5	8
4	9	3	1	8	5	6	7	2
3	8	6	5	7	1	2	9	4
9	2	7	3	6	4	1	8	5
1	4	5	8	9	2	7	3	6
8	6	1	2	5	7	3	4	9
7	5	9	4	3	6	8	2	1
2	3	4	9	1	8	5	6	7

6	8	3	9	2	7	4	1	5
1	5	9	6	4	8	7	2	3
7	4	2	1	3	5	6	9	8
5	9	6	4	1	2	3	8	7
4	2	1	7	8	3	9	5	6
8	3	7	5	9	6	2	4	1
9	1	5	3	7	4	8	6	2
2	7	4	8	6	1	5	3	9
3	6	8	2	5	9	1	7	4

Hard

			1				8	
5							3	
				2				
	6			8				1
							9	
		1	9	5	4	8		3
		5	2					4
	8	9		4			5	
1	3			9				

4							5	7
	5		3			9		4
	1	3	4				8	
8				7	6			3
3	4	9						
9						7		
5				8				
	7	6		5				

Solution to last week's Crossword

A	C	H	E	■	L	O	B	E	■	■	F	L	E	D	
I	L	E	X	■	I	N	A	N	E	■	R	A	R	E	
M	A	R	T	■	D	E	L	T	A	■	A	C	N	E	
S	P	E	R	M	■	S	L	O	G	A	N	E	E	R	
■	■	T	E	A	K	■	S	M	E	L	T	■	■	■	
B	R	O	M	I	N	E	■	B	R	A	I	D	S	■	
L	I	F	E	L	I	N	E	■	■	S	C	R	A	G	
E	G	O	■	■	T	E	R	S	E	■	■	A	L	E	
W	O	R	S	T	■	■	E	A	R	T	H	M	E	N	
■	R	E	C	E	D	E	■	D	I	S	E	A	S	E	
■	■	■	E	A	R	L	Y	■	S	K	A	T	■	■	
M	I	S	P	L	A	Y	E	D	■	S	L	I	D	E	
O	B	I	T	■	I	S	S	U	E	■	I	C	E	D	
N	I	L	E	■	N	E	E	D	S	■	N	A	M	E	
O	D	O	R	■	■	E	S	S	E	■	G	L	E	N	

The Weather with Connor

featuring Connor Mockett

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to another week of The Weather with Connor. This week, I thought I'd take 3 random photos from 3 different chase days, and explain the story of each chase day. Let's have some fun and get started.

July 3rd, 2021

This was one of the more fun days of my 2021 Chasecation in Alberta. This photo was taken near Water Valley, Alberta, in what was day 2 of a 6-day severe weather period along the Foothills in Alberta. July 3rd was just storm after storm coming off the Hills; my chase partner and I chased three separate storms that day. The third storm was the most beautiful, which is crazy because after the other two storms, the environment had become a bit watered down (no pun intended). It was only 15 degrees outside when this storm started to roll off the foothills.

This storm didn't pose much of a threat in terms of a tornado being possible or anything, it was mostly just a photogenic storm that all of the chasers in the area were taking photos of. A couple friends and I were actually picking up some ping pong ball sized hail stones on the side of the road after the second storm just for fun while this third storm came along.

July 2nd, 2022

This day was one of the biggest chase wins of the season for me and my chase partners that day. Just a little bit of a back story leading up to this day: my former chase vehicle, my red 2010 Ford Focus, had a transmission problem two days before, and I lost top gear. That means that I couldn't chase, as it'd be too risky, mostly because I didn't want to get stranded before attempting to drive home for three days with a broken car (I made it home with the car).

So anyways, a few of my chasing friends that live in Alberta offered to take me with them for their chase, which I obviously had to accept because why would I ever turn that down? They picked me up at my hotel in Airdrie, Alberta, and away we all went (there were six of us in two vehicles).

This day was supposed to be spectacular. Supercell thunderstorms were expected to come off the Foothills south and west of Calgary, and tornadoes were definitely possible in the environment that day. However, pretty much zero things went according to plan. There were literally no storms for the longest time, and then it was just plain 'ol Alberta rain. We all thought the day was toast, and ended up driving up into the mountains to explore the back roads. That's when we looked at radar.

There was a small, but really evident storm right out in front of the rain, just east of the small town of Claresholm, Alberta. We turned the vehicles around and started racing towards the storm, which was thankfully moving quite slow. We punched through the centre of it, and came out front to see this beautiful supercell. This was the only storm of the day (it was almost night actually, the photo was taken at 9:30pm), and we were the only chasers around to see it because every other chaser group gave up!

August 31st, 2022

This day ended up being one of the most active and crazier days of the Eastern Ontario storm season last year. Storms initiated early in the day, around 1:00pm, first along the Seaway near Brockville. Naturally, I was in position for these storms, as I did expect to have a good day after I did my severe weather forecast the day before and the morning of.

The first round of storms were all very close together and difficult to navigate through, as I kept getting caught in rain without visibility of the storm. I did eventually get between two storms though, and followed one from the town of Lyn, Ontario to Mallorytown, Ontario. Difficult chase area there too, with the St. Lawrence River, trees, and the road network. Nonetheless, after watching one storm rotate and then come straight over me, I drove towards another storm just down the road. What I rolled up on is still to this day one of my favourite storm scenes ever. The backside of this storm was just so beautifully ridiculous.

All that puffiness to the clouds is the updraft of the storm going up into the atmosphere. I was just lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, with railroad tracks in the foreground, to take that photo.

Celebrating our nursing team

2023 Nursing Leadership Award – Samantha Harbers (centre) - with Maureen Taylor-Greenly, Interim Vice President, Clinical Care (left) and Cholly Boland (right).

submitted by Jane Adams

Each year during National Nursing Week, the WDMH team pauses to celebrate the contributions of our fellow nurses to their profession, their colleagues. and the patients we care for.

Nurses are nominated by their peers for exemplifying the qualities of nursing leadership and lifelong learning. A WDMH team is celebrated for its collaboration. And the Debbie Stoodley Commitment to Nursing Award goes to someone who emulates Debbie's commitment to the nursing profession.

"These annual awards shine a light on WDMH's amazing nursing team and the work they do every day.," noted Cholly Boland, CEO. "Congratulations to all the winners and the nominees."

The 2023 Nursing Leadership Award was presented to Samantha Harbers. "Samantha has always been an energetic staff member who seeks out challenges. She has been a valuable resource throughout the Epic implementation, and it has been such a pleasure to watch her find her wings and soar," her nominators said.

Registered Practical Nurse Jessica Hartle received the 2023 Lifelong Learner Award. "Jessica embraces change and supports others in that change," her colleagues said. "She is always open to showing new staff, students, and peers the knowledge she has."

Teamwork is essential to the safe delivery of nursing services and the 2023 Team Collaboration Award was awarded to the Clinical Information System (CIS) Nursing Team who supported the WDMH team during the recent implementation of the Epic health information system and continues to do so: "Tanya Watkins and Channing Liberty have embraced the role of change champions. They have encouraged our team, sought out solutions and followed up, and taught us with grace and kindness."

Debbie Stoodley's commitment to the nursing profession and to WDMH was well-known by all who knew her. She will always be a cherished member of our team that she served with for more than 40 years. The 2023 Debbie Stoodley Commitment to Nursing Award was presented to Mandy Pinches. Her nominators noted: "Mandy's commitment to WDMH and the nursing profession is very evident. She goes above and beyond for her patients and is always so positive and a bright light.

If you would like to provide comments or suggestions about hospital services, please contact Cholly Boland, President and CEO, Winchester District Memorial Hospital at 613-774-1049 or by email at cboland@wdmh.on.ca.