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the village's own online news source

SHARE Sept. 9, 2020 Vol. 12 Week 37 Issue 583

RUMMAGE SALE AND BBQ TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THREE AREA RESCUES

BLUEWATER CITIZENS SURVEY

KPMG has been retained by the Municipality of Bluewater to conduct a Service Delivery Review.

As part of the project, KPMG consultants are seeking input from the citizens of Bluewater. The purpose of the input is to uncover opportunities that could lead to a more efficient and responsive organization in the context of growing demands for municipal services, new legislative requirements and leading practices in local government. The questions should take approximately ten minutes to complete.

Those wishing to participate are asked to please complete the online input by Sept. 11th at 4 p.m.

Here is the link to the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/bluewaterexternal.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Henrietta, is just one of the cats at Bayfield's Forgotten Felines looking for her forever family. She, and her fellow felines, will benefit from a Rummage Sale and BBQ being held in Varna on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 12. (Photo by Melody Falconer-Pounder)

Three area cat rescues are teaming up to host a fundraiser, on Saturday, Sept. 12, that will benefit them all.

Bayfield's Forgotten Felines, Off the Streets in Vanastra and Stray Cats of Varna will be hosting a rummage sale and barbecue to raise awareness about the importance of the Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) program as well as to raise money for their community cats. The funds raised will assist with the costs associated with spay and neuter procedures as well as vaccines.

The Rummage Sale will begin at 8 a.m. Donations of gently used, good quality items are now being accepted. Anyone with items to donate should contact bayfieldsforgottenfelines@gmail.com for more information on how to contribute.

In addition, gift baskets are being made up with donations from community businesses and individuals. These will be on display as well and people can enter for a chance to win one of these baskets with a minimum donation of $5. Anyone wishing to donate to the gift baskets is asked to email the address listed above.

"Cargo" may only be a kitten but this intrepid little fellow has already used up one of the nine lives assigned to him. At a very tender age he and his sibling, Birdie, were tossed from a car into a ditch and left for dead. Luckily someone witnessed the abandonment and the kittens were retrieved and brought to the rescue. This kitten, and others like him, will benefit from an upcoming fundraiser to be held in Varna on Saturday, Sept. 12. (Photo by Melody Falconer-Pounder)

Off the Streets and Bayfield's Forgotten Felines now have merchandise. Hats, shirts and mugs will be on display with order forms available.

People are also invited to donate cat food and litter at the event as an area will be set up to accept these always needed supplies.

A BBQ by donation will start at 11 a.m. Hambugers, cheeseburgers and hotdogs will be on the menu. Pop and water will also be available and the Dunn family, of Vanastra, will also be selling cake pops!

And if the weather cooperates a few guests of honor will be at the event, which will be held in Varna at 38572 Mill Rd., kittens that will soon be available for adoption!

CANADIAN AUTHOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

Dave Roy (Submitted photo)

David Alexander Roy died on Apr. 9. His family will be hosting a celebration of life on Sept. 13.

Born on Apr. 8, 1947, Dave will be remembered for his devotion to community, love of good friends and neighbors and for being a joker with a huge heart.

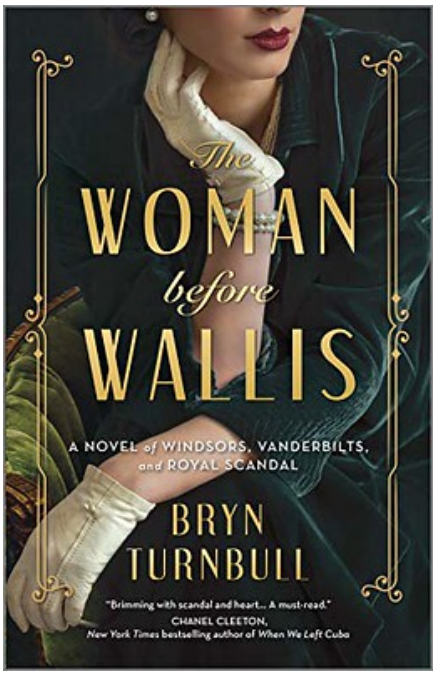
Anyone familiar with Dave knew that he enjoyed his vintage cars and Studebaker collection and was passionate about sailing, tractors and airplanes.

The celebration held in loving memory of Dave will take place at the Brucefield Firehall, 25 Mill Road in Brucefield from 3-5 p.m. Current health protocols will be followed. Mask wearing is advised.

FARMERS' MARKET

AT THE VILLAGE BOOKSHOP

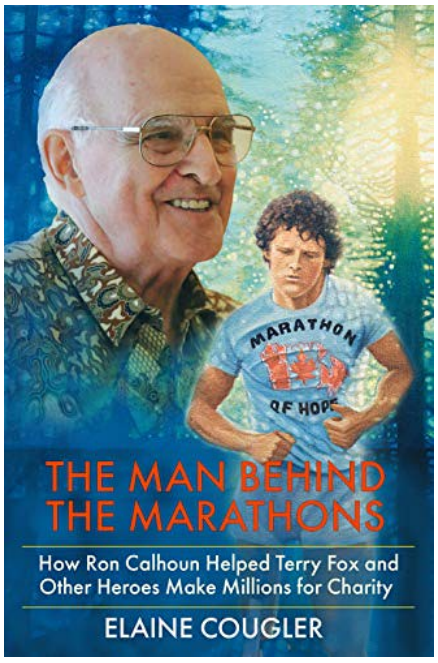
The Village Bookshop will be uniting readers with Canadian authors virtually over the next couple of weeks.



Byrn Turnbull, a Canadian author whose first book, “The Woman Before Wallis: A Novel of Windsors, Vanderbilts, and Royal Scandal” has already joined the best seller list, is coming to The Village Bookshop in Bayfield via Zoom on Friday, Sept. 11.

Turnbull tells the true story of Thelma Furness who captured Prince Edward’s heart before he abdicated his throne for Wallis Simpson. Furness had asked Simpson to take care of the Prince while she was away in New York to be with her twin sister, Gloria Vanderbilt, who was involved in a sensational custody battle. Starting at 5:30 p.m. join The Village Bookshop for an hour of reading and conversation as Turnbull discusses her story of love, loyalty and betrayal.

How do you participate in this virtual event? Simply purchase a copy of The Woman Before Wallis from The Village Bookshop either in person or over the phone at 519 565-5600. Eligible participants will be emailed the link to the Zoom call for use on Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m. Turnbull is also signing her book and further information will be provided when the book is purchased.



The following Thursday, The Village Bookshop will be hosting a second author event, virtually.

It has been 40 years ago since national hero Terry Fox ran his Marathon of Hope across Canada. Behind the scenes was Ron Calhoun who organized Fox’s run and created the well-known phrase. Elaine Cougler tells his story in “The Man Behind the Marathons: How Ron Calhoun Helped Terry Fox and Other Heroes Make Millions for Charity”.

People are invited to join The Village Bookshop for a virtual event in an one-hour conversation with Cougler on Thursday, Sept. 17 starting at 5 p.m. Those interested are asked to please register for this event in person or call 519 565-5600 and the Zoom link will be emailed. Cougler’s book is available for purchase at The Village Bookshop.

SEPTEMBER DATE SET FOR TELETHON IN AID OF HOSPICE

The Bayfield Farmers' Market will hold their 16th market of the season on Friday, Sept. 11.

The market store is fully stocked with amazing locally grown and produced products. This week, be on the look out for: fresh vegetables from from Firmly Rooted and Faro Farms; fresh breads and pastries from Red Cat Bakery; delicious local wines from Alton Farms Estate Winery; satays, marinades and burgers from Petojo Food & Catering; locally roasted coffee from Shopbike Coffee Roasters; bacon, burgers and roasts from Cedarvilla Angus Farms; vegan dips and a variety of homemade pierogi from J.Bogal Foods and lots more.

In addition, the market is partnering with the Bayfield Lions’ Club to launch their 2021 Bayfield calendar. These calendars can be purchased for $10 each through the online store.

Orders can be placed on the market's new online marketplace openfoodnetwork.ca/bayfield-farmers-market/shop. All orders must be placed by 11 p.m. on Wednesday. Customers of Firmly Rooted Farm are asked to place orders directly on their online store, www.localline.ca/firmly-rooted, by Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Market pick-up hours are 3-5 p.m. every Friday. The pick-up location is the parking area on the north side of Clan Gregor Square.

Customers with a last name beginning with initials A-M are asked to pick up in the first hour (3-4 p.m.) and N-Z in the second hour (4-5 p.m.).

Delivery within 15 KMs of Bayfield is available for a flat fee of $5.

Should anyone have a question about a specific product, please contact the vendor directly. Their contact information can be found on their profile page on the online market store.

FOOD BANK

Bayfield Area Food Bank (BAFB) continues to be overwhelmed by the generousity of the community in supporting the organization as the pandemic evolves.

The BAFB volunteers offer heartfelt thanks to the residents of Northwood Beach, north of Bayfield, for their generous donation of food, household necessities, and personal care products. They are very grateful for their generosity, and for the efforts of Sandra Jemec, and her granddaughter, in collecting and delivering the many bags and boxes.

Huron Hospice has launched a new fundraising event – “There’s No Place Like Home” for Sept. 17 and there will be Ruby Slippers!

"We had to postpone our Handbags for Huron Hospice live event because of COVID-19," said Dr. Agnes Kluz, Hospice Medical director and event volunteer. "We hoped to be able to reschedule the event, but with so many restrictions in place, this was just not possible. Our wonderful volunteer committee has totally reimagined the event as a virtual one.”

For one night only, Huron Hospice will present a retro-style telethon. The event will celebrate the best of Huron County. It will also recognize that Huron Hospice provides a home-like environment for families on their end of life journeys. The event will be a magical, all-new, never-been-done-before, virtual telethon.

COVID-19 has dictated people's lives for far too long and will do so for the rest of this year. Huron Hospice is working with the creative team at Faux Pop in Goderich to put together an entertaining 90-minute telethon that shows that COVID-19 cannot stop the people of Huron County.

“Many people have been forced to stay at home or work from home. For our children, this has been the longest March Break they will ever experience,” said Dr. Kluz. “With so many people having been forced to stay at home, we thought it would be fun to celebrate home.”

While the details are still being worked out, Huron Hospice will present a high-profile host, fantastic entertainment including, Bayfield pianists Bruce Ubukata and Stephen Ralls and others from across Huron County.

Dr. Kluz added, "We welcome more performers. If you are a talented Huron County resident and entertainer, we would like to talk with you about performing at the event."

Willy Van Klooster, Executive Director of Huron Hospice announced today, “There is no ticket price to participate in the event this year. We want everyone to join in the celebration. However, it is a fundraiser telethon, and we are inviting everyone in Huron County to consider donating to support Huron Hospice. When you donate, your name will light up the telethon event!"

The community provides half of the revenue Huron Hospice needs to provide the services that

BAFB can be reached for assistance by calling or texting 519 955-7444, or by emailing bayfieldareafoodbank@gmail.com. All enquiries will be handled with the utmost confidentiality.

KNOX CHURCH

Knox Presbyterian Church, Bayfield is pleased to invite the community to participate in their Church Services remotely.

Each week Reverend Lisa Dolson shares scripture readings and the week’s message. Hymns and anthems are provided by organist Jean Walker.

Church access can be enjoyed anytime by following this link pccweb.ca/knoxbayfieldpc/weekly-sermon/.

BAYFIELD BEER AND FOOD FESTIVAL

Back in April, the Bayfield Beer and Food Festival, originally scheduled for May 9, was delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis until Sept. 12. Organizers have now decided that they cannot proceed with the festival on that new date and have postponed it until May 15, 2021.

Organizers note that the original tickets will still be valid for the 2021 festival, however, if anyone would prefer a cash refund an opportunity to obtain one will be held on Refund Day, Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Bayfield Arena from 9-11 a.m.

GUIDED HIKES

The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association (BRVTA) will offer guided hikes on Oct. 25th and Nov. 17th. Participants will follow outdoor social distancing protocols, and masks will be optional.

The Fall Colors Hike will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25th at 2 p.m. at the Naftels Creek Conservation Area. Hikers will see a mix of conifer plantations, hardwood and wetland areas at the peak beauty of the fall season.

Participants are asked to meet and park at 79152 Hwy 21, 7 km south of Goderich between Union Rd and Kitchigami Rd. A map can be viewed at www.ontariotrails.on.cal. The hike is 3 KM, moderate difficulty with some steep inclines, rough spots or obstacles, and will last about 90 minutes. Please wear sturdy shoes, check the weather report, and dress accordingly.

it has become well known for providing, palliative care in residence and the community, grief recovery and bereavement support and counselling.

2021 LIONS' CALENDAR AVAILABLE VIA FARMERS' MARKET WEBSITE

The 2021 version of the Bayfield Lions' Club's calendar will be for sale starting this Friday, Aug. 14. In addition to online purchases calendars will be available at Bayfield Convenience, Bayfield Foodland, Shopbike Coffee Roasters or The Village Bookshop. (Submitted photo)

The Bayfield Lions' Club is proud to announce the release of its 2021 Bayfield Calendar. This eighth edition of the Club's Calendar project is still only $10!

Calendars are now available for purchase via the Bayfield Farmers' Market website: bayfieldfarmersmarket.com or the Bayfield Lions' Club website: bayfieldlions.ca. They can be picked up at Clan Gregor Square on Friday, Aug. 21 during the Bayfield Farmers' Market pick up times. Market pick-up hours are 3-5 p.m. The pick-up location is the parking area on the north side of Clan Gregor Square. Customers with a last name beginning with initials A-M are asked to pick up in the first hour (3-4 p.m.) and N-Z in the second hour (4-5 p.m.).

These beautiful Calendars would make an ideal Christmas gift or souvenir and can also be purchased from any Lions member. The Calendars are also available for purchase at Bayfield Convenience, Bayfield Foodland, Shopbike Coffee Roasters or The Village Bookshop.

TERRY FOX RUN PARTICIPANTS WILL UNITE IN SPIRIT, NOT IN PERSON

For more information, contact hike leader Pam Bowers at 519 565-4605.

National Take a Hike Day is Tuesday, Nov. 17 to celebrate the BRVTA will lead a hike on the Mavis and Taylor trails starting at 2 p.m. National Take a Hike Day is observed each year on this date in Canada and the U.S. There are over 90,000 KMs of non-motorized, managed trails in Canada. The Mavis and Taylor Trails offer relatively easy walking in a beautiful woodland leading down to the Bayfield River.

Hikers are asked to meet and park at the Stanley Complex in Varna, 5 KMs east of Bayfield on the Mill Road. A map can be found at www.bayfieldtrails.com/mavis-taylor-trail. The hike is a relatively easy 3.5 KMs with well-defined trails and gentle inclines; it will last less than two hours. Please wear sturdy shoes, check the weather report, and dress accordingly.

For more information, contact hike leader Gary Mayell at 519 441-0141.

MEMBERS WANTED

The members of the Bayfield Agricultural Society (BAS) are inviting people to consider joining them in the year leading up to their 165th anniversary by becoming a member of the society, the board, or both!

"What a perfect time to consider becoming a member," said BAS President Lorraine Shields. "Be part of something unique and everlasting, a part of the community's future while maintaining and celebrating its heritage and roots."

People are encouraged to share their skills, experiences and assets with the BAS. For more information contact Doug Yeo at 519 482-9296 or email dougyeo@tcc.on.ca or Lorraine Shields at 519 653-7039 or email rainy13@tcc.on.ca.

ADOPT-A-BFF

Adopt-a-BFF is a recurring feature aimed at helping Bayfield's Forgotten Felines find homes for the many rescue cats and kittens that have come into their care in recent months. This week we feature the Charcoal (aka Mr. Blackwell).

The Terry Fox Foundation is excited to announce that Canadians will continue to support cancer research through virtual runs from coast to coast to coast this September.

Fox once said, “Anything is possible if you try.” Today, 40 years later, organizers will have to innovate as well and they can’t think of anything that Fox would appreciate more. Help celebrate the 40th anniversary of Terry’s Marathon of Hope by joining in a virtual run.

Registration is now open at terryfox.org/run/.

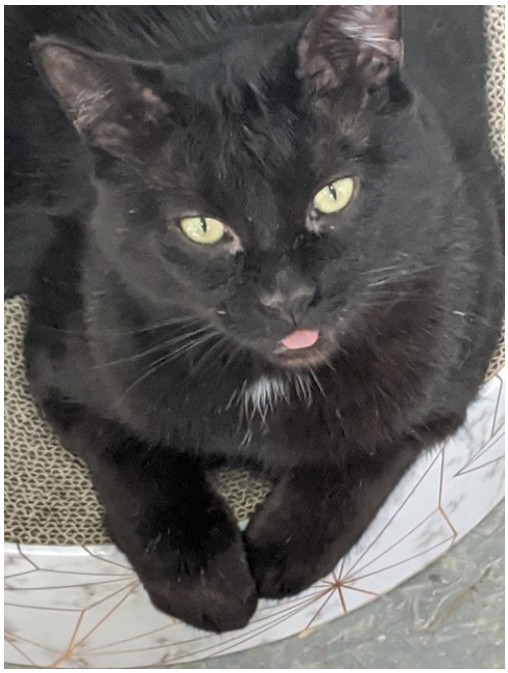
Organizers note that the run will be “one day – your way” as participants “will unite in spirit, not in person”.

This “run” can take place wherever participants are on Sunday, Sept. 20: walk, run or ride around the neighborhood, backyard, down the street or around the block. Register as an individual, family or a virtual team and then start fundraising because cancer research cannot wait for COVID-19 to be over and because Fox asked everyone to try and because its the 40th anniversary of Terry’s Marathon of Hope!

For a 2020 special anniversary merchandise order form please email cmzrini@gmail.com

The Bayfield Virtual Terry Fox Run is being coordinated for the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association by co-coordinators Heather Hamilton and Colleen Zrini. To learn more contact Zrini at 519 697-9631

PROUD OWNERS


Charcoal (aka Mr. Blackwell) (Submitted photo)

This gorgeous fellow didn’t always look this good. He was fed by some kind people in Harbour Court in Bayfield and they became concerned about him when the weather started to change so they called the rescue. When Charcoal arrived he was quite feral, very scared, underweight and in poor health. He was missing his incisors and his front teeth which had made catching his own food somewhat difficult.

Through time, a healthy diet and medicine, Charcoal has turned from a terrified, feral cat into the most loving handsome boy anyone could ever want to meet. Much as it breaks the volunteers’ hearts to see him go he is more than ready for his forever home.

Interested in providing Charcoal wiht his forever family? Reach out to Bayfield’s Forgotten Felines at bayfieldsforgottenfelines@gmail.com.

Anyone who might wish to adopt but circumstances don’t allow for it, can virtually adopt a kitten or cat, receive updates and photos and even choose a name, and know that their generosity helped this creature find a forever home.

The cost of a vet visit is $125 per feline, of course, any financial amount whether it be large or small would be most appreciated. E-transfers can be sent to the email above or email to arrange for a drop off or pick up of donations. Cheques can be mailed to Bayfield’s Forgotten Felines, P.O. Box 33, Bayfield, ON, N0M 1G0.

The Bayfield Historical Society membership was very pleased to present Stephanie and Michael McDonald with the original painting they recently purchased as part of a fundraiser for the Society and Archives. The painting by Doug Darnbrough, of the historical schooner Helen MacLeod II, was put up for auction and the winning bid of $4,700 came in with less than a minute to spare before the deadline on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. (Submitted photo)

The Village Bookshop
READ. EXPLORE. LEARN.
BAYFIELD ELECTRIC
Integrity is Everything!
LAKE HURON REAL ESTATE LIMITED
WE Love WHAT'S Local
Help us find the Best by nominating your favourite businesses & services.
31 Categories to choose from!
Nomination period until Friday, November 12!
Voting begins November 15!
www.welovewhatslocal.ca

LOBB AND MCCABE JOIN HURON LAND TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alison Lobb (Submitted photos)

The Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) has welcomed its two newest board members: Alison Lobb and Kim McCabe.

“We are pleased to welcome two new board members who bring a wealth of experience,” said HTLTC Chair Roger Lewington.

Lobb taught in the business division, at the former Centralia College of Agricultural Technology, for more than 20 years. She operated the Small Business Enterprise Centre in Seaforth for 15 years as a business consultant for the County of Huron. She has operated Lobb Entrepreneurship for more than 25 years, helping small business owners with record-keeping

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Huron Perth Public Health website is updated regularly with confirmed case counts received.

“Our online case reporting is not a real-time tool but is meant to keep the community informed on trends we are seeing,” explains Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Miriam Klassen.

For the latest statistics on COVID-19 cases in Huron and Perth Counties please visit: www.hpph.ca

UNITED WAY

Martin and Kathryn Ritsma (Submitted photo)

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is proud to announce Martin and Kathryn Ritsma have agreed to return as Campaign Co-chairs for 2020-2021.

“We’re thrilled that Martin and Kathryn are coming back,” said UWPH Executive Director Ryan Erb.

software. She is West Ward Councillor for the Municipality of Central Huron and has served as a municipal councillor for 25 years. She has been a Maitland Valley Conservation Authority director for more than 20 years and is a Past Chair. Her active involvement in community projects and conservation work has been extensive. She is a cash crop farmer in the Municipality of Central Huron in the former Goderich Township.

“I believe that the work of the Land Trust in protecting the natural environment is important,” she said. “The Huron Tract is an historic geographic area and the Land Trust gives individuals a way to share in protecting it.”

Kim McCabe

McCabe, of the London and Bayfield areas, began her working life as a registered nurse and practised for 15 years before changing course and entering into Landscape Design at Fanshawe College. She graduated with a Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Guelph in 2007. McCabe worked at a number of planning and landscape architecture firms, gaining experience in residential, municipal, commercial, and parks planning projects. This experience included a number of park and trail designs, re-naturalization projects and healing gardens. She previously served a six-year term on the Board of Directors at the Thames Talbot Land Trust where she assisted with the design and implementation of an accessible native plant and demonstration garden at Hawk Cliff in Elgin County. She has a passion for nature and completed her thesis on the healing benefits of access to nature. She spends a lot of time biking and hiking in the Bayfield area and other parts of Ontario.

“I look forward to continuing to volunteer in land conservancy and stewardship at the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy,” she said.

The current board of directors of the land trust is comprised of: Roger Lewington, Bayfield; Don Farwell, Stratford; Max Morden, St. Marys; Paul Spittal, Bayfield; Peter Twynstra, Ailsa Craig; Philip Walden, Thedford; Steve Bowers, Brussels; Kim McCabe of London and Bayfield; and Alison Lobb, of the Clinton area. Recently retiring from the board was Steve Boles, of Exeter.

The HTLTC was formed in 2011, by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, a registered Canadian charity. The land trust serves the area of the historic Huron Tract from the early days of settlement. The HTLTC is a volunteer organization with a separate board of directors and is a member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. The HTLTC accepts donations and bequests of land and gives people in the Huron Tract area a way to make a positive difference by helping protect and restore land, water, and nature. For more information on the Conservancy, please email info@htltc.ca or call 1-888-286-2610 or visit htltc.ca.

ABCA CREATES NEW FACT SHEETS FOR SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNERS

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is creating and sharing some new fact sheets of interest to shoreline property owners. The three 2020 Lake Huron fact sheets include guidelines for bluff and dune vegetation and bluff access.

ABCA has posted the fact sheets on their new Lake Huron web page at this link: www.abca.ca/about/lake-huron.

“They played a huge part in the success of the past two campaigns and we look forward to having their energy and enthusiasm as we work across Perth and Huron to navigate this challenging time.”

Now more than ever, giving to United Way’s annual campaign is critical. Over the past six months, people already living on less have faced new challenges due to COVID-19 and others who never needed a helping hand before suddenly found themselves in need of support. Through it all United Way Perth-Huron has been there, building on 60 years of working locally to make sure people get the help they need when they need it.

“UWPH has achieved so much over the past few months within Perth-Huron,” Martin and Kathryn noted. “Whether it’s helping fund organizations to meet changing needs during the pandemic or partnering with the federal government to support vulnerable seniors, UWPH has worked tirelessly to support our communities. But we can’t be complacent. More work needs to be done locally to navigate the challenging road ahead.”

An important part of the work UWPH is committed to building on involves the Urgent Needs Fund (UNF). The UNF is designed to support local residents in a time of crisis by helping with essentials like rent, groceries and medication; keeping those in need from slipping deeper into poverty, shame and despair. In the time since the fund originally launched earlier this year, over 500 people from across Perth and Huron have received assistance.

UWPH is also deepening connections across the regions, working with community committees in St. Marys, Goderich, Exeter and North Perth. The committee chairs; Rob and Lesley Edney in St. Marys, Jerry McDonnell in Goderich, Dave Reid and Heather MacKechnie in Exeter and Shelley Blackmore in North Perth are working together with UWPH to address local #UNIGNORABLE issues such as chronic homelessness and food security. This is in addition to projects UWPH is already involved with in Stratford and the rest of Perth and Huron.

“UWPH is committed to helping rebuild our communities in the wake of COVID-19 and supporting the vulnerable and newly vulnerable through existing programs funded by the annual campaign as well as the Urgent Needs Fund,” added Erb. “We’re looking forward to working again with Martin and Kathryn to build on what we’ve already achieved and help ensure a brighter future for

The conservation authority has also posted an older fact sheet of interest called Shoreline Slope Stability Risks and Hazards Fact Sheet for Property Owners. That fact sheet was created by Terraprobe Inc.

The new bluff vegetation and access fact sheets, and dune vegetation fact sheet, are in addition to some new materials about Lake Huron water levels.

“Staff have expertise on topics such as bluff and dune vegetation and we want to share that information with people along or near the Lake Huron shoreline,” said Geoffrey Cade, ABCA Water and Planning manager. “We hope property owners will find the information helpful.”

There is interest right now in how vegetation can help to reduce the extent of coastal erosion, he said. There are more shoreline residents at their properties in the summertime and, with high Lake Huron water levels reaching monthly records and close to an all-time high, the effects of erosion are easier to see. It may not be possible to eliminate erosion but the fact sheets offer ways property owners can better manage water running off of land during storm events and the type of vegetation that can be helpful, on a lake bank or dune area, to limit erosion.

It is helpful to maintain natural cover, according to ABCA. Woody-type vegetative cover can help to retain root networks and canopy to enhance slope stability. It can also provide beautiful natural vistas, support rare coastal species, and complement other natural areas.

In cases where property owners want to achieve beach access with stairs, the bluff access fact sheet encourages communities to work together to create common-access stairs down a bluff slope. It also provides guidelines to reduce the risk of slope destabilization when a new access is created.

It is important to protect and enhance coastal dunes, according to the dune vegetation fact sheet. Less than three per cent of the Lake Huron shoreline is dunes but those beaches have the most use. Coastal plants provide erosion protection of shoreline properties in a dynamic beach system, according to ABCA.

If there are questions not answered by the fact sheets, property owners can contact ABCA staff by phone toll-free at 1-888-286-2610.

LOW WATER ADVISORY LIFTED FOR AUSABLE BAYFIELD WATERSHED

The Water Response Team (WRT) has removed the Level 1 Low Water Advisory for the entire Ausable Bayfield watershed. Watershed conditions have seen a continued improvement in response to a wet August, which saw between 150-200 millimetres (6-8 inches) of rainfall across most of the watershed.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) network of monitoring stations shows that streamflow has rebounded over the past few weeks, with baseflow values beginning to show signs of a longer-term recovery.

“Baseflow in streams and rivers is a good indicator of watershed conditions,” said Davin Heinbuck, ABCA Water Resources coordinator. “As ground conditions become saturated, and the water table rises, we begin to see improvements in baseflow.”
The Chair of the WRT, Doug Cook, thanked both the industries and individuals who voluntarily reduced their water usage in response to the dry weather observed through much of the summer.

“During dry periods, conservation of water is an important measure in preventing further declines in water supplies and ensuring everyone has access to water at the most critical times, especially during a low-water condition,” Cook said. “Everyone has helped to play an everyone in our communities.”

QUILT OF THE MONTH

The Huron Hospice quilt for September is designed in a “Chopstick” pattern. The cotton quilt has a backing of soft flannel, and is made by a member of the local community. It measures 87” x 83” and sells for $650.00.(Submitted photos)

With so much talent, busy hands and love in the community during the COVID-19 lockdown period, the Huron Hospice was pleasantly overwhelmed with donations of afghans and quilts. A random selection of these handmade quilts will be sold as a fundraiser for patient care at the hospice.

This fun, contemporary quilt is suitable for all ages and a wide variety of décor styles. The “Chopstick” pattern is made with vivid colors, surrounded by a graphite background. The end result is simple, yet stunning. This large quilt will enhance a bedroom, work as a picnic blanket or will be lovely in front of the fire. The cotton quilt has a backing of soft flannel, and is made by a member of the local community. It measures 87” x 83” and sells for $650.00.

The first person who sends an email to Hospice Manager of Fundraising Christopher Walker at chris.walker@huronhospice.ca. will be the happy owner of the quilt. Anyone who would like further information before purchasing can also email Walker.

Proceeds of the quilt sale will go directly toward patient care.

PAINT ONTARIO

Paint Ontario is open, with all appropriate COVID-19 precautions and adjustments in place to ensure physical distancing and the full safety of visitors, volunteers and staff at all times.

Show hours are Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with evening extensions to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays; closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

To ensure a safe environment for everyone, building

important role in preserving our water supply."

The WRT was formed in 2001 in response to the low water and drought conditions that year and the team has been active ever since. The WRT includes representatives of major water users, such as, aggregate industries, agriculture and vegetable growers, and golf and recreation. It also includes local municipal representatives and staff of provincial ministries, such as, Natural Resources and Forestry; Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and Environment, Conservation and Parks. ABCA staff will continue to monitor precipitation and streamflow data and keep the public informed of any changes in watershed conditions through the winter months.

Visit www.ontario.ca/lowwater for further resources on the Ontario low water response program or the website at abca.ca for the dynamic low-water advisory tool which alerts people to low-water advisories in effect in the watershed.

SOCIALIZE WITH A PURPOSE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR ALZHEIMERS

The Alzheimer Society of Huron County is rebranding the traditional fall fundraiser, Coffee Break, to "Social with a Purpose". Social with a Purpose is a do-it-yourself fundraiser that promotes the importance of socializing, staying in touch and building a strong positive relationship with friends, family and community.

The launch of Social with a Purpose will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 1, to coincide with World Alzheimer's Month and will run until December. A Social with a Purpose fundraiser is hosted virtually and can be held anywhere and any way. What are people doing to stay connected and come together during this time of physical distancing? Make connections more special and meaningful by supporting people living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia and their care partners who experience social isolation every day.

Turn a weekly online card game with friends or book club video chat into a fundraiser. Be creative and add a game or task everyone can partake in during the call and highlight the importance coming together can have by supporting others. Have any special skills? Try hosting an online paint night or cooking class and ask for a donation! Don't want to be the head chef? The Alzheimer Society of Huron County has got people covered with easy to use digital kits to host their own Social with a Purpose fundraisers that they can invite their friends and family to join!

Available kits Include: Paint Night, Sing-a-long concert, Date Night with cooking lessons, Wine Tasting with your own Sommelier, Game Nights, host a board game or card tournament with the family for ultimate bragging rights; and more!

The power of coming together and hosting a Social with a Purpose fundraiser will provide those living with dementia and their care partners needed social recreation programming. Social recreation programs have been proven to improve life quality and reduce isolation,

capacity at Lambton Heritage Museum has been reduced, and only 20 visitors per hour will be allowed to view the Paint Ontario show at a time to maintain physical distancing. Visitors are required to pre-register a time to visit and those attending the show without registering in advance may be required to wait, or return when space is available. Please call ahead at 519 243-2600 Ext. 0 to book a space or visit www.heritagemuseum.ca to register online.

The judges assure Grand Bend Art Centre organisers that artists' work in the 2020 show will delight and inspire visitors, and art collectors will enjoy a wide variety of subjects and styles from which to choose.

Artists' demonstrations and workshops have been pre-recorded and will be played on a rotating basis during the run of the show as well as being available on-line. Additionally, look for free, live outdoor demonstrations that will add a new element to the Paint Ontario visitor experience this year.

Thursday evenings promise to be a special time for viewers and purchasers who have busy weekday schedules, with a bonus of outdoor performances by popular local musician Tom Taylor. People are asked to bring their own deck chair.

Paint Ontario, including its show-within-a-show "Faces of Ontario", continues to be Ontario's largest Show and Sale of original artwork, a unique opportunity for emerging artists to showcase their work and an unmatched opportunity for buyers to view and acquire it.

For more information, go to www.paintontario.com or call Teresa Marie Phillips at 519-859-1662 or email teresamarie@hay.net.

BLYTH FESTIVAL

Be part of "10 x 10 in 2020"! Artists are invited to expose their art to theatre and art lovers all over Ontario and support the Blyth Festival by participating in the theatre's first on-line fundraiser.

Artists are asked to get creative in 100 square inches as all donated art pieces should measure 10 inches by 10 inches. Organizers are asking for donated art pieces to help the Blyth Festival weather the challenges of COVID-19. This online event will take place in November and December of this year.

Canvases for acrylic or oil paintings need to be gallery depth (approx. 1.5 inches). Artists can purchase their own or be provided with a discounted gallery canvas by taking a discount voucher to

something everyone has experienced over the last few months.

By fundraising just $40, a person living with dementia and their care partner will be able to attend eight sessions of Minds in Motion — a vital program that provides physical exercise, social interaction, and brain stimulation activities with other clients, volunteers, and staff. Minds in Motion has been offered virtually during the pandemic; this is one example of the excellent work happening in social recreation at the Alzheimer Society.

View the kits or sign up to host a Social with a Purpose fundraiser at on.alz.to/socialwithapurpose. Once registered participants will immediately receive a customized web page with a unique link to share and promote their Social with a Purpose fundraiser. Make connections matter!

BLUEWATER GROUPS CAN APPLY FOR FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Grand Bend Community Foundation (GBCF) annual community grants program makes funds available to local charities and community groups to support a wide range of activities, from education and recreation, to the environment and the arts. The GBCF serves the municipalities of Lambton Shores, Bluewater and South Huron. Deadline for applications is Sept. 30.

This year, the GBCF is encouraging grant applications from groups adapting to the new normal created by the pandemic.

“We know that charities are facing a big challenge right now,” said Grants Committee Chair Jim Jean. “They must continue to offer much-needed services while reimagining their organizations in a totally new context. We believe there’s an opportunity to help them ‘build back better’ in our communities.”

Deb Gill, chair of the GBCF, agreed.

“One of our goals is to support groups that are coming up with creative solutions to help the most vulnerable in our communities,” she said. “But of course, all eligible applicants and projects are welcome to apply.”

Applicants are encouraged to contact Pat Morden, Executive director of the GBCF, to discuss their plans before starting an application. More information and application forms are available online at grandbendcommunityfoundation.ca/wp-gbcf/applying-for-a-grant/.

For more information, call Morden at 519 619-8630 or email grandbendcf@gmail.com.

HURON RESIDENTS ASKED TO TAKE SURVEY ABOUT COVID-19 IMPACTS

COVID-19 has had serious and potentially long-lasting impacts on communities. While the recovery will be long and difficult for everyone, small and rural communities face particular challenges. A partnership between the University of Guelph (U of G), United Way Perth-Huron’s Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC), the County of Huron, the Huron Arts and Heritage Network and the Listowel Salvation Army aims to ensure rural voices are heard.

“Fifteen per cent of Ontarians live in small communities and rural environments and these areas have a unique voice,” said Leith Deacon, assistant professor at the University of Guelph’s School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. “We want to make sure that voice is heard. We’re looking forward to working in Perth and Huron Counties to learn about the concerns and anxieties of local people as communities look for ways to recover from the

Elizabeth’s Art Gallery, 54 Court House Square, Goderich, from now until tomorrow (Sept. 10).

Other mediums such as fabric or pottery tile could be affixed to these canvases or to 10” x 10” wood panels. Watercolors, photos or mono prints (also 10” x 10”) would need to be matted and in a cellophane sleeve also available at Elizabeth’s Art Gallery. Photos could also be printed on 10” x 10” canvas wraps, at the artist’s expense, available through - elizabethsartgallery.ca. Artists are invited to submit more than one piece.

Art pieces must be delivered to the Blyth Festival Administration office at 423 Queen St, Blyth, or 94 St. Patrick Street (enclosed front porch), Goderich by Oct. 10. Each art piece must have a submission form attached to it and be in a bag.

In return for their donation artists will receive: wide promotion on the auction website – name, art, contact info etc.; event info will be promoted widely in social media and other platforms; event info will be sent to Blyth Festival’s email contact database of 7,000; tax receipts for the sold dollar value will be available; and any unsold art will be returned to the artist.

Artists are asked to please send an email indicating that they intend to participate to: BF10x10@gmail.com by tomorrow (Sept. 10). The voucher and submission form can also be asked for at this email.

TREE PLANTING

The year 2020 hasn’t turned out the way anyone expected. The pandemic changed the way people behave and think and has changed perspectives about what is important. Despite the tough times communities and families have been through, they are looking to the future with hope: Hope that they can get together with family and friends soon. Hope that they will be back in their work places. Hope that the markets will recover. Hope that they can make up for lost revenue and business opportunities.

One of the best ways for people to demonstrate hope is to plant a tree. It exhibits hope for the future and it will add a feature to people’s property that can be enjoyed for decades to come. People have been enjoying shade trees throughout this summer during their stay-cations.

Springtime is the traditional time for tree planting but COVID-19 changed those plans for many people. Autumn is an ideal time to plant larger conifer and hardwood trees.

pandemic."

The U of G survey aims to determine not only what planning is required to best support ongoing recovery in Perth and Huron but also how to best increase resilience and well-being over the longer term. Researchers aim to identify vulnerable populations, determine priority programs including mental health, income and food security, and education specifically to support those populations during and after COVID-19, explore opportunities for the non-profit sector and identify emergent mental health and economic concerns. The project is funded through Mitacs, a non-profit research organization that, through partnerships with Canadian academia, private industry and government, operates research and training in fields related to social and industrial innovation.

The research team is encouraging all residents over the age of 18 to complete the survey in an effort to capture the most accurate data that reflects the experiences of people from across Huron and Perth Counties. The survey takes roughly half an hour to complete and is now open to people in Huron. Residents can visit linktr.ee/RURAL_RESPONSE to complete the online version of the survey. All households within Huron County will receive a paper copy in the mail in the coming days, including a prepaid return envelope. For Perth residents, the survey will be available beginning Sept. 1.

"We're looking forward to the results of this important survey," said SRPC Director of Planning, Susanna Reid. "This research will form the basis of our future research and planning efforts in Perth and Huron Counties. Everyone's voice is important. What we learn from this research will help shape programs and policies that will be tailored to local needs."

The SRPC is operated by United Way Perth-Huron and is comprised of volunteer community representatives dedicated to the collection, analysis and distribution of information relating to local social trends. Research enables United Way to discover and understand the root causes of issues affecting Perth-Huron and in turn mobilize the community.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is now taking fall orders. Species include a variety of Cedar, Spruce, Pine, Maple, Oak, and Tulip Tree. They range in size from 18 inches to five feet tall and are $17 to $25.

The ABCA purchases the trees in bulk from nurseries and then sells to local landowners for projects that benefit water quality, soil health, and habitat for all living things. The trees are best suited for field windbreaks, shelterbelts around buildings, and buffers along streams and rivers. Plantings that prevent soil erosion and improve water quality could qualify for grants to help reduce the costs.

Landowners can pick up the trees at the ABCA office east of Exeter around Thanksgiving or they can arrange, with ABCA, for staff to plant the trees.

People making tree orders can submit email, mail, and faxed orders until Sept. 18. Orders accompanied by payment are accepted until Sept. 30.

To find out more visit the abca.ca website at this webpage link: www.abca.ca/forestry/treeorders/

Anyone interested may also phone 519 235-2610 or toll-free 1-888-286-2610 to find out more.

SHARE

Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol

REMEMBER THIS

The Huron County Museum is home to thousands of artifacts that illustrate the history of both the rural and urban populations of the area. Space dictates what wonderful curiosities the public regularly gets to see when they visit the museum located at 110 North Street in Goderich (open Thursday to Sunday by appointment - call 519 524-2686) . But where there is wifi, there is an opportunity to time-travel with over 3,000 pieces of the museum's collection now available to view online at huroncountymuseum.pastperfectonline.com.

"Remember This" highlights items from the collection of the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol. Items that have shaped the fabric of the county and the people who have lived here since before the county became the county in 1835 up until more recent times.

This week, as thoughts begin to turn to pumpkin spice, autumn leaves and cozy nights by the fire, we indulge in the idea of curling up under a cozy blanket. The Museum has many blankets

GREEN PLAID

This green plaid car blanket with black and red stripes and fringed edge was made at the Benmiller Woolen Mill prior to World War One.

in their collection, including several manufactured at the Benmiller Woolen Mill - here are three that may be interest.

Thomas Gledhill, a professional weaver, learned his trade near Leeds in Yorkshire, England. He emigrated to America in 1842, to upper New York State to New Faxe, Niagara Co. working at a woolen mill. Ten years later, he left the USA with his family, to work in Lambton, then Cambellville and finally to Benmiller by 1857. The new Benmiller Woolen Mill was built in 1877 where son Jesse Gledhill became sole proprietor.

BLUE AND WHITE TWILL

This all wool piece blanket in a blue and white twill patterned checker was woven on a power loom and manufactured possibly in the early 1900s, at the Benmiller Woolen Mill. It was later later seamed and repaired with a sewing machine to 45" length.

RED AND BLUE TARTAN

This woolen car blanket in red and blue tartan twill weave was manufactured in the 1920s at the Benmiller Woollen Mill.

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PHOTO STORY

BAYFIELD MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT

STORM-WATER DRAINAGE AND ACCESSIBILTY MAJOR COMPONENTS OF DESIGN EVOLUTION

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY MELODY FALCONER-POUNDER

A Virtual Public Meeting regarding the Bayfield Main Street Revitalization project was held on Sept. 2. The project will include the installation of storm water drainage improvements along the Main Street corridor. The Main Street boulevard will also be reconstructed to provide a more cohesive design along the entire corridor.

The Bayfield Main Street Revitalization Project has been in process for approximately 37years starting back in 1983 when the area achieved Heritage Designation. The process continued on the evening of Sept. 2 when a Virtual Public Meeting was held. The latest conceptualization for Main Street, including parts of Catherine and Charles Street, met with mixed reviews from the approximately 44 people that attended the meeting, many having registered to ask questions or make comments.

Many questioned why the project is necessary in the first place as they prefer the look and feel of the street as it is presently. However, there are reasons behind the revitalization. One reason is the need to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005 (AODA). Municipalities were given to Jan. 1, 2016 to do so. A second reason is the ongoing storm-water drainage issues that have plagued the street for many years. The Executive of the Bayfield and Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) are in favor of completing the drainage and heritage streetscape project in a timely fashion as evidenced by a letter sent to Bluewater Council in the spring of this year. (See Bayfield Breeze Issue 565.)

Spence Bannerman, with assistance from Clerk Chandra Alexander, invited registrants to speak to the project or ask questions. Dave McLaren was one of the individuals who commented on the plan. He was a member of the Project Advisory Team Committee (PAT), representing the Bluewater Heritage Advisory Committee, and was involved in the discussions on all of these issues over several years. He noted that the team recognized that there are all kinds of trade-offs that have to be made.

“With regards to the three questions that you have asked us to comment on the hydro is pretty much a no brainer. Everyone thought it was a great idea if we could find the money. The estimates on the plus or minus of $600,000 was plus or minus 50 per cent so that is somewhere between $300,000 and $900,000. There wasn’t the money to do that. It was a low priority item. It was a nice to have. We did not want that to be a showstopper for the project going ahead,” said McLaren.

Public Works Manager for Bluewater, Dave Kester, noted with regards to McLaren’s comments about the buried hydro that although currently funds are not available to support doing so, the staff will continue to search out grants for funding should council decide to go that route.

“With the sidewalks everybody thought that pavers would be a good idea,” continued McLaren. “The continuity with Clan Gregor Square was a very attractive proposition, the problem there was of course the cost and with regards to the maintenance issue I think the tax base in Bayfield is sufficient to cover whatever maintenance issue might be with pavers along the Main Street. Finally, the lighting continuity off Clan Gregor Square would be another nice to have if you can’t use the fixtures that are there, particularly if you take down all the hydro poles, then what we have in Clan Gregor Square would be the best alternative.”

McLaren acknowledged that he supported what Koudys was saying with regards to “rooms” and he thanked him for recognizing the detail.

“If you go back to the original plan that was developed in 1983 one of the primary motivations for designating Main Street as a heritage district was the fact that it wasn’t a linear, whole bunch of

People who took part in the virtual meeting were wondering if there was an example of the rolling curb being considered in the Main Street design they could see. The Bluewater Municipal office in Zurich was sighted. An example of the rolling curb can be seen in front of the building by the stairs.

Kelly Vader, an Environmental planner with BM Ross and a Bayfield resident, has been involved in the project for the past seven years. She, and Dale Erb, an engineer with the company, created a video presentation regarding the project that was put forth at the start of the virtual public meeting.

Erb noted that one of the first Project Advisory Team Committee (PAT) meetings was held to review accessibility standards. They had Sandra Thompson from the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) attend to assist in incorporating accessibility needs into the design. General practises that must be addressed in the plan include: grades less than five per cent for sidewalks and parking, color contrast, firm, stable and slip resistant surfaces. Firm surfaces resist indentation when walked or wheeled on. Stable surfaces return to their original condition once walking or wheel pressure has been removed.

Accessible parking must also be included in the design.

“Along Main Street the design will allow for about 148 spaces altogether. The Act therefore requires three Type A and three Type B spots,” explained Erb. “Three spaces must be wide enough to accommodate a vehicle equipped with a mechanical lift or wheelchair ramp while another three spaces are to be provided that are standard size but are primarily intended for people who use wheelchairs, canes, crutches or walkers but don’t need the extra space for a ramp. Sandra suggested that the side streets would be a better choice for some of the accessible parking and an obvious choice would be to have one near the library.”

storefronts all in a row, that there were different setbacks, different architectural styles, different spacing between the buildings and to compliment those features with the landscape that is consistent with those features I think is particularly appropriate,” said McLaren.

Anyone who would like to review all of the comments made by residents, as well as those made by municipal council members, is welcome to view the Zoom meeting at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjlLxV8NpjU

Design elements, such as, benches and waste receptacles, that are currently present along the corridor, will be maintained in the new Main Street design.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE STREET PLAN

Kelly Vader, an Environmental planner with BM Ross, acknowledged that the current plan took into consideration past concepts primarily the Heritage Conservation District Main Street Streetscape and Open Space Improvements Plan from 2003, and the 2010 update, both by Landscape Architect Wendy Shearer, and the recommendations and conceptualized drawings put forth by the Bayfield Heritage Main Street Renewal Review Panel formed in 2011 under the leadership of former village resident, Ainslee Willock.

This incarnation of the Bayfield Main Street Revitalization Project was initiated in August 2013 in conjunction with the Bayfield Storm-water Master Plan process.

In the fall of 2013, a Project Advisory Team Committee (PAT) was formed with representation from the Bayfield Ratepayers’ Association, BACC, Bluewater Heritage Advisory Committee and the Bayfield Historical Society. It also included Bluewater Staff and representatives from BM Ross as well as the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Ward Councilor for the village. Seven PAT meetings were held between February 2014 and October 2015. The first public meeting was held

The new design plans for the intersection at Clan Gregor Square are very similar to the existing one. "However, shrubs will be removed in the centre of the intersection to improve sight lines for vehicles and dedicated sidewalks will be created for pedestrians to improve accessibility and safety," said Dale Erb, an engineer with BM Ross. "It is possible that something could be created at this intersection to create a unique gateway feature into the Main Street corridor."

Erb went on to say that one of the driving forces behind the Main Street Revitalization Project was a desire to have improved drainage infrastructure installed along the road corridor. Currently, there is a very limited drainage infrastructure which creates ongoing problems for the Municipal Public Works Staff that work to maintain the streetscape to ensure that it is both attractive and safe for residents and visitors to the community.

"Due to the height of the road precipitation runs off the road and onto the parking spaces and boulevards…where parking spaces are flooded and walkways become muddy and impassable. This also increases maintenance costs for the municipality and businesses when mud and stones are tracked into buildings and pathways need to be regraded or levelled to provide access," he said.

Erb also noted that the stone dust pathways have proven to be seasonally problematic creating difficulties with snow removal in the winter and dust control in the summer months.

To tackle the drainage problems subsurface drainage infrastructure will be installed along both boulevards, the road surface will be lowered and walkways within the boulevards raised so that drainage will be directed to the road surface rather than the boulevards and will be connected to sewers on Charles Street and Catherine Street and then to an outlet at Lake Huron.

"The installation of curbs along the roadway will direct runoff to drainage inlets and infiltration basins that will be installed along the boulevard," said Erb. "Infiltration basins will be installed within the boulevards so that drainage can be directed to these vegetative areas that provide a unique component to the Main Street design. Infiltration basins provide a vegetative outlet for drainage run off that filters contaminants and sediment from the storm-water before discharging to the collection system."

Anyone who would like to view the video presentation is invited to visit:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlXAhU7_UsI&feature=youtu.be

LANDSCAPE COMPONENT TO BRING OUT THE CHARM OF THE VILLAGE

in June 2014. The preliminary design concept was finalized in the fall of that year followed by a second public meeting in Oct. 2016.

In 2019, the Municipality asked that a phased construction approach be devised over two construction seasons to minimize the impacts on merchants with a look toward implementation in 2020 and 2021.

BLUEWATER COUNCIL SOUGHT INPUT

Kelly Vader, Environmental planner, stated that there are design components needing input from residents prior to the decision being finalized by council and thus the crux of this public meeting. The three areas council was requesting input on were sidewalks, hydro servicing and lighting.

SIDEWALKS

"Everyone seems to have an opinion on the sidewalks in Bayfield," said Vader. "Currently the sidewalks along Main Street are a combination of the traditional concrete square sidewalks, paving stones and stone dust pathways."

Vader went on to explain that a cohesive design is proposed for the entire road corridor that will be attractive, easily maintained and in conformance with AODA criteria. The proposed walkways will be over 2Ms in width and meander along the corridor similar to the current layout.

Four options are being considered for the sidewalk design: exposed aggregate with a concrete base, a stone dust pathway that is lined with brick, paving stones or stamped concrete.

According to Vader, of these four options paving stones are the most expensive and also require ongoing maintenance to keep them in good condition.

The exposed aggregate with a concrete base would have exposed stones across the surface to provide variation and a slip resistant surface. The exposed aggregate and stamped concrete are of similar cost and are both relatively maintenance free.

Vader said, "Stone dust is the least expensive but requires the most ongoing maintenance in order to ensure AODA compliance and serviceability and it would be difficult to achieve appropriate winter maintenance as defined by the minimum

Cohesive elements are currently lacking on Main Street, a wide variety of walkway materials can be found including interlocking pavers, flagstone, concrete and stone dust. These provide uneven surfaces and vary in width from 1 to 4 Metres.

Following the video presentation, Bluewater CAO Laurie Spence Bannerman, who chaired the virtual meeting, provided an opportunity for Ron Koudys, a landscape architect from London, ON an opportunity to address viewers. Koudys will be working on the project's landscape design.

He noted he has experience with many downtown type projects and many people express concerns about preserving heritage and character just as the residents of Bayfield are.

“I am thrilled to be able to work with the team in developing the landscape architectural detailing for the project because Bayfield is such a beautiful town and unique in many, many ways. I think the existing vegetation has been clearly expressed as an important issue. I have read all of the comments from the community. I recognize the concern about a Disney-like approach and I think that would be entirely inappropriate here,” said Koudys. “There is a sense of intimacy that Bayfield expresses even though the face to face profile is much wider than most downtowns have. And this wonderful, unique character; rather than this continuous line of building facades, there are really a community of buildings expressing themselves in unique ways at the street. I think we can do some really neat things with the landscape addressing the particular character of each of those buildings and how they interact with people passing by on the street.

“I think the plan that has been presented has really been well considered but there still is the landscape component that has to be overlaid on this. It’s largely focused on engineering and that’s my role to come in and think about a lot of the things that the community has expressed and try to find the right solutions that are unique to Bayfield but really bring out the wonderful character and charm that we all recognize is there.”

Koudys later talked about some of his observations about the downtown, “there are a series of nodal experiences as you walk the pathways in front of the various stores, restaurants, inns and so on. And I think the landscape solutions should be complimentary to those activities, so rather than a row of trees down either side that reinforces the linear nature of the space, I’m suggesting we may rethink how the planting develops so that it emphasizes a sense of a series of rooms that you experience along the street and as you move from room to room along connecting pathways you experience landscapes that are complimentary to the buildings adjacent.

winter maintenance that Bluewater must adhere to.”

HYDRO SERVICING

With regards to hydro servicing, Engineer Dale Erb said, “During the original Main Street design phase input was sought from Hydro One on the cost to bury existing hydro lines along the corridor, install underground hydro services to all buildings and lighting standards due to the anticipated costs which were upwards of $600,000. It was originally decided to bury the hydro services on the south side of the corridor only. Council has now decided to revisit this issue and are asking input from residents as to whether hydro should remain above ground (burying only on the south side) or be installed underground along both sides of Main Street.”

Erb went on to say that a decision to go with full underground would delay the start of the project as the final design that would be needed from Hydro One would take six to eight months to complete.

“In addition, the project would need to source alternative funding strategies to assist paying the additional costs. There would be a reduced number of parking spaces and pad mounted electrical transformers would be required as well,” explained Erb.

LIGHTING

Erb noted that the current lighting fixtures along Main Street are very difficult to maintain and replace and do not meet current standards.

“Existing lights are mounted on hydro poles which if removed would mean a new style of light would be required,” said Erb.

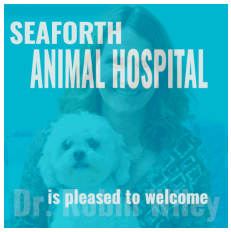
He went on to say that the municipality would like to replace the lights with a similar style of light that would provide a similar ambience for the downtown district but would be more energy efficient and more easily maintained.

Residents were asked for their input with regards to lighting. Their choices were to continue to use the existing lighting or source new lighting that resembles existing lighting in either a pedestal or lantern style.

As part of the Main Street design a tree health assessment was completed by Martin Quinn, from the Town of Goderich, in 2015. According to Vader, the report inventoried all of the trees along the corridor, evaluated their health and noted problem areas. Some trees were recommended for removal due to disease or poor condition. General recommendations were provided to diversify the tree canopy as part of the project if new trees were being planted. "The engineering design took existing trees into consideration when identifying the location of parking spaces, infiltration basins and other design features in order to minimize impacts as much as possible to the existing tree canopy," said Kelly Vader, Environmental planner with BM Ross.

"I am trying to encourage a breakaway from the highway linear feeling to something that is more nodal in its character and emphasize the relationship from side to side. The Bayfield downtown is really wide and yet people jump out into the street along the way as they see people over there that they know. They are going to the Black Dog for a drink so people don't go to the intersection and cross. There is this real sense of engagement there and the landscape that is being proposed I think compliments that character and I think the trees and the associated landscape features should do the same."

One reason for the project is the need to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005 (AODA). Municipalities were given to Jan. 1, 2016 to do so.



PIXILATED — IMAGE OF THE WEEK

Table Stack 2020..., *By Dianne Brandon*

Email your photo in Jpeg format to bayfield.breeze@villageofbayfield.com with the subject line Subscriber Photo of the Week. or...Upload your photo to Flickr.

I am looking for the Bayfield that is a delight to the eye – please share photos with a touch of whimsy, beauty, humor or a sense of fun. If you are to include people in your photos be sure to have their permission to publish their picture on-line and also send in their names and where they are from. And don't forget to tell me who took the photo for proper credit to be issued

test

SUBMISSIONS

This week, I turn my "bit at the bottom" over to Doug Yeo, an active member of the Bayfield Agricultural Society, for thoughts that he shared with me about two divergent occurences that happened at the Ag Park in the span of seven hours this past weekend. – Melody

Agricultural Park is an incredible place to walk through, play games with friends or sit and observe life for awhile.

While waiting for things to be set up for an event on Sunday, one of the organizers reported that she had been there for a period of time watching a group

with their dogs. Being a dog lover, she was following the antics of the various dogs as they were running around and playing with their owners. This observer was somewhat shocked that several owners were not cleaning up after their dogs. She commented whether she would want to walk in the park when people do not clean up the messes. The municipality does a wonderful job ensuring there are bags at all the entrances and it also has garbage cans in several locations on the grounds. It poses the question -is this how we want our village to be remembered?

Later in the afternoon when tables were being put away, three young men were playing basketball nearby on the cement pad. One came to see whether an item of his was found. In the conversation he wondered if they were allowed to play in the park and was seeking permission even though they had been doing it for many years when his friend who had a cottage nearby would bring them. He said they always had a great time in the park and appreciated that they could hang out and have some fun. Everything was cleaned up when they left and a vocal thank you was expressed.

Two observations on the same day. Let's make sure when we leave this park, which is in the centre of the village, the next person following can have the same positive experience.

Ideas and contributions to the Bayfield Breeze are always welcome.
Deadlines for submissions are Sundays at 4 p.m.

Please email me at bayfield.breeze@villageofbayfield.com or call 519-525-3830.

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