

‘Groundbreaking’ Bigs in Blue program a hit



Donation - The Arthur Lions presented a cheque for \$10,000 in memory of Harvey McConnell to the new Groves hospital campaign on Oct. 7. Arthur Lions Ralph Roelofsen and Phil Wilman presented the cheque, along with Carolyn Readyhough and Ruth Williams. Since 2003 the Lions have donated over \$39,000 to Groves hospital in Fergus. submitted photo

\$75 million in water, sewer upgrades needed

FROM PAGE ONE
grants, development charges, and revenue from rates.

He recommended continued discussions with developers to accelerate funding for the growth related capital projects.

In short, Scandlan said many parts of the infrastructure are at the end of their lifecycle, with parts of both the water and wastewater systems dating to the 1930s.

He explained the township’s existing water infrastructure is valued at \$114.39-million, while wastewater infrastructure is valued at \$125.41-million.

Scandlan said base charges are anticipated to increase 4% annually for the next decade, while volume rates are anticipated to increase by the same amount. Even so, Scandlan admitted this still leaves a sizable amount of growth-related debt until the latter part of the forecast period - “which may require specialized agreements with the development community to mitigate the impacts on wastewater rates.”

At the same time, recommended water base and volume rates would also be increasing by roughly 2.5% annually.

However, Scandlan said this translates from a water bill from \$480 to \$499 in the first year and roughly \$19 per year after that.

Scandlan said the combined water and sewage charge increase would be roughly \$2.50 each month - based on average residential use.

“We’ve got this down to a comfortable 4.5% increase

every year for the next 10 years,” said Scandlan.

He added any municipality dealing with its infrastructure is looking at a similar scenario.

Councillor Fred Morris expressed concern that earlier discussions led council to believe that future rate increases would be more modest.

“What has happened?” Morris asked.

Scandlan said some of the increase is related to aging infrastructure. He noted household consumption has actually dropped, which will lessen the impact of the rate increase.

“There are a number of factors leading us to a reduced level of consumption,” he said, but a lot of the costs are fixed even if use per resident may be going down.

Scandlan noted development charges only contribute to new growth projects - or changes required as a result of new growth.

As committee of the whole, councillors endorsed recommendations of the study, which included full water and wastewater costs, and the financial plan provided.

Councillor Morris suggested the communications officer prepare a pamphlet advising residents on how to reduce water consumption.

“Perhaps a communication piece would help our residents understand how to reduce their consumption,” he said.

CAO Andy Goldie noted there is information already available on the township website.

Minto supports CIP plans

FROM PAGE ONE
its CIP. The benefit would allow the town to forego additional property tax generated from higher assessment after a downtown building is rejuvenated. With the proposed amendment the county can now participate in this benefit.

White used the example of a downtown building paying \$3,000 in property tax, of which \$1,000 goes to Minto, \$1,000 goes to the county and \$1,000 goes to the province.

If that downtown building was rejuvenated so that its market value increased to where \$4,200 in property tax was payable, both the town and county share (\$800) of that increase can be phased in over time. That means instead of taxes going from \$3,000 to \$4,200 immediately after a renovation, tax increases are phased in over a 10-year period.

White noted it would be ideal if 100% of the property tax increase could be phased in. However, for this to hap-

pen a feasibility study would be required, which White suggested may have discouraged municipalities from approaching the province about participating.

Now that the upper tier is involved, White suggested, “perhaps the county could prepare a feasibility study and initiate the process on behalf of all local municipalities.”

Council accepted the report and indicated support for the county’s CIP amendments, provided they maintain flexibility as to boundaries of planning areas and incentives offered in local CIPs.

The proposed county amendment also adds brown-field remediation, improving energy efficiency of buildings and providing affordable housing to the matters which can be considered when identifying CIP areas.

The county is holding a public meeting on the proposal on Dec. 3 at 7pm at Wellington Place in Aboyne.

FROM PAGE ONE
they play games, do crafts, make food, and “his whole little world right then and there centred around him.”

She added, “Thankfully he really likes me as much as I really like him”

Bloor explained there were concerns at first about the potential negative stigma attached to police officers visiting with one child.

“One of the principals said, and it was a concern of ours as well, when the officers first went into the schools, we were a little bit worried that other kids will see the officers coming in and dealing with the child as being a negative,” said Bloor.

“We were a little bit worried about the stigma, but in fact, not only have the kids taken it in stride, there’s actually a waiting list of kids who would like to be matched with officers for the next term.”

So far, the pilot program is doing well, and Bloor said she hopes to expand it if it continues, noting there is also a waiting list of officers wanting to join.

“This is groundbreaking,” said Bloor.

“A far as we’re aware, Wellington County OPP are the first police service in



Big in Blue - Centre Wellington’s Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs in Blue program connects five OPP police officers including Cst. Bob Bortolato, above, with six school children for one hour a week. It is the first of its kind in Canada. photo by Olivia Rutt

Canada that have signed up for a program like this. It’s precedent setting.

“I think it’s fantastic,” she added.

For both Bloor and Krpan, the best part of the program is building relationships between

the children and the officers in the community.

“It’s nice to see kids trust police,” said Bloor.

“[Krpan] now knows that her ‘little’ will always be able to call her, even when the match is done.”

The program runs for 16 weeks during the year, but BBBS is always looking for volunteers.

For more information about BBBS Centre Wellington visit www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/centrewellington.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF WELLINGTON NORTH POWER INC.

Wellington North Power Inc. has applied to raise its electricity distribution rates.

Learn more. Have your say.

Wellington North Power Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to increase the amount it charges by \$2.50 each month for the typical residential customer beginning on May 1, 2016. Other customers, including businesses, may be affected as well.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider Wellington North Power’s request. We will question the company on its case for a rate increase. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent Wellington North Power customers. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide what, if any, increase will be allowed.

Distributors such as Wellington North Power typically apply for a full review of their rates every five years. Any rate changes for the years in between are made by applying a formula that is tied to inflation and other factors intended to promote efficiency. You may not get notice of future rate changes made by applying the formula.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review Wellington North Power’s application on the OEB’s website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **December 7, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB’s decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

These proposed charges relate to Wellington North Power’s distribution services. They make up part of the Delivery line – one of the five line items on your bill. Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0110**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0110** from the list on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. Wellington North Power has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **December 7, 2015**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter or the documents you file with the OEB will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 78 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).

