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Covering the East Kawarthas

SEL seeks legal opinion on police board changes

BY SIMON CONOLLY

Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield council will seek legal advice from an expert on the Ontario Police Services Act before considering a City of Peterborough request that the township give up its one seat on the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Services board.

Council Tuesday evening unanimously approved a recommendation to that effect from CAO

Janice Lavalley.

City council is locked in an ongoing dispute with Police Chief Murray Rodd over his department's proposed 2012 budget.

The idea that SEL give up its board seat arose out of that dispute.

In Ms. Lavalley's opinion, as expressed in her report, "The request of the City to eliminate representation from the Township on the Police Services Board represents

a fundamental change to the amalgamation agreement. It not only changes the function of the agreement with respect to Board representation, but also impacts the spirit of the agreement which amalgamated the police services. As noted above, the agreement was prepared to ensure compliance with a number of legislative requirements in the Police Services Act."

Please turn to page 3

Enjoy the final PolarFest weekend

BY JAMIE STEEL

The final weekend of PolarFest is fast approaching and bringing with it a variety of activities for people of all ages.

Events and attractions for Saturday include public skating, ice sculptures, a snowmobile show, snowball tournament and a family drop-in with crafts, hot chocolate and story time.

There is also an artisan market, hot air balloon rides (weather

permitting), snowshoe demonstrations, a lake curling bonspiel, a speed skating challenge, sledge hockey and the Polar Paddle throughout the day.

Sunday, the final day of PolarFest 2012, offers ice sculpture exhibits, public skating, an antique snowmobile show, more hot air balloon rides (weather permitting) and of course the Polar Plunge.

After some near treacherous weather opening weekend, causing the

cancellation of the January 27 events, PolarFest is well underway and the public is encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible on this the final weekend.

For a full schedule of events visit www.polarfest.ca. For information about the 32nd annual Polar Plunge visit www.belrotary.com or call Tony Davidson at 705-753-4244.



Terry McQuitty

Mike Walling of the Ice People stood beside his sea horse ice sculpture at Chemong Lodge on Saturday morning. The carving was on display during the Fire and Ice PolarFest event which took place at the Lodge on Saturday evening. Ice carvings will be on display throughout PolarFest which will wrap up on Sunday afternoon.



Back row: Bob Taylor, Andrea Bell, Glen Martin (of the Bob Taylor Band) and in front: Wendy McDougall, Shelley Bucknell and Karli-Jo Coppaway-Redmond take a break from celebrating the benefit's success for a photo.

Cara Frost benefit raises over \$8,000

BY JAMIE STEEL

Less than an hour after the Caring for Cara benefit began, the Montreal House was at capacity. People were lining up to help Cara Frost.

The journey, Cara says, from the day she and her boyfriend suffered burns in a grease fire to now, has been nothing short of amazing.

"It went from a nightmare to something positive," she says, just days

after the benefit was held.

"It's just been amazing, you know, the out-pour of love and support."

The benefit, started by a group of women in Lakefield, some who knew Cara and some who didn't, brought in more than \$8,000 for Cara, adding to the more than \$3,000 that had been donated before hand.

Along with monetary donations and contributions, businesses across the area generously do-

nated prizes to be raffled off at the benefit.

But for Cara, as much as this money will help in the coming months, it's the support she and her family have received that has made the difference.

"From people who have donated things to people who have prayed for me... It's been amazing."

Now in St. John's Rehabilitation Centre, Cara is recovering from serious full body burns. After all

she's been through, however, Cara says she's an ordinary person, drawing on the support, prayers and love of those around her.

"My family is close and we've always been close," she says, so she wasn't necessarily surprised by their support, but the community of Lakefield and beyond has left her in awe at the loving spirit people have shown her.

Please turn to page 2

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