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What a donkey!

A member of the CJET-CKUE No-Stars gets his ass in gear as a player from Orton's Belles has a good chuckle at the hapless donkey-driver. The laughter was part of a donkey baseball game which took place at the Maberly fairgrounds last Sunday and

attracted over 1,000 spectators. Hilarity was the name of the game and the combined OPP-CJET team managed a 6-6 tie against the Belles. Photo by Forster

Hope Europeans will fill gap left by Americans

An on-going change in trends by Ontarians and other tourists has resulted in a real boon for Perth and other municipalities which rely on tourism for their survival.

And while the nature of tourism in the area has changed in the past decade, the flow of tourist traffic into the region has increased steadily.

"Ten years ago, U.S. visitors made up roughly 20 per cent of the tourists coming to Perth," said Perth Chamber of Commerce tourism co-chairman Peter Code.

"The number of Americans are down slightly this year, but the number of Europeans, especially those from France, are up from the 11 per cent of the total they represented in 1979," he added.

And the reason for the surge of European tourists?

It's a matter of economics, says Code.

"They can't afford not to

come here...Canada's got to be the best tourism purchase in the world because of the value of the Canadian dollar compared to European currency.

"One of the things that attracts them is our open spaces. It's something that's almost impossible for Canadians to comprehend," he added.

And though the number of visitors seeking information at the Big Cheese, on Highway 7, has decreased about 10 per cent from last year, Code remains confident Europeans and other tourists passing through will stay longer and longer each time.

"A lot of the people visiting Perth and the area are repeat tourists, but just as many are newcomers," says Code, who adds a potential tourist market is closer at hand than people think.

"The day-trip market from centres like Ottawa and Kingston is up—they're discovering

the area around them instead of taking holidays abroad or to other areas of Canada."

Many tourists are flocking to Perth because of the facilities here and because the town is on the main flow of traffic travelling the Ottawa/Montreal/Toronto route.

Part of the reason behind the increase in tourists, says Code, is a television advertising campaign conducted last fall and this past spring.

The message the ad blitz contained was loud and clear: Perth has a lot of attractive features to offer, especially the town's "specialty" shops, which continue to act as a drawing card.

The town, being in the centre of a large number of private and provincial campgrounds, continues to attract an increasing number of campers, Code added.

One of his pet peeves, however, is the amount of revenue

the town is losing through lost boat traffic, unable to visit here because of the inadequate number of docking spaces available.

In 1979, says Code, 180 large boats were turned back at the Beveridge Locks. At an estimated daily expenditure of \$100 per boat, lost revenue to area businesses was about \$180,000 last year alone.

The solution, he adds, is to construct a "proper" bypass linking Highways 7 and 43; elevate the Craig Street bridge; and swing the Beckwith and Drummond Street bridges.

Those suggestions do not appear to be in the offing in the immediate future and the town will continue to lose revenue through this channel, says Code.

And how is business in general?

"I don't hear people saying it's up, although I'm getting a mixed reaction when I've asked if they (the business community) have been affected by not having a large food store here," said Perth Chamber of Commerce president Jim Bond.

Bank needs space

Sale of parking lot threatens core area

By Richard Landis

The shortage of parking spaces available in Perth's downtown core could be aggravated if plans go ahead to sell a portion of the Herriott Street parking lot to a major local bank.

That's the message from Mayor Bill Warren, who met July 15 with lot co-owner Jack Finnegan and Royal Bank manager George Callan.

The meeting, set up by the town, was called "to acquaint the bank with the need for the lot and to offer the bank an alternate site in the core," said Warren on Tuesday.

"We wanted to point out the town needed the lot pretty badly," he added.

Hugh Wilson, who owns the lot along with Finnegan, later informed the town the option taken out on the property by the bank had been extended to August 30 from the end of July, said Warren.

The request to extend the option was made by the town. Council is now awaiting tentative plans for the core project from three outside developers, who must submit their proposals by August 20.

"We're really up-in-the-air until we hear what they (the developers) have to say," Warren said.

Until their proposals are known, it will be difficult to determine what affect the loss of 41 parking spaces in the lot will have on the core project.

"All the way (while plans for the core project have been in the works), one of the things we've been looking at is existing parking in the Herriott Street Lot," said town planner Steve Fournier, who added:

"The town has already told the planners not to worry and that parking would be available. We'd have to move quickly on alternate sites if it (the Herriott Street lot) wasn't available."

"Parking is a critical feature of this project and the Finnegan lot is an ideal parking lot—it's visible and well-known."

Should the lot be sold, "the whole logistics (of the core project) will have to be examined,

although it doesn't change the concept or idea" behind the project, he said.

And while "the town will have to re-adjust its thinking," the loss of the lot "probably wouldn't hold up the project in the long run," Fournier added.

Nevertheless, town fathers are hopeful "it doesn't hold things up," said Warren.

"We certainly didn't get first crack at the property...it's very important the town has the lot if we can get it," he added.

And if the lot is sold, where does that leave the town?

"It doesn't leave the town in a very good position."

"The possibility of expropriation has been suggested, but that's something I'd like to stay away from. It's a hell of a thing and it ties things up," said Warren.

"The bank," he added,

"might be persuaded to put their new building right in the core instead."

At press time, the town had still not received word from the Royal Bank on the possibility of an alternate site.

"At this stage of the game, there are too many things that could stand in the way" of the deal, said Royal Bank manager Callan, who would only say the bank "has taken out an option on a parcel of land somewhere" in town.

"We do have something on the go, but we don't want to release any information at the moment because there are a few things up in the air," was Callan's comment when asked when the bank had taken out an option on the Herriott Street property.

"I just want to respect the

vendor's wishes," he added. When asked about the possible sale of the parking lot to the Royal Bank, Finnegan told the Courier:

"At the present time, it's too soon to say anything."

When pressed for details about the transaction, Finnegan added: "There's really no information on it."

The possible sale of the Herriott Street parking lot would end a 14-year relationship between its owners and the town.

The property has been used for public parking since 1966, when a five-year lease was signed providing a 50/50 split of meter revenue between the municipality and the lot's owners.

That lease was not renewed, leaving the owners of the property free to sell the land if and when they chose.

Claim water's bacteria count is like a yo-yo

There has been little change in the water quality at Balderson wells which were contaminated by waste from the Balderson Cheese factory last spring.

Some residents have gone without clean water for up to three months.

"It's like a yo-yo," commented one resident, "in some cases the bacteria content has gone down and in others it's gone up."

A Ministry of the Environment report released three weeks ago indicated the wells were polluted by "waste dairy products, whey, and/or wash-water from Balderson Cheese."

One irate Balderson resident who did not wish to be identified told the Courier this week that the factory was discharging waste and sewage as far back as 1978.

"The manager and the president of the factory had been

notified of waste and sewage being discharged into an open drain periodically since 1978," said the resident.

"If these problems had been righted then, we might not have had the problems the people are facing now."

At a public meeting over one month ago the matter of the open drain was brought up and discussed briefly by factory president Yves Leroux and the residents.

However, the Ministry of the Environment report makes no mention of an open drain, but says the problems stem from a leak in a storage tank; failure of a septic tile field and a break within a drain within the plant.

These three factors, says the ministry report, were responsible for the contamination of seven wells in the village.

Bacterial analysis of the water from the wells has indicated the presence of total coli-

form, fecal coliform, fecal streptococci and E coli bacteria.

Residents first became aware that something was wrong with the water last May, when tap water gave off a foul-smelling odour and was discoloured.

Since that time affected residents have had to depend on unaffected neighbours and nearby residents for supplies of drinking and wash water.

The residents were also told that there is little that can be done to alleviate the problem.

While no lawsuit has been filed by the residents against the company, the residents have

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Fisheries assessment begins in Rideau area

The Rideau Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit will begin work this summer collecting data on fish populations in the Rideau Lakes area.

The unit is one of 28 planned for Ontario and will also collect information on the people who use the fisheries resources.

Part of the job of the unit will be to provide the information gathered to the fisheries managers in the Ministry of Natural Resources district offices. The data is needed to improve the effectiveness of fisheries management in the province.

The assessment units are part of the new Strategic Plan for Ontario Fisheries which provides direction for fish management in the province.

Rideau Lakes Assessment Unit will be collecting information on the following lakes: Charleston, Opinicon, Big Rideau, Upper Rideau, Loon and Long (at Murphy's Point), Devil, Big Clear, Big Salmon, Sydenham and Mica.

The unit will be collecting information about the species of fish inhabiting the lakes, ages and growth rates, length to weight ratios and how these change under the influence of man induced stresses.

Some of these stresses include habitat alterations such as shoreline alterations and water level fluctuations; nutrient input from fertilizers and organic wastes; acidification; overfishing and the introduction of new species into the fish community.

In most cases the unit will be using impoundment gear and releasing fish live after recording findings.

Glen Tay block race set for tomorrow

The annual Glen Tay Block Race gets underway this Thursday with runners from across Eastern Ontario competing in the 9.6 mile event.

Organizers expect the number of entries in the race to equal that of last year, but won't know the exact number until the day of the race.

The first block race was held here in 1907, but was discontinued for a number of years.

It began again in the mid-sixties and this year is the 14th

The unit will also be gathering information on the total fishing pressure in a year on a lake and where the fishermen come from, where they stay and what type of bait they use.

Once all 28 assessment units are operating findings will assist fisheries managers in making moves to maintain and perhaps rehabilitate the fishery in a given lake.

version of the modern Glen Tay Block Race. Last year the winner was Rob Livingstone, of Ottawa, with local favourite Doug Scorrar taking second place.

Organizers are requesting that area motorists show the runners proper courtesy during the race and keep out of the way of the competitors.

Registration on the day of the race begins at 4 p.m. at the starting point on Gore Street near the Perth Museum and the starter's gun sounds at 6 p.m.



Crumpled metal, broken glass and smashed engines are just some of the things Perthites like to see, if the success of Monday's demolition derby is any indication. More than 1,000 spectators jammed the Fairground for the hour-long "show,"

during which part of the crowd narrowly escaped being struck after one of the entrants crashed over a log barrier and through a fence separating the fans from the cars. Photo by Landis

Fleur-de-lis is causing controversy

A fleur-de-lis on the proposed new coat-of-arms for Perth may cause some controversy over its adoption.

Deputy-Reeve George Ashley said the coat-of-arms has been distributed to members of Town Council for their opinion and consideration.

The insertion of the fleur-de-lis may be "a little controversial," said Deputy-Reeve Ashley.

He said he hopes members of council will be able to discuss the adoption of the coat-of-arms at length and added that "some like it, while others don't."

The Courier was unable to get a copy of the proposed coat-of-arms by press time.

It is, however, a shield with three ramparts at the top. In the centre is a sheaf of wheat and there is also a lamb with a halo carrying a banner with a maple leaf in the centre of the banner.

And, of course, there is the controversial fleur-de-lis.

With the exception of the maple leaf, the coat-of-arms is similar to that of Perth, Scotland.

The suggestion that Perth adopt a new coat-of-arms came from Judge John Matheson, who also assisted the county in preparing a new coat-of-arms.

Members of County Council will also be taking a look at a proposed new coat-of-arms, probably at the next regular council meeting.