

Fire chief Hoover inspects new pumper truck

By Nate Smelle

The following are series of brief reports from the meeting of Hastings Highlands Council on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

After careful consideration fire chief Pat Hoover approached Council for their approval of the purchase of a new fire pumper for the Monteagle station. The fire service decided to go with the proposal by the company Dependable Emergency Vehicles (a division of Dependable Truck and Tank Ltd.) out of Brampton to supply the vehicle at a cost of \$240,012.

The decision was not an easy one for Hoover and his team who had to evaluate 20 submissions from six different companies looking to supply the new pumper. Before arriving at their final decision they had to consider the overall length, height, body style and pumper size of the vehicle, along with its delivery timeline and overall price. On Feb. 6 Hoover visited the production plant where the new pumper is located to review the completed unit.

Library shines at OLA Superconference

Hastings Highlands Public Library's CEO, Kimberly McMunn, and assistant librarian Kristin Seaborn presentation at the Ontario Library Association's (OLA) Superconference entitled, *Patron turnout without staff burnout? embracing community led libraries* turned out to be one of the largest attended sessions at the conference in its sector this year. McMunn said the presentation was very well received in that she has since had a number of follow-up inquiries. McMunn and Seaborn who recently completed her certificate in advancing public library leadership were also notably featured in the OLA's HOOPLA newsletter. The library was also shortlisted for the Angus Mowat Award for Excellence, but did not win.

Failing septic systems threaten lakes

Continuing the discussion around protecting water quality and Lake ecosystems in Hastings Highlands Councillor Nancy Matheson put forth a motion that Council direct staff to bring back a report on the cost and effectiveness of the re-inspection of old septic systems and ineffective or non-existent beds on the municipalities water systems.

Recognizing that many old barrels and beds leaching into the municipality's water systems that have never been upgraded to meet current standards; and that phosphorus is one of the main causes of contamination to Lake ecosystems, Matheson said this is the only viable solution.

She also suggested that council contact local Lake Association's, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to inquire about their water sampling procedures, and to obtain copies of any existing statistics.

Hastings County launches campaign to attract people

In hopes of attracting what they call 'Lone Eagle's,' Hastings County recently launched its 'I left the city?' campaign. Lone Eagles are people and entrepreneurs living in cities such as Ottawa or Toronto who have businesses, jobs or skills that can reasonably transfer to a rural small-town setting.

The highlight of the campaign is professionally produced 41 second long commercial that features 'one-liners' from five local Lone

Eagles describing the reason why they left the city to do business in Hastings County.

The video is to appear on YouTube and will encourage viewers to visit www.ileftthecity.ca, where they can find more information regarding why these lone Eagles believe Hastings County is a great place to move from the city.

The new economic development action plan approved by County Counsel highlights a goal of attracting new entrepreneurs and investment by way of marketing to Lone Eagles, said Hastings County Warden Rick Phillips. With this in mind, the 'I left the city' campaign is intended to catch the attention of city dwellers and entice them to learn more about our County and hopefully make the decision to relocate here.

For more information regarding opportunities in Hastings County visit www.hastingscounty.com.