

Wilberforce food bank finds new temporary location

By Angelica Blenich

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Sept. 16 meeting of Highlands East council.

The former Wilberforce library will have a temporary new resident in the form of the food bank in the next few weeks.

A delegation made by John Teljeur and Ken Mott on behalf of the food bank requested permission to move the organization to the former library facility, owned by the municipality, which has been empty since a new library was opened this past June.

The food bank is currently in the basement of a local business, which Teljeur said is not the most convenient for its users. The pair has applied for funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, to build a new food centre at the Lloyd Watson Centre (see more on page 1), but is looking for a temporary solution in the meantime.

Councillor Joan Barton brought up that the building was not accessible, which could present an obstacle for some users. "Our current location isn't either? we'll have to work around that," said Teljeur. The food bank is not paying any rent for the space they currently have, said Teljeur.

"If you can match that, great," he said.

Hours for the food bank are Wednesday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., said Mott, which would remain the same in the new location. While the food would be located at the former library 24/7, staff wouldn't be there the same amount of time. Councillors agreed that details over rent and utility payment would be stipulated in a contract between the food bank and the municipality.

A resolution was unanimously passed to draw up a one-year contract for use of the library, pursuant to contract terms. The former library is at 2307 Loop Rd. in Wilberforce.

LWC/municipal office

to be upgraded

The municipality is going to issue a request for proposals for some infrastructure upgrades to the Lloyd Watson Centre and municipal office in Wilberforce.

Following a presentation made by Tyler Peters of Evergreen Energy, councillors were provided with heating options for the building, as well as information regarding capital costs and expected lifespan for each option.

Areas of the building are experiencing fatigue, including roof leaks, said Peters. "We know that the roof needs to be replaced," he said.

Councillors authorized staff to prepare an RFP to upgrade the electrical heating. Further work will be looked at in the future.

Heating the Cardiff pool

Chilly swims may become a thing of the past at the Cardiff swimming pool in the next few years. Councillors discussed applying for a grant to conduct a feasibility study on what heating options are available to the municipality for the pool.

"I figure that if the options and pricing is laid out we can then figure out what option is best and how to fund it," Councillor Steve Kauffeldt told the paper in an email.

Closed for the season, the Cardiff pool is open during the months of July and August and offers swimming lessons, aquafit classes and leisure activities. Attendance at the facility has been declining over the years and councillors have had discussions over its future in the past few months. The pool costs Highlands East about \$30,000 a year to operate. A resolution was passed authorizing an application for a feasibility study through the Green Municipal Fund, to investigate heating options.