

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley
Notes from the Feb. 25
Council meeting

Special events bylaw receives rough ride: A draft of a proposed special events bylaw was not well received by members of Uxbridge council at a special council meeting last Wednesday.

In a preamble to council's discussion, Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor noted the bylaw was drawn up by staff in response to questions from councillors and pointed out the draft was "a working document". Nevertheless, the mayor said she couldn't see the bylaw being passed in its present state. She said the bylaw, whatever its final shape, will not come into effect until January 2014.

Chief Administrative Officer Ingrid Svelnis added that the draft is a collection of ideas and everything in it is up for discussion.

"From these discussions, we'll get to where we want to be," she said.

Clerk Debbie Leroux agreed the draft "certainly needs work".

Councillors agreed as they attacked various sections of the draft, with Councillor Pat Molloy suggesting it should be tabled to enable councillors to make submissions to the clerk. However, the mayor asked

council to go over the draft section by section.

Councillor Pat Mikuse noted that three of the five major events held annually in Elgin Park - the Fall Fair, the Highland Games, Art in the Part, RibFest and Everything Equine - have lease agreements with the township.

"These lease agreements have worked well," she said. "I think we can work with these without putting them in the bylaw."

Councillor Bev Northeast agreed with Ms. Mikuse and her motion to remove the section including the five events in the bylaw was carried.

After Councillor Jacob Mantle opined that there should be different rules for events held on private property, as opposed to those held on municipal property, councillors agreed that the bylaw would only be aimed at private property events.

Ms. Northeast then questioned a section which would limit special events on any specific private property to one a year. She said that would impact a number of events held at WoodNewton, where about three are held each year. She said there is no municipal property that could be used for the type of events held at WoodNewton and limiting them to one a year could affect the number of visitors to Uxbridge.

Ms. Mikuse agreed, saying a decision should be made on each appli-

cation council receives rather than limiting the number.

But Ms. Leroux asked how they would determine how many events on a specific property are too many. "What's the threshold?" she asked.

Ms. Mikuse also had concerns about the proposed bylaw's requirement of police checks for all people working special events.

"This is awful and should be removed," she said. "This whole community has been built by volunteers and some are on more than one committee. We'll see a lot of people walk away (if police checks are required)."

She moved that the section be removed but received no support.

The proposed bylaw will go back to staff for reworking and will come back to council sometime before the end of April

Contract negotiations coming: CAO Ingrid Svelnis said contract negotiations will be commencing soon with Local 53 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). In a report to council, she recommended the Township's bargaining unit consist of herself, Public Works director Ben Kester and Councillors Molloy and Northeast.

Only Uxbridge's public works employees are covered in the CUPE contract.

Bruins take big lead in close series

by Roger Varley

It went into double overtime at the arena on Tuesday night before the Uxbridge Bruins managed to pull off a 3-2 win over the Port Perry MoJacks, giving them a three-game lead in their best-of-seven OHA Jr. C Central Division semi-final playoff series.

Korey Brand scored the game-winning goal, assisted by Marco Mastrangelo, just a minute after goalie Brandon Francey had turned away a MoJacks penalty shot by Matt Paul, awarded after the referee ruled the Bruins had deliberately knocked the net off the posts during a Port Perry attack.

The win was not an easy one for the Bruins as the MoJacks continued to press all through the game, forcing the Bruins defensive squad into a considerable number of mistakes, misplays and errant passes.

The MoJacks took the lead in the game halfway through the first period with Dylan Ross serving time in the penalty box for tripping. However, defenceman Justin Bean evened the score for the Bruins with an unassisted goal from a near impossible angle with just three minutes left in the period.

Jarrett Smith put the Bruins ahead late in the second period with a power-play goal, assisted by Patrick Morgan and Bean. Smith was standing dead centre in the MoJacks' zone when he one-timed a pass from Morgan.

Port Perry sent the game into overtime when they scored their second goal midway through the third, taking advantage of a Bruins defenceman being way out of position on the play.

The defensive problems first showed in the second half of the second game, played in Port Perry on Sunday, which also went into overtime. Although the Bruins won the game 4-3, the MoJacks outplayed them in the second half.

Matt Allen put the Bruins ahead with the only goal of the first period. In the second,

Port Perry came close to tying the game during a power play, ringing the puck off the posts a couple of times. But Joey Vocino put the Bruins ahead 2-0 at the 15-minute mark on a beautiful to-man passing play with Jarrett Smith.

The MoJacks scored their first goal directly from face-off with just over a minute remaining in the period. The teams traded goal in the third, with Morgan scoring for Uxbridge. Five minutes into overtime, Douitsis scored the game-winner, assisted by Morgan.

The series began last Friday at the arena when the Bruins dominated the MoJacks all through the game, coming out with a 4-1 win. The Bruins scored three goals in the first period, two of them on the power play, as the MoJacks were in complete disarray. The goals were credited to Bean, Wyatt Trainer and Cairns. In the scoreless second period, the MoJacks showed more offence, but Francey was sharp in the net for the Bruins. Vocino made it 4-0 for Uxbridge early in the third period, also on the power play, assisted by Lynch and Douitsis. The MoJacks finally spoiled Francey's shut-out bid at the seven-minute mark with a power-play goal.

The two teams were scheduled to meet again last night. If Port Perry won, the teams will play at the arena again tomorrow night at 7:45 p.m. If the Bruins won, Uxbridge will likely begin its best-of-seven final series against the Lakefield Chiefs early next week. Lakefield completely crushed the Clarington Eagles in their semi-final series, sweeping the Eagles in four games and allowing only one goal while scoring a total of 16.

Bear pause: Before the start of Friday's game, the Bruins were awarded trophies for best goaltending in the league during the regular season and for winning the league title with their first-place finish.

And, in keeping with a long-standing Bruins playoff tradition, most of the team members are now sporting blonde hair.

Designed Lifestyles with Susan Fedorka

Calendar of Events

How is that emergency kit doing and that resolution to start taking better care of your house? Were you one of the hundreds of people calling the furnace repair people during the recent cold snap?

We have been lulled into a false sense of warmth with the recent winter weather that we have been having. The reports on the television indicated that some of the furnace problems could have been solved with basic maintenance such as replacing filters.

There have been numerous house fires in the past couple of weeks - were they started by space heaters placed too close to flammable items? Were they the result of unsafe extension cords? On extremely cold days, some homes may have cold spots and a space heater may be the perfect solution, but a space heater should never be left unattended for long periods of time and it should be positioned well away from furniture, drapes, bedding or any other items that might be flammable.

The year is still young, so why not sit down with a paper calendar and put important "house dates" on it? Then hang it somewhere where you will actually see it. Included on this calendar should be yearly furnace check ups and cleanings, chimney cleaning and a check of the hot water tank to make sure it isn't leaking or showing signs of wear. We know to change the batteries in our smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors when we change the clocks, so why not make other, equally important home maintenance items, a routine?

Do you have enough salt/sand to get

you through until the Spring? With the up and down temperatures that we have been having, ice and slippery conditions have been as much of a problem as snow has been. Are you regularly keeping your walkways cleared and sanded?

A recent television commercial by a lawyer advised people that they could claim damages for slip and fall accidents on private property. Do you need the hassle that will ensue if you decide to skip clearing your walkway and someone falls? Would it not be better to be known as the person who always clears their walkways and keeps them in good condition?

Insurance companies are not in the business of freely handing out money. Be prepared and be consistent.

Other maintenance items you might want to put on your calendar include getting your air conditioner looked at before the heat of summer, your lawn mower tuned up, maybe you need to purchase some new gas containers as well. Even if you don't want to commit these items to a calendar, at least make a list of things that should be done and post it somewhere that you will see it on a daily basis.

Finally, make sure you keep all your receipts for work done on your home. A strong box is a good investment. In the event that you do have a fire, or some sort of damage to your home, your insurance company will want proof that you have maintained your home in good condition. Being prepared should help you and your family get through the crisis more quickly and hopefully, with less stress.

Letters to the Editor

In response to Earle Lockerby's letter regarding the butchering of "Leaskdale" (Feb. 21), he should do well to stay away from the Uxbridge Township website ward maps. During the last municipal election, I discreetly pointed out to the clerk's department that Leaskdale was spelled incorrectly. Mr. Lockerby's letter prompted me to check the maps again and the name remains as it was. Perhaps this public recognition of the misspelling of Leaskdale will prompt the Township to finally correct the ward maps. (Cc...info@town.uxbridge.on.ca)

Mary Dube
Zephyr

On Saturday, February 23rd Rotary International celebrated its 108th birthday. On that day, Minister of International Cooperation, Julian Fantino, announced the lifting of a funding cap and announced that Canada will match all contributions to the 'Pennies and More for Polio' matching fund initiative. With additional matching by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this means that close

to \$5 million has been added to the global fight against polio by Canadian Rotarians and their friends.

At its executive meeting on February 25th, our local club unanimously approved the following motion. 'The Rotary Club of Uxbridge extends its thanks to Durham Member of Parliament, Erin O'Toole, for his role in removing the upper limit for Government of Canada matching of donations to Rotary International's campaign to End Polio Now.'

The campaign, which began in 1985, has reduced the number of endemic countries from 125 to 3 and the number of annually reported cases from 350,000 to 200. It is projected that 2015 will be the first

polio free year making the disease only the second in history to be eradicated from the face of the earth.

Chuck Taylor
Rotary Foundation Chair
Rotary Club of Uxbridge

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