

The JournalCOMMUNITY

Leeds-Grenville Safe Communities Coalition sounds alarm on protecting the deaf

By ERIN CHRISTIE

For those who are deaf or hard of hearing the ongoing pursuit of Bill 148, the Visual Fire Alarm Systems Act, is literally an issue of life or death. The private members bill, introduced in February 2009 by former Pickering-Scarborough MPP Wayne Arthurs aims to require that all new provincial and municipal public buildings be equipped with visual fire alarm systems. While Arthurs' bill is a good start, officials from the local chapter of the Canadian Hearing Society say that it is not enough. Currently the lack of legislation allows landlords to install nothing more than an audible smoke alarm. Those residents who are hearing impaired and require assistive devices such as flashing lights and a bed-

shaker are encouraged to seek out the equipment, which ranges from \$100 to \$1,500 in price, and purchase it for themselves. The frustration within the deaf/hard-of-hearing community was brought to the attention of Brockville's Chief Fire Prevention Officer, Randy Burke, last winter after he received a number of complaints from people across Leeds and Grenville. Burke and the CHS have since joined forces with the Leeds and Grenville Safe Communities Coalition in an attempt to mitigate the problem locally and raise the issue provincially.

The first steps were made toward this effort last Thursday afternoon at a news conference held by the SCC in Brockville, where the Coalition announced the launch of a voluntary registration

form for the deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. The form, explained CHS regional program manager Anna Strati-Morrison through interpreter Kym Watson, will allow fire dispatchers to be aware if a deaf person lives at a home where a fire is reported.

Strati-Morrison continued that the local effort is the first-ever presented to the hearing society and she is encouraged by the co-operation of the partners involved and the initial positive reaction from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

"The work taking place with this initiative is unprecedented," said SCC co-chair, David Dargie, adding that the initiative has generated interest from the Canadian office of the Safe Communities Coalition and that according to former Brockville



Brockville Safe Communities Coalition co-chairmen Police Inspector Scott Fraser, left, and David Dargie, right, display some assistive devices for the deaf and hard-of-hearing with Canadian Hearing Society regional program manager Anna Strati-Morrison.

PHOTO BY ERIN CHRISTIE

Police Chief Barry King, who is a consultant with the CSCC, it was the first time the issue had been raised with that body.

"This is a tool to assist both people with hearing loss and emergency services; however, it is just that, a tool," noted SCC

co-chair Inspector Scott Fraser.

"Much more needs to be done on a federal and provincial level."

First Presbyterian Church welcomes The Brockville Concert Band this Saturday

In Saturday, Nov. 12th, at 7:00 p.m. the Brockville Concert Band will take to the stage of the First Presbyterian Church in Brockville as part of the Church's Bicentennial Celebrations, "200 years of Praise." This band plays proudly, but not too loudly, a technique nurtured by the ensemble's director Lance Besharah. The concert band arises from a long tradition of community and military bands in Brockville.

Music students from the area high schools often join them to expand their performing opportunities and scholarships are awarded annually to members who are continuing on to post-secondary education.

A free will offering will go toward supporting their Scholarship Fund.

First Presbyterian is located at 10 Church Street at William Street in Brockville. For more information call 613.345.5014

Only six more weeks until Santa arrives

Annual parade is next Friday

The 57-year tradition lives on in Prescott.

Light Up the Night, the town's Santa Claus parade, is set for next Friday, Nov. 18. The Prescott Fire Department presents the annual event; the nighttime version of the parade is now in its 13th year.

The parade will form

in the main parking lot at South Grenville District High School and head south on Edward Street at 7 pm. Dozens of floats, marching bands and other entries will make their way down Edward and west on King Street to mark the unofficial start of the Christmas season locally.

Community groups and businesses are en-

couraged to enter the parade. Firefighters are also seeking contributions to cover expenses associated with staging the event. Cheques can be made payable to the Prescott Fire Department, Light Up the Night; donations can be mailed to Box 2581, Prescott, ON

KOE 1T0 or be given to firefighters.

Light Up the Night will be preceded by the annual Spaghetti Dinner at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 97.

See next week's Journal for more details of Prescott's 58th annual Santa Claus parade.

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Renewable Energy Approval – Notice Pursuant to s. 15.2 of Ontario Regulation 359/09

NOTICE OF EBR POSTING

regarding a Proposal by Penn Energy Renewables, Ltd. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Penn Energy Renewables, Ltd. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act* (ACT) Part V.0.1 and *Ontario Regulation 359/09* (Regulation). This notice shall serve to notify the public that the applicant has requested a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) from the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), that this proposal has been posted on the environmental registry referred to in section 5 of the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*, and that comments in respect of the proposal may be submitted to the MoE Director.

Project Name: Penn Energy - Edwardsburgh-Morrisburg-1 (OPA Contract ID# F-000628-SPV-130-505)

Project Location: NW Corner of County Road 2 (King Street) and Newport Drive, Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal (Concession 1, Part of Lot 34).

Project Description: Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a class 3 ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating facility according to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act*. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 10 MW.

Documents for Public Inspection: The applicant has obtained or prepared all necessary supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. Written copies of the supporting documents are available at the project's website:

www.PennEnergyRenewables.com.

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