

Melancthon expands website, switches to evenings

Melancthon residents who have been unable to attend daytime council meetings will have the chance starting next Thursday, June 18, when Council will convene at 6 p.m. and have a question period at 7.

The request for evening meetings was made by Melancthon resident Karren Wallace, who felt many more ratepayers would participate in council proceedings given an opportunity.

Council has now agreed to meet every third Thursday evening of the month for six months, with the usual morning meeting on the first Thursdays. (Mono Council has a similar policy of alternating between daytime and evening sessions.)

Melancthon Council says it will assess the exper-

iment at the end of the six months and decide whether or not to continue with evening meetings. It is assumed that the success of the experiment will likely be determined by the number in attendance.

Another effort by Ms. Wallace has led to Council agreeing to provide agenda attachments online prior to Council meetings. These documents are crucial to

anyone who wishes to participate fully in the proceedings, as they hold all the information which Council discusses, and without which those in attendance are literally lost. In the past, documents could be obtained only after the meetings, requiring residents to wait another two weeks, until the next council meeting, to make comments or express concerns.

Last winter, Ms. Wallace supplied councillors with a survey of how public access to agendas and attachment documents are handled by other municipalities. She had e-mailed the municipalities in the Municipal Affairs and Housing's Central Region, of which Melancthon is a part, and received 57 responses. Out of the 57, only two municipal councils did not make full agenda packages available to the public in advance of council meetings: Melancthon and Mulmur, which provided an agenda only. The Mayor stated that staffing the supply of agendas and privacy issues were concerns.

Ms. Wallace has a wealth of municipal experience and a strong supporter of NDACT (North Dufferin Agriculture and Community Taskforce), a non-profit organization currently addressing concerns over the proposed economic development strategies of the Highland Companies.

She felt so strongly that this right of access should be available to Melancthon citizens that she spent more than \$2,600 of her own money to obtain a legal opinion from Weir Foulds, a Toronto law firm recognized as an authority on municipal law. Her efforts proved fruitful, with Melancthon Council agenda attachments now available to residents online at the Township website prior to all council meetings.

Asked for a comment, she replied, "It should not be costing individual ratepayers or NDACT money to get local and county councils to do what they are legislatively obligated to do."

ODSS student a CA Challenge winner

Jennifer Thornton, of Orangeville District Secondary School, has won the Georgian Bay CA District Association's 2009 edition of COIN: The CA Challenge.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario held its annual competition on May 21 to give high school students considering a career as a chartered accountant the opportunity to compete, have fun and earn some cash prizes.

"COIN is a popular Institute initiative to encourage students to consider becoming a char-



Photo/WES KELLER

ALLIED VET BENEFITS RESTORED: On the eve of D-Day + 65 years, MP David Tilson announces restoration of veterans' benefits to a group of war veterans and others at Orangeville Royal Canadian Legion for allied servicemen who fought along with Canadians in the Second World War and Korea. He honoured the memory of those who died securing the freedom of Europe and paid special tribute to Michael Hill and British war veteran Bill Edge of Orangeville who played a pivotal role in renewing benefits that had been taken away by the Liberal government in 1995. They, along with Mr. Tilson, had lobbied the ministers of Defence and of Veterans Affairs.

tered accountant," said Mona Ghiami, Director of Career Information at the Institute.

"This year, more than 430 students from 156 high schools across the province participated in this highly competitive contest."

Jennifer won \$100 for finishing first in the district. Ethan Kittel and Jordine Meyer of Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School, came in second and third, respectively.

To win, the students competed by answering 75 questions at the premises

of a firm employing CAs. All participants received a certificate of participation and a chance

to find out more about the exciting opportunities offered by a career as a chartered accountant.

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