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OBSERVER

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This Weekend

Friday

26°



Saturday

26°



Sunday

32°



Business | 17

Drivers happy with axing of “dangerous” Lobsinger Line 40km/h zone

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

HEIDELBERG RESIDENTS ARE CELEBRATING THE removal of a 40 km/h zone that they claimed was triggering dangerous sudden braking and road rage incidents along Lobsinger Line.

The speed limit near King Alfred Academy has been increased to 60, with the previous sign being unceremoniously ripped out last week by Region of Waterloo workers.

The move was welcomed by those who organized a petition and found data to demonstrate why they thought the new “community safety zone” was in fact dangerous.

“As a rationale for the 40 km/h limit, the region claimed that it was going to reduce the number of children who are hit by vehicles,” said Steve Bensler.

“Yet we found out there’s never been a single child hit by a vehicle there.

“So, it begged the question: how can you reduce the number of kids being hit, if the figure is already zero?”

Instead, fearing a ticket from a camera that hasn’t been switched on yet, drivers were risking a different kind of accident, he added.

Bensler, whose father Gary Bensler and friend Randy Spruyt were also involved in a campaign launched in February, said he’d had “numerous people who have emergency braked on me and slowed right down to 30.”

Cheryl Nyusa, another Heidelberg resident, also told a Woolwich council meeting in March that she’d witnessed incidents of road rage, with some motorists “aggressively passing” others after failing to notice the new posted speed along a section where it had previously been 80 km/h.

Having felt listened to by the region, the response from drivers who regularly travel along that stretch of Lobsinger Line has been “overwhelmingly positive,” said Bensler, an engineer, who noted that he also used his knowledge of velocity calculations to make a case.

“People are happy to slow down. They have no

→ DRIVERS 7



Elmira Maple Syrup Festival chair Matt Jessop (right) presents an award to longtime volunteer Skip Maher’s widow, Grace, at Monday night’s disbursement ceremony. They were joined by his daughter Stace and Elmira Scout leader Philippe Bertrand. **Julian Gavaghan**

Proceeds from EMSF top \$68,000, providing funds to 31 charities

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

THIS YEAR’S ELMIRA MAPLE SYRUP Festival raised a record \$68,000 for 31 different charities, with a total of \$1.92 million handed out since the first event 60 years ago.

Committee chair Matt Jessop said that despite a day of rain, with only drizzle providing respite from

deluges, a bumper sum was largely made possible after businesses donated more than ever before.

Sales of a record 2,800 maple taffy cones also boosted the bottom line, he said during a disbursement ceremony on Monday that was attended by dozens of recipients, volunteers and Woolwich Mayor Sandy Shantz.

Jessop, the outgoing

chair who is now handing over the reins to Marc McInerney, said he was both surprised and delighted that, compared to last year’s sunny festival, \$2,000 more had been raised this time around.

“It’s pretty incredible for our local festival to be able to make such a profound impact over the years,” he said, adding: “It really is only the tip of the iceberg.

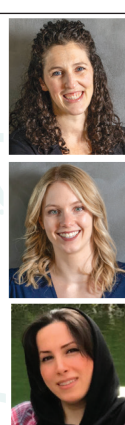
“If you think about the full impact of the festival, there’s so many other service groups who can fundraise from vending at the festival and so on.

“And that’s the rewarding part of putting the festival on.”

Jessop said he expected the festival to increase its fundraising record in the future.

→ EMSF 5


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Welcome Ryan to the Peak Physio Team!

We’re excited to welcome **Ryan**, our newest Physiotherapist, to **Peak Physiotherapy & Wellness**! Ryan brings his knowledge, energy, and passion for patient care to the Woolwich community and is now accepting new patients. Call or email us today to book your appointment with Ryan!

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