



Vanessa Stark

The Warsaw Lions hosted a benefit cruise night on Aug. 13 with many classic cars and community members making the trip out to support Sylvia McFadden.



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The benefit cruise night, for Sylvia McFadden also saw a raffle table full of donated prizes for residents to bid on -which was very popular!



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The Warsaw Lions hard at work on the barbeque, selling hamburgers to residents and visitors at the benefit cruise night on Saturday Aug.13.

## Selwyn Township lends a hand to the Abbeyfield Project in Lakefield

BY HAILEY CAVANAGH

After years of steady work to build a location in Lakefield, the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield has been granted funds to aid in covering fees for their build in the area. These funds will play an integral role in bringing the project to life.

At the Aug. 9 Selwyn Township council meeting, a recommendation was presented by staff to council that the township return application fees for the project in the form of grants which would total \$5,975.

According to a report presented to council, the fees associated with the Abbeyfield Lakefield application include a zoning by-law amendment fee of \$2,915 as well as a \$145 fee for reviewing a severance application. The report also noted a fee of \$2,915 in relation to a site plan agreement.

The report said that the grant related to the Severance Application (\$145) and the Zoning By-law Amendment application (\$2,915) will impact the 2022 budget and would be funded in part through remaining funds available in the charitable grants line item and in part through a reduced transfer to accumulated revenue. The grant related to the Site Plan Agreement application fee would most likely be incurred in 2023 and would be built into that

budget for consideration.

Council approved the recommendation to grant these funds back to the charity.

Ron Black, president of Abbeyfield Lakefield told *the Herald* these fees are required for this project when submitting documentation to the township. Essentially, these grants will go towards paying the fees for the applications required by the Township.

“I believe that if we, as a council, are in support of affordable housing, that we should be supporting this request,” says Sherry Senis, deputy mayor of Selwyn, during the meeting.

Abbeyfield is an international organisation that aims to provide affordable housing for seniors living in many counties.

Peterborough County gifted \$3,750 of fees to Abbeyfield Lakefield as well. The Otonabee Regional Conservation Authority (ORCA) also waived their fees in the amount of \$2,525, aiding in Abbeyfield’s efforts. The waived fees make up more than half of the planning fees required to move the project forward.

Black said that since Abbeyfield is a not-for-profit organisation, it has been very difficult to gather funds to move the project forward, but as the proposed fees support affordable housing, the vote to ap-

prove the request at the Aug. 9 meeting was unanimous.

According to Black, an Abbeyfield home in Lakefield will provide seniors with companionship and the opportunity to continue living in their own community comfortably.

He said that the 14,000 square foot home will house roughly 14-16 seniors in the area, and will add to the community while creating minimal infrastructure impact. The house will be situated on the back half of a four acre property, and will not be visible from the road. The property the home will be built on currently has a house on it which the organization is looking to sever off and sell with the funds of that sale going back into the Abbeyfield home.

Abbeyfield Lakefield will invite locals to make use of its trails and outdoor facilities, encouraging their residents to be a part of the neighbourhood, according to Black.

Though Abbeyfield locations are generally found in larger cities, such as Toronto or Vancouver, research was done in 2018 on the area to assure it was an ideal site to build.

In 2018, Dr. Elizabeth Russell, professor at Trent University and the director of Trent Centre for Aging & Soci-

ety (TCAS), had her students conduct a study to help with efforts to get the project underway. That research showed that the project was viable and appealing for Lakefield.

As Lakefield is the only area in the East Kawarthas with sewer and water facilities, it made the riverside village an appealing location for Abbeyfield.

“We hope it will become a model for other counties,” says Black,

He even noted that other municipalities in Peterborough County are showing an interest in Abbeyfield’s efforts.

Though the request for funds has been approved, there is still a long way to go to get this project underway.

Black said Abbeyfield does accept donations, which go towards getting the project going.

Anyone can donate through the Abbeyfield Lakefield website, [abbeyfieldlakefield.ca](http://abbeyfieldlakefield.ca).

More information on the project can be found through social media, @abbeyfieldlakefield on Instagram and Twitter which are constantly being updated.

Black encourages anyone interested to follow the project’s progress through these sources.

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