

Construction slows locally in 2012

Building values in the region have fallen significantly compared to last year and the year before

Paige Desmond, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — Construction values in Waterloo Region are on the decline, down 38 per cent on average in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo. “The numbers are lower than last year,

much lower than 2010,” said general manager of development services Cameron Rapp. “The numbers are still quite healthy, but we are on the decline.”

Building values are down about \$138 million from 2011, Rapp said, totalling about \$302 million. That’s a 37 per cent drop.

Waterloo councillors went against a staff recommendation earlier this month and granted developers’ requests to phase in a development charges bylaw for non-residential development.

The 20 per cent fee increase will be phased in over 2014 and 2015, instead of being levied in its entirety in 2013.

Councillors were motivated by concerns about scaring away developers to surrounding cities.

“A lot is migrating out of our borders,” Mayor Brenda Halloran said. “We’re in the decline.”

According to Statistics Canada data for October, building permit values in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo were down 39 per cent to \$39.7 million compared to \$65.2 million tallied at the same time last year.

► **Building** continued on page B2

IN BRIEF

WATERLOO REGION Man wanted by police frequents region, Guelph

Police say a man wanted for breach of parole is known to frequent Waterloo Region and Guelph. Mark King, 32, is serving nearly six years for robbery and break and enter. He is wanted on a Canada-wide warrant. He is described as white, five feet, nine inches tall, 165 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair. He has several tattoos. Anyone with information is asked to contact the provincial Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement squad at 1-416-808-5900 or toll free at 1-866-870-7673.

KITCHENER Man arrested after four churches vandalized

Police arrested a man after church and business windows and signs were smashed early Sunday morning. At 3 a.m., damage was reported at Central Baptist Church at 358 Ottawa St. S. Police soon found more damage at St. Mary’s Coptic Orthodox Church at 388 Ottawa St. S., and Northridge Distribution, 136 Ottawa St. S. A man was arrested nearby. He’s charged with three counts of mischief under \$5,000, obstructing a police officer, and breaching a court order. Damage was also found at Country Hills Church, at 1280 Ottawa St. S., and Highland Baptist Church, at 135 Highland Rd. W. Anyone with information about the damage should call police at 519-653-7700, ext. 4499.

CAMBRIDGE Restrictions on Water Street; work at Delta continues

Watch for daily lane closings along Water Street this week, as Cambridge city crews inspect underground sewer pipes. Work is planned 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. between Coronation Boulevard and Ainslie Street. There’s also lingering road work immediately to the north, as workers put finishing touches on a new \$25-million bridge just north of the Delta intersection. There’s minor concrete work and road painting yet to do before all the orange construction pylons are removed, said David Weiler, head of Waterloo Region’s road design and construction office. All on-road work is now set to finish by Friday, he said. Other, off-road work will resume in the first week of January, along the Canadian Pacific tracks under the bridge.

Record staff



MATHEW MCCARTHY, RECORD STAFF

A dazzling display

Hundreds of people walk through downtown Galt Monday during Unsilent Night. It was the fifth year for the one-night event in Galt. Cambridge is one of 28 cities to host the communal, music-filled walkabout.

Bill paves way for national suicide prevention strategy

Move a ‘step in right direction,’ says Albrecht, who put forward legislation

Linda Givetash, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — Canada will no longer be among the few industrialized countries lacking a suicide prevention strategy.

That is because on Friday, a bill geared at developing a federal framework for suicide prevention, sponsored by Kitchener-Conestoga MP Harold Albrecht, was signed into law.

Albrecht said he put forward the private member’s bill, Bill C-300, after receiving feedback from the Waterloo Region Suicide Preven-



Harold Albrecht

tion Council that suggested a national strategy was needed.

“There was an issue about two years ago when three youth in different high schools in Waterloo Region died by suicide in the same week,” Albrecht said, recounting the events that led to his decision to put forward the bill.

“At that point I realized that this is an issue and if and when I could get a private member’s slot in the lottery I would do something surrounding the issue of suicide prevention.”

Nearly 4,000 Canadians die by suicide each year. In Waterloo Region, more than 600 visits to emergency rooms were made on average each year between 2005 and 2009 because of suicide attempts.

“It is a pretty serious situation that we have in our country ... That alone is a good enough reason to have some sort of national framework so we can all work together,” said Rob Martin, chair of the local suicide prevention council.

In the next 180 days, the federal government will designate an overseeing body to begin collaborative efforts with suicide prevention groups.

Suicide prevention groups will be able to share best practices, new research and make statistics and risk factors available publicly.

“I hope that we can take the best of what we’re all doing and share it. When you have 10 people working in a room come together, they’re going to have a better product than if ... they were working by themselves,” Martin said.

► **Bill** continued on page B2

Jury told two men willing to have sex despite risk of HIV

Brian Caldwell, Record staff

KITCHENER — Two men were so “worked up” they would have had group sex with virtual strangers even if they had known they were HIV-positive, a lawyer argued Monday.

“To use the vernacular, they were horny,” Scott Reid told jurors.

“This was going to happen that day, period.”

Reid made his remarks during final submissions in Superior Court in Kitchener at the trial of two men charged with aggravated sexual assault over encounters in March 2010.

Steven Boone, 31, of Ottawa, and Noel Bowland, 26, of Kitchener, are accused of failing to disclose their HIV-positive status to two men who did not have the virus.

Crown prosecutor Andre Rajna told a jury after more than a week of evidence that they clearly didn’t live up to their legal obligation before engaging in high-risk sex.

► **HIV case** continued on page B2

Ashley Smith inquest to begin hearing evidence Jan. 14 in Toronto

Record staff

The inquest into the death of Ashley Smith will begin hearing evidence on Jan. 14.

Smith, 19, of Moncton, N.B., choked to death in October 2007 at Kitchener’s Grand Valley Institution for Women.

Preliminary hearings have already taken place in Toronto, where disturbing prison videos showing Smith’s treatment while in custody were screened.

Dr. John Carlisle is presiding as inquest coroner at the coroner’s court in

Toronto. It is expected to last at least six months and hear from more than 50 witnesses.

An inquest is mandatory under the Coroners Act. It will examine the events surrounding Smith’s death, and the jury may make recommendations aimed at preventing similar deaths.

The troubled teen had been transferred 17 times between nine prisons in five provinces before ending up in Kitchener. She had exhibited self-harming behaviours while in custody on numerous occasions.

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PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Cheeky challenge

Student council member George Goertz takes a turn at shaving off some of school principal Dennis Wikerd's beard after Rockway Mennonite Collegiate students collected 27,144 cans of food for the food bank. Wikerd has had his beard for 35 years.

Injured deer in distress shot by police near Kitchener homes

Record staff

KITCHENER — There was nothing unusual about police shooting a maimed deer near homes Sunday mid-morning in Kitchener, says a spokesperson for Waterloo Regional Police.

"It's not something we want to do. The officer indicates in his report it was obviously in distress," said Sgt. David Reibel.

"They didn't want the animal going into the neighbourhood and causing more problems."

Police received a call about an injured deer at 10:09 a.m., Reibel said.

It was dragging its hind legs as it crossed a road and entered the Topper Woods nature area, apparently after it was hit by a car.

Police received several 911 calls about gunfire from residents in the area of Robert Ferrie Drive and Mari-gold Court, Reibel said.

Officers were close to the deer before using a handgun, he said.

"It was a controlled area," Reibel said.

"Unfortunately, the officer took several shots to do

it. He's probably not a hunter so he didn't hit the right spots."

The dead deer was later removed by the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane society for disposal, he said.

Police officers routinely draw their guns to kill injured, ill or hazardous animals, Reibel said.

Usually, it's in rural areas. Sometimes, officers have to kill animals that are in urban areas near homes.

They're trained to put the safety of the public first, he said.

Topper Woods is close to North Dumfries Township boundary, Reibel said.

"This isn't like its deep in the heart of the city. They have deer there quite often."

In 2011, police drew their guns to kill 70 animals, up from 32 times in 2010.

The increase was blamed on an outbreak of raccoon distemper in rural townships, according to the 2011 regional police annual report released in April.

Police also shot deer hit by cars, wounded horses and a cow that could not be corralled and kept trying to walk onto a highway.

Building permits up across Canada

► **Building** continued from B1

The value of permits in Canada was up 15 per cent and Ontario had a strong showing.

According to local cities' building data, construction values are down an average 38 per cent this year in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo combined.

In Kitchener, construction values as of November were \$397 million, from \$634 million last year.

Mike Seiling, director of building, said Kitchener has had a long, steady run of positive values. "Based on historical data and a good 17 years here, we're due for a bit of a correction," Seiling said.

The end of stimulus money from higher levels of government following the 2008 economic downturn could be one item impacting numbers, he said.

At a city council meeting earlier this month, Waterloo councillors discussed the city's development future. Waterloo has the least green-field space available for construction compared to other local cities.

"We can't just rest on our laurels, even though we see a lot of growth happening in the city," Coun. Diane Freeman said.

Coun. Jeff Henry agreed.

"It's trying to steer ourselves by our rear-view mirror," he said.

In Cambridge construction values are down about \$96 million from 2011 to \$134 million.

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Suicide considered 'public health issue'

► **Bill** continued from B1

In addressing suicide as a public health issue, the broader awareness will help reduce the stigma about suicide and educate citizens on identifying and addressing risk factors.

"This is not simply a mental health issue, it's a public health issue in that every one of us has a role to play, just normal ordinary Canadian citizens.

"We have to keep our ears open and be attentive to those we go to work with and those we go to school with," Albrecht said of the impact public awareness can have.

Agreeing with the bill's potential impact, Martin added, "As far as I'm concerned, this is a big step toward saving more lives."

By bringing the issue of suicide to the forefront of public discourse, Martin said it would not only help in preventing more suicides but also help survivors that have lost loved ones.

"If we're all talking about it a little bit more openly with some positive ways to manage the grief after suicide and the ways to save lives, I hope that will encourage people who have been affected to talk about it and not just grieve on their own," Martin said.

The bill had received almost unanimous support in parliament, which Albrecht said reflects the prevalence of suicide across the country.

"I think there probably is not one parliamentarian that hasn't been impacted by suicide to some degree," said Albrecht. "So I think everyone realizes that anything we can do to minimize death by suicide is a step in the right direction."

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Defence says men wanted 'good time'

► **HIV case** continued from B1

He also said the two alleged victims were believable when they testified they would not have gone ahead with sex had they been told.

Rajna stressed the shocked, spontaneous reaction of the two men — who can't be identified because of a court order — when they learned they had been exposed to HIV.

"I think I'm going to be sick," one of them wrote in a text message.

Reid, however, argued the two men were so unconcerned about the risks that they didn't ask Boone and Bowland about their HIV status or use condoms.

He stressed all four men smoked marijuana and watched pornography before ending up in bed together at a Waterloo apartment.

"These guys are out for a good time," said Reid, who represents Boone. "They're prepared to take risks... that reasonable people wouldn't have."

The prosecution must establish that unprotected anal sex created a "significant risk of bodily harm" because there was a "reasonable possibility" of transmitting HIV.

An expert testified the transmission rate for infected men with high viral counts — as was then the case for Boone and Bowland — is about one in 150 for anal sex without a condom.

"Like pregnancy, it only takes once," Rajna said.

The expert also told jurors that while there have been major advancements in the treatment of HIV since the mid-1990s, life expectancy for infected people is still reduced by about 12 years.

In addition to proving there was unprotected intercourse without disclosure, the prosecution must convince jurors that the alleged victims would not have agreed to sex had they known.

Reid argued that is the central issue in the case, pointing out the alleged victims later admitted they should have directly asked Boone and Bowland if they were infected.

"I have no one to blame but myself," he quoted one of them as saying. "It's my own fault."

Both alleged victims immediately went to hospital for treatment after learning they had been exposed. Neither one contracted the virus.

Text messages recovered by police suggested Boone was deliberately trying to infect men who were HIV-negative.

Reid acknowledged the texts were "horrific," but said they don't have any bearing on the issue of whether the alleged victims would have consented to sex regardless.

"Nobody is going to stand here and say Mr. Boone is a Boy Scout," he said.

Jurors are expected to begin their deliberations today after final instructions from Justice Donald Gordon.

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Wednesday, January 9th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Regional Council Chamber, 150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Go here:

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Contact: Allan Wong 519-575-4705 awong@regionofwaterloo.ca

Amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law - Regional Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Regional Council Chamber, 150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Go here:

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Contact: Regional Clerk's Office 519-575-4420
regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

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Manitou Drive Widening, Bleams Road to Fairway Road, Kitchener

Class Environmental Assessment Study available beginning December 21, 2012 for 30 days

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Contact: Wayne Cheater 519-575-4757 x3183
wcheater@regionofwaterloo.ca

Northfield Drive Corridor Study, King Street to University Avenue, Waterloo

Comment Deadline: December 27, 2012

Go here:
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Contact: Delton Zehr 519-575-4757 x3637
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CLASSIFIED:

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Tuesday, Dec. 25: Closed
Wednesday, Dec. 26: Closed
Thursday, Dec. 27: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29: Closed
Monday, Dec. 31: 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 1: Closed

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For all contact information see page A2.

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