

## Islanders east to west united in helping MacKinnon family

By Charlotte MacAulay  
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The logistics of organizing and finalizing an Island-wide online auction where more than \$60,000 was raised, were a bit complicated, but still it was a labour of love.

Ryan MacKinnon, a young teen from O'Leary with family ties to eastern PEI, was seriously injured in an accident on August 6. He is currently in the IWK in Halifax, having undergone multiple surgeries and still on a long road to recovery.

Janie MacKinnon of Goose River is Ryan's aunt.

"People are so generous," Ms MacKinnon said.

"It really is just so overwhelming."

Ms MacKinnon and several family and friends who volunteered to help were at Goose River Hall all weekend to deliver a huge variety of items from the auction to winners from across the Island.

She was bowled over with the uptake, especially when she was contacted by a couple of people from O'Leary.

"I had just assumed the east would take

See page 2



Ashley MacKinnon and Nicole Bowley were busy distributing t shirts and sweatshirts made for a fundraiser for Ms MacKinnon's nephew Ryan MacKinnon who was seriously injured in an accident in O'Leary in August. Ms MacKinnon designed the shirts with the 15 year old's love of hockey in mind. The shirts raised \$1,000. Charlotte MacAulay photo

## O'Leary prepared to invest in fire truck, future community care facility

By Melissa Heald  
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O'Leary council has decided to purchase a new tanker for the town's fire department.

While tenders still have to go out, estimated cost for the new vehicle will be \$250,000, which will be financed over the next 15 years.

Payment for the new tanker

will be cost shared between the town and the local fire district committee. The fire department will be donating \$25,000 towards the tanker as well.

It's a big purchase for the town, especially coming on the heels of council helping the fire department purchase a new pumper in 2019.

"Talking to the fire department, it looks like the next purchase for the next truck in this

community, will be 20 years from now," said Mayor Eric Gavin.

Councillor Joey Dumville made a motion for the town to purchase the new tanker for \$250,000 and Councillor Judy MacIsaac second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

See page 5

## O'Leary proposes sewer rate increase

By Melissa Heald  
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A proposed increase to sewer rates by the Town of O'Leary has resulted in some residents approaching the mayor and councillors with concerns.

O'Leary submitted an application to the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC) asking for a significant increase

to both their water and sewer rates as well as to frontage rates.

The proposed rate changes will see the cost per unit increase from \$190 to \$280 and frontage rates change from \$0.95 to \$1.40 per foot.

The town's sewer utility has been operating at a deficit over the last four to five years. The town also had to conduct unexpected major upgrades to the treatment plant that created

even more debt. On top of that, this year the town has to desludge their two lagoon cells and replace electronic equipment damaged by toxic and corrosive gas.

The town has spent nearly \$2 million dollars on these upgrades and a third of that money has been borrowed to cover the expense.

See page 2

## RCMP advises motorists to be cautious with schools now open

By Jillian Trainor  
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The RCMP is reminding drivers to slow down in school zones now that in-class learning is back in session.

"I think people kind of forget over the summer, and it's been a long time since there was any kids in school, that they kind of forget about those school zones," said Sergeant Neil Logan of Prince District RCMP. "But it's super important to drive the speed limit or below in the school zone areas."

To help remind drivers of this, RCMP have set up traffic initiatives in school zones in Prince District. At least one driver was pulled over in front of Westisle Composite High School on Sept. 8, the first day of classes.

Sgt. Logan said RCMP have noticed an increase in the speeds in school zones over the

last several months, and that it's important for drivers to be aware of the rate of speed they're going because RCMP don't want to see anyone get hurt, especially if there are children running and playing outside.

If a person is caught speeding in a school zone, fines are twice the amount of a normal speeding ticket.

Sgt. Logan said he knows with the pandemic, students aren't playing outside as much as they normally would be, but they're still playing outside, something drivers need to be aware of.

See page 2



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