

Two sites considered for skateboard park

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By Rob Gowan

Council briefs

South Bruce Peninsula has narrowed down the locations for a proposed skateboard park to Jimmy Brown Park and Bluewater Park in Wiarton.

Last year, a group of youth made a presentation to council about their intentions to build a skateboard park in the community. The group asked the town to provide a location, advising council their preferred site was Jimmy Brown Park at the corner of Frank and McNaughton streets.

Public works manager Tom Gray recommended Jimmy Brown Park, but council decided to add Bluewater Park as a potential site despite Gray's concerns about drainage problems and a lack of space.

"The drainage in Bluewater Park needs to be dealt with whether there is a skateboard park there or not," said Coun. Chris Thomas.

Council approved a recommendation both parks continue to be considered and that staff provide a report on the drainage problems at Bluewater Park.

Council remuneration

South Bruce Peninsula Mayor John Close collected remuneration and expenses totalling just under \$23,000 in 2013.

At its meeting Tuesday, council accepted a report detailing members' remuneration and expenses for the past year.

Close collected \$ 20,229.48 in 2013, plus \$1,880 in mileage expenses, \$600 in computer and telephone allowance and \$263 in convention and conference expenses for a total of \$22,973.04.

He also collected \$ 1,100 in remuneration and \$ 422.28 in mileage in his role on the police services board.

The eight councillors all collected \$13,486.32 in remuneration in 2013. The councillors and totals collected, including expenses, are: Coun. Marilyn Bowman, \$16,207.31; Coun. Jim Turner, \$15,692.23; Coun. Paul McKenzie, \$15,125.02; Coun. Jay Kirkland, \$14,805.60; Coun. Janice Jackson, \$14,677.08; Coun. Matthew Standen, \$14,171.42; Coun. Chris Thomas, \$14,122.18.

Yvonne Harron collected \$1,400.24 in remuneration and expenses, while Pat Varley collected \$1,875.12 as members of the police services board.

Policing contract

South Bruce Peninsula has received a break from the OPP on its 2014 contract.

Financial services manager Michael Humble told council Tuesday that the OPP plan to honour the estimate provided the municipality during budget deliberations last year after the contract that

was sent to town was \$170,000 higher.

Humble said staff asked the OPP to honour the original estimate of just above \$2.4 million and the force agreed.

Late last year South Bruce Peninsula signed a one-year contract extension with the force. The OPP is reviewing its billing process and is not expected to sign new long-term contracts until early 2015.