

Bancroft council moves on major zoning change

By Tony Pearson

Following up the notice served by a December resolution, Bancroft town council held a public meeting to approve a bylaw that will allow any business that is permissible in the downtown or the west end to be established in the north end as well.

The immediate trigger was a possible move by the LCBO. However, many other new uses are also allowed, such as day care, art gallery, theatre, medical or dental clinic, and many more.

Although there was a call for opponents or supporters of the change to present their views to council, none came forward.

Council also learned that Club 580 is currently not structurally capable of transforming itself into the town library.

Chief building officer Dale Shannick estimated that it would take about \$80,000 to strengthen the floor and install new heating, in order to take the weight and use expected. Council is also in discussion with the school board about the possibility of using North Hastings High School.

In other news:

- * Council learned that more funds were available for connecting link work. The Ontario Small Communities Fund will be tripling in size over the next two years, from \$100 million to \$300 million.
- * The 'Smash Wrestling' event held last year will not take place in 2016.
- * The town office furnace will be converted to propane.
- * Staff will look at ways to discourage any expansion of the Uber ride-sharing enterprise to Bancroft to compete with local taxis.