

BEST BUSINESS STORY



Traffic on 207 leads to protest

JESSICA DEER
The Eastern Door

Residents along Route 207 took to the side of the road to express their frustrations and concerns with the amount of traffic, trucks and noise in the area.

Just under a dozen community members gathered near a newly installed stop sign at Kanawaki Golf Club early last Friday morning, encouraging truck drivers to use Highway 30 as an alternative route.

"These trucks should not even be here. We are the number one - we are the Natives. Not the trucks, not the businesses. It's us as individuals who should be respected," said resident Alan Paul.

On September 2, a truck ban came into effect on the road, with exception for permit holders and local deliveries.

The Mohawk Council of Kanawake (MCK) passed a directive, stating that all trucks going to and from the JFK Quarry were deemed as local deliveries until the end of the month.

The company uses Route 207 to deliver stone to the forest yards for the ongoing infrastructure project in Montreal.

"We have to account for the distance and time spent in traffic for the trucks carrying materials to the site. When trucks are sitting in traffic because of changes to their route, contracts are lost to suppliers whose trucks are able to supply the site faster," said JFK owner Frank McComber.

"The next month is going to be busier than normal for JFK as we extend our staff's hours to meet demand during the "blitz" period. We're pretty excited that a Kanawake business has been

Silver lining for Mohawks



The Kanawake Mohawks did not get the finishing colour of medal they wanted, but the future is bright for the local Senior B side thanks to contributions from a number of young and talented players.

budget, it can only be positive in terms of future opportunities," said McComber.

The blitz will be similar to the one the Mohawk Bridge Consortium has scheduled for the next four years to get a major section of the Mercier Bridge completed in as quick a timeframe as possible.

The MCK also authorized the quarry to operate every day for 30 days.

"The ban was put in place to stop trucks from using the 207 as a quick bypass to the Mercier Bridge, not to stop local businesses from operating," said grand chief Joe Norton in a press release issued by council last week.

Norton told *The Eastern Door* two weeks ago that council had to find a "happy medium" and owns Patton's Glen just off the 207, said he felt conflicted about the newly installed stop sign near Kanawaki Golf Club.

"On one hand, I think it's good because most of the time, there's so much traffic that we can't even get out of our driveway," said Patton.

"But, now you have dump trucks and everything else - you hear those wheels squealing early in the morning. I live further away (from the road) so it doesn't bother me, but my concern is people who live right there - the dust, the noise, the stress - they don't need that."

The Public Safety Commission erected a second stop sign near the home of Mary Deer earlier in the summer. She

1

JESSICA DEER The Eastern Door

An excellent example of reporting that considers many points of view. Extensive interviews were done to gather a wide range of opinions. This story is well written and easy to read. It gets to the heart of a community issue, exposing conflicting opinions, that affects business and quality of life in the community.

Delilah ends four-year run in Chelsea

By Ben Bulmer

Eva Cooper said she never missed a beat closing her iconic Wakefield boutique *Delilah* in Borucho, rebranding the business, and opening in Old Chelsea in 2012.

"It was like I'd never closed a door," said Cooper. "I didn't have to rebuild - it was just on par from day one." Cooper left Wakefield and opened her rebranded store, *Delilah*, in the Glebe in 2011, with a Chelsea store following in 2012. Post forward to 2016 and two rough years back-to-back will see Cooper close her Chelsea store for good this August, adding to the list of almost half a dozen businesses to close in Old Chelsea in the last 18 months.

Cooper isn't blaming any specific incident for the closure, but a year of consistent construction in 2015 and even a month where she had to close in November 2014 are all factors that led to the decision to pull out of Chelsea.

Old Chelsea restaurant *Ma Tante* closed its doors earlier this spring, after receiving



Eva Cooper is closing her Chelsea clothing boutique after two difficult years of business. Photo: Ben Bulmer

"Perhaps it's reflective of the lack of community support for buying local, perhaps it's reflective of the lack of traffic... I don't think it's reflective of the economic state of the community."

-Bruce Langer

great reviews, but not managing to stay afloat for more than about a year. *Loyal Organic*, *The Chelsea Tea House*, and *Divalin* are all businesses that closed their doors over the last 18 months.

Chelsea Mayor Caryl Green said she thought the construction had been very hard on businesses and hoped the new sidewalks and infrastructure will help business moving forward. "People are coming back already but it will mean that we need businesses that will replace the businesses that have left," said Green.

Chelsea Commerce chair Bruce Langer said it was not a good sign so many small businesses were closing in Chelsea - it demonstrates how difficult it is to maintain an independent business in the village. "I think

it's reflective of a lot of things, perhaps it's reflective of the lack of community support for buying local, perhaps it's reflective on the lack of traffic... I don't think it's reflective of the economic state of the community."

Langer also pointed at the municipality's red tape and to Chelsea's image as a place unfriendly to business.

"It is well known that, historically, the permitting department

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NUNATSIAQ NEWS

Swan song
Pioneer, legend, Charlie Panigoniak — 15

Inuktitut? Oops
Electoral reform meeting panned — 3



Bad debt won't change how NBCC loans money: CEO

Government lending body still keeping client list private

payments to the Canada Revenue Agency.

The NBCC and ERDC have a working relationship, but the full extent of that relationship has not been made public.

It is unclear if the agencies communicated with each other regarding the extensive loans to Wiseman.

When contacted by *Nunatsiaq News*, the NBCC declined to comment on the total amount loaned to Wiseman, or when the loan was issued.

In fact, a lot of things are still unclear about both the NBCC and its regional counterparts such as the ERDC.

Despite the use of public money, the names of NBCC clients are not publicly released, nor is the agency's internal decision process to grant those loans.

Nunavut's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts found that problematic and they said so in a report tabled in November 2015.

The committee sought to understand the secrecy of the organization, which, a decade earlier, was publicly shamed by the Auditor General of Canada for a slew of irregularities and incompetent actions.

In their review, the committee submitted a series of

INSIDE • 18

Having my baby
Puvirnituq midwives' 3,000th baby — 7

2

STEVE DUCHARME Nunatsiaq News

An excellent piece that makes extensive use of research to bring an issue to light. This is a very thorough piece of reporting that tackles a complicated issue from different angles.

3

BEN BULMER The Low Down to Hull & Back News

A well written, compelling profile of a local business, that then turns to look at larger issues facing the business community. An excellent example of reporting that focuses on one story, that then serves to illuminate a wider social issue.