

# ST. MARYS JOURNAL ARGUS

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## Home-style send-off for exchange student

Rotary Exchange student Carolin Welp, from Germany and hosted by the St. Marys club for the past year, joined 30 other exchange students attending Rotary's District 6330 Conference last week-end in the German-themed Michigan resort town of Frankenmuth. Welp's time in St. Marys is almost complete; she will be speaking at the the local Club's meeting Monday, June 18 before returning to Germany.

(submitted photo)



## Meeting held over Motherwell's future

By Chet Greason  
STAFF REPORTER

A meeting was held at Motherwell Avonbank Presbyterian Church on Monday, June 4 regarding the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and its plans for the community at Motherwell.

The Authority owns six houses in the Motherwell area which they acquired when plans for the Glengowan Dam were in motion. Although the dam was never built, UTRCA still maintains the land and acts as landlords to the tenants living along the riverbank.

The meeting on Monday was called in response to UTRCA serving an eviction notice to one tenant, saying the home the tenant lives in is scheduled for demolition.

Ian Wilcox, General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of UTRCA, confirmed the eviction and pending demolition. "The (rental) program costs more than it makes," he said, adding the home in question was in particular disrepair.

"The rental house program is not our mandate. It's nothing personal. I understand the concerns of the community, but this is a business decision."

Wilcox adds that UTRCA currently has no plans to demolish additional homes. "I know the anxiety. The rumours are saying the Authority is out to demolish all the homes, but that's simply not true. But adjustments do need to be made."

Joanne McIntosh and Edythe Petrie chaired Monday's meeting. They

informed the crowd of over 50 people, including a number of municipal Council members from around Perth County, that UTRCA staff had been invited, but had responded by saying that they were moving into their new office building and could therefore not attend. However, UTRCA directors Tony Jackson and Murray McIntosh were in attendance.

"We're here to share information," said Joanne McIntosh. "Motherwell is not just a hamlet...it's a community."

"UTRCA may have the right, but they're not doing it right," said Petrie, who claimed the evicted tenant had paid for a number of repairs on the home out of his own pocket, and one day came home to find a padlock had been put on the property's shed by the Authority, which has not been removed.

"No other landlord could treat their tenants like that," said Joanne McIntosh. She urged those in attendance to sign a petition that asked for UTRCA assurance that decisions on Motherwell properties won't be made without public consultation. She added that she felt the Authority's excuses for demolishing the house, such as the high cost of renovations, including foundation pointing, were not good. "Foundation pointing? My whole house needs pointing!" she said.

Tenant Dan Schneider shared some of his correspondence with the UTRCA. "They need to understand there's a very important distinction between tenants and houses. They

(See "Tenants," Page 4)

## Bridge repairs planned this summer

Bridge repairs could be front and centre in St. Marys over the coming months, after Town Council was asked last night (Tuesday, June 12) to approve tendered bids for the Water Street steel truss bridge, the Park Street bridge over the Thames,

and the Queen Street overpass over the CN rail line.

"The 2011 bridge inspection report created by B.M. Ross & Associates Limited identified safety problems, structural deficiencies, and subsequent repairs needed for the Town's bridges

and main culverts," explained a report from staff, provided to councillors for last night's Special Meeting.

The recommended bids for all three projects were submitted by St. Marys firm McLean-Taylor Construction.

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