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THE INTELLIGENCER

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New radio system for city firefighters. PAGE A2

■ **OUR TMH:** Planning pickets at QHC sites

Gearing up public opposition

ERNST KUGLIN
LUKE HENDRY
 The Intelligencer

QUINTE WEST — Our TMH will ramp up pressure in the coming weeks to fight potential cutbacks at the beleaguered Trenton hospital.

The group will picket both TMH, and Quinte Health Care headquarters at Belleville General Hospital Sept. 14 from noon to 2 p.m.

Picket signs will be tailor-

made for each hospital. Signs in Belleville will describe how cuts to TMH ultimately affect BGH.

Our TMH also plans to have a presence at upcoming all-candidates meetings, including Sept. 16 at the Empire Theatre in Belleville.

Residents said they were concerned by word QHC's board would hear a proposal at its Sept. 29 board meeting to chop surgery service at TMH.

There are other unconfirmed reports QHC is also looking at

cutting the number of inpatient beds at the Trenton site.

"We are reviewing and considering all areas and there are going to be changes," QHC president and chief executive officer Mary Clare Egberts said.

"At this point, we can't confirm if the surgical services at TMH are going to be impacted."

She repeated earlier comments that staff are still studying ways to comply with shrinking provincial funding.

"We are considering absolutely

every option," she said, echoing remarks made for the last year.

"Certainly no decisions have been made and we will be going back to the community for further consultation in October," she said.

She said until staff directors complete their studies, "I don't really want to put things out there that may never come to be."

She added no board decisions would be made until November's board meeting, though the board

will hear an update on the process in September.

"The senior leadership team and the board remain committed to four hospitals, all that will have emergency departments and inpatient beds and the appropriate diagnostics to support that."

From the outset, Our TMH had intended to take a non-confrontational approach, but that policy now appears to have changed.

See **OUR TMH** | Page C6

Need a cat?



Humane Society has long-time tenants in need of a loving home. PAGE A4

Jr. Dogs on move



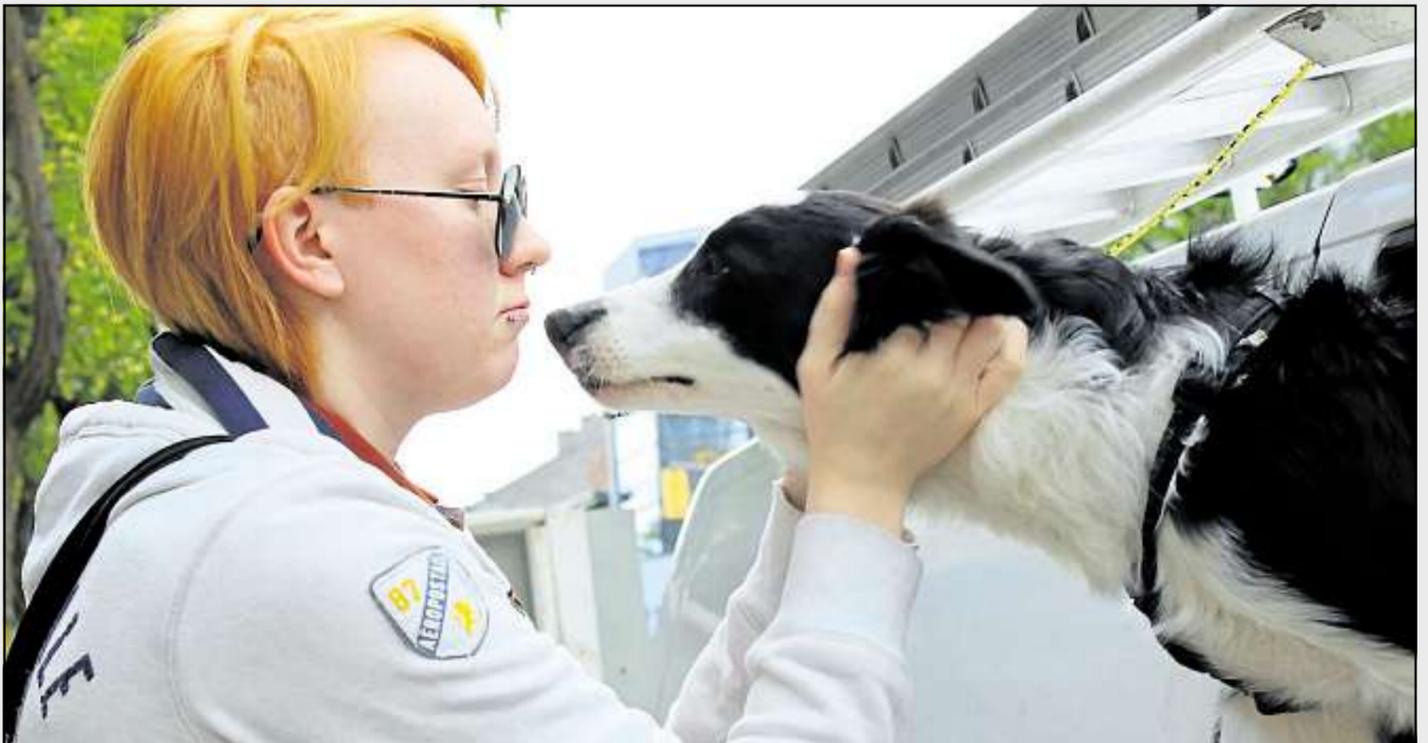
Local players make Rugby Canada U18 list. PAGE B1

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Friendly pooch



Five-month-old border collie, Carlin, leans out of a truck on Front Street Wednesday afternoon to give a kiss to 20-year-old Belleville resident Dexter, while his owner Curtis Wilson, of Cobourg, is in a nearby business. **SAMANTHA REED/**FOR THE INTELLIGENCER

■ **JOHN IRVEN MACKENZIE:** Local airman died in wartime crash

Dutch historians seek our help

LUKE HENDRY
 The Intelligencer

Albert Schothorst still remembers the night the airmen fell from the sky.

Now he and his fellow Dutch historians are hoping Belleville residents can help them honour eight men who died in a Second World War plane crash, one of whom was from Belleville.

Flying Officer John Irven MacKenzie was a 26-year-old navigator from Belleville when his bomber crashed on the outskirts of the village of Leusden, Netherlands on Feb. 3, 1943. The crash killed all eight crewmen: five Canadians, three British.

"The goal is to erect a monument at the place of the crash and to honour the brave men who gave their lives for our freedom!" Schothorst wrote in an e-mail interview.

He said volunteers of the Historische kring Leusden - the local historical society - also want to write a brochure detailing the

crash, the salvage, the crew's graves and details of their lives. They're hoping to include photos of each airman but have yet to find one of MacKenzie.

MacKenzie's crew was among those assigned to a night mission to firebomb Hamburg, Germany.

A website dedicated to MacKenzie's British unit, 214 Squadron of the Royal Air Force, details that final flight.

The crew of the Stirling Mark I bomber took off from Chedburgh, Suffolk, England at 6:37 p.m.

They were among 10 Stirlings assigned by the Royal Air Force's 214 Squadron to take part in a major raid on Hamburg, Germany. The bombers carried incendiary bombs.

The squadron website reports a German night fighter plane shot down MacKenzie's plane a few kilometres outside of Leusden. It crashed at 8:04 p.m. in the forest.

"I was sitting at the table with my mother in the kitchen of our

farmhouse," Schothorst recalled. He was six at the time.

"We were sorting beans.

"Then there was the tremendous noise and then suddenly quiet."

"Probably we were so afraid that we did not go out but stayed inside."

Schothorst said his father was among those who saw the burning wreckage. Schothorst has now interviewed others who saw the plane's burning wreck and researchers have even found residents' diary accounts of that night.

He said villagers tried to approach the plane but Nazi troops surrounded it. He watched during the next day as those troops salvaged the engines and other parts.

Schothorst said the crash site is now a meadow near a trail that was once a railway near the border of Leusden and neighbouring Woudenberg.

See **JOHN IRVEN MACKENZIE** | Page C6



COURTESY JOSÉ HUURDEMAN/FOR THE INTELLIGENCER

John Irven MacKenzie's gravestone stands in a cemetery in Leusden, Netherlands. The Belleville, Ont. resident died Feb. 3, 1943 after a German fighter plane shot down his Royal Air Force bomber en route to a firebombing raid of Hamburg, Germany. Dutch residents working on a memorial project are now trying to contact the relatives of the flight crew and anyone else with information about the crash and the crew.

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