

(Car) sharing is caring in Chelsea

By Hunter Cresswell

A program launching next year will give Chelsea residents rental access to three municipality-owned electric cars on evenings and weekends.

Mayor Caryl Green said the program is part of a larger push toward environmental sustainability and will be a revenue source for the municipality. “This is all part of that sharing economy,” she said.

The three electric cars, two of which are new Chevrolet Volts that municipal council

unanimously approved purchasing at a meeting earlier this month, will be parked at Chelsea city hall where residents will be able to rent them for two- to three-hour periods on evenings and weekends while they’re not being used by the municipality. More details – such as how the reservations will work and pricing – will be announced by the municipality, said Chelsea communications officer Maude Prud’homme-Séguin.

The project will be managed by the Conseil régional de l’environnement et du

développement durable de l’Outaouais (CREDDO), a non-profit environmental organization. Chelsea is one of six local municipalities taking part in the pilot program known as Projet SAUVÉR Québec, which aims to reduce the number of gasoline-driven vehicles on the roads and in driveways.

“The biggest of these goals is for people to maybe have one car per house instead of two,” CREDDO transportation project manager Emmanuel Pion said.

The car sharing programs

of the six municipalities aren’t yet connected, but Pion hopes more cities join and eventually combine their programs into one: “Our main goal is, in a few years, have a citizen co-op that can run the network.” For now, the program is municipality driven.

“We’re really excited to support the initiative that the CREDDO has brought,” Green said.

The cost to purchase a new model electric car, installing a charging station, and get the program up and running

is over \$105,000 per vehicle, Prud’homme-Séguin said. But the municipality is only on the hook for, at most, \$37,231, thanks to federal and provincial grants delivered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Green said she hopes to expand the municipal program in the future with the possible purchase of an electric pickup truck for people who are moving or otherwise need more cargo space than the current electric cars offer.

Chelsea open to suggestions for Hwy 105 rename

By Hunter Cresswell

Chelsea wants to rename Hwy 105 for two reasons, Mayor Caryl Green said: to send a message and to call it something that better reflects the area.

“What we are trying to indicate is that this is no longer a highway,” Green told the Low Down, adding that those who want to drive at 100 Km/h can take Hwy 5. “It’s a neighbourhood thoroughfare,” she said, and she’d like to see it designated as a scenic route or boulevard with a name that has historical or cultural significance to Chelsea or otherwise incorporates the Gatineau

River.

“We’ve had a request from residents to rename Route 105 into a more descriptive name,” she said.

“What we are trying to indicate is that this is no longer a highway.”

—Caryl Green

The municipality will disseminate information on how residents can suggest new names in the coming months, Green said.

“There will be a call to residents for name proposals. It has been discussed during the [Planning and Sustainable Development Advisory Committee] meeting this summer,” Chelsea communications officer Maude Prud’homme-Séguin said.

But this change doesn’t mean people will need to change their addresses, which, said Green, would result in costs to residents. While the road will still be ‘Route 105’ on the books at the post office, there will be signs at the northern and southernmost points of the road within the municipality reflecting the new name.

Teens use social media to rob Cantley homes

Three teenagers have been arrested after pulling off several break-and-enters in Cantley by befriending local high school students on social media and tracking their movements.

According to the MRC des Collines police, two 15-year-old boys and an 18-year-old woman have been linked to ten burglaries in Cantley and one in Val-des-Monts which took place over the last few weeks. The trio allegedly targeted homes by creating fake profiles on social media and interacting with other local teens. The group was able to plan the break-ins when no one would be home by

using the geolocation tool on Snapchat that shows users’ whereabouts on a map. The suspects then entered the homes by breaking a window and took jewellery, electronics, cash, alcohol, and video game consoles.

The streets that were targeted are Rue du Commandeur, Rue Chanteclerc, Chemin Des Prés, and des Chemin Érables.

Police say that the investigation is ongoing and could result in additional arrests. Anyone who has been a victim and has not reported the incident is encouraged to call the MRC des Collines police at 819-459-9911.

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