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After enjoying a three-day elk hunt, Delmer Hartwig claimed his \$15 million jackpot prize at the Ontario Lottery Gaming office last Thursday.

Killaloe's \$15 million man

Delmer Hartwig returns from hunt, claims his big win in Toronto

By Gerald Tracey
 News Editor

Killaloe -- Friends of Delmer Hartwig say the 51-year-old Killaloe-area resident has a million dollar view from his log home that sits on the side of a hill along the 16th Concession (Rocheport Road) overlooking an expanse of forests and fields to the north towards the Village of Killaloe and providing a panoramic view of Golden Lake to the east.

The only difference now, they say, is that he has the million dollars to go with the view. In fact, the former truck driver has \$15 million to go with the view after picking up his big cheque at the Ontario Lottery Gaming (OLG) office last Thursday in Toronto.

Mr. Hartwig purchased the winning ticket at A.J.'s Convenience store, owned by Steve and Jenn Dashney in Killaloe for the Friday, September 13 draw (who says the 13th is unlucky?) and went into the store the next day to

check the numbers only to discover that when he validated his ticket, the lottery terminal started to chime and then display the words **Big Winner** on the screen before it shut down.

No one knew how much Mr. Hartwig had won until a representative from the OLG office phoned the store to say the ticket holder was worth a cool \$15 million.

Mr. Hartwig told OLG officials he stayed calm and tried to figure out how much he had won before the phone call came through to the store.

And when the representative told him \$15 million, Mr. Hartwig admitted he was in shock.

But that didn't stop him from still thinking about his upcoming elk hunting trip. In fact, lottery officials were more than a bit surprised when Mr. Hartwig told them he wouldn't be going to Toronto to claim the prize until after the trip.

"I had planned to go elk hunting

with some good friends and didn't want to cancel," Mr. Hartwig said. "So, I thought the money could wait at OLG for a few days."

Mr. Hartwig later told friends around home that his co-hunters were depending on him for the hunt and there was no way he was going to let them down.

After returning from the hunt, Mr. Hartwig picked up his \$15 million cheque at the OLG Prize Centre but he still couldn't believe his good fortune.

"This has not sunk in yet, but once I see my bank account, I may finally believe it," he exclaimed.

After working 25 years as a truck operator for Visneskie Trucking and Visneskie Logging, Mr. Hartwig phoned his bosses, Dale and Glenn Visneskie to tell them he was retiring. No more early rises in the winter at 2 a.m. to plow and sand the roads into Algonquin Park to

make them passable for the trucks hauling logs.

Despite losing one of their most dedicated and dependable employees, his former bosses were happy for him, but know they will have a difficult time to find someone to fill his boots.

After several days, Mr. Hartwig now has a few ideas about what to do with his windfall. "I want to keep this simple," he said. "I want to share some money with family and friends, give some to charity and maybe buy a new car. I may splurge on an extreme hunting trip in the Northwest Territories or the Yukon."

He also plans to stay in the Killaloe community where his father, Franklin and mother, Mona Wills and his two brothers and one of two sisters also reside.

"I will be spending some of the jackpot cash to fix my home in Killaloe because that is where I grew up. I love that place!"

Four-year-old takes cocaine to school

21-year-old charged with possession

Renfrew -- A 21-year-old man was charged with possession of cocaine last week by Renfrew Ontario Provincial Police after a four-year-old child unknowingly took the drug to his school.

Police attended a Renfrew school on September 19 after receiving a report the boy brought what appeared to be a lighter to school. However, upon investigation the lighter was in fact

a concealment device and contained cocaine. After investigating the incident, a relative of the child admitted the drugs belonged to him. The man was released on a promise to appear in court in Renfrew on November 13.

The name of the accused and the school will not be identified to protect the identity of the child. Constable Philip Holmes investigated.

Two are arrested in Mac's store robbery

Pembroke -- Two men were arrested and charged last Thursday with armed robbery in connection with the Sunday, September 8th robbery of a Mac's convenience store in the city.

Steven Potvin, 22, of Pembroke and Michael Zadow, 25, of Petawawa have also been charged with wearing a disguise with the intent to commit an indictable offence.

Upper Ottawa Valley Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers

responded to the Sunday evening robbery.

Investigation revealed a lone male wearing a black-hooded sweat shirt and black pants, with his face disguised by a black bandana with white dots, entered the store at 10:10 p.m. After threatening the clerk and demanding money, the male made off with an undisclosed amount of cash, consisting of five-dollar bills and coins. No one was injured.

35 cruelty to animals charges laid by SPCA

Cobden -- A Cobden couple have been charged each with 35 counts of animal cruelty under the Ontario SPCA Act.

On August 19, the Ontario SPCA executed a search warrant at a Cobden-area property after receiving a call of concern for the welfare of the animals on the property. The reptiles were found in poor living conditions and without adequate care. Under the authority of a veterinarian certificate and the Ontario SPCA Act, over 45

reptiles were removed, including bearded dragons, snakes, lizards and an American alligator. Compliance orders were written under the authority of the Ontario SPCA Act for the care of the remaining animals on the property.

"Responsible pet ownership extends to all animals," said Larry Wilkinson, Senior Inspector. "Individuals should know what the laws are regarding animals of all types before buying a pet." No names were released.



New doctor for Bay community

A new doctor will begin practicing in Barry's Bay in the spring of 2014. Dr. Penny Forth of Sudbury signed a contract with the Barry's Bay and Area Physician Recruitment Committee last week. See page 4 for story.

Elderly woman becomes Highway 17's latest victim

Deep River -- An 84-year-old North Bay woman was the lone victim of a four-vehicle crash late Thursday morning on Highway 17 that closed the busy Trans Canada route late into the evening.

Jeannine Lavigne-Vaillancourt was westbound on Highway 17 near Driftwood Provincial Park when

the Toyota car she was operating struck an eastbound tractor trailer at approximately 11 a.m. Two other vehicles, a tractor trailer and Buick SUV were also involved.

OPP, paramedics and fire departments responded to the scene where Mrs. Lavigne-Vaillancourt was pronounced deceased. None of

the occupants of the other vehicles sustained injuries that required hospital care.

The collision closed the highway in both directions until late Friday night as the OPP and members of the Technical Traffic Collision Investigation team conducted their investigation. Much of the heavy

truck traffic took the Highway 60 route from Renfrew through Algonquin Park to Huntsville. At one point, there were reports that eastbound traffic was backed up to Mattawa.

Constable John Riendeau of the Upper Ottawa Valley detachment of the OPP is the lead investigator.

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