

THE DAILY GLEANER

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2015

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Ericson sought answers before iRock vote

STEPHEN LLEWELLYN
THE DAILY GLEANER

Coun. Greg Ericson says he was looking for important information before the vote on the iRock lease at last Monday's Fredericton city council meeting. "What I was looking for was an answer to the question, 'Does the minister of public safety have it within their discretionary powers to extinguish an exotic

entertainment licence?'" Ericson said in an interview Monday.

On June 22, council voted to spend \$150,000 to lease the former King Street nightclub for five months to prevent an unidentified group from moving in and taking advantage of the exotic dancing licence attached to the property.

On Wednesday, Mayor Brad Woodside said the city made the move to stop organized crime from buying the property.

But on Friday, he said "new information" had come to light that made the lease, which would have started July 1, unnecessary. He said he learned of the information when following up on questions Ericson asked at the June 22 meeting.

Councillors met privately on Monday to discuss the issue.

Woodside declined to talk to reporters afterward. He said a special open council

session would be held Tuesday after lunch about the former iRock lease.

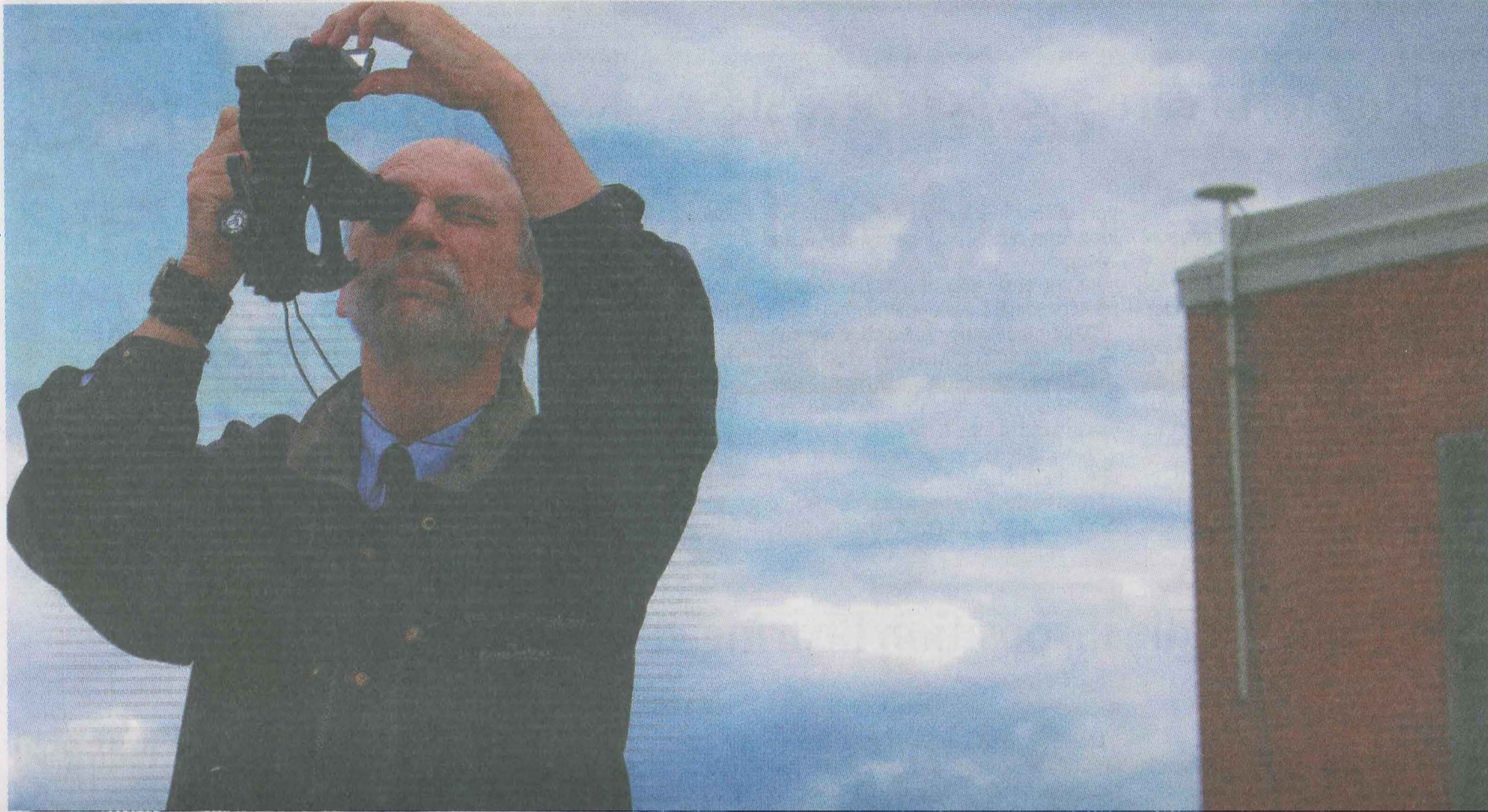
Woodside said Friday that he spoke to Public Safety Minister Stephen Horsman, the MLA for Fredericton North, before coming to the conclusion the city didn't have to lease the iRock property.

Ericson said his question on June 22, about the powers of the minister to extinguish the exotic dancing licence, was a political one.

"I mean, there's no jurisprudence on it, so a lawyer couldn't go to past cases to discover this. Really, what you have to do is you have to consult the minister and their governing caucus and determine if they have the will to do something like that."

He also said council was facing a time pressure on June 22 when it voted to take

PLEASE SEE → LEASE, A4



University of New Brunswick professor Richard Langley uses a sextant, which can be used to measure time and figure out a user's location. Langley said clocks will stand still at 9 p.m. to account for a leap second, which could cause problems for the financial industry, airlines and websites. PHOTO: SEAN MCCULLUM/THE DAILY GLEANER

World clocks set to stop for leap second

2012 leap second caused airlines to experience booking problems

SEAN MCCULLUM
THE DAILY GLEANER

Time will literally stand still on June 30 at 9 p.m. as clocks around the world are paused to account for a leap second.

The last recorded leap second was in 2012, which caused problems for airlines and several websites.

"Rather than the usual 86,400 seconds in a day, June 30 will have precisely 86,401 seconds," said University

of New Brunswick geodesy and geomatics engineering professor Richard Langley.

"Our clocks will stand still for a moment, waiting for the passage of the leap second."

Langley is a contributing editor of GPS World magazine and a self-described "time nut."

A leap second is different from a leap year, which sees a 366-day year, every four years. Where a leap year occurs on a schedule according to the Earth's rotation around the sun, a leap second occurs when many small time changes, caused by the Earth's rotation on its axis add up to a one-second difference from co-ordinated universal time.

"National time-keeping centres around the globe, such as the National Research Council in Ottawa will insert this extra second or leap second into their master clocks so that they remain synchronized with an international time standard," said Langley. "This includes all of the so-called time servers on the Internet, which keep our computer clocks in sync."

Langley said it is unlikely New Brunswickers will notice a difference but there may be drawbacks for some.

"It can screw up some computer systems, and the financial industry is currently worried about what's going to happen," said Langley.

A leap second could cause problems

for those who rely on electronic software.

Langley said those involved in stock exchanges could face some problems the evening of June 30.

"People make or lose money on time scales of fractions of a second. If they don't make a trade exactly when they want to, it's dollars," said Langley.

Some stock exchanges are set to close around the scheduled leap second. BATS Global Markets in Kansas and several other U.S. stock exchanges, will be closing earlier than usual.

Langley hopes there will be no problems with the change.

PLEASE SEE → CLOCKS, A2

Horizon CEO calls for fewer hospitals, use of private firms in health care

John McGarry says province must change its 'ideology' of health-care system

ADAM HURAS
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

SAINT JOHN • Horizon Health Network CEO John McGarry says the province must change its "ideology" of the health-care system to one that operates with fewer hospitals and employs greater use of private health-care firms.

McGarry said the health authority is now at the beginning of five-year plan to redirect \$48 million currently being spent on hospital infrastructure.

He said those savings will be re-deployed to tertiary and community health care.

"We find it (savings) in our hospital sector in terms of how many hospitals we have, how many beds in the hospitals, how many radiology departments, how many labs," McGarry said, adding that every brick and mortar institution has an emergency room, food services and housekeeping.

"If you have fewer hospitals, you have fewer of those."

McGarry made the comments in a noon-time speech to the Rotary Club of Saint John in the Port City on Monday.

He said the province's geography can accommodate the change.

"We're not northern Ontario, we're not the Northwest Territories," he said. "Every regional hospital is at least within an hour of another regional hospital, if not less."

"We need to change the ideology so it's more practical."

Health Minister Victor Boudreau has said that the number of hospitals in the province will be part of the discussion as they hope to find up to \$600 million in savings and new revenues to slay the province's structural deficit.

Repurposing some hospitals into nursing homes has also been discussed.

The Liberal government has also signalled that it wants to give the private sector a greater role in the province's health-care system, stating it is now negotiating with a private firm to take over the management of food and cleaning services in the province's hospitals.

Boudreau said earlier this year that the move will save the province millions of dollars through efficiencies brought in by a private company.

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Man who threatened to kill cops deemed not criminally responsible

DON MACPHERSON
THE DAILY GLEANER

A northside man who threatened to kill Fredericton police officers and held them at bay during a standoff last month has been found by a psychiatrist not to be responsible for his actions.

A judge sent George William Cross, 46, of 204 Douglas Ave., Apt. 3, to the Restigouche Hospital Centre in Campbellton last month for a psychiatric assessment to determine fitness to stand trial or criminal responsibility.

Cross was charged last month with an indictable count of uttering a threat to the Fredericton police

communications centre to cause death or bodily harm to a city police officer on May 22.

The charge stems from an incident at about 5:30 p.m. on the evening in question during which the city police's emergency response team was

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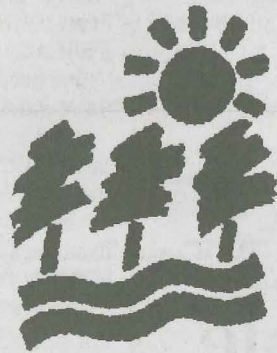
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NOTICE

11: SELECT

Not all experts are in favour of adjusting clocks

CLOCKS → A1

“Hopefully there has been enough warning for people to get their acts together,” said Langley.

The leap second added in 2012 caused flight booking problems for Qantas airlines and caused system delays from several popular websites including Reddit, LinkedIn, Foursquare and Mozilla. Langley said there is potential for similar occurrences with this year’s leap second.

“It all boils down to programs not properly accounting for the leap second,” said Langley.

The Earth doesn’t rotate on its axis at a uniform rate, like its rotation around the sun.

“If you actually time how long it takes the Earth to spin on its axis it’s not exactly 86,400 seconds, it’s milliseconds off from that,” said Langley. “It’s like a millisecond a day so it accumulates and eventually fills a second.”

The tides are primarily to blame for the upcoming one-second clock delay.

“The sun and the moon raise the

tides and the moving mass of ocean water creates friction on the ocean’s floor,” said Langley.

The energy created by the friction on the bottom of the ocean causes the Earth’s rotation to slow down slightly.

“The moon is constantly moving away from the earth, by just a couple of centimetres a year,” said Langley. “Correspondingly the Earth’s rotation

“Certainly life would be easier if we didn’t have the leap second.”

RICHARD LANGLEY

is slowing down.”

Langley said this is the primary contributor to the added time at the end of every day which eventually forms a full second, causing a leap second.

The Earth’s liquid core rotates at a

different rate than the outer crust.

“You can get an exchange of momentum that can result in the outer part of the earth spinning at a different rate than the interior and changing that rate in time. That can also contribute to the need for a leap second,” said Langley.

To put it simply, leap second corrects the slight inconsistency between the earth’s rotation and co-ordinated universal time. Not all experts are in favour of adjusting world clocks to account for leap seconds.

“It puts a lot of responsibility on software developers and programmers,” said Langley. “Certainly life would be easier if we didn’t have the leap second.”

Langley said some occupations involving astronomy and satellites require the precise universal time created by leap seconds. The International Telecommunication Union, a branch of the United Nations, is currently debating whether or not to keep adjusting universal time to account for leap seconds.

THE DAILY GLEANER

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