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Valley network seeks volunteers to aid displaced Ukrainians

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP
LANARK & RENFREW

PEMBROKE

Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) – Lanark & Renfrew has partnered with Ukrainian Diaspora Support Canada (UADSC) to help create a response network for displaced Ukrainians across the Ottawa Valley.

The UADSC, a registered Canadian not-for-profit organization, is critical as it works to bring many fleeing Ukrainians to our country. This initiative, based in Carleton Place, ON, aligns well with the strategic priorities of our organization in strengthening the role of local communities across Lanark and Renfrew Counties, in Ontario, in integrating and serving our newcomer population. More than 11 million Ukrainians have been displaced from their homes, over 5 million of which have fled the country and are seeking aid from the international community. Currently, there are 416 displaced Ukrainian families on the UADSC list, and 45 Ukrainians have been successfully rehomed.

While UADSC focuses on Visa applications, matching displaced Ukrainians with their future communities, and transportation to new communities, LIP – Lanark & Renfrew is working to grow the network of volunteers who will help welcome our new neighbours to the area. “We have so many volunteer roles to fill, including family home hosts, those willing to help raise funds to pay for flights and settlement funds, volunteers who can speak Ukrainian or Russian or willing to help with English as a Second Language support, donation hubs for physical items, doctors and healthcare providers who can assess our new neighbours until they have access to OHIP, those willing to help with transportation to appointments, and



PHOTO HASSAN ON UNSPLASH

employers willing to hire newly landed Ukrainians who are eligible to work immediately,” says Jodi Bucholtz, Manager of Local Immigration Partnerships-Lanark & Renfrew.

“By having an established response network in each community across Lanark and Renfrew Counties, we will know that there is a support network ready and waiting to jump to action when they are called upon,” adds Zack Nethery, Director, UADSC.

UADSC was born out of necessity. “Our first goal was to help one family flee the warzone in Ukraine. This family was our very own. After calling to the community for help, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support. We rolled that support into an initiative working to bring as many fleeing Ukrainians to our beautiful country as possible,” continues Mariia Mokrushyna, Director, UADSC.

Learn more about this initiative, signup

as a volunteer, open your home or offer employment by visiting <https://liplanarkrenfrew.ca/support-ukraine>. Local Immigration Partnerships are funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), a department of the Government of Canada, and support communities in bringing together service providers, settlement agencies, community groups, employers, municipalities, and other key organizations to create a welcoming and inclusive community for newcomers. In Lanark and Renfrew Counties, the work of Local Immigration Partnership is administered by Algonquin College’s Pembroke Campus.



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SFMH provides update on Emergency Dept. redevelopment



Members of the SFMH Emergency Team Sept/2021 from left: Katlynn Aleck RN, Dr. Marissa Ukos, Chief of Staff Dr. Jason Malinowski, CNO Mary-Ellen Harris, Cheryl Pecarskie RN, COO Gregory McLeod

SFMH BARRY'S BAY

St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) is excited to share that it has received official approval of its Emergency Department (ED) Redevelopment Project Stage 2 submission from the Ministry of Health.

The approval outlines projected patient visits for the programs and services involved (i.e., ED, ambulatory care, clinic, and medical day care visits) and the square footage required for each area to meet that volume of patients.

"We're very pleased to receive this approval and be able to move forward with the next step in planning our new and improved emergency department. This redevelopment will support the continued delivery of high-quality, patient-centred care that we are proud to provide to residents of our community," stated Joanne King, Chair, SFMH Board of Directors.

As the only ED between Renfrew and Huntsville, the SFMH emergency department currently sees more than 11,000 patients per year in a space that was originally designed for patient volumes of only 3,000 per year.

The renovation project will increase the physical footprint by 5,500 square feet, as well as upgrade and renovate the existing space to current standards for

patient care, infection control, privacy/confidentiality, and occupational health, among others.

Deficiencies of the existing ED have been highlighted by both the implementation of the EPIC electronic medical records (EMR) system as well as the pandemic.

"We're very excited as we watch this project move forward. Not only patients and families, but also the front-line doctors and nurses will appreciate the improvements in privacy, accessibility, infection control, and communications," noted Dr. Jason Malinowski, SFMH Chief of Staff.

SFMH is now set to proceed to Stage 3 (designs, timelines and costs) of the five-stage approval process leading up to shovels in the ground.

Julia Boudreau, SFMH CEO thanked the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health East Region for endorsing our project as well as the staff, physicians and Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) members who have been involved so far in the planning.

"The redevelopment of our ED will ensure ongoing safe and efficient emergency care close to home for residents of Barry's Bay and surrounding area as patient volumes and health care needs continue to grow," stated Boudreau.

Helen Benn first candidate to seek MV Council role

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Nominations for the next municipal election on October 24, 2022 opened at the beginning of this month. Since May 1 fell on a Sunday, the earliest a candidate could put their name forward was May 2nd – and Barry's Bay business owner Helen Benn didn't hesitate to file her nomination that day.

Benn operates her business Live.Life. Better out of The Natural Health Centre on Dunn Street. The bio on her website states: "Helen Benn is a lifelong learner with a passion for always learning something new. Helen is a Certified Professional Life Coach, Mediator, Restorative Justice Practitioner, Family Group Conference Coordinator, PLR Hypnotherapist and Mental Health First Aider. She is a member in good standing of: The Association of PEMF Professionals (AOPP); Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP); College of Early Childhood Educators (RECE); the Ontario Association for Child and Youth Care (CYW) and The Association for Research and Enlightenment."

It goes on to list her volunteer work: "Helen was a founding board member of Community Conflict Resolution Services of Halton and for 10 years she volunteered as a mediator for that non-profit organization. Helen is a volunteer Chairperson of the Barry's Bay Recreation Committee and is a member of the Madawaska Valley District High School Parent Council."

he bio ends with her educational experience: "Helen has been a workshop facilitator at the Humber College Lakeshore campus; Peel District School Board PD Staff Development; and many other groups and organizations over the years. Helen is also an Instructor of Adult Literacy, Basic Skills and Computer Skills, for the Training and Learning Centre of Renfrew County, in Barry's Bay. Helen is also a member of the teaching support staff at RCDSB."

The Current contacted Benn to find out why she wants to be a Councillor in Madawaska Valley. Benn replied, "I can say that I feel I would be an excellent candidate based on my knowledge and experience to be a Township Councillor that repre-



HELEN BENN PHOTO: HELENBENN.COM

sents the community for all age groups and abilities. I feel as we emerge from the restrictions of the past couple of years, this is the time for the growth of community connectedness in the MVT, and for the spirit of our community to shine brightly ... something I am very passionate about."

Are you motivated to step up for your community?

The nomination period remains open until August 19 at 2 pm. New election rules this year include the ability to file nominations electronically, if allowed by your local municipality. The council and school board term of office will run from November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026.

Resources for prospective candidates and voters are available from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Madawaska Valley Township provides helpful links for candidates and voters on its website and suggests that residents with questions about the election should contact Gwen Dombroski 613-756-2747 ext 212 or gdombroski@madawaskavalley.ca

As of May 9 at 4pm, The Current notes that the unofficial list of candidates now includes Councillor Carl Bromwich seeking re-election. So far, there are no candidates registered for the position of MV Township mayor or for any of the school board positions.

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Readers concerned about Chalk River nuclear waste

LETTER

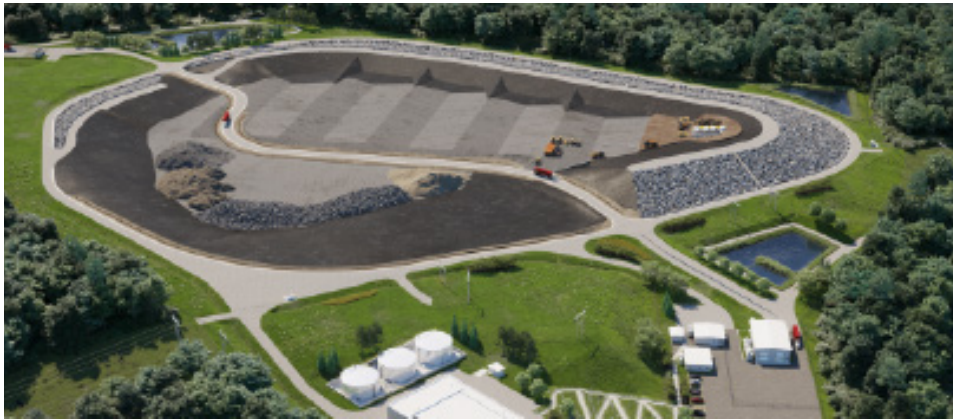
Dear Mayors, Reeves and Councillors of Renfrew County and the City of Pembroke,

Elected officials in the Ottawa Valley have been lobbied to support the "NSDF," the giant Chalk River nuclear waste land-fill for one million tonnes of radioactive and hazardous waste.

Chalk River Laboratories has been the second largest employer in Renfrew County for many years. It is understandable that elected officials wish to support Chalk River Laboratories and keep the funding and jobs going. However, supporting the NSDF could be a serious mistake for Renfrew County. Consider the following:

- The radioactive waste at Chalk River is the **largest environmental liability on the books of the Government of Canada**. To properly clean it up would cost roughly \$16 billion and take several decades.
- A multinational consortium was contracted in 2015 and given ownership of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). Their contract says they will quickly and cheaply reduce the federal nuclear liabilities.
- CNL has proposed the NSDF as the way to clean up the Chalk River Laboratories site. CNL is proposing to put materials in the NSDF that should never be put in a landfill such as plutonium.
- CNL is importing commercial and federal radioactive waste to Chalk River for disposal in the NSDF despite a specific request from the city of Ottawa for these imports to be stopped.

Continued on page 5



MV property owner fined for illegal burning

SUBMITTED

MADAWASKA VALLEY

On May 4 Madawaska Valley Fire Department (MVFD) responded to a call about an unattended fire just off Old Barry's Bay Road. Arriving at the scene, MVFD personnel could smell plastic burning and noticed blue smoke through the trees. An open air fire was discovered at 1:20 pm with no one attending to it. A person came out of a home and asked if they could help. They admitted that when they had lit the fire, they were burning flooring and wood.

There was no fire permit and the wind was blowing at 23km/hour. The person was charged.

Night time burning only

MV Fire Chief Corwin Quade reminds residents that night time burning only is allowed and permits are required for any fire over 2 feet by feet (60 cm by 60 cm). Only wood or brush can be burnt.

MVFD has noticed that people have been very careful over the past few years with open air burning and would like to thank everyone for this. MVFD has been to three very small wildfires this spring; two were caused by cigarettes and one was an unattended brush pile fire.

Spring Freshet update

Quade also told The Current that the Spring Freshet is over for the 2022. He added that Bark lake is expected to reach summer levels by mid-May.

FIRE DANGER METER

TOTAL FIRE BAN

NO OPEN FLAMES - OPEN FIRES PROHIBITED

LEVEL 1 FIRE BAN

FIRE PERMITS SUSPENDED - CAMP FIRES ALLOWED

NIGHT TIME BURNING ONLY

1 HOUR BEFORE SUNSET TO 1 HOUR AFTER SUNRISE
APRIL 1 - OCT. 31 / PERMITS REQUIRED

LOW/MODERATE DAYTIME BURNING

- Critics of the NSDF proposal say the facility is poorly sited and fails to meet international safety standards. CNL's own studies show that the NSDF would leak and disintegrate long before radioactive components like plutonium decayed to a harmless state.
- The Assembly of First Nations and more than 140 municipalities, including Pontiac County, Ottawa, Gatineau and Montreal have passed resolutions of concern about the proposed project.
- If the NSDF is approved, we will get one substandard leaking facility for \$750 million, instead of \$16 billion spent over many decades. If approved, the leaking radioactive mound will pollute the Ottawa River, adversely affect property values, and pose health risks to current and future generations in the Ottawa Valley.

Surely Ottawa Valley residents deserve world class facilities that we can be proud of and that will keep radioactive wastes out of our air and drinking water such as in-ground concrete vaults and rock caverns on sites further from the Ottawa River.

Costs to Canadian taxpayers have quadrupled since 2015. The consortium is being paid more than \$1 billion annually up from the \$327 million AECL received in 2015. A 2016 access to information request revealed that nine senior CNL executives were paid an average of \$722,000 per person per year and twenty-eight senior contractors were paid an average of \$377,000 per year per person. Almost all were non-Canadian.

Recent charitable donations by CNL are tiny drops in the bucket of the more than \$1 billion the consortium is receiving annually from Canadian taxpayers, much of it going to foreign shareholders, foreign senior executives and foreign contractors. Should our tax dollars be used by foreign corporations to garner support for the NSDF?

Saying "no" to the NSDF would not mean an end to nuclear industry jobs in the Ottawa Valley. The nuclear waste liability is a multibillion dollar industry. A commitment to world class cleanup would bring more funding over a longer period, more jobs, protection of health

and the Ottawa River, greater peace of mind and the respect of our international partners.

This letter has been edited for brevity. See the full version with active hyperlinks at www.concernedcitizens.net

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Jones

Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area

Johanna Echlin

Old Fort William Cottagers' Association

Inquest date confirmed

Dr. David Cameron, Regional Supervising Coroner for Inquests, announced May 20 that the inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam will start at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022, at the Best Western Pembroke Inn and Conference Centre, Pembroke. Ms. Culleton, 66; Ms. Kuzyk, 36; and Ms. Warmerdam, 48, were killed on September 22, 2015, in the Renfrew County area, by a man who was known to them. The inquest, expected to last 15 days, will examine the circumstances surrounding their deaths.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This downloadable version of *The Current* is available free from our website. Please consider printing copies for any friends and family without internet, especially those in self-isolation that you may be helping.

Check online for COVID-19 related announcements and all the need-to-know information for Valley residents at: madvalleycurrent.com

Heritage: Gun Mountain Lodge

BOB CORRIGAN
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Thank you to Lois Yantha of Barry's Bay for sharing these materials from the original Gun Mountain Lodge "back in the day."

Current contributor Gil Glofcheskie remembers Gun Mountain Lodge well. He was in a unique position to earn some cash during his school years and recalls, "My Dad was the guide at the Lodge. I helped him out some times. I also skinned bear for hunters, handled the dogs during the deer hunt, and placed hunters on stands."

Asked for his Lodge memories, Glofcheskie replied, "Adventures of a life time -- way too many to express." Some of those adventures: Meeting people from the States. Their generosity to me. Trips into the park where we caught 5 lb speckles. About the Lodge owners, he said, "Lovely folks who treated me well, helped form my ideas about people and helped influence my life. Made me possibly a little more worldly - hopefully."

Who were those lovely folks?

Alliene Fenwick (nee Tate) 1912-1996 was the force behind Gun Mountain Lodge.

I first knew Alliene Fenwick in the summer of 1965 when I was working at the Tourist Information Bureau, a small building that was set up in front of the old arena where ValuMart is now located. She was operating Gun Mountain Lodge. I often wonder how she ended up in Renfrew County. She was a very strong business person who seemed to have the correct take on anything that came up in the realm of tourism.

That view was widely shared. For example, Fenwick was on the Board of Directors of Mount Madawaska co-operative ski hill. A news report of the grand opening in February 1971 ended with the words: "But there was a special ovation for Mrs. Alliene Fenwick, to whom goes the credit for the original idea ..."

Fenwick's obituary explained that although she was born in Tennessee, her business career progressed to marketing director for a major firm in Cleveland. She put those talents to use promoting tour-

ism in the Madawaska Valley where she built and operated Gun Mountain Lodge (later called Gun Mountain Chateau). After a lengthy illness, she passed away in 1996 in Nepean.

Note to our readers: If you are interested in having a picture and story featured

in The Madawaska Valley Current, please submit the information to Bob Corrigan at madvalleycurrent@gmail.com (subject Heritage Photos) or mail your photo to Bob c/o The Current at PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay K0J 1B0 (originals will be returned).

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All cottage rentals include boat if desired. All cottages have inside toilets - ranges - electric refrigerators - dishes - silverware - cooking utensils - outside barbecue grills. All cottages are pine panelled and have tiled floors. Bed linens and towels furnished for an additional charge. We prefer that you bring your own dish towels.

Weekly rentals are from Saturday noon to Saturday noon.

Cottages: #2 Accommodates 3-5 people \$70.00 week
 #3 Accommodates 5-9 people \$90-\$100.00 week
 #10 thru #16 Accommodate 2-4 people \$60-\$70.00 week
 #17 Accommodates 5-9 people \$90-\$100.00 week

There is a central shower and laundry for guests at no additional charge. The sloping shore is ideal for children while adults may enjoy the sun deck.

"Meals In The Main Lodge"

For those who are renting the housekeeping cottages and would like to dine at the lodge:

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Lunch \$1.50
Dinner \$2.50
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Our lounge is open at all times for the relaxation and pleasure of our guests.

"Early Reservations Advised"

A \$20.00 deposit is required for each cottage. This is refundable if we are notified at least two full weeks prior to reservation that circumstances do not permit you to fulfill your commitment.

Today's cottagers and lovers of outdoor pursuits can only imagine staying at an idyllic waterfront resort for \$10 a day, but the price list is an interesting link to the past.

valley is also the natural habitat of the lordly Moose.

Nature seems to save her most brilliant colouring to shower on the leaves of the Gun Mountain hardwoods each fall, when the forests become a riot of colour. Here, the Ruffed Grouse (Partridge) and other upland game birds are found in large numbers.

Waterfowl hunting is also excellent, as the ducks, attracted by the vast marshes near Gun Mountain, arrive in great numbers on their annual migration.



Fishing

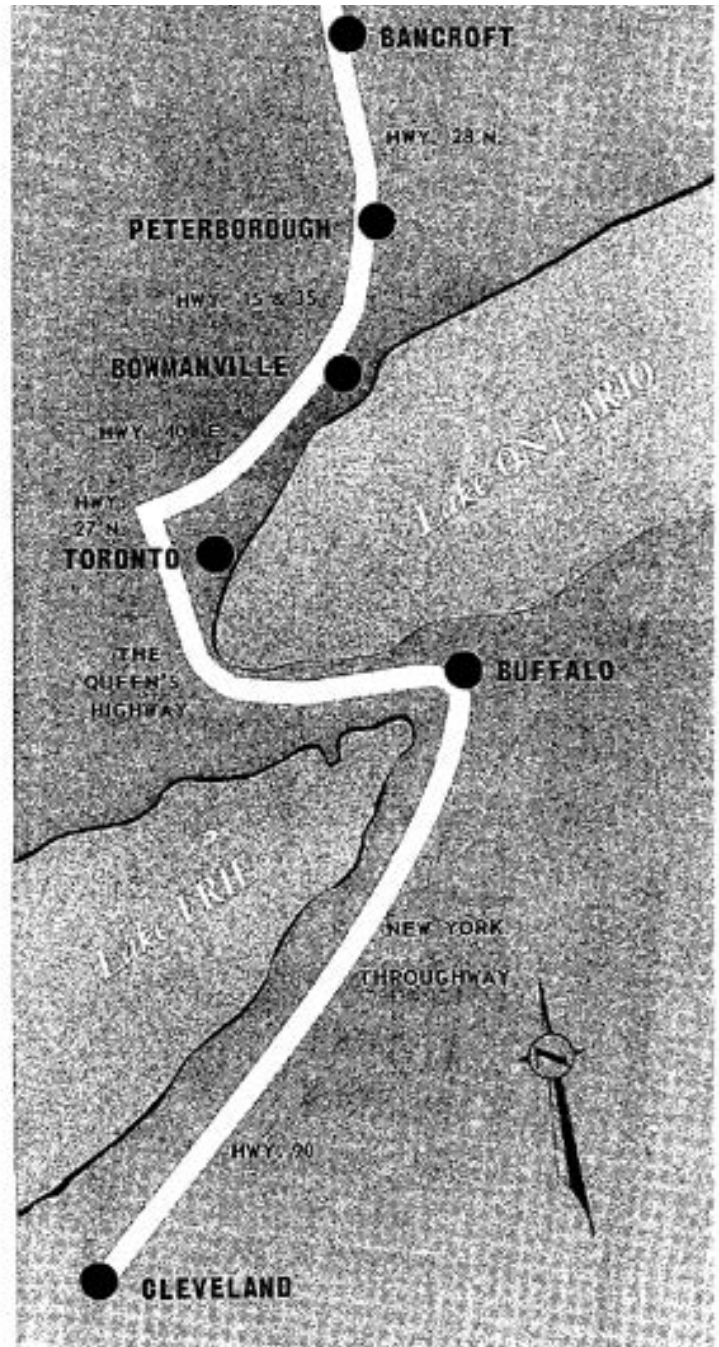
Fishermen will find many of the lakes in the Madawaska Valley practically untouched, and fly-in fishing service to secluded lakes is available at the Lodge. Game fish such as northern pike, bass, both largemouth and smallmouth, speckled, kamloops and lake trout, as well as a variety of pan fish abound here. From our dock, fishermen can set off to explore many miles of shoreline and back waters. The screened fish cleaning house at the Lodge is a busy place, and ice fishing is popular with winter visitors.



Recreation

Nature has been kind to the Madawaska Valley in many ways. Aside from being a mecca for hunters and fishermen, Gun Mountain is a popular spot with rock and mineral collectors, artists, photographers and boating and swimming enthusiasts. Hikes along wooded trails, lookouts to climb, cook outs and shore lunches add to the variety of pleasures associated with a Gun Mountain holiday.

If you have ever wished you could pick up your home and move it to some ideal spot, this is Gun Mountain Lodge. Its just like home - - maybe even better.



EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE ADVISED

WRITE, WIRE OR PHONE
A. FENWICK
GUN MOUNTAIN LODGE
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PHONE 396
OPEN YEAR ROUND



Of interest to readers is the clearly marked route from Ohio to Barry's Bay, likely explained by Alliene Fenwick's links to the Cleveland business community.

Kurt Stoll responds to Liberal Nomination Meeting

SUBMITTED
DEEP RIVER

In response to the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke Liberal Riding Association nominating their candidate for the upcoming provincial election later today, Kurt Stoll shares:

"The NDP are in the best position of any party to challenge the Conservatives in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. In the most recent provincial and federal elections, the NDP have come in second place behind the Conservatives and have widened the margin over the Liberals considerably.

More and more people are casting their vote for the NDP because they've lived through Conservative cuts to our social services and know that Liberal half-measures won't fix the challenges they face. As your MPP, I'll work alongside education and health care workers to repair what's

been broken by consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments.

If you're ready to send a candidate to Queens Park you can be proud of, get involved with my campaign. I can't do it without you."

The NDP came in second place in both the most recent provincial and federal elections, and Kurt Stoll is in the best position of any candidate to challenge Conservative MPP John Yakabuski. While the Liberal's are just getting their candidate confirmed, Kurt Stoll and his team have been hard at work for weeks canvassing, phone banking, and putting up signs across the riding.

All interested volunteers are welcome to join. Contact Dorian Pearce, Campaign Manager, Kurt Stoll for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke at rnpndp@gmail.com

Oliver Jacob announced as RNP Liberals 2022 Provincial Candidate

SUBMITTED
RENFREW COUNTY

Over the May 7-8 weekend, local Liberals across Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke nominated Oliver Jacob, McNab/Braeside Councillor and young community champion, as their Ontario Liberal candidate for the June 2nd, 2022 provincial election.

"Over the last two years, Canadians have learned just how much we can accomplish when we work together to support everyone in our community, particularly the most vulnerable," said Jacob. "In this campaign, I am proud to represent Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke as your Ontario Liberal candidate as we work together to invest in high-quality education, invest in supportive health care and revitalized long-term care, and bring much needed support to our small businesses

and communities right across Renfrew County."

Candidate Biography

Born and raised in Renfrew County, Oliver is an engaged community leader, youth advocate and volunteer who has worked in communities across Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. Since 2018, Oliver has served as one of the youngest municipal councillors in the history of the Township of McNab/Braeside. As a municipal politician, Oliver has championed community engagement, community safety and wellbeing, and supporting programs that increase affordable housing options through the Greater Arnprior Community Council on Poverty and Homelessness. He also brings proven leadership experience through various volunteer roles including as a Board Member of Arnprior Regional Health, United Way East Ontario

Official Candidates list Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

- Vote by mail registration deadline is 6 pm on May 27.
- Voter registration cards are in the mail.
- Advance in-person voting:
- May 19 to May 27 from 10 am to 8 pm at Opeongo Seniors Centre, 19 Stafford Street, Barry's Bay. (Accessible location)

CANDIDATE NAME	POLITICAL PARTY
DOLAN, ANNA	GREEN PARTY OF ONTARIO GPO
JACOB, OLIVER A.	ONTARIO LIBERAL PARTY
MACWILLIAMS, KADE	ONTARIO PARTY
O'CONNOR, THOMAS	NEW BLUE
REID, MURRAY	ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONFEDERATION OF REGIONS PARTY
STOLL, KURT	ONTARIO NDP/NPD
YAKABUSKI, JOHN	PC PARTY OF ONTARIO

Source: elections.on.ca

– Renfrew County, and as the former Co-Chair of the Renfrew County Youth Network.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts with double major in History and Politics at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Oliver returned to Renfrew County to serve his constituents in McNab/Braeside and to start his career working with both the Town of Arnprior and the Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark. These professional experiences have proven the need for a strong, progressive government that listens to the unique needs of rural workers, businesses and community groups and to provide real leadership on key local issues like housing, education, health care, food security, infrastructure renewal, broadband internet, cellular service and much more.

For more information, contact our team at info@voteoliverjacob.ca

Access to a death with dignity

OPINION

RENFREW COUNTY
MAID ACCESS COMMITTEE

In June 2016, the Parliament of Canada passed federal legislation that allows adults with terminal illnesses and intolerable suffering to choose to end their life with medical assistance. The process involves assessment by two independent health practitioners that deem them competent to make this decision free from coercion. Barriers continue to exist to access Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) that prevent patients and families from accessing a death with the dignity they desire.

As physicians who work in Renfrew County we practice across a broad spectrum of care including long term and palliative care and acute care medicine. Providing care to patients at the end of their lives is a privilege that we hold dear. The integration of MAiD, for those requesting it, has proved challenging for those admitted to hospitals and some long term care and hospice care settings.

Despite public funding, hospitals affiliated with the Catholic Health Association of Ontario (CHAO) do not allow for MAiD. Hospitals, hospices, and long term care facilities without religious affiliation have also declined patients' requests for MAiD. This results in patients dying in a way they did not wish or requiring painful and challenging transfers. This occurs at a time when patients and families are vulnerable and grieving. Currently there are no hospitals west of Arnprior in Renfrew County allowing provision of MAiD. When we must explain the facility barriers many patients identify this as a violation of their rights. Unfortunately, dying patients and grieving families are rarely in a position to launch a lengthy legal battle to advocate for their rights to a death with dignity.

Our hope in writing this article is to raise awareness of the institutional barriers that face patients wishing to access MAiD. Our health care is meant to be universal. It should not require travel and transfer of vulnerable patients in search of facilities without religious and moral judgments. We need open and respectful

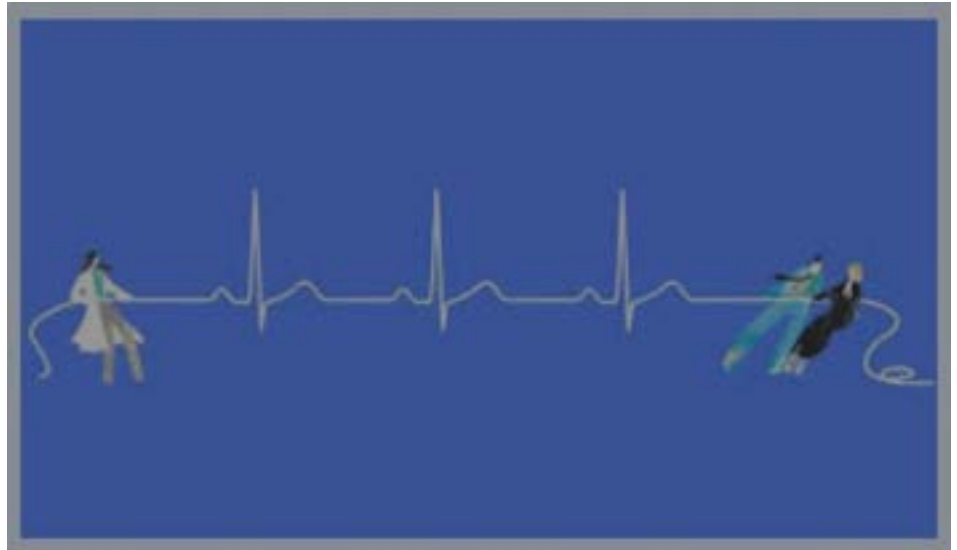


PHOTO: GLOBE & MAIL

conversations to address these barriers. We would encourage people to write their local elected representative and make inquiries at your local hospitals and health care facilities about their MAiD policies. For additional advocacy resources please visit <https://www.dyingwithdignity.ca/>.

Dr. Katie Forfar, Dr. Colleen Haney,
Dr. Lynsay Lane

Reader asks Council candidates: What's your vision?

Dear Editor:

Looking forward to the 2022 economy, I'd be interested to hear from municipal candidates about their dreams for the Madawaska Valley. For example, my vision would include news media reports dated August 4, 2032 (that's a Wednesday) that looked as follows:

BOOMTOWN MADAWASKA VALLEY
MADAWASKA VALLEY IS THE NUMBER ONE
TOURISM DESTINATION IN ONTARIO

Story: Thanks to community-led stewardship, our lakes and forests are the healthiest in Ontario. Our pollution-free environment, quality sport-fishing, and clean waters are leading this economic boom.

Al Best, Trout Lake

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Bluebird Collective sings a sweet welcome to summer



DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Valley artisan co-operative Bluebird Collective is ready for summer and celebrates their grand opening with a fashion show on Bay Day. Bluebird Collective was formed late last year when founder Sigrid Geddes of Sigrid's Naturals, then aided by Amber Flokstra Radema, decided to showcase the work of other Valley artists in Geddes' new retail space at 19582 Opeongo Line in Barry's Bay. Christmas shoppers could choose from a curated selection of products handcrafted by about fifteen Valley artists and makers – ranging from visual arts and crafts to delicious seasonal treats. Since then Bluebird Collective has grown and now proudly sports its own delightful logo.

Now fronting the Collective on her own – but with “much help from a fantastic group of collaborators” – Geddes has carefully sourced additional products from the Valley and beyond. One exciting example is a range of basketware from Ghana that is sourced from Canadian fair trade company, Big Blue Moma. The colourful baskets are traditionally hand-made by 300 weavers and their families in Bolgatanga, Ghana, who receive a fair wage for the work they do in their homes. [see photo]

Bluebird Collective customers' were treated to a Christmas storytelling and carol event late last year and Geddes promises that the fashion show on Saturday May 21 is just the first of several events to come. She says the main criterion for staging a Bluebird event is that it be “fun”

– whether that includes music, dance, drama, art, food – and looking at the range of collaborators in the team, there's no question that any event they dream up with deliver Fun.

Bluebird Collective is staffed by a rota of the artist members of the co-operative. Retail hours are 10 am to 4 pm but the open days are seasonal as follows:

May Thursday to Sunday
June Wednesday to Sunday
July-August Daily 10am to 4pm

To keep up with events and the menu for Friday home baking, follow Bluebird Local Arts Collective on Facebook. Meanwhile, please enjoy this little gallery of just a few of the items on display.



Summer activities for all at Barry's Bay Legion

THE CURRENT BARRY'S BAY

The Royal Canadian Legion Barry's Bay Branch 406 offers activities for all this summer. From weekly card games and bingo, to monthly meals such as the family-friendly Pancake Breakfast on the third Sunday of each month or the Friday night Fish & Chip Dinner, the Legion welcomes everyone in the community.

If you want some good outdoor fun, why not shine your shoes and come out to the Barry's Bay Horseshoe League Friday evenings starting May 27? Horseshoe pits provided in the Legion field. Or if weekly play is not for you, consider the Horse-

shoe Tournaments this season on June 18, July 16 and Sept. 10. Horseshoe League membership is not required for tournament play. More information from Joanne Plebon at 613-756-1407.

Do you feel the need to de-clutter? The Legion hosts a Community Garage Sale on Saturday June 25 from 8 am to 2 pm. Table fee is just \$10.

The annual Canada Day celebration is set for Friday, July 1 from 11 am to 2 pm. There will be children's activities and a BarBQ (burgers, hotdogs, sausages). You can enjoy Music in the Afternoon with Cori Coulas.

Legion activities are open to all in the community, including regular Club Room hours Monday to Saturday from 2 pm to 6 pm.



BARRY'S BAY Legion

BINGO

7 pm Thursday May 19. From June 2, every Thursday.

FISH & CHIP DINNER

Friday June 3. 4:30 to 7:15 pm Take out or dine in (1pc \$13; 2pc \$18) Reservations required.

EUCHRE

Bid Euchre: every Tuesday at 7 pm
Six Hand Euchre: last Friday of each month
Registration 6 pm; games begin 6:30 pm

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday May 15, June 19. 8 am to 12 pm
Adults \$12, Children 6-12 yrs \$6, Under 6s free.

CLUB ROOM

Monday to Saturday 2pm to 6pm

BARRY'S BAY HORSESHOE LEAGUE

6:30 pm Fridays starting May 27. Registration \$40. Tournaments June 18, July 16, Sept. 10 (open to non-members) Info Joanne Plebon 613-756-1407

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday June 25. 8 am to 2 pm Table fee \$10. All unsold items to be removed at end of the day.

CANADA DAY

Friday July 1. 11 am to 2 pm Children's activities and BarBQ. Afternoon music with Cori Coulas.

HONOUR OUR VETERANS BANNERS

Call Heather for more information. 613-756-9027



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Bernadette McCann House

For some of us, easing COVID restrictions
doesn't mean "our home is safe".

Spring updates for Valley culture lovers

THE CURRENT MADAWASKA VALLEY

FROM GARBAGE COMES ART

Ottawa Valley Community Arts will host a Garden Flower workshop where you can learn how to make a flower for your garden using aluminum cans and other reusable materials. The event takes place from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday May 28th in the Killaloe Reading Garden (after the Killaloe Public Library Plant Sale). For details and to register: anya@ov-caos.org



CLOSURE OF MISSION HOUSE MUSEUM & GALLERY

Madawaska Valley has lost yet another element of its “healthy, growing and culturally-rich community.” The Township has announced that Combermere’s Mission House Museum & Gallery has closed its doors, but will go virtual to celebrate the heritage of the Combermere area. MV’s announcement says: **“If you or someone you know have lent artifacts to the museum, please get in touch regarding their return. Contact Hannah at Gutoskie at recreation@madawaskavalley.ca or 613-756-2747 ext 220 to make arrangements. You can find the Combermere Heritage Society online, where they will continue to share their knowledge with a new and growing audience: Combermere Heritage on Facebook, and @CombermereHeritage on Instagram.”**

36TH MADAWASKA VALLEY ARTISAN FESTIVAL

The Madawaska Valley Artisan Festival returns on Saturday July 9 from 10 am to 5 pm at Railway Station Park in Barry’s Bay. Applications from makers will be accepted until June 3. For more information on the festival or to apply, contact Hannah Gutoskie, MV Recreation and Community Development Coordinator at recreation@madawaskavalley.ca or 613-756-2747 ext.220.



BOOK LAUNCH FOR COMBERMERE WRITER

Madawaska Valley Public Library will host a book launch of Combermere resident Brenda Missen’s latest literary work *Tumblehome* on Monday, May 30 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Combermere Community Centre. *Tumblehome: One Woman’s Canoeing Adventures in the Divine Wilderness* is described as “part spiritual memoir, part travel adventure, and great part ode to the Earth – a timely and important exploration of where our real roots lie.” RSVP to mvpl.programs@gmail.com or phone 613-756-2000

