

## INSIDE...

New MV Rec Coordinator p.3

Seasonal fire safety p.5

Hallowe'en fun p.12

## BLR Mayor halts discussion of fraud prevention disclosure with claim of “harassment”

*Fire Chief caught on camera making obscene gesture*

MICHAEL J. MCCLOSKEY  
PALMER RAPIDS

During a re-scheduled Regular Council Meeting of Brudenell Lyndoch and Raglan Township (BLR) on Oct.27, Mayor Sheldon Keller used a claim of “harassment” to abruptly stop questions related to municipal fraud raised by Councillors Trevor Lidtkie and Andrea Budarick. It happened during a discussion about responding to the Township’s auditors’ letter to Council prior to conducting its annual audit.

The discussion related to the following questions raised by auditors MacKilligan and Associates:

### AUDIT QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS

#### FRAUD

To help us in identifying and responding to the risks of fraud within the entity, we would appreciate your responses to the following questions in the space provided below:

1. What oversight, if any, do you provide over management’s processes for identifying and responding to fraud risks? Management’s processes could include policies, procedures, programs or controls that serve to prevent, detect and deter fraud.
2. Do you have any knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, including misappropriation of assets or manipulation of the financial statements, affecting the entity? If so, please provide details and how the fraud or allegations of fraud were addressed.

When the subject arose, Councillor Lidtkie directed Council’s attention to that section and asked, “How do we



From left: Valerie Jahn, Sheldon Keller, Jordan Genrick. Photo: YouTube/Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan

- Page 3 -

#### Audit Questions and Requests

##### Fraud

To help us in identifying and responding to the risks of fraud within the entity, we would appreciate your responses to the following questions in the space provided below:

1. What oversight, if any, do you provide over management’s processes for identifying and responding to fraud risks? Management’s processes could include policies, procedures, programs or controls that serve to prevent, detect and deter fraud.
2. Do you have any knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, including misappropriation of assets or manipulation of the financial statements, affecting the entity? If so, please provide details and how the fraud or allegations of fraud were addressed.

Source: p.65 of BLR Council Meeting Agenda for October 27, 2021

deal with this?” Councillor Budarick chimed in to state that as she was unfamiliar with the document, she was unhappy about signing it with spaces left blank, which is what it appeared the Mayor and the Acting Clerk-Treasurer, Valerie Jahn, were proposing. She said, “I would just like to see the responses to these questions before anyone was asked to sign it, no?”

Budarick followed up by asking if a copy of last year’s letter could be obtained for comparison. This prompted Keller to have a conversation with Jahn, following which he said, “You’re exactly right, Valerie.... Well basically as far as

we are concerned you are committing harassment.” To which Budarick, who attended the meeting by telephone replied, “Pardon me?” A visibly frustrated Keller then proceeded to the next agenda item.

When asked by *The Current* for comment, Budarick said, “Harassment is a very serious allegation; I do not take it lightly. The video speaks for itself, and I am very glad that BLR now records its meetings so that we have clear records. I believe it is clear to any person who reviews it that no harassment occurred. I am committed to BLR ratepayers and I want to focus on that job.”

*Continued on page 2—*

**Wilno Tavern**  
**RESTAURANT**  
**Family Dining**  
**Historic Polish Pub**  
 17589 Hwy 60 • Wilno, ON  
[wilnotavern.com](http://wilnotavern.com)  
 613-756-2029

The Madawaska Valley  
**Current**  
 THIS CAN BE  
**YOUR AD**  
 Call 613.639.1524  
 or email [madvalleycurrent@gmail.com](mailto:madvalleycurrent@gmail.com)  
 Let The Current help grow your business.

Barry's Bay and Area  
 Senior Home Support Services  
 Citizens

Serving Madawaska Valley;  
 Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards;  
 South Algonquin; Brudenell,  
 Lyndoch and Raglan with:

**Transportation**  
**Meals-on-wheels**  
**Frozen meals**  
**Care-calls and**  
**medication reminders**  
**Assisted-living services**

613-756-2772  
[www.bbahs.org](http://www.bbahs.org)

f Follow us on Facebook

Madawaska Valley  
 PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Hours:** Tues., Wed., Friday: 10 am–12 pm, and 1 pm–5 pm  
 Thursday: 1 pm–4 pm, and 5 pm–8 pm (open Nov. 11)  
 Saturday: 10 am–3 pm (closed Mondays)

Log into your account at [www.madawaskavalleylibrary.ca](http://www.madawaskavalleylibrary.ca) to place a hold on an item, or phone/email. Contact the library to register for Christmas take-home trivia, children's craft kits, advent book bundles, family night movie kit.

19474 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay • [mvpl.programs@gmail.com](mailto:mvpl.programs@gmail.com) • 613-756-2000

—Continued from page 1

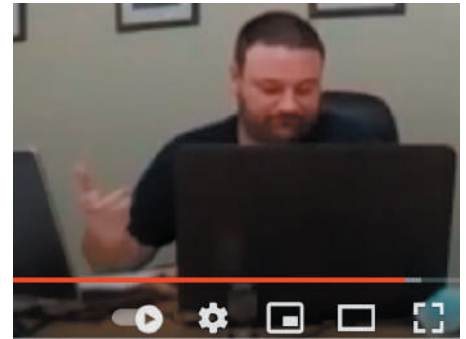
### BLR STILL UNDER OPP INVESTIGATION

The normally routine municipal audits have come under increased scrutiny for BLR Township when in November 2020 the same auditors identified “significant deficiencies” and that “the procurement By-Law for the tender process was not followed.” These concerns were in relation to a \$75,000 non-tendered sole source contract for gravel to a local company. In 2020, in response to a complaint of procurement fraud, the Ontario Provincial Police commenced a wide-ranging investigation pertaining to potential criminal code offences breach of public trust, municipal corruption and influencing a municipal official. The Current has recently confirmed that this investigation remains ongoing.

### FIRE CHIEF CAUGHT ON CAMERA “FLIPPING OFF” COUNCILLOR

During the same exchange, the zoom meeting caught BLR Fire Chief/Recreation Manager Jordan Genrick, apparently unaware he was on camera, making a crude hand gesture dismissing Councillor Budarick while she addressed Council.

As previously reported by *The Current*, in 2019 following a complaint to the Ontario Fire Marshall, Genrick was the subject of a professional misconduct investigation into allegations that he consumed alcohol on the job, drove municipal vehicles after consuming alcohol and abused his authority as fire chief by targeting Councillor Budarick's son with excessive fines. Despite requests to do so, the Township has not released the report following the independent investigation, although the fines levelled against Budarick's son were eventually reduced substantially.



BLR Fire Chief Jordan Genrick.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

### COUNCILLOR SEEKS PUBLIC APOLOGY

Lidtkie, who saw the gesture when he reviewed the zoom meeting after he was contacted by a constituent, said, “This is really unprofessional behaviour from an employee of the Township towards Council. The Mayor needs to address this and I think a public apology to Councillor Budarick is in order.”

## Remembrance Day

THE CURRENT | BARRY'S BAY

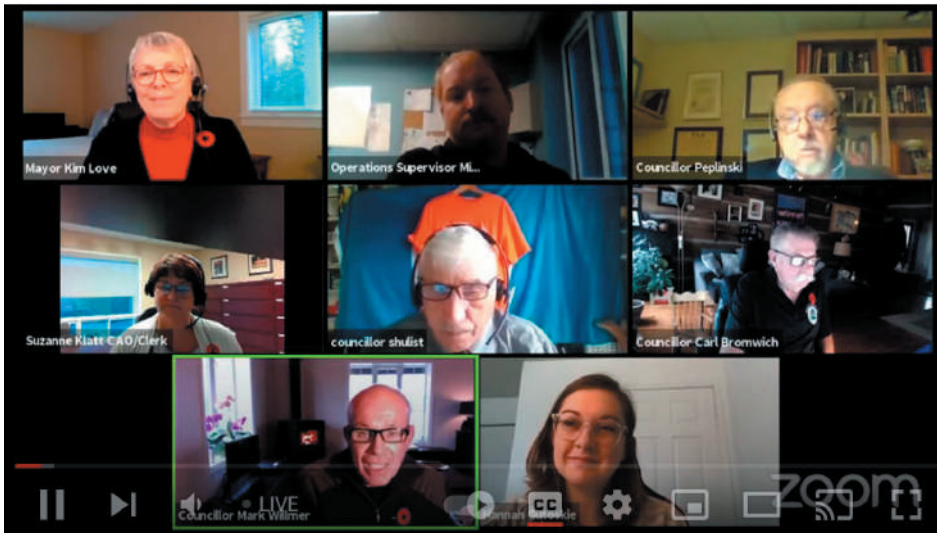
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406 invites members of the community to join them on November 11 at 250 John Street, Barry's Bay to honour those who have served. Branch President Heather Poliquin outlined the plans for Remembrance Day:

- The ceremony will be held outside
- The Legion requests that all spectators be in place by no later than 10:45 a.m.
- Most wreaths will be pre-positioned. A few will be placed during the ceremony, such as wreaths of the Silver Cross Mother (represented this year by Kathy Marion), the Wars, the Legion, Ladies' Auxiliary, RCMP, etc.
- Following the outdoor commemoration, spectators who are fully vaccinated are invited indoors for a light lunch of chili, buns and squares, coffee, tea. The bar will be open.

The Barry's Bay Legion will also hold Remembrance Day ceremonies at Valley Manor on November 9 and at Champlain Gardens on November 10.



# Madawaska Valley welcomes new Recreation Coordinator



Above from left are meeting participants. Top row: Mayor Kim Love, Operations Supervisor Mike Phillips, Councillor Ernie Peplinski; Middle: CAO/Clerk Suzanne Klatt, Councillor David Shulist, Councillor Carl Bromwich; Bottom: Councillor Mark Willmer, Recreation and Community Development Coordinator Hannah Gutoskie. PHOTO: YOUTUBE

## DANIELLE PAUL BARRY'S BAY

At the November 2 Council in Committee Meeting of Madawaska Valley, Mayor Kim Love called for Councillor Mark Willmer to make an on-the-spot introduction of new Recreation and Community Development Coordinator, Hannah Gutoskie.

Willmer said, "It's pleasant to be put on the spot because we had a great day of interviews after receiving 17 applications and we were very fortunate to have Hannah Gutoskie apply. Very pleased with her interview, very impressed, and I just know that Hannah will do an excellent job. So happy that she did accept the position after we offered it to her.... We're very happy [and] ... know she'll do an excellent job and be a great member of the Madawaska Valley team. So thank you Hannah and welcome aboard."

Mayor Love and Councillor Ernie Peplinski chimed in to welcome Gutoskie. CAO/Clerk Suzanne Klatt confirmed that she would begin work on Thursday, November 4, with a tour of sites and municipal facilities.

The meeting agenda included a letter from Gutoskie outlining her education

and experience which encompasses the following:

- 2012 graduated from Carleton University with a Master of Arts in Canadian Studies, with a dual specialization in Heritage Conservation and Indigenous Studies and the North
- 2014 awarded Graduate Diploma in Project Management (Honours/Dean's list)
- Supervisory experience in jobs at Bonnechere Provincial Park and Health Canada
- In addition to strong communication skills, Gutoskie also developed experience in budgetary control, social media management, event planning in her previous jobs which also included local publisher Rapid Media

Gutoskie's application letter ended, "I love the Madawaska Valley. Born in Barry's Bay and raised here as well as Combermere, I've returned to the area after a few years away to raise my family here. I'm familiar with the area, its residents, the changes to our population lately, and the good as well as challenging aspects of living in a small town. I would love the opportunity to contribute to our community in this role."

[www.madvalleycurrent.com](http://www.madvalleycurrent.com)

**Barry's Bay**  
**metro**  
*Food at its best.*

MON-SUN  
8AM-9PM

28 BAY STREET  
613-756-7097

The Madawaska Valley  
**Current**

madvalleycurrent.com  
613-639-1524

SHOP WITH US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

HOME DECOR  
LADIES FASHION & ACCESSORIES  
BATH & BODY  
LOCAL APPAREL  
SWEETS & SAVOURIES  
COFFEE & LUXURY LOOSE TEAS  
TOYS & GAMES  
LOCAL & CANADIAN MAKERS

WWW.GIFTITGRAY.CA

STORE OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM-5PM  
SATURDAY 10AM-4PM  
SUNDAY 11AM-3PM

**GIFT IT GRAY**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM FOR EVENTS & UPDATES

19492A OPEONGO LINE  
BARRY'S BAY  
613-756-1832

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

**BARRY'S BAY Legion**

**AT THE LEGION**

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Outdoor ceremony begins at 11 am on November 11. Spectators are requested to be in position outside the Legion by no later than 10:45 am. Following the ceremony, the Legion invites fully-vaccinated spectators to join them indoors for a chili lunch. The bar will be open.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
Sunday November 21, 8 am to 12 pm

**CLUB ROOM OPEN**  
Monday to Thursday, Saturday from 2 pm to 6 pm. Friday from 2 pm to 8 pm.

Watch for upcoming events in local media and on our FB page

# New MV pumper means faster, safer firefighting

DANIELLE PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Madawaska Valley Fire Department took possession of a new pumper truck for North Hall in October. When Fire Chief Corwin Quade invited The Current to take a closer look at it, we started with a walk around the truck while he pointed out some of its features. The \$386,000 state of the art vehicle meets the newest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code. He said proudly, "This is quite a piece of equipment. We're one of the best-equipped fire departments in the County now."

But like all good things, it resulted from a lengthy planning process. Quade said, "The first quote for the truck was a half million dollars." Explaining that it contained many extras, he said, "We went back to the drawing board." They found they could make it work safely, meet the Code, and save money by replacing some electronic controls with manual features. He said that MV firefighters are strong enough to pull a lever instead of pushing a button. After six months of careful consideration, they had agreed a revised set of features which saved MV taxpayers \$114,000.

One example is the built in trash line that, Quade said, had included a hose reel instead of a straight trash line. Omitting the reel saved \$25,000 off the final cost. The Chief called it a 200-foot "quick attack line" with a built-in 30 gallon foam attachment. He said that with the trash line they could quickly extinguish a chemical fire, vehicle fire, or a bale on fire in a barn using a targeted stream.

As well as handling small targeted fires, the new pumper boasts a top deck that will reach as high as a 9-storey building. Citing the new Valley Manor and the St. Francis Herb Farm expansion, Quade said, "This will actually lob the water to do an interior attack. We can hit anything now with this. Before, we had to be on the ground to try and fight the interior." He said the difference is "night and day" in terms of safety for MV firefighters. When they tried it at the hydrant next to the North Hall, the hose fired water "clear across the ravine" without raising the pressure, and



MV Fire Chief Corwin Quade on the top deck.

with the truck running at an idle.

Quade said they can now use a 3,000 gallon tanker and deliver more water to a fire faster because the new truck offers 350 horsepower whereas the old one had only 300 horsepower. He said in a test run up a nearby hill with a full load of water and all equipment, the new truck ran at 90 kph while the previous one could barely make it over 70 kph.

Another feature that pleases Quade is the wireless Bluetooth headset for the deck operator. It allows the operator to talk to firefighters and to dispatch. "Within 28 feet of the truck, he can talk to anybody." Previously, the deck operator had to climb down off the truck and enter the cab to talk on the radio. The Bluetooth headset promises not just speed of communication, but much greater safety for our volunteer firefighters. "Everything's right here for both driver and passenger – all the emergency equipment, two-way radio, built into the console which makes it very easy to work."

Quade praised the MV firefighters and said after only a few training sessions, "They're proficient on it already. They take it seriously. For volunteers – it's amazing what we've got. It's just incredible working with a crew like this ... and they do such a good job. They're not in it for glory; they're just happy to help."

The Chief also applauded the last two Councils for effective asset management with a view to the safety of the community. He said, "They've been good to work with. We're looking at how the community is growing. The [old] trucks were great at one point, but ... [as] we get more buildings, we get more and more calls.... Champlain Gardens was our biggest concern, because of the wooden structure. At least now we've got the proper equipment to hit it hard when we hit it." With new lines that are 1 ¾ inches in diameter instead of 1 ½ inches, the new pumper can put out double the volume of water than the previous truck.

## FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION PAYS OFF

Quade said that last fall they had received 70 calls, but this year MV Fire Dept. had had just 42 by mid-October. He said the first year he worked in MV there were 98 calls. He praised members of the community for being vigilant about wildfires, saying this year "We haven't had any real wildfires." There were a lot of nuisance calls about campfires in the village, but he said those only involve his attendance not a fire truck. Often people had just moved in and did not realize they were doing something that was not permitted. He is happy to give the education and says people are "very decent to deal with."



## SEASONAL FIRE SAFETY TIPS



THE CURRENT  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

### CLEAN YOUR CHIMNEY

MV Fire Chief Corwin Quade said his Number One Tip for fall is "Clean your chimney. When we were out on Fire Prevention Week [October 3–9], we inspected 21 buildings. Eighty-two percent of people had smoke alarms, but nobody cleaned their chimney." He said if birds or mice built their nests in there, "All it takes is a little bit of heat up there and that lights up—now you've suddenly got yourself a chimney fire which can turn into a structure fire pretty quick." He said the cost of hiring a chimney sweep (about \$200 to \$250) is "Cheap insurance to stop your house burning down."

### CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

If your chimney is blocked by a nest, carbon monoxide (CO) can enter your home so it's important to have a CO alarm. He said MV Fire Dept. handed out nine CO alarms during their inspections. While many people have smoke alarms, they never thought of CO alarms, but "It's been the law since 2005."

### REMEMBER THE HUNT CAMP & TRAILER

The MV Fire Chief reminds hunters that trailers and hunt camps require a smoke alarm as they are no different than a cottage or a house. Carbon monoxide alarms are also required if you use propane, oil or wood for heat or cooking. Remember: When an alarm sounds you have less than a minute to escape from a fire. He issues this reminder for everyone as "things can go wrong in a hurry."

### CALL WITH YOUR QUESTIONS

Quade emphasized that inspections are primarily about education; it's protection, not enforcement. He invites MV residents, "If you have a question, call us. We're here to make sure you're safe first."

## More than 7500 cookies is a lot to SMILE about

St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation says: A special thank you to our partners at the Barry's Bay Tim Hortons — over \$7,596 (that's 7,596 cookies!) was raised for local healthcare, including the Valley Manor, Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care, and St. Francis Memorial Hospital.



From left at the cheque presentation: Jason Armstrong, Dylaina Wood, Gail Yantha, Gregory McLeod, Mary Conway, Marlene Shulist, Chantal Kedroskie, and Erin Gienow.

PHOTO: SUBMITTED

The Madawaska Valley  
**Current**

Advertising helps us provide  
*The Current* to readers at no cost.

To advertise please call 613-639-1524.

*The Current* is published here in the Valley by residents Roger and Danielle Paul through MadValley Media, and is your source for bold, bracing and balanced local coverage of issues that matter most to Valley residents. Since launching in January 2018, the publishers have fulfilled their promise to make *The Current* available at no cost to readers, relying on the support of advertisers and sponsors.

### THE CURRENT WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please address letters to [lettersmadvalleycurrent@gmail.com](mailto:lettersmadvalleycurrent@gmail.com) or The Madawaska Valley Current, PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0. Please include your first and last name, address and phone number for verification. Only your name and municipality appears in print. Online, readers can comment using the "Reply."

### CODE OF ETHICS

*The Current* observes the journalistic ethics recommended by the Canadian Association of Journalists; it follows the principles of accuracy, fairness, independence, transparency, promises to sources, diversity, and accountability. As a member of the National NewsMedia Council, complaints about *The Current* can be submitted for mediation or adjudication to NNC.



*The Current* is published by MadValley Media, Barry's Bay, Ontario K0J 1B0. Opinions and information published in *The Current*, in whatever form, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Current*. All the writing, artwork, and photographs published in *The Current* are the copyright of the author or artist, or *The Current* in the case where no author is specified. The Madawaska Valley Current, PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay, Ontario K0J 1B0 613-639-1524, [madvalleycurrent@gmail.com](mailto:madvalleycurrent@gmail.com), [www.madvalleycurrent.com](http://www.madvalleycurrent.com).



[facebook.com/madvalleycurrent](https://facebook.com/madvalleycurrent)



[twitter.com/mvalleycurrent](https://twitter.com/mvalleycurrent)



[instagram.com/madvalleycurrent](https://instagram.com/madvalleycurrent)



[ca.linkedin.com/company/the-madawaska-valley-current](https://ca.linkedin.com/company/the-madawaska-valley-current)

**PERMITTED USE:** You may display, download or print the information on the site for your own internal and non-commercial purposes provided that you observe all copyright and other propriety notices contained on such information. You may not, however, use, display, distribute, modify or transmit any information including any text, images, audio or video for commercial or public purposes without the express prior written permission of its owner. You must not transfer the information to any other person unless you give them notice of, and they agree to accept, those same obligations.

Printed by Bayberry Design, Barry's Bay, Ontario

**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](http://madvalleycurrent.com)

## OPINION

# The guilt is real ... or is it?

JODIE PRIMEAU  
DEEP RIVER

For the first time yesterday, my one-year-old daughter looked up at someone who wasn't me, reached out her hand and said "mama."

I died.

For context, I am a single mother by choice: I used a donor and had a beautiful baby who I named Penelope. She is smart, beautiful, fiercely independent, sweet and hilarious. On this day, I was out on a hike with one of my closest friends, Doulton, who has a son the same age as P.

It was Doulton's hand she reached for, not mine. Why did she want Doulton to be her mom??

Like every mom, I struggle with guilt and mom shame. Am I doing enough? Am I gone too much? Do I pay enough attention? Did I get in over my head? As a single mom, I can certainly find additional layers of guilt to pile on.

Recently, however, I did something different. I became the NDP Candidate for our area: Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

As a local, I was excited by this opportunity. I was born and raised in Renfrew County and I have returned because I love my home. I created a law firm and I saw a number of ways that our communities could get better. However, some changes, like having public transportation, needed more than just a lawyer.

As a mom, I was excited about making my daughter's community one that had more opportunities. I was also scared. Previous candidates told me stories of long hours, endless driving, and intense life change for the duration of the campaign. Between full-time legal work, running a business and a full-time campaign, I thought I would be letting everyone, especially my baby, down.

Chief political writer Annabel Crabb explained mom-ing and career-ing this way: "The obligation for working mothers is a very precise one: the feeling that one ought to work as if one did not have children, while raising one's children as if one did not have a job."



Jodie Primeau with daughter Penelope. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

I sat and thought. Certainly, other Members of Parliament have families, jobs, other obligations that they had to balance. We don't only see out-of-work candidates in political campaigns. How did other candidates create this perfect balance? Or is it just moms who struggle?

Balance is something that is achieved imperfectly. Work-mom balance is not something that is found; it is something that is worked toward. And so, I worked toward it.

The campaign was a big success. We identified a lot of the issues that have held our area back and mobilized people and groups to begin changing them. I became the official local opposition to our current Member of Parliament and now I am in a position to be able to hold our local representative to account in a meaningful way.

The highs of the gains we made in our campaign were balanced out by the struggles I felt with missing time with my daughter and the business strain at my firm. We found balance to create something great, but the balance was imperfect.

Two weeks after the campaign, I am out in Deep River's beautiful hiking paths with my daughter, who has started to run, and talk, and give amazing hugs. We are back to having 14 hour days playing, eating, being bored, and muddling through my old workouts

together. The campaign feels like a lifetime ago, although we see the evidence of change and of hope and of new connections in the community from the campaign that continue to enrich our lives and my work.

So, during our hike, Penelope looks up to my friend, extends her hand and says "mama." My stomach drops, and I have a pang of guilt; maybe I should never have campaigned. I am a terrible mother.

Two minutes later, however, Penelope is back up in my arms, giving me a hug and laughing at leaves. No matter the guilt that I felt and the disastrous consequences on my daughter's development that I imagined, the truth is that the change was fleeting and accommodated.

I recognize that the pressures I felt were both from society's expectations of women parents and from my own internalized anxiety of wanting to be the best mother. Penelope didn't care about any of that. She was ready and waiting for me to come back and resume our life, albeit with a few hiccups.

Working to improve our community was the act of a good mother, but not a negligent parent.

The pursuit of perfect work-mother balance is laudable but not achievable.

The feeling of mom guilt is real, but undeserved.



# Bayberry Design launches featured artist gallery

DANIELLE PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

The pandemic has prompted many individuals and businesses to reinvent themselves, and you need look no further than Opeongo Line in Barry's Bay for several examples. To illustrate just one, *The Current* visited Bayberry Design to enjoy their new featured artist gallery. Co-owners Liam Gansterer and Victoria Lutz, with assistant designer Noel Wright, cater to the thriving community of local artists.

Gansterer said the artists like Bayberry's approach to high quality scanning and printing because they not only devote individual attention to each job but also offer the capacity for all sizes of print runs. Bayberry produces all kinds of prints ranging from artist cards to reproductions on various papers including watercolour paper and giclée prints on canvas.

Ketha Newman's work is featured at Bayberry this fall. Newman lives off-grid with her husband and two children in a log cabin overlooking the forested hills south of Algonquin Park. She is inspired by the surrounding wilderness as she strives to portray landscape and landscape elements in a stylized way emphasizing pattern and luminous colour. Newman told *The Current*, "Local artists are so fortunate to have Bayberry, a really professional quality design/print business in our community! It's exciting that Liam has created a beautiful gallery space and I am pleased to be the first featured artist."

After launching online sales on its website in early 2022, from March Bayberry Design will feature a different artist every two months. Gansterer said he is always on the lookout for high-quality, two-dimensional work with a local connection that lends itself to various forms of reproduction. Along with the featured artist, at any given time Bayberry will always have work from multiple artists, including well-known local names (past and present) such as Alex Sztasko, and the Wild Women Painters: Joyce Burkholder, Kathy Haycock, and Linda Sorenson.



Liam Gansterer of Bayberry Design.

Liam Gansterer's family has a long-standing history of respect for the arts: his late mother Catherine was a founding member of the Madawaska Valley Arts & Crafts Show, his sister Anya was curator at South of 60 Gallery for twelve years and now runs Placemaking Design, a business that enlivens public spaces with arts. His partner, Victoria, also an artist, was responsible for the design and construction of the new display system in Bayberry Gallery. Both Liam and Victoria are arts graduates from Ontario College of Art and Design, and Sheridan College respectively.

## HERITAGE PHOTO

### Hunting excursion



BOB CORRIGAN  
BARRY'S BAY

Here's a family on a hunting excursion near Chapleau, Ontario. The father, Martin Corrigan, is in the centre of the picture. From left to right are brothers Joe, Bill, Jack, and Martin Jr., all born in Hagarty Township, and all baptized at St. Mary's Church (now Our Lady of the Angels) in Brudenell.

Martin Sr. (1834–1918) was born in Castlecomer, County Kilkenny, Ireland, a son of Thomas Corrigan and Julia Delaney, who came to Canada in 1849. Martin was married to Mary Jane McDonald.

Joe (1886–1939) married Mary Claire Sheedy and settled in Sioux Lookout. Bill (1876–1964) married Kate Curtin and settled near Cor-

mac. Jack (1869–1950) married Annie Wade, settling in Combermere and then Kearney. Martin Jr. (1884–1968) married Florence Mayhew, living in Combermere and then Chapleau.

The year, 1884, appears at the bottom left corner and gives the impression that the picture was taken that year. However, Martin Jr. was born that year and that might be why 1884 appears on the picture. Family members believe that the picture is most likely to have been taken in 1904.

*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](mailto: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).*

# Ace of Spades caught by Round Lake resident

DANIELLE PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation (SFBH) staff and volunteers were excited when the ticket bought by Elsie Mask of Round Lake Centre revealed the Ace of Spades at the Week #18 draw of their Catch The Ace lottery on Thursday, Oct. 14. The winner, however, took her good fortune in stride when she was presented with a cheque for \$27,838.50 by SFBH Executive Director, Erin Gienow, on Oct. 18.

Mask disclosed that she wasn't at home when the draw occurred, so she only learned of her winnings from a telephone message left for her by SFBH on Thursday afternoon. She admitted, "I did have to listen to it a couple of times, to tell you the truth" to be sure she'd heard the news correctly. When asked for her winning formula; i.e., why she chose Envelope #20 in which the Ace was hidden, Mask said only that she bought tickets regularly (although not every week) and just chose the numbers at random. She said she plays Catch The Ace, "Because it's going for a good cause."

Fellow Round Laker, Erin Gienow, was delighted to present Mask with the cheque saying it was going to a great community member, hard-working, really the "salt of the earth." Now retired, Mask bought her winning ticket at the Round Lake Food Market. She endured a lot of kidding but insisted that she has not yet decided how she will spend her windfall. She said she has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, the youngest born in October.

Gienow explained that the Catch The Ace lottery had raised \$39,357 in this round alone. The proceeds are earmarked towards the purchase of a \$100,000 wireless detector for the X-ray machine at St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFBH). Cathy Amyott who works in Digital Imaging at SFBH said this is an essential piece of equipment. The X-ray machine was purchased in 2012 and the existing detector has experienced some wear and tear. She said that it is the workhorse of the department because all the images are captured on this plate and are then digitally transferred to the



Winner Elsie Mask holds her cheque surrounded by SFBH and SFBH staff (from left) Joanne Pecarskie, Jose Pinto, Kim Luckovitch, Kim Recoskie, Cathy Amyott, Erin Gienow, Allison Layman.

SFBH computer system via WiFi. The detector can also be removed from the X-ray table to digitally capture images of a patient who is stretcher-bound.

The hospital does not receive government funding for this type of equipment, Gienow said, so fundraising for essential medical equipment is a major focus of SFBH staff and volunteers. She thanked everyone in the community for purchasing Catch The Ace tickets from the seventeen vendors located throughout the Valley. She complimented the SFBH core team of

nine volunteers, saying the six drivers take it in turns to drive the four to five hour route each week. The other experienced volunteers are cash counters who prepare the weekly draw. Gienow called it "a well-oiled machine."

She said that they are keen to raise the remaining \$60,000 for the detector and SFBH had already submitted an application to Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for another licence. Sure enough, tickets for a new round of Catch The Ace started before Halloween.

## Legion officially opens new patio, thanks sponsors

DANIELLE PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

A fine fall day was chosen by Barry's Bay Legion Branch 406 to host a reception for the sponsors and volunteers of the work party who built the patio deck. Before unveiling a plaque overlooking the deck that acknowledged the contributions of Murray Brothers Lumber and McRae Lumber Company, Branch President Heather Poliquin introduced Ted Murray and Jamie McRae by saying, "Without them we would not have this deck."

Poliquin explained that when the pandemic began the Legion had no idea when they would be able to reopen—and then they were told they could have a patio. She said she had

been asking the guys to build a patio for a couple of years but the response was always, No, too much work. She continued, "But when Covid came and that was all we could have, it was done in an hour!" Through laughter, she reminded everyone that they had quickly set up patio furniture and umbrellas on the asphalt in a corner of the parking lot. When they thought about making it permanent, they sent out letters to local businesses and a couple of the lumber mills. "And the first two that answered were Ted and Jamie.... We want to thank Murrays and McRaes for their generosity. Thank you very much for supporting the Legion." The gathering applauded and drank a toast "To Murrays and McRaes!"



# Guide to Ontario reopening

Renfrew County and District issued the following Guide to Step 3 Ontario Reopening:

## Step 3: Roadmap to Reopen

Effective October 25, 2021

**Monday, October 25, 2021**, Ontario lifted capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination are required, including restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments, indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities, gaming establishments and other indoor meeting and event spaces.



- ✓ Indoor social gatherings and organized public events for **up to 25 people**.
- ✓ Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events of **up to 100 people**.
- ✓ **Capacity limits have been lifted for restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments where proof of vaccination is required.**
- ✓ Essential and non-essential retail with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of 2 metres.
- ✓ Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted with physical distancing, and can also implement proof of vaccination requirements.
- ✓ **Capacity limits have been lifted for indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities such as gyms and where physical fitness trainers provide instruction.**
- ✓ **Capacity limits have been lifted for museums, galleries, historic sites, aquariums, zoos, landmarks, botanical gardens, science centres, casinos/bingo halls, amusement parks, fairs and rural exhibitions, and festivals that require proof of vaccination.**
- ✓ Concert venues, cinemas and theatres permitted to operate at up to 50% capacity indoors (or up to 1,000 people) and 75% capacity outdoors (or up to 5,000 people) for unseated events or 75% capacity outdoors (or up to 15,000 people) for events with fixed seating.
- ✓ **Personal care services, including services requiring the removal of a face covering, with capacity limits lifted if they require proof of vaccination.**
- ✓ **Real estate open houses with capacity limits lifted if they require proof of vaccination.**



**Renfrew County and District Health Unit**

"Optimal Health for All In Renfrew County and District"

[www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com)

## MV Gardeners plan drive-through vote for virtual AGM

Thanks to the pandemic gathering restrictions, the Madawaska Valley Gardening Club could not hold its AGM last year, but is required to do so before the end of November 2021. Without a crystal ball to guarantee that all members can gather by then, the Club executive and Ontario Horticultural Association came up with a solution: Hold a drive-through members' vote to amend the Club constitution to allow for virtual meetings, and schedule a Zoom AGM a few days later. Here are your diary dates:

Drive-through Special Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 27, 10 am to 11 am at Opeongo Seniors' Centre front door to vote on Constitutional Amendment re: option of holding virtual membership meetings when needed.

AGM 2020 on Monday, Nov. 29, 7:30 pm by Zoom. Opeongo Seniors' Centre may be also set up for those who prefer to participate in-person if Covid regulations allow. The Club will ask members to pre-register to see the total number for the capacity limit when it gets close to the time.

[www.madvalleycurrent.com](http://www.madvalleycurrent.com)



**GREG KELLY**  
INSURANCE BROKERAGE

**HOME • AUTO • COMMERCIAL  
SEASONAL • TRAVEL • GICS**

*Call a Kelly broker today!*

**BARRY'S BAY: 613-756-0066**

**EGANVILLE: 613-628-2617**

[www.gregkelly.ca](http://www.gregkelly.ca)

**TRO**  
TRAVIS RICHARDS OFFICE

**Social Media  
Agency**

**Professional Services  
Offered To Businesses**

- Social Media Management & Administration
- Google My Business Management & Administration
- Social Media Audits

**In Office Services:**  
Printing &  
Photocopying  
Black/White & Colour

**Contact The Office  
Today**

TRAVIS RICHARDS  
FOUNDER & SOCIAL MEDIA  
SPECIALIST

Tel: (613)-281-9419

Email: [travis@trosocial.ca](mailto:travis@trosocial.ca)

[www.trosocial.ca](http://www.trosocial.ca)

Open

Monday - Saturday

9am-5pm

**Algonquin  
East.com**

**YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL INFORMATION  
in the Madawaska Valley and area**

To list your event, business or organization  
email [info@algonquineast.com](mailto:info@algonquineast.com).

*Most listings are free.*

**Ketha Newman  
Featured Artist**

at

**Bayberry Design**

**November - December**

cards, prints, calendars and more



# The Current's response to Mayor Love's comments at October 19 Council meeting

MADAWASKA VALLEY

Reproduced below is the Press Release distributed by Madawaska Valley on Oct.19 entitled : Update Court Case CV-Court File No. 21-00000002-0000

On September 7th, 2021, the Township appealed the decision of Justice Doyle in Paul v The Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley to the Ontario Court of Appeal. The Township's defence against the allegations in this proceeding is being funded by the Township's insurer. This includes the Township's legal costs to date. The Township has sought costs against the Plaintiffs and this issue is presently before the Court. The Township's notice of appeal and cost submissions are public documents and may be viewed here: <https://madawaskavalley.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=1315>

Due to the matter referenced above being before the Court, there will be no further comments from Council or Municipal Staff.  
Mayor Kim Love  
Councillor Carl Bromwich  
Councillor Ernie Peplinski  
Councillor David Shulist  
Councillor Mark Willmer

## THE CURRENT'S RESPONSE:

Reproduced below is the Media Release distributed by *The Current* in response to the release issued on Oct.19 by Madawaska Valley Township and Council following the Mayor's comments at the Council meeting that day. The Township's action in going out of its way to post the Costs Submissions of Wishart Law on the MV website is, according to *The Current's* lawyer, "highly irregular." In view of this, *The Current* requested that the Plaintiffs' Costs Submissions in response should also be published in order to provide full transparency. This did not happen, so below this release you will see links to the Decision of Justice Doyle and



Renfrew County Courthouse, Pembroke.

## the Costs Submissions of the Plaintiffs' counsel in response to those from Wishart Law. The Judge's Decision on the issue of costs is awaited.

Paul and MadValley Media v. Madawaska Valley Township and members of Council — Response to Township and Council Press Release dated Oct. 19 2021

This legal action was commenced by The Madawaska Valley Current and its owners in early 2020 claiming that the Township and members of Council abused their power by making false allegations at a Council meeting they hoped would irreparably damage the Plaintiffs' reputations and that of *The Current*. The motivation for their conduct is claimed to arise from hostility generated because of identified examples of *The Current's* investigative reporting which had proved to be a thorn in their sides.

Prior to resorting to the courts, the Plaintiffs gave the Defendants the opportunity to retract their accusations and apologize, and to make a charitable donation of \$500. This offer was rejected. In the absence of an assurance, therefore, that such attempted interference with the freedom of the press would not be repeated, legal proceedings were

commenced. The Township and Council then instructed its lawyers, Wishart Law of Sault Ste. Marie, to apply to the Court to strike out the action, claiming that they were entitled to what is commonly known as a "gag order."

The application resulted in the Decision of Justice Adriana Doyle of the Superior Court of Ontario which was released on Aug. 6 2021. Her Honour, in a 47-page Decision, dismissed the Defendants' request for a gag order and further stated that "the public interest weighs in favour of allowing the action to proceed to a determination on its merits." The Defendants had claimed that it was in the public interest that the action be dismissed.

At the Oct. 19 Council meeting, Mayor Kim Love in her opening address advised that the Decision had been appealed. She also referred to Wishart Law's costs which she said had been paid by the Township's insurer, and provided a link on the Township website to Wishart's Costs Submissions that had been filed with the Court. However despite being requested to do so, she did not provide a link to the Costs Submissions of the winning parties (Plaintiffs) prepared by their own counsel. She was asked to do this in the interests

*Continued on facing page—*



# BBAHS celebrates another year of Community Support Service

SUBMITTED  
BARRY'S BAY AND AREA

At the recent Barry's Bay and Area Senior Citizens Home Support Services (BBAHS) Annual General Meeting (AGM), members expressed appreciation for a year of excellent service, during which clients and staff maintained high safety standards in response to the pandemic. Client satisfaction is above 90 percent, which is wonderful. The biggest area for improvement is ensuring people are aware of the services we provide and what is available to help them.

As a result of the pandemic, services were more in demand. We experienced an increase in Meals on Wheels (MOW), both hot and frozen, by 33 percent in the last fiscal year, with a corresponding increase in the number of people requesting this service. This level of need is continuing into this year. MOW hot meals are prepared for South Algonquin Township residents once weekly, in partnership with the Community Resource Centre (CRC) Daycare. St. Francis Memorial Hospital Dietary Department prepares hot meals that are delivered to the other communities served by trained and dedicated BBAHS volunteers. Thank you all for your service to your neighbours!



Another service that increased hugely as a result of Covid is the Telephone Security program. This program provides phone calls to 'check-in' to see how you are today, as well as medication reminders. Each person decides what steps we are to follow if they are not 'OK', who to call, and what to do. The demand for this program has increased by more than 400 percent.

Transportation service requests declined, as many appointments were cancelled and people stayed at home more. BBAHS provides free transportation to Vaccination Clinics and has continued to assist people needing help with grocery or prescription deliveries. Medical trips have continued throughout the pandemic. We often have a problem arranging 'last minute' trips as we do not have as many volunteer drivers as we did in the past. Please call

as early as you can to let us know about your medical trips.

Assisted Living Services for High Risk Seniors (ALS-HRS) provided 538 more days of support in the 12 months from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, than in the previous year—an additional year and a half of service!

Please reach out to the BBAHS office at 613-756-2772 Ext.2. to find out more about the services offered and how to 'sign up.'

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

October is celebrated across Ontario as Community Support Services (CSS) month. CSS services are funded by the Ministry of Health and are delivered through the non-profit, charitable sector. Community Support Service agencies support over one million Ontarians each year including seniors and people with disabilities. BBAHS helps clients live independently in their own homes and communities as long as possible and reduces the burden on family caregivers and other parts of the health care system. We rely on volunteers to help deliver services like Meals on Wheels, Transportation, Friendly Visiting, Palliative Care Home Visitors and more. If you are interested in volunteering please call our office!

—Continued from facing page

of ensuring full transparency. Also, she has not even provided a link for Madawaska Valley residents to read Justice Doyle's Decision.

The Costs Submissions that the Mayor is depriving residents of reading show that Wishart Law has been paid the extraordinary sum of \$360,000 for a "straightforward application" — which they lost. The Plaintiffs' counsel points out to the Court that this sum is largely the result of using multiple fee earners of Wishart Law at the same time, and even in some cases repeating the same tasks, what he describes as "over-lawyering." He also asks the Court to take into consideration that the use of

such a large team should be viewed in light of the fact that their opponents were self-represented.

Also, he points out that the maximum amount that the Court could award the Plaintiffs in this action, even if they were 100 percent successful, is \$125,000. He adds that therefore the entire claim by now (and he accuses the Defendants of unnecessary delay) could have been decided "on its merits" for a fraction of \$360,000 which sum amounts to nearly three times the amount claimed. In contrast, the amount claimed by the Plaintiffs for their costs is \$30,000.

The effect of this appeal will almost certainly frustrate Justice Doyle's

intent that "the public interest" be served until some time after the next municipal election in October 2022, thereby depriving voters of learning whether the current Council acted in the public interest, as opposed to their own interests. It will also add significantly to the \$360,000 that has already been paid to Wishart Law.

## Document links:

Decision of Justice Doyle dated Aug.6 2021: <https://madvalleycurrent.com/paulmadawaskaugust6/>

Responding Costs Submissions of the Plaintiffs dated Oct. 12 2021: <https://madvalleycurrent.com/20211012-cost-submissions-brief-of-the-plaintiffs-final-00300304xf838a/>



# Hallowe'en night in the Bay

THE CURRENT  
BARRY'S BAY

Whether this year's trick or treat crowd visited the Trunk or Treat displays in the Barry's Bay Legion parking lot, met a Werewolf while collecting treats at the Opeongo Seniors Centre or just enjoyed the many ghoulish displays in front yards, the mild evening meant people could linger and enjoy the Hallowe'en festivities.



## Families enjoy Library Hallowe'en Hunt

THE CURRENT  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The mild but damp weather on Saturday, Oct. 30 provided a comfortable environment for family members of all ages to participate in the Madawaska Valley Public Library's Hallowe'en Hunt. Twenty-six merchant members of the Barry's Bay Business Improvement Area (BIA) displayed Hallowe'en Hunt icons in their shop fronts, and many also joined in the fun with scary decorations and treats for the children, while Madawaska Valley Township provided a free hot dog lunch at the Railway Station.

*The Current* followed some earlybird Hunters from Northern Credit Union down Opeongo Line and when we checked in at the Library after just one hour there had already been a steady stream of Hallowe'en Hunters picking up Treasure Maps and handing in completed answer sheets to collect their Treat Bags. Enjoy these images from the fun.

