

# The Madawaska Valley Current

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018

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## Township sued by former Integrity Commissioner

JAMES DI FIORE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Madawaska Valley Township's first Integrity Commissioner, Jack Rosien, has commenced legal proceedings against the township for breach of contract, *The Current* has learned. According to documents filed recently in the Superior Court of Justice at Pembroke, Rosien is claiming his contract with the township was wrongfully terminated because the township gave him notice after his contract had been automatically renewed.

Rosien claims the sum of \$9,390 as compensation, the same amount of fees he received during the first year of his contract. He also claims \$5,000 for "punitive, exemplary and aggravated damages" for the "callous, arbitrary, reprehensible manner" in which he says he was treated.

The township has filed a defence through its solicitors, Templeman of Belleville, which denies that it breached the contract and states that it was entitled to replace Rosien "so it could engage a new integrity commissioner able to offer a broader range of services than the Plaintiff could provide."

Following notice of his termination, Rosien attended the council meeting held on April 18, 2017. He advised members that he had three ongoing investigations and recommended that, in order to avoid delay and unnecessary expense, he be permitted to complete them. Council did not have any questions and *The Current* has not been able to find any record in subsequent minutes that consideration was given to Rosien's recommendations.

His successor, Guy Giorno, was appointed by Council on June 5, 2017.

Integrity commissioners are appointed under the Municipal Act 2001 to independently investigate complaints about the conduct of councillors.



The new and the old from Valley musicians: Sparklesaurus (above), featuring Felicity DeCarle of Hopefield, at Toronto's Burdock Brewery on their south Ontario tour. PHOTO: HARRISON HAINES. Back in the Valley (below), Ernie and David Peplinski's Lennon Clan perform traditional music at Combermere Community Centre. PHOTO: JENNY BAKLINSKI

# Will Patrick Brown's ghost shadow Doug Ford?



OPINION  
JAMES DI FIORE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Just when you thought the long shadow of controversy and unexpected plot twists had left the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, along came Doug Ford to remind us that this particular political saga is far from over. (See my earlier op-ed in the Feb 26 Current)

Ford, who almost nobody predicted would win the makeshift leadership race hastily organized by a party still in turmoil following the Patrick Brown saga, was finally declared the winner after fellow leadership hopeful, Christine Elliott, conceded victory a full day after the ballot results were sanctioned by the party.

And now we enter the next phase of this political drama—Ford vs. Kathleen Wynne. Two polarizing figures with opposite views on how the province should be run. Wynne, who currently is the most unpopular premier in provincial history, is counting on Ford's bombastic style to bury his own chances come June. For his part, Ford will rely on that same bombastic style to contrast Wynne's perceived dishonesty, contrasting the status quo with a supposed tell-it-like-it-is veneer that is refreshing to some, cringe-worthy to others.

But there is one thing both leaders need to pay careful attention to – the ghost of Patrick Brown still haunts this election, and for reasons that may surprise you.

Brown was unceremoniously ousted as PC leader back in January after allegations of sexual misconduct were leveled against him by two women. A secretly recorded caucus meeting revealed a palpable eagerness to rid Brown from the party. After recently interviewing local MPP John Yakabuski about inferior broadband internet in the Valley, I asked if he was concerned about caucus protocol being breached as confidentiality is seen as a bedrock protocol among caucus members. Yakabuski, after a pause, cited the importance of caucus rules, but seemed taken aback at



the question. He refused to tell me if the party was investigating who the culprit was, citing internal confidentiality.

I'm betting nobody will ever be held responsible. I'll go all-in and say that no investigation is even being conducted. Brown maintains his innocence and has since filed a lawsuit against CTV News for libel. He reentered the race briefly, only to have his fellow Conservative MPs turn on him again through accusations of mismanagement and corruption.

A new wrinkle in this provincial election is whether or not Doug Ford will sign Brown's nomination papers so he can run for his seat again in Barrie. At the time of this writing it looks like Ford will deny Brown the chance to run as a Progressive Conservative, meaning Brown will have to enter the race as an independent. Ford, who proudly promotes himself as an anti-establishment candidate, is allowing his establishment colleagues—Vic Fedeli and Randy Hillier, among others – to dictate how the party should handle Patrick Brown, leaving many members furious at their new leader. Indeed, Brown was instrumental in successfully building the PC party into the powerhouse it has become. He had a 12 point lead in the polls before the scandal, increased membership to record levels and filled the party war chest with millions of dollars.

Many Conservatives in Ontario credit Brown for giving the party a chance to win back the province, and Doug Ford could have signed Brown's papers and still kept party unity in place, despite the vitriol by some establishment Con-

servative MPPs. Instead, Ford seems to have chosen to alienate a formidable chunk of already-frustrated Conservatives instead of pushing for true party unity, a risky strategy that has already produced party members publicly proclaiming they will be voting NDP in June. And disgruntled Brown supporters will likely not be the only voting group who finds reasons to cast their ballots for Andrea Horwath and the Dippers. Like we saw in Alberta a few short years ago when the long-serving party was in trouble and when nobody thought they could win, the NDP may be able to syphon votes from both sides. Wynne is that unpopular, Ford is a polarizing figure, but Horwath needs to find her charisma if she is going to take advantage of the chaos.

One thing is certain—Doug Ford is not his brother, Rob. He is also not Donald Trump, despite the media making this comparison ad nauseam. Not to speak ill of the dead, while being blunt towards the orange rodeo clown currently occupying the White House, I think it is fair to say Doug Ford is probably better suited for public office than both those individuals. Not exactly a high bar, I know. Ford's main problem—the tendency to speak before he thinks—will leave much of Ontario with dubious choices: hold their noses and vote Kathleen Wynne to yet another mandate, vote NDP as sort of a protest vote, or simply stay home on election day.

Whatever the people decide, you can be sure there will be more fireworks during this campaign than any in recent memory.



# Students of Kashubian language and culture visit the Madawaska Valley

DAVE SHULIST  
(A.K.A. JOHNNY KASHUB)  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Recently, Kashubian students, Robert Kloskowszczi and Stanley Frymark (L-R in photo) from the University of Gduńsk in Kashubia paid a visit to the Madawaska Valley to meet the local Kashubian people and learn about their preservation of the Kashubian language. They spent a week in the Valley exploring Canada's first Kashubian communities of Wilno and Barry's Bay and interacting with local Kashubs. Mr. Frymark's university major is Kashubian Language Studies while Mr. Kloskowszczi is majoring in Kashubian Ethnology (*Kaszëbskô Etnofilologijô*)—the study of the cultures of contemporary societies, language groups and nations.

Interaction with local Kashubs offered the perfect field of study for their thesis work; the opportunity to meet with Kashubs, in a unique situation, who still speak the Kashubian language and continue to practice their Kashubian traditions which were handed down from the first pioneers who came from the fatherland of Kashubia starting in 1858. While in the area, the students' goal was to meet as many Kashubs as possible and record their language, stories and traditions.

Since Mr. Frymark's interest and research is the Kashubian language he discovered that we still speak the language very well but have created new words that are derived from English words. He noticed there are words that the people have forgotten, and some new English words were created which were not used in Kashubia when the immigrants first came to the Valley. For example, for the word "play" we created the word "playovac" which is a combination of an English word with a Kashubian twist; other words such as "kara" for the word "car" or golfovac for the word "golfing". For the word "to change" we created the word "changovac". Stanley Frymark referred to this type of words as Kashlish, the same as Spanish speakers outside of



Students of Kashubian language and culture visit the Madawaska Valley PHOTO: DAVESHULIST

Spain refer to their new English-Spanish words as Spanglish. There were also words that our ancestors had to create because there were no Kashubian words for them. For example, for the word chipmunk they said "szczipniok" and for the word groundhog they said "grindioł". Because there are no chipmunks or groundhogs in Kashubia, our ancestors had to make up words the best way they knew.

Robert Kloskowszczi's research is about Kashubian cultural traditions. During his interviews with Edward Chippior, Adam Shulist, Mervin Olsheskie, Richard Shulist, Theresa Prince, Clifford Blank, Theresa Shulist, Peter Głofcheskie, Maxie Mintha and Gordon Lorbetskie, they talked about customs such as Pusta Noc (Barren Night) which is about wakes and funerals. Discussions centred around Christmas traditions and Easter traditions along with the Easter Monday tradition of Dëgùsa. They covered the story of our Kashubian roadside crosses which is important not only here, but also in the Kashubian fatherland.

Robert spent time with Theresa Chapeskie where she talked about carrying on the Kashubian embroidery tradition. Theresa Prince explained how an embroidery club was founded in 2006 and then about five years ago the members introduced a "Canadian" content by adding the red trillium and red maple leaf. Later the concept was further expanded by adding motifs of wild flowers that grow around the Polish Kashub Heritage Museum in Wilno,

such as the black-eyed Susan, ferns, cow vetch, forget-me-nots, chokecherries, buttercups and wild asters.

Donnie Burchat, expert on Kashubian furniture, informed him about the craft of traditional Kashubian furniture building. This furniture was also known as Wilno Furniture.

In Wilno, they observed the strength of the Kashubian elements at St. Mary's Church where the Blessed Mother of Sianowo, Queen of Kashubia (Matczi Bòsczi Swiònowsczi Królewí Kaszëb) makes her home; where the Lord's prayer is written in the Kashubian language and a message from Pope John Paul II is written in Kashubian "Boże pomagôj" which translates to, "May God help you." Both Stanley and Robert could not believe how strong the Kashubian culture is after sixteen decades of Polonization, and Germanization. Both were very amazed at how we have kept our Kashubian heritage and identity strong for so long and so far away from Kashubia.

Student Kloskowszczi received a bonus on the trip when he was invited to play on a Kashubian curling team at the Killaloe Curling Club. He joined skip Ed Chippior, Ken Kuiack and myself to play his first ever curling match which he won. He proudly wore a Kashubian Grifins Jersey and represented the Kashubian Nation with pride. Everyone wished Stanley and Robert a safe journey back to Kashubia and wished them luck with their thesis work and their respective university degrees. The Madawaskas, where heritage and culture define us.

## PORCH VIEWS

# Name it. Claim it. Build a future.



MARK WOERMKE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Thank you to everyone who has reacted to Who is a Local? My intention—I don't think anyone else ever has addressed this topic publicly—was to provoke a thoughtful dialogue on the issue of “localism” and how it affects the lives of our neighbours and the development of the Madawaska Valley. I hope I succeeded.

I was saddened, but not surprised, to read that school friends and people who have been here for 50 years have felt, and sometimes continue to feel, like they are outsiders. I hope this helps to heal those hurts. I was gratified to hear that this conversation takes place around kitchen tables and in hunt camps. Things are changing. I was also moved by the gratitude that people expressed for the kindness, care and assistance they received in the community of which they *chose* to be a part. We have amazing goodness and wisdom here, and it confirms my belief that “localists” are a minority.

Finally, I was excited to read comments that saw this discussion as one that might be expanded to include building a welcoming place for families, tourists, businesses and manufacturing. We have to embrace the future if we are to keep our beloved home strong and vibrant.

So, whether we are descended from a heritage family and were born and bred here; migrated here in the 60s and 70s to escape the US draft or urbanization; came here to work as a professional; arrived as a Catholic prepper in anticipation of Y2K; settled here for a peaceful life surrounded by beauty; fell in love with a “local;” or retired to the family cottage; we all love the Madawaska Valley and we are proud to call it home.

My dear friend Dawn, who divides her time between Ottawa and her heritage home in Newfoundland and who has visited me in the Madawaska Valley



The Szare Szeregi monument, Old Barry's Bay Road, Madawaska Valley.

countless times, thought that the localism piece could go in any newspaper across Canada or North America.

Remove Madawaska Valley, she wrote, and insert the name of most any small community... and the message stands.

I realized that we are not that unique when my research for these articles yielded some sources like David M. Rayside's *A Small Town in Modern Times: Alexandria, Ontario* (1991) or *Outsiders in Appalachia*, an episode from *The Front Porch* from West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

These sources deal with low self-esteem. This was alluded to, but not developed, in my last column (see Roy MacGregor's quotation from Joshua Blank's book). Let's consider it now: perhaps we feel the need to look down on newcomers before they look down on us because

we are trying to buoy our self-esteem.

Have we been made to feel inferior? Perhaps our accents have been ridiculed, our lack of post-secondary education has been disdained or our hard work in logging or agriculture has been dismissed. Perhaps we were exploited by the cultural elite. One has to wonder how many pieces of Wilno furniture disappeared in the early 70s when collectors converged on the Valley and ripped off naïve residents. Remember the hurt when Kashub folk tales were appropriated and Wilno became known for its vampires? How many farmers were talked into selling their farms cheap for cottages or summer camps for city-folks? Perhaps some of our former mayors or councillors have been ridiculed for “talking like a local.”



An inferiority complex could explain why, instead of appreciating an award-winning and acclaimed art installation based on the importance of the woodpile to life in the Valley, we become angry and ridicule it. Or why we distort a vernissage into a “private invitation-only club, to view art and sip wine.” The sad reality is that if we don’t get over these feelings of inferiority, our words and actions will perpetuate the image of “hicks from the sticks.”

It’s time to put the hurt behind us and recognize the great things we have going for us here in the Madawaska Valley—our ethnic diversity, our cultural wealth, our unique history, our magnificent natural environment, our appeal to families and our potential for development.

Look at the success of the Wilno Heritage Society’s Polish Kashub Heritage Museum, their Kashub Day celebrations and the spinoffs: books that have been published on local history and genealogy, language, embroidery and cooking classes which are preserving the Valley’s Kashub/Polish culture and making us an international centre. We have a thriving arts community of painters, glassblowers, textile artists, iconographers, weavers, potters and writers who are putting us on the map. We have a unique and interesting past and significant sites like the Mayflower Route, Crooked Slide Park, the Railway Station and Water Tower, Zurakowski Park, the Opeongo Line, Heritage Walks, and Canada’s First Kashub/Polish Settlement which draw people to the area. We are surrounded by beautiful hills, clean lakes and forests.

**Or why we distort a vernissage into a “private invitation-only club, to view art and sip wine.”**

Companies like Madawaska Kanu Camp and Paddler Co-op are internationally known and draw people here. The Madawaska Valley offers a wonderful environment for families: reasonable house prices, large yards or acreages, fresh air, organized sports, schools and a fine hospital. Economically, we have a tradition of hard work and a workforce that is ready and willing—workers who would like to stay here if they could. Our proximity to important cities means we could be a



Valley artisans and artists put our culture on the map. PHOTO: SIGRID NATURALS

great location for establishing e-businesses or attracting e-commuters.

We have absolutely no reason to feel inferior. It is imperative, however, that we overcome our differences and celebrate those things which are integral to the Madawaska Valley. It is possible to make changes and achieve the kind of growth we need without losing our heart and soul.

Change is difficult, especially in a polarized political culture where elected officials try to divide “us” from “them” and fail to listen to the legitimate concerns of citizens. Nevertheless, change is inevitable. Abraham Lincoln said,

The best way to predict the future is to create it yourself.

The future looks amazing.

## The Madawaska Valley Current

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### **The Madawaska Valley Current**

PO Box 1097, Barry’s Bay ON, K0J 1B0

T: 613.639.1524

E: [madvalleycurrent@gmail.com](mailto:madvalleycurrent@gmail.com)

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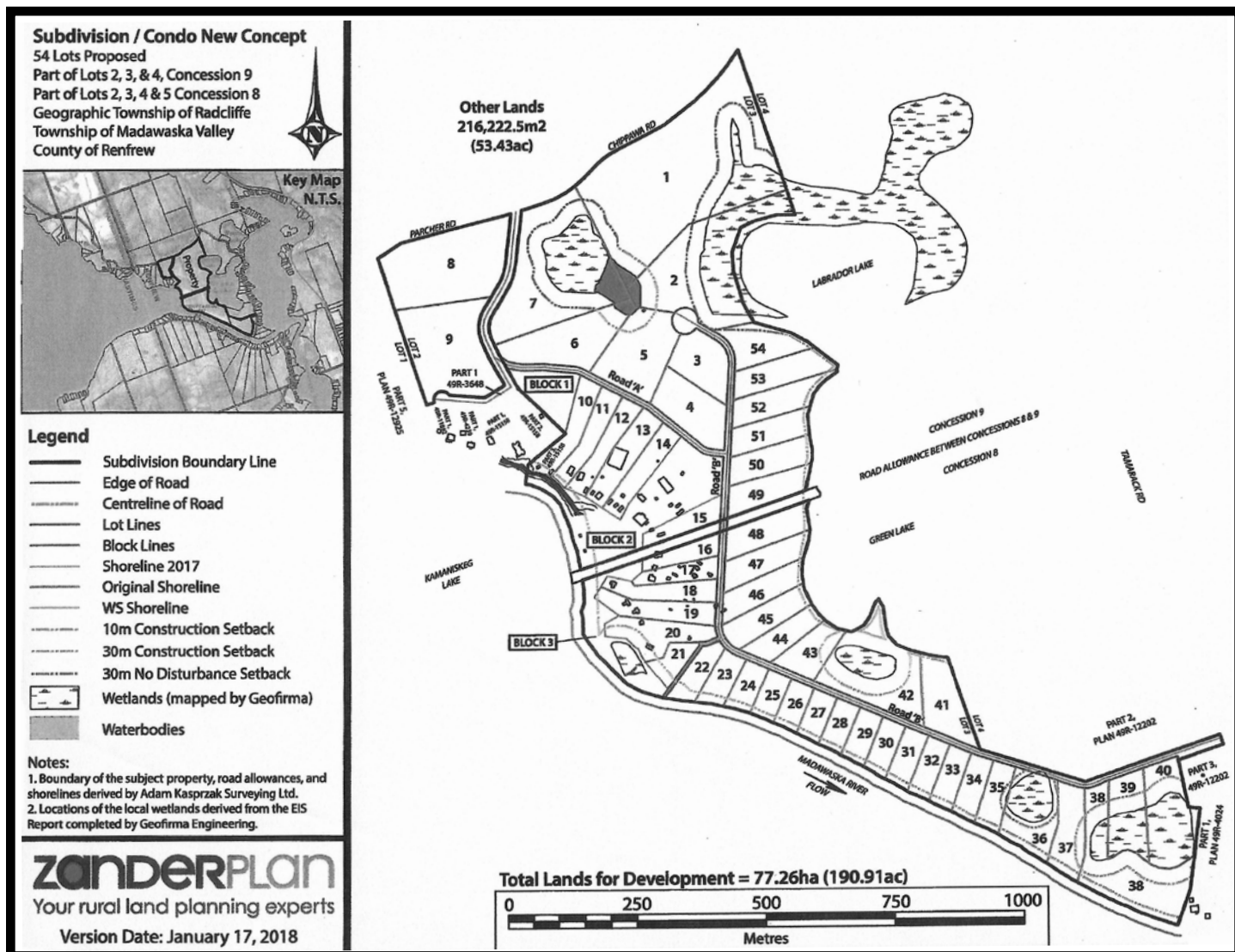
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# Proposed development includes Chippawa Lodge



## DANIELLE PAUL MADAWASKA VALLEY

Combermere Lodge Limited outlined its proposed condominium development in the Madawaska Valley at the Mar. 5 Council meeting. David Hunter, President of Combermere Lodge Limited (CLL), was accompanied by Donald Dunn, Vice-President, and Leah Wilson, Chief Financial Officer.

Hunter said that CLL owns the property for Chippawa Resorts and has applied to the County of Renfrew to create 54 lots on the 190 acre site, ranging in size from 1.5 to 15 acres each. CLL's plan includes retaining the lodge building itself, the great lawn and the beach as common areas for the use of all the people on the property.

Hunter said, "In order to move to the executive estate residential lot model, it would be done in a common element condo structure. Some people when they think about that, they think cubes in the sky – and that is not what it is. It is really just an infrastructure to support private roads, common areas that all the people on the property could use and enjoy. So there wouldn't be any condo buildings."

Hunter explained that recent provincial regulations required Chippawa Resorts to install an expensive Class 5 septic system at a cost that would effectively put it out of business. Turning the entire site into executive residential lots using a condominium model for the common areas and administration

would retain the heritage lodge building and result in lower density on the site compared to other options such as a super trailer park. The development would preserve the tranquility of Green Lake and likely would not increase water traffic on the Madawaska River.

CLL will host a site visit from Council in early spring. Mayor Love said, "This is one of those transformations where you are attempting to keep all of the great things about the property and still have it be a solid, viable development—but with respect to the environment, with respect to the users—so I'm very excited. So we look forward to seeing your application actually come to us and moving on with that process and having some more detailed discussions."



# Greenan's Lake and Greenan's Creek

MARK WOERMKE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Francis Greenan was a member of the family for whom Greenan's Lake and Greenan's Creek are named. See *The Kitts Family of the Ottawa Valley and North America* which I published in 2007.

Francis Greenan first appeared in historical records as a fifteen-year-old boy with his father John in Goulbourn Township near Ottawa in the 1851 Census. They were living with their uncle/brother Francis Greenan, his wife Sarah Kitts and their family. The younger Francis left Goulbourn in the mid-1850s to find work in the United States. He married Emily Townsend in McHenry, Illinois in 1858.

He brought his American bride and their daughter Margaret back to Goulbourn where they baptized James Oliver at Richmond in 1861 (sponsors John Greenan and Mary Ann Kitts). Shortly afterwards, Francis and Emily joined their friends and relatives who had migrated to lands along the Opeongo Colonization Road.

When Francis arrived, the free grants along the road had been taken, so he moved further into the wilderness settling at the edge of Sherwood Township, west of Lake Kamaniskeg, near his brother Patrick and his aunt Mary Greenan Murray.

Four of their children's baptisms can be found in the register at Brudenell between 1865 and 1874. Between 1874 and 1876, Francis, his family and his brother Patrick left for the United States. Francis Greenan died at Pocahontas, Iowa in 1912. Emily Townsend Greenan died in 1918.



Francis Greenan.



St. Joseph's Elementary School, 1952-53. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BOB CORRIGAN

## VALLEY HERITAGE

### St. Joseph's Elementary School 1952-53

BOB CORRIGAN  
BARRY'S BAY

St. Joseph's Elementary School was built in 1929 thanks to the interest and drive of Fr. Peter Biernacki. The building was torn down years ago and its location is now part of a parking lot for St. Hedwig's Church. It was very close to the former St. Mary's Elementary School which has now become one of the buildings of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College.

For the school year of 1952-53, a professional photographer took pictures of all the classes at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Barry's Bay.

I have made a stab at the names of the students in the picture but there could be some mistakes. Hopefully readers will contact *The Current* with any corrections.

FRONT ROW: Dennis Palbiski, Michael Clarke, Orville Kulas, Alan Biernaskie, David Trebinskie, James Chapeskie, Leo Coulas, Raphael Chapeskie, George McArthur, Kenneth Zilney, Sylvester Golka, Kenneth Shushack, Bob Corrigan.

SECOND ROW: Jack Matuskeskie, Earl Coulas, Bob Shulist, Joan Palubieskie, Ann Vitkuskie, Rose Stamplecoskie, Frances Coulas, Teresa Prince, Judy Trebinskie, Janet Yantha, Grace Zilney, Jerome Drohan, Philip Kulas, Kenneth Peplinskie.

THIRD ROW: Rose Dombroskie, Genevieve Norlock, Myrtle Nicholson, Ethel Christopher, Joyce Kubisheskie, Joanne Plebon, Lorraine Villeneuve, Ann Mackin, Angela Zilney, Catherine Villeneuve, Rita Yantha, Lorraine Recoskie, Marie Etmanskies, Marie Herron.

TEACHER: Sr. Raymond.

NOTE: If you are interested in having a picture and story featured in *The Madawaska Valley Current*, please submit the information to Bob Corrigan at *The Current*, PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay K0J 1B0 (marked Heritage Photo). Originals will be returned.

## Confrontation continues at MV committee meeting

DANIELLE PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

A clash between Councillors Maika and Archer that started at the Feb. 20 Regular Council meeting re-ignited with a vengeance at the Finance & Administration Committee meeting on Feb. 28.

At the earlier meeting Mayor Love, in proposing Councillor Maika as a member of the Township's negotiating committee concerning the future of the Railway Station, said, "If she is happy with it, then I know it is not going to be an issue at council."

Councillor Archer responded, "I would like to object because I don't think we make decisions based on whether Councillor Maika is happy."

At the Finance & Administration Committee meeting on Feb. 28 during a discussion about a rental rebate at the Combermere Community Centre, the Mayor lost control of the meeting when the two councillors engaged in a shouting match which lasted for several minutes.

At one point Councillor Archer leaned forward and directed comments to the press in attendance saying, "And you know what? Last week I was at a meeting, and I hope you guys print this, I was at a Council meeting, the last meeting, and our Mayor said we have to keep Shelley happy."

Councillor Bromwich, in order to defuse the situation, proposed a five-minute break which was agreed to. After the break, the meeting proceeded in an orderly manner.



Township of Madawaska Valley councillors, Shelley Maika (L) and Elser Lee Archer (R)



Clockwise from top: The oldest machine on display that morning was this 1965 Bombardier Ski-Doo Olympique.

## Snowmobile club shows vintage sleds at Railway Station

DANIELLE PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

The Opeongo Snowbird Snowmobile Club District 6 attracted more than 20 vintage sleds to the Barry's Bay Railway Station Mar. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Club volunteer Randy Dunlop explained the club trail patrol volunteers were on site—Joe and Mary Lou

Wills to provide hot coffee; Dunlop to help the exhibitors register and display their sleds; Glen Ferguson to display the club's groomer.

Dunlop said the Madawaska Valley Fire Department is scheduled to host a barbeque with free hot dogs for the kids later in the day. The township opened the Station facilities during the show.

## Madawaska Valley Food Bank thanks you

SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA MCLEE

Madawaska Valley Food Bank volunteers send a heart-felt thanks to all of the individuals, businesses, schools, churches, service clubs and local employee organizations who donate to the food bank. Because of your generosity throughout the year, we have food to give to those in need.

The people who receive your gifts thank us, but it is really YOU who should hear the gratitude in their voices, because it is YOUR kindness and charity that make it all possible. Thank you so much.

19460 Opeongo Line, next door to St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Box 161, Barry's Bay, Ontario, K0J 1B0.



# County nears completion of Official Plan Review

## THE CURRENT MADAWASKA VALLEY

The County of Renfrew has just published the latest draft of its five-year Official Plan Review. *The Current* has reviewed the draft and in this article will provide highlights of proposed changes and issues affecting land development in the county. In a subsequent article we will report on matters relating to environmental aspects.

An Official Plan (OP) is a policy document that guides the short-term and long-term development of a community. It applies to all lands (over 700 people wrote to the county objecting to the inclusion of their land) and the policies within it provide direction for the size and location of land uses, provision of municipal services and facilities, and resources protection.

The latest version of the draft OP incorporates revisions as a result of public input gathered during public meetings held throughout 2016. The county has also just published a summary of municipal and public comments which incorporates the details of all suggestions and objections submitted during the 2016 consultation process.

Some of the land development matters that are noteworthy are:

### RURAL PLANS OF SUBDIVISION:

- The draft OP has been amended to permit rural subdivisions provided the number of lots is consistent with historical trends and projected population growth in the area. Also, a subdivision in a rural area should not be closer than 1 km to a settlement area.
- Issue was taken with the refusal to allow plans of subdivision to be further subdivided. The county responded by stipulating that if a developer wanted smaller or more lots, those considerations should be addressed through the initial subdivision application.

### SENSITIVE LAKES:

This description has been changed to "At Capacity Lakes." The current OP prohibits all lot creation on such lakes. The County of Renfrew now proposes

an amendment which would allow very limited lot creation where the septic system would be 300m back from the lake.

### SEVERANCES:

The draft OP does not propose any reduction in the number of severances from an original holding; i.e. three plus two. However, the province has made it clear that it will insist on a cap of three severances, so it is anticipated that the county's proposal will be rejected.

In the context of severances and related matters, there have been numerous complaints about the county being too subservient to the province's demands, particularly in respect of what some feel is the stifling of rural development. The county was urged to "fight back." Its response is that its hands are tied but it has been working to put "as much Renfrew County context" into the OP that it can.

### MADAWASKA VALLEY TOWNSHIP'S PARTICIPATION

Mayor Love expressed concern with population projections and how allocations will affect the interpretation

of certain sections of the OP. She said the low growth rate would have a detrimental impact on Madawaska Valley. County responded by saying that population growth is based on Census Canada data. Love recommended, in this context, a change in the wording to avoid the "projected population growth as being interpreted in a restrictive manner." County agreed with Love and recommended changing the wording.

Councillor Maika expressed concern about the prohibition of new lots on a private road that accesses a provincial highway. She was told in response that OP policies do not affect the highway control authority of the Ministry of Transportation.

### FURTHER CONSULTATION

The County of Renfrew has scheduled more Open Houses and Special Council meetings to allow for further public input into this latest draft OP. The next Open House will be on April 4 at Germania Club Pembroke, 118 Bennett Street, Pembroke, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition, a special county council meeting will also take place that day commencing at 6 p.m.



Bark Lake

# Will kits: are the savings worth the risks?

GINA REA  
RENFREW COUNTY

Six pitfalls of do-it-yourself will kits you should know about.

## 1 » IF DONE INCORRECTLY, YOUR WILL MAY NOT BE VALID

Wills must meet certain requirements in order for them to be legal. Your do-it-yourself will may successfully communicate your wishes, but that will not matter if it is not legally enforceable.

If your will is not properly witnessed, gifts to certain beneficiaries may be void, or the whole will can be thrown out.

## 2 » YOU ARE NOT GETTING ANY LEGAL ADVICE

As well as preparing a legally valid will, lawyers can tell you how to avoid certain problems that might cost your estate or your beneficiaries money.

Words can have a different meaning when they are used in wills or powers of attorney. For example, the word 'property' as it is commonly used has a somewhat different meaning when it is used in a will or power of attorney.

You might not truly understand the effects of what you are filling in, and how the terms might apply to your personal situation.

People who are confused by the language sometimes leave parts of the will blank. Leaving blank spaces can have disastrous consequences.

## 3 » NOT ALL WILL KITS ARE DESIGNED FOR USE IN ONTARIO.

Will kits may include terms that are not legal in Ontario, or leave out important terms which should be there.

## 4 » POORLY DRAFTED WILLS CAN COMPLICATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF SMALL ESTATES

Wills do not always need to be probated, especially when the estate is a smaller one. In order to avoid probate, third parties like banks or the Ministry of Transportation use the will to transfer the deceased's assets into someone else's name.

If the will looks questionable in some way, banks or other third parties can refuse to accept it. In that case, your



Law clinic each month at Rural Outreach Employment Services, Barry's Bay.

executor may have to apply to court for a Certificate of Appointment as Estate Trustee with a Will. This is time-consuming and potentially expensive, and any costs will usually have to be paid out of your estate.

## 5 » THEY LEND THEMSELVES MORE EASILY TO FRAUD

When you visit a lawyer to make a will, the lawyer checks your identification and deals with you face-to-face. Lawyers assess your mental capacity to sign a will, and they are required to keep notes about your discussions. If they think your capacity will be called into question, they can take proactive steps to protect your will.

Anyone can sign a document from a will kit. If there is any concern about whether you were really the person who signed the document or whether you understood what you were signing, your witnesses may be asked to give evidence in court. Witnesses may have died, disappeared or lost capacity themselves by the time you pass away.

When your will is done by a lawyer, witnesses usually sign an Affidavit of Execution swearing that they saw you sign your will. If the witnesses are unavailable after you have passed away, their Affidavits can still be used as evi-

dence in court to prove that you were the person who signed the will.

## 6 » WILL KITS DO NOT ALWAYS SAVE YOU MONEY

Will kits range in price, and some may seem like a bargain.

Making a mistake on your will, though, can easily result in a legal bill of over \$10,000. Legal Aid is not available for estate litigation. If your executor has to hire a lawyer, the bill is generally paid out of your estate. Your estate may not be large enough to cover the costs, and even if it is, most people would prefer for their beneficiaries to keep the money.

Depending on where you live and how complicated your estate is, it may be possible to have a will done by a lawyer for only a couple hundred dollars.

As part of our seniors' program, the Renfrew County Legal Clinic offers wills and powers of attorney free of charge for seniors with low incomes. If you are interested, please call our office at 1-800-267-5871 to complete an intake.

*About the author: Gina Rea is a seniors' lawyer based out of the Renfrew County Legal Clinic. She travels between five eastern Ontario community legal clinics to provide free wills and powers of attorney to low-income seniors.*



# Castaway culture... on my desert island



## DESERT ISLAND PICKS RANDY PENNEY

Randy Penney has been the CEO of the Renfrew Victoria Hospital and St. Francis Memorial Hospital for the past 28 years.

The news that I had been asked by *The Current* to share my Castaway choices brought a round of laughter from my family. "If you were cast away on a desert island what books or music would you want," is a regular question for new guests at our dinner table. In addition

to books and music, we will also ask about a favourite meal and beverage.

I would bring the following books with me:

*A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry. This novel takes place in India and centres around four characters from varied backgrounds. Mistry won the Giller Prize in 1995 for this book and it was shortlisted for the Booker. A true masterpiece. His other novel, *Such a Long Journey*, is equally good.

*Cider House Rules* by John Irving. This novel revolves around Homer Wells who was raised in an orphanage in Maine and has become the protégé of Dr. Larch, the physician and director of the orphanage. I have been a fan

of John Irving's work for so many years and believe this novel is his best.

*The Blackwater Lightship*, by Colm Toibin, takes place in Ireland in the 1990s with three women (sister, mother, grandmother) caring for Declan who is dying of AIDS. Shortlisted for the Booker, it is a moving story of love and emotion. Toibin is a gifted author who has also written other wonderful novels including *Brooklyn*, *The Testament of Mary* and *The Master*.

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. This novel set during the Vietnam War is a collection of linked stories about a platoon of soldiers. It is very well-written.

My list would not be complete without a Canadian-born author. Selecting just one would be the problem. From Guy Vanderhaeghe, Wayne Johnston, Andrew Pyper, Anne Michaels to Camilla Gibb, there are so many wonderful and talented Canadian authors. With that said, I would select *Sweetland* by Michael Crummey. Newfoundland has produced great writers and Crummey is at his best with this novel about resettlement.

For musical selections: True to my Canadian roots, I would certainly have *The Last Waltz* by The Band, Jackson Browne Solo Acoustic and, most importantly, a copy of a beautiful CD recorded by our daughter, Sarah.

For what it's worth, I would probably be listening to something by Mary Chapin Carpenter, dining on a wood-fired pizza and sipping a nicely chilled Pinot Grigio—all the time wearing fifty-plus sunscreen.

## Renfrew County Legal Clinic

ROGER PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

Renfrew County Legal Clinic, which provides free legal services to county residents who face economic limitations, is accessible by Valley clients one day a month in Barry's Bay.

The clinic, which is funded by Legal Aid Ontario, is an independent non-profit corporation run by a board of directors made up by people who work or live in Renfrew County. It is staffed by three lawyers and two support staff. Its mission statement is: *Our mission is to provide access to justice for low income people of Renfrew County with the aim of promoting a just society.*

Clinic Executive Director, Amy Scholten, and her staff can help area residents who need assistance with the following matters:

- Social Assistance (Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program)
- Landlord and Tenant (Tenants only)
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Pension Plan

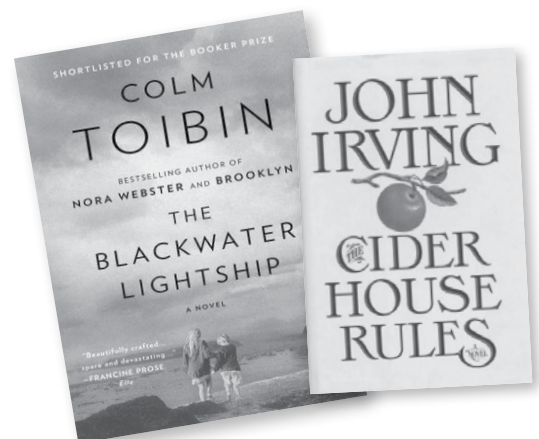
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Claims
- Human Rights and Employment Rights
- Debtor/Creditor—Small Claims Court matters
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Claims
- General Legal Information
- Assist in Community Development

In addition one member of staff, who is a seniors' lawyer, covers a wide area of Eastern Ontario travelling to provide free wills and powers of attorney, and other advice to low income seniors.

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of being one of its directors and so have been able to witness firsthand the expertise and dedication shown by Amy and her team in fulfilling its mission.

The Madawaska Valley location for the clinic is at Rural Outreach Employment Services, 19536 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay.

For further information contact the clinic's main office in Renfrew at 1-800-267-5871.





Clockwise from top left: Joyce Burkholder, Kathy Haycock, Linda Sorensen on location; Paintings by Burkholder, Haycock, Sorensen and Sorensen.

## Wild Women out west

SPECIAL REPORT BY  
ARTIST JOYCE BURKHOLDER

Wild Women, Painters of the Wilderness are a well-established trio of professional award-winning artists living and painting in the Madawaska Valley. Joyce Burkholder, Kathy Haycock and Linda Sorensen each operate a studio/gallery in the area and participate yearly in the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour.

This winter in February, we met in Arizona to paint the Red Rocks of Sedona and the Superstition Mountains near Phoenix. The three of us frequently paint plein air in the wilds around the Madawaska Valley and Algonquin Park... so it was no stretch to want to paint in the mountains of the Southwest. It just took some careful logistics to land in Arizona on the same day, coming from three different directions, loaded with everything we needed for a week of painting on location. It was so much fun—completely exciting and inspiring.

We loaded up our jeep and headed north to Sedona. This area is world-renowned for its massive red rock

mountains rising hundreds of feet from desert terrain. At sunrise and sunset the rocks turn a flaming orange-red... a painter's dream of shapes, colours, textures, highlights and shadows.

After three full days of painting we headed back towards Phoenix to the Superstition Mountains. There we experienced a very different terrain and equally as awe-inspiring as Sedona. Long gentle gravel slopes led our eyes to layer upon layer of mountains jutting proudly from a flat desert floor covered with a myriad of cactus in all different shapes, sizes and shades of green. Lovely pale cool greens and warm bright greens. Short haloed chollas and massive tall saguaros. An absolute delight for composing paintings with verticals, angles and curves, and so different from home.

We painted with oils on fairly small panels, 6x6 to 11x14... very easy to transport and brought them back almost dry. Some needed finishing, some did not.

*Facebook: Wild women, painters of the wilderness*