

The Madawaska Valley Current

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018

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Local writer/librarian enters provincial race

DANIELLE PAUL
RENFREW COUNTY

As far as parties go, Di Fiore is none of the above.

Killaloe resident and occasional contributor to the Current, James di Fiore, has registered as a candidate in the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke riding for the upcoming provincial election. Di Fiore will run as a member of the None of the Above party (NOTA).

NOTA's platform is summarized on its website www.nota.com as follows:

Vote for None of The Above party to elect independent MPPs who are not bound by party control and who can truly represent their constituents first. We support the three Rs of direct democracy: Referendum, Recall, and Responsible Government Laws for true Legislative and Electoral Reforms.

Di Fiore explained his decision, saying, "I think the vast majority of citizens understand that major political parties do not act on our behalf. They are either corrupt from years of being in power or they subvert democracy within their own memberships in a desperate attempt to grab power. People are tired of being told there are only two or three choices at the ballot box."

"I'm running in this riding, the riding I chose to raise my children, and where my wife was born and raised, to demonstrate that the hopes and worries of constituents are better represented when politicians put people first."

James first entered into politics as a speechwriter for former Defense Minister John Manley. He ran for mayor of Toronto in 2010, solely to encourage the youth to become politically active. He is a freelance journalist and works as an assistant librarian at the Madawaska Valley Public Library.

Recently he attracted some notori-

ety after posting a YouTube video about hush payments alleged to have been paid by the CBC. He professed to have knowledge of payments being made to female employees who had affairs with Peter Mansbridge. In it di



James Di Fiore.

Fiore stressed that there is no reason to suggest that the alleged relationships were anything other than completely consensual. Rather his concern was that taxpayers' money may have been used if such payments were made.

MV honours long service employees and volunteer firefighters



Long service award recipients with members of council. Five years service awards went to Truck Drivers/Equipment Operators Ronald (Ronnie) Stamplecoskie and Delmar Recoskie; and to Volunteer Firefighters Monika Sawiak and Joshua (Josh) Hasler. Jamie Harron, Volunteer Firefighter, received an award for 15 years service. James (Jimmy) O'Malley, Fire Captain, received a 25 years service award. Thirty years service awards went to Janice Brisson Zelney, Taxation, Water and Wastewater Administrator, and to Garry Chapeskie, Volunteer Firefighter. Also given awards but not present were Ralph Parisien, Fire Captain, 10 years service; Clayton Pecarski, Grader Operator, 25 years service; and Brenda Sabatine, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk, 30 years service.

On April 17 after the regular council meeting, the Township of Madawaska Valley honoured eleven employees and volunteer firefighters for their long service to the community.

In welcoming everyone to the ceremony, Mayor Kim Love said, "The

most important resource any organization has is its employees and its volunteers. While council is responsible for setting policy, we depend on your skills and expertise to bring our vision to light and make it all work."

MV Falcons and Grey Highlands Hawks face off—in court

ROGER PAUL
OTTAWA

On November 9 last year, Valley hockey fans were shocked to learn that MV Falcons Hockey Club had ceased operations with immediate effect.

At the time Gary Medwid, its owner, announced that this was the result of Head Coach Norm Maracle suddenly leaving the team and taking some players with him. Maracle, who left to take up the same position with the Grey Highlands Hawks, alleged that players who followed him did so voluntarily. He also made claims about the Falcons owing him money.

In January, the Falcons commenced a lawsuit against Maracle and the owners of the Hawks, Carrie Robertson and Cory LaFonte. *The Current* has obtained a copy of the Falcons' Statement of Claim from the Court file in Ottawa.

This reveals that the Falcons seek damages totalling \$400,000. The legal grounds stated in support of the claim are:

1. Breach of contract. The Falcons state that in September 2017 they entered into a contract with Maracle whereby he agreed to be General Manager and Head Coach of the Falcons for the period Sept. 1 2017 to Apr. 1 2018. They agreed to pay him \$48,000 as compensation. The contract was also said to contain a "non-compete agreement" whereby Maracle agreed that for the period of his contract he would not "engage in any business which is competitive with the Falcons."

In alleged breach of this contract Maracle left the Falcons in early November and immediately joined the Hawks as Coach and General Manager.

Under the terms of the contracts that the Falcons have with its players, the players were required to pay an annual fee of between \$6,000 and \$7,500 each to the Falcons as a condition of playing for the team. The Falcons state that Maracle had the obligation to collect these payments but that he failed to do so. Moreover, they say that he told the players not to pay the fees to the Falcons but to pay them instead to the Hawks.



LOGOS: MADAWASKA VALLEY FALCONS, GREY HIGHLANDS HAWKS

2. Slander. This claim arises out of the accusation by the Falcons that Maracle falsely accused them of failing to pay his salary. The alleged slander was said to have been made to MooseFM as well as to a reporter of *The Valley Gazette* "knowing that these false, defamatory statements would be reported in that newspaper."

3. The Statement of Claim also states that the Falcons rented a home in Barry's Bay for Maracle to use for the duration of his contract. Money is claimed for rent that Maracle is accused of not paying as well as for "extensive damage" to the home.

The Current emphasizes that these are allegations made in a court proceeding by one party against another and have not been proven.

The Current contacted Gary Medwid, the owner of the Falcons Hockey Club. Medwid told *The Current* that: The lawsuit was filed in January but its lawyers have had difficulty in serving the defendants. One was served in March but its lawyers still have been unable to serve the owners of the Hawks.

When a defence has been filed, *The Current* will provide details of its contents.



(L-R) Gil Głofcheskie, Mark Woermke, Karen Filipkowski, Vicki Głofcheskie recording the Polish greats.

Opeongo Reader's Theatre podcast available

Enjoy some great Polish literature, poetry and prose, read by Opeongo Reader's Theatre players to celebrate May 3 which is Polish Independence Day (or Polish-Kashub Day here in the Madawaska Valley.)

When you listen to Opeongo Reader's Theatre podcasts, you'll hear live spoken-word performances of classic literature (public domain only) and 19th century Upper Ottawa Valley documents about the shanty history and culture of the Upper Ottawa Valley of Eastern Ontario, Canada.

LOOK FOR **OPEONGO** ON ITUNES
Reader's Theatre

Tips to avoid spring meltdown

JOANNE OLSEN
MADAWASKA VALLEY

To everything there is a season and to each new season often a new set of aches and pains.

As a physiotherapist I often see a sudden surge in patients with symptoms attributed to the challenges of the season change...foot pain when non-supportive rain boots are donned, shoulder pain as the wood cutting needs doing. The "spring meltdown" as I call it, is primarily related to spring clean-up, indoors and outdoors.

After a long winter which may have curtailed physical activity, most people are likely to be sore and fatigued if not properly prepared for spring clean-up.

Injuries resulting from over exertion while lifting, pushing and pulling are among the most common, resulting in neck, shoulder and back pain. Preparation for these tasks and planning for safety is most useful. The following tips should help keep people injury free.

WARM UP BEFORE GARDEN WORK:

Gardening and yard work engages virtually every muscle in the body. Walk for a few minutes to promote circulation. Ten minutes should be sufficient.

MAINTAIN GOOD POSTURE: Keep a wide base of support while you stand. Move your feet while raking. Hold the rake near the end with 1 hand, and two-thirds down with the other hand.

AVOID TWISTING: Use your legs to shift your weight from side to side.

AVOID BENDING: Kneeling is always better than bending. Wear knee pads if necessary. Try sitting on an overturned bucket for weeding and hinge at the hips. Hips were designed for this purpose.

BE SMART: Work in the yard when it is dry. Wear proper shoes with skid resistant soles and proper support. Flip-flops and Crocs don't quite meet those criteria. Don't overfill bags or tarps. Pace and hydrate as needed.

DON'T OVERDO IT!: Rotate tasks to avoid straining muscles. After 15

minutes of raking, change to pruning. Space out tasks over several days. No Olympic medals have been rewarded for getting the garden planted in one day.

Some soreness after gardening is common but should settle in 24 to 48 hours. If symptoms do not settle or if you experience shortness of breath, dizziness or chest pain be sure to consult your physician.



Poets please

The Current is looking for poets. We know you're lurking in the Valley somewhere. There may be a few of you in the MV Creative Writers Group that meets monthly at the MV Public Library. The Current invites Valley poets to submit work for publication in a new section of our website. So lurk no more—take the plunge and be published!

Algonquin East.com

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FABL of Amos Québec

**The Times
Are Urgent For
The Church**

THURSDAY JULY 12 6 pm to 10 pm

Paul J. Yakabuski
Community Centre
Lounge
65 Arena Road,
BARRY'S BAY
K0J 1B0

FRIDAY JULY 13 6 pm to 10 pm

Combermere Rec
Centre Hall
1095A Farmer Road,
COMBERMERE,
K0J 1L0. Farmer Rd
is off Hwy 62N, Home
Hardware is on the corner.

What to look for in MV budget

JOHN HILDEBRANDT
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The Township of Madawaska Valley will soon present its proposed 2018 budget. Many taxpayers do not understand how their tax dollars are being spent. If you have questions, this budget “primer” will help you begin to understand the municipal budget process.

To start with, Madawaska Valley taxpayers are lucky to have access to a massive amount of information on the township website such as:

- **OVERVIEW:** 2016 Budget Summary (which gives a snapshot of the budget). This is available under Township Hall/Documents on the main township website.
- **DETAILS:** 2016 Municipal Budget (66 pages) as approved by our elected representatives (which shows detailed projections for the coming year vs. the actuals/budgets for the last year)
- **LISTEN IN:** There is also a website www.soundcloud.com where we can listen to our councillors discussing these figures at the annual “budget workshops.” This is a great service for people who can’t attend the meetings in person. To use this, you may have to open a free account and you need to search for madawaska-valley and then look for the name and date of the meeting.

At time of writing, Madawaska Valley has not provided the final figures for the 2017 financial year. So the examples in this article are taken from the figures for 2016—the only available complete financial year.

So, what do we look for in a proposed budget?

It depends on what we’re interested in.

First, select the areas of the budget that are of interest. The biggest expenses in our municipality are roads, but any look at expenses means checking out wages and benefits, hydro, lawyer fees, etc. in every department of the municipality. Wages will always go up thanks to inflation. I’m interested in roads, protection, parks and recreation,



general administration.

It’s useful overall to compare last year to the proposed budget and look for any big changes in expense or income from the previous year. Note areas where no money is being spent on capital projects or where nothing is being put aside into reserves. Spending in one area but not in another demonstrates Council’s priorities—no matter what individual councillors may say they are interested in.

In other words: Follow the money.

The average taxpayer is concerned about any obvious increase in taxes. Therefore, every council tries to keep tax increases to a minimum. A good rule of thumb is 2 percent of the assessed value. In my experience, a budget with NO increase in taxes is bad for the township. Taxes should reflect inflation at least. Without even looking at a budget, this generally means an increase of 1.5 to 3 percent.

The 2016 budget shows that in Madawaska Valley, roads are the biggest area

of spending. Policing also takes up a lot of tax dollars. Spending on roads is determined locally, but policing costs are established at a different level. The cost of surfacing our roads varies depending on the material used. Our township has a 20-year plan which is updated every five years, see Roads Needs Assessment 5 Year Plan—Madawaska Valley—Updated April 7 2014. Roads are supposed to be maintained within each five-year period of that 20-year plan. Operations Committee meetings show which roads your elected representatives have chosen to do, and in what order. When things happen out of sequence, you may want to ask why.

I started with a summary of the headline figures for Overall Expenses and Overall Revenues from the 2016 budget. Once you get the hang of the overall budget and the different departments, be brave. You can check particular items that interest you in the detailed budget document.

REVENUES

The overview (Budget Summary) on the township website lists the major sources of revenue such as taxation and grants. Individual items in each department are listed in the detailed budget. The municipality's revenue from taxation is based on a percentage levied against the assessed value of the property in the township. The assessment rolls for 2018 as submitted by MPAC reveal the assessed value of lands for these geographic areas:

- Roll #24—former Radcliffe Twp. \$291,912,896.00.
- Roll #26—former Twp. Sherwood, Jones & Burns, including Wilno \$355,711,395.00.
- Roll #28—Village of Barry's Bay \$100,721,775.00.

The total for all three is \$748,346,066.

Seasonal residents with rural or waterfront properties will note that the bulk of the municipality's tax revenues comes from the geographic Sherwood, Jones & Burns Townships, with geographic Radcliffe Township contributing a lesser amount. The remaining taxation revenue comes primarily from the year-round residents and the businesses.

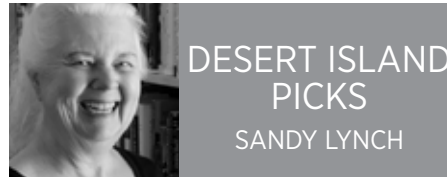
THE BOTTOM LINE

Hopefully this article has illustrated what taxpayers should look for in the proposed 2018 budget when it arrives. Every taxpayer can attend the budget meetings and participate by asking questions during the Public Question period. Detailed budget documents are uploaded to the website in advance so you can also email questions to members of council before the meeting. If you want to see how the budget is performing during the year, look for the six-month Year-To-Date reports attached to the Finance & Administration Committee meeting agenda—usually in June.

Why is it so important for taxpayers to examine the budgets?

Members of our municipal council have obligations of accountability and transparency. To see how well they perform, taxpayers can (and should) examine how they demonstrate their fiscal responsibility—especially in an election year.

Castaway culture... on my desert island



DESERT ISLAND PICKS
SANDY LYNCH

Sandy Lynch was born in Texas and raised in Libya. She has spent almost 40 years in Combermere, raised five daughters with her husband, John, and is now a bookseller. PHOTO: SHARON GARDINER

Rather than being whimsical about this question, I've decided to take it literally—not a weekend alone but an indefinite time on a deserted island, *a la* Daniel Defoe. (I would prefer not to be stranded on a desert island as chance of survival would be nil.)

Assuming no hydro, a handtool and books are my only choices. How about two tools—a good quality Swiss Army folding knife and a pencil.

Water and shelter could be covered by common sense but not food and medicine so a good foraging book would be my first need.

Ahead of me is a lot of time spent alone so the need for company and

conversation has to be filled by books. Though I'm not a regular reader of poetry, I have found that much that is profound and wonderful about life is observed in a few words and often beautifully in poems; therefore, I would need a poetry anthology covering Donne and Dante, Hopkins and Eliot, Heaney and Ted Kooser, among others.

Because I have room in my arms for more than two books, I would add *The Bible*, a few Shakespeare plays, Dostoyevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* and Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. That is all I can carry. Oops! What is that tucked under my arm? A stowaway—my favourite children's novel, Elizabeth Goudge's *Little White Horse*—is here for heart and comfort and pure joy.

These should keep me going until I am rescued by John, my husband, who always finds me. Hopefully, I will then be wiser and know better than to get lost again.

A postscript: Why the pencil? To write with, of course. If I'm having this amazing adventure, I surely want to write down thoughts. I would use the flyleaves and margins of the books.



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Council's code of conduct and the role of the Integrity Commissioner

ROGER PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

In a recent article, *The Current* disclosed how some municipalities give guidance to residents about making complaints including those to an Integrity Commissioner (IC). Some also provide information about the role of their ICs with reference to their Codes of Conduct for members of council. At the present time, Madawaska Valley does not and this article will attempt to fill that gap.

WHY WE HAVE CODES OF CONDUCT AND INTEGRITY COMMISSIONERS

What came to be known as the “Bellamy Report,” published in 2005 (following an inquiry into the Toronto Computer Leasehold scandal), laid the groundwork for adoption of municipal Codes of Conduct and the introduction of ICs. The object was to address the perceived need to ensure that elected officials adhere to the highest ethical standards as befits their obligations to their constituents. The recommendations in the report resulted, in 2006, in a new section added to the Municipal Act 2001 entitled “Accountability and Transparency.”

MV'S CODE OF CONDUCT

You will not find a direct link to this on its website. In fact, it is not easy to find at all. A word search may eventually lead you to the By-Law that contains it. To save you that trouble, By-Law 2014-138 can be found at <https://madawaskavalley.civicweb.net/fileproof/document/98897/2014-138-Codeof-ConductforCouncil.pdf>

It contains standards you might expect which are summarized as requiring that councillors “act in a way that enhances public confidence in local government.”

These standards include avoiding behaviour such as dishonesty, harassment and intimidation. Also, to comply with other legislation, it confirms the need to disclose conflicts of interest as well as actual and potential pecuniary interests. Other prohibited conduct is summa-

rized under the heading “Incompatible Activity” which includes, for example, not accepting the services of any paid supplier of services to the township.

THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

The township appointed its first IC, Jack Rosien, in June 2016. At the time of the termination of his appointment, which has resulted in a legal claim against the township, he reported that he had three uncompleted investigations. His successor, Guy Giorno, was appointed in June 2017.

The IC's function is to receive and investigate a complaint that alleges a councillor has not complied with the Code of Conduct. He is then required under the Municipal Act to carry out an “independent” investigation. This requires him to be free from any interference or influence by (or on behalf of) the parties, and council and the township.

The Municipal Act states that complaints to an IC can be made by members of the public as well as by council itself or any member of council. A complaint triggers a process of investigation by the IC who is given wide powers to interview witnesses and obtain documents. The Act also gives him the power, in appropriate circumstances, to reject a complaint immediately if he believes it to be “frivolous and vexatious.”

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

At the completion of an investigation,

the IC is required, if he intends to uphold the complaint, to send a copy of it to the councillor in question. That councillor is then given 14 days in which to respond. When the report is finalized, it is sent to council which must make it public. The IC can, but is not required to, make recommendations as to penalty—which is limited under the Act to either a reprimand or up to 90 days' suspension. He can also make a recommendation that a councillor reimburse any payment that he or she may have received inappropriately.

Although the name of the councillor will be disclosed, the complainant's identity is kept anonymous.

OTHER DUTIES

In addition to investigating complaints, ICs also perform the important role of acting in an educational and advisory role to members of council; that is to say, to act as a consultant on all matters relating to the compliance with its code as well as other ethical issues. This is beneficial to members of council as it provides them with easy access to confidential specialist advice concerning matters of conduct that may be troubling them.

Complaints can be sent directly to the IC whose contact details are as follows: Mr. Guy Giorno, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, 55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1300, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6L5, integritycommissioner@fasken.com



Ten beds at St. Francis Memorial

DR. JASON MALINOWSKI,
MADAWASKA VALLEY

This opinion has been endorsed by the hospital's Medical Advisory Committee.

At St. Francis Memorial we have ten inpatient beds on the active care ward to treat serious illnesses requiring acute hospitalization. That's a very small number of beds for this community—there is high demand for those beds and we need to protect them.

We as a community will need to act very strategically to ensure that those beds stay open by making sure that we use the beds in the most efficient way possible. With an elderly population, we see high demand for the beds—and the demand has been consistently high for the past number of months.

Many times the hospital has been over-capacity, with patients waiting in the ER or away in another hospital, because there were no inpatient beds at St. Francis Memorial. Being over-capacity means increasing the risk to the hospital, straining both the financial and HR resources, and that increased risk threatens programs and services.

Contributing to this problem is the number of seniors who live at home under tenuous circumstances, yet have no plan for the day when they can no longer live at home due to illness or injury. Often there are no family members who live nearby who can step in quickly. And when an unfortunate (but not totally unexpected) illness occurs, meaning the patient can't live independently any more, the hospital becomes the home of last resort.

We no longer have the luxury of having the hospital house all the patients who can't go home.

We as a community need to make contingency plans early, to have things like placement papers completed before we are in crisis.

We need to expect that we will be discharged from the hospital, when we no longer have acute medical needs and a safe discharge plan is in place.

We need to advocate for a strong and effective home care program to meet our needs on discharge.

We need to continue to develop and support innovative ways to take care of our frail elderly and vulnerable patients—like the Madawaska Valley Hospice program.

As a rural and isolated community, we have a long history of looking after ourselves. We can most effectively look after our acute medical needs when we cherish and look after those valuable ten beds.

Dr. Jason Malinowski is Chief of Staff at SFMH.



Emergency beds must be used for patients when SFMH is at full capacity.



DAYLINER REACHES BARRY'S BAY—More than 60 residents of Barry's Bay crowded into the CNR's new dayliner Sunday afternoon when it arrived from Ottawa to prepare for the first run of the new service on Monday. Paul Yakabuskie, Reeve of Barry's Bay, left, is seen greeting James Baskin, M.P. Renfrew South, right, and Gordon T. Dunn, CNR's Superintendent from Ottawa.

VALLEY HERITAGE

CNR Dayliner service 1959

BOB CORRIGAN | BARRY'S BAY

A reader of *The Current* has submitted this newspaper clipping from the *Eganville Leader*, March 6, 1959.

The photo caption reads: More than 60 residents of Barry's Bay crowded into the CNR's new dayliner Sunday afternoon when it arrived from Ottawa to prepare for the first run of the new service on Monday. Paul Yakabuskie, Reeve of Barry's Bay, left, is seen greeting James Baskin, M.P. Renfrew South, right, and Gordon T. Dunn, CNR's Superintendent from Ottawa.

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

Polish Kashubs and their cars

JOSHUA C. BLANK
MADAWASKA VALLEY

In this day and age, we often take advances in technology for granted. The automobile is one. Many, including myself, were born into a world with vehicles already in use. It wasn't always this way—just ask a parent or grandparent about life before or without cars. Indeed, automobiles revolutionized the lives of Canadians. In the Madawaska Valley, generations of Polish-Kashub families witnessed many changes brought on by vehicles, albeit at a slower pace than urban areas or in Poland. Furthermore, the cars belonging to Polish-Kashubs and Galician Poles were often cherished objects and figured prominently in many family photos.

Until the 1890s, widespread travel out of the Barry's Bay area was limited until the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound Railway was built. Previously the main form of transportation in and out of the Barry's Bay area was by wagon along the Opeongo Colonization Road or via water. Across Ontario, though, many road networks were soon created and the number of registered vehicles jumped from 535 in 1904 to over 490,000 in 1930. Most rural residents could not afford cars initially, as the average car cost around \$600. They were more attainable by the 1920s due to liberal financing plans and a drop in price.

As rural families began to purchase vehicles, they enjoyed their benefits. Rail travel restricted the views of the landscape for passengers who were limited to the scenery beside the rails. Travel times, too, were tightly restricted. Automobiles allowed for a more flexible schedule and opened up new spaces for travel. For example, instead of having to walk long distances or hitch up a team, one could quickly drive from distant farms into town—route never serviced by a rail line. When several gravel roads were merged by the province to create Highway 60 in the 1930s, the boundaries for travel outside the Madawaska Valley were expanded. For those fascinated with the world beyond, first-hand accounts of what lay outside the region



could now be relayed to an interested audience. One who took advantage of this was Msgr. Peter Biernacki. He drove to out to western Canada in 1932. Upon his return, he happily lectured about his trip and outside world to many interested listeners at St. Hedwig's Parish.

In the early half of the century, several businesses took advantage of automobiles. Biernacki, John Omernik, Chas. Murray and H.J. Chapeskie travelled by car to Toronto and Buffalo in 1921 to promote a local lumber company. Paul B. Mask, of the Island Dairy, utilized a car for deliveries in the late 1930s. In the 1940s, Frank Pastway had one of the largest commercial fleets of lumber vehicles in the area. John J. Glofcheskie also started a taxi and delivery service in the Bay broadening it to several vehicles in the 1950s.

However, cars were not always used year-round. Springtime mud and winter snow became barriers that some

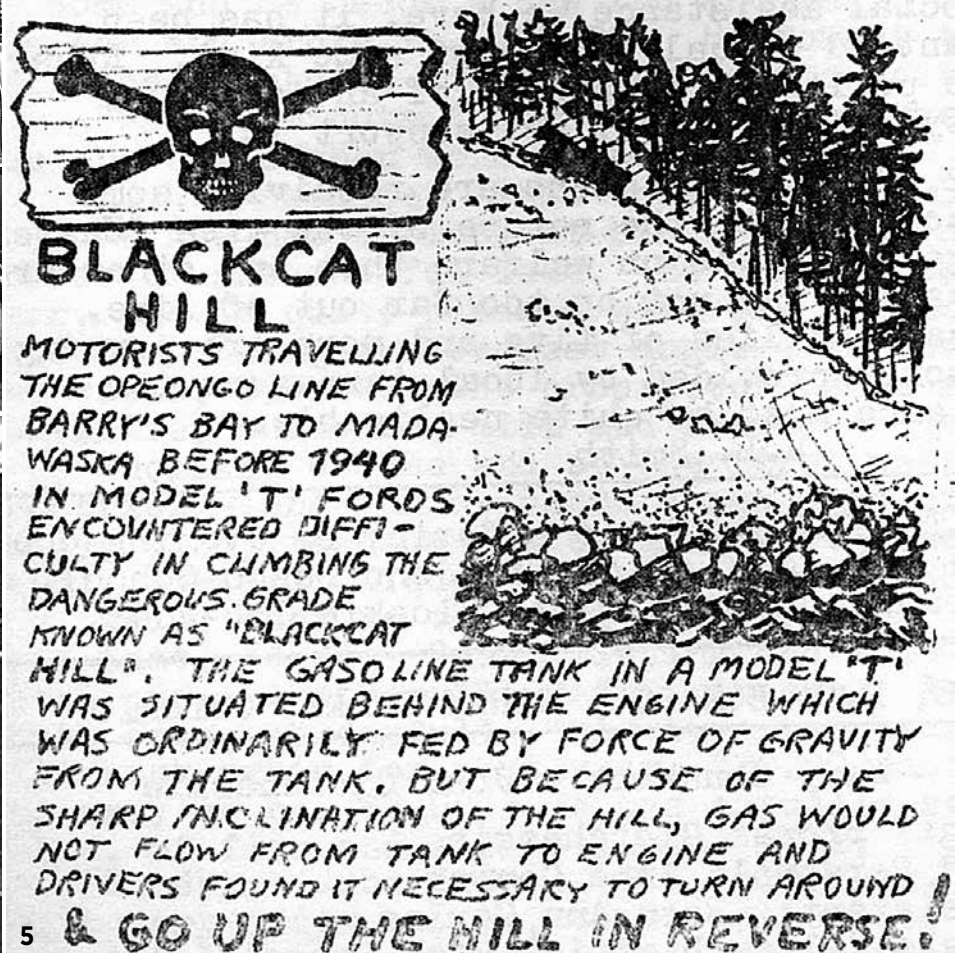
cars could not bound. Horses and sleighs were used by many during the winter. Helen Dombroskie, a well-known midwife, mentioned to me years ago that she used both during different times of the year to quickly reach women in need of help. Road building at the time was also much different. One worker, Andy Coulas, mentioned that farmers were often paid ten cents for a load of gravel they could spread.

The work was backbreaking. There was no such a thing as a bulldozer in those days, so it was all labour. Drilling the rock by hand.

Some roads were not fit for certain models of cars either. Ron Glofcheskie highlighted the perils of driving up Black Cat Hill before the 1940s in the *Kamaniskeg Chronicle's* "As a Matter of Fact" illustrated feature.

Nonetheless, families were proud of their first vehicles. It was a status symbol, a marker of development and progress for the family. Many families displayed their pride of ownership by taking formal photos or wedding photos with the car. On the other hand, the popularity of the car was bittersweet. There were fewer long attachments with teams of horses as demand for them declined.

While some families could not afford vehicles in the post-war period, our



brethren in Poland had a more difficult time. According to Mariusz Jastrzab, cars were seen by the Communist state as contradictory to the socialist ideal of rational consumption. They were only given to the political elite and their friends. It was not until the 1980s that many could finally obtain one.

A longer article could be written on this topic, especially considering that other ethnic groups in the area shared many of the same experiences with vehicles. Hopefully, though, this provides a glimpse into the past and brings forth more memories. Do you remember your first car and what it meant to you? Feel free to post your recollections to *The Current*.

About the author: Joshua C. Blank is the author of several articles and books. His latest is *Creating Kashubia: History Memory and Identity in Canada's First Polish Community* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2016). He teaches English and history in the Ottawa Catholic School Board.



Photos: 1) Alex and Elizabeth Shalla wedding 1915 in Msgr Biernackies car. 2) Arrival and departure times in Barry's Bay. PHOTO: J. BLANK, 2005. 3) Mary Shushack and Joseph Dudek in front of their 1929 Chevy. 4) Rose (Blaskavitch) Beanish. 5) Notice from *The Kamaniskeg Chronicle*, Vol. 1, No. 10 (August 26, 1970). 6) Frank Pastway's fleet of vehicles c1940s.

PHOTO: MISSION HOUSE MUSEUM.

PORCH VIEWS

Remarkable Madawaska Valley women



MARK WOERMKE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

On March 8, I started a Facebook post recognizing International Women's Day. Before clicking "share" I realized it had potential as a Porch Views column, so I deleted it and started creating a list of remarkable Madawaska Valley women. My list grew until it had far too many names for a column, so I've narrowed it down to three community builders and role models.

Thank you to these women's family members and friends whose generosity made it possible for me to share these stories with my readers.

ZITA GLOFCHESKIE

Zita Shalla was born in Barry's Bay in 1923. Known to her family and friends as "Zip" because of her energy and enthusiasm, Zita attended St. Joseph's for elementary and secondary school. Her father's death during the Great Depression left a lasting impression on a 12-year-old Zita. Her mother was a teacher but had to stay home with her young family, so she did laundry for the men at Omaniue's Mill. Experiences such as this inspired Zita to live a life of service.

After attending the North Bay Normal School, Zita embarked on a teaching career which took her to Griffith, Arnprior, Wilno and Barry's Bay. Zita was known for welcoming all students—even the difficult ones.

There is no such thing as a bad child, she would say. It's the world that makes them that way.

She served her colleagues through union work (she was a delegate to the 1948 Catholic Teachers convention); by organizing professional development opportunities, and by acting as principal for the off-campus University of Ottawa courses which were offered in Barry's Bay in the 1970s so teachers could obtain university degrees. A life-long learner herself, Zita participated in the Christopher leadership course and



Above: Dorothy Waddington taught school in Hybla, Pleasant Valley, Bell's Rapids and Purdy before going into business. (PHOTO SUBMITTED). **Top right: Zita Glofcheskie** was a life-long learner. In 1975, she obtained her B.A. from the University of Ottawa graduating magna cum laude. (PHOTO SUBMITTED). **Bottom right: As a young wife and mother, Bernadette Plebon** worked alongside her husband to manage two businesses. (PHOTO SUBMITTED).



completed her Bachelor of Arts, graduating magna cum laude from the University of Ottawa 1975.

Zita served her parish, St. Hedwig's, in the Sacred Heart League, through sacramental preparation, as a choir member and organist, and a parish councillor. In terms of the wider community, she left her mark in a number of significant ways. She was a charter member and president of the St. Francis Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. As a director of the board that established Madawaska Valley District High School, Zita worked with people from throughout the area to improve access to education. Zita was also the first president of the organization that would become known as the Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living.

Zita married Bronis Glofcheskie in 1948. Raising a family and teaching full time was a challenge, but Zita was fortunate to have a supportive husband. There was no separation between a man's work and a woman's work in the Glofcheskie home. It was not unusual

for Bronis to make supper while Zita shovelled the driveway. After her retirement, she compiled scrapbooks of mementoes, articles and pictures of her family and community. According to her son Michael,

Zita followed anyone that she ever knew or taught. She was part of many people's lives; but they were, also, always part of hers.

Zita died in 2009 surrounded by her six surviving children, their spouses and grandchildren. Zita's daughter Mary Blank reflects on her mother's influence, "As I got older, in my work and family, I began to understand all of the things she was teaching us, and they began to come through in me."

BERNADETTE PLEBON

Bernadette Chippior was born in Wilno in 1919, the youngest of six children. Her father died in a lumber camp when the children were young and her mother who was a midwife provided for her family by working as a seamstress, planting big gardens and raising chickens. Bernadette left home at fourteen to work as a housekeeper in Ottawa for a dentist and his family.

At 26, she married Ambrose Plebon and they settled in the Bay. Family was their priority, and Bernadette and Ambrose worked together to build prosperous businesses—Lakeside Pavilion and A.J. Plebon Well Tile. When Ambrose was killed in 1967, Bernadette was left alone to provide for her four children and did her best to maintain the family businesses. When she realized she couldn't manage any longer, she did not despair: she went to work for others, first at The Kamaniskeg Style Shop and then at The Mayflower.

Bernadette's faith was her source of strength throughout her life, and one of the ways she gave back was through service to her parish. She worked at the annual St Hedwig's Parish picnics, and until her death she was a member of the Sacred Heart League. She was also active in the broader Madawaska Valley community. Bernadette was an active member of the PTA and the auxiliaries of the Royal Canadian Legion, Valley Manor and St. Francis Memorial Hospital. Bernadette was instrumental in starting a developmental unit at Sherwood Public School which evolved into the Madawaska Valley Association for

Community Living.

Community involvement was very important to Bernadette, and her daughter, former Madawaska Valley councillor Linda Neuman, speaking on behalf of herself and her sisters, explains their mom's legacy, "Mom instilled in us the importance of family and community and how to give back. As her daughters, we knew that we could survive and do what we had to for ourselves and our families no matter the situation. If Mom could do it, so could we. She was our inspiration!"

Although family was very important to Bernadette, she always said she would never live with any of her children as she did not want to be a burden. She was determined to be very independent. When it was time to leave her home beside the old pavilion, Bernadette moved into an apartment in The Golden Age Chateau where, following a brief illness, she died in 2016.

DOROTHY WADDINGTON

Dorothy Jenkins was born in Monteagle Township, Hastings County in 1931 and attended Greenview School and North Hastings High School in Bancroft. After graduation, she taught in one-room schools in Hybla and Pleasant Valley. After completing a one-year commercial course in 1948, she went to Toronto and got a job as an investigator for a finance company on Adelaide Street. In the early 1950s, she worked in the office at the Lanning Hat Factory in Belleville.

While working a summer job waiting tables at The Sunset Inn owned by the widow of the late Captain Hudson, Dorothy met Mrs. Hudson's nephew Cameron Waddington. They went together for five years before being married in 1954. Dorothy taught school for a few years in Bell's Rapids and Purdy, but she had other plans. In 1961 she opened The Dot Shop in Barry's Bay on Opeongo Road selling ladies wear, crystal, china, and other giftware. In 1969, she became the Simpsons-Sears catalogue sales agent for the area.

During her time in business, Dorothy helped establish the Madawaska Valley Regional Tourist Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Through these organisations, she helped bring a number of events to the area including the Lon-

*Remarkable women, continued on
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—*Remarkable women, continued*
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don-Brighton auto tour which held its evening reception at the old Pavilion, and Gordie Tapp and his touring show in the late 1960s. Dot was also a charter member of the Lionettes.

Dorothy had a supportive husband and family who shared her desire to give back to the community. Cam was very good to help with their children Kent and Susie and often had supper on the table when Dot got home. Frequently, she had evening meetings with the Chamber of Commerce, Lionettes, Tourist Council, St. Paul's Anglican Church or some other community initiative. Kent Waddington considers his mom a pioneer of sorts, "In an era where women were expected to be at home, Mom was busy running a business, and helping to found service groups in our communities and trying to help the less fortunate."

Dorothy died in 1987 at St. Francis Memorial Hospital and was buried in St. Paul's Anglican Cemetery in Combermere. Her long-time friend, Bernice Boehme who roomed with Dot in Belleville and later worked at The Dot Shop remembers her as a person who loved her family and community and served as a good role model, "She was a professional-type person who had a strong work ethic. She never expected others to do work she was not willing to do herself."

THREE OF THOUSANDS

Zita, Bernadette and Dot were three remarkable ladies whose strength, example and leadership helped build our community and whose stories continue to inspire us. There are thousands of others, living and dead, well-known or obscure who have enriched all of our lives in the Madawaska Valley.

I started this piece with a list of all the deceased ladies who helped me become the man I am today. It was a moving experience of recognition and gratitude. I highly recommend the exercise to my readers, and if any Porch Viewers would like to share a story about a remarkable Madawaska Valley woman, please send your comment to *The Current*.

Bear facts

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Bears are driven by food.

That's the one thing Rick Stronks, Chief Park Naturalist at Algonquin Provincial Park, wants members of the Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society to remember from his talk at the April 19 meeting. Stronks explained that Algonquin Park hosts up to 50 research projects each year, so he can get pretty close to black bears. Particularly memorable was his chance to babysit two bear cubs (actually, to cuddle them) while Park researchers examined their mother in her winter den.

His talk focused first on the black bear and how it survives in the park; then on what happens when bear meets human.

Stronks described the bear's extremely acute sense of smell. Because bears are poor hunters, their main food sources are vegetation, insects, grubs and, of course, easy food sources such as garbage.

He related a typical year in the life of a black bear.

From the cold weather in early November until about the spring equinox, the bear sleeps in its den. During hibernation bears do not drink, eat or eliminate. Females wake just enough to tend to cubs which are born in January.

It emerges, starving, around March 20 and then from April until the fall, the bear eats.

Bears ignore the opposite sex all year except for mating season in June. They have what is called delayed implantation where the fertilized egg is not implanted in the female bear's uterus until the fall—and it will only implant if the female is a healthy weight; i.e. more than 150 lbs. So it's important for the female bear to gain weight during summer. In fall bears work extremely hard to fatten up. It is a critical time to build up their winter stores.

Acorns and beechnuts are perfect for this. To illustrate the lure of beechnuts, Stronks showed a video of a 200 lb. black bear straddling the smallest, highest branches of a beech tree as he gathered beechnuts with his claws. At this it became unnecessary to add that climbing a tree is no way to avoid a bear encounter.



Rick Stronks addresses Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society.

Stronks then focused on bear encounters with humans, stating what he calls the Three Bear Rules:

- Never feed or approach a bear
- Keep a clean campsite or home (even during daylight)
- Store food in a safe location

The audience was amused to see a video of a bear hanging from a tight-rope in an effort to raid a bird feeder strung between two trees until Stronks emphasized that we should not feed birds during summer in bear country.

Stronks' advice if you encounter a bear: Stay calm and assess the situation. Stay together. Groups of three or more people have fewer problems. The group should back away, shout, whistle or use pepper spray. Above all, do not run. If you are attacked fight back!

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