

# The Madawaska Valley Current

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018

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## May long weekend BAY DAY RAIN OR SHINE



## Combermere gigantic sale



Oliver and Lily Cannon were excited with their new toy workbench at the Combermere Gigantic Bake & Yard Sale. The event was organized by the Combermere and Area Recreation Committee and the Madawaska Valley Friendship Club to raise funds for future local events and community betterment.



Umbrellas were open on Bay Day 2018 but a few drops did not stop the fun in Barry's Bay. It was the first Farmers' Market of the season. Vendors will be at the Railway Station on Fridays until fall. Passersby were taken unaware by a flash mob organized by Chelsea Clarke of Madawaska Valley Dance Studio, with dancers of all ages smiling through the showers. Later, the Barry's Bay BIA sponsored a free Heritage Walk led by Ken Ramsden, Mark Woermke and Joanne Olsen through Railway Station Park. No Bay Day is complete without the annual Classic Car Show, Fran's Band, community groups fund-raising, lake associations recruiting members, Fire Fighters with educational and fun giveaways for kids, plus all the merchants' special offers, draws and discounts. MV's soon-to-be CAO Sue Klatt was spotted in the crowd. ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: SHARON GARDINER



# Six partners in Eastern Ontario joining forces to implement EHR

SHAFIQUE SHAMJA  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

*Editor's Note: St. Francis Memorial Hospital is one of six hospitals in the region to partner in this significant advance in healthcare technology.*

Consider the care journey many patients face as they negotiate their way through multiple hospitals in the healthcare system to be diagnosed and treated.

A patient in a rural area, for example, might first go to the nearest hospital for tests and initial treatment. There would be registration, care visits and scans performed. If there's a need for specialized care outside the scope of that facility, then the patient is referred to a specialist at a larger hospital for more treatment.

As the patient moves from one hospital to the next, he or she might have to repeat basic information multiple times or there could be a lag between when diagnostic results are transferred from one hospital to the other. All of this is an extra burden on patients at a time when they need to focus on their health.

Ontario is moving forward with a 10-point implementation plan for its Digital Health Strategy, aiming to enhance access to health information and services, strengthen quality, effectiveness and accountability, and stimulate innovation and growth.

In step with the province, my goal at The Ottawa Hospital is to harness technology to create a better patient experience. And I am very excited about a pivotal project underway involving five partner organizations in eastern Ontario.

The Ottawa Hospital, The Ottawa Hospital Academic Family Health Team, Hawkesbury and District General Hospital, Renfrew Victoria Hospital, St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry's Bay, Ont., and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute have come together as the Atlas Alliance to implement a Health Information System (HIS) by



**FROM LEFT: Shafique Shamji, Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Michelle Leafloor, Program Director; Dr. Glen Geiger, Program Medical Lead; Yvonne Wilson, Program Clinical Lead, at The Ottawa Hospital, believe the Epic Health Information System will harness technology to create a better patient experience.**

PHOTO: JACINTA CILLIS-ASQUITH

Epic, an industry leader in electronic health record software.

When this digital hospital network launches in June 2019, there will be one integrated electronic system to manage patient information, chart across specialties, and manage research data and physician documentation.

Epic provides a patient-centered platform, with an electronic health record that is accessible regardless of where patients receive care. That means informed decisions can be made with the most up-to-date information.

Through Epic's MyChart, patients will be able to view their lab or radiology results using their mobile devices. They will have access to education materials, pre-visit questionnaires, and post-visit summary of care.

Patients will become active partners in managing their health.

The Epic HIS will improve the experience of care, the work life of healthcare providers, and the health of our populations, and it will reduce costs. It will provide: best-practice order sets; electronic documentation tools; care pathways; care process management; inter-provider communications; clinical decision support tools; and performance measurement.

Recently, I met Lamia Almorsay, who has the unique perspective of looking at the healthcare system through the eyes of both a provider and a patient. Almorsay, who is a pharmacist, worked overseas for much of her career in quality management, patient safety and hospital administration.

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer, she started a year-long journey that enabled her to look at the health-care system through a patient's eyes. The view was quite different from the one she has had as a pharmacist.

Many things could have been done in a better, faster and safer way. I hated the redundancy of repeating myself to every healthcare provider who I consulted with or was referred to. This redundancy or repetition of information may result sometimes in missing information, forgotten information or even misinterpretation of information, said Almorsay.

It's stories like these that compelled the partner hospitals to look for a better approach for patients and staff alike.

The scope of the project is broad, the pace is fast, and the dynamic collaboration of analysts, developers, stakeholders, and trainers across six health-care centres is what will ensure we will reach our goal of implementation. Over the 20-month project our analysts and trainers will configure a system that involves all workflows that support patient care and billing.

Interface developers and business intelligence developers will manage device integration and data conversion. Epic application managers and coordinators are working in concert with the analysts and the developers for each of the 29 modules to support the development, testing and integration of the Epic system, the successful Go-Live and post-Go-Live support.

Stakeholders, including clinicians, radiologists, porters, clerks, and patient advocates, are providing input, reviewing material and making decisions when necessary for the build.

Trainers will be leading mandatory training for 18,000 end-users.

At Go-Live, we will empower staff to deliver 21st-century care using this 21st-century solution. And, we will enable patients to navigate their care journey effortlessly, so they can concentrate on what matters most – the quick return to good health.

*About the author: Shafique Shamji is Executive Vice President, CIO, The Ottawa Hospital*

*Reprinted with permission from the May 2018 edition of Canadian Health-care Technology*

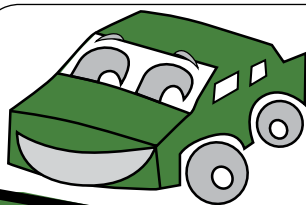


Combermere Craft Cabin clean-up crew from left: Standing: Carol Burnett, Jane Corbett, Kristin Marchand, Barb Schaeffer Seated: Linda Shulist, Pattie Knight.

## Combermere Craft Cabin now open

The Combermere Craft Cabin reopened on May 19 after a thorough spring clean. The cabin welcomed eleven new makers this year and volunteers restocked the shelves with artisan goods from more than 30 local vendors by opening day. The artisans themselves staff the cabin and no tax is charged on sales.

Hours for 2018 are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays in May, June, September and October. Wednesday through Sunday during July and August.



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# New CAO to start May 28

DANIELLE PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

During her opening remarks at the May 4 Council meeting, Mayor Kim Love announced, “Ms. Suzanne Klatt has accepted the position of CAO/Clerk for the Township of Madawaska Valley as of May 28. Ms. Klatt is already well known to our community from her time as an Administrative Assistant, Asset Management Clerk and Community Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township. Since then she has served as Deputy Clerk and Treasurer and then as CAO/Clerk for the Township of South Algonquin. Most recently Ms. Klatt has been the CAO/Clerk for the Township of Horton. Horton Township’s loss is definitely Madawaska Valley’s gain. Ms. Klatt brings a wealth of knowledge, skill and plenty of diverse municipal experience to this leadership position. On behalf of Council it gives me great pleasure to welcome Sue Klatt back home to Madawaska Valley.”

Also during her address, Love welcomes Ms. Judy Gutz to the municipal services team. Gutz will be the Combermere Recreation Facilities Coordinator.

## OLD BARRY’S BAY ROAD PROJECT

Council approved a recommendation from the Operations Committee to complete the remaining 2.7 km of Old Barry’s Bay Road in conjunction with the current construction project in 2018. Mayor Love pointed out that Council’s approval means this project (estimated at \$405,000) will be included in the 2018 budget.

The reason for advancing this project is to take advantage of economies of scale while the equipment and labour is there to do the previously-approved section of the road. Love said, “We don’t usually make a decision on a large capital project outside of the budget workshops process but it absolutely makes sense to get on with it and get some good pricing.”

After consulting with members of Council and staff about whether they could speak publicly now, Love then announced, “We got \$1.7 million from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to go towards this project.” Love

said she believes the reason they were successful with this OCIF top-up application is because the municipality invested in the engineering and the work to produce a “shovel-ready” application for this grant.

Councillor Peplinski who chairs the Operations Committee paid credit to Operations Manager, Hilary Kutchkoskie, saying, “My compliments to Hilary and the staff for doing what they’ve done because it was [his] recommendation that we do the engineering and that was really what got us over the hump. Thank you.”

The project includes making a small section of Old Barry’s Bay Road through Kaszuby near the Scout camps an Active Transportation zone with wider shoulders to allow for more pedestrian use of the road. Kutchkoskie confirmed



Suzanne Klatt outside MV township office.

residents will be notified of construction plans.

Love concluded with, “It will be a bit difficult this summer but think of the great road we’re going to have at the end of it.”

## Algonquin Forestry Association contractors



Nathan Mieske accepts the Contractor Safety Award from Steve Bursey, AFA Manager of Operations (L) and Keith Fletcher, AFA Area Manager. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

DANIELLE PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The Algonquin Forestry Association (AFA) held its spring meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion—Branch 406 in Barry’s Bay on May 3.

The annual event for AFA contractors and third party operators provides attendees with an opportunity to hear industry speakers, get some training updates and enjoy the chance to mingle over lunch. The AFA also presented its annual Contractor Safety Award, won this year by Mieske Forestry Inc. of Bancroft for recording 8,820 person days on the job with no lost time injuries and no medical aids. During 2017–18 overall AFA contractors recorded 23,540 person days with no lost time injuries and only two medical aids.

# Conway highlights unique Valley identity and political history

MARK WOERMKE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The old Burnstown school house was packed to capacity as the Valley's elder statesman, Sean Conway, took to the stage in the Need to Know speaker series hosted at the Neat Café on May 2.

Conway's talk, *Aspects of a Distinct Society: The Economics and Political Culture of the Ottawa Valley in the Nineteenth Century*, was Valley storytelling at its best, what Conway himself calls "Celtic volubility."

The former MPP drew on his expansive knowledge of the Ottawa Valley's economic, cultural and political history to regale the audience. Beginning with the Valley's first summit between Algonkin Chief Tessouat and Champlain in the early 17th century, Conway highlighted important events, families and individuals in our history. He explained how events such as arrival of the Laird McNab, the Shiner Wars, and the "khaki" election of 1918 shaped our political history.

He identified lumbering and political families like the Wrights, Eddys, Bronsons, Egans, Bonfields, MacLarens, Booths, Deacons, Whites and Dunlops who built our economy. He also featured individuals like Paul Martin Sr., Charlotte Whitton, his own grandfather Thomas P. Murray, Jim Dempsey and the Maloney brothers, Jim and Arthur, who were raised and cut their teeth in the Valley's unique cultural and political milieu.

Conway's presentation was peppered with references to writers and artists. Of particular note was Joan Finnegan who hailed from Shawville and whose relative the Reverend Ralph C. Horner once served in Combermere. He founded an Ottawa Valley sect that gained North American attention.

Officially known as the Holiness Movement, his followers were known in the Valley as Hornerites. Another writer, Robertson Davies famous for the high school staple *Fifth Business*, spent part of his childhood in Ren-

frew and based his "fictional" village of Blairlogie in *What's Bred in the Bone* on this Valley town. Nobel laureate Alice Munro's mother grew up in Lanark County. "Distinguished from any other place on earth" is how she described the Ottawa Valley in her short story collection *Friend of My Youth*.

Conway also recounted how A.Y. Jackson, a member of the Group of Seven, told him about stopping to paint an old house in Combermere one day. The owner Kathryn Farmer, who was well known in the Madawaska Valley, stormed out and challenged him, "You're not going to paint my house without knowing something about the lady who lives in it."

Another interesting story was the Brudenell Riot of 1872. In the federal election, Sir John A. MacDonald in an attempt to get Catholic votes convinced a Kingston lawyer, Irish Catholic, James O'Reilly, to run for the Conservatives in South Renfrew. O'Reilly was well known for prosecuting the assassin of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. In the day when electors had to announce their vote publicly and money and liquor were standard campaign material, it is no surprise that riots broke out in polling centres across the Valley.

One such riot occurred in Brudenell where Renfrew Protestants attempted to interfere with the poll and clashed with the local Catholic lads. O'Reilly won that especially because of the voters who had trekked to Brudenell from five townships: Sherwood, Jones, Burns, Hagarty and Richards. According to the 1871 Census, 200 eligible voters lived in these five townships and O'Reilly beat his opponent by 270 votes.

After the election it was discovered that several votes cast in Brudenell were by residents of the nearby cemetery and seventy names were found in the Pembroke city directory. It was also thought that a number of newly-arrived Polish immigrants had been bribed to vote for O'Reilly on the promise of additional land.



Sean Conway addressing the crowd at the Need to Know speaker series. PHOTO:

WILLIAM ENRIGHT

Conway's audience included Valley notables such as Art Jamieson, Ray Chapeskie who provided some traditional Ottawa Valley tunes, and Jackie Agnew the provincial Liberal candidate in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. Agnew, who over the previous weekend attended a meeting of the Ontario Woodlot Association, enthused, "Lumbering is the foundation of Renfrew County, an important part of our history, and the way Sean tells a story... I wish he had been my high school history teacher."

No one but Sean Conway could address the complex history, economics, cultures, languages, literature, and the unique characters of the Ottawa Valley and then, as he said, "refract them through the prism of politics" to help us come to a better understanding and appreciation of our unique Ottawa Valley identity. Hopefully it encourages us to be proud of our small town, rural and Ottawa Valley roots, like the former judge and ombudsman Arthur Maloney who once opened a meeting by saying, "Important people come from small towns, and I am from Eganville."

# How to get unstuck

BEN FILIPKOWSKI  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

I grabbed a light hoody before I went out the door that afternoon. My editor had sent a message about a fire on some quiet road. I gathered my camera, notebook, and an extra pen or two, tossing them all in my bag. I slipped into my shoes, out the door, and into a windy spring day.

Eight months earlier, I'd bought a truck—brand new—with my own money. It was a small piece of freedom. Living in Barry's Bay wasn't my first choice, but I was making it work. At 24, I was just thankful someone was willing to employ a smart-ass English major with no real job skills.

I'd stumbled into reporting for the local paper in 2013 after moving into my parents' place, fresh from university, then stumbled again into working for the other paper. After months of work and saving, I bought my own set of wheels.

The truck had one minor flaw: it was two-wheel drive.

It wasn't really an issue, but part of me was convinced I was an impostor, driving around the Valley without four-wheel drive.

I dreaded talking about it, but still, it was a piece of freedom.

I hopped in the truck and drove off to catch the fire story.

By the time I found the place, the fire trucks were already there. Smoke was trailing in the heavy winds over a charred field, and the crew was cleaning things up.

The dirt road looked dry, if narrow. No trouble! I parked and hopped out for a few photos. Introducing myself to the owner of the farm, I asked what happened. He sheepishly looked back out over the field.

"I dunno," he said, "I feel like an idiot. I just wanted to have a bottle of wine by the fire with my wife, it was so nice out."

I nodded, struggling to keep my notebook open in the wind.

I went back over to my truck and got



in, waiting for a moment to talk to the fire chief. To save time, I decided to turn around. I started the engine so I could perform a flawless three-point turn.

I pulled across the road, put it in reverse, then eased off the brake to back up. The wheels rolled for a second, then stopped. I put my foot down on the gas, hoping the push would get me out.

The spinning wheels splattered mud everywhere.

I was stuck.

The road's shoulder was dry on the surface. Below, the spring thaw made the shoulder a muddy mess.

Panic crept in. How would I get out? Would I need a tow? Who'd make it out here?

How much crap would I get for getting a two-wheel drive truck stuck?

I took a moment to curse myself out. Pulling out my phone, I did what any nervous millennial would do. I called my mom.

"What do you want me to do about it?" she said, laughing. "Can someone there pull you out?"

She simply didn't understand there was no way I could ask anyone for help; I'd never hear the end of it! How was I supposed to look people in the eye after this?

My mom laughed. "Just call a tow truck."

When I hung up, I messaged my editor for a number. "Don't ask," I added.

In seconds, I'd dialed up a tow company and explained the situation. They were polite and understanding—not a word about four-wheel drive.

Tow truck en route, I hopped out of my vehicle and wandered over to the farmer and fire chief.

"You stuck?" asked the farmer.

"Yeah," I answered, "didn't really think it through."

He laughed, looking at the field. "Think about how I feel!"

"You from the paper?" asked the fire chief.

I said yes, asking if he could comment.

He recited a speech about outdoor fire safety and the dangers of high winds. The farmer stared at his feet.

Thanking the chief for his time, I went back to my truck. The tow truck had arrived. In moments, I was free. I parked carefully, hopping out to pay and thank the driver.

As I finished up, the chief came over.

"Did you call the tow truck?"

I nodded, feeling my face flush, ready for ridicule. "Oh, yeah, it's embarrassing, it's only two-wheel drive—"

He didn't bat an eyelid. "Thank God you called them. Our trucks are stuck too."

Needless to say, none of this made it into the paper.

*Editor's note: This article has been abridged for print.*



# Rosien asks Court to fire Township's lawyer

MARK WOERMKE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

In its March print version, *The Current* reported that MV Township's former Integrity Commissioner, Jack Rosien, had commenced a legal action against the Township for breach of contract. *The Current* has now learned that Rosien has asked the Court to stop the Township's lawyers (Belleville firm Templeman) from continuing to represent it in the proceedings. The reasons given include allegations of conflict of interest on the part of the law firm. This relates to Templeman representing, at the same time, both the Township and a member of council under investigation by Rosien. In addition, the Court has been told of a prohibition in Council's Code of Conduct that bars councillors from using the services of the Township's lawyers.

*The Current* has accessed the public court file which contains evidence filed with the Court by Rosien including the legal opinion of John Mascarin, a partner in the Toronto firm of Aird Berlis. Mascarin has many years' experience practising exclusively in the area of municipal law and is currently the appointed Integrity Commissioner for a dozen municipalities in Ontario. He is also an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and has taught courses there since 2006, including a course on municipalities and ethics.

In his report, Mascarin lists the facts that caused him to arrive at his conclusion that the Templeman lawyer "... clearly placed herself in a position of conflict of interest, rendered the councillor in contravention of S. 5(c) of the Code, and inappropriately interfered with the Integrity Commissioner's investigation. It is my conclusion that the solicitor and the law firm acted in an improper manner and contrary to the rules of professional conduct. The solicitor and the law firm have compromised their duty of impartiality and loyalty to the township."

Mascarin also states that for these reasons "It is my opinion it would be entirely improper or inappropriate for the solicitor and/or law firm to be defending your action for breach of contract given the clear conflict of interest



it has demonstrated in representing both the councillor and the township."

Mayor Kim Love has sworn an Affidavit responding to Rosien's charges which he has countered with another of his own in which he refers to a number

of "inaccuracies" in her Affidavit.

Rosien's request was originally scheduled to be considered by the judge on April 26 in Pembroke. However, *The Current* has been advised by the Court that an adjournment was requested and granted, with the result that a new date of June 7 has been set. *The Current* will continue to follow this case and report any developments.

*Editor's note: Readers should note this is a report of allegations made in court proceedings about which no decision has yet been reached.*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the editor. Send 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 (these will not appear in print; your name and municipality will). Please provide the title and date if you refer to an article in *The Current*. If you are responding to an online article in *The Current*, please note that you can comment in the "Reply" box following the article. We monitor all comments to ensure these guidelines are followed. Please note that due to volume, we cannot respond to individual letters. Keep your letter short. While longer letters are sometimes published, we prefer letters of under 200 words — even a sentence or two. Keep it civil, even if you are writing to disagree with someone. We cannot run every letter we receive and will edit for length, clarity and style. We look forward to hearing your voice.

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## PORCH VIEWS

# Serving the community



For the first time this year, I am enjoying my morning coffee on the porch. It's pretty quiet on my corner this Saturday morning, but the sun is shining and things look promising for Wilno's Kashub Day.

I have an excellent view of Bay Street and the Township of Madawaska Valley municipal office. From this vantage point I have watched councillors and mayors of Madawaska Valley Township and the previous municipality of the Village of Barry's Bay coming and going. I suspect they were too busy with council affairs on top of their family and work commitments to look up the etymology of the word "municipal, but I am confident they understood it deeply. Bob Kulas, Linda Neuman, John Hildebrandt, Phil Conway, Bonnie Mask, David Shulist, Shaun O'Reilly and others put the original Latin meaning of "municipal" into practice, "service performed for the community."

May 1 was the first day for citizens to declare their candidacy for the 2018 municipal election. I wasn't in the Bay, but I wish I had been on my porch that morning to see who queued up to submit their nomination papers. Maybe there was no one, because ratepayers who are mulling over a possible career in politics have until July 27 to file.

I attended a presentation on April 23 in Renfrew for folks interested in running for their municipal councils. My reason was curiosity. I was hoping to see a few familiar faces from Madawaska Valley, but I think I was the only MV citizen in attendance. That was disappointing because I earnestly hoped to see reasonable and progressive folks rising from our ranks to serve the greater good.

The speaker was Fred Dean, the former solicitor for Sudbury, a trainer for



Fred Dean. PHOTO: MARK WOERMKE

the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and one of the partners in Amberly Gavel—a group of former municipal lawyers which provides training for mayors, councillors and staff; closed meeting investigations; and integrity commissioner services for Ontario municipalities. Strangely enough, I had come across his name earlier that very day. While researching the legality of in-camera municipal meetings I discovered that Amberly Gavel had given a report to The Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley in 2013 criticizing its penchant for closed meetings.

Mr. Dean covered topics such as the scope of local government, municipal powers, accountability and transparency; roles and responsibilities of mayors, councillors and staff; significant changes coming to the Municipal Act vis-à-vis codes of conduct; conflict of interest; and how one's life changes when elected. I could write on these topics at considerable length, but I will highlight only three.

## STEERING NOT ROWING

The first topic is the proper relationship between the executive and administra-



tive branches. Mr. Dean made it clear that, according to the Municipal Act, mayors and councillors are required to leave the day-to-day management of the municipality to the CAO and staff. Staff is expected to undertake research, to advise the mayor and council, and to establish administrative practices and procedures in order to carry out Council's decisions. According to Dean, "Council should steer the boat rather than row it."

I always wondered about this, because some of the municipal councils I monitor get more involved in the details than I ever did in my role as a former director of a board. I wasn't sure if this was common practice in municipal government, but now I know, definitively, that micromanagement is neither the ideal nor the norm.

### THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE IS OFF LIMITS

The second consideration is conflict of interest. At every meeting, mayors and councillors have an obligation to declare their pecuniary interests in any matters coming to the table. That means, if appropriate, they must disclose that their participation in a discussion or decision pertaining to the affairs of the municipality might give them some kind of financial advantage or disadvantage. This declaration must be recorded in the minutes and the individual must remove himself or herself from the meeting for that particular item.

To clarify this point, Mr. Dean used the example of municipal roads. If work on a street would affect the value of a mayor's or councillor's property, that individual must declare a pecuniary interest and be recused. He went on to say that pecuniary interest could be direct (affecting the individual alone) or indirect (affecting the individual's spouse, parent, child, sibling, cousin, business partner, employer.)

An indirect pecuniary interest could even apply if the elected representative is a member of an association or club that has brought a matter to council.

Currently, if an elector believes an elected representative has a conflict of interest which should have been disclosed, a court action must be initiated at the elector's expense. After March 2019 ratepayers will be able to make

their conflict of interest complaints to municipal integrity commissioners and if the complaints are not frivolous or vexatious, the integrity commissioners will forward them to the courts at no cost to the complainant. Dean expects "a tsunami of requests" to integrity commissioners because, "Transparency and accountability are areas where many municipalities struggle."

I imagine that in small, close-knit communities like the Madawaska Valley or some of its neighbours, elected officials have to be particularly scrupulous. In the short term these changes will likely cost municipalities (taxpayers) a lot of money. Ultimately, it is a good thing because by increasing accountability and ethical behaviour, the provincial government protects the interests of taxpayers.

### SACRIFICES FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Despite the rain yesterday and a stop in Wilno to drop off a friend, I made good time on my trip home from the city. Before the wind and the rain, I even had a chance to enjoy a beer on my porch. I saw the Mayor loading bags, likely containing homework for the weekend, into her car which reminded me of Mr. Dean's comments on the workload of a mayor or councillor. These jobs are 24/7 and life changes dramatically after one is elected. In addition to council meetings, there are committee meetings to attend. According to Dean, it is important for effective and efficient meetings that elected officials are prepared for meetings, "You had better love to read. The expectation is that you have read every single page."

One of the most important considerations for a potential candidate is the impact on privacy and family. When one is elected, or perhaps when one enters a race, he or she is subject to public scrutiny, and folks in the Madawaska Valley excelled at public scrutiny long before Facebook came along. So candidates and their families can expect aggressive conversations, midnight phone calls, gossip, anonymous letters, savage emails, comments on social media and the probing of the press not to mention possible investigations by integrity commissioners and ombuds-persons. Says Mr. Dean, "This job requires total commitment—it will consume you."

Wow. This all sounds daunting, but it didn't stop the community builders I used to see walking into the town hall back in the day. Al Burant, Dennis Yeretch, John Yakabuski, Mary Blank, Chris Briggs, Willie Serran, Eric Huestis, Ursula Burchat, Roy Woermke, Dr. Joe Cybulski, Hillary Jones, Ron Briggs, Paul Yakabuski, Horace Landon and Henry Chapeskie all met the challenge. So did lots of other folks from the pre-amalgamation municipalities of Radcliffe, and Sherwood Jones and Burns.

Real democracy requires effective leaders, but we can't have (or don't deserve) effective leaders if we are not good citizens.

Good citizens are informed;

Good citizens vote; and

Good citizens run for office.

It requires the sacrifice of personal time and privacy, but for the sake of our community, residents who have the necessary qualifications must run. By qualifications I don't mean the residency, 25 signatures and hundred dollar fee requirements on the nomination form. I mean the vision, empathy, sound judgment, courage, understanding of the community, ability to collaborate, integrity and the desire to maintain the Township of Madawaska Valley as a thriving, caring and culturally rich home for all residents.

There are many talented folks in the Madawaska Valley, from Combermere, Wilno, Barry's Bay and points in between, with these qualifications. They are women, men, retirees, young adults, volunteers, labourers, skilled tradespeople, craftspeople, employees, business people, educators, homemakers, artists, professionals, recent arrivals, folks with deeper roots and people from various cultural backgrounds. If you feel ready, or if your neighbours and colleagues are encouraging you because they see leadership potential in you, please consider running for the offices of mayor or councillor. If you are apprehensive, think of all the citizens who have served us in the past and remember the words of Charlotte Whitton, the Renfrew girl who became Ottawa's first female mayor, "When one must, one can."

And, someday when I am rocking on my porch, I'll see you entering the front door of the municipal office.

# Report on Railway Station negotiations

## MADAWASKA VALLEY CULTURE AND HERITAGE SOCIETY

In response to many questions about the status of our negotiations with the township, MVCHS regrets that so far, the process has been unsuccessful.

Despite our offer to renew and revitalize the station, its programming, and the other events associated with Railway Station Park, while at the same time reducing the tax dollars spent there in years gone by, council's negotiators have refused to provide any tax funding to run the station. They have offered to keep the building operational (lights on and the toilets running, etc.) and they will hire summer students to manage

the tourist booth.

In addition, they have offered to release \$24,000 of "non-tax money"—funds raised and left in trust for the Railway Station by the Madawaska Valley Arts Council, former operators of South of 60 at the Station.

The budget assigned to the Railway Station in 2016 was about \$150,000. We can do a good job with 60 percent of that funding.

But it is obvious that their latest offer would underfund our efforts to hire knowledgeable staff to rebuild the pro-



**Doug De La Matter**  
representing the  
Madawaska Valley Culture  
and Heritage Society  
addresses MV council

gramming that made the station a thriving creative space for all ages. It would also underfund our efforts to research and create effective grant applications to bring outside funding into the community to repair and run the facility in future years.

In our initial presentation, we stated that we would need two years of municipal funding before we thought we could

become financially independent. Although full council endorsed working with us, that aspect seems to have been overlooked.

The MVCHS volunteer board of directors (three local business owners, two teachers and two health professionals) believes strongly in the value of the Station to the township community. We still hope to work with council to revitalize the Railway Station programming, but so far their offer would result in a barebones operation that would function in name only. We feel strongly that the community deserves better.

MVCHS had hoped to (and still hopes to) access funding that is unavailable to municipalities and bring outside resources into our community. Unfortunately, it appears that we do not have a municipal partner in this effort, at this time.

With the help of interested citizens, we will run various events (possibly as soon as the July 1 long weekend) and we will work toward celebrating the arrival, 125 years ago, of the first train in Barry's Bay with events on the Labour Day weekend, 2019. That will be fun!

Look for us on Facebook (Madawaska Valley Culture & Heritage Society).

Please contribute your creative ideas to our efforts to work as a united community, to help make our township an attractive and welcoming place to live and to visit. (info@mv-cultureandheritage.ca)

Help us if you can, by buying a membership at our website [www.mv-cultureandheritage.ca](http://www.mv-cultureandheritage.ca). More background information on these negotiations is also available there.



## VALLEY HERITAGE

### St. Casimir's Church, Round Lake

BOB CORRIGAN | BARRY'S BAY

The first Catholic Church at Round Lake, not counting the one at Tramore, was in operation by 1925 and was named St. Bronislawa.

It was built on land donated by Stephen and Josephine Laginski in 1922. However, this small church was replaced by a much-needed larger one that was built in the very same spot in 1930. This new church was named St. Casimir the Confessor. This is the church that appears in the accompanying photograph. Perhaps some reader might have a picture of St. Bronislawa that could be shared with *The Current*.

I presume that the older building to the right of the church in the picture is the priest's house. If so, it was eventually replaced by a modern presbytery. Unfortunately that residence burnt down in 2011, resulting in the death of Fr. George Olsen, the resident parish priest. A new priest's house has been built since then.



# Raised beds and root cellars featured at MV Horticultural Society talk

DANIELLE PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Hugh Russell of Hillview Farm and Studios shared his experience of raised bed gardening and root cellars with members of the Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society at their May 17 meeting.

Russell said raised beds mean the soil warms earlier in spring, does not compact from foot traffic and allows for both greater yield and better water control. He recommended the use of row covers to protect crops.

The basic, really fundamental thing needed for root cellars is good airflow, said Russell. It is important to be able to control temperature and humidity. Typically air circulates through a root cellar, entering at floor level and going out a roof chimney to maintain circulation.

MV Horticultural Society holds its annual Strawberry Social on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. followed by Robin Cunningham talking about birds and their habitats.



Hugh Russell pictured here at the Barry's Bay Farmers' Market.



613.756.2580  
info@bayberrydesign.ca



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6 pm to 10 pm**

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Community Centre  
Lounge  
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BARRY'S BAY  
K0J 1B0

**FRIDAY JULY 13  
6 pm to 10 pm**

Combermere Rec  
Centre Hall  
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# Wilno welcomes all to Kashub Day



The Wilno Heritage Society celebrated its 20-year anniversary on May 5 with the annual Kashub Day Festival at Wilno Heritage Park. Guests enjoyed non-stop entertainment from 11 a.m. until after sundown. The annual celebration commemorates pioneer ancestors and helps keep the unique Polish Kashub cultural heritage alive in the Valley. On Kashub Day everyone is welcome in Wilno thanks to a vast army of volunteers and helpers. For many years volunteers such as the Stoppa Lake Melodiers have performed, often playing two sets like they did this year. PHOTOS: SHARON GARDINER