

INSIDE...**The Current review its first year p.3****Heritage Photo: St. Joseph's School p.7****Rescue drama on Siberia Road p.9**

Launch of MV Family Health Team marks major advance in access to local healthcare



Cutting the ribbon to mark the Grand Opening (from left): Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, MVFHT Board Chair Dr. Alex Atfield, MVFHT Lead Physician Dr. Jason Malinowski, BLR Mayor Sheldon Keller, MV Mayor Kim Love, KHR Mayor Janice Visneskie-Moore, Champlain LHIN Board Chair Jean-Pierre Boisclair (holding scissors), MVFHT Executive Director Susan Farrar, NAW Mayor James Brose, SA Mayor Jane Dumas, Champlain LHIN Sub-Region Director Kevin Barclay, MVFHT Office Administrator Rosa Etmanskie.

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The patient waiting area at the St. Francis Health Centre in Barry's Bay was crowded on January 11, 2019 with representatives of provincial and municipal government, local and regional healthcare providers, and other stakeholders. They included MPP John Yakabuski, the mayors of the Townships of Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan, Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards, Madawaska Valley, North Algona Wilberforce, and South Algonquin. They had gathered to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Madawaska Valley Family Health Team (MVFHT).

The event began with MVFHT Executive Director Susan Farrar introducing guests of honour and MVFHT staff. She announced that in anticipation of the launch, local physicians have already enrolled over 1,000 patients in the past six months. She then introduced MVFHT Board Chair Dr. Alex Atfield

who told the crowd how far they had come in the past year. He pointed out that the Madawaska Valley FHT is one of the first Family Health Teams (FHTs) created in Ontario since 2012. He said,

"We're really lucky to be at the beginning of, hopefully, a new wave of FHTs in Ontario. The fact that we were able to do this is a sign of the modern times that we live in. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in Ontario and the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) were able to identify our particular community as being in need from the data they collect."

Dr. Atfield gave The Current more background about how the funding for MVFHT came about through Inter-Professional Primary Care Funding for Primary Care Teams. He described how, initially, the Champlain LHIN had rejected his request. He responded to them reinforcing the local need and saying, "Please keep us in mind." This had the desired effect. He said, "I think that statement put us on the ra-

dar, because they came back to us a few months later and said, "The projects we have in mind didn't pass muster with the Ministry. We've looked at our data again. We drilled down to the community level and it turns out you're right – you are in high need. Can we work together?" And I said, "Absolutely. I'll drop everything to help put this together."

HOW THE MV FAMILY HEALTH TEAM IMPACTS VALLEY RESIDENTS

Farrar told The Current how MVFHT and in particular its two Nurse Practitioners will improve access to healthcare for the community. Everyone who is presently registered with a physician at St. Francis Healthcare Centre can use the services of the FHT so this will free up more appointment times. And for those patients in the Valley who don't have family doctors, she had good news, "We are going to be doing some urgent care appointments for patients that don't have family doctors, starting

Continued on page 2—



MV Family Health Team (from left): Stacie Wojick, Medical Receptionist; Tierney Lunney, Nurse Practitioner; Craig O'Brien, Nurse Practitioner; Susan Farrar, Executive Director; Rosa Etmanskie, Office Administrator.

—Continued from page 1
 Monday, January 14. It will be limited access, same day appointments. We'll have a few reserved for patients that don't have family doctors. Anything urgent like a cold, a sick child, it will take a

little bit [of pressure] off the emergency department. [It's for] things that are urgent but a little bit more minor ... less than 48-hour onset; for example, if your kid falls, sprains their ankle."

Farrar explained that Nurse Practitio-



L to R: Valley Manor CEO Trisha Sammon, Madawaska Valley Mayor Kim Love, South Algonquin Mayor Jane Dumas.

ners can interpret, treat and diagnose. They can refer to specialists, order and read X-rays, etc. As well, MVFHT is actively recruiting for a social worker, dietitian and physiotherapist.


THE FUTURE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN THE VALLEY

Farrar said MVFHT will continue to expand its services as the team grows. This includes education and programming. She said MVFHT eventually expects to be able to help provide care to all patients in need in the local area.

From a physician recruitment perspective, South Algonquin Mayor Jane Dumas (who chairs the area Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, and also serves on the Board of St. Francis Memorial Hospital) said, "This is going to change the whole level of care in this community – which is awesome. This is what physicians are looking for. The social service function is phenomenal – that's such a huge part of well-being. I'm euphoric."

Her sentiments were echoed by Madawaska Valley Mayor Kim Love who said, "It's very exciting. It's going to really help our doctors and it's going to help us recruit more doctors. It's taken a load off of Physician Recruitment because we were getting really worried. We were doing everything we could but [were] just not able to get the doctors no matter what we tried."

The MVFHT telephone number is 613-756-9888. Visit the MVFHT website www.madawaskavalleyfht.com to learn about hours, services and career opportunities or see Madawaska Valley Family Health Team on Facebook.



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The Current reviews its first year

THE MADAWASKA VALLEY CURRENT
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The beginning of a new year is an appropriate time to review the old one. January 2 also marked the first anniversary of *The Current* so it is also a good time to give our readers an update.

Because we are primarily an online newspaper (or “blog” if you prefer!), we have the advantage of being able to see at any given time how many people are reading which particular article and in which geographic location. Our website statistics let us see what stories we published that most captured our readers’ attention.

THE TOP TEN OF 2018

In order of popularity, here are the top ten most-read stories on *The Current*’s website during 2018:

- Municipal election “Town Hall” forum
- MV Councillor subject of complaint after outburst
- MV Township without CAO
- MV is not a CAO-friendly environment
- Announcement: Pot shop poll
- Township sued by former Integrity Commissioner
- Proposed condo development includes Chippawa Lodge
- MV Mayor claims she has no role in the disciplining of council members
- Confrontation continues at MV committee meeting
- Porch Views: Who is a local? Diversity or division in the Madawaska Valley

All of these articles remain on our website and the Comments section which follows every piece bears witness to the extent of our readers’ engagement. The Top Ten list reveals that during the municipal election year many of our readers used *The Current*’s online Town Hall forum to engage with those municipal candidates who participated. The forum alone attracted more than 150 online comments out of nearly 200 relating to the election campaign. This is a significant proportion of the 750-plus online comments *The Current* received last year.

But the Top Ten list doesn’t tell the whole story. 2018 was, after all, a munic-

ipal election year so it was understandable that there would be a greater degree of public interest in campaign coverage. Readers of *The Current* also demonstrate a thirst for stories about economic development, culture and heritage – as well as community events and lifestyle.

During 2018 *The Current* averaged 23,000 page views per month. Some articles attracted as many as 1,900 views per day. We are pleased to report that our average returning readership exceeds 2,300 per month. To these numbers must be added the readership of our free monthly print version. We distribute more than 750 print copies of *The Current* — from Whitney to Eganville to Maynooth — in waiting rooms, multi-unit residences and shops. Like the online stories, each month’s selection for print remains available in PDF form on our website.

The Current aims to make some improvements during 2019 so our first print version of the year is arriving a bit later in January. Watch out, too, for website changes to give our readers more relevant content.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our readers for making the first year of *The Current* so successful. And as always we are extremely grateful to our talented contributors who have provided such great reading material.



YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL INFORMATION
in the Madawaska Valley and area

To list your event, business or organization
email info@algonquineast.com.

Most listings are free.



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Municipal Accommodation Tax Information Session

Tourism accommodators operating in Renfrew County are invited to an information session to learn more about the Municipal Accommodation Tax (Ontario Regulation 435/17 - Transient Accommodation Tax, under the Municipal Act, 2001).

Effective December 1, 2017, the Province of Ontario granted municipalities the authority to implement a tax on transient accommodations of 30 days or less. The tax revenue generated, which must be shared between a municipality and an eligible tourism entity, would support new and existing tourism development and marketing efforts in the region.

Learn more about what this means for your business, municipality and tourism in Renfrew County.

Who should attend?

* Owners/operators of traditional accommodation businesses, including:

- Hotels & Motels - Bed & Breakfasts and Inns
- Lodges & Resorts - Cottage Resorts & Cottage Rental Properties

* Airbnb Hosts

Register for FREE at www.bit.ly/MAT_info to attend a session near you.

February 4, 2019

Deep River Legion
50 Mcelligott Dr,
Deep River

February 5, 2019

Killaloe Lion's Hall
18 Lake St,
Killaloe

February 6, 2019

Neat Coffee Shop
1715 Calabogie Rd,
Burnstown

February 7, 2019

Germania Club
15 Bennett St,
Pembroke

Information sessions hosted by the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association



PORCH VIEWS

Off the porch with Valley Adventure Tours



MARK WOERMKE
BARRY'S BAY

On a snowy October 28 I got off the porch to take in some of the natural beauty of the Madawaska Valley. I had the pleasure of accompanying Steve Brunke of Valley Adventure Tours on his last ATV excursion of the season.

Truth be told, it was my first experience driving an all-terrain vehicle, but Steve gave me a brief lesson and within a few minutes I was driving my own machine. It took a bit longer to feel confident and in-control, but after thirty minutes I was testing the shocks and enjoying the spray of mud when I hit potholes and crossed creeks. (See selfie.) According to Steve, that is a common response. He says, "Typically, people start off a little tentative as most of my clients have never been on an ATV or SxS, but within minutes of hitting the trail the smiles come out and don't stop for the rest of the tour."

Given the option of several routes, I chose the old rail bed heading west from the Barry's Bay railway station to Opeongo Forks. This appealed to me personally and historically. Personally because my grandfather and uncles maintained that section of track as CNR employees, and historically because Wilno, Barry's Bay and Madawaska will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of the arrival of railway between 2019 and 2020. Most importantly, however, the whole point of my trip was to learn about Steve's new and growing business which is drawing first-time and repeat visitors to the Madawaska Valley.

I met Steve near the caboose and we set out past the Railway Station, along Kelly Street and picked up the trail after crossing Paugh Lake Road. We passed the site of Murray's old planer, Cybulski's farm and Martin Siding. West of Carson Lake, we left the old rail bed and took a trail to our first stop – the remarkable lookout at the top of Burnett's Mountain. There, we spent a few moments appreciating the view of the



Top to bottom: Part of Steve Brunke's fleet of ATVs. Ice fishing with Valley Adventure Tours. Steve Brunke of Valley Adventure Tours along the trail. TOP PHOTOS:

STEVE BRUNKE. PHOTO RIGHT: MARK WOERMKE.

Aylen Lake Fault and a valley that was once a glacial spillway draining into Lake Shawaskong (the ancestor of Bark, Kamaniskeg and Papineau Lakes). The flurries could not diminish that. With that panorama as a backdrop, Steve and I had a chance to talk about his business.

Steve is no stranger to the Madawaska Valley. Since the age of ten, he has spent many weekends and most vacations at a family cottage on Lake Kamaniskeg. He lived here between 2002 and 2007. He wanted to live here again, but knew he needed a plan. So, he created a business based on two things that he loves – nature and ATVing.

Steve considers the Madawaska Valley to have "some of the best ATV trails anywhere" and he believes the region is "blessed with an abundance of forests, lakes and rivers to rival any loca-



tion in the world." In his research, he also noticed a significant change in the types of visitors coming to this area over the last ten years. He says, "I think the work the snowmobile clubs and the Renfrew County ATV Club have been doing with the fantastic conditioning of the trail systems has started to put this area on the map as a premier wilderness playground for ATVs and snowmobiles."

In January 2018, he said goodbye to

his seven-year job as assistant superintendent of Camelot Golf and Country Club in Ottawa and brought his family to the Madawaska Valley to begin their new adventure.

We left the lookout, returned to the rail bed and continued west to our destination: the poplar grove and clearing above the Opeongo River just south of where the trail crosses the Aylen Lake Road. Usually called Opeongo Forks because the Aylen and Opeongo Rivers join nearby, it was also identified on maps as Opeongo Station since there was a station and section crew located there. In the early twentieth century it was also the site of Daly's Sawmill.

We stopped to admire the scenery and look at the mill's remains. Steve says his visitors find the remains of settlement and industry along the local trails interesting, but they are blown away by the gorgeous views. This stop was another opportunity to chat about Valley Adventure Tours.

In his first season Steve had clients from the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Israel and Turkey, as well as many parts of the United States and Canada. Steve particularly remembered the reactions of two groups from the Netherlands, "They could not believe that we live in such an amazing place. My wife made a comment to them that Holland must be beautiful as well. They just looked at her and said, 'Nothing like this ... not even close.' Makes you realize on a global scale how fortunate we are to live here and what we can offer to visitors from around the world."

Steve offers visitors memorable trips that are tailored to the needs and interests of his clients and which show off the natural beauty of the Madawaska Valley. In the summer season, he planned trips on a variety of trails for individuals or groups which could include picnic stops, snacks and stops for swimming or photography.

For the winter months Steve is offering visitors guided ice fishing tours where he will provide transportation and supply all the gear to take people out in all conditions including heated shelters, rods, tip-ups and bait.

Overlooking the rusty turbines of the old sawmill, I sought Steve's view of the Madawaska Valley's economic future.

He was quick to respond, "I see ecotourism as being the future of the Valley and I believe this place must be marketed on a global scale. It's great to have a presence at local trade shows, but, in my experience, online marketing is the key. Our proximity to Algonquin Park, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal make us a hub for tourists coming from around the world."

By then the sky was getting dark and, not knowing if it were bringing rain or snow, we decided to head straight back to the Bay. As I drove I thought about Steve's words, "People just want unique

experiences that take them out of their comfort zones and push their ideas of what they are capable."

I was experiencing just that. I was having a great time, feeling confident, pushing the ATV harder and swallowing some mud and swamp water. I had a great time.

When we got back to town, Steve's parting words were, "My clients constantly tell me how lucky I am to live in the Madawaska Valley – I couldn't agree with them more." And I agree with Steve: we are fortunate to live in an area with such beauty and such potential.



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We welcome letters to the editor. Send letters to 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. Due to volume, we cannot print every letter or respond to individual letters. Please keep your letter short, preferably 200 words or fewer. Be civil, even if you are writing to disagree with someone. We look forward to hearing your voice.

The Madawaska Valley Current provides balanced and stimulating local coverage of community growth, current affairs and cultural matters in the area. *The Current* is your year-round online community news source, with limited print distribution available monthly in Barry's Bay at Bayberry Design, Madawaska Coffee, Madawaska Valley Public Library, Opeongo Seniors Centre; in Combermere at Heartwood Restaurant, The Old School Café, Laundry & Greenhouses; in Wilno at Wilno Craft Gallery, Wilno Tavern. You can visit www.madvalleycurrent.com and download this month's issue to print copies for your friends and family.

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1st Barry's Bay Girl Guides engage with community



The Legion presentation to the 1st Barry's Bay Guides Unit. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

DANIELLE PAUL BARRY'S BAY

The 1st Barry's Bay Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinder, Ranger Unit is in its third year of operation in the Madawaska Valley. The Barry's Bay Legion recently donated \$1,200 to the Unit. (Above: The Legion presentation to the 1st Barry's Bay Guides Unit. Photo submitted.) Brown Owl Stacie Pecarski recently told *The Current* that this year there are 21 girls registered in the Unit at levels from Sparks to Ranger. She said, "With this very generous donation we are hoping to be able to take our guiding unit to possibly go dog sledding, swimming, skating and camping again this spring. Most weeks the girls also do badgework and sometimes we need to buy crafting supplies so this donation will also help us with that."

The Unit meets regularly – usually in the gym or library at St. John Bosco School – and parents follow the schedule on a Unit calendar or check the Unit's Facebook page. The Unit has enjoyed nature hikes up to the Barry's Bay water tower and hikes through the bush around St. John Bosco School.

The Unit participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Barry's Bay Legion, placing a wreath on behalf of the Youth of Canada. The girls also participated in their individual school

ceremonies. Before Christmas the Unit walked through town to go caroling at the Golden Age Chateau, at the Opeongo Seniors' Centre where cards were being played, and at Water Tower lodge where the girls were able to do a craft and enjoy a snack of hot chocolate and cookies.

Other activities so far have included a camp out at no cost to the girls because of all the cookie selling they did. They also went horseback riding at a

minimal cost per girl as the unit covered more than half the expense.

Brown Owl Pecarski said, "We are very thankful to the community for all the support they have given to us in the past three years. The Barry's Bay Legion Branch 406 and the Ladies Auxiliary has always been a supporter of our unit and for that we are thankful."

For more information visit 1st Barry's Bay Spark/Brownie/Guide/Pathfinder/Ranger Unit on Facebook.

CBC interviews Shulist

THE CURRENT | OTTAWA

MV Councillor David Shulist was recently interviewed on CBC Radio's Saturday morning program *In Town and Out*. CBC producer Jessa Runciman interviewed Shulist about his book *Discovering Kashubia Europe, the Fatherland of my Kashubian ancestors*.

In his book which was published in 2018, Shulist tells the story of the Kashub people who settled in the Madawaska Valley.

Shulist, who is often known locally as "Johnny Kashub" in recognition of his enthusiastic promotion of Kashubian heritage, said, "I was honoured to promote our local Kashubian heritage. Going national feels great."



David Shulist in the studio with CBC Producer Jessa Runciman, holding traditional Kashubian embroidery.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

EDITORIAL

Making the case for public transit

THE CURRENT

At the November 19 MV Council meeting, students from St. John Bosco School presented Council with a list of proposals. Among these was a request for a public transit system. The absence of a transit system has been questioned in the following studies/reports:

- 2014–15: Among residents' main reasons for poor rating of MV transportation services in *Madawaska Valley – The Path Forward 2015–2019 Strategic Plan*.
- 2015: In the conclusions from the *Final Report of Culture Summit* held in Madawaska Valley.
- 2015–16: The fallout over MV

Council's refusal to licence a local taxi service.

- 2016–17 *Township of Madawaska Valley Age-Friendly Community Strategic Plan* This was cited as a major concern.

Transportation barriers was also identified as a challenge in a press release from the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services dated December 14, 2018 called *Ontario improving rural services for women escaping violence and sexual exploitation*. Perhaps it is time for Council to take a close look at this issue by carrying out a feasibility study.

RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE REPORT

In 2014 the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) published a report entitled *Accel-*

erating Rural Transportation Solutions. The introduction to the report included the following statement, "This [transport options] is a persistent issue and given the aging demographic of rural Ontario, the need for affordable and accessible transportation services will increase in the future. The assumption that social, economic and health needs can be met solely by private cars and volunteer programs is becoming increasingly untenable."

The report went on to provide in-depth case studies of ten Ontario municipalities who operate public transit systems, one of which was the TROUT system based in Bancroft. It noted that each of the municipalities received funding, either directly or indirectly,
Continued on page 8—

VALLEY HERITAGE

St. Joseph's School 1952-53

BOB CORRIGAN
BARRY'S BAY

This picture was taken during the school year 1952-53 and it's the grade four class. Please let the readership know if you spot an error and can make a correction.

FRONT ROW: Bobby Crawford, Arthur Peplinskie, Roy Kulas, Tony Yantha, Leonard Stoppa, Ronald Chippior, Jimmy Shulist, David Biernaskie, Kenneth Kovalskie, Denzil Matusheskie.

SECOND ROW: Gerald Yantha, Rene Villeneuve, Robert Cybulskie, Kenneth Kubusheskie, Ursula Chaperskie, Doreen

Burchat, Rosanne Golka, Joseph Matusheskie, Jerome Golka, Ronald Mintha, Michael Ritza.

THIRD ROW: Ethel Rumleskie, Teresa Yantha, Charlotte Voldock, Cecilia Coulas, Patricia Corrigan, Martha Luckavitch, Sister Mary Alice, Shirley Dudack, Dorothy Luckavitch, Alice Golka, Joan Shushack, Jacqueline Cybulskie, Marianne Glofcheskie, Hedwig Villeneuve.

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 KOJ 1B0 (marked Heritage Photos). Originals will be returned.

—Continued from page 7
from one or more municipal levels of government. “All but one of the programs also received assistance from the Provincial Gas Tax Fund.” This fund, which should not be confused with the Federal Gas Tax Fund, limits payments to those municipalities who have a public transit system.

LACK OF FAIRNESS IDENTIFIED

The ROI Report also highlights the inherent unfairness of municipal expenditures that benefit only car-owning residents.

“We all pay property taxes either directly through home ownership or indirectly as renters. These taxes pay for all municipal services including roads. Since auto ownership is a surrogate of income, it means that the lower income resident who cannot afford a car is paying taxes to support a higher income resident who owns a car. Yet if there is no transit service, then the higher income resident does not support the lower income resident through the taxes needed to support a good level of transit service; herein lies the unfairness.”

Recently MV Council has arguably piled unfairness upon unfairness through the way it has spent payments from the Federal Gas Tax Rebate Fund. Over the term of the last Council, the sum of \$520,000 was received from the Fund. Yet despite the fact that it can be used for any of eighteen categories of infrastructure expenditure, every cent has been spent on only one, namely, roads. Nothing from this Rebate has been used, for example, for public transit, infrastructure for culture, tourism, wastewater, broadband and connectivity, and others.

As of November 2018 the sum of \$3.86 million has been spent this year by MV for “transportation services;” that is to say, roads. Of that sum, construction work alone accounts for \$2.15 million, not including materials and supplies. Residents who have contributed to this expenditure through their tax dollars but do not benefit because they cannot themselves drive along the roads are entitled to feel shortchanged.

FUNDING A TRANSIT SYSTEM

In the coming year MV will receive another \$136,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Rebate Plan. Providing a transit



Dreaming of public transportation in Madawaska Valley, imagined above. Transportation barriers have been identified as a challenge to improving rural services for women escaping violence and sexual exploitation.

system would immediately entitle the Township to receive more free money from the Provincial Gas Tax Fund. Other sources of grant funding may also be available. In addition to this, income from fares would generate revenue. As well, perhaps consideration should be given to paring down the road maintenance budget with a view to reallocating some of those savings to a transit system.

Consider the example of the Township of Clearview. In August of this year the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) issued a commendation to Clearview for successfully taking the public transit plunge. In response, Clearview Mayor Christopher Vanderkruys said, “The Federal Gas Tax

Fund assisted Clearview in the successful launch of the Township’s first transit system. The current route only serves a community of 4,500 residents, but ridership has grown to a consistent level of over 1,000 riders per month. Investing in transit with assistance of the Federal Gas Tax Fund will allow the municipality to enhance the service over time as our community continues to grow.”

MV Township CAO/Clerk Sue Klatt has advised The Current that there are currently no public transport initiatives under consideration. Recognizing that MV demographics confirm that it has one of the highest proportions of elderly residents in the province, perhaps the new Council will see fit to take a hard look at this issue.

MV adopts committee of the whole structure

Tuesday January 8 marked the first time MV Council met as a committee of the whole under its new Procedural By-Law 2018-117 passed December 20. Readers will recall that Mayor Love in her inaugural address at the Dec. 3 Council meeting said MV would adopt this format in the interests of efficiency and cost-savings. The concept means that all members of Council attend a single day of Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 10 a.m. The recommendations from the Council in Committee meeting will be brought forward at a Regular Council meeting on the third Tuesday of the month starting at 4 p.m. CAO/Clerk Sue Klatt says the new format is still a work in progress as members of Council, Township staff and Community Committees all need to become accustomed to the procedure.

Council in Committee format – first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.

Standing Committees of Council are

shown below, along with the member of Council responsible. All members of Council sit on each committee. If the committee representative is absent (e.g. Councillor Shulist was away on January 8), the Mayor or another member of Council acts as chair for that part of the meeting.

- Operations (Roads and Waste Management) – Councillor Bromwich
- Operations (Water/Wastewater & Facilities) – Councillor Shulist
- Fire, Protection and Emergency Management – Councillor Peplinski
- Recreation Community Development – Councillor Willmer
- Committee of Adjustment – Mayor Love
- Finance and Administration – Mayor Love

The Council in Committee Agenda includes materials for all committees. This meant the Agenda on Jan. 8 was 355 pages long. The public portion of the meeting began at 10 a.m. and end-

ed at 4:15 p.m. with a short morning break and a break for lunch.

PUBLIC INPUT

Materials from Standing Committees and delegation request forms must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Under the new Procedural By-Law up to four delegations are allowed at meetings of either Council in Committee or Regular Council, so in theory the public could have input up to eight times per month. Previously up to three delegations had been allowed at each of the seven Committee or Regular Council meetings affording the public a chance to appear before Council up to a theoretical maximum of 27 times per month. Also on the subject of public input, there is no provision in the Procedural By-Law for a Public Question Period at meetings unlike the previous Procedural By-Law. It appears that the new Council has removed this entitlement.

Rescue drama on Siberia Road

BOB CORRIGAN
BARRY'S BAY

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) personnel from Pembroke visited Barry's Bay during the week of December 10 following reports of an orphaned bear cub, but were unable to locate the animal at that time. Most bears in our area are in hibernation by now so the cub's mother must have died or been killed by a hunter and it didn't know how to carry on. On Wednesday December 19 the MNRF men were on their way to Combermere on a different project. As they drove down Siberia Road past the hospital, they saw a few people standing around looking at something just across from Biernacki Mountain Road. Lo and behold, up in a tree was the bear cub that they had looked for in vain the previous week.

Fortunately, they had thrown the appropriate equipment into their truck just in case. They parked nearby and waited at the bottom of the tree with what looked like a large fishing net, a pole snare and a cage. They told me that their plan was to capture the bear and take it to an animal shelter in Parry Sound where it would spend the rest of the winter. In the spring the MNR crew would retrieve it from the shelter and their instructions would



be to release the young bear within 100 kilometres of where it had been picked up.

Then began what looked like a game as the confused cub would travel down the tree, then up the tree, and back down again without going anywhere near the ground. After a considerable amount of time, the men retreated to the truck to give the cub a chance to relax a bit before renewing their efforts. I left at this point but when I returned half an hour later, the men and the bear were gone.

No doubt, they were taking it to its winter home at the animal shelter.

Report of MV Council in Committee meeting January 8



Committee in Council hears from OCWA representative. From left: Hilary Kutchkoskie (Operations Manager), Carl Bromwich, Mark Willmer, Kim Love, Sue Klatt, Ashley Pilgrim (OCWA), Ernie Peplinski.

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Madawaska Valley considered the following items during its first day-long meeting as a Committee of the Whole held on January 8, 2019.

DECLARATIONS

The meeting began with the familiar call for Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and on this occasion there were responses. Councillors Willmer and Peplinski each declared an interest (Willmer on a discussion of funding for private roads and Peplinski on a discussion of an Ohio Road complaint) so each of them was absent during the relevant discussion.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS CANNABIS RETAILING IN MV

Council accepted CAO Klatt's recommendation to schedule a Special Council meeting as soon as possible to discuss and decide whether MV should opt in or opt out of private cannabis retailing. This Special Council meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 21. When The Current asked CAO Klatt if there would be an opportunity for public submissions, she said that Council has the option to ask for public input. The deadline for MV to notify the Province of its decision is midnight on Jan.22, the day after the meeting.

OPERATIONS (ROADS)

The Operations Committee (Roads) recommendations included:

- Council in Committee (CiC) directed Township staff to prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) to obtain an independent consultant's review of the 5-Year Capital Roads and Asset Management Plan (the existing plan ended in 2018) and to investigate available funding to offset some of these costs.
- After discussing the existing 80 kph speed limit on Old Barry's Bay Road in light of four options proposed by an engineering company to bring the road into compliance, staff was directed to bring back more information on the implications, costs and requirements to consider a reduction in speed limit to 60 kph or leave it at 80 kph.
- CiC wants Grants for Private Roads to be considered at budget in the recommended amount of \$18,000; the same formula to be applied should a lower amount be budgeted. Having declared an interest because he lives on one of the private roads, Councillor Willmer was not present for this discussion.

OPERATIONS (WATER/WASTEWATER)

- CiC discussed a warning from the Ministry of Environment

Canada dated November 20, 2018. The warning cited a failed acute fish lethality test conducted last February on an effluent sample collected on January 31, 2018 at the Barry's Bay Wastewater Treatment system. Ashley Pilgrim and Scott Stewart, two representatives from the plant which is operated by Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), explained how the issue arose and corrective measures. Briefly, a sludge blanket in the ISAM tank contributed to higher outgoing levels of ammonia than were present in the intake of raw sewage. In response to a question from Councillor Willmer about water quality in Kamaniskeg Lake, OCWA personnel assured CiC that this was a one-time situation, tests are conducted regularly and the water remains compliant with the strict regulations they have on effluent quality.

- CiC reviewed an inspection report and supporting documentation from the Ministry of the Environment regarding an unannounced focused inspection performed at the Barry's Bay Drinking Water System on November 28, 2018. The report states: "There were no 'Summary of Recommendations and Best Practice Issues' identified in the inspection."



Chief Fire Officer Corwin Quade appears before Council in Committee.

FIRE, PROTECTION & EMERGENCY

- Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Corwin Quade reported that MV Fire Department personnel have no working radios at this time. Some staff have radios that do not work and in any event those leases expire this month. Various options for replacement radios were discussed and staff was directed to acquire some units for test purposes before acquiring sufficient handsets for all personnel.
- CFO Quade told CiC that Fire Department communications are further complicated because County has not yet finalized its 911 dispatch protocol. He said some Fire Chiefs in the region are resolving the issue by obtaining dispatch services from providers as far away as North Bay. Mayor Love said she would seek more information on the issue from County.
- CiC discussed replacement of the Rescue Truck in the South Hall as it is beyond its useful life and funds had been set aside for this purpose. They approved CFO Quade, with the Township licensed mechanic and Deputy Chief, to conduct a mechanical review of a proposed vehicle for purchase located in Ottawa.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORTS ON OHIO ROAD DISPUTE

By-Law Enforcement Officer Corwin Quade's report on an Ohio Road complaint was discussed. Mayor Love assumed the chair for this discussion as Councillor Peplinski withdrew, having declared a conflict of interest. The complaint followed events reported previously in The Current concerning a disagreement over a Shoreline Road Allowance (SRA).

In response to a subsequent complaint, MV staff visited the site and warned one of the property owners to cease working on the unowned shoreline. A follow-up visit revealed that the request had been ignored. Staff confirmed that the property owner had previously applied to purchase the SRA and that the Chief Building Officer said no building permit was required for the work done.

CAO Klatt said staff would appreciate having a clear policy where residents ignore cease and desist orders from the By-Law Enforcement Officer. Instead CiC directed staff to investigate and report on the status of the SRA purchase applications. CAO Klatt stated that she would report on costs, including site visits, of issuing cease and desist orders.

PLANNING MATTERS – BY-LAWS

As recommended by MV Planning Officer Silas Lorbetski, CiC passed several By-Laws including By-Law 2019-03 Subdivision Agreement for Little Bark Bay Properties.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- The Acting Treasurer Amanda Hudder presented a Statement of Revenues & Expenditures. CiC deferred discussion of the detail and directed that a Budget Working Group be established to meet in early February.
- The Acting Treasurer reported on the 2017 Financial Indicator Review (FIR) Report from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The FIR Report highlighted the level of tax arrears as being a concern saying it is the one indicator for MV that exceeds "low" risk. She reported that the Acting Deputy Treasurer is actively working on the tax arrears files to bring tax rolls up to date.

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Opeongo Hills Nordic Club to host fifth annual loppet

THE CURRENT
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The fifth annual Opeongo Classic Loppet is scheduled for Saturday, January 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Event host Opeongo Hills Nordic Ski Club calls on all members, friends, family and any other person willing to volunteer their time and help make this happen. Loppet coordinator Peter Cruchet says the event requires a total of at least 30 volunteers and provides this list of the approximate numbers of volunteers required per task:

- Parking, welcome, info (3): control parking, greet participants, direct to registration
- Registration (3): register walk-in skiers, hand out race bibs and race info
- Course marshals (12): position on course to direct skier
- On trail nutrition station (2): organize and hand out drinks to racers (will be near finish line)
- Post event food table (2): serve chilli, buns, dessert and drinks to all participants
- Start/finish officials (6): organize and control start, time and record skiers at finish line
- Results/awards (2): tabulate times and determine finish order for each skier category
- Jack of all trades (2): solve all minor problems for skiers

To volunteer, please contact Peter Cruchet: 613-334-0980 • pdcruchet@gmail.com

Would you rather ski instead of volunteering? Register online at www.zone4.ca (input Opeongo) as a competitor in the Opeongo Classic Loppet.



Competitors in previous Opeongo Classic Loppet.

PHOTO: CHRIS HINSPERGER, BONNECHERE CAVES



PHOTO: SHARON GARDNER

Wilno Rink fundraising events

THE CURRENT | WILNO

Hats off to the Wilno Recreation Committee for pulling out the stops to finish and pay for the brand new community rink – and you're invited to participate in a series of fundraising events:

GRAND OPENING DANCE

Saturday, January 26 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. You'll get to see the beautiful new building, have a lot of fun and

contribute to a worthwhile community cause.

OPP/SCHOOLS BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

Thursday, January 31: At press time kids from St. Andrews, Killaloe PS, St. Michaels, Palmer Rapids PS, St. James, St. John Bosco, George Vanier are expected to take on the OPP players in what is sure to be a fun-filled tournament.

WILNO WINTER CLASSIC BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m.: Why should kids have all the fun? This day is reserved for the adults to grab some brooms and get into serious good times.

HATS, CALENDARS AND SEASON PASSES

Wilno rink hats are \$16 each and 2019 fundraising calendars cost \$15. You can also get a Season Usage pass to the rink at \$20 Single/year or \$35 Family/year. For more details call Con Bersan 613-639-9816 or Joanne Plebon 613-756-1407.