

Van Wijk receives world recognition

DANIELLE PAUL
OTTAWA

Amsterdam-based World Paddle Awards (WPA) honoured Claudia Van Wijk on March 20 with their prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to paddle sports. WPA's announcement said that as director of Madawaska Kanu Centre (MKC), Van Wijk inspired thousands of people to start whitewater paddling and has mentored "countless Canadian slalom athletes. She also played an instrumental role in securing the sport of Canoe Slalom into the 2015 Toronto Pan AM Games. As a TV broadcast analyst she has also been the voice for Canoe Slalom on television, projecting her addictive passion for paddling the rivers."

Van Wijk inherited her lifelong passion for whitewater from her parents, Christa and Hermann Kerckhoff, who in 1972 opened the world's first commercial whitewater paddling school here in the Valley on the Madawaska River. The family business is now transitioning into the hands of the third generation, as reported by *The Current* last season. MKC offers high level whitewater instruction at international competition level as well as a range of courses and river experiences for all ages and skill levels.

To residents of Madawaska Valley, Van Wijk said, "The Valley has adopted me as a local and that has been a huge honour from Day One. It was my summer home, but way back Paul Yakabuski was so proud and just said, 'Local athlete Claudia Kerckhoff.' I'll never forget that.... Barry's Bay especially has been so positive and I've never felt not part of the community. I really appreciate that."

Her work—not just with MKC but also with local, regional and national tourism organizations—has introduced countless international tourists



Claudia van Wijk receives world recognition. PHOTO: MKC-OWL

to the Valley when they come here to paddle the Madawaska. Nicole Whiting, Executive Director of Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO), said it was no surprise that Van Wijk received this award. In a video on the WPA website, Whiting said of Van Wijk, "Claudia has made it possible for anyone to have an incredible experience on the river regardless of age or fitness level, often leading to a lifetime relationship with the water."

As for being the first woman in the sport to win the WPA Lifetime Achievement Award, Van Wijk told *The Current*, "Being a woman has been an advan-

tage in my life. Because I am in a male-dominated sport, the media liked me as a young athlete.... It's a risk-perceived sport so I was more written about.... All along it has actually been a door opener—not a closer—and I have been treated equally. That has just given me confidence in life—especially in the Valley. When I first took over running MKC, tradespeople would come in the office and say, 'Just want to talk to the boss.' I'd come down and say, 'I'm the boss.' And they would say, 'No, the real boss.' They just assumed the real boss was a man. It happened up until probably the last ten years.... I found it really funny."



Where food is fresh and love is loud.

39280 Combermere Road
Combermere, Ontario
613.756.9169

V & J Shulist
INCOME TAX SERVICE

First in income tax preparation
First in electronic filing (Efile)
Welcoming new and returning clients

Penny Shulist • 613-756-2419
153 Wilowski Drive
BARRY'S BAY



TRO
TRAVIS RICHARDS OFFICE
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

Website Design
Google My Business Listings Help
Social Media Training

Call Travis Richards 613-281-9419
Facebook.com/TravisRichOffice

Algonquin East.com

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL INFORMATION
in the Madawaska Valley and area

To list your event, business or organization email info@algonquineast.com.
Most listings are free.

The Madawaska Valley
Current

THIS CAN BE
YOUR AD

Call **613.639.1524**
or email madvalleycurrent@gmail.com
Let The Current help grow your business.

SWC Pirates of Penzance performance pleases



Entire cast of *Pirates* performing finale PHOTO: TIMOTHY BAKLINSKI

ROGER PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

The London Times opened its review of the first performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* on April 5 1880 with the following observation:

"Mr. Gilbert has a vein of quaint and spontaneous humour as peculiarly his own as any gift ever possessed by the most individual of artists and poets. This humour has charmed us all in the inimitable Babs Ballads and it has lost nothing of its raciness by being embodied in whimsical, dramatic creations and presented on the stage in conjunction with Mr. Sullivan's pretty music."

The more than seven hundred members of the public who were fortunate enough to attend one of the three performances of *Pirates* staged by the Don Bosco Drama Club of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College (SWC) can attest to how well the students captured its quintessence as described by *The Times* 139 years ago.

The standing-room-only performance on Sunday afternoon impressed this reviewer because of its calibre and the infectious joie de vivre on display from all involved in the production. The principal actors handled their demanding roles with aplomb and the quality of singing, both solo and ensemble, inspired the audience to burst into spontaneous applause after each number. *Pirates* is very challenging from a musical standpoint, requiring the perform-

ers to sing demanding lyrics at times at breakneck speed. The audience was helped by the thoughtful projection of the libretto on a screen set off to one side of the stage. This was so effective that it prompted a young spectator to audibly join in at one point much to the audience's additional amusement.

Feedback during the intermission and afterwards focused on how fortunate Valley residents (as well as the audience members who had travelled from Western Canada and across the United States) are to have access to live theatre and operetta of the standard provided by the SWC students. In addition to the acting and singing skills, the choreography which included dancing and sword fights added to the overall enjoyment of the colourful presentation. Superb piano accompaniment from Music Director Schroeder Nordholt underpinned the entire performance.

In fact the production was a technical triumph in every way—sets, props, costumes, makeup, projection, lighting—for which each member of the crew is to be complimented. Bouquets to co-directors Maria and Marissa Henry, stage manager Brenna Wehrle, musical director Schroeder Nordholt, producer (and surprise regal guest) Dr. Christine Schintgen, and to all members of the cast and crew. This production resulted from countless hours of concentrated work by very many students, staff and community members, the evidence of which was plain to see.

Eleventh annual Gift From The Heart event

MARCIA RUTLEDGE
RDH

April 6, 2019 marks the eleventh annual Gift From The Heart event. For those who don't know, Gift From The Heart (GFTH) is the day when registered dental hygienists open their hearts and provide no-cost dental hygiene services to those who can't afford regular dental hygiene care. The Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic is proud to participate again this year.

GFTH was founded by a registered dental hygienist named Bev Woods. Woods is a very caring woman who saw a large group of the population were unable to afford or access dental hygiene care. She has worked tirelessly to create the event that we now celebrate at the beginning of National Dental Hygiene Week each year. Woods feels like the day not only benefits those in our communities who can't afford regular care, but also demonstrates the number of Canadians who go without care to policy makers and stakeholders.

This year 150 participants are expected to take part in GFTH. A full list of participating locations is available online at www.giftfromtheheart.ca It is exciting to see just how many locations are now involved in the day. GFTH has grown in numbers each of the eleven years and the total value of care provided over that period is estimated to be around \$1.2 million.

On GFTH day Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic provides free full-service dental hygiene appointments. This means we complete an oral cancer screening, full mouth assessment, debridement (teeth cleaning), remove stain, and provide tips or recommendations on how to take care of your mouth. Children's appointments take roughly 20 minutes and adults typically take 40 minutes to an hour depending on their individual needs. Walk-ins are welcome on GFTH day.

At the Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic we use the honour system on GFTH day. We do not require proof of income, etc. However, we do ask that people be honest to allow those who are really in need to receive care. We also ask that those who have dental benefits



refrain from having treatment completed. If anyone reading this article has dental benefits but can't afford to pay for treatment up front, please contact the Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic. We can arrange to help fit you into our regular business hour schedule.

Some paperwork does need to be completed before treatment takes place. The medical history is key to ensure that it is safe to provide dental hygiene treatment. Those who have had a heart attack or stroke within the past six months are not able to have treatment. If you have had a joint replacement, you must get the okay to have dental hygiene treatment completed by your orthopedic surgeon prior to the appointment. Anyone who has had a heart valve replaced must take an antibiotic an hour before their appointment. This medication must be prescribed by their medical doctor or dentist. It is important to report any medications, vitamins, and/or supplements that you take on a daily basis, because many of these have effects that can be seen in the mouth and may cause oral disease such as gum disease or cavities. Having a full medical history completed allows your dental hygienist to assess your individual needs more easily.

Registered dental hygienists are not the only ones who open their hearts on April 6. Kaylee Coulas, our Administrator at the Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic has volunteered her time for the day. And the GFTH event would not be possible without the generous support of our partners Henry Schein Canada, Purolator Canada, Supermax, Hu-Friedy, Crosstex, Crest-Oral B, Micrylium, Colgate, Wicked White, 3M, Medicom, Oral Science, CDHA and PDT. These companies supply volunteers with free supplies for Gift From The Heart.

If you are a Canadian who cannot afford regular dental hygiene care, please

go to the website www.giftfromtheheart.ca to find out more. Find an office near you that participates in GFTH and receive no-cost dental hygiene treatment. Oral health has so many links to overall health such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, low birth weight babies, some types of cancer, dementia and so many others. You can't afford not to take advantage of Gift From The Heart.

Marcia Rutledge is an independent dental hygienist who owns and operates the Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic. She opened her Clinic in July of 2010 and has been providing dental hygiene services to the community since. She loves being able to provide individual care to each and every one of her patients. Preventive dentistry is Marcia's passion.

Wilno Tavern
RESTAURANT

Family Dining
Historic Polish Pub

• OPEN TUESDAY to SUNDAY •

wilnotavern.com
613-756-2029


Bayberry Design
Print and Design Studio

Promotional Materials

Wedding Invitations

Product Labels

Custom Cards & Books

Large Format Printing

We're happy to help!

613.756.2580
info@bayberrydesign.ca

PORCH VIEWS

Cellphones in the classroom



MARK WOERMKE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

It's March Break. After a few days in Montreal, I returned to the Bay to relax, read, take in a few St. Patrick's Day events, do a bit of marking, work on my column and nurse the cold that has returned. I did not expect to be thinking or writing about cellphones, but I am—thanks to Doug Ford who just gave me the power to ban cellphones in my classroom.

BANNING CELLPHONES

It was leaked early this week that the Ontario government was planning to ban cellphones in Ontario classrooms. That was confirmed by an official announcement on Friday March 15 and explained further in a tweet issued by the Ministry of Education, "Cellphones are a powerful tool, but they have the power to be disruptive if used in the wrong setting. That's why we are implementing a cellphone ban that's empowering teachers and students to embrace today's technology."

I've seen comments on social media from folks who support the ban. Several years ago I would have supported it without question, but now I find myself agreeing with colleagues across the province who are speaking against the ban.

The language the government is using suggests that teachers, schools and school boards have been oblivious to the distraction and academic risk cellphones pose for students. Now that's ridiculous! For years, teachers and schools have been trying to find ways to control cellphones in the classroom.

JAMMER OR HAMMER?

At a teachers' conference seven years ago, I met a Toronto high school teacher who had created a jammer and installed it under his desk. He had great fun watching students exchange bewildered looks when they lost service in his classroom and his room was nick-



PHOTO: PEXELS.COM

named "the dead zone." The jammer was effective but had parents or school administrators got wind of it, he would be in trouble since he was preventing emergency calls and parental contact. As his school embraced today's technology he had to abandon his jammer since it also blocked his access to online attendance and the students' learning resources such as research databases and documentaries that in many schools are now exclusively online.

Five years ago, frustrated by the amount of time I was wasting policing phones in my classroom, I dreamed up a rather complicated plan to teach my students a lesson. First, I would obtain some long-abandoned and unclaimed cellphones from a friend's school.

Then I would put them in one of two identical cloth bags. The second bag was reserved for the phones I would confiscate in my classroom that period. After having collected several, I would feign anger—a spittle-flecked nutty if you will—and, in front of my students, drop their phones into the second bag. With a little sleight of hand, I would switch bags, draw a hammer from my desk and pound those phones to smith-

reens. Then I would walk calmly to the corner and shake the fragments into the wastebasket. After a few moments of shocked silence, I would get the original bag with the real cellphones out and return them to the students. It seemed perfect: the students would learn an important lesson and I could release my inner thespian. I abandoned this fantasy, however, after a trusted colleague and friend issued a stern warning: At the very least you will receive parental complaints for causing emotional trauma, he said. More importantly, I am afraid you will get stabbed.

So I confiscated phones for the day returning them at the final bell. When that didn't work very well—students became angry and the problem escalated; parents were annoyed that they could not reach their children, administrators were worried that expensive devices would be lost or stolen from my unlockable desk drawer, and I didn't want to be on the hook for the cost of a device—I tried something else. Students, I decided, would put their phones in a basket at the front of the classroom. This also posed security risks as it was hard to monitor the

basket while students were working in groups or I was conferencing with a student. More annoyingly, however, the basket would vibrate or ring during my lesson and students would be up and down grabbing their phones to turn them off. Ultimately my attempt to eradicate cellphones from my classroom was an exercise in futility.

TEACH THE PROPER USE OF THIS TECHNOLOGY

It took some time to realize that there is no way, short of patting them down at the door, to prevent students from bringing phones into my classroom. They put them on vibrate and conceal them in their pockets and their bras, and when they suddenly pop up for washroom-permission, I am pretty sure they have received texts to meet their friends somewhere. Several times a day, students inform me they've received a text from a parent who is waiting in the parking lot so they can sign out and go to an appointment. So, if students and their parents persist in using cellphones despite the prohibitions and warnings, the only option left is to teach them the proper use of this form of technology.

Teachers, schools and school boards across Ontario have already figured out ways to deliver curricula on the wise and ethical use of technology and social media. For the last three years, for example, the school board I work for has mandated age-appropriate training in safe and proper use of digital technology at every grade. In addition to this, teachers still monitor the use of cellphones in the classroom.

DISRUPTIVE POWER OF CELLPHONES NOT LIMITED TO SCHOOLS

Of course, cellphones can be misused by students. Students can be distracted by games, videos, sports statistics, tweets from celebrities and unnecessary texting with friends. More seriously, students can use their phones to cheat on tests, send or view inappropriate images, and bully other students. Without a doubt these choices can compromise opportunities for success and do great harm, but a classroom ban is not the solution.

Whether we like it or not, students have come to rely on their phones to communicate with their families and friends, follow the news, access learn-

ing tools and entertain themselves. Engaging students and helping them make better choices around cellphone use will only be achieved through a respectful, rational, co-operative and educational approach.

Let's remember too that the misuse of cellphones is not limited to schools but extends to workplaces, cars and homes.

A PSEUDO-BAN

After all that, I think we have to recognize the so-called ban for what it is. "Ban" means to forbid, prohibit or

refuse something, yet the Ministry of Education has identified exceptions for teachers who want to use cellphones for educational purposes and for students with special and medical needs. So it is not really a ban. I wonder if the real purpose of this pseudo-ban and "back to basics" language is diversionary—to keep Ontarians from considering the negative effects other policies, like changes to autism funding or an increase in average class size in grades 4 to 12, will have on Ontario's youth.



Advertising helps us provide *The Current* to readers at no cost. To advertise please call 613.639.1524.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

The Current is published by MadValley Media, Barry's Bay, Ontario, K0J 1B0. Opinions and information published in *The Current*, in whatever form, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Current*. All the writing, artwork, and photographs published in *The Current* are the copyright of the author or artist or *The Current* in the case where no author is specified.

The Madawaska Valley Current

PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay ON, K0J 1B0

T: 613.639.1524

E: madvalleycurrent@gmail.com

W: www.madvalleycurrent.com

 www.facebook.com/madvalleycurrent

 www.instagram.com/madvalleycurrent

 twitter.com/mvalleycurrent

PERMITTED USE

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

Printed by Bayberry Design, Barry's Bay, Ontario

Living green before their time

Publisher's note: As Morninglory Farm celebrates its 50th anniversary March 30 2019, The Current re-prints this extract with permission from Douglas Gloin's article about the back-to-the-land movement, written ten years ago for the Toronto Star. Gloin's article is just as valuable now as it was when first published in painting a picture of the unique culture that blossomed in the Valley and attracted the disparate settlers which he so compellingly portrays. It is a valuable historical record that traces the origins of this "intentional community" and gives voice to its unique flavour. Read the full article at www.madvalleycurrent.com

DOUGLAS GLOIN

WILNO | SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007

Residents and friends of the farm gathered around a fire overlooking the commune below. After cleansing themselves with smoke from a big, glowing smudge of dried herbs (all of them perfectly legal), people declared their intentions and hopes for the coming season, and then tossed a cedar frond on the coals. They sang, drew inspiration from Celtic, native and goddess sources, and danced in a circle around the fire to a glorious rhythmic din made by a selection of maracas, seed pods, music sticks and handmade drums.

"Forward!" shouted neighbour Tim Rivers-Garret, pointing dramatically as the gathering turned and bowed toward the east, the direction of renewal. A woman named Melodie from the Gaspé offered her thoughts for the season in French. A collective "Aho" followed each declaration.

The chilly evening began with carob and hempseed "hot chocolate" and ended in warm hugs and wishes as everyone headed back to their homesteads down their own well-trodden pathways through the snow.

Morninglory Farm, nestled in the hills near Wilno, Ont., about an hour's drive east of Algonquin Park, has been marking the turn of the seasons with ceremonies like this for decades, so the gathering on the vernal equinox was not out of the ordinary. Yet coming as it did on the 40th anniversary of the year when hundreds of hippies ushered in



Christina and Robbie Anderman. PHOTO: DAVID COOPER, TORONTO STAR

the Summer of Love from a San Francisco hilltop, then held a mock funeral signalling "the death of the hippie" just four months later, the event had a certain poignancy.

In those heady days of Hendrix and Haight-Ashbury, "hippie communes" dotted the hills around the south and eastern edges of Algonquin Park as people in the back-to-the-land movement discovered the area had lots of cheap land to get back to. The hard-scrabble farms homesteaded by the Madawaska and Bonnechere Valleys' Polish and Irish settlers were being sold off at low prices as their descendants moved to town.

Most of those communities are gone, as is the "hippie commune" label, overburdened as it was with stereotypes about free-flowing sex and drugs. Today, Morninglory and a couple of others are alive and well, "intentional community" is the preferred term, the "herbs" are mostly for eating or medicine, and the sons and daughters of hippies have grown into adulthood on the farm and are parenting a third generation.

More than that, some of the flower children of the '60s are feeling vindicated by a growing concern about the very things they rebelled against: rampant consumerism, waste and environmen-

tal degradation. At a time that has seen An Inconvenient Truth capture an Oscar, and the U.S. get bogged down in another foreign war, the idea of finding a better way to live has found new currency.

Earlier this month, the San Francisco Chronicle's Mark Morford, in a column headlined "The Hippies Were Right," argued that the flower-power generation can take credit for inspiring many of the ideas now accepted by the public at large. "You know it's true," he wrote. "All this hot enthusiasm for healing the planet and eating whole foods and avoiding chemicals and working with nature and developing the self? Came from the hippies. Alternative health? Hippies. Green cotton? Hippies. Reclaimed wood? Recycling? Humane treatment of animals? Medical pot? Alternative energy? Natural childbirth? Non-GMA seeds? It came from the granola types. "It's about time the media, the politicians, the culture as a whole sent (hippies) a big, wet, hemp-covered apology."

Morninglory continues — preserved, its residents say, through a mixture of tolerance, hard work, communication, adaptability and a touch of compromise. Today, about 20 people live in the former homestead's old log farmhouse, some of its outbuildings or in cabins and shelters built over the years. About

half of them have been there for 20 years or more. But Rob Anderman is the only original resident still on the farm.

Anderman's workshop is an adventure in eclecticism. A tangle of grouse feathers, a large derelict wasp nest and sacred native tobacco plants hang from the rafters, which themselves are stuffed with aged *Whole Earth Catalogues* and other reading material. On the workbench are wooden flutes in various styles and states of construction. Anderman, known locally by the nickname Beaver, is an accomplished musician who has released two CDs. His current passion is the Buddhist-inspired shakuhachi flute, but on this day he picks up a dulcimer he crafted several years ago and strums a couple of tunes. "It's from the word dulce, which means sweet," he says. And it is.

The seeds for Morninglory Farm were sown at Rochdale College, then unofficial headquarters of the counterculture in Toronto, less than two years after that flower-power summer of 1967. Anderman and his friend Mike Nickerson were students at the alternative, tuition-free communal college when a fellow student named Dalton McCarthy, who hailed from Killaloe, was encouraging his peers to move up to the area around his hometown, where cheap land was available.

"Beaver and I went up and looked at some places," recalls Nickerson. For \$4,300 they bought a 40-hectare farm that had been homesteaded by immigrants of the Polish Kashub ethnic minority whose descendants had moved into nearby Barry's Bay. In March, 1969, the two said goodbye to Rochdale and waded up the long driveway through thigh-deep snow to the farmhouse. "Moglo," as some residents have come to call the farm, was born as an experiment in communal living.

"I don't think we had any clue about process and making something work," Nickerson says. "What we had was an educational nest egg that Beaver had landed"—a cubic metre of books on alternative living from the *Whole Earth Catalogue*.

I spent the whole winter reading and making notes. I didn't know it was called sustainability at that time, but that's what we were doing.

There was no electricity—the farm

had never had hydro service and still doesn't. Candles and kerosene lamps were used for light. The commune's first full winter was a constant scramble to collect firewood because none had been cut the previous spring and summer. Woodstock may have been to blame for that.

Anderman had received word that a big concert was planned for August back on his home turf near Bethel, N.Y. He and three others headed off to Max Yasgur's farm for the party.

At 58, Anderman—who lives on the farm with his wife, Christina, and two of their three sons—could be considered an icon of the '60s. He led his first protest in high school, battling plans to hold the high school prom at the local Elks Club, which at the time barred black people from membership. Before it was over, a boycott organized by Anderman and a few friends grew until the NAACP set up a picket line around the school board offices. Through friends of his Jewish liberal parents, Anderman met black singer Odetta, as well as an up-and-coming young folk singer named Bob Dylan.

After high school, he began studies at Quaker-inspired Haverford College near Philadelphia.

Anderman attended a guest lecture by Richard Alpert (who later changed his name to Baba Ram Dass), the former Harvard University professor and close associate of LSD advocate Timothy Leary. "Alpert talked about how this (using LSD) is a way to tune into the

spirit," Anderman says. After several months, he was ready to try it himself.

By the time Anderman was in second year at college, the school had changed the route of the campus tour so that it wouldn't go past his dormitory window. "You never knew what sort of smoke might be coming out, or what Day-Glo posters were glowing in the window, or what music might be coming out," he recalls with a quiet smile. Anderman was invited to leave Haverford.

Heading north to study Russian at the University of Toronto, he lived in a Yorkville head shop called Jabberwock before ending up at Rochdale College. Then he got his draft notice, but Anderman avoided going to Vietnam after his parents sent him to a psychiatrist friend, who told the draft board the young man was unfit for the army because of his past drug use.

At Woodstock, Anderman soon moved in with the legendary Hog Farm commune, which provided the "Security Please Force" and other services at the festival. Then Hog Farm member Hugh Romney (a.k.a. Wavy Gravy), whose "What we have in mind is breakfast in bed for 400,000" announcement is a Woodstock classic, led commune members on a travelling "starve-in" protest caravan to San Francisco. Anderman joined the trip in his van, bringing along the Hog Farm mascot, a sow named Pigasus. "I drove my Morninglory Farm, Killaloe, Ontario' red van in the caravan with one passenger, Pigasus. I slept in front. She slept in back in the hay."

"Imaginator" with local roots pens apocalyptic novel

MARK WOERMKE | BARRY'S BAY

Have you ever imagined where you would take refuge if the world as you knew it was coming to an end? Author Kasey Kulas has, and she thinks Barry's Bay would be ideal in an apocalypse, or at least, that's what Rowan, the titular character of Kulas' first novel, thinks. Rowan is part one of a series Kulas calls *In the Beginning*.

When a deadly virus reaches Ottawa, civil society collapses rapidly and Rowan, a massage therapist with Ottawa Valley roots, draws on inner strength and traditional knowledge to lead a group to safety in Barry's Bay, the village of her childhood. Meeting with adventure and misadventure Rowan's gang travels on foot and horseback via abandoned bits of the Opeongo Line, old rail beds and ATV trails to avoid detection.

While they don't get as far as the Bay in the first novel (that occurs in part two), it is definitely Rowan's intent to reach Barry's Bay and the Madawaska Valley. Kulas says, "This area would be a great place to be in an apocalypse because people here still know how to do things the old-fashioned way like heating with wood, fishing and hunting. I also think that people here would band together to help each other and even strangers."

Rowan: *In the Beginning*... Book 1 is available in hardcopy and Kindle editions through Amazon.ca. *Mark Woermke's report was abridged.*

Father Mac — a big man in strength and spirit

MARK WOERMKE
BARRY'S BAY

*Of priests we can offer a charmin' variety,
Far renowned for learnin' and piety.
Still I'd advance ye without impropriety,
Father O'Flynn is the flow'r of them all.*

Recently, the first line of that song which my mother used to play and sing around this time of year popped into my head. I did a little research and found that it is an ancient tune, but the lyrics were written by the son of a Protestant bishop of Dublin, about a Catholic priest who left an impression on him in his youth.

I don't know if my mother was aware of the history of the song, but I do know that when she played it, she thought of a priest who left an important impression on her, on our family and many families in the village of Barry's Bay: Rev. Martin S. McNamara (1899-1958) or "Father Mac" as he was commonly known.

Father Mac's photograph had a prominent place in our living room. When I was old enough to ask who the priest was, my mother said, "That's Father Mac. We were the last couple he married with both legs."

At first, I wondered why after 1951 he would specialize in marrying amputees, but as I got older and asked more questions, I realized that he was the amputee. Over the years, I learned more about him.

Father Mac was the first pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole after it was made a parish in 1934. A year later my grandmother died. After Father Mac blessed her remains (she died in her sleep) and Frank Yakabuski loaded them on the back of his pickup truck and took them to his shop for embalming, Father Mac set the table, made breakfast (Cornflakes) for my mother and her younger brothers, sat down and joined them like he was one of the family. Fifteen years later, Father Mac put a young man, raised in the United Church, at ease when my father approached him about becoming Catholic so he could propose to my mother. My father described Father Mac's catechetical approach as thorough and down to earth.

Father Mac was known for celebrating mass quickly and he had no patience for long drawn-out singing. One Christmas, Sister Leona Harrington had the choir rehearse a beautiful but elaborate version of the Credo for Midnight Mass. In the midst of it, Father Mac stood up from his chair, turned to the choir and bellowed, "Are you folks ever gonna finish up there?"

Father Mac initiated St. Patrick's Day plays and concerts. One parishioner whose role required him to ride a bicycle across the stage, overdid the liquid courage and appeared weaving dangerously on the stage. Father Mac jumped up, announced a fifteen-minute intermission, closed the curtains, dragged the inebriate outside and stuck his head in a snowbank. When the intermission was over the show went on without a hitch.

Father Mac suffered from diabetes and poor circulation. After an injury to his foot led to gangrene, he required a series of amputations—his foot first, then his leg and, eventually, his other leg too. Father Mac didn't give up; he ordered prosthetics. Unable to use crutches at the altar, he began celebrating mass sitting on a piano stool which enabled him to turn to the people and back to the altar again. When the bishop challenged him because the rubrics required the priest to stand at times during the Mass, he had altar servers prop him up. Eventually he had a walker modified to suit his needs.

Father Mac enlisted the help of a young mechanic, Raymond Conway, to install hand controls in his car, so he could get about the area. One evening returning from Combermere, he failed to negotiate the turn on the highway near Barney's Lane and ended up in a rather deep ditch hidden from view. Several cars passed without hearing his shouts, but when he unstrapped his prosthetic legs and threw them up onto the highway, he got immediate help from a startled motorist.

Father Mac died in 1958 following surgery at the Ottawa General Hospital. His funeral was held at St. Lawrence O'Toole but he was buried in his native Eganville. Father Louie Casartelli not-



Above: Father Mac. PHOTO: WOERMKE COLLECTION
Below: A picnic (from left) Stasia Dunnigan, Jack Dunnigan, Mark Billings, Father Mac and policeman Jim Aldrett.

PHOTOS: CONWAY COLLECTION.

ed what made Father Mac great in the funeral sermon, "No matter what the occasion—a Forty Hours devotion, a picnic, a bazaar, a funeral or a wake, Father Mac was always there with a helping hand. In spite of his heavy cross, he could always fall back on his great sense of humour and come up with a joke instead of a complaint."

Years later, in a booklet to commemorate the parish's 75th anniversary, Phil Conway reiterated this, describing Father Mac as "a big man, in strength and spirit, who endeared himself to practically everyone he encountered."

Songs about priests aren't likely to get much play in Ireland or anywhere else these days. We can't ignore the scandals and the suffering, but we also have to remember that there were—and are—many good, faithful priests who continue to inspire us. Father Mac was one of those good ones.

Leaseholders respond to amended development

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Acting as agent for Combermere Lodge Limited (CLL), Neil Enright appeared as a delegation to MV Council in Committee (CiC) on March 5 to give notice that CLL is amending its subdivision/condo application to develop Chippawa Shores. The revised proposal includes a re-zoning application as well as an amended configuration of lots and uses of the property. The main changes from the original proposal include:

- 44 lots are now proposed (a reduction of 10 lots from the original 54 lots)
- Developable lands are reduced from 190 acres to 145 acres by removing the common elements shown in the original application such as Chippawa Lodge, the hangar, the lawn and the beach

Enright reviewed details of the revised proposal being submitted that day to MV and subsequently to County. He explained that removing the common elements essentially left the (44) remaining lots almost as originally proposed. He said that CLL's planning consultants Zanderplan had advised the County Planner about the amended application two weeks earlier. Enright said that as there was nothing dramatically new in the amended application he did not anticipate another public meeting. As previously reported by *The Current*, CLL had advised that the issues raised by the leaseholders are the subject of court proceedings but this was not discussed.

•••

The Current then received this response from Lindsay Fleming on behalf of himself and other leaseholders who have raised concerns about their property rights not being protected:

"Danielle Paul's recent article in *The Madawaska Valley Current* identifies the amendments that Combermere Lodge Limited (CLL) is making to MV Council on March 5th, 2019 regarding their proposed Condominium development abutting onto Lake Kamaniskeg, Madawaska River and Green Lake."

Neil Enright, acting as agent for CLL gave notice of these amendments which include revising their re-zoning applica-

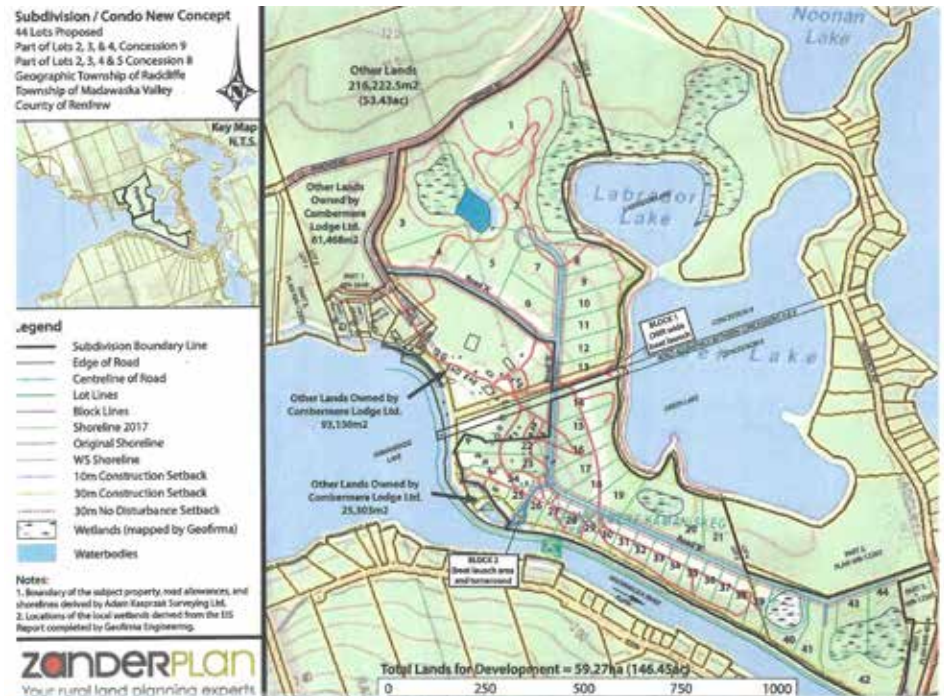


IMAGE: COMBERMERE LODGE LIMITED (CLL)

tion as well as an amended configuration of lots—removing 10 lots.

Interestingly enough the part of the property being removed from the re-zoning application is the part of the property in dispute with the leaseholders—this fact was never raised at the meeting.

In the early 90s, CLL proposed changing the cottage rental format at Chippawa Cottage Resort to a combination of timeshare and rental. The latter being subject to availability after the best sites/weeks had been sold to timeshare owners.

As some of us had been coming to Chippawa for generations and looked to enjoy this gem for years to come purchasing timeshare was the only way to preserve this family tradition. The original timeshare/vacation lease arrangements were for 40 years.

We have seen our children and grandchildren grow up at Chippawa and now the owners want us out and a condominium development in its place.

So we, the leaseholders, have to find some other resort/timeshare property to spend our vacation time and CLL does not want to provide us with appropriate compensation.

By removing the parts of the property in dispute CLL hopes we will go away – be advised we are not going away!

It really is a shame that we have been

treated like this. We have had four generations vacation at Chippawa since the seventies and certainly would have continued for many more. In fact some of us probably would have become the very first buyers in the new development."

**Barry's Bay
Family Dental
Centre**
613-756-2748

Extending our **new patient special**
for another month!

NEW PATIENTS!
FREE TEETH-WHITENING KIT
when you book a new patient exam,
x-rays and a dental cleaning!
*This monthly special offer is available
to new patients only!*

This offer includes:

- Custom fit trays, top and bottom
- Case for your trays
- Professional strength, tooth whitening gel and instructions for home use

*Weekly draw for our existing patients for an
Oral-B Electric Toothbrush or free whitening!*

Call us at **613-756-2748**
14 Martin Street • Barry's Bay

OPINION

Reading between the (funding) lines

ROGER PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The first day of spring was met with weather appropriate to the occasion. Walking around town one could not help but notice a collective lifting of the spirits. On the same day there also came the news of the \$620,000 windfall payment to the Township's coffers from the provincial government. Those who read *The Current's* online announcement of this sudden largesse courtesy of Doug Ford possibly felt an added buzz. Judging by some readers' comments to date, it appears that there will be no shortage of suggestions of how to spend the money.



IMAGE: COURTESY INTERNAL AUDITOR — IIA

Before getting too carried away, however, it is important to take a closer look at the strings that have been attached to the funding. The first clue is contained in the following sentence in the Minister's media release: "The province undertook

a line-by-line review of its own expenditures, and we have been clear that we expect our partners, including municipalities, to be taking steps to become more efficient. Examples could include service delivery reviews, development of shared services agreements, IT solutions, capital investments or other projects." This sends a clear message that the funding must be used to achieve costs savings and efficiencies at the municipal level.

Is it significant that the announcement on March 20 came hot on the heels of the Ford government backtracking on its previously-announced intention to reduce Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) payments? MV Council had previously anticipated a 10 to 15 percent reduction from that source this year. This sounds very much like the province is now putting down a marker by saying in effect: here's some money now to help you reduce your reliance on us later.

Councillor Mark Willmer told *The Current* that he agrees with this interpretation. He said he also has received suggestions about how the money should be spent which do not fall within the parameters set by the province.

With this in mind, municipalities who will benefit from the funding announcement should ensure that they do not leave themselves as hostages to fortune when they decide how to spend the money. If they cannot demonstrate compliance with the strings attached to it, then they risk receiving reduced funding down the road.

For example, allocating some or all of it to the bottomless purse which is road maintenance would not fit the bill—something former councillor Linda Neuman told *The Current* she is concerned about. It might therefore be advisable for municipalities to arm themselves with independent consultants' recommendations to identify the most appropriate targets for costs savings and improving efficiencies. Doing this may insulate them from criticism of whatever decisions they make, at the same time satisfying the province's objective through identifying "smarter, more efficient ways to spend money."

VALLEY HERITAGE

BOB CORRIGAN | BARRY'S BAY



The above photo shows the triumphant St. Joseph's High School hockey team of 1960-61. Seated from left to right are Mervin Vanderhoil, Sylvester Yantba, Kenneth Wojcik, Zigmund Mintba, the captain holding the Mac Phail Trophy, Robert Czubakie, Michael Murray, Kenneth Trebinskie, Gerard Respondek. Standing left to right, Joseph Czubakie, sports director of the local Canadian

Legion; Ronald Mintba; Roy Kulas; Richard Shalla; Terry Lebovitch; Anthony Yantba; Coach, Angus Heanish; Kenneth Kovalskie; Ronald Coulas; Michael Ritza; and President of Barry's Bay Branch of Canadian Legion, Max Taraskevitch. Absent and unable to attend when picture was taken was Leonard Sullivan, the manager. The team was sponsored by the Barry's Bay branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

St. Joseph's Hockey Team 1960-61

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* at PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay K0J 1B0 (marked Heritage Photos). Originals will be returned.



MPP JOHN YAKABUSKI
QUEEN'S PARK

Winter is hanging around longer than expected and probably longer than many would wish. But given the kind of winter it's been, I for one would be happy to see a gradual transition to spring. The reason I say this is that if spring returns in a measured fashion, it will be very beneficial in helping to reduce the likelihood of flooding. As you know, we received a lot of snow this past winter and I share the concerns of many with respect to the potential for high water.

With that in mind, we have taken some steps to mitigate that.

On March 13th, I signed an order that would continue to draw down the water level at Round Lake at a slow, consistent rate over several weeks for up to 20 centimetres. Our belief is that by having less water in Round Lake when the freshet inevitably comes, it will allow us to hold more than we previously could have under the Water Management Plan. The municipalities encompassing Round Lake and Golden Lake, as well as their property associations, were made aware of these measures and are supportive of them.

While we have taken the steps we believe to be prudent, everything will be dependent on how Mother Nature treats us. I'm hoping and praying for the best.

I'm so grateful to my constituency staff, who continue to provide excellent service to our residents in spite of the fact that I can't be around as much as I used to.

In the last number of weeks, my Fridays have been very busy. I've had the pleasure to attend forestry roundtables in North Bay and Thunder Bay, where we continue to work with the forestry industry as we develop a forestry strategy that will ensure this vital industry's sustainability for generations to come. I have more planned in the future, including one in Pembroke and one in the Timmins/Kapuskasing/Hearst region. In all, we will hold seven roundtables through the winter and early spring.

I was also able to participate in the Toronto Sportsmen's Show, where my ministry has a huge presence, as we demonstrate our support for all those who participate in the activities of fishing and hunting and all the tourism businesses that benefit from all these activities. The Show was one of the busiest I have ever been able to attend, and it was great to speak to so many people and receive their feedback on how we can function better as a ministry.

On Friday the 29th, I'll be in Caledon to host our first ever Summit for Aggregate Reform. We'll be meeting with stakeholders from all across the province, including some from my riding, to discuss issues and receive their input on how

we can best manage this resource and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden while still maintaining a commitment to conservation and the environment.

Our government will be presenting its first budget on April 11th, and I look forward to talking about our plan to be open for business and open for jobs in Ontario and maintaining our commitment to balance in a responsible manner.

I must say I was very disappointed with the release of the federal budget and the Trudeau Liberal government's decision to continue with a punitive carbon tax, which will come into effect on April 1st. This will drive up the cost of everything, particularly to those of us who live in rural communities.

As Premier Ford has said so many times, you can be for jobs, or you can be for a carbon tax, but you can't be for both.

If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, please contact my constituency office. We would be more than happy to hear from you.

BARRY'S BAY Legion

Bingo: Alternate Thursdays, doors open 6 pm, play at 7 pm. April 11: Sherwood PS Fundraiser, cash prizes. Bake sale 6-7pm. April 25: \$500, progressive jackpot, consolation prize for full card if jackpot not won.

Cribbage: Sundays April 7 and 28. Registration 12:30 pm, games at 1 pm, \$5.

Pancake Breakfast: Sunday April 14, 8 am-1 pm.

Legion Club Room: Open Monday to Saturday, 2 to 6 pm, and Friday to 8 pm. Fresh-cut fries on Fridays. Hours may be extended during scheduled events. Open Sundays for major sporting/world events. Open to all, membership in the Legion not required.



Madawaska Valley
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Job Search Training Session 1: Resume writing
Tues. April 9, 10 am-12 pm. Free workshop. Info from trainer Anita Kennedy, Access Work Service 613-756-0723, anita.kennedy@accessworkservice.ca.

Easter Story Time

Sat. April 20, 11:15 am. Storytelling in a new format.

DIY Colour and Decorating Workshop

Sat. May 4, 2 pm. \$10, pre-register with library. Choosing paint colours and types.

Understanding Dementia

Wed. May 15, 6:30-8:30 pm. Signs, symptoms, conditions. Speaker Dr. Suzanne McKay.

For information or to register for these programs:
mpvl.programs@gmail.com 613.756.2000

St. Patrick's Day Dance at the Legion

MV Lions' event a great day to wear green.



St. Lawrence O'Toole tea

Church hall packed for annual St. Patrick's Day tea.



Spring Market at Opeongo Seniors Centre

Bron Darbyson youngest vendor at indoor market.



Taste of Italy tea

Spaghetti supper at St. Lawrence O'Toole.



March Break

Tim Holland stunt ventriloquist thrills crowd.



Sledge Hockey

Hockey-loving players of all abilities join in the fun.

