

INSIDE...

Growing up in Madawaska p.4

Report leaves questions p.8

Total tax rate decreases p.12

Train whistle signals re-opening of Railway Station

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

On May 18 the sound of a train whistle was once again heard in the waiting room of the Barry's Bay Railway Station. The Station Keepers blew handcrafted wooden whistles to start the ceremony that officially re-opened the Station.

Joanne Olsen, Station Keepers Chair, welcomed everyone explaining that the approaching "125th anniversary of the coming of the railway coincides with 125th anniversary of first school teacher coming to Barry's Bay on May 14 1894." She said, "Despite all that has happened in our world over the past 125 years this little station remains standing... certainly the last one of such stations that J.R. Booth built in the middle of the 1890s as he forged a ribbon of steel through Barry's Bay with his Ottawa Arnprior and Parry Sound (OAPS) railway."

Rather than pay tribute to the endurance of painted lumber or rusty nails, Olsen said they were assembled to recognize "the unique spirit that this station has come to represent for so many of us who grew up here or who have more recently arrived." She commended the genuine decency and determination of people in the community.

Before calling on Greta Boskie to cut the ribbon, Olsen spoke of her as a very special teacher in the area. She said that Boskie was "always there to remind us that it was not with steel or steam that places like Barry's Bay get built, or endure. Greta retired from teaching in 1989 after a long and distinguished career — in fact teaching many of us here today.

What you may not know, however, is that Greta, although a fine teacher, was never to be outdone by any train service, be it steam or diesel. Even before she officially became a teacher she somehow managed to get a taxi licence



The Station Keepers surround guest of honour Greta Boskie.



Left: Station Keepers Clifford Blank (left) and Barry Conway hold the ribbon for Greta Boskie at the Grand Re-opening of the Railway Station. Right: Joanne Olsen introduces Greta Boskie and speaks about the Station Keepers.

when she was just sixteen years."

After the official ceremony, Mayor Kim Love thanked the volunteers and said that Council is very pleased with the relationship they have with the Station Keepers. All members of Council attended, apart from Councillor Shulist who was in Europe.

Olsen acknowledged the support of the Township in supplying refreshments for the opening and made spe-

cial mention of the hard work done by Barry Conway since the Station Keepers began. She reminded the audience they could buy \$20 memberships to the Station Keepers that would entitle them to discounts on merchandise and free entry to programs and events. For information about the area's first schoolteacher and the Station Keepers' programming plans email info@stationkeepers.com

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.

**BARRY'S BAY
Legion**

Bingo: Alternate Thursdays.
Doors open 6 pm, play at 7 pm.

Cribbage: Alternate Sundays
starting June 2. Registration
12:30 pm, games at 1 pm, \$5.

Pancake Breakfast: Third Sunday
of the month 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.

f FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK


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



A number of SFMH staff have received additional training to be of assistance during the transition. They are easily identified by their coloured t-shirts and "Super User" armbands.



Kim Stewart, Megan Mask, Jose Pinto and Shayna Perry demonstrate some of the equipment that will replace paper. Entrance to an EPIC training suite for the Ottawa Heart Institute. PHOTOS: SUBMITTED

An "EPIC" story

SUBMITTED
BARRY'S BAY

This article is based on a press release.

Last June under the heading Countdown to new era at SFMH begins, The Current published news of the countdown to implementation of the EPIC health information system at St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH). In a press release dated May 17 SFMH announced that EPIC will go live on schedule on June 1.

Mary Ellen Harris, SFMH Director of Patient Care Services and CNE, said, "With the new digital system, physicians, nurses, and other health-care providers in the partner organizations will be able to quickly and efficiently look up patients' medical history, pre-existing conditions, test results, medications and more, leaving more time for care."

The partner organizations she refers to are The Ottawa Hospital, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa Hospital Academic Family Health Team, Hawkesbury & District General Hospital and Renfrew Victoria Hospital.

SFMH advises that patients will notice a change in practice with health-care providers documenting care on electronic devices and work stations instead of on a paper chart.

"State of the art security and backup measures will be in place to safeguard information," says Greg McLeod, SFMH Chief Operating Officer.

Following going live on June 1, the media release notes: There will be a learning curve that may result in processes taking a little longer as we transition into the new system and wait times may be longer than usual. Please be patient with staff and physicians while we learn the new system. Your care is always our top priority.

Kidz Kastle daycare opening

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Julia Graydon, Principal at St. John Bosco School, welcomed community members to the Grand Opening of Kidz Kastle Day Care on May 8. She thanked the many special guests in attendance from child care, school, church, municipal, county and community organizations as well as the architects and designers who had played a part in the day care project. She acknowledged the Bosco community, "I would like to welcome our staff members, our students and other members of our school community... without your unwavering support and incredible efforts this massive project would not have gone as smoothly as it did."

After a Land Acknowledgment and Indigenous Prayer, Graydon formally welcomed Kidz Kastle Children's Centre: "Now that the hard work is complete... and you have settled into your new home we couldn't be happier to have you join our school community. We hope our partnership with you continues to flourish and deepen in the many years to come."

Bil Smith, Director of the Community Resource Centre (CRC) in Killaloe, spoke about CRC's vision of "a future where people have access to the information, supports, services, and connections they need to live full lives in vibrant, sustainable rural communities. Our approach to help achieve this is to take services out to the communities where people live. Bringing quality, affordable, licensed daycare to Barry's Bay is a big step forward."

Smith said the Kidz Kastle Barry's Bay adds to the suite of programs they already offer in the Madawaska Valley:

Toy Bus Early ON parent and child programs

- Prenatal nutrition programs
- Game ON! sport and recreation afterschool program
- Licensed before- and after-school program

He said CRC supports local businesses by shopping locally and the daycare has created eight new jobs for local people. He thanked everyone involved espe-



Austin and Carter Prince try out the instruments Kidz Kastle toddler room classroom sign.

cially the daycare team led by Colleen Watson, the St. John Bosco school community. Smith made special mention of Judy Mulvihill from County of Renfrew and Elizabeth Burchat from the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board (RCCDSB).

Those assembled also heard from RCCDSB Chair, Dave Howard, and from Trustee :Marlene Borutski. Madawaska Valley Mayor Kim Love said facilities for young families are critical to community and economic growth. After a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, everyone was invited to gather in the library for refreshments and for a tour of the facility.

www.madvalleycurrent.com

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](https://www.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.

HEARTWOOD RESTAURANT
Where food is fresh and love is loud.
39280 Combermere Road
Combermere, Ontario
613.756.9169

Follow us on Facebook
LIBRARY GARAGE SALE
Friday June 14, 9 am to 3 pm. *Rain date: Saturday June 15, 10 am to 3 pm.* Library parking lot. Books and household items for sale. To set up a table, contact 613-756-2000 or mvpl.programs@gmail.com.
Summer Children's Programs
July 8-August 23. Contact the library for details and registration.

The Wilno Craft Gallery
Proud to present work by over 170 Canadian artists and artisans.
Hwy 60 • Wilno
613-756-3010
wilnocraftgallery.ca
wilnocraftgallery

Hundreds gather to celebrate “Growing Up in Madawaska”

MARK WOERMKE
MADAWASKA

Hundreds of people who live, have lived, or whose families lived in Madawaska at one time converged on the community centre in Madawaska throughout the day on Saturday May 11 to reflect on the “good old days”, preserve their community’s history, and to celebrate family and friendship.

Hosted by Luanne Hilderbrandt, Norma Thurston-Lewis and Colleen Robbins, this event grew out of a Facebook group which has close to 500 members—Growing Up in Madawaska—created by Sandra Meads-Campbell.

“A bunch of us met at a memorial service and said, maybe we should have a reunion,” said organizer Luanne Hilderbrandt. “When I got home that evening, I saw that Norma Thurston-Lewis had posted the same idea, so we got the ball rolling,” she added. The organizers were grateful to the Murchison and Lyell Recreation Committee of the Township of South Algonquin for their sponsorship of the reunion. When asked how many people were expected

to attend Hilderbrandt said, “I lost track of the RSVPs after three pages!”

A year in the planning, the reunion, which ran from noon to 9 p.m., featured displays of photos, old newspaper clippings and artifacts from various families, a slide show of photos compiled by Thelma Haskins Villeneuve, a video of the 1989 Madawaska Pioneer Days, live entertainment featuring many musicians including members of the Bresnahan, Hamilton, Sabatine and Towns families, and a delicious potluck meal. Copies of a history book, *Reflections of Madawaska*, were on sale and donations were accepted to offset the costs of the event. After expenses, the

reunion committee raised \$600 which they are donating to St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry’s Bay.

Thelma Haskin Villeneuve, Margaret Haskin Brotton and Donna Sabatine were busy setting up the pot luck meal in the kitchen.

Most of all, the reunion was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, discover interesting facts about Madawaska’s history and savour that good feeling that comes from being home. When asked what feature of the day stood out to her, Hilderbrandt said it was celebrating our wonderful town, reminiscing, and sharing our memories and talents with everyone.



Above: Four Silieff sisters (Nancy Silieff Smith, Judy Silieff Cameron, Linda Silieff Cameron, and Evelyn Silieff Dellapenna), Margo Haskin Brotton and Heather Dupuis Wilmot were among the many former Madawaska residents who got to visit at the reunion. Linda Silieff Cameron who lives in Arnprior said that her father Tony came to Egan Estate and later Madawaska in the early 1900s. He was originally from Ukraine.



Diana Yantha Klentz with some artifacts—letters, articles, soldiers cap, and a war diary—she found between the floor boards in her home which was the old O’Reilly homestead in Madawaska.



Left: Wendy Jocko travelled to Madawaska from Pikwakanagan for the reunion. She is holding a photo of the six Jocko boys from Madawaska who served in World War II—James, Matthew, Patrick, Peter, William and Leo. Leo Jocko was her father. Centre: Dean Robbins, Milton Towns and Percy Bresnahan getting caught up at the reunion. Right: Luanne Hilderbrandt, one of the organizers, with some family photos taken in the 1920s, 30s and 1940s from her great grandparents’ album.

Innovative art show attracts large gathering

DANIELLE PAUL
EGANVILLE

Pop Up Art Renfrew County launched at Fifth Chute Coffee in Eganville on May 2. The travelling art exhibition features eleven Renfrew County artists whose creative practices are very different but whose works in this exhibition have a common theme: each work was inspired by an ordinary object and tells a story about life here.

Curator Anya Gansterer said her vision for the ExtraOrdinary art exhibition was to create situations where people encounter art during their daily routines. Pop Up Art will appear in public spaces across the county until the end of summer. After Eganville, you'll find it in Petawawa, Arnprior, Deep River, Barry's Bay and Renfrew.

Nearly 200 people crowded into the high-ceilinged coffee shop during the evening to enjoy the exhibition and meet many of the artists. In recognition of the fact the project was taking place on unceded, traditional Algonquin territory, Roberta Della Picca conducted a smudging. Visitors marked the Renfrew County places where they feel inspired on a wall-sized map. They chatted about inspiration, art and local life as they listened to singer/songwriter Marc Audet playing guitar. Fifth Chute Coffee staff served drinks and a variety of finger foods.

Pembroke artist Cameron Montgomery explained how her video piece *The Storyteller Sings* was inspired by the grand piano in Festival Hall, "The coolest piano I ever played as a kid." She said local boy Jordan Oattes, whose hands feature in the video, reminds her of a young Jimmy Mayhew who was "The most talented piano player I ever met." Having won Pembroke's Win This Space competition, Montgomery will soon open her own gallery called Studio Dreamshare. She plans to install *The Storyteller Sings* there after Pop Up Art Renfrew County ends on Labour Day weekend.

Patricia Thurston's textile collage *Driftwood Beach* was inspired by Foy Beach. She said, "I found this lovely little piece of driftwood that looked to me like a dragon. I thought it was gorgeous.



Pop Up Art launch at Fifth Chute Coffee in Eganville.

It really inspired me, so I just took it home." Thurston has memories of her kids learning to swim at Foy Beach and of its trails. She wanted to create her impression of it and the image just wouldn't go away although it took several attempts to create. "I'm glad I didn't talk myself out of it."

Glass artist Tanya Lyons, also from Killaloe, said the inspiration for her piece *Wilno Hills Bottle Glass Bling* is a glass bottle from one of the many bottle dumps found in the stone fences. She said it is exciting to transform a throw-away material into jewellery that is fancy, sparkly and romantic. About the Pop Up Art launch, Lyons said the turnout was "Awesome. It shows how important art is in Renfrew County."

At each Pop Art Renfrew County venue this summer, artist-facilitator Bozena Hrycyna will run art workshops for members of the public. Hrycyna has worked with both children and adults, including at Kosa Kolektiv, an artists co-op in Toronto. The Petawawa workshop is on Wednesday June 5, 6:30 to 9 pm at the South Side Community Centre, PM-FRC, Petawawa, for adults and enthusiastic creators aged 12 and up, no experience necessary. It is free but advance registration is required because attendance is limited to ten participants. To register email: anya@ov-caos.org

Hrycyna said the workshops are based on the same concept as the ExtraOrdinary Art show and participants



Pop Up Art artist Cameron Montgomery with *The Storyteller Sings*.

should bring an object of significance to them that might have a story to tell. She said this kind of "show and tell" is the starting point for them to share how something extraordinary can come from everyday life.

Pop Up Art Renfrew County is a collaboration between Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studio and the Community Resource Centre, Killaloe, and is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Upcoming venues for Pop Up Art Renfrew County are: May 23-June 9 Dundonald Hall, Petawawa; June 13-30 Arnprior Public Library; July 4-21 Deep River and District Hospital; July 25-Aug. 11 Madawaska Coffee, Barry's Bay; Aug. 15-Sept. 1 Renfrew Visitor Information Centre.

Madawaska Coffee Co. opens café in Barry's Bay

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Sarah and Neil Wright of Madawaska Coffee Co. announced their café expansion plans with a characteristically witty social media post entitled, "We're spilling the beans." On Saturday May 18 (Bay Day) their café opens at 19578 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay with Madawaska Valley Mayor Kim Love doing the official ribbon-cutting.

The Wrights said their business is focused on quality and freshness: "Our small independent roastery produces top-quality coffee of unparalleled freshness. Our main street café offers an assortment of coffee beverages made with our fresh roasted coffee as well as delicious hand-crafted sandwiches and desserts. Open Monday through Sunday our cafe is a cozy, inviting environment with access to free WiFi."

Sarah and Neil feel shoppers and business people in the Bay will welcome their freshly made grab and go sandwiches and salads. Sarah said, "You'll come in and order. By the time your coffee is ready, your sandwich is too."

BEGINNINGS

The Wrights launched Madawaska Coffee Co. in 2011, having come to the Valley to work at Madawaska Kanu Centre. They fell in love with the area and decided to stay. Great tasting coffee is important to both of them so a small roastery seemed like the perfect start-up concept. When they didn't find the ideal space for a café, they concentrated on a wholesale business.

Neil built that first roastery himself in a shed beside their home near the Madawaska River and then hit the road to tell Valley accommodators and restaurants about Madawaska Coffee Co. As the couple supplied coffee to support local community events, demand increased for freshly-roasted Madawaska Coffee. As the product range developed, their presence in retail outlets increased too.

They really appreciate their Valley customers. Sarah said, "Lots of businesses here support us—Spectacle Lake Lodge, Wilno Tavern, Heartwood Restaurant. Water Tower Lodge serves



Photos from top to bottom: Madawaska Coffee Co. core team Joanne Hartwick, Noel Wright, Tiffany Yakabuskie with Neil and Sarah Wright (behind counter). The ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Kim Love. Sarah and Neil Wright in the café seating area, in front of a painting by Jordan Smith.



Madawaska Coffee, as does Valley Manor. They have all jumped on board."

With the growth of their business (and their young family!), the Wrights moved the coffee roastery into a commercial unit at 59 Kelly Street in Barry's Bay. Again, Neil's do-it-yourself skills came in handy. Then the roastery ex-

panded and a small outdoor patio became a popular summer hangout. Meanwhile, they kept looking for that perfect café location. When the former Valley Living premises in down-

town Barry's Bay became available this March, they jumped into action.

Sarah and Neil updated their research by touring similar businesses in Eastern and Southern Ontario to settle on their own unique offering. Neil said, "We've looked at tons of different menu options and equipment." Sarah said, "We want to have seasonal rotations every couple of months. There is a strong local market here so we look forward to partnering with local producers."

The couple's energy and do-it-yourself experience came into play again as, with friends and family, they refinished and redecorated the space. Local contractors installed an efficient kitchen and washrooms (including accessible) with seating for just over twenty patrons.

PARTNERSHIPS

As well as providing coffee for community events, Madawaska Coffee Co. produces custom roasts and private label brands for local organizations. The Bean coffee bar at St. Francis Memorial Hospital serves Madawaska Coffee and patrons at the Madawaska Valley Public Library can take home Readers' Choice coffee to enjoy with a good book.

Last Christmas, Madawaska Coffee became available in unique gift canisters bearing images by local artists Joyce Burkholder, Kathy Haycock and Linda Sorensen (otherwise known as Wild Women, Painters of the Wilderness).

Neil and Sarah worked with local partners to design café décor that reflects Valley life. Handcrafted wooden furniture includes a massive bench by Coyote Log Homes and raw-edged white pine café table tops from Rockingham Tree Services. The café will host occasional community events in the café such as Pop Up Art Renfrew County (July 25 to August 11) that features work by eleven county artists.

METICULOUS PLANNING

Madawaska Coffee Co. always concentrated on staff training and development so adding a café did not change the management style. The roastery is structured to function on its own: staff members have specific responsibilities for roasting, packaging and sales. Neil says of the café, "We are in a very unique position. We can pull staff from the roastery and bring them over

here, and vice versa." Every member of the team can make specialty coffee and is certified to handle food, so roastery staff are skilled to work at the café occasionally.

Joanne Hartwick, a Red Seal chef, will manage the small commercial kitchen and handle on-site baking. Peak times will see growth in the Madawaska Coffee Co. core team of five.

BENEFITS TO LOCAL ECONOMY

Sarah and Neil have experienced the impact of external factors on a local business. Neil said, "Last summer one

of our café customers in Renfrew went out of business because of the downtown construction." Their business model is flexible to adapt to changing market conditions. Sarah said, "Having a café might be just enough as a business, but having the roastery—with the wholesale business as well—balances it out and keeps people employed."

Neil and Sarah Wright demonstrate an ongoing commitment to community and have created a business focused on quality and freshness. Madawaska Coffee Co. is the result of their youthful energy and positive outlook.

The Madawaska Valley Current

Advertising helps us provide *The Current* to readers at no cost. To advertise please call 613-639-1524.

The Current is your source for bold, bracing and balanced local coverage of issues that matter most to Valley residents. *The Current* is published here in the Valley by residents Roger and Danielle Paul through their company, MadValley Media. Since commencing operations in January 2018, the publishers have fulfilled their promise to make *The Current* available at no cost to readers, relying upon the support of advertisers and sponsors to do so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Current welcomes letters to the editor, which should be addressed 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, only your name and municipality will.) The *Current* also encourages readers to use the online "Reply" box if they wish to comment about an online article.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Current subscribes to the journalistic ethics recommended by the Canadian Association of Journalists. This means it follows the principles of accuracy, fairness, independence, transparency, promises to sources, diversity, and accountability. *The Current* is a member of the National NewsMedia Council to which complaints about *The Current* can be submitted for mediation or adjudication.



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 Ontario, K0J 1B0, 613-639-1524, madvalleycurrent@gmail.com, www.madvalleycurrent.com.



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

OPINION

Integrity Commissioner leaves more questions than answers in Darbyson/Maika ruling

JAMES DI FIORE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

After charging taxpayers \$4,350 and taking a full year to investigate what was a very brief altercation, Integrity Commissioner Guy Giorno finally released his report at the May 7 meeting of MV Council. In his strangely-worded ruling, he cleared former Councillor Shelley Maika of any wrongdoing after a complaint by resident Christine Darbyson who said she was physically and verbally assaulted by Maika in front of several witnesses in the municipal offices.

In her complaint Darbyson stated that Maika, upon learning that Darbyson was having a meeting with the Township's Interim Acting Treasurer, came rushing out of a nearby room shouting and swearing. She then tried to force her way into the private meeting, pushing the door against Darbyson who was seated just behind the door. As *The Current* reported online at the time, the altercation was witnessed by a member of the public.

Darbyson was advised by Mayor Kim Love to file a complaint with Giorno. The complaint said Maika had breached Council's Code of Conduct because her behaviour offended the



Shelley Maika / Guy Giorno, MV Integrity Commissioner / Christine Darbyson

and others. The witness says Maika told him, "I'm sick and tired of these f**king freeloading hippies that home-school their children. I'm sick of these c**ksuckers. I'm sick of their mooching off the township."

Maika did not deny making "disparaging" comments but said she was speaking to herself and "might have been overheard". The witness told *The*

between Darbyson and Maika arising from a request for a refund because of disruption in a session of the karate club. Oddly, Giorno then uses the existence of this dispute to arrive at his conclusion that the victim (Darbyson) of Maika's attack was equally to blame for the episode.

Darbyson is adamant that everything she said or did was only in response to the onslaught upon her by Maika, and questions why Giorno chose to ignore evidence from a neutral observer.

Giorno's conclusions are baffling in light of the independent witness' account which painted a clear picture of behaviour by Maika which fell afoul of the section in the Code of Conduct that Darbyson relied on.

Darbyson told *The Current*, "Unfortunately going through this process has left me with the knowledge and proof that the citizen complaint system does not work. It has accomplished one thing only and that is to discourage complaints. Others may look at the outcome of this case and decide their reputation is more important than the truth. It has shown me also that the process has no integrity at all and that is a very sad state of affairs."

"I feel that instead of investigating the actual complaint, Giorno decided to focus on a trivial, irrelevant query from a not-for-profit volunteer-based community service." — Christine Darbyson

requirement that members of Council "shall refrain from conduct that is an abuse of power or otherwise amounts to discrimination, intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, or the adverse treatment of others."

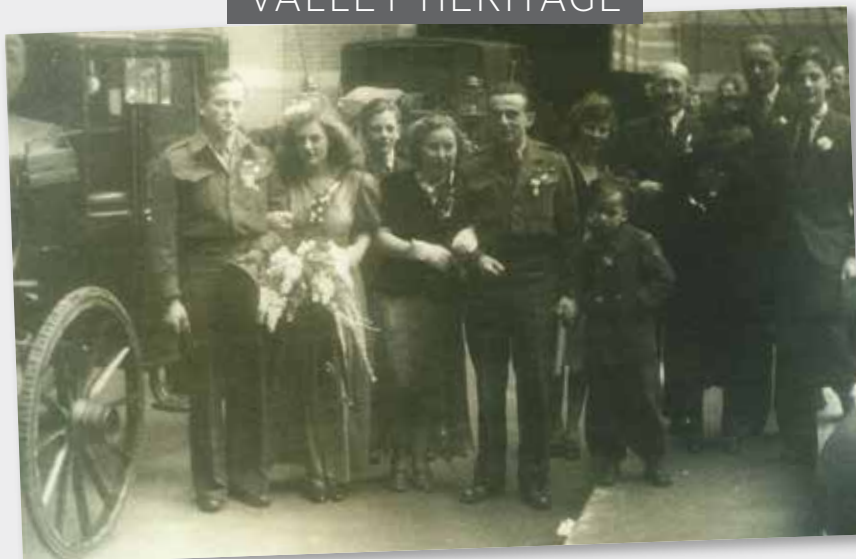
The same member of the public who witnessed Maika's attempt to gatecrash the private meeting also revealed that Maika followed him outside while apologizing to him (she never apologized to Darbyson), and made additional slurs in his presence about Darbyson

Current that he volunteered to make a statement because he was so offended by Maika's conduct. His statement was sent to Giorno last June, but Giorno made no mention at all in his report that there was an independent witness who corroborated Darbyson's account that she was subjected to an unprovoked attack by Maika.

GIORNO'S REPORT

Giorno opens his report with a meandering seven-page introduction, discussing at length a historical dispute

VALLEY HERITAGE



Above: Tony Chippure and Constance Sprenger, 1945



Left: Tony Chippure, Causeway, 1946



Right: Stanny Chippure, Causeway, 1946

BOB CORRIGAN | BARRY'S BAY

A war bride comes to Barry's Bay

This is the first summer in Canada for Stanny Chippure (née Constance Sprenger) in 1946 just after World War II. On this day, she is standing on the original wooden bridge that leads to Mask Island. Notice St. Joseph's Elementary School in the background beyond the piles of lumber. Presumably, those lumber piles belong to the mill shown to the right. Can anyone identify whose mill that is?

Tony Chippure, newly returned from the war, relaxes on the wooden causeway between the mainland and Mask Island.

This wedding scene takes place in Rotterdam, Holland, on December 27, 1945. It is the marriage of Tony Chippure of Barry's Bay and Stanny Sprenger who are at the extreme left in the picture. Also in attendance are: Jack Dewijn; Lisa; Thad Maika of Barry's Bay; young brother Rudy Sprenger; mother Tryntije Sprenger (née Vanderben); grandmother Aafge Vanderben; brother Bob Sprenger; with a few people in the background. Due to the war, many things were in short supply, so much so that Stanny, unable to get a wedding dress, wore her high school graduation gown.

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

Wilno Tavern

RESTAURANT

Family Dining
Historic Polish Pub

• **OPEN DAILY** •

wilnotavern.com

613-756-2029

BARRY'S BAY

Legion



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Veteran Appreciation Dinner

All are welcome. Seating is limited.

Branch 406, 250 John St., Barry's Bay

SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2019

Tickets available at the Legion,
Cost: \$22 (excluding veterans
and guests)

Doors open at 4:30 pm

Dinner at 5:00 pm

Chicken with cream sauce,
potatoes, vegetables, salad, buns,
pickles, dessert, coffee, tea.

Entertainment provided by the
Military Wives Choir

Join us!

**Riverside Café and
Saturday Dinners**

No paddling required!



613-756-3620

Stone Fence Theatre plans exciting 2019 season

For fifty years or so, “Fred’s” — the Hotel Chapeau in Chapeau, Quebec — was the destination of choice for diners, drinkers, and dancers, lumbermen, hunters and soldiers, tourists and locals, celebrities and salt-of-the-earth.

It was known for two-inch thick prime steaks, for fine wines, for great music, and for fun and tricks of all kinds. Mention the “silver beaver,” the “hare-a-lope,” the clock running backwards or the “time-out room” anywhere in these parts and you’ll get a sly wink of recognition.

Stone Fence Theatre’s new musical *Up at Fred’s—Allons-y!* is the story of Fred Meilleur, his family, his guests, and the remarkable little town of Chapeau, Quebec.

The show was written by company producer and musical director Ish Theilheimer, who played at the hotel as a young man. “It seems I can’t go anywhere locally without someone accosting me with their memories of great times at Fred’s,” he says, “Somehow, that place came to represent all the things we love about the Ottawa Valley.”

For the show’s creative director,



Fran Pinkerton and Conrad Boyce as Helen and Fred Meilleur. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Chantal Elie-Sernoskie, who is half French-Canadian and half Irish, and who grew up in Embrun, Ontario, the show is an important statement. “The uniquely French-Canadian character of Meilleur family shaped the hotel’s environment and its charm, and gave everyone who walked in there a sense of home,” she said. “They gave back a

great deal to the community.”

The show features a strong cast, including Stone Fence Theatre and Yukon theatre veteran Conrad Boyce as Fred Meilleur, supported by Stone Fence Theatre veterans Danielle Bissonnette, Evan Burgess, Ambrose Mullin, Fran Pinkerton, Derek Tolhurst. Newcomers include Andrew Galt, Beverly Lewis and

Young entrepreneurs compete for Kids Biz title

This year’s Bay Day saw the return of Kids Biz. Sponsored by Northern Credit Union (NCU), the contest was open to students from all grades (ages 7 to 17) to compete for prizes awarded for attributes including originality, presentation and skill.

The competition was organized by social media consultant Travis Richards who is an NCU delegate.

The three prize winners were:

First: Lucas Rosandic, 17, MaLu creates and sells hand-made wooden products ranging from bow ties to art pieces. MaLu products can be seen at the Barry’s Bay Farmers’ Market.

Second: Bron Darbyson, 11, calls his jewellery business Perfectly Imperfect, to reflect the unique properties of working with natural gemstones and wire. Perfectly Imperfect was a regular vendor at indoor markets last winter so look out for him at the summer markets.

Third: Mad Dogs is a mobile foodservice venture from Courtney Smith, 17. She sells hot dogs “steamed like you get at ball games.” You will find her food truck located at 19431 Opeongo Line in Barry’s Bay this summer.

Kids Biz organizer Travis Richards said, “These young



From left: NCU Delegate Travis Richards, Lucas Rosandic, Bron Darbyson and Courtney Smith.

people got out of their comfort zone and became entrepreneurs. I am very proud as an advocate for entrepreneurship to be hosting this event in partnership with the Northern Credit Union delegate group, the Barry’s Bay BIA and my business for the social media end of things.”

Richards said each participant received a Certificate of Participation and prize money: first place \$150, second place \$100, third place \$50. He said the young entrepreneurs were “a shining example for our community.”

Robert Tremblay, as well as musical siblings Dexter and Serena Sernoskie.

Musicians are Peter Brown, keyboard; Emilyn Stam, keyboard, accordion and fiddle; Jonathan David Williams, button accordion and clarinet; Ish Theilheimer on fiddle, mandolin and guitar; and Derek Tolhurst on bass.

The show opens July 11 in Rankin, ON, with most shows scheduled there, from July through October. One special show will be performed in Barry's Bay August 8 and in Chapeau, Quebec on August 10.

MANACANABO IN CONCERT

Also this season, Stone Fence Theatre features some very different traditional music in this year's summer concert.

Cuban band Manacanabo is coming for a July tour of the Ottawa Valley, including a gala July 23 concert in Rankin, featuring free salsa dance lessons and fun with some very cool Cubans!

STONE FENCE THEATRE SHOWBAND

Also new in 2019 is the Stone Fence Theatre Showband. It plans to tour the Ottawa Valley with a new show called *Fine as Binder Twine*. It features songs and comedy from the company's fifteen amazing seasons. The Showband makes its first appearance August 16 in Killaloe at the Irish Gathering and also appears November 16 in Eganville at the Eganville Arena.

Visit the company's website or call 613-401-1497 or toll-free 866-310-1004.

Motorcyclists, off-roaders and boaters at risk say OPP

With motorcyclists, off-roaders and boaters evident in large numbers on long weekends, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is raising awareness of behaviours and contributing factors that are common in deaths across all three of these seasonal recreational driver/user classes. (All data applies to 2018 in OPP-jurisdictions):

Driving too fast for the conditions (7), excessive speed (6) and alcohol impairment (5) were the top contributing factors in last year's 36 motorcycle deaths. Seven (7) of the deceased motorcyclists were not wearing a helmet.

More than half (10) of last year's 19 deceased off-road vehicle drivers were also not wearing a helmet. Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in at least eight (8) of the fatalities. Losing control (7) and driving too fast for the conditions (4) were the top driver actions reported in the deaths.

On the water, 22 of the 24 people who died in last year's boating/paddling incidents were not wearing a life jacket. With falling overboard (11) and capsized vessels (7) being the top primary causes in the deaths, life jacket use may have reduced the number of boating deaths significantly. Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in at least eight (8) of the fatalities.

"This summer on long weekends, we can all contribute to the safety on our roads, trails and waterways by never operating a motor vehicle or boat while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. Our

personal and public safety relies on each and every one of us obeying the speed limit, driving in accordance with weather, road and trail conditions, and ensuring the use of helmets when riding a motorcycle and/or ATV and a lifejacket while boating." — *Thomas Carrique, Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police*

"Summer is a great time of the year to be outside and enjoy everything Ontario has to offer with your friends and family. Be sure you put safety first this season. ATV riders and motorcyclists should wear proper protective gear, while boaters need to ensure they're wearing the correct life jacket. Whether on the trails or on the waterways, be sure you respect the rules this summer." — *Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General*

The OPP Marine Program partnered with the Canadian Safe Boating Council for Safe Boating Awareness Week (May 18-24, 2019). The OPP also provides helpful guides for Motorcycle Safety in the Spring and Off-road Vehicle Safety.

The Madawaska Valley
Current

613-639-1524

madvalleycurrent@gmail.com



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

Tamarack Innovations
613-312-7386
tamarackinnovations.ca
Permanent
DOCKS

Councillors raise youth exodus and staff overtime concerns in budget talks

On May 21, MV adopted its 2019 budget approving a levy requirement for the municipality of \$3,891,271.98. Although Council had voted in favour of a 2.5 percent municipal tax increase to achieve this, Acting Treasurer Amanda Hudder explained the impact of the final figures to Council. Based on \$100,000 residential assessment the **total property tax decreases by \$5.15 or 0.49 percent** compared to the amount paid in 2018. Hudder illustrated the impact broken down by municipal, county and residential education taxes per \$100,000 assessment.

- Local municipal tax dollar impact \$514.25 \$2.16 **more than** in 2018
- County of Renfrew residential taxes \$363.88 \$1.68 **more than** in 2018
- Residential educational taxes \$161.00 \$9.00 **less than** in 2018

WILLMER CONCERNED ABOUT YOUTH EXODUS

Councillor Mark Willmer said, “We are going to get a reduction this year but it’s because of the school board and the school budget. To me, that may seem good to many people but what it means is we’re losing students, we’re not having the same level of education here in the Township. That’s something when we’re looking at long term we have to try to find a way to reverse. We need to bring new people into this community. We need to bring young families – fast — because we’re going down quickly. When you look at our schools and their enrolment, you just see what’s happening. When we look at a budget like this, we all say, ‘That’s great – we’re paying a little bit less.’ But when we look at the long term, the school board portion is important [so] that we don’t forget why that is happening. It’s because we’re losing the youth and young people in the community.”

Referring to the recent opening of a daycare centre, Mayor Kim Love agreed, “It’s very important to our economic development that we have those sorts of services available to young families so that they are able to stay in our community and work.”

Hudder said the budget was build-

ing up reserves to assist with future infrastructure needs. Council joined Mayor Love in congratulating staff on the budget.

PEPLINSKI CONCERNED ABOUT STAFF OVERTIME

Achieving consensus on the 2.5 percent increase to the municipal portion of the budget, however, did not arrive without some difference of opinion. At the Special Council meeting on May 15, Hudder said the impact of Council’s recent budget directions to staff would actually require a 2.87 percent increase and offered them a choice of five different options to achieve the necessary levy requirement. Before Council voted for the 2.5 percent increase, Councillor Peplinski, “I’d like to see a breakdown of the overtime that’s been allocated for each department.”

COUNCILLORS WILLMER AND BROMWICH DISAGREED

Willmer said, “I think it’s important for a business to check every line and go through the costs associated with it. But I also think that staff have done a good job of doing that.... The reality is that inflation is 2 percent plus.... We’ve got our budget down to 2.87 percent and we have a couple of options to bring it down.”

Bromwich said, “All municipal governments ... depend on staff to inform

them of what they need in a budget because staff are the experts on what they require for their particular department. So I go with the staff recommendations. The 2.5 percent was basically, I think, the GDP of Ontario for 2018–19. If we just keep at that level we’re not going to get caught behind like we did a few years ago where we kept taxes at no increase over three years and then had to increase them by 30 percent to catch up.”

Mayor Love asked CAO/Clerk Suzanne Klatt to speak to the issue saying, “Councillor Peplinski is concerned about overtime.”

Klatt said Hudder had presented her with an overtime report broken down by department as previously requested. She said, “Council needs to recognize that every re-allocation of staff, every suggestion that we’ve made as it pertains to gaining efficiencies and restructuring, Council has been part of that process all along and has helped us to get to where we are.”

Hudder said, “I would just like to add that in discussion with all the staff members here within our office, we don’t want to work overtime.... We love our jobs, we come in and we do our work, and then we want to go home at the end of the day.”

Council voted unanimously for the 2.5 percent increase.

May long weekend in the Valley



Barry’s Bay was busy at this year’s Bay Day, arranged by Barry’s Bay Business Improvement Area (BIA) Co-chairs Marcia Rutledge and Ted Williamson. PHOTO: SHARON GARDINER