

Congratulations as Metro celebrates 25 years

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

As of this June Barry's Bay Metro has been open for twenty-five years. Partners Gerard O'Malley and Connie and Neil O'Reilly built the 8000 square foot store in 1994.

They and store staff invited Valley residents to help them celebrate their twenty-fifth year in business with memories, food, fun and a week-long competition for valuable prizes in the Anniversary Draw on June 27. Fifteen lucky shoppers won \$100 Metro gift cards. Elaine Martin received a bike, Elizabeth Sherman won a barbecue, and Wanda Dillon won a \$1,000 gift card to shop with.

Neil O'Reilly said of the passing years, "We're happy that our business is growing but [have] as much satisfaction when the whole community is growing. We think it's a great place. It's our home, but it's more than that. For our staff, for them to have committed to us and us to them, that just shows that there's some longevity when people stick around."

I think we've got seven or eight original employees still employed. That's

"It's our home, but it's more than that. For our staff, for them to have committed to us and us to them, that just shows that there's some longevity when people stick around."

pretty neat." Of the work force he said, "We have about seventy-five and in the summertime we have about eighty-five staff. We're thrilled to have a great summer business but we know businesses don't survive in this area without the twelve-months-a-year customers. They're the ones that help build it and the tourism is the bonus."

"Five hundred students have gone through in employment. We've partnered with the co-op programs at the high school and the programs through Access Work Services and Madawaska



Partners of the Barry's Bay Metro: Gerard O'Malley, Connie and Neil O'Reilly

Valley Association for Community Living. Sometimes somebody just needs four weeks of work on a resume just to have something positive happen to

them, and we try to help out when we can. And we have a couple of long term employees [from those programs]. What they offer on top of their work are their smiles, their engagement, and a purpose, so we're happy to be a part of that too."

O'Reilly said as a franchisee they were fortunate that the Metro relationship has been at arms length. He added that they have the flexibility to support local independent suppliers. "Metro has really trended more in that direction corporately, even in their

more city areas to support a local producer, local grower."

As for his business partners, O'Reilly said, "No better arrangement than my wife Connie and a partner like Gerard, and then being partners in the community. That's what has brought us success. So we're happy to have all that working well."

O'Malley talked about what the twenty-five years have meant to him. "To be able to stay in your community where you grew up and have a successful business, that's truly amazing. The support from the local people [means] you feel very much a part of the community and I think that's the feeling — to belong. We've got to know so many people who were here for all their lives and all the new people that come in. You get to meet them, welcome them, and make them feel a part of the community too."

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Valley welcomes new Physician Recruiter

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

On June 12 the Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee met in the Madawaska Valley Council Chambers to officially welcome Physician Recruiter Taffyn Janzen. The Committee had appointed Barry's Bay resident Janzen in mid-April but the meeting was delayed due to the spring flooding issues. Janzen will actively work to bring new physicians to the area and to assist them in their transition to ensure their retention in the community. Local and regional healthcare partners joined Committee members on June 12.

As former Recruiter Melissa Botz formally handed over, Janzen reported on her work since assuming the role. On behalf of the Committee, Chair Jane Dumas wished Botz well in her new job and thanked her for all her contributions. Dumas reminded attendees that each municipality

contributes towards a joint annual total of \$100,000 and that at present physician repayment increases that annual amount to \$109,600. Annual expenses of \$58,600 and a payment for one contract of \$25,000 leaves the Committee with \$25,000 at year end. That amount goes into reserves which currently stand at \$240,000.

In a press release when Janzen was hired, Dumas said, "This is a time of significant transition in health care in Ontario. We are very fortunate to have a vibrant multidisciplinary health care system in the Madawaska Valley. Without that our recruitment efforts would be much more difficult. The history of community support and physician commitment to health care here is evident. As we experience recent and future physician retirements of our local physicians who have been the pillars of rural medicine we sincerely thank them for the years of dedication to the healthcare of the members of our community."



Taffyn Janzen, centre, new Physician Recruiter, with members of Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment Committee (from left) Desmond Quade (Brudenell, Lyndoch, Raglan), Janet Reiche-Schoenfeldt (North Algona Wilberforce), Jane Dumas (South Algonquin), Kim Love (Madawaska Valley). Absent: Janice Visneskie-Moore (Killaloe Hagarty Richards).

One-stop shopping for Primary Health Care Provider



Left to right, front row: Tierney Lunney, Nurse Practitioner; Rosa Etmanskie, Office Administrator; Ashley Prince, Social Worker; Stacie Wojick, Medical Receptionist; Susan Farrar, Executive Director. Left to right, back row: Craig O'Brien, Nurse Practitioner; Olena Jensen, Registered Dietitian. PHOTO: SUBMITTED.

DANIELLE PAUL BARRY'S BAY

If you are among the “orphaned patients” looking for a Primary Health Care Provider here in the Valley, there is now only one telephone number that you need to know: the number for the Madawaska Valley Family Health Team (MV FHT)—613-756-9888 option 5. Susan Farrar, the team's Executive Director, recently told *The Current* that since the FHT launched just over six months ago, staff have been busy assessing community needs.

The FHT now manages a single list of all the unrostered patients in the Valley. So if your Primary Health Care Provider retired last year or if you have moved here from another region, you no longer need to put your name on multiple lists, or register with Health Care Connect (unless you want to). Your first step should be to get yourself on the MV FHT's consolidated waiting list because:

- MV FHT staff manage the list for the Valley's Health Care Providers;
- They give priority to patients on that list, over the Health Care Connect list;
- They prioritize patients with high needs where possible (see note below);
- MV FHT have merged the lists

from all local Primary Health Care Providers. If they succeed in getting you rostered with one of them, that will trigger an automatic de-roster from your doctor elsewhere. So you won't experience a gap that leaves you without a Primary Health Care Provider.

To find a Primary Health Care Provider in the Valley, just call the MV FHT on 613-756-9888. Select Option 5 and ask FHT staff to put you on the waiting list for a Primary Health Care Provider.

MV FHT staff prioritize high need patients on the waiting list. Please note that for privacy reasons, MV FHT staff are not allowed to ask you for relevant medical information so you may need to be proactive to ensure they recognize your needs.

MV FHT now runs a free Well Woman Clinic for unattached patients. Call for an appointment.



Madawaska Valley
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children's Programs

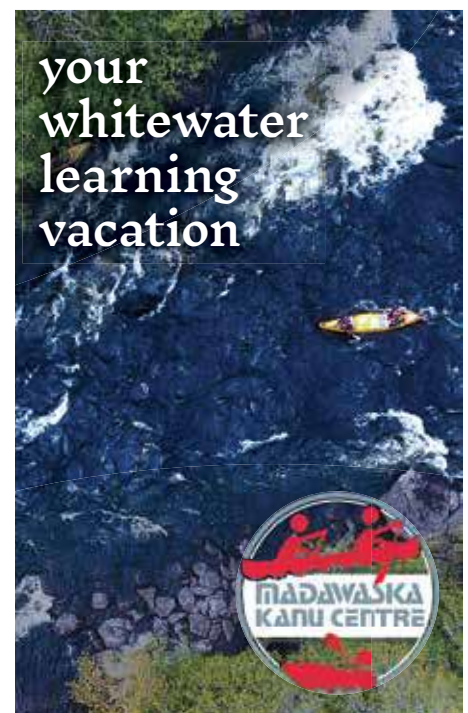
July 8–August 23.
Library hosts TD Summer Reading Club and Story Times, crafts, Librarian for ½ Hour for children ages 4–12.

Knights in the Classroom

July 23, 1 pm–3:30 pm. Learn about and test Medieval siege weapons and shield formations from our Medieval experts at Knights in the Classroom. Great family program. Class sizes are limited. To register: mvpl.programs@gmail.com.

PUBLIC FORUM to discuss the future of Madawaska Valley Public Library

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PORCH VIEWS

All roads led to Madawaska



MARK WOERMKE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

On Saturday May 11 all roads led to Madawaska as former residents and descendants of Madawaskans headed home to the “Growing Up in Madawaska Reunion.” I was one of them. It felt like a homecoming even though I didn’t grow up there and only spend a few hours a year there visiting relatives or attending church suppers. However, my Woermke grandparents lived there between 1912 and 1943; my dad, Roy, was born and raised there; and I grew up listening to his colourful, poignant and wistful stories as he pored over the family album. That morning, driving west on Highway 60, I realized that the little hamlet of Madawaska occupies significant acreage in my imagination.

MY FATHER’S CHILDHOOD WORLD CAME TOGETHER

At the reunion I had the opportunity to look at photos of Madawaska and its people and chat with Pam Aleck, Percy Bresnahan, Joe Florent, Glen Hamilton, Milton Towns and Thelma Haskins Villeneuve. I got new insights into my father’s Madawaska stories and was able to identify and place the buildings that appear in many family photos.

My father’s childhood world came together, and in my mind’s eye I saw him tobogganing on Reynolds’ Hill and playing hockey on the river with his friends in cardboard shin pads. I saw him waiting for his father at the gate at the end of the day, and hanging around Davis’ store with his friends and his dog Buster. I saw him in the school yard defending a deaf-mute who was teased by classmates and in a classroom crying after he learned that his favourite teacher, Mr. Sutherland, had enlisted. I saw him at the ball field where “Ma Beatrice,” one of the nuns, cheered him on even though he was a Protestant, and standing along the road in “Boneyville” watching the Loyal Orange Lodge pa-

rade when the white horse “King Billy” (his father) was riding bolted, startled the onlookers, and chased Mrs. Collins up the church steps. And I saw him at the station: boarding a train for Barry’s Bay when a worrisome forest fire caused the evacuation of women and children; and again in his Boy Scout uniform on a school excursion to see the royal family in Ottawa.

FLOODED OUT

My father often referred to being “flooded out” and spoke with sadness about the disruption the dramatically raised water levels in the Madawaska River resulting from an expansion of the Bark Lake Dam in 1942 had on his community. Families had to move their homes or leave. Brick and cement block structures like the schools and Catholic church were torn down and rebuilt, and frame structures were moved on rails to higher ground. When my father said “Madawaska was never the same again,” he wasn’t just referring to the physical changes. He was commenting on the loss of homes and jobs and the dispersion of family and friends.

My father’s childhood home was located on several acres about a kilometre east of the railway bridge. His closest neighbours were the Jockos and the Youngs. It was a frame house which started as a bungalow, but in 1930 a second storey was added. In 1942 the property was expropriated due to flooding. His parents sold the structure to a Barry’s Bay carpenter who salvaged the material and shipped it to the Bay on a flatcar. For a year they lived in one of Booth’s old company houses, a duplex that had been moved to higher ground. In 1943, my dad and his parents left Madawaska. He often noted how hard this was on his mother. She was very proud of her home; her children were born there and she didn’t like settling for a smaller house in Barry’s Bay that didn’t have enough room for her quilting frame. The only Woermke to remain in Madawaska was Violet and her husband James Bennet “Bun” Young.



Two buildings from the Booth era. Top: A duplex for railway workers and their families that was moved from “Boneyville” to higher ground. Bottom: A building that once housed Booth’s office and is now apartments. PHOTOS: M. WOERMKE.

WHAT WAS LOST

Madawaska began as a tiny cluster of Indigenous families, lumbermen, workers on depot farms and a few settlers near the end of the Opeongo Road. It got a boost in 1867 when J.R. Booth purchased the surrounding timber limits and reinvigorated the local timber industry, and another in 1894 when, after a dispute with the burghers of Barry’s Bay, Booth moved the divisional point of his railway to Madawaska.

Consequently Madawaska’s economy boomed and its population burgeoned. The station, rail yards, roundhouse, coal chute, water tank and freight sheds were constructed. Bunkhouses, company houses, a hotel and restaurant, offices, a company store, schools, churches and even a steam-driven generator for electricity were built to accommodate and serve the needs of workers, their families and travellers. In its heyday numerous freight trains and four passenger trains passed through

Madawaska daily. Farmers continued to arrive, and other lumber operations like Murray's, Martin's, Dunne's and McCrae's attracted workers to the area. Two banks opened branches in the village. Socially, the residents enjoyed dances and citizens participated in an orchestra, drama club, and various organizations.

After peaking in the 1920s, Madawaska began to wane. A downturn in the lumber market; a slump in shipping and travel by rail; the Great Depression; improvements to the Welland Canal in 1932; and the end of CNR traffic through Algonquin Park in 1933 contributed to Madawaska's decline. However, the Bark Lake Dam project in 1942, aimed at satisfying Ontario's growing need for electricity, was the most damaging blow.

A SNAPSHOT OF MADAWASKA IN 1940

To get a better sense of what pre-flood Madawaska was like, I looked at the 1940 voter's list for the townships of Murchison, Dickens, Clancy, Preston and Lyell. I actually knew a few of the folks on the list, but after hearing so many Madawaska stories over the years, I felt like I knew all 371. The list reveals interesting details about the ethnic diversity, economic activity and social makeup of the Madawaska community, before the flood. A sign of the times, single women and widows were identified by their given names, but wives were identified by their husbands' given names. Here is a snapshot.

Madawaska was served by Postmaster Fred Chaddock, Dr. Gilbert Post and clergy William Dwyer (Catholic), George Fish (United) and Robert Thatcher (Anglican). It had two schools, the Public School employing Cecil Sutherland and Sara MacLachlan, and the Separate School employing Sisters Beatrice and Pauline. Irene Collins was a music teacher.

Hugh Davis, Henry Fuller and Robert Thom were merchants while Kenneth Butler, Lawrence Gaffney, John Eldon Martin and T. Andrew Murray were book keepers and clerks. Five truck drivers — Wesley Buder, Greg Gaffney, Alfred Griffith, Pete Simourd and Clarence Woermke — delivered lumber or other goods and mechanic Wilfred Michaud kept them on the road. If they wanted to look smart, men went to

barber Charles Ohlman and ladies got the latest dos from hairdresser Helen Fitzgerald. Afterwards, if they fancied a bite to eat, restaurant manager Ralph Carswell would be their host.

Twenty-seven farmers, ninety-six labourers and nineteen "gentlemen" were identified and many bore well-known Madawaska surnames. Some examples include farmers named Burant, Bresnahan, Helmer, Lentz, Lisk, Morrissey, O'Reilly, Reynolds, and Silieff; labourers named Carswell, Coulas, Fransway, Hamilton, Hilderbrandt, Jessup, Jocko, Paplinski, Pigeon, Wasmund, Simourd, and Thom; and gentlemen named Cameron, Davidson, Drummy, Holstein, Lavallee, O'Malley, Roggie, and Yandeau.

CNR employed a significant number of men including station agent Hugh Thurston and section foremen Charlie Weiss, George Woermke and Andrew Young. The section men were Vincent Benish, Albert Popkie, Edward Schultz, Harry Shellhorn, Alex Yankovitch and brothers J.B. and Ivan Young. Wallace Cameron, John William Jessup, Fred Lisk, John Edward Popkie and Lorne Schultz were identified as "railwaymen." John Dwyer was an engineer, Russell White a conductor, Allan Cameron and Wilmer Schultz brakemen, and Henry Dupuis Jr., Tom Kelly and Leslie Roblin locomotive firemen. Nicholas Rozak was the car repairman and J.P. Dupuis was the shop man.

Folks employed in the forest industry included Hiram Lester a "woods superintendent," Edward Simourd Sr. a camp foreman, Charles Hilderbrandt a millwright and Mr. and Mrs. William Giese, Arthur Lentz and Lawrence O'Leary who were all camp cooks. Daniel Cameron was the only resident identified as a miner. Garrance, Wilmot and Thomas John Hamilton were "caretakers" at Victoria Lake.

WHERE THE WORLD BEGAN

Madawaskans are understandably proud of their community's past, but Madawaska's story has universal appeal. The trials and tribulations of settlers, loggers, railwaymen and their families and the effects of world events, progress and the pattern of boom-and-bust on a small town make for a good story. Diverse people co-operating to build a community with all of the enthusiasm, joy, hard work, sorrow and tenacity that



Clockwise: Paddy Jocko, Cliff Gaffney, Grace Chaddock, Garfield Yandeau (sitting) and Albert Popkie (standing) with Davis' store in background. ALL PHOTOS: WOERMKE COLLECTION.



A group of Madawaska ladies in the 1920s. Alvena Woermke is third from left.



Madawaska Railway Station.

requires make a story great.

In 1972 Canadian author Margaret Laurence wrote the essay "Where the World Began" about how our hometowns inspire us, form our world views and figure large in our imaginations. For those who grew up there; for those whose families came from there; and for those who were raised on stories of life there, Madawaska is, "where the world began."

Crossing guard Rhys Geddes receives award



School Crossing Guard Rhys Geddes with his Five Year Achievement Certificate from Access Work Services at the end of his fifth school year helping to keep Valley children safe. Jane Smith, AWS Program Co-ordinator at right.

DANIELLE PAUL BARRY'S BAY

School's out for summer, not just for students but also for the many workers who ensure Valley children stay safe during the academic year. On June 25 Access Work Services (AWS) gathered some of its client workers to honour worker Rhys Geddes with a Certificate of Achievement and share a cake in celebration.

Jane Smith said AWS happily recognizes a client worker who experiences barriers to employment but has dedicated himself to keeping Valley children safe for over five years. She said the Township of Madawaska Valley agreed to offer Rhys a crossing guard position in January 2014 and after seeing the value of hiring a worker with a barrier continued to work with AWS

for the past five school years. In this way, AWS has had the opportunity to provide employment opportunities to several client workers over the years;



however, Rhys has been a familiar face on the corner for five years running. She said, "We look forward to continuing our partnership with the township. Congratulations on a job well done, Rhys."

Smith complimented all the AWS Crossing Guards and said, "You guys do an amazing job ... out there every morning, every afternoon, never fail. Through rain, snow, heat waves, black flies, freezing rain. Thanks a lot for your commitment. It makes our job a lot easier knowing that you guys are there, reliable, all the time."

When asked by AWS Chair Leah Kinghorn if he liked being a Crossing Guard, Geddes said, "I love it!"

The Current partners on community events calendar

Since *The Current* launched a year and a half ago, we have provided our online readers with a link to the Community Events Calendar at AlgonquinEast.com. Now you can access the Community Events Calendar with one click from *The Current's* home page menu. Just click on Events in the Valley at madvalleycurrent.com.

Minor Hockey remembers Bill Green

The families and friends of Barry's Bay and Area Minor Hockey Association, Upper Ottawa Valley Minor Hockey League and Hockey Eastern Ontario Minor District 5 have requested that a memorial plaque be placed at the Paul J. Yakabuski Community Centre in memory of the decades of volunteerism and community involvement by Bill Green. An annual tournament will also be renamed to commemorate him.

Ministry clearcutting along Babinski Road annoys MV Council

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

At its Council in Committee meeting on June 4 Council discussed correspondence forwarded by John Yakabuski Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. Yakabuski had sent Mayor Kim Love a letter from Steve Clark Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing citing a Municipal Act 2001 requirement that all municipalities adopt a policy by March 1 2019 on how they will “protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality.”

The letter went on to say MMAH will leave it to municipalities “to determine how to implement these requirements locally.” It offered information and contacts to “further explore inter-ministry linkages and how the municipal policy supports the Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan.”

Mayor Love and several members of Council took this opportunity to express their shock and dismay at the recent MNRF-approved clearcut on Crown land along Babinski Road leading to the Little Bark Bay development.

Council directed staff to write to Yakabuski inviting him to a site visit. After discussion, CAO Sue Klatt summarized the direction to send a letter that will state:

- the Township has not yet adopted a policy to protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality
- included are photos showing what MNRF has cut without notification to the municipality or seeking verification of the process
- while the Ministry’s letter suggests that MV adopt best practices from other municipalities, MV now seeks MNRF’s clarification on what it deems to be best practice as it pertains to leaving any buffer zones or demonstrating forest management
- the attached photos demonstrate neither forest management, notification to the municipal body nor respect for the road allowance, or support of municipal goals for economic development.
- this road leads to a new

development in our community and that the actions of MNRF may have a strong impact on sales in that development

- MV seeks clarification as to how a municipal by-law could have prevented this from happening given that MNRF jurisdiction (provincial) would have overruled a by-law.

Council directed staff to send a copy of the letter to the Little Bark Bay developers for their information.



A section of Babinski Road between Siberia Road and Little Bark Bay Drive.

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OPINION

Township CAO acts to curb Integrity Commissioner costs

JAMES DI FIORE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

As announced at the June 4 Council in Committee meeting, in an effort to reduce the high cost of investigations conducted by controversial Integrity Commissioner, Guy Giorno, Madawaska Valley Township has hired Sudbury consulting firm, Expertise for Municipalities (E4M), to oversee the validity of complaints made by citizens against members of Council.

While this move technically means the Township now has two layers of deciding bodies who deal with complaints,

E4M services are less than half the cost of Giorno. He is renowned, in this Township at least, for his very time-consuming investigations. Yet despite this in some cases key witnesses say he failed to contact them. Also, he gave some complainants the opportunity to comment on his proposed findings, but not others. The new regime now ensures that all complaints are screened by E4M before ending up in Giorno's hands.

Giorno's five investigations did not seem to follow any discernable or consistent investigative process other than that each of them was subject to lengthy delays between the various steps he

took along the way. In fact each of the complaints took him more than a year to complete even though his predecessor, Jack Rosien, had made a start on three of them and, it should not be forgotten, was refused permission by the previous Council to finish them. The one consistent thread is that Giorno rejected all five complaints. Among these was the one that Rosien had been about to uphold (which he believes likely contributed to his firing) and the Human Rights complaint based on the findings of the Township's independent workplace investigator, who is on record as disagreeing with Giorno's conclusion.

Starting last November, the Township began releasing information concerning the financial burden on taxpayers of Giorno's services. These services are rendered in his capacity as a partner of the Fasken Martineau law firm in Ottawa and therefore all accounts come from, and are paid to, that firm. Following a review of these accounts by *The Current*, attempts were made to obtain an explanation for their size from the Township's CAO/ Clerk Sue Klatt. She responded by saying the files had been closed following completion of the investigations so, on advice from Giorno, she was unable to answer any questions.

The Current then wrote to Giorno himself on March 15 and asked him the following questions:

1. In relation to the investigation of Councillor Maika re asbestos in the Railway Station.

a. This complaint was simply whether the Councillor's untruthful statement concerning a potential health hazard at the Railway Station violated the Code. It is difficult to conceive of a more straightforward complaint yet your final report took in excess of two years to complete. What is your explanation for this?

b. I have already reported that your predecessor had reached a decision by February 2017. I assume this would

Quick response from MV Fire Department



Extinguishing a burning RV, Old Barry's Bay Road. PHOTO SUBMITTED.

SUBMITTED

The quick actions of Madawaska Valley Fire Department put a speedy end to potentially catastrophic incidents in June.

On the scene in less than five minutes, fire fighters quickly extinguished a burning RV on Bay Street in Barry's Bay on June 8. Fire Chief Corwin Quade warns, "If an RV catches fire, get away as quickly as possible. Find a hole or a low area to hide in as there are usually propane tanks inside. If they explode, they send pieces of metal everywhere."

On June 22 the Fire Dept. put out the season's first brush fire on Old Barry's Bay Road. This one resulted from burning materials in the early morning and the fire had re-ignited when the wind picked up. Quade said residents should make sure that to drown a fire completely and never leave it unattended. "If a fire such as this one gets out of control, it can be costly." Quade reminds residents to obtain burn permits and follow the rules carefully. "The Madawaska Valley Fire Department wants everyone to have a safe, fun summer."

have been apparent to you when you took over his files. Given the circumstances and timing of Mr. Rosien's dismissal, why did you ignore his findings and then proceed to re-investigate it taking a further 15 months to do so?

c. Taxpayers were required to spend approximately \$17,000 in respect of this straightforward complaint. How do you justify this?

2. Your investigation of Mrs. Moore's complaint against Councillor Maika

a. This complaint again was uncomplicated in that it involved whether untruthful statements targeting a member of the public constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct. This complaint was made in November 2016. Again, your predecessor had begun this investigation yet it took you an additional 14 months to complete it, again at substantial cost. What is the explanation for this?

3. Complaint against Councillor Maika by Christine Darbyson.

a. I reported on this incident shortly after it occurred and have been in contact with Ms. Darbyson from time to time. This complaint was sent to you after the Mayor advised Ms. Darbyson that she should do so. I am advised that all the evidence, including statements of employees who witnessed the incident, were in your hands by the end of May last year. The event itself took no more than about ten minutes to unfold. What is your explanation for what appears to be excessive delay in your completing a report?

(Note: Since this letter was written, Giorno has completed his investigation. See *The Current* May 31)

4. Complaint against Councillor Peplinski.

a. By your own admission you carried out no factual investigation into any of the complaints that were the subject of the complainant's original referral to your predecessor. In fact I am told that you never discussed with the complainant, whether by interview or otherwise, any of the matters that formed the basis of that complaint, including the alleged reprisal. What is your explanation for this?

b. You based your decision on accepting the factual findings of the workplace investigator. Yet that investiga-

tor's report was in your possession when you took up your position in July 2017. What is your explanation for the fact that despite carrying out no factual investigation yourself, you nonetheless took fourteen months to complete the report at a cost of in excess of \$12,000?

c. Based on a summary prepared by the complainant's representative of your interaction with him, it seems that you spent considerable time considering the conduct of the Township's solicitor, who I understand is also an Integrity Commissioner. As the taxpayers have paid you for this investigation, why have you not yet submitted a final detailed report outlining what you did, the evidence you received and your conclusions? Please note in this regard that Current readers have learned of the conclusions of John Mascarin contained in his report filed in the Rosien litigation.

Giorno responded by disputing The Current's entitlement to question him about the contents of his reports. In reply, it was pointed out to him that the questions did not relate to the contents of his reports, but rather the process he followed, the time he took, and the costs to taxpayers of providing them. These have amounted in total to more than \$54,000. No further response has been received from him.

Integrity Commissioners are creatures of the Section in the Municipal Act that imposes obligations of transparency and integrity on municipalities. It is unfortunate that Giorno seems not to believe that the requirement of transparency has any application to answering questions about his delays and the fees he has charged MV taxpayers.

CAO Klatt is to be applauded for driving this cost-saving change in the Township's complaints procedures. Whether she intended it to be the case or not, if it results in a reduced involvement on Giorno's part, Valley taxpayers should welcome this as they remember that his much less expensive predecessor was dumped at a time when the Township had no CAO.

Editor's Note: In the interests of full disclosure, the "asbestos" complaint was made by The Current's publisher, Roger Paul, on behalf of himself and other concerned residents in August 2016. The Integrity Commissioner process against Councillor Peplinski arose from a decision of Council itself following the Township's independent investigator's report on a human rights complaint brought by The Current's editor, Danielle Paul, when she was employed by the Township in 2016.



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

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FOLIO COLLECTION

Madawaska Valley District High School graduation



DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Proud families and friends gathered at Madawaska Valley District High School to applaud the achievements of this year's graduating class. In an impressive group of nearly a hundred graduates including fifth year students, vir-

tually every one received recognition during the ceremony.

Emotions ran high as the young people said goodbye, and thanked MVDHS faculty and staff for support during their high school years. The 2019 valedictory address was delivered by Sean McCloskey and Regan Yaraskavitch to applause from the crowded hall.

Catch the Ace winner



Valley Manor residents and staff gathered in the Fireplace Lounge on June 14 to witness the good fortune of Rachel Stamplicoski, winner of the Catch The Ace lottery. Stamplicoski has worked at the Manor for 39 years. St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation (SFVH Foundation) Executive Director, Toni Lavigne-Conway, and Erin Gienow, Donor Relations and Events Coordinator, presented Stamplicoski with a cheque for \$24,935.50.

Her winning ticket for Week No. 9 of the Catch The Ace lottery caught the Ace of Spades so Stamplicoski won the progressive jackpot as well as 20 percent of that week's ticket sales. So far the lottery has raised \$34,654 for Manor Redevelopment and tickets for a new lottery go on sale July 5. (Seated in front of Manor staff and residents are Charles Stamplicoski (left), Rachel Stamplicoski and Erin Gienow.)

Valley gardeners honoured

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

The Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society honoured well-known local gardener, Ritsuko Honda, at the Strawberry Social held on June 19. The gardening club directors decided to give the Ontario Horticultural Society President's Award to honour an active member whose volunteering and expertise has encouraged countless Valley gardeners over the years.

The announcement took Honda by surprise just as her fellow directors had planned. She is not only a long-time officer and director; she also actively volunteers for the Society tending Adopt-A-Beds in Barry's Bay, organizing the annual Garden Tour, serving on the Nominations Committee, helping with classes and participation for the Flower & Vegetable Show, handling Society public relations, and as an OHS judge she helps with judging the monthly competitions.

Watched by Past President Peter Dolan and President Jeneene Brunton, former Past President Sharon Ma-

hussier called on Honda to accept the Award for outstanding contribution in the Horticultural Society and Community Service.

While all the officers and directors were gathered, Brunton then awarded Mahussier a lifetime membership pin for her work on behalf of the Society. Both Honda and Mahussier received hearty applause from the audience in the Opeongo Seniors Centre.



From left: Sharon Mahussier, Ritsuko Honda, Jeneene Brunton, Eden Guidroz, Julie Zurakowski.

Threat to funding of Legal Clinic discussed

At the June 18 MV Council meeting, members heard a delegation from the Renfrew County Legal Clinic which sought Council's support in opposing the recently-announced cuts to Legal Aid funding. The April 11 budget reduced provincial funding for Legal Aid by 35 percent so funding to community clinics is being cut by 16 percent or \$15 million.

Amy Scholten, Clinic Executive Director, said the Clinic has provided free legal services to low income clients for thirty years, which includes lawyers travelling to meet them in the Bay. Last year the Clinic won \$1.5 million compensation for clients which benefited the local economy. Council directed CAO Klatt to send a letter of support to County.

VALLEY HERITAGE



St. Lawrence O'Toole (new and old) 1964

BOB CORRIGAN | BARRY'S BAY

St. Lawrence O'Toole Church then and now

In 1934 St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in Barry's Bay became an official, permanent parish of the Pembroke Diocese under the leadership of Fr. Martin McNamara. Under Fr. Mac's guidance and dedication the Parish flourished and grew in stature. In conjunction with his fellow priest at St. Hedwig's Church, Monsignor Biernaski, he ran education and athletic programs and was instrumental in most endeavours in town, especially the bazaars, picnics, and dramatic plays and comedies. The photo shows the original building and today's church when it was completed in 1964.

2019 marks the 85th Anniversary of the Parish of St. Lawrence O'Toole. Parishioners and all residents can celebrate with an old fashioned 1934 style picnic on Sunday July 14 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Canada Day Weekend

26th annual Barry's Bay Triathlon



Wilno, 125th Anniversary of First Train



Canada Day at Barry's Bay Legion



Bike Parade on Canada Day

