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MV Council boosts Valley Manor redevelopment fund with 10K surprise donation

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

At the Council in Committee meeting on September 4, Madawaska Valley presented a cheque for \$10,000 towards the Valley Manor Redevelopment project as agreed by MV Council.

Present to accept the donation on behalf of Valley Manor were Board Chair Kathryn Marion and CEO Trisha Sammon. They were representing a delegation from the Manor and St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation, the fundraiser for the project.



Councillors Mark Willmer (left) and Carl Bromwich, Kathryn Marion, Trisha Sammon, Mayor Kim Love, Councillor Ernie Peplinski (Councillor David Shulist absent from photo).

Forensic analysis confirms Peplinski's threat against *Current* publisher

JAMES DI FIORE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

After conflicting accounts, a Toronto audio forensic laboratory has confirmed there was indeed a death threat levelled against The Current's publisher Roger Paul by Councillor Ernie Peplinski in a public council meeting on February 7, contradicting claims made by Mayor Kim Love who said there was no evidence of a threat. She said this even though Councillor Carl Bromwich had previously told Paul that he not only heard the threat at the time it was said, but also on the Township's Soundcloud recording. Despite the matter being discussed at two Council meetings, Peplinski has not used those opportunities to publicly deny that he made such a threat.

At the August 27 Council meeting, members of Council appeared to circle the wagons around the question of whether Peplinski had uttered the threat. Bromwich now says that he regarded the statements he made to Paul

as being "opinion not fact."

The Current arranged for an independent forensic sound analyst to examine the relevant extract from the Soundcloud recording containing Peplinski's remarks. In addition to the profanity directed at Paul, which has not been disputed, this analyst has confirmed the threat is audible. Specifically he, who is a professional engineer, says: "Initially it was not heard, after I increased harmonics selectively, I was able to hear it without a doubt."

Prior to the August 27 Council meeting, members of Council had received a letter from the Township's lawyers, Wishart Law of Sault Ste. Marie, which disputed Paul's public statements that he had formerly practised law in Ontario. Armed with the knowledge that the CAO/Clerk was going to be directed to share this opinion with members of the public with resulting damage to Paul's reputation and also that of The Current, Council proceeded to levy a number of attacks not only on Paul but also on The Madawaska Valley Current

and this reporter.


Paul has subsequently provided documentary proof of his legal qualifications. At the time of writing this article, however, there has been no public retraction or apology either by the Township or by Council. The Mayor's claims concerning the death threat and her instructions to make public the unfounded disputing of Paul's background may have serious ramifications because they also call into question the ethics, professionalism, and truthfulness of this news outlet, its editor, and this reporter.

So far, Council has said that it has limited its reaction to the "unparliamentary language" used by Peplinski by providing him with "training." The details of what kind of training he completed have not been disclosed because Council chose to do so in an in camera meeting where privilege allows them to keep those details from the taxpayer.

Paul has instructed his lawyer, Robert Howe, to communicate with the Wishart Law — Continued on page 2


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Chippawa Shores Council meeting provokes opposition and warnings

ROGER PAUL
 BARRY'S BAY

Madawaska Valley held a public meeting on August 29 to hear comments regarding the Zoning By-Law Amendment Application made by Combermere Lodge Limited for the development at Chippawa Shores. Staff from both the Township and County of Renfrew, all members of Council, and representatives of the proponent attended. They were joined by 70 members of the public during the three-hour evening meeting at the Paul J. Yakabuski Community Centre in Barry's Bay.

County Planner Charles Cheesman reviewed some of the changes in the revised Plan submitted in April 2019 and some of the recommendations from the peer review and technical studies conducted. These included geotechnical tests, hydrogeology, Landscape Plan, Surface Water Impact Assessment, and a Natural Heritage Study and Environmental Impact Assessment. He said all the documents are available on the County of Renfrew website. He warned that Bill 108, which he thinks will be passed into law very soon, removed the right of the public to appeal a Plan of Subdivision or Plan of Condominium although they can still appeal a Zoning By-Law if they speak at a meeting or send an email to Council, giving the file number. He advised to be sure to reference the Zoning By-Law Amendment—Chippawa Shores Subdivision

and Related Plan of Subdivision/Plan of Condominium Applications County of Renfrew File Nos: 47-T-18001 and 47-CD-18002.

David Hunter, President of Combermere Lodge Limited, explained the pros and cons of a condominium administration structure. Neil Enright, as an advisor to the company, reviewed the changes that had been implemented since the first proposal and reminded the audience that the property was already zoned Tourist-Commercial and it could have been developed as a high-density trailer park. He said the re-zoning from Tourist-Commercial to Estate Residential added environmental controls such as vegetative buffer zones which MV does not presently require. The condominium plan allowed them to retain Chippawa Lodge for its important heritage value.

Then it was the turn of the public. First up was Doug De La Matter who opened by saying he was generally in favour of a well thought out plan of development. Among other things, he suggested increasing setbacks to create a uniquely marketable eco-development.

Al Stinson acknowledged the benefits from the project including in-

Forensic analysis, con't.

Continued from page 1—

firm on behalf of him and his wife. Among other things, an explanation is being sought for what Paul describes as “another cynical muzzling attempt” imposed on him, referring to the resolution Council passed limiting his future contact with the Township. Readers may recall that just days after *The Current* began, Paul and his wife were banned from communicating directly with Township staff. This was in response to a courtesy email sent to the CAO advising him of *The Current's* existence.

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Robert Walsh (right) responds to Katie De La Matter (left) as Mayor Love listens

creased tax revenue, short term employment as well as noting that the proponent has spent a lot of money acquiring these lands, but said the environmental damages was insufficiently mitigated in three areas: environmental impact, effect on adjacent landowners, and boating safety.

Mike Bouck provided a developer's perspective based on his experience and outlined the main unresolved problems in the proposal: proposed over-development of the Madawaska River and Green Lake; effects on the groundwater, surface water and viability of a continued healthy environment on the site and surrounding areas; and hydrogeological and geological issues presented by proposed development of a wetland site.

Katie De La Matter who grew up on Green Lake recalled the impact of the 1986 algae bloom and questioned development on a lake that had already suffered an environmental crisis. She

pointed out numerous inconsistencies in the data and peer review studies, and questioned the conclusions reached from incomplete and inaccurate data. She ended with a plea to wait for valid and complete data before making a decision about the impact of the proposed development. Robert Walsh, senior engineer from Geofirma Engineering Ltd. and author of some of the studies, was invited to respond to some of her concerns.

Several other members of the public expressed their concerns, supporting many of the comments already made and raising additional issues.

Mayor Love said the public can submit comments on the Zoning By-Law Amendment in writing and Council will read those comments. She asked members of Council if they had any questions or discussion. They did not.

CAO Klatt read out the necessary public notices regarding who is entitled to appeal.

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PORCH VIEWS

Goodbye Joan

MARK WOERMKE
BARRY'S BAY

Joan Kitts was buried on a rainy afternoon in the St. Lawrence O'Toole graveyard in Barry's Bay beside her beloved husband Charlie. Her nine children and many members of their families, some cousins and friends accompanied her on that final journey. Her daughter Julie said that when they drove into town, they were moved to find the church parking lot filled with cars and about seventy-five Barry's Bay and area folks—relatives, friends and former neighbours—waiting to say one last goodbye to Joan.

Several people I talked to in the days between Joan's death and funeral shared stories about Joan and said they would definitely be at the burial if they didn't get to Ottawa for the wake and funeral as well. I wasn't surprised because, even though she moved to the city in 1996, Joan maintained her ties to the community. She loved the people in the Bay and they loved her.

Friend and former employee Carl Kuehl was at the graveside. Carl was the butcher at Kitts' Red and White in Barry's Bay from 1966–1973 and his wife Susan used to babysit for Charlie and Joan. After she sold the store, Joan kept in touch with Carl and, in later years when she came up to Lake Clear for holidays, she called him to order steaks which he delivered personally. "She was a great lady to work for, she was always happy," Carl said, "and every time I saw her, she gave me a big hug."

Dennis Billings, a member of the extended Kitts family, was there too. He worked at the store for several years when he was in high school. He approached Charlie with the idea of a night shift to stock shelves in the busy summer months. Charlie suggested his son Chuck help Dennis saying, "If he misbehaves, give him a good kick in the arse." Dennis took these words literally. The following night Chuck didn't show up, but Joan did. "Oh boy, did I



Joan and her great-grandchildren in 2018 at Lake Clear. Four great-grandchildren have been born since that photo was taken and three more are on the way.

PHOTO: KRISTA ROSIEN ST. LOUIS.



Joan and her children. Standing: Martin, Jack, Jim, Bobby, Chuck and Bill. Sitting: Colleen, Joan, Mary Ann and Julie. Photo: Krista Rosien St. Louis.

get a good old-fashioned verbal whipping," Dennis laughed. "The matriarch had spoken, loud and clear!" Dennis also experienced Joan's great generosity in 1971, the first Christmas after his widowed mother's death (and the first Christmas after Charlie's death), when he was invited for Christmas dinner. "Good God, I was overwhelmed with the thoughtful care extended to me."

Sister Rosenda Brady travelled from Pembroke to attend Joan's burial. She was Valley Manor's first administrator, worked for many years with Joan and remembered her as a very compassionate woman. "Joan was well-loved by both residents and colleagues," Sister said, "we were blessed to have her on staff."

Linda Shulist had fond memories of Joan from their days together at the Manor. Linda said Joan saw herself as

an advocate for the residents, and that staff saw Joan as an inspiration:

She brought a mature wisdom to our home and led by example. Many of the younger staff, myself included, looked up to her with respect and admiration. Joan had a wonderful sense of humour, a great laugh and a lifetime of stories. She brought a 'joie de vivre' to our workplace. She spoke with authority and could be direct, but that was always tempered kindness and with the resident's needs.

Joan's best friend Loretta Murray also worked at the Manor as dietary supervisor. She said Joan had a "real knack" for working with the residents because she understood them. "Joan could encourage residents to accomplish things others couldn't," Murray says, "and we always knew which patients Joan had



Photo from *The Kitts Family of the Ottawa Valley and North America*, by Mark Woermke.

worked with because they had a lip-print on their foreheads.” That was from a goodbye kiss with Joan’s trademark lipstick.

Joan’s family chose a well-known country song “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” as the closing song at her funeral in Ottawa. That song, which speaks of death, mourning and the strength of family, was certainly appropriate. The words “Lord, I hate to see her go,” brought a lump to my throat because they were true.

You see, I knew Joan my entire life. I am one of the many fortunate relatives from the extended Valiquette and Kitts families who benefited from Joan’s generous understanding of the size and inclusivity of the family circle. We all knew that her immediate family—her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—were her pride and joy, but we were grateful that her big heart had enough room for us.

In early August, I received a text from Julie informing me that Joan had taken a turn for the worse. I was profoundly saddened.

When I visited Joan in May and June at Élisabeth Bruyère where she was recovering from a stroke, she had three goals: “to go home; to go to Lake Clear; and to go to the Pilgrimage in Cormac.” She achieved all of these goals by the end of July, but shortly after, as arthritis, the effects of numerous surgeries and exhaus-

tion caught up with her, she told her kids she “was ready to be with Charlie.”

Chuck told me at the wake, she died peacefully at home. They knew death was near, so the family gathered. Joan’s parish priest was there too. “It was perfect,” Chuck said. “We had prayed. We were laughing, telling stories and some of us were making sandwiches in the kitchen when she slipped away. She was surrounded and comforted by the sounds she loved.”

A few days after the wake, funeral and burial, Sarah Conway shared her thoughts with me about growing up with her older siblings Janie and Tommy next door to the Kitts on Sandhill Drive. Their parents, Tommy and Joan were great friends with Joan and Charlie, and Tommy and Charlie were also first cousins. Sarah described Joan’s kindness, love and compassion for others: “When we lost both our parents, Joan jumped right in. Having quite a full plate of her own as a widow with nine children, she included the three of us in her family.” Sarah continued: “Joan was not shy to tell us when we might be making the wrong choices and yet at the same time, was the first one to praise us for our accomplishments. We shared many laughs, many tears and many prayers together but most of all we shared our love for one another. Joan also shared many memories of our parents with us.

It is rare in life to know a person like Joan but if you are lucky enough, you are rich beyond belief.”

Joan’s best friend, Loretta, told me they met in 1954 when Joan, Charlie and baby Julie moved to Barry’s Bay to open Kitts’ grocery store. The Kitts lived above the store and Loretta’s family, the O’Malleys, lived next door. Loretta was fifteen and Joan was eighteen. Commenting on the depth of their friendship, Loretta said, “All of my secrets went to the grave.” After Joan moved to Ottawa, Loretta said they talked at least four times every week: “We’ve shared good times and bad times; we’ve laughed and cried together.” Loretta visited Joan about ten days before her death. “We had a great visit,” she said, “lots of laughter and stories of the old days. That’s how I’ll remember Joan.”

Like most Valley folk, I’m no stranger to wakes and funerals. At Joan’s wake, Sarah Conway and I reminisced about how many wakes and funerals we attended in our childhood. “I remember Mary Ann Kitts and I popping into Goulet’s to attend great aunt Rose Doyle’s wake,” Sarah said, “we were on the way home from school.” I’m pretty sure I did the same, maybe with my cousins Konrad and Michael Yakabuski. It was part of growing up in the Bay.

These days wakes and funerals have a new layer of meaning. Of course, they are opportunities to mourn individuals and support their families, but now the obsequies cause me to reflect on the disappearance of a generation and the values which guided folks like Joan, my parents, their siblings and their cousins. Joan’s eldest, Julie, identified three of these in the brief but beautiful eulogy she delivered before the funeral mass began: faith, family and friendship.

When I was a kid, I knelt at caskets with my mother beside me on the kneeler and my father standing behind us. She told me to say a prayer for the soul of the deceased. Then, if it was a family member or close friend, she gently touched the deceased’s hand. My dad was not a fan of that practice. To be honest, neither was I.

But, as I knelt beside Joan’s casket, with Julie’s hand on my shoulder, I reached out to touch Joan’s hand. No reluctance. No hesitation. A heartfelt goodbye to a beloved cousin and friend.

MV students go a long way with a helping hand

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Valley high school students are back in class, the older ones in their last year at Madawaska Valley District High School (MVDHS) likely wondering what lies ahead. *The Current* spoke to three MVDHS graduates for their take on life after high school, overcoming obstacles and how each found herself getting some help.

Two of them left MVDHS in 2017 while another starts university this year. These young women demonstrate enthusiasm, determination and a positive outlook, saying their experience proves that help is available for those who ask for it. And they all agree that you owe it to yourself to really try hard.

In 2017 Bailey Dombroski and Mushana Schroeder began degree programs at Queens University. Both of them benefited from the Wasmund Family Memorial Scholarship. Clau-



Left to right: Bailey Dombroski, Mushana Schroeder, Claudia Burchat

dia Burchat starts at Trent University this fall, having done a fifth years at MVDHS after graduating in 2018. She received financial assistance from the Horatio Alger Association of Canada Canadian Scholar Award. See below for details.

Wasmund awards made a big difference to Bailey and Mushana. Bailey

says, "It took a lot of stress off Mom and I both, and made my decision a lot easier to pick what school I was going to. I didn't have to get a job in first or second year. [Without the award] my grades probably wouldn't have been as good." Not having to work part-time through the school year was "amazing. It just opened so many doors for other



On August 29 MP Cheryl Gallant announced the federal government has approved the Township's application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The ICIP funding will allow MV to rehabilitate 11.66 kilometres of Paugh Lake Road from Opeongo Line (Hwy 60) up to Trebinkie Road and Wilno North Road. On site to receive the news, from left: Operations Supervisor Mike Phillips, MP Cheryl Gallant, Operations Manager Hilary Kutchkoskie, Treasurer Amanda Hudder, Mayor Kim Love, Councillors Mark Willmer, David Shulist, Carl Bromwich.

opportunities as I wasn't focused on money all the time."

The award means "Peace of mind," says Mushana. "I can focus on doing the best I can with my schooling." It also meant that instead of part-time work through the academic year, she could return to her summer job in the Madawaska Valley as a Visitor Centre attendant.

Wasmund award recipients must demonstrate continued academic progress. An annual formal dinner for past and present recipients is great for networking. Mushana says, "The Wasmund people keep in touch and like to follow up with award recipients to see how you're doing."

Claudia is starting an Environmental Forensics program at Trent University, which she says suits her analytical mind and lifelong interest in science. A fifth year at MVDHS "re-learning how I learn" was possible after she had received a diagnosis of both her learning differences (LDs) — her family refuses to use the term "learning disabilities." Claudia says she is a survivor of childhood domestic abuse that resulted in an anxiety disorder. She also was severely bullied in grade school but "with counselling I learned to move forward and be my own person."

Claudia acknowledges that LDs and mental health issues overlap. She says, "You have to put your mental health over everything. You can't put your family first, you can't put your friends first, you can't put helping this person first—you have to put YOU first." Her mother, Sylvia Burchat, says the Trent University Student Accessibility Service (SAS) advised Claudia, "Forget about your LDs, those are easy. We need to manage your anxiety because if we manage your anxiety everything else will fall into place."

Claudia and her mother praised staff at MVDHS, Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB) and Trent University for supporting her through the challenges presented by her LDs and her anxiety. She said, "My teachers very much had my back." When she was 18 her LDs were diagnosed as Irlen's Syndrome and atypical dyslexia, meaning they could find the right learning aids for Claudia.

She says it takes courage to apply for

awards and is grateful for the support she received. Winning the Anastasia Kuzyk Memorial Award, for a student who has achieved despite adversity, gave her the confidence to apply for the Horatio Alger Canadian Scholar Award.

You may think there's no way you can afford to do further education after high school but these students have proven that's a myth. They recommend asking for help if you can't do the research yourself. There are loans, awards, bursaries available—you just have to apply. Above all, as Burchat says, "Just try."

The Wasmund website states four awards each valued at \$32,000 (\$8,000 x four years) will be given out next year to students in this region applying to Queens University and applications are due February 15, 2020. <http://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships/2964> The Horatio Alger website says 160 scholarships of \$5,000 will be presented to students in 2020. The application process is now open with a deadline of 5 p.m. on October 25 2019 for the Canadian scholar awards. Other types of awards are available. <https://horatioalger.ca/en/scholarships/>

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Printed by Bayberry Design, Barry's Bay, Ontario

Tasha makes a mark with superpowers

JAMES DI FIORE
BARRY'S BAY

Tasha Rankin doesn't always have a lot to say, but that hardly matters. She seems to leave a mark wherever she goes.

Locally, Tasha already has quite the following. She is a popular student at St. John Bosco School in Barry's Bay, and has turned heads with her amazing abilities in art, writing, and music.

She also has autism.

Society seems to finally be at a place where we view autism not as a debilitating condition, but as a window into a unique soul, often accompanied by breathtaking talents to go along with some of the challenges autism can create.

Many people in the personal care field who assist with the day-to-day challenges of young people with autism call these talents 'superpowers.' One of Tasha's main superpowers is her ability to draw compelling pictures, often of landscapes and animals. She also began to show her educational assistant signs that she was conveying her understanding of emotions through her artwork. For some, autism disguises the emotions that the individual may feel, but Tasha's detailed pictures revealed not just a talent for art, but also gave a glimpse at how much she understands emotion, without her necessarily displaying the emotions herself.

I first met Tasha in 2018 when I was asked to judge a spelling bee at St. John Bosco School. While she did not win, she did very well, and I was struck by both her courage to participate, but also the immense support she received from classmates and teachers.

At the Madawaska Valley Public Library where I work as the Assistant Librarian, Tasha's talents were displayed for months in our special features cabinet via her various picture books she has created. Each book was created entirely by Tasha, and featured beautiful stories accompanied by succinct storytelling that impressed everyone who had the privilege of reading them.

In person, Tasha is lovely. She half smiles a lot, loves to sing songs, and is seen regularly by her educational assistant, Sharon Yandernoll. Sharon's back-



Tasha with her drawings. Her teacher, Jordan Norris, explained Tasha did the sketches of the characters in the podcast Mars Patel. Since the students only heard the character voices and descriptions, they had to infer what the characters looked like. They wrote character sketches for Tasha and she brought the characters to life.

ground is in early childhood education, but she has been working with Tasha for 4 years, fostering not just a professional relationship with Tasha, but also a personal one. Tasha's mother, Dr. Ann Burkart, credits Sharon with helping Tasha surpass many of the milestones some of the doctors who have seen Tasha said she would never complete.

"Sharon has been a complete lifesaver. If Tasha can make the kind of progress she has made, then nothing is impossible."

Autism is a spectrum disorder, and so it can be very different from one case to the next. The families of autistic children face different challenges depending on where the child lands on the spectrum. In Tasha's case, she has demonstrated a cognitive ability to consistently improve how she communicates, and her obvious talents are being nurtured and encouraged, which could have a transformational impact on her confidence and creative abilities.



Tasha's portrait of James.

At one point Tasha slid a piece of paper in front of me, and there on the sheet was a drawing of yours truly, broken glasses and all. Without even trying, not only did Tasha impress me with her creativity, but also with her sense of humour.

The stigma of autism has largely been lifted in 2019, but we still have a long way to go. Through people like Tasha we should get there in no time.

VALLEY HERITAGE



26 years at Wilno Post Office

BOB CORRIGAN | BARRY'S BAY

The above photo of Vincent Borutski appeared on Page 10 of *The Eganville Leader* on December 13, 1972 with a report on his 26 year career at the Wilno Post Office. Borutski, 55, told *The Leader* he planned to retire in ten years.

"He recalled the days when the mail arrived by train. 'I had to meet the train at 11:20 a.m. on its way through to Barry's Bay, sort it and meet it again on its way back from the Bay with the east mail. There were a couple of exciting times when I missed the train on its way back. Then I had to jump into the truck and catch it in Killaloe.'"

Borutski said when the mail started arriving and departing on the bus, every night the postmaster had to meet the bus at 11 o'clock. "Sometimes during the winter I never knew when it was coming," he said. "It was a real pain in the neck."

He said the Wilno Post Office had more mail in 1972 since the closing of smaller post offices which became rural routes, but that there were fewer parcels since the new Eaton's order office opened in Barry's Bay.

The assistant postmaster was Mrs. Borutski who took over the job from Martin Shulist who held that position for 13 years. Before Mr. Shulist, Ben Borutski, a brother to Vincent, was the assistant. Perhaps some reader might be able to fill us in on the history of the Wilno Post Office since the time of Vincent Borutski, or even tell us about the beginnings of the post office there.

If you are interested in having a picture and story featured in The Madawaska Valley Current, please submit the information to Bob Corrigan at The Current, PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0. Originals will be returned.

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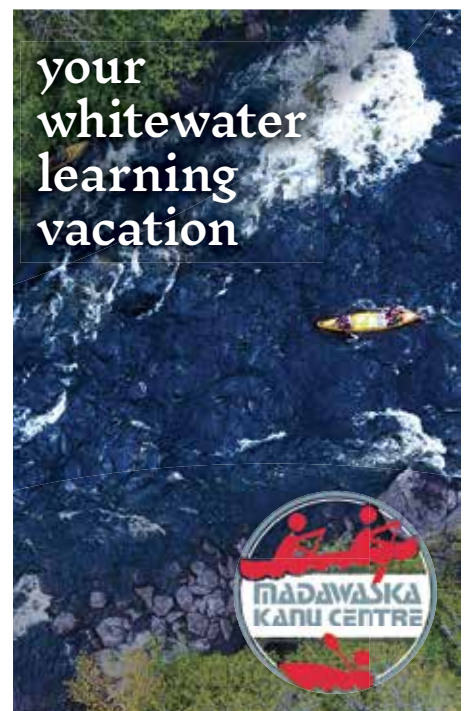
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DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

A new way to experience the outdoors—yeah, right! How often have you heard a promise like that, but been disappointed? Well The Current is here to tell you that this time it's not only true, but so is the title of this article—taken from the tagline for OttawaValleyAdventures.com. This “crazy idea” comes from Deanne Farrar, avid cyclist and longtime seasonal resident in the Madawaska Valley, whose new business rents e-bikes here in the Valley.

Farrar said, “I think we live in a gem of an area. For a family to come up here where you can have paddling, white-water, flatwater, biking, ATV-ing, Bon-nechere Caves—it is a gem and all of those things we offer here are, I think, some of the best in Ontario if not in Canada. I can't believe the beauty here. What really inspired me is my love of the area. I just want people to come up and enjoy Letterkenny Road, Quadeville Road ... If they are coming here for whitewater paddling, I'd love to have them spend an extra day and enjoy the area that much more.”

The “e” in e-bike stands for “electric” so an e-bike is a bicycle that is boosted by electric power from an onboard battery, usually in the downtube. Farrar said e-bikes are “an equalizer.” She said this area offers “no shortage of beautiful roads that with the right bike you can enjoy at the right speed. It [e-bike] really lets you just see the world.” She re-



Deanne Farrar with some of her e-bikes.

cently became aware of e-bikes. When she was here riding during a three-day weekend Farrar decided she just had to get more people out to do this ... and remembered “E-bikes!”

Farrar said she wanted to rent out the e-bike she would like to ride herself—one that feels natural. The owner at her favourite cycling shop, who also had never been on an e-bike, rode it up a few levels to meet her in the parking garage. He told Farrar, “It's so much fun. You gotta go up. Ride it up the next level.” Farrar said, “I literally rode it up one level in a parking garage—and I've ridden a lot—and I went OMG this is a total gamechanger. Let's do it!”

The Current agrees. We went for a short spin with Farrar along River Road recently and it took only one hill for us to break out in the widest grins ever. Truly like a kid on a bike, but “Way more fun!”

Farrar's e-bikes are Class A pedal-assist e-bikes, without a throttle, so you must pedal. The booster amplifies the power that you produce, but it turns off at 32 km/h so any greater speed must

be self-powered. An e-bike rides just like an ordinary bike. It does, however, have all the usual equipment of a normal bike: front and back brakes, gears, pedals that take both trainers and cycling shoes.

Battery life is not an issue. Farrar says she has cycled over 150 km on a single charge using a variety of boost levels (her e-bikes have four levels), then she plugs them in to charge. They are outfitted with gravel tires for use on both paved and gravel roads. Because they have the battery and related equipment, they are quite heavy (about 40 lbs) so Farrar arranges to meet customers and drop off the e-bikes wherever they want to start the ride.

OttawaValleyAdventures.com suggests routes using the network of backroads and hilly terrain in the Valley. Farrar will give you a printed route, or she can provide you with a map for your mobile phone that even provides voice navigation. She says she is not aware of any other business that rents e-bikes in the Ottawa Valley.

FEDERAL ELECTION » OCTOBER 21

See the 2019 Federal Election section of madvalleycurrent.com for candidates' statements.

MV POLLING STATIONS

Opeongo Senior Centre, 19 Stafford St., Barry's Bay

Combermere Community Centre, 1090 Farmer Road

ADVANCE POLLS

October 11 to 15

SFMH and RVH announce leadership succession plan

THE CURRENT
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Following the announcement that Randy Penney will retire as CEO in June 2020, the Boards of Directors of St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) and Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH) announced approval of a succession plan to ensure the continued progress and success of both hospitals.

Effective immediately, Julia Boudreau, current Vice President of Corporate Services, will assume the newly created role of Senior Vice President.

Penney will mentor Boudreau as she takes on additional responsibility at the board level, with medical staff, and at regional meetings, and nurtures the external relationships necessary to the CEO role. Penney will then become a Strategic Advisor to the hospitals and foundations and Boudreau will become the CEO of both RVH and SFMH.

"The SFMH Board welcomes Julia. With almost 20 years of senior management and leadership experience, combined with her knowledge of and passion for the healthcare system, she is an excellent choice to fill the role of Chief



Julia Boudreau. PHOTO SUBMITTED.

Executive Officer," said Joanne King, SFMH Board Chair.

Boudreau, who lives in Renfrew with her family, completed her studies at the University of Ottawa, first as a Registered Nurse, followed by a Masters of Health Administration. She joined RVH in 1991 as Utilization Coordinator before becoming the first Nurse Manager of the Regional Hemodialysis Program from 1993 to 2000. In 2000, she took on the role of VP of Corporate Services.

Over the fall, recruitment for a replacement Vice President of Corporate Services will begin.

Trends welcomes new stylist

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Salon owner Traci Cybulski says the clientele at Trends is growing and they have been getting lots of calls from people who are moving into the area. She said, "Trends Salon has a new look and a new face. We are pleased to welcome Emma Phanenhour to join our team. A special thank you to all of our faithful clients for the support through the years. Without you we wouldn't be able to do what we love. Thank you so much for supporting us!"

Phanenhour has been working full-time at Trends since July 9. Cybulski



Emma Phanenhour
PHOTO: SUBMITTED.

and stylist Wendy Shular were really stretched and say it became apparent very quickly that having the third stylist was working out well for the salon. Cybulski says the salon can offer more flexible hours and will be open more Saturdays now. Phanenhour graduated from Madawaska Valley District High School and studied hairdressing at

The Academy in Pembroke. She said, "For those who don't know me well, I'm from Quadeville and grew up with a passion for anything beauty-related. I look forward to continuing my passion for hair here at the salon and look forward to meeting lots of new faces."

www.madvalleycurrent.com

The Madawaska Valley
Current

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Madawaska Valley
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Author Talk

Christine Schington,
Canadian Sonnets
Monday, October 7 • 7 pm
Ontario Public Library Week
OCTOBER 20-26
David Shulist, *Discovering Kashubia Europe:*
The fatherland of my Kashubian ancestors.
Wednesday, October 23 • 7 pm

Book Launch

Katie Baklinski, *My Little Book of Patrons*
Saturday, October 26 • 10 am

Food for Fines during Library Week

Bring non-perishable food items to pay your fines.
All proceeds go to the Madawaska Valley Food Bank.

19474 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay
mvpl.programs@gmail.com • 613-756-2000

Balloon artist retires after twenty years of twisting

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Twenty years of twisting is a long time for any career and Barry's Bay balloon artist, Terry Newcombe, has decided to retire. He told *The Current* he wants to train his replacement so that Valley kids of all ages will not lose out at future events when they can't find Twisting Terry of Balloons Beyond Belief.

Newcombe says being a balloon artist is a chance to learn a new skill, make some money, and have lots of fun. The costs to get into the business are minimal.

He will be offering a four-session training course in October to teach a maximum of five students, ages 16 to 70, everything they need to get started for just \$20.00. To register call Terry Newcombe at 613-756-3344.



Newcombe entertains at 2018 Tree of Lights in Barry's Bay.



Annual trail ride honours memory of three women

Organizer Linda Leonard leads riders Cari Burchat (left), Jo Friese and Jannelle Geiger. The 90 minute Memorial Trail Ride set off from the Wilno Heritage Park on September 22 along the former rail bed and the Wilno Pass.

The quiet, respectful ride honours the three community women who were murdered in 2015: Nathalie Warmerdam, Anastasia Kuzyk and Carol Culleton. PHOTO: SHARON GARDINER

Good turnout for Terry Fox Run in Barry's Bay



Volunteer Denise Stirling gives water to Brian McCarthy at the Kartuzy Road checkpoint.

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

The planned power outage on September 15 did not stop 48 keen participants from completing the Terry Fox Run in Barry's Bay.

After worries that the lack of power for the second consecutive year would have a negative effect on the event, organizer Colette Mantifel was relieved that many people decided to enjoy the good weather by joining in to help raise funds for cancer research, instead of sitting at home indoors. She said the Barry's Bay run brought in a total of \$2,317.

There are plenty of local residents who participate in the Terry Fox Run every year. According to volunteer Bo Stelmach, Theresa Chapeskie has done so for years and she is consistently the highest fundraiser. Chapeskie told *The Current*, "I raised \$3,000 for the thirtieth anniversary run, so I'm going to have to start early next year. It will be the fortieth anniversary so my goal for 2020 is \$4,000."

She said this is the only event where she asks people to donate money and she regretted not keeping track of how much people had given her over the years.