

BayBud Cannabis is Valley's first licensed pot shop

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

As BayBud Cannabis officially opened in Barry's Bay on September 18, owner Mike Klobouk thanked those assembled and, before calling on MPP John Yakabuski to cut the ribbon, said, "It's been a long haul, a lot of work, about a year and a half putting this together. We've had great help from the municipality, county government as well as the AGCO and OCS who have been working really hard to help." As he cut the ribbon, Yakabuski said, "Wishing the very, very best for BayBud here in Barry's Bay."

At a pre-opening tour of the premises, it was clear that Klobouk had made a significant investment since purchasing the property in June 2019. He said, "It's worth the investment. We want to invest in Barry's Bay, have something nice here to draw people in: cottagers, tourists, and for the people here year round. Also we have some ways to go in having cannabis accepted so I wanted it to be a nice store where people feel comfortable and welcome.... I'm trying to present something respectable and permanent — a place where people will look forward to coming."

Klobouk said it was important that the store be completely accessible, so they put in a wheelchair ramp and automatic doors. No one under the age of 19 is allowed to enter the store so there is a secure reception area that is always staffed to check IDs.

BayBud has hired twelve people (two full-time), all CannSell qualified. Klobouk feels that many customers will appreciate assistance from knowledgeable staff and wants to have enough personnel not to rush customers. The light and spacious interior has a calm atmosphere. While people who know what they want will likely pre-order online or by phone, there is a wall display to help consumers understand what



FROM LEFT: MV Cllr. David Shulist, MV Cllr. Mark Willmer, Diane Klobouk, MV Cllr. Carl Bromwich (giving a thumbs-up from behind her), MPP John Yakabuski, Mike Klobouk, Maxine Dombroskie (Assistant Manager), Steve Brunke (Budtender).

they are buying. There is an Express Pick-Up for customers who pre-order online or by phone. Both website and retail store screen are tied into the BayBud inventory on a real time basis, so customers can always see what is available at the time of purchase.

Klobouk said marketing statistics from their supplier, Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS), showed that a substantial amount of OCS online sales were mailed to the K0J postal area. This indicated to Klobouk that a number of year round residents are existing customers.

Hours of business match LCBO hours: Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (open to 8 p.m. on Friday) and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, people over the age of 19 can visit BayBud.ca or drop by the store.



Mike Klobouk and Maxine Dombroskie beside a display of branded product.

Welcome announcements for Valley healthcare

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

SFMH EXPANSION

On September 8, 2020, details were unveiled of a major transformation of SFMH's Emergency Department. The province's approval and authorization to proceed with the project was announced by MPP John Yakabuski who was joined remotely by Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Health Christine Elliott.

MPP John Yakabuski reminded the audience of the nearly 60 year history of SFMH and the importance of the hospital in the community. He said, "The province is kicking in just under \$10 million for a project that is more than \$11 million.... People have asked me, what is the future of our hospital? Will we even have a hospital?" He said, "This announcement is an emphatic YES, not only for today but for long into the future."



EXTRA \$4.3 MILLION FOR VALLEY MANOR REDEVELOPMENT

Minister of Long Term Care Dr. Merrilee Fullerton and MPP John Yakabuski joined local healthcare partners as Valley Manor Board Chair Kathy Marion welcomed them all to the Manor for a major announcement on September 3. In addition to confirming the Ministry's approval for the project, Fullerton announced a new \$4.3 million top-up that she said would "jump start" the redevelopment project, and gave Ministry approval to the project. From left: MV Mayor Kim Love, MPP John Yakabuski, Minister Merrilee Fullerton, Valley Manor Board Chair Kathy Marion, Tri-sha Sammon CEO Valley Manor.



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Caring community shines



THE CURRENT MADAWASKA VALLEY

It's well known that Valley people look out for each other. It's also obvious that healthcare is a big priority for them. Both points were proven yet again this year with recent successful fund-raising events to benefit local healthcare.

SFVH FOUNDATION VIRTUAL CHARITY EVENT

St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation (SFVH Foundation) held its Virtual Charity Event at the Homestead at Wolf Ridge golf course in Killaloe on Friday September 4.

Although teams did not golf this year, many generous sponsors and supporters participated in the online auction and contributed to offer a new Friends of St. Francis "Match It Program" that provided a double your money option to past team players.

SFVH Foundation Board Chair Karen Tierney opened the event with thanks to the organising committee of Doug Reeves, Rosanne Hoffman, Brian Norlock, Terry Recoskie and John Lepinski; Tierney also thanked hosts of the event Neil and Connie O'Reilly, Rose Shulist, and all the staff of Homestead at Wolf Ridge for their support which included selling 50/50 tickets on Mens and Ladies Day.

The event raised \$34,000, substantially more than the goal of \$25,000, and will be used to purchase evacusleds. Celebrating success above from left are Caroline Mallany, Erin Gienow, Maria Danielski, Rosanne Hoffman, Christine Hudder, Greg McLeod, John Davidson, Terry Recoskie.



SMILE COOKIE WEEK EXCEEDS GOAL

Jason Armstrong (above), Barry's Bay Tim Hortons franchisee, was all smiles at the launch of Smile Cookie Week. Representatives of local healthcare partners including St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Valley Manor Long Term Care, Madawaska Valley Hospice, and the St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation, met with Armstrong and store manager Chantal Kedroskie outside Tim Hortons in Barry's Bay to show support for the annual fund-raising initiative. Smile cookies cost \$1 each and proceeds go to support local healthcare. This year's goal of 5,000 cookies was exceeded even before the weekend.

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BARRY'S BAY Legion

POPPY CAMPAIGN

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Pancake Breakfast

Sunday Oct. 18 • 8 am to 12:30 pm
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Club Room

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Old timers: they just know

GIL GLOFCHESKIE
BARRY'S BAY

The drive from the city to Barry's Bay had me thinking of big lake trout; the miles seemed to slip by unnoticed. Arriving in town I felt that I was home. Local lads have a saying: you can take the



boy out of the Bay but you cannot take the Bay out of the boy.

I pulled into the yard. Dad was sitting on the porch. "How are you?" "Good," he said, "thought you might arrive about now." This happened often. "But how did you know?" I questioned. "Just figured you would," was the usual reply.

Then he asked, "Wanna go to Aylen Lake tomorrow?" "Absolutely," and so it was decided. Next morning I was up bright and early but Dad was not. He got up around 8 a.m., made fresh coffee, turned on CBC and sat down. "So Dad, what time are we going fishing?" "Best time is between 10 and 2," he answered. Well, I was packed, ready to go; Mom even had our lunches made. Dad was not to be moved until he listened to his CBC programs. Finally at 10 he said, "Well, what you waiting for? Let's head out."

We drove down the hill to the landing at Aylen Lake where a fellow was loading his boat onto his trailer, I asked him how the fishing was. "It could've been better, caught a small one but there's a storm brewing, thought it was time to get off the lake before the rush." I know this lake and you would not want to be out there when a storm hits; the lake can blow up quickly. The fella asked us, "Do you guys fish here much?" Dad answered, "A couple times." Well, I bet Dad had fished Aylen hundreds of times! He was good at keeping his business his own, as were most of the old timers around here.

We put our boat in the water and headed down the lake. Beautiful Aylen Lake is fed from the waters flowing in from Algonquin Park, deep and cold. Aylen has excellent lake trout fishing. The MNR traps its trout, harvests the eggs and raises the hatchlings to stock other trout lakes. By the time we reached our fishing spot the sky was beginning to cloud over and you could clearly see a storm was coming. "We should have been here earlier," I mentioned. "The fish weren't bitin' earlier," he said. Dad had an answer for everything and always sounded so sure of himself.

We got our tackle ready, Dad picked his land marks and we started to troll. The boat speed had to be just right. The lure had to have the right flip; if you

could not feel the flip something was wrong, dirt or weeds were on the hooks.

Since it was springtime, we flat-lined with mono filament. Steel line is used for summer fishing when the trout are down deep. Steel line is tricky; when you messed it up you had serious trouble, a bird's nest of tangled line.

Wham! Dad had a fish on and 30 seconds later I had a hit too — a double header! Dad flipped the boat into neutral and we both reeled in two nice 3 lb. trout, didn't even use the net. Then we made another pass.

Glancing to the west I noticed the clouds were building, growing darker as they moved in our direction. "How soon before it comes down?" "Don't worry, I'll let you know," and he chuckled. There had to be some bigger ones in that hole and again he picked his bearing points and we trolled across the shoal. Wham, another one on and it feels larger than the last one. Glancing at Dad, I noticed a smile on his face as he reeled the trout in and I netted his nice 6 pounder. Dad made it look so easy.

Hearing thunder, I peered over my left shoulder. "Getting closer," I said, "think it's time to pack it in?" He glanced back, "Not yet, we're still good. Let's try the shoal on the opposite side," and he swung the boat around. Meanwhile in the distance, other boats were racing to the landing. "There's going to be a half-hour line up at the ramp, no sense going now when we could be fishing." Dad always had an answer.

He lined the boat up between the two white pines on one hill and the cut in the ridge on the opposite side. The old timers used land marks for everything in the bush. Dad was definitely a bushman; he was a hunter, a fisherman, a trapper, he guided, and logged this area most of his life. He would point to a spot and tell a story about something that happened 50 years ago; it was never a boring story. He then pointed out where the old mica feldspar mine had been and the Ranger Station location. He proceeded to explain the history of the place. I think he was trying to distract me and maybe ease my mind.

However, I was keeping my eye on the approaching storm. I thought I spotted



Out fishing with the author's Dad, Gilbert Glofcheskie, as a storm approaches. PHOTO GIL GLOFCHESKIE.

lighting. Dad did not seem a bit concerned and that's when it happened, another solid hit. I shouted, "It's a big one" and the fight was on! The trout almost jerked the rod out of my hands. Dad put the boat in neutral and the fish was off and running. I was so excited I almost forgot about the storm. With every thrash of his head the Grey showed me his power — one minute he was headed away from the boat, the next straight back at it. He dove deeper, trying to tear the hook free or the rod from my hands. Just when I was gaining line he would run, stripping line from the reel.

Dad had the net ready and the trout finally broke the surface. This trout must weigh about 20 lbs; I struggled to bring him in close to the boat and the waiting net. Suddenly the line shot straight up into the air, the fish was free of the hook. It lay there for a moment, too far for us to net him in, then rolled once and disappeared below, down into the depths. Gone! Dad looked at me and chuckled, "Sorry you lost that beauty but you should see the look on your face." He had that smile on his face, "Don't worry, son, he'll be bigger the next time you catch him."

I could now smell the rain on the wind. "What do you think, Dad, should

we go now?" He looked up, "Let's give it one more pass, I think we're good yet." "Whatever you think Dad," a worried look on my face.

We headed towards the storm and could see rain and lighting in the distance; we turned and started another pass. I could feel the thump of the canoe warbler as I moved it back and forth to produce that enticing feel of a live injured bait fish. Dad got a hit, the trout came in for a few feet and just as quickly was gone, "Probably got my bait," he said, "you keep fishing." He reeled in and sure enough his bait was gone. We were headed in the direction of the landing at a slow troll, the thunder rolling in a low ominous growl.

I looked at Dad. "You got five minutes more." Then, just like that, my time was up. "Reel in and pack up." I started to reel and the trout struck. I shouted, "I am snagged!" and then the line started to peel off. "I got a fish and it's a nice one." "Well, you better get him in before we get soaked." Time was running out. "I don't want to lose him, Dad." Here I was stuck, between a rock and hard place. Play the fish properly or lose him? The trout finally broke the surface. Lighting was flashing, thunder was booming. I could feel what was about

to happen. Now, my dad was no longer a spring chicken. He stood up, took a step, swung the big net and dropped the fish at my feet. "You take care of the fish and pack up." He threw the motor into high and we zoomed to the dock.

Five minutes later we approached the landing and we were the only ones at the dock.

Dad backed the trailer in under the boat and pulled it from the water. I emptied the contents along with the fish into the truck and Dad tied the boat down. As we opened the truck doors and stepped inside, the sky opened up, it was a deluge. Another minute and we would have been soaked through. I turned and looked at him, "Good timing, Dad, how did you know?" He just chuckled and said, "Ya gotta pay attention to what nature is telling you, son." I thought about that and started to pay attention. I loved fishing with my Dad; I miss him and the many great times we spent together. He was an outdoorsman, a man wise to the ways of nature. Living in the wonderful Madawaska Valley is a delight in so many ways.

The longer your line is in the water, the better your chances of catching the Big One.

Good Luck.

EDITORIAL

Time for a serious review of the role of the Barry's Bay community centre

ROGER PAUL | BARRY'S BAY

The setback to the future of the Paul J. Yakabuski Community Centre (PJYCC) caused by the recent rejection of a grant application to help pay for much needed repairs has once again brought into the forefront the issue of the cost/benefit of what has been described as a "White Elephant."

At the September 22nd Special Council meeting which was held behind closed doors, a report was presented to Council by Stephanie Plebon, the Township's Recreation & Community Development Coordinator. The report was prepared to assist Council in its deliberations on formulating a plan to deal with rehabilitation of the PJYCC, including urgent repairs. It noted that the grant project total cost was



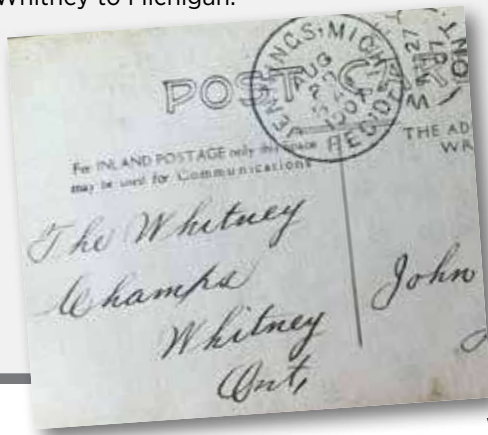
VALLEY HERITAGE

1907 Whitney Champs baseball team

BOB CORRIGAN
WHITNEY

Sometimes in local history the best you can do is a near miss. I missed out on buying this postcard, but I managed to get a photo of it. I wonder if anyone can identify these Whitney baseball players and managers from 1907.

There are two postmarks on the back of the postcard, one for the point of departure, and one for the point of arrival. It's interesting that it took only two days to get from Whitney to Michigan.



NOTE: If you are interested in having a picture and story featured in The Madawaska Valley Current, please submit the information to Bob Corrigan at madvalleycurrent@gmail.com (subject Heritage Photos) or mail your photo to Bob c/o The Current at PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay K0J 1B0 (originals will be returned).

\$2,077,811.99. The report contained a number of options ranging from only addressing the more urgent repairs and alterations, to carrying out all the work that was contemplated by the grant application. After the secret meeting, the Mayor stated, "We will be having further meetings on this issue. They will be public meetings. Once we receive the information back from the structural review which [it] is critically important that we get that completed first."

The justification for calling the arena a "White Elephant" is easy to find because one only has to examine the Township's historical financial statements. These show a consistent hemorrhaging of taxpayer money in order to keep its doors open. For example, from 2016 to date the arena has cost MV taxpayers \$827,345.64 as a result of operating losses.

It is perhaps appropriate to look back to 2016 because it was in that year that saw the peak of the ugly, and infamous, attack on The Railway Station by two members of Council and their supporters, aided by a compliant mayor.

In contrast to the arena's financial drain, the "Barry's Bay iconic visitor centre, museum and gallery," as the Railway Station has been described, was not only contributing funds to its reserves on an annual basis, but also was proved to be contributing very substantial amounts to the local economy.

This is because of what Councillor Mark Willmer described, referring to when he was "on council in Arnprior, it was generally recognized throughout Renfrew County that the Barry's Bay visitors centre was far and away the busiest and most successful one around." It achieved this through an innovative, and award-winning, combination of culture and tourism, and was thus recognized as being the "hub" of the Valley. This was acknowledged by three members of the current Council who when campaigning for office declared in answer to questions on The Current's online Town Hall Forum that it was their intent to restore the Station to its former glory "not just as a visitor centre but as a vibrant, thriving, cultural centre."

Sad to say there has been little evidence of any progress towards achieving this during this Council's term to

date, so it would appear that it remains off the agenda. Perhaps, therefore, it's time to start looking at the arena with a blank sheet of paper, with a view to making it help fill the gap left by the Railway Station's demise. This could be achieved by using the cavernous space to combine facilities for recreation including sports and fitness facilities, culture and even possibly as a means of providing more space for library facilities. A cost-effective plan for this purpose may well improve the chances of obtaining grant funding.

Regardless, taxpayers should ask whether it is fair for them to continue to carry the financial burden imposed

by the arena, which will inevitably increase without any future grant funding or other source of financial support. This is a valid question when it largely only serves the mostly seasonal needs of skaters and hockey players, despite there being three outdoor rinks available in the Township. Yes, it is used for private functions of various kinds but this is not a major source of revenue by any means.

The Mayor stated that future discussions by Council on the subject will be public, although she did not say whether that meant public participation; something which *The Current* suggests is an imperative.



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Check online for COVID-19 related announcements and all the need-to-know information for Valley residents at: madvalleycurrent.com

How the Madawaska Valley Family Health Team has adapted health care to serve the community



Members of the MVFHT from left: Stacie Wojick, Medical Receptionist; Elser Lee Archer, Registered Social Worker; Susan Farrar, Executive Director; Tanya MacGregor, Office Administrator; Jessica Valentine, Nurse Practitioner; Liz Polatynski, Nurse Practitioner; Chelsea Greenough, Nurse Practitioner student (graduating October 2020). Absent from photo: Angela Zhu, Registered Dietitian.

ELSER LEE ARCHER BARRY'S BAY

The Madawaska Valley Family Health Team (MVFHT) has served patients through the COVID pandemic and continues to provide services during the Stage 3 COVID restrictions. This article will help to clarify the scope of practice provided by our Nurse Practitioners who have expanded services within our community.

MADAWASKA VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Mission: MVFHT delivers team based comprehensive primary care in Madawaska Valley and area.

Vision: Patient centred primary care that helps everyone in Madawaska Valley and area achieve their optimal health.

Values: Respect, Compassion, Integrity, Collaboration, Quality, Honesty

COVID-19 — PROVIDING PRIMARY CARE TO OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

MVFHT Executive Director, Susan Farrar is proud to report that “our primary care services have not lapsed during the COVID-19 pandemic” because of a commitment to Madawaska Valley and a willingness to seize creative opportunities. She added, “Our team has risen to the occasion during this very challenging time utilizing telephone and virtual technology to provide the best possible care to our patients.”

During COVID's peak, the MVFHT worked closely with local paramedics to continue to facilitate primary care to patients. Matthew Cruchet is a Paramedic and a member of the FHT Board of Directors. He shared that, “Community Paramedics integrated into the Madawaska Valley Family Health Team to help provide timely, appropriate and comprehensive medical care

to patients in their homes (including assessments and any needed testing or treatments and then reported back to the care provider.” Since COVID-19 began early this year, there have been 165 referrals to Community Paramedics from the team. This demonstrates that the FHT has utilized best practices to adapt to the changing landscape of health care when needed.

The team strongly praises the implementation of RC VTAC (Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre) in providing primary care to the many unattached patients as well as rostered patients in Renfrew County. This has alleviated the demand on our local emergency departments during the pandemic.

MVFHT — EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING INCREASED SERVICES

Currently the Family Health Team consists of six Physicians, Interdisciplinary Health Professionals (IHP),

Executive Director and administrative staff. The MVFHT has now been open for 20 months and in that time the IHP team has had a total of 5950 patient appointments.

Madawaska Valley has more than 1400 patients in need of a primary care provider according to the numbers from the MVFHT waiting list. "We are thrilled to announce that our nurse practitioners are expanding their services by growing their own shared practice from the waiting list," says Farrar. Experienced Nurse Practitioner, Elizabeth Polatynski, says, "We are rostering unattached patients in the community with a holistic approach and specializing in vulnerable populations without timely access to primary care by providing home visits."

Stacie is the warm friendly voice who will greet you most days on the phone to schedule an appointment. She shares that, "The practice now consists of some home visits with assessments for patients with mobility or transportation issues."

Team NP, Jessica Valentine, joined the team in 2020. During an interview she reflected on the scope of practice offered by primary health care NPs. Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are Registered Nurses in the Extended Class who have attained a higher level (8+ years) of education and clinical training who work alongside their physician colleagues to provide primary care to patients in the community. What can a Nurse Practitioner do? Here is a summary:

- Work in a community setting to provide care to patients of all ages
- Talk to you about your health history and do a physical exam
- Diagnose any illnesses you may have
- Order and interpret diagnostic tests like bloodwork, x-rays and ultrasounds
- Prescribe all medications
- Manage any chronic diseases you may have, such as diabetes or high blood pressure
- Refer you to other healthcare professionals and specialists as needed
- Provide health teaching and counselling (e.g. if you are trying to plan a family, or have a mental

health condition)

- Immunizations and health promotion (e.g. well baby clinics, high blood pressure clinics)
- Preventative health care, including screening for certain cancers

"In a small town, primary care allows for connections with the patient's family vs. a brief relationship in a gown while in the emergency room," says Chelsea Greenough currently completing NP training with NP Liz Polatynski.

The team's Social Worker continues to work with both rostered and unattached patients in identifying and setting goals to address mental health and social needs. This service aims to provide patients with ways to cope with emotional, physical and mental distress or practical assistance completing forms or navigating access to services like the Ontario Disability Support Programs. Pre-COVID, the Social Worker did home visits with the Community Paramedics monthly, to address the needs of vulnerable community members with transportation or mobility challenges.

The team's Dietitian discusses with patients how to adapt their lifestyle for improved weight management and assists patients with nutritional needs in order to help manage chronic diseases like diabetes. Self-referrals to the dietitian are accepted. Pre-COVID, clinical staff provided group and individual sessions and they hope to resume programming through new formats.

The MVFHT continues to actively participate in physician recruitment. "The MVFHT has been an excellent selling point for new physician graduates looking to start a practice, and we have hosted some very interested candidates for a clinic visit," says Dr. Jason Malinowski, Lead Physician of the MVFHT. The team is a teaching site for medical students, residents and nurse practitioner students which assists in recruitment by introducing them to our community and clinical setting.

"We continue to grow and evolve as our team matures, identifying the needs of the community and adapting to meet those needs," says Farrar. As the months progress the MVFHT will work diligently to serve the community going forward into 2021.

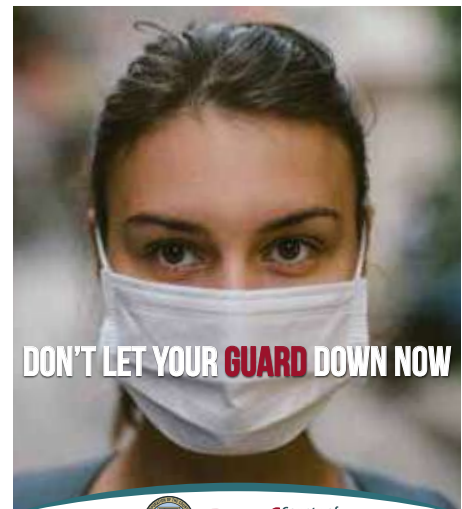
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MV Fish & Game Club mini gun show

THE CURRENT
QUADEVILLE

The Madawaska Valley Fish & Game Club held a mini gun show on Sept. 12 at the clubhouse in Quadeville. Club spokesman John Rutledge explained that due to COVID restrictions, the annual show at the Barry's Bay arena could not take place.

The club's monthly dinners have met the same fate this year. As these are both popular fundraisers for the club, they decided to attempt a mini gun show. He said that vendors at the mini show were limited to only 40 tables, while in past years at the arena the show accommodated up to 90 vendors.

Despite this, The Current spoke to vendors from Belleville, Sudbury, Hastings County, Orleans, Carleton Place, and Pembroke. Some of them were first time attendees, while others were regulars. Kip Hawley of Firearms & Collectibles drove down from Val Therese, North of Sudbury. Hawley is a regular vendor at this show. His roots are in Hastings County and although he has lived in the Sudbury area for 45 years, he hunts out of Maynooth.



Above, an impressive display by Kip Hawley of Firearms & Collectibles. Below, from left Don Kennedy, John Rutledge, Barry Tiegs.



Renfrew County ATV-ers follow Opeongo Trail

THE CURRENT
BARRY'S BAY

In past years the Renfrew County All-Terrain Vehicle (RCATV) club has held an annual Rally in the Valley which attracted participants. The 2020-style rally was different; on Labour Day Weekend RCATV held four separate rallies in different parts of the county, each on just one trail system, and imposed participation limits in keeping with COVID-19 requirements.

On Sunday Sept. 6 the club welcomed 49 participants on a 70km ride exploring some great lookouts and lake views along the Opeongo Trail System. The planned route set off from the Paul J. Yakabuski Community Centre in Barry's Bay, included a stop for lunch at Spectacle Lake Lodge, and was billed as suitable for all riders.

Discussion with participants revealed that many of them had never before experienced the trails around here and some had travelled quite a distance for the opportunity. After an extensive safety briefing and question period, the riders divided into three groups based on their experience and preferences. The pre-ride safety session included awareness of our local multi-user trails; e.g. what to do when you meet a horse and rider, as well as an explanation of RCATV's new



Teresa Hebb, RCATV Club President, answers questions after the pre-rally safety briefing.

mobile app which allows a group leader or sweep to locate a rider in difficulty.

After the fun came the hard work of September when RCATV volunteers worked alongside local snowmobile club volunteers on trail maintenance. To join in the fun or volunteer with RCATV visit RenfrewCountyATV.ca and to volunteer with Opeongo Snowbirds see Facebook/ Opeongo Snowbirds Snowmobile Club- District 6

Five years later: remembering Carol, Anastasia and Nathalie



Annual Memorial Trail Ride led by Linda Leonard. PHOTO: SHARON GARDENER

THE CURRENT MADAWASKA VALLEY

On September 22, 2015, Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam were murdered. In November 2017 local man Basil Borutski was found guilty of murdering them in a shocking one-day killing rampage in Renfrew County that has been called one of the worst cases of domestic violence in Canadian history. On the anniversary of their deaths in every September since the tragedy, community members gather to remember them.

In Wilno, Linda Leonard, who used to ride with Anastasia Kuzyk, led the annual Memorial Trail Ride from Wilno to Killaloe. Last year people walked and cycled beside the riders. This year, in light of COVID restrictions, it was different but the riders still set off from Wilno Heritage Park.

The Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County (WSAC) hosted a commemorative event that was livestreamed on Facebook from Centennial Park, Eganville. There, a small group (fewer than 25 people in keeping with existing COVID restrictions) unveiled the Fifth Anniversary Garden beside the Stone Pebble Monument.

Roberta Della Pica opened the ceremony with a traditional acknowledgment and welcome song. Later, during the brief event, she offered tissues to those present so she could perform

a (COVID-safe) tear ceremony afterwards. The audience lit memorial candles, heard the speakers and listened to a song.

Tristan Whiston of Red Dress Productions, who was co-artistic director for the creation of the Stone Pebble Monument, reminded the audience of the theme of the Countdown Public Art Project which resulted in the creation of four such monuments across Ontario. He invited people to "Join the countdown to a world without gender-based violence."

Whiston said the Fifth Anniversary Garden reminded him of a saying, "You tried to bury us but you forgot that we were seeds."

JoAnne Brooks, Director WSAC, thanked attendees and offered bulbs for them to either plant on site or take home as a memorial. She ended her address about the campaign to end sexual violence by echoing the words of the late US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, "Be Ruthless."



MADAWASKA VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

OPEN Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm

Requested items can be picked up at these times.

OCTOBER PROGRAMS: Dot Mandala, Halloween Craft Kit, Halloween Family Walk, Story Walk for Schools.

Contact library staff for program details.

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Fall colours in the Valley

SHARON GARDINER | OTTAWA VALLEY

Wilno photographer Sharon Gardiner agreed to share some of her photos of Valley back roads and views for the enjoyment of all you leaf-peepers who are unable to get out and enjoy our magnificent fall colours this year.

