

INSIDE...

Holiday novel list p.4

Local government ethics p.9

Fireworks, grow-ops in MV p.10

Elves busy at work in Barry's Bay

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Preparations for the festive season were evident in downtown Barry's Bay on the last Friday in November. Madawaska Valley Operations Department took advantage of milder weather to begin hanging the holiday lights along the main street and Operations Supervisor Mike Phillips said the winter baskets prepared that morning by the Community In Bloom volunteers would soon follow.

As a contribution to the Madawaska Valley Communities in Bloom initiative, volunteers from the MV Gardening Club usually assemble to create festive hanging baskets and planters for the village.

This year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Gardening Club limited participation to Board members to keep numbers to ten or fewer, while other members such as Eden Guidroz and Sandy Kingsmith provided evergreen boughs, other foliage and decorative elements.

By mid-morning the volunteers had produced more than 40 hanging baskets and planters; only a handful fewer than in previous years.

Past President Peter Dolan commented that they "channeled Kevin Newman," referring to the Petawawa florist who demonstrated his wizardry by creating Christmas baskets at many MV Gardening Club meetings in previous years.

Many shops and residences installed seasonal decorations to take part in the township's Holiday Lights Tour. Madawaska Valley Township plans to provide a route map so residents can vote on their favourites, with prizes of local business gift certificates to the winners. Details from the municipal office.



Madawaska Valley Gardening Club members with winter baskets. From left (front): Elser Lee Faith Archer, Ritsuko Honda, Maryjka Mychajlowycz. (back): Sharon Mahussier, Peter and Anna Dolan, Enis and Allan Yarascavitch, Jeneene Brunton (absent Soulan White).



Past President Peter Dolan



MV Gardening Club President Jeneene Brunton

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Just in time for the holiday season, Nature of Design installed new signage at the Barry's Bay Railway Station. Thanks to a design supplied by StationKeepers MV, the historic facility now sports a brand-new locomotive engine.

BARRY'S BAY Legion

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St. Francis Herb Farm grows

SUBMITTED
BARRY'S BAY

From humble beginnings 30 years ago in a 48 sqft space, St. Francis Herb Farm begins to build a new 30,000 sqft production facility in the heart of the Madawaska Valley.

Opening in the fall/winter of 2021, this new facility will be closely connected to the farm in Barry's Bay in what SFHF calls its Holistic Herb Approach: from organic farming practices, to carefully crafting herbal tinctures and formulas rooted in science.



Members of the St. Francis Herb Farm team gather on site to celebrate the start of construction. PHOTO: COURTESY FACEBOOK/ST. FRANCIS HERB FARM

Legion receives commemorative mural

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Next spring the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406 in Barry's Bay will look very different to drivers entering the village thanks to a former art student at Madawaska Valley District High School (MVDHS). The weekend before Remembrance Day, artist Brookelyn Martin met with Branch 406 President Heather Poliquin in the Legion Hall to officially present the commemorative mural she had designed for the Legion.

Martin's concept shows a representation of Canadian service members against a background of land, sea and air, planes and ships embellished with poppies. The figures wear uniforms representing various campaigns, with the World War I in the centre foreground and more recent ones on both sides. The panels will be mounted with the sky above and the figures below.

MVDHS art teacher Jody Sernoskie and Poliquin had discussed the mural project two years ago when Martin was in Grade 12 but work didn't really begin until the following academic year. Returning to MVDHS for a fifth year, Martin began to design and research the various elements for an 8 foot square mural. Starting in October 2019, she worked on it during every 75-minute art period for nearly three months. Teacher Jody Sernoskie estimates the mural on two full-size plywood sheets took 40 hours to produce.

Martin admits she had not tackled an art project on this scale before and called on other MVDHS students for assistance. She credits collaborators Jolon Emond, Matthew Walker and Anika Remes-Gavin who helped her with sketching and work on specific sections of the painting. Martin usually works on pieces that are standard sketchbook size, often portraits. But for this project she relied on reference sheets and old photographs to help portray the uniforms and airplanes accurately. She tried to show the diversity in the Canadian military with varied skin tones and facial features. She included a female figure (far right) in peacekeeping uniform as her research revealed few Canadian service women in earlier campaigns.



Artist Brookelyn Martin in front of the land/sea panel of the mural.

The finished mural includes elements from a number of collaborators in addition to Martin and her fellow students who painted it. Legion Branch 406 provided the plywood panels, gesso and clear coat and will arrange to have the panels appropriately mounted ready for installation outside the building. MVDHS provided the acrylic paint and the space to work on the project.

These days Wilno resident Martin

continues to use her creative talents as she studies Culinary Skills at Loyalist College in Belleville.

The Legion displayed both panels on Remembrance Day, especially as many of their own displays were loaned to the library this year. Over the winter, they will take it down to finish the varnishing and build the underlying structure in readiness for the installation outdoors next spring.

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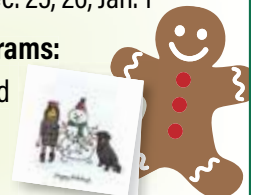
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Novels for the book lover on your Christmas list

DOREEN YAKABUSKI | CORNWALL

Like most avid readers, I always mention books in my annual letter to Santa. If you want to please a reader on your Christmas list, consider gifting one of these. Or be Santa to yourself and buy one or more to help you through the long winter ahead. Complete reviews of all these books can be found at <https://schatjesshelves.blogspot.com/>. Happy holidays and happy reading!



Hamnet and Judith
BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL

Very loosely based on the life of William Shakespeare and his wife, the book begins by imagining their courtship and the early years of their marriage and then focuses on their coping with a devastating tragedy. An eloquent study of grief, it is one of the most emotionally powerful novels I've ever read.



The Pull of the Stars
BY EMMA DONOGHUE

Set in Dublin during the 1918 flu pandemic, this novel covers three days in a maternity ward for pregnant women who have contracted the flu. The plight of poor women is highlighted, but readers will find much that is uncannily similar to the current COVID-19 pandemic.



Forest Green
BY KATE PULLINGER

The protagonist, Arthur Lunn, is living on the streets of Vancouver. Via flashbacks, we are told the story of how he came to be in this situation. The novel examines how childhood trauma can shape a person's life and reminds us that we should feel compassion for the downtrodden who all have their stories.



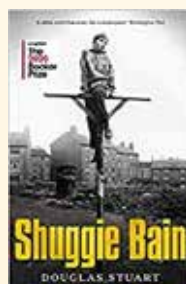
Fresh Water for Flowers
BY VALÉRIE PERRIN

Violette, the caretaker of a cemetery in France, is visited by a man wanting to understand why his mother asked to be buried with a man unknown to her family. As Violette sets out to solve that mystery, she examines her own life with the husband who has abandoned her. This book has something for everyone: mystery, tragedy, romance, humour, and a life-affirming message.



Miss Benson's Beetle
BY RACHEL JOYCE

A spinster schoolteacher abandons her job and travels to New Caledonia to find a legendary golden beetle. Accompanied by a totally unqualified assistant, she sets off on an adventure which becomes a journey of self-discovery. Though hilarious at times, the book also addresses serious topics and ends with a heart-warming message about friendship and second chances.



Shuggie Bain
BY DOUGLAS STUART

This book portrays the complex relationship between an alcoholic parent and a child. Its bleakness and grittiness make this book not for the faint of heart, but it is breathtakingly realistic, empathetic, and powerful. The novel recently won the prestigious Booker Prize and deservedly so.



The Mystery of Henri Pick
BY DAVID FOENKINOS

This feel-good book, part comedy and part mystery for lovers of books. In a library which houses manuscripts rejected by publishers, a young editor finds a literary gem purportedly written by a now-deceased pizzeria owner who supposedly never read. Once the book is published, interest in this unlikely writer rises to a fevered pitch, and the lives of many people are changed.



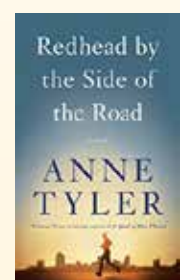
Snow
BY JOHN BANVILLE

Near Christmas in 1957, an Irish priest is brutally murdered. Inspector Strafford, the detective in charge of the investigation, faces obstruction from the Catholic Church which publicizes the death as an accident. This police procedural becomes a commentary on Ireland's social and religious history.



Helen and the Grandbees
BY ALEX MORRALL

Helen, the narrator, is mentally fragile because of childhood trauma. She copes by trying to forget her past. When her daughter Lily, taken away by social services twenty years earlier, finds Helen and starts prodding for information about Lily's past, Helen becomes very anxious and must make some difficult decisions. This book is outstanding for its sensitive examination of mental illness.



Redhead by the Side of the Road
BY ANNE TYLER

Micah Mortimer lives alone, keeps to himself, and has a routine etched in stone. Unfortunately, people disrupt his life and shatter his comfortable existence. During the pandemic, many aspects of our lives have become chaotic so it's interesting to see Micah learning to live with disorder.



Remembrance Day observed at Barry's Bay Legion

DANIELLE PAUL
BARRY'S BAY

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406 observed 2020 Remembrance Day in Barry's Bay outdoors on a bright, breezy day. The annual celebration recalls the end of World War I in 1918, and has been observed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month since 1919. Branch 406 President Heather Poliquin reminded attendees that Canadians have fought in other conflicts and many have given their lives so that we might enjoy freedom today, and pointed out that this year marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

This Remembrance Ceremony was different due to COVID-19 restrictions. Branch 406 discouraged members of the public from attending to make it easier to limit numbers and to keep those assembled appropriately dis-

tanced from each other. Other changes in the order of service were apparent to help protect participants: no military personnel were present, singing was not permitted, all wreaths were pre-positioned outdoors, no Silver Cross mother was named, and after the ceremony only light refreshments were offered instead of a full chilli lunch.

Despite these differences Branch 406 conducted a very thoughtful and moving Ceremony of Remembrance that included observing a minute of silence; playing recorded music for *O Canada*, *Last Post*, *Rouse*, and *God Save the Queen*; readings of the *Act of Remembrance* and the *Commitment to Remember*. Rev. Darlene Cunliffe led a prayer and gave the blessing. Tom Bryce, Sergeant at Arms, read the list of wreaths and the Veterans Service Officer Dave Eagles read a poem entitled *Just a Common Soldier*.

MV Food Bank announces no present need for donations



TERRY NEWCOMBE
MADAWASKA VALLEY

In what may be a surprising statement from a charity, Paul Thompson, acting president of Madawaska Valley Food Bank, said, "At present, we are not in need of new donations. To anyone who was considering donating to the food bank we say "Thank you, but we are ok right now. We have enough in the bank to see us through the winter."

The MV Food Bank would like to say a giant "THANK YOU" to the community for its generosity in the past eight months. "The support of the community has been overwhelming," said Thompson.

He added, "While we have definitely seen an increased need for the food bank, the increased support has meant that the food bank has been able to meet that need. In fact, the generosity of the community, combined with government COVID-19 funding, means that the MV Food Bank is financially secure for the time being."

NO RADIOTHON IN 2020

Besides advising the community that the food bank will be okay without the usual end-of-year donations, the food bank has also advised Moose FM that the food bank will take a break this year from the annual December Radiothon. "The Radiothon has been a big fundraiser for us in the past few years and although Moose FM has generously offered again this year, we told them we are ok this year," Thompson said. He added that the food bank looks forward to resuming the Moose FM December Radiothon in the future.

"These difficult times have brought out the very best in our local community and the MV Food Bank is grateful for the truly remarkable support," Thompson said.



Seniors creative photography project

Ottawa Valley Creative Arts' photography project honours seniors throughout the Valley. (Inset) Photographer Maureen MacMillan puts Barry's Bay resident Johanna Yandernoll (nee Peplinski) in the frame. MacMillan hopes to have about 50 portraits for the project. The goal is to show the diversity in the Valley.

Jeopardy! host Trebek had Valley roots

BOB CORRIGAN
BARRY'S BAY

Alex Trebek, the longtime host of *Jeopardy!* died on November 8th. It seems that everyone knows that Alex was born in Sudbury. Unknown for the most part is that Alex also had roots in Renfrew County. His grandmother on his mother's side, Sophie Belanger, was born at Mount St. Patrick, a small farming community not far off the Opeongo Road between Brudenell and Renfrew. St. Patrick's Church there has the distinction of being the first Catholic Parish in what is now the Diocese of Pembroke. It is also known for its church suppers every fall (except for this year).

Alex Trebek had roots in Renfrew County

In any event, Sophie was born on September 25, 1877, and was baptized the next month in St. Patrick's Church, the very stone building that is still standing there today, having been constructed in 1869. Her parents, Marcel Belanger and Ursula Dubreuil, appeared in the 1871 census as recent newlyweds. As a matter of fact, they were then living with Ursula's parents and her nine siblings. The couple appeared again in Brougham Township in 1881, this time with four children but living in their own house, this time neighbours to Ursula's parents.

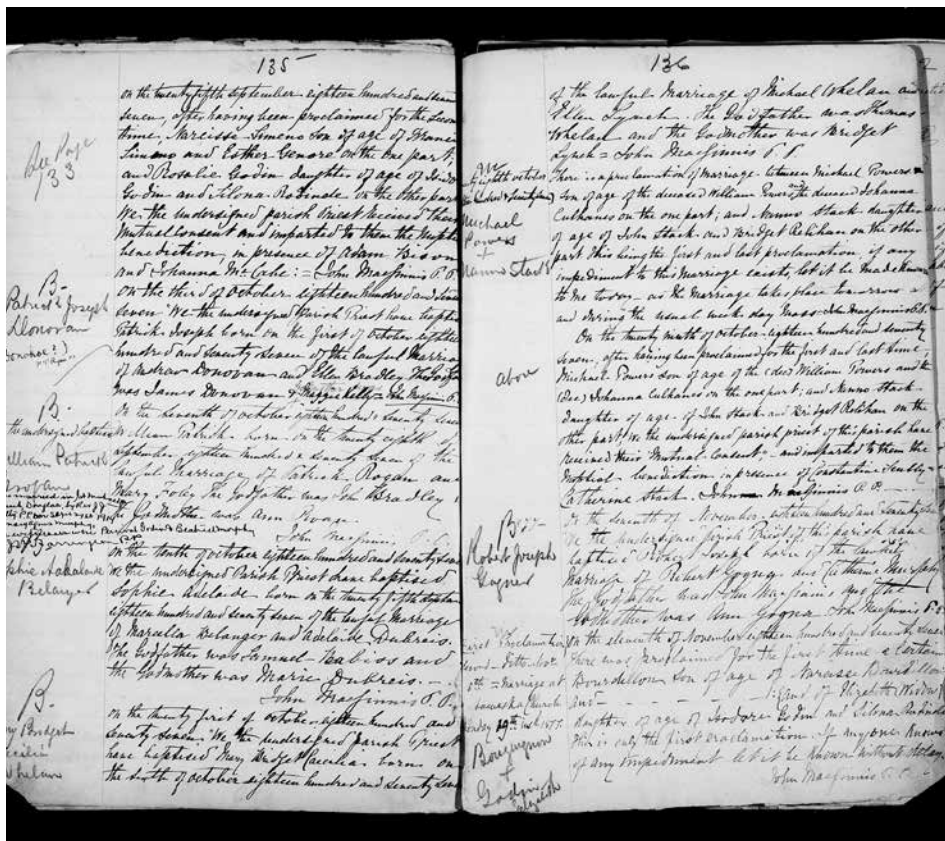
By 1891, the family had moved to the Sudbury district but still as a farming family. It looks like Sophie, now 13 years old, was the only one in the family who was able to read and write. This is where Sophie met and married Benjamin Lagacé in 1899.

Lucile Lagacé was born in 1921 and, in 1939, married George Trebek (shortened from Terebeychuk), an immigrant from Ukraine. Alex Trebek was born the next year.

HERITAGE PHOTO: 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).



Alex Trebek. PHOTO: THEVERGE.COM



Church record regarding baptism of Sophie Belanger, Alex's grandmother, at Mount St. Patrick.

EDITORIAL

Local circulation of anti-mask conspiracy theory puts Madawaska Valley residents at risk

The Current has been given a copy of a document being distributed to local residents that attacks the wearing of face masks. The reader who provided it says she is aware that other Valley residents have also received it. The document's inflammatory headline attributes irreversible brain damage to mask wearing.

To anyone who might be inclined to believe its contents, you should be aware that the source is the blog of the infamous James Fetzer; we encourage you to Google him, where you will learn that he is a notorious conspiracy theorist whose many "alternative facts" have been repeatedly debunked and his conduct condemned. A former professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth, the university disassociates itself from him by stating on its website, "His theories are his own and are not endorsed by the University of Minnesota Duluth or the University of Minnesota System."

Fetzer achieved particular notoriety as a co-editor of a book alleging that the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre of Connecticut school children never occurred. In addition to receiving universal vilification for his manufactured mischief-making, in a recent high profile case he was successfully sued for defamation by the family of a 6-year-old victim of the Sandy Hook shooting for cruelly publishing that the child's death certificate was a fake. A jury in Wisconsin in October 2019 ordered him to pay \$450,000 compensation to the father of the dead child.

One can only speculate about the motives of those who are actively spreading false information for the purpose of frightening those who wear face masks. Unfortunately, as with all conspiracy theories no matter how preposterous, some people will still believe them, thus in this case jeopardizing their own health as well as those they come into contact with. Is it a coincidence that this is happening as the wrecking ball known as Donald Trump continues to pour scorn on mask wearers?

Many scientists and medical experts, including the World Health Organiza-

tion, who are far more qualified than Fetzer and the German neurologist he cites, have discounted any link between correctly worn masks and brain damage. After all, many healthcare professionals wear masks daily through their careers. Is it not strange that during the centuries that people have worn masks for health and hygienic reasons, there has not been any authoritative published medical support for such a theory?

Unfortunately, in an online world when conspiracy theories are everywhere, how do you know what to believe? It all boils down to accessing independent, reliable sources and asking sensible questions. Does the claim offend your common sense, is there evidence to back it up and is there any missing information? Are you being influenced for political or other reasons? If so, what does the source of the claim stand to gain?



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

BLR Councillor concerned about bias following Integrity Commissioner's investigation

JAMES DI FIORE
PALMER RAPIDS

A blistering report was presented to Brudenell Lyndoch and Raglan (BLR) Council on November 4th by the BLR Integrity Commissioner.

The report followed a complaint that Councillor Andrea Budarick, after declaring a pecuniary interest, contravened sections of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (MCIA) by participating in Council meetings and entering into discussions about service charges that residents, including her son Gary Budarick, received from the BLR Fire Department for breaching a municipal fire ban.

After Young-Lovelace introduced herself prior to presenting her report, Budarick interrupted, "I would like to make a point of order." She pointed out that on the first occasion that Young-Lovelace presented a report to BLR Council, a copy of it had been provided in advance to the person complained against so that person could respond before the report was finalized and released to the public. Budarick asked why she was not given the same opportunity. Young-Lovelace's response was that the earlier report was in the form of a "preliminary review."

The reduction of the service charges was discussed at a Council meeting on September 4 2019. That meeting was attended by Budarick, prior to which she filed a written declaration of her interest because of her son's role. Young-Lovelace found that instead of recusing herself from the meeting after declaring a pecuniary interest, Budarick participated in the discussions with the Fire Department representative.

As reported by *The Current* at the time, fees levied against Budarick's son by BLR were later reduced after complaints were made to the Fire Safety Commission and the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.

Young-Lovelace also found that Budarick should not have remained in the closed session Council meeting on October 8, 2019, because she had declared a pecuniary interest. The report



Integrity Commissioner Peggy Young-Lovelace E4m. PHOTO: ELLIOT LAKE STANDARD

further accused Budarick of "attempting to influence the decision of council regarding the service charges when she participated in the September 4, 2019, Council meeting."

Young-Lovelace concluded by stating, "We will be applying to a Judge of the Ontario Supreme Court of Justice under Section 8 of the MCIA for a determination of whether Councillor Budarick contravened the MCIA and if so, a decision as to the penalty to be imposed."

If a judge upholds the Integrity Commissioner's findings, the court can level one of the following sanctions:

- seat vacated (automatic if breach of MCIA is found to have occurred without excuse)
- disqualification from holding office as a councillor for up to seven years
- restitution of financial gain, if applicable
- This would give Budarick an automatic right to appeal the decision to the Ontario Divisional Court.

The Current contacted Budarick following the meeting for comment. She said that as she was going to retain a lawyer to advise her about the concerns she had with the report. She did not wish to make any public statement about its contents at this stage. But the Councillor did say that she was surprised that Young-Lovelace did not recuse herself from this investigation because she had previously publicly criticized Young-Lovelace about the necessity for her previous investigation and the amount of her fees. Budarick advised *The Current* that she had written to Young-Lovelace asking why she had not recused herself and had not recommended that BLR retain a different Commissioner for this investigation, but has yet to receive a reply.

Opeongo Seniors Centre offers coffee and companionship



With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the Opeongo Seniors Centre in Barry's Bay provides senior residents with a safe environment to find companionship. Volunteers keep the coffee pot on and the Centre doors open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seniors Centre property manager Rob Ellis takes a breather from hanging outdoor decorations as volunteer Connie Schweg rustles up more inside sparkle.

EDITORIAL

Judge: Improve local government ethics

ROGER PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Regular readers of *The Current* know that from time to time we report on perceived breaches of the obligations of accountability, transparency and integrity on the part of local government, not just in Madawaska Valley, but also in Brudenell Lyndoch & Raglan and North Algona Wilberforce. Examples of these have included lack of transparency over legal cases including justification for substantial legal expense, Code of Conduct concerns, cover-ups of councillors' conduct, non-compliance with procurement by-laws and improper response to freedom of information requests. This is consistent with our editorial policy of performing a watchdog role which James Di Fiore wrote about last month. To be clear, these conduct issues are not limited to our local municipalities, but are common across the province.

This was confirmed in a report released in November by Frank Marrocco, Associate Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Ontario, following a two-year public inquiry. It investigated concerns including "closed door decision making, undeclared conflicts of interest, dodgy procurement practices, and misleading and inaccurate public reporting." The inquiry was prompted by complaints arising from two multi-million dollar transactions in Collingwood "leading to fair and troubling concerns from the public."

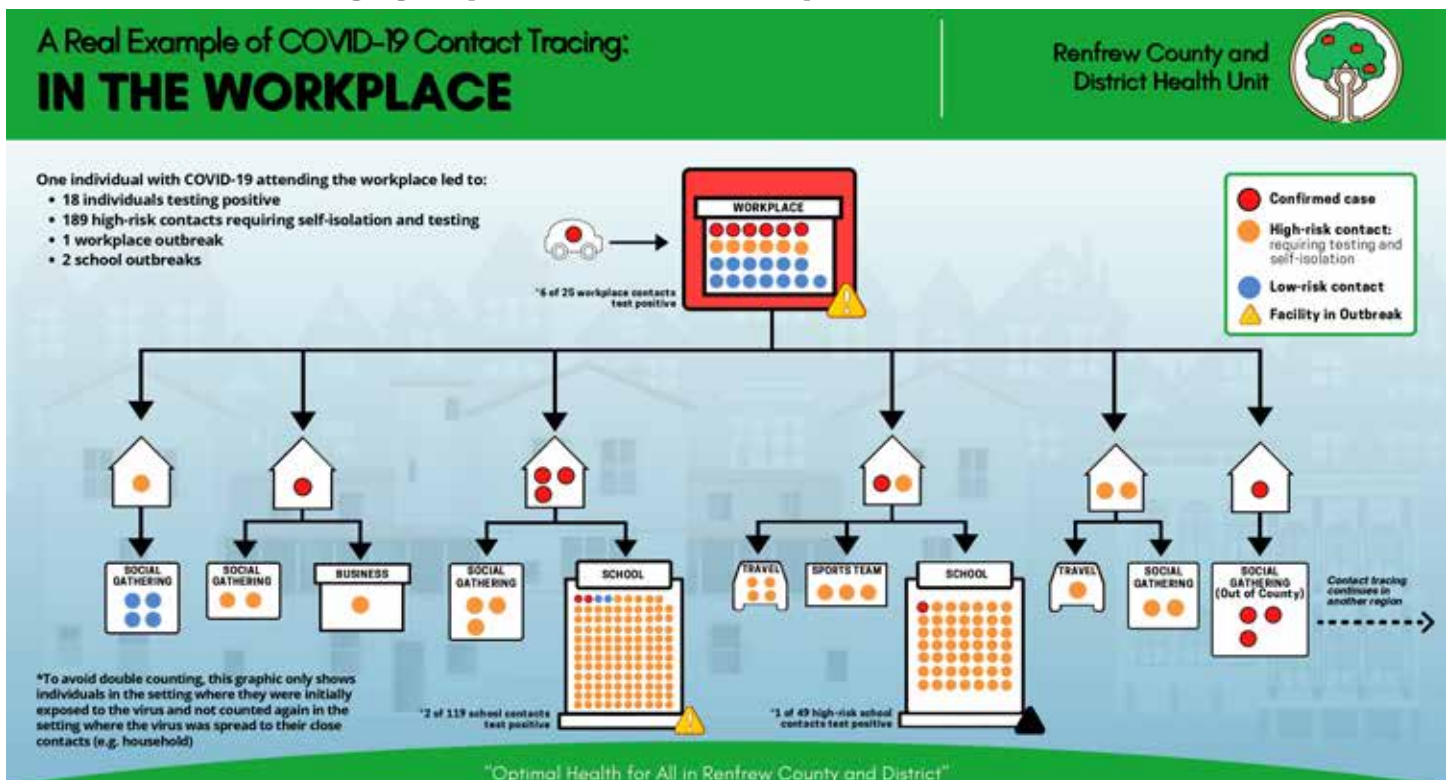
However, Marrocco expanded his report to make it clear that it was a matter of province-wide concern. He stated that he hoped that his recommendations, which totalled 306, will be useful across the province "for any other municipalities facing similar issues." He acknowledged that he is far from the first to urge the province to plug holes in municipal rules that govern towns

and cities, and their elected officials and staff. He referred to a previous inquiry concerning Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion where Justice Douglas Cunningham who led that inquiry said, "It is clear that Mississauga and indeed all Ontario municipalities require a better ethical infrastructure."

The report recommends changes to provincial legislation to improve transparency and accountability in municipal government. It also recommends that municipalities enhance their codes of conduct for members of council. *The Current* reported on the fact that the present Madawaska Valley Council changed its Code of Conduct shortly after taking office to make it more restrictive for the public to complain.

It is to be hoped that in the public interest the Province will take heed of the serious and pressing concerns raised by this report and will act promptly to address them.

Contact tracing graphic shows impact of one COVID-19 case



Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Renfrew County and District (RAD), provided a sobering example in his Winter Update on YouTube on November 23. Using the infographic above, he explained how a single positive case of COVID-19 affected nearly two hundred people in RAD. More information is available from Renfrew County and District Health Unit.



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Fireworks and cannabis cultivation spark MV Council into action

DANIELLE PAUL
 MADAWASKA VALLEY

At the November 17 Madawaska Valley Council meeting, Council directed staff to proceed towards new by-laws on two topics: the use of fireworks and the production, cultivation and processing of cannabis in the municipality.



FIREWORKS

Al Best, President of the Carson Trout Lepine and Greenan Lakes Association (CTLG), provided Council with feedback from CTLG members including the results of a recent survey about fireworks. He said about 67 percent of CTLG members were in favour of more restriction, 45 percent wanted a total ban on fireworks with 43 percent opposed to a total ban. Best said it was not just a question of the noise from fireworks, or even the threat of fire; it was also the issue of environmental damage to our waterways. He had researched other lake associations and municipalities, and pointed to the Highlands East By-Law that restricts fireworks to certain statutory holidays.

Best pointed out that the MV Fire Chief's report suggested limiting fire-

works in MV to weekends and statutory holidays between the May Long Weekend and Thanksgiving would allow fireworks on approximately 60 days next year and concluded his presentation with the hope that MV modernizes by implementing tighter restrictions that may include permits.

Mayor Kim Love thanked Best and encouraged questions. In response, Councillor Carl Bromwich said he had "problems with a formal shutdown," agreed there is abuse of fireworks that could be controlled with a tighter by-law to enforce noise and dates, but that Council should "let the cottagers have their fun." Bromwich said MV has no control over fireworks over waterways which is regulated by Fisheries, to which Best responded that MV could regulate fireworks on the Shoreline Road Allowance (SRA). Councillor Mark Willmer agreed control was needed by reducing the number of days, hours and type of products but that more regulation meant MV had to deal with how to enforce it. Love agreed with Best that education is critical if the By-Law is changed and invited him to hear the report from Fire Chief Corwin Quade.

In his report, Quade said most complaints related to fireworks being set off late at night during the work week, and continuing for up to three hours. He said the existing Noise By-Law prohibits excessive noise after 1 a.m. and that fireworks are completely banned under Burning By-Law 2019-22 during a Level 2 Fire Ban and Total Fire Ban. He said some municipalities in Renfrew and Hastings Counties prohibited fireworks except on certain statutory holidays or weekends and that most set a limit of 20 minutes for a fireworks event to be conducted during a three-hour period e.g. between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. He said most townships impose a \$500 fine for violation. Quade said he didn't believe in a complete ban as local businesses sell fireworks, but he thought some control should be imposed

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 or **TEXT 613-602-6588**

 Bernadette McCann House

to allow fireworks a couple of days a week between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. perhaps just during the summer.

CAO/Clerk Suzanne Klatt said it was time to review the 2011 Noise By-Law, but any review should contemplate times when a statutory holiday e.g. Canada Day falls on a weekday and also address restricted products such as fire lanterns. Love requested a single fireworks by-law that would incorporate both noise and fire regulations, saying it would be simpler for the public to have it in one place. Quade added that it could list fireworks products that are banned in Canada; e.g. cherry bombs. Councillor Ernie Peplinski suggested the municipality implement permits so permit holders are responsible for any damage. Shulist said in the days before environmental consciousness, fire safety was paramount so letting off fireworks over water was considered the safest place. He agreed with education but did not favour a total ban.

By then Bromwich and Willmer had left the meeting, so Love summed up by asking staff to provide a draft fireworks by-law that all members of council could discuss. She requested a compromise “not totally banned, not a free-for-all” that would allow year round residents and cottagers to “all live here together.” She added it should include a provision for a “municipally significant event” if designated by Council. Klatt asked about a setback from the waterways, but Love demurred saying that a lot of people did not have very deep properties along the water and a setback might mean the only place they would have “to set off fireworks is in the middle of their cottage.”

She requested more information from staff about setbacks, permits, fees, enforcements. Klatt amended the Recommendation to read: That council direct staff to draft a Fireworks By-law for council consideration as well as the related changes to the Noise By-Law and/or fire-related by-laws.

CANNABIS INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW

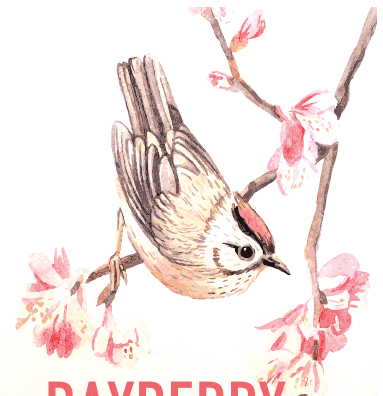
Klatt reviewed her report to Council, saying she had consulted with Renfrew County and various municipalities. She proposed that MV hire Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP to draft an Interim Control By-Law (ICB) for MV that would put a temporary “freeze” on certain land uses relat-

ing to cannabis. This would give MV a year to conduct a study to develop regulations to fit the municipality’s comprehensive Zoning By-Law once approved. She further proposed that County of Renfrew Planning Department conduct the study and review of the comprehensive Zoning By-Law and County Official Plan.

Klatt said that MV would need to pay the lawyers an estimated \$500 for drafting the ICB and suggested the costs be paid out of the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund. She also hoped to join with other municipalities in Renfrew County to share the costs of the review to be undertaken by the County planners, about factors such as noise, light, manufacturing issues, odour said Klatt. Love asked that it consider the issue of communal grow-ops; i.e. numerous individuals getting together on a single plot of land where each of them cultivates their own permitted four cannabis plants, resulting in potentially hundreds of plants on a single property. Klatt agreed, saying that some municipalities used separate definitions such as cannabis production facility and cannabis production personal.

At the Council in Committee meeting on Dec.1, MV Council passed By-Law 2020-96 to Establish an Interim Control By-Law - to Prohibit the Cultivation of Cannabis (for one year).

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BARRY’S BAY Legion
Thanks for supporting the Legion. Happy Holidays!
PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY DECEMBER 20
8 am to 12 pm
Adults: \$12 • Kids 6 to 12: \$6
Under 6: free
Social distancing regulations in place.
CLUB ROOM: Open Monday, Wed. and Saturday from 2 pm to 6 pm and Friday 2 pm to 8 pm. Closed on December 25, 26, 31 and January 1.
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Countdown to Christmas with the Library

MADAWASKA VALLEY LIBRARY ENTERTAINS THE WHOLE FAMILY IN DECEMBER

THE CURRENT BARRY'S BAY

The lead-up to the holidays usually includes some Saturday and holiday craft and story times for children at the Madawaska Valley Public Library, but this year the Library staff in Barry's Bay are going all out to ensure youngsters (and their families) have extra opportunities for fun times at home.

Don't worry if you missed registering for some of the earlier programs; there are plenty more that appeal to a range of ages. Plus scroll down for some gift suggestions for those hard-to-buy-for folks on your list.

ADVENT BOOK PROJECT

You might have already picked up your book bundle from the library. The project offered schools and families the chance to sign up for a bundle of wrapped books to be opened over the holidays. All that was needed for families to participate was a library card. Books were checked out for an extended holiday loan.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS KIT FOR CHILDREN

Kit contains everything children need to put together a Santa Calendar: a Santa face image, 24 cotton balls, backing for the image, and some ribbon to hang the calendar.

The instructions begin with: "Santa's beard is very bare; On his chin there is no hair." Each day leading up to Christmas a cotton ball is glued to the image of Santa's beard, and by Christmas Eve Santa will have a full beard.

MOVIE NIGHT KIT, FREE, YOU JUST NEED YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Each kit will contain a surprise Christmas movie (to borrow) and popcorn, along with a keepsake movie ticket. Register by Saturday, December 12. Movie Night kits will be ready for pickup on Friday, December 18.

CHRISTMAS CARD CHALLENGE

This program encourages children to share the seasonal joy by sending Christmas cards to our Valley Manor Residents. Kits to make cards will be ready for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 5. Please return completed cards to the Library by December 18.

Cards will be quarantined before delivery to the Manor.

ZOO TOUR VIA ZOOM

December 12 at 2:00 p.m. Spaces are limited for this unique program, so please register by December 9. Participants will receive a private, virtual, 30-minute guided tour of an area of the Toronto Zoo (to be announced).

During the video conference, kids can meet some of the animals and will be able to pose questions to Toronto Zoo personnel.

GINGERBREAD COOKIE KIT

For the little bakers in your household, this kit contains a gingerbread cookie and all you need to decorate it! Register by Friday, December 18. Pickup date for your kit is Wednesday, December 23.

VIRTUAL STORY TIME

Check out the MV Public Library Facebook page for updates about the December 24 Story Time with Sir Monkton and Friends.

ORNAMENT KITS

Each kit contains two Christmas balls and everything needed to decorate them. The kits cost \$8 each and proceeds go toward library programs.

GIFT IDEAS

Library t-shirts and book bags for friends and family. The t-shirts are \$15 each and the book bags are \$20 each.

Call 613-756-2000 or email mvpl.programs@gmail.com

PHOTOS: COURTESY FACEBOOK/MADAWASKA VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BARRY'S BAY

