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OPINION

Mid-term reflections on MV Council

ELSER LEE ARCHER
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Approximately two years ago our newly elected council introduced their first budget. But when they introduced their second budget, it was immediately affected by things outside the municipal scope: a global pandemic, and the introduction of the province's Official Plan (OP). By March 2020 COVID-19 hit. Simultaneously, the OP (for land use planning) included amendments that effectively deterred development and the expansion of housing. The OP restricted development on our municipality's growth based on marginal population growth rate projections until 2036. The projections in this official plan would facilitate lower taxes where development of new housing was minimized.

PEOPLE ARE COMING

Madawaska Valley's real-estate economy has grown exponentially and in between 'lock-downs' retail and essential services have been doing well. Though COVID-19 has placed a strain on our community, this municipality has become a 'go to' place because of, among other things, its pristine environment. This in turn has impacted our property taxes with increases. If our growth is stifled (by the OP), then we have to optimize the fact that people are coming here. **It is important to recognize that the eventual increase in property tax does not originate from the municipality who has maintained moderate increases; it is because our property values are increasing.** This economic reality is difficult for some and welcomed by others.

PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL MANDATES — COMPARED

The Ontario Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs states their mandate



SOURCE: MADAWASKAVALLEY.CA

is, 'to build **safe and strong urban and rural communities with dynamic local economies, a high quality of life and affordable and suitable homes for everyone**'

The Township of Madawaska Valley identifies its mission as mindful, prudent **community driven policy** to ensure a **safe, clean, sustainable environment**, a well **maintained infrastructure** system and community assets, a **climate of acceptance, transparency** and responsible growth. We pursue growth with consideration of short and long term implications so the integrity and character of our Township, its **assets and natural amenities and people** of all ages urban or rural are upheld. [Emphasis mine]

Over the next 12 months it is important for all of us to reflect on whether our council has facilitated:

- Community driven policy
- A safe, clean sustainable environment
- Maintenance of infrastructure/

integrity of assets

- Climate of acceptance for all of its residents
- Transparency of government/ governance
- The upholding of the integrity of our amenities and assets
- The upholding of individual people/ people groups of all ages

The four strategic priorities of MV's 2015 Strategic Plan "The Path Forward" were maintained in the March 2020 MV Corporate Priority—Recommendations Report:

- Open Communication and Governance
- Progressive and Growing Economy
- Healthy and Sustainable Community
- Efficient and Effective Township Services

PROMISED REPORT CARD STILL AWAITED

An action item (E9) in the March 2020 MV Corporate —Continued on page 2

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For some of us, self-isolating doesn't mean "our home is safe."

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Continued from page 1— Priority Recommendations specified an annual report card. This report card is to come from the Township itself. One year has passed since this recommendation and the third budget process is almost complete—without the promised report card.

What were we told the report card should cover? This is the promise in the Plan: “E9: Inform residents, through an annual report card, on Township activities, e.g., how taxes are spent, new initiatives, successes and upcoming priorities.”

EXAMINE COUNCIL’S EVALUATION AND THEIR PROMISES, THEN HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE

As residents we should all be mindful of how are tax dollars are being spent. People should look closely at three areas:

- Affordable housing (residents in past consultations placed a high value on this)
- Policies in place—are they following through on commitments?
- Get a close look at the internal review they committed to do. Then form your own opinion.

I encourage you first to reflect by:

- Reviewing the Township’s Civic Web files (agendas, minutes, bylaws) <https://madawaskavalley.civicweb.net/Portal/>

- Checking out the YouTube of Madawaska Valley Township Council meetings (recordings, live streams) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnCPy-1Aa3FJEekLAEgEwhQ/> videos
- Visiting the Township website <https://www.madawaskavalley.ca>
- Following local media such as The Madawaska Valley Current, Valley Gazette, MooseFM, the Eganville Leader, etc. in order to gather a broad perspective on government and governance in our community
- Closely reviewing the MV Township Report Card (promised in 2020) when released

As a former member of Council I advocated the long term benefits of development charges to bring financial resources to our Township. Additionally I saw value in the expansion of our water system for those who wanted to come on board if in close proximity to new development, so as to benefit municipal rate payers and redistribute the cost of the water system in the town of Barry’s Bay. With increased property taxes, the way our council moves forward is a critical factor in retaining affordable housing.

It is the electorate’s responsibility to hold the municipality accountable. You also need to be mindful of provincial context—as your market value goes up, affordable housing becomes more elusive.

I encourage you to speak out and share your observations about how your elected officials have progressed with the priority agendas of the electorate. Your observations can fill the void created by the missing report card.

Editor’s note: Taxpayers have so far paid about \$12,000 for professional input into the updated Township strategic plan. On the Township website there is a two-page list of priorities and a seven-page report that provides a little more detail. Do you feel it is value for money? So far Council has not formally adopted the updated plan, nor released the promised report card.

The Current invites you to comment about these issues, either by email to madvalleycurrent@gmail.com or by post to Box 1097, Barry’s Bay, Ontario, K0J 1B0.

Killaloe OPP safety reminders



SUBMITTED
KILLALOE

The Killaloe Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind the public, whether you are driving, walking, or cycling, to keep safety in mind.

It is important for motorists to be observant for pedestrians and cyclists at all times, especially during dark hours. Eliminate the distractions, look ahead, and drive within the speed limit, always allowing time to react to unexpected situations. Motorists should also watch for an increase in children who may be walking or cycling in the area, and be prepared to yield to pedestrians and cyclists.

Pedestrians should be mindful of what is going on around them, and don't walk "distracted". It is safest to walk on the sidewalk. Where there are

no sidewalks, always walk on the shoulder of the road facing traffic, and as far as possible from passing vehicles. Pedestrians should consider wearing bright or reflective clothing, and carry a flashlight. Parents are encouraged to speak with their children about the rules of the road that apply to them, whether walking or cycling.

Cyclists are required to wear a helmet if under the age of 18, and ride defensively, obeying all traffic signs and signals. Cyclists should make themselves seen by wearing bright coloured clothing and using reflective lights in the front, side, and rear of the bicycle. Make certain you are aware of your surroundings, and know what is in front and behind you. Remember, obeying the rules of the road, and being courteous of others will assist in keeping our roads safe for everyone to drive on.

Barry's Bay Horseshoe League hopeful

It's time to shine your shoes. The Barry's Bay Horseshoe League remains hopeful that, pandemic restrictions permitting, members will be able to participate outdoors at the Barry's Bay Legion horseshoe pits from May 31. Last year members enjoyed weekly practices and the occasional tournament.



League organizer Joanne Plebon at a tournament last year.

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Keep smiling with sealants

MARCIA RUTLEDGE
BARRY'S BAY

Have you ever taken a good, close look at your teeth in the mirror? Have you noticed how your molars or back teeth appear to have a natural groove or big pits in the biting surface of them? Those aren't deformities, those fissures and pits are just the natural surface of normal and healthy tooth development. Now look even closer ... are the pits and fissures really deep? Are they filled with filling material?

Natural pits and fissures are healthy and normal. However, we are all individual, and some of us have such deep pits and fissures that it is extremely hard to clean them and prevent them from developing cavities. I know all of my pits and fissures decayed before I hit my teenage years. All of my pits and fissures had to be drilled out to remove the decayed tooth structure and then were filled with composite resin to fix the hole that was there. Yes, even dental hygienists have dental histories!

Now we don't have to wait for kids to



New artists at Madawaska Coffee

Until June 14, check out the works of ArtfulCreations, Hummingbird Weaving Studio and Muskoka Kitchen Paddles. Enjoy the show while you wait for your order and support some local artists in the process.



get decay in the pits of their teeth. Sealants are a preventive filler that don't require any freezing or drilling to have done, can be put on baby teeth and adult teeth to prevent cavities from forming in those deep pits and fissures, and the great news is, you can have those pit and fissures sealed by a dental hygienist.

For most parents the thought of having their young child sit in the dental chair for an injection of local anaesthetic (the needle the dentist uses to freeze a tooth and the gum tissue), and then drilling and filling a cavity seems like a nightmare. Never mind putting them through the needle, just worrying if you'll ever get them back in a dental chair without kicking and screaming after their dental work is done, and also wondering if they have the patience to sit long enough to have the work completed can be a scary thought. This is where sealants can be such a game changer!

If we seal those deep pits and fissures before they get a cavity we can avoid all of the things we hate about having a filling. Sealants don't require any freezing, so no needle. We don't drill the tooth at all. Instead we rough up the surface with a little bit of etching material. Then we place the sealant material and shine a blue curing light on the material to harden it and keep it in place. The whole process takes roughly five minutes per tooth.

The sealant fills up the deep pits and fissures making them smooth. This allows easy cleaning of those once deep and hard to reach places with just your regular toothbrush. It also blocks those



Pits and fissures in molar. PHOTO WIKIPEDIA.ORG

spots that bacteria just love to live in so the bacteria load in your mouth is much less.

At the Barry's Bay Dental Hygiene Clinic, Brooke has been placing sealants in our clients' pits and fissures. She is a prevention specialist who loves providing these preventive treatments to our clients. If you or your child have deep pits and fissures and would like to be assessed by Brooke to have preventive sealants placed, call the Clinic at 613-756-6884 to schedule. She would be happy to help keep you smiling!

EDITORIAL

What was the Gazette “deeply sorry” for?

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Let’s begin with the reason I am writing this nearly a month after a controversial editorial appeared in the *Valley Gazette*. It’s because in last week’s *Gazette* (April 28), it published an apology for incorrectly identifying someone in an article published the previous week. In fact, the words “We apologize” were used. It referenced the date and page number of the original article, and specified both the correct and incorrect names used. That’s evidence that when it chooses to, the *Gazette* can issue a genuine apology in a timely fashion. By way of contrast, consider how it dealt with the infamous, anonymous editorial it published on April 7.

That unattributed editorial expressed hate toward a number of groups but most blatantly towards LGBTQ people. I could only imagine how much it hurt the LGBTQ folks in our community (or their parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, colleagues and friends for that matter) when they read the editorialist’s view that LGBTQ people could not lead “happy, productive or civic-minded” lives.

The piece entitled “It’s for your own good!” warned readers that groups claiming to “hate hate” like “radical feminists, LGBTQ radicals and Marxists like Antifa” actually promote hatred and “Christianity is the primary object.” I was not alone in noting that this editorial appeared only three days after *The Current* had reported about an article published Apr. 1 by the Canadian Anti-Hate Network (CAHN). Since the CAHN article drew attention to links with three ultra-right conservative groups with a presence here in the Madawaska Valley, it was understandably assumed that the anonymous editorial was a reaction, not a coincidence. If so, the author should have had the courage to say so, and provide his/her name — as the CAHN author had done.

An anonymous editorial that makes outrageous and hateful comments which, according to guidelines pub-



lished by the Human Rights Commission of Ontario, might qualify as a hate incident is a serious matter for a publisher, so I waited for the following week’s *Gazette* to see if any letters to the editor, a retraction, and an apology would appear. There was nothing. By that time, I had read a number of complaints on social media and also had learned that some residents had complained to the *Gazette*’s publisher or reached out to some of the writers. Some of them were told that their letter would be printed. However, no letters or reactions appeared.

THE “APOLOGY” THAT DARE NOT SPEAK ITS NAME

Two weeks later a notice turned up in the *Gazette* addressed to “Dear valued readers, subscribers and advertisers.” It “sincerely” offered “regret for any discomfort or offence caused,” and it also stated that some “remarks made were

derogatory and disrespectful and for that we are deeply sorry.”

Strangely, however, it did not provide any information about the subject matter of the “recent editorial” to which it referred or even its date of publication—a fundamental requirement for a genuine apology from a media outlet. Anybody reading it might have been hard pressed to understand what it related to. I understand some residents wondered if the subsequent editorial on April 14 about the late Prince Philip had offended some readers.

The notice did not express regret for having written and published the piece. Instead, there was regret expressed for any discomfort or offence caused, but an acknowledgement of responsibility is a key element of an effective apology. Surely as a minimum an unequivocal apology (using the word “apology”) should have been made to the targets of the unidentified author.

Resident claims BLR Integrity Commissioner lacks integrity

JAMES DI FIORE
PALMER RAPIDS

The Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan (BLR) Integrity Commissioner, Ms. Peggy Young-Lovelace of the Sudbury consulting firm E4m Solutions Inc., was criticized on April 7th when a resident spoke during a public council meeting. BLR resident Mike McCloskey accused E4m of making false statements, misusing its authority to influence council and ultimately overcharging taxpayers as it conducted investigations without exercising due diligence.

McCloskey said, “[BLR] council cannot employ, and we as rate payers cannot expect to pay for, an integrity commissioner who is not fully committed to giving factual reports.” He said, “To put it bluntly, this integrity commissioner doesn’t seem to be acting with integrity. And it is an expensive irony.”

McCloskey, a resident of BLR and retired Canadian Forces Officer with over 200 administration investigations to his credit, accused E4m of “problematic behaviour” in each of the three cases it has investigated, and asked that council fire the controversial Integrity Commissioner. He claimed that similar concerns have been identified in other municipalities currently being served by E4m.

He stated that BLR received its first report from E4m in September of 2019. This followed a complaint against members of BLR staff. As The Current has previously reported, E4m confirmed that it had no jurisdiction to investigate complaints against staff members, but still proceeded to investigate and charge taxpayers \$4,460 for its report which, McCloskey said, “should have been a single page and cost us \$125.” When asked by BLR council to explain their bill, E4m responded by issuing the following statement: “It has not been our practice to provide specific detail of activities carried out.” This provoked Councillor John Rutledge to comment, “The whole thing’s a crock.” To which Councillor Trevor Lidtkie answered,



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“Exactly. And as far as I’m concerned, don’t have her back—for anything. That’s baloney.”

In November 2020, an E4m report was received following a complaint made against Councillor Andrea Budarick almost a year earlier. The accusation was that she had a conflict of interest relating to in camera discussions about the reduction of a fine levelled against her son by the BLR Fire Chief.

Young-Lovelace did not recuse herself from this investigation, despite Councillor Budarick’s strong public criticism about her company’s billing practices and the justification for her fees. E4m has recently launched a Superior Court action against Budarick under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. This, according to some estimates, could end up costing BLR ratepayers as much as \$200,000 in legal fees.

“Even the remotest perception of bias is a trigger for a competent authority to recuse themselves from the process entirely and immediately,” said McCloskey. “Again [ratepayers] have to ask whether there was a profit motive at play.”

At the conclusion of McCloskey’s presentation, Councillor Budarick declared a conflict of interest saying she had no idea that her case would be mentioned. “I’m declaring a conflict only because Mike did reference my report and therefore I don’t want to comment.”

McCloskey also accused E4m of making a false statement in its most recent report to BLR Council dated December 28 2020. This arose from the Integrity Commissioner claiming that he (McCloskey) had been present at a Council meeting on 4 September 2019, relying on that to undermine the basis for his complaint. “It is a false statement made up entirely out of whole cloth represented to you and by extension the ratepayers as fact,” said McCloskey to Council.

He said that at his request, BLR staff conducted a review and did not find any evidence to support Young-Lovelace’s assertion.

According to McCloskey this is not the first time E4m has been accused of making false allegations against complainants in their reports. He referenced the case of a resident in the Township of Laurentian Hills who has recently gone public after being accused by E4m of making false statements in an affidavit. That taxpayer also claimed that Young-Lovelace made these untruthful allegations about him without giving him an opportunity to respond before making her report public. “This is not a ‘one off.’ Defamatory reports without giving people the opportunity to respond.”

Following McCloskey’s presentation, Mayor Sheldon Kellar responded, “Okay, so thanks for your deputation, Mike. I mean Council will kind of have to absorb what you said and we’ll think about your request.”

Celebrating Kashub Day differently

THE CURRENT
WILNO

Since 1999 the Wilno Heritage Society has held its annual Kashub Day Festival at Wilno Heritage Park on the first Saturday in May, but thanks to COVID-19 the celebrations were cancelled again this year. During Ontario's current stay-at-home orders, the Opeongo Readers' Theatre offered a different way to celebrate. Their special edition show, "Kashubs of the West," was available after 2:00 p.m. on Sunday May 2.

The show, hosted by Cathy Chapeskie, features Joshua Blank, Peter



The Opeongo Line podcast

Glofcheskie, Angela Lorbetskie, Shirley Mask-Connolly and Theresa Prince reading from their latest local history research.

They tell the story of how Kashubian settlers came to be here in Renfrew County. According to podcast producer, Barry Conway, it's a story "full of twists and turns and fun facts and great anecdotes, including how first confessions were heard with little more than the squeeze of a hand."

To listen to "Kashubs of the West" for free on the Opeongo Line podcast, visit <https://btconway.podbean.com>

Madawaska Coffee Co. announces expansion

SUBMITTED
PEMBROKE

Madawaska Coffee Co. was established in 2011 and started out as a hobby coffee roasting business on the banks of the Madawaska River in Palmer Rapids. It has since grown into a full-time coffee roasting production facility located in Barry's Bay.

After running an extremely successful Espresso Bar, situated in the entrance of the Barry's Bay roasting facility, it was an easy decision to open their first café location at 19578 Opeongo Line when the opportunity presented itself in 2019.

"Opening a café in Barry's Bay has created such a warm welcoming community hub; a place where people can relax, spend time with friends and family and of course enjoy delicious speciality food and beverages," said owners Neil and Sarah. They look forward to creating a similar atmosphere at 20 Pembroke Street.

The Madawaska Coffee Co. Pembroke location will offer artisan sandwiches, homestyle soups, delectable fresh-baked treats and of course a full offering of handcrafted coffee beverages. The official grand opening is scheduled for the Canada Day Long weekend.



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

THE CURRENT WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please address letters to lettersmadvalleycurrent@gmail.com or The Madawaska Valley Current, PO Box 1097, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0. Please include your first and last name, address and phone number for verification. Only your name and municipality appears in print. Online, readers can comment using the "Reply."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This downloadable version of *The Current* is available free from our website. Please consider printing copies for any friends and family without internet, especially those in self-isolation that you may be helping.

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

Honour Our Veterans banner program

SUBMITTED
BARRY'S BAY

The Royal Canadian Legion Barry's Bay Branch 406 has launched its Honour Our Veterans banner program. Branch President Heather Poliquin explains, "As a community that supports and honours its Veterans through community and school activities, this program will put a face on the names of Remembrance and keep their legacy alive."

Poliquin said she hopes the public display of banners will engage the community in honouring and remembering local Veterans through an initiative that will ensure continued recognition and respect throughout future generations. New submissions will be accepted yearly, as this will be an ongoing legacy project that will pay tribute to all Canadian and Allied Veterans and active service members and will no doubt grow over the next few years.

The purpose of the Honour Our Veterans Banner Program is to:

- Recognize and honour our local Veterans, deceased Veterans, and active service members, who have served or are currently serving in the Canadian, Allied or Commonwealth Forces that have a tie to our region. This could include: those born in our region, those who have resided, or currently reside in our region, or those who have a close connection to our region.
- Promote Remembrance in our community

Each banner will include a photo, name, military affiliation and the banner sponsor. It will be proudly displayed throughout our beautiful Madawaska Valley Township from Legion week, September 19th until November 12th. Banners will also be displayed in Killaloe if required. The sponsor of the banner (normally family members or local businesses) will pay \$250 (includes taxes and shipping) to have the banner designed. Barry's Bay Legion will look after everything else!

As the banners technically belong to the sponsors, they will own them. But Poliquin says the Legion would like to store the banners so that we can put them on display at the Branch from



time to time. Also, they will be together and easily available when it's time to put them up around town each year.

Legion membership by the honoree or the sponsor is not a requirement for participation in the program.

Information for banners: Each banner will also include the words "Lest We Forget," a Legion, Town and BIA logo, and a combined Canadian and British flag.

Era Served: The following choices would be suitable: WWI, WWII, Cold War, Korean War, Afghanistan, Peacekeeping, Regular Force, and Reserve Force. Years of service are not included for consistency, simplicity and clarity's sake.

Branch of Service: Army, Air Force, Navy.

Ranks: Ranks will not be part of the banners as we want all Veterans to be recognized as equals.

Photograph: Photos of the person in uniform, in portrait style are preferred. Digital photos in pdf or similar format can also be submitted. Photos will be returned.

Name of the sponsor: Family, friends and community sponsors are suitable.

Flags: All banners include the same flags, even if they served for another allied country. The Veterans being honoured in the region all have a tie to the community and therefore will still be honoured under the flags of this nation.

COMMUNITY PARTNER LOGOS

RCL Branch 406 and the Township of

Madawaska Valley and BIA would all be partners in our project, and would therefore be included. If other communities such as KH&R and South Algonquin take part then we will ensure that their logo is used and not that of Madawaska Valley.

More than one photo can appear on a banner. If you have two or more family members that are serving or have served you may wish to display them on a single banner.

APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 1, 2021

For participation in the Honour our Veterans Banner Program, please submit the application form, (available at the Legion or Heather Poliquin) along with a sponsorship cheque of \$250 made payable to: RCL Branch 406, Honour our Veterans, and a high resolution 5" x 7" portrait style photograph of the service person in uniform to the Barry's Bay Legion to the attention of Heather Poliquin. A digital photo in pdf or similar format of 300 dpi or better is also acceptable, and can be emailed to: Heather1956@hotmail.ca

Deadline for participation is July 1, 2021, to allow ample time for the production of the banners. The banners will be hung up in downtown Barry's Bay from September 19 until November 12.

Anyone in the community is welcome to assist Branch 406 with this program. You do not have to be a Legion member. Please call Heather at 613-756-9027.

EDITORIAL

Volunteers angry about environmental vandalism

DANIELLE PAUL
MADAWASKA VALLEY

It seems fitting that Earth Day fell during National Volunteer Week and thanks to community volunteers who have cleaned up the unsightly piles of litter along Valley roads that were hidden during the winter. But where does all this stuff come from? And why? Whatever happened to those childhood lessons about picking up after yourself?

First, I'll let volunteer Frank Burchat tell the most disgusting part of their story, in his own colourful but descriptive style:

"We came across a dumpsite beside the railbed where it slopes into Carson Lake. Some inconsiderate, scum of the earth, F#\$%&%&G JERK dumped 11 oil filters (looked like they were from small engines like ATV or outboard), four pairs of work boots, empty oil jugs, 2 pairs of running shoes, much other garbage, and to top it off, 2 FOUR litre containers of waste oil. These were within three steps of the shoreline of the pristine waters of Carson Lake. Over time the containers would have succumbed to the sun's UV rays and deteriorated, dumping EIGHT liters of waste oil into our beautiful Lake. This would have been disastrous!

"Eventually cameras will catch the LOWLIFE who is dumping on the railbed between Barry's Bay and Carson Lake. I have brought this problem to the attention of the Township over the past several years, and when caught, I hope the sentence is life in prison, with hard labour, in a third world country, and without a chance of parole for 962 years. If you want to know how I really feel, ask me next time we get to chat."

Burchat is a member of Carson, Trout, Lepine and Greenan Lakes Association (CTLG) and he provided the above comments in a report copied to the CTLG board. (Full disclosure: I currently serve as a CTLG Director.) The association participates in two Adopt-A-Road programs in the Valley, one

along Hwy. 60 west of Barry's Bay and the other on Siberia Road. He stated that several volunteers from the Carson Lake area did a recent litter pick-up along the Snowmobile/ ATV trails west of Barry's Bay. Their effort covered approximately 50 kms of trails. They were able to divert much stuff to recycling, some to the beer store, and the remainder to the landfill.

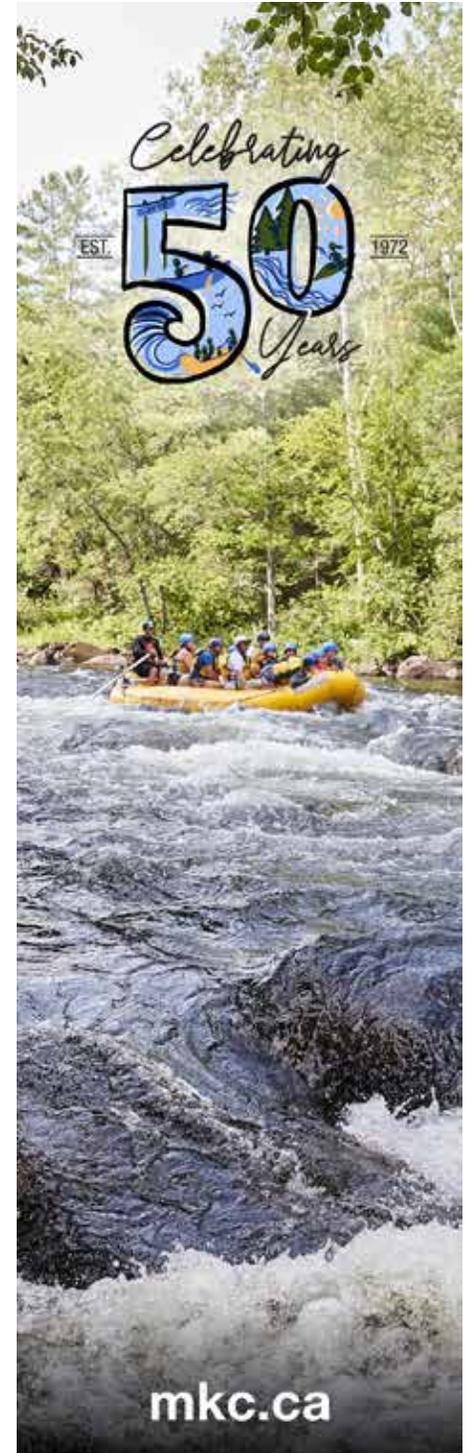
This evidence of blatant environmental vandalism resonated with me as I recall throughout my childhood summers and weekends in the Valley that the first outdoor job my parents would assign was always picking up litter. Every morning I was sent to inspect the roadsides and shorelines to clean up after whoever was out drinking the night before. Once I was old enough to operate a rowboat or canoe by myself, I had to clean up the rock point after whoever had been fishing, drinking or lighting campfires across the lake. Now a year round resident, I still do it. Last summer I had the pleasure of retrieving a plastic bag of human feces someone had left behind, while earlier this year we discovered some ice fishermen had abandoned a campfire on our shoreline that was still smouldering among the roots of a tree the following morning.

To be sure, volunteers from lake associations and waterfront property owners are not the only ones who help keep our community tidy. The Current has previously reported on the clean-up and beautification work done by committed, hard-working community individuals, and organizations. They deserve our thanks — so if you haven't yet nominated someone in the municipality's new Volunteer Awards program, please consider showing your appreciation for these folks by recognizing them publicly. Nominations are due by May 15.

But the question remains: How do the perpetrators explain have for their deliberate acts of vandalism?

You know who you are. And you already know: It's not cool to leave your crap behind.

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The Madawaska Valley
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THE CURRENT
 MADAWASKA VALLEY

**HEALTH CANADA ISSUES MAJOR
 RECALL AT CANADIAN TIRE, COSTCO**

According to media reports, Health Canada has issued the following warnings after “multiple incidents reported.”

The Canadian Tire recall involves the Champion 42 cc Backpack Leaf Blower Model #100735 sold at Canadian Tire between January 2019 to March 2021, Health Canada said in its recall warning (Serial Number range: 1191105721 – 200702728, UPC 817198022697, Canadian Tire SKU# 060-0758-4).

The Costco recall involves charging cases sold with Audio-Technica Wireless Headphones (Costco Item 4114115)

In both cases, overheating is said to be the problem, with melting plastic or casings liable to cause bodily injury or pose a fire hazard.

**BARRY’S BAY FARMERS’ MARKET TO
 BE HELD AT LEGION**

The Barry’s Bay Farmers Market has officially announced that all your usual vendors and products will be available this season at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406 located on the corner of Stafford St. and Hwy 62 (250 John St.) in Barry’s Bay. The Barry’s Bay Farmers’ Market will be running every Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from May 21st to Oct. 8th. The Farmers’ Market points out there is plenty of room for parking, both at the Legion and across Stafford St. at last year’s market location. Local vendors are all looking forward to another great season and seeing their customers once again.

**ST. FRANCIS VALLEY HEALTHCARE
 FOUNDATION SEEKS HELP**

A recent notice from St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation (SVFH) states: With many of our traditional in-person

third party fundraising events such as trivia nights, BBQ’s, euchre tournaments cancelled again this year, we are seeking your assistance. Are you interested in organizing and hosting a COVID-friendly fundraising event in support of local healthcare? Some ideas may include a virtual trivia night, an online musical performance, or a tutorial where you can share your talents with others (cooking class, paint night, exercise class). What about planning a walk, bike or run and collecting pledges from your friends and family. The ideas are endless! We would love to hear from you. Call SVFH at 613-756-3045 ext 217

**MADAWASKA VALLEY GARDENING
 CLUB**

If you’re one of the many Valley residents itching to knock their yards and gardens into shape, MV Gardening Club offers some diary dates for you. These are outdoor events and further details will be provided later.

Annual plant sale: Saturday, May 22 at Combermere Craft Cabin (time TBA). Start some extra seedlings to donate!

Garden Tour: Sun. July 11, Killaloe area

Annual Flower and Vegetable Show: Saturday, Aug. 21 (rain date Sunday, Aug. 22), behind Opeongo Seniors’ Centre, 19 Stafford Street, Barry’s Bay

Fall Plant Sale: (if there is no Plant Auction) Saturday, Sept.18, Zurakowski Park, Barry’s Bay

If you forgot to renew your MV Gardening Club membership by Mar. 31, you can still do so. As a new service to members, the Club has just held its April meeting via Zoom during shutdown and will notify members when the audio of the presentation is available on the Club’s website.

**MADAWASKA KANU CENTRE
 LAUNCHES STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

To mark their fiftieth anniversary in 2021, Madawaska Kanu Centre (MKC) is holding an essay competition. To enter, contestants will be asked to write a short essay on the topic: “What can you learn by paddling a river?” The winning writer will receive a free weekend getaway at MKC with meals, accommodation and paddling instruction (value \$600). The contest is open until September. More details at www.mkc.ca or call 613-756-3620 / 1-888-652-5268

Bard of the Bonnechere

SUBMITTED
GOLDEN LAKE

The Killaloe area lost a driving, creative personality with a zest for living when Barry Goldie died on March 26, 2021. Barry was full of good and fun ideas, and he was a generous collaborator who loved to encourage creativity in others.

Barry lived with his partner, Lucy King, in the beautiful house they built on the Bonnechere River near Tramore in 1994. Barry spent a lot of time with his children, step-children, grandchildren and a large circle of family and friends who remember Barry as a kind friend and a loving family man.

A native of Flint, Michigan, a teacher and a University of Michigan theatre arts graduate, Barry came to the Madawaska Valley in 1972 with the back-to-the-land dream. He settled with his then-wife, Arlene, on the old Malone homestead in the Siberia Road area, deep in the bush, 12 km south of Barry's Bay. There, he built his first house—a "cordwood" structure built with help from a community work bee—out of short log lengths stacked like firewood and mortared together. His children, Augusta and Cameron, were born there, and the family raised animals, worked hard at homesteading and got to know people in the community.

Theatre was always in Barry's heart, and he launched the Upper Madawaska Theatre Group, which performed for the first time at the inaugural Killaloe Craft Fair in 1976, doing a show called "LIVE Spelled Backwards." Over the years, the little homegrown company staged dozens of shows, many written by group members on local themes. Though most of the group were amateurs, Barry taught them how to look like pros on stage.

Some of the group's best-remembered shows, "A Place to Roost" and "Al Capone's Hideout", typified the company's and Barry's spirit. "Roost," or "The Chicken Play," as it came to be known, told the story of a city rooster who moved to the country and had to deal with many terrors including the weasel who kills chickens in the night. "Capone" was a musical written by five



Barry Goldie as Al Capone. SUBMITTED

group members that told the story, from a local perspective, of when the famous gangster holed up in the Quadeville area in the 1930s.

Barry was from an industrial town, and his work and writing usually took the side of the little guy, the ordinary person.

Later, Barry helped launch Stone Fence Theatre, with which he cowrote and directed shows for six years, including "Reflections of a Century: The Musical". He wrote many memorable songs for that and other plays, including "Moonshine Down" and "There's a Thousand Ways to Die in Renfrew County."

For forty years in the Ottawa Valley, Barry made a living as a trusted carpenter and home-builder. Many local homes, cottages and public spaces, like Killaloe's Station Park, attest to his vision and care.

Barry's great love of life is reflected in the songs he wrote. In 2007, he recorded a CD called "Life on the Bonnechere." It includes many odes to the beauty and history of this area, as well as the humorous hit, "Redneck Rivera," which describes, in tongue-in-cheek fashion, the joys of living by the Bonnechere. "It's like paradise to me," Barry sang of his home. In summer and fall, he'd often be seen out on the river with grandkids or sitting by the riverbank in the evening.

It won't be as much fun along the Bonnechere without him.

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**BARRY'S BAY
Legion**

SUPPORTING VETS UPCOMING EVENTS

The building may be closed but your Legion is actively assisting local vets during stay-at-home. When the province allows us to reopen our doors, events like our monthly Pancake Breakfasts will be back.

BEHIND THE SCENES | CONTACTS

During stay-at-home, your Legion is planning programs and improving facilities for the coming year.

Veteran's Service Officer:

Dave Eagles, 613-756-6356

General Inquiries/ President:

Heather Poliquin, 613-756-9027

Hall Bookings:

Mike Poliquin 613-756-9027

Property Manager/ 1st Vice President:

Kevin Chapeskie, 613-756-2347

Your Legion needs your support to ensure we can continue to be an active and vital part of the community.



Watch for upcoming events in local media and on our FB page.

Bike bank launched in Ottawa Valley

SUBMITTED
PEMBROKE

At Yantha Cycle in Pembroke, volunteers Bob Peltzer, Adam Yantha, Ron Moss and Pat Krose receive 36 used bikes from the local OPP that they plan to restore and distribute to people who need them. See photo.

The Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance (OVCATA) is launching a unique new service to enable everyone in the Valley who needs a bike to have one. Volunteers working with the Bike Bank collect and recondition used bikes and get them to people in need of them. OVCATA members are collecting bikes from the OPP, individuals, bike stores, waste sites and other sources and putting them in working order for donation to anyone who asks for one.

“Young or old, a bicycle can transform someone’s life,” says OVCATA co-chair Pat Krose, of Forester’s Falls. “A bike can give you a sense of independence and freedom and make you stronger, healthier and happier. For the people who need and want a bike but can’t afford one, we hope the Bike Bank will fill an important need.”

People who want a bike simply need to contact OVCATA, and volunteers will



Bike Bank launch with Bob Peltzer, Adam Yantha, Ron Moss and Pat Krose.

determine what kind and size of bike is needed and arrange for delivery. Initially, contact is being done through community agencies.

Bikes will be stored at various locations around the County. Yantha’s Cycle in Pembroke came forward to offer the Bike Bank’s first storage location, as well as technical support and advice, and used parts.

“To succeed, the Bike Bank will need lots of local support and participation,” says Ms. Krose. OVCATA is asking for donations of bikes and for volunteers who can help pick up, repair, store and deliver bikes. “We also need new hel-

pets for all the kids who get bikes, and we are hoping local merchants and service clubs can help with this need. Individuals can contribute too by making cash donations on our website – WWW.OVCATA.CA.”

In Pembroke, the OPP delivered 34 unclaimed used bikes to OVCATA that had been warehoused for several years. “Some are in good shape, but most need work,” says Ms. Krose. “Fortunately, we’ve got some good people who love bikes working on them.”

To get or give a bike, or to get involved as a volunteer, email BIKEBANK@ovcata.ca

Water Tower remembered by former telegrapher

THE CURRENT
BARRY’S BAY

Peter Hamel of North Bay shared his rendition of the Barry’s Bay Water Tower with *The Current*. Hamel, from a family of railroaders—his brother Ray was telegrapher at the CN Barry’s Bay station in the 1950s—has turned to art in his retirement. He told us that after choosing the subject and checking his files or the library for references, he lets his imagination loose. His materials include pen and ink, wash and gouache, pencil, charcoal and acrylic. Hamel hopes his drawing might bring back some memories for the “old timers” in the area. He told *The Current* he is “an ex-Barry’s Bay resident with wonderful memories of the Bay.”

The artist was formerly a telegrapher



Drawing by Peter Hamel.

with Ontario Northland railway for 35 years. The Hamel Family were inducted into the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame in 2019 in the Rail Heroes category. A

media release dated December 19, 2019 stated, “Four generations of Hamels have contributed a total of 570 years of cumulative service to the Grand Trunk, CN, CP, and Ontario Northland railways. Third-generationer J.G. Hamel is credited with saving the lives of 150 people aboard a disabled passenger train by alerting an oncoming freight train. Three of his brethren—James, Steve, and Perry Hamel—continue to serve Canadians today as CN employees.”

Note to our readers: 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).