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# Madawaska Valley Public Library celebrates 60th anniversary

*A reception, activities, and even a new podcast marks its diamond anniversary*

JAMES DI FIORE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID pandemic, the Madawaska Valley Public Library (MVPL) passed its 60th anniversary in August and used this milestone to celebrate with the community it serves, including an outdoor reception on Saturday, August 21st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On August 11, 1961, the Barry's Bay Public Library (the library changed its name to Madawaska Valley Public Library in 2014) opened its doors to the public for the first time, eventually becoming one of the main cultural hubs in the Madawaska Valley. The road to 2021 has been a long one, filled with challenges, benchmarks, and most importantly, growth.

Back in 1961 the library was housed where the Township Office currently resides, and was open to the public just two hours a week under the stewardship of its first librarian, Mrs. Matthews. Eventually, the first full-time librarian, Helen Kern, was hired.

Over the next six years demand increased significantly and memberships quickly swelled. In 1967 an expansion was granted as part of Canada's Centennial projects, and the Township purchased the Bell Telephone building which would become the permanent home for the MVPL.

In 1973, MVPL completed the first of many renovations, adding a children's section and eventually tripling the size of the library. The Dominic Recoskie wing was added through municipal, provincial, and federal funding, not to mention a \$25,000 donation from Ted Recoskie.



Librarian Mrs. Mathews and the first patrons to register. PHOTO: BARRY'S BAY REVIEW 1961

Since the turn of the millennia, the library has undergone more renovations and a significant growth in membership. The library boasted a new computer lab in the mid 1990s, long before many schools in the province offered access to the emerging technology. This effort to modernize is ongoing, and today the library offers DVDs, audio recordings, microfilm, free public Wi-Fi, laptop computers, online books/audio books, a streaming platform for movies/documentaries/series, and the popular inter-library loan service that gives patrons access to most of the province's library catalogues.

While the library is revered by patrons and staff alike, growth in membership and overall population means

they are likely due for an additional expansion. CEO Karen Filipkowski is confident the library will secure the funds needed over the next few years to make the expansion happen.

"Despite COVID, we are experiencing an increase in demand for workspace and computer bookings, and our current space is being stretched to its limits," Filipkowski told *The Current*.

She also said the August 21st reception was as much about thanking the community as it was to celebrate 60 years. Members of the public were treated to music, refreshments, and activities for the kids. MVPL also launched a new podcast titled "Old, New, Borrowed, Blue" which will feature articles from 1961 and additional news to inform the community.

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## BARRY'S BAY Legion

### EMERGENCY FIRST-AID COURSE

Friday Sept. 10. Call 613-756-3018 for details and registration.

### HONOUR OUR VETERANS BANNERS

Saturday September 18 from 2 pm to 4 pm. Public viewing of new banners. Coffee, tea, light snacks provided. Bar will be open.



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

# Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke federal election candidates

Elections Canada has now published its list of the confirmed candidates for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. The candidates are:

- David Ainsworth (People's Party of Canada)
- Cheryl Gallant (Conservative Party of Canada)
- Stefan Klietsch (Independent)
- Michael Lariviere (Green Party of Canada)
- Cyndi Mills (Liberal Party of Canada)
- Jodie Primeau (New Democratic Party)

Election day is Monday, September 20 (9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.)

Advance voting days are September 10, 11, 12, 13 (9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

If you wish to vote by mail, you must apply before Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.

To vote you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old on election day, and prove your identity and address. If you have received a voting card, bring it along with your ID to make the voting process easier.

## Opeongo Seniors Centre for voting and more

As usual, the Opeongo Seniors Centre at 19 Stafford Street, Barry's Bay will provide a polling station for the election. Advanced voting takes place from Friday, September 10 to Monday, September 13 with Election Day voting on Monday, September 20.

During the Covid period, Leah Kinghorn said the centre has benefited from new windows (including installation) which should improve the energy efficiency of the building. The local donor wishes to remain anonymous, but she said that seniors greatly appreciate their generosity.

The fully accessible lower level (elevator) has been turned into a games room complete with pool table, TV, dart board, shuffleboard, as well as some fitness machines.

You can drop in for coffee, tea and companionship on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 2 pm. Kinghorn hopes the centre can offer its full schedule starting October including occasional meals, fitness and dancing classes, art group, etc. For details check out the monthly calendar at opeongoseniors.ca

### AT THE LEGION

**Club Room and Patio open:** Monday to Thursday, Saturday from 2 pm to 6 pm. Friday from 2 pm to 9 pm.

### LEGION WEEK

September 19-25, MV Township to install *Honour Our Veterans* banners.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday Sept. 19 from 8 am to 12 pm.

### BARRY'S BAY FARMERS' MARKET

In the parking lot, Friday from 11 am to 4 pm.



The Ontario government is supporting an investment of \$12.7 million by St. Francis Herb Farm (SFHF) to help strengthen local manufacturing, create good jobs, and attract investment to Barry's Bay and the surrounding region. Through the Regional Development Program, the province is investing \$1 million in this Ottawa Valley business, helping to create 12 new jobs, while retaining 34 existing positions. Above Barry's Bay site of new SFHF facility. PHOTO OTTAWABUSINESSJOURNAL



# Bill Davis had charisma too

ROGER PAUL  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

News of Premier Bill Davis' passing has provoked tributes and reminiscences from many who were affected by him during his premiership from 1971 to 1985. Some of them recall his caring personality, good humour and integrity, a combination of attributes that are sadly lacking in many political leaders today. When I practised law in Toronto I got to spend some time observing him at various functions and always found him to be the consummate politician in the best sense of those words. As the Toronto Star put it, "Bill Davis was the king of a better kind of politics."

My first exposure to him, however, was when I was studying law at the University of Toronto in 1975. The Province had just appointed Eganville native Arthur Maloney as its first Ombudsman. Maloney set out to make his office as accessible as possible both to the public and elected officials so, among other steps he took, he ensured that a member of his staff was always available for consultation while the legislature was sitting in Queens Park. I was fortunate to be hired as his "Night Duty Officer" which required me to be present in an office at Queens Park in the evenings when the House was sitting, so as to respond to anything that might affect the Ombudsman's Office that arose during those sittings.

I can count the occasions on the fingers of one hand when I actually received a visit from an MPP during my term, but one of those will always stick in my memory. One evening quite late, I think around 9 p.m., I was doing what I usually did, i.e. studying my legal texts. (It's always nice to be paid for studying.) There was a knock on the door and in walked the Premier. He told me that he just wanted to thank me for the service I was providing. We then chatted about the implications and framework of the newly-appointed Ombudsman's Office and as he was walking out the door he turned and asked me where I was studying law. When I told him "U of T" he joshed me by saying something like, "Too bad—I



went to Osgoode!" (There was then and still remains, I am sure, a competitiveness between the two Toronto based law schools.) It was, of course, unnecessary for him to delay his departure from the House after a long day for this reason but that brief incident was typical of the man who many have

described as the ultimate "nice guy."

His premiership coincided with Pierre Trudeau's reign as Prime Minister. Trudeau was feted because of his "charisma" and even had a mania named after him. Bill Davis undoubtedly had charisma too, but it was largely derived from his humility and geniality, no less effective for that.



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## JODIE PRIMEAU

NDP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Jodie Primeau is a lawyer, mother, amateur triathlete, and owner of a law firm in her hometown of Deep River, Ontario.

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## OPINION

# Noble tragedy: Local veteran's reflections on the fall of Afghanistan

MIKE MCCLOSKEY  
QUADEVILLE

Canada's flights out of Kabul have come to an end and with it our involvement in Afghanistan will recede from the front pages and, for most Canadians, from the collective consciousness. As a veteran of that campaign, I have been asked by a number of friends and family over the past weeks about what my thoughts were as I watched the fall of Kandahar and the humanitarian disaster at the Kabul airport descend into the inevitable bloodshed.

## WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET THEM OUT

I have a great well of sympathy for those Afghans that clung to the sides of aircraft, because those tragic people actually internalized the Western rhetoric we espoused. That throng of people ringing the airport, kept at bay by barbed wire and now the target of suicide bombers, represent those who risked their lives as educators, doctors, lawyers and government workers to rebuild their civil society.

Now their involvement with us, no matter how trivial or benign, has become their death warrant both as individuals and as entire families. It was right and moral for us to fly them out when we could. It was wrong and immoral for us to have waited so long. But this is not the end of our obligation. When a school teacher from Zhari arrives at our embassy in Kazakhstan after a perilous 500 kilometer journey we must continue to support them.

## RETIRED GENERALS — IT'S OVER. CAN WE DIM THE GASLIGHT?

However, in all the coverage I watched and read there was one distinct group of individuals that I found I had no sympathy for. There has been a virtual parade of former Generals from the time period of our involvement feigning "surprise" or "shock" about the "sudden collapse" of the Afghanistan National Security Forces. It is as though

they are all saying that "it wasn't broken when I left." Here is but one example from a CBC news interview with Maj. Gen (Retd) David Fraser. 13 Aug 2021:

"I think what is surprising is that after a trillion dollars and 300,000 Afghan Security Forces being trained and equipped it should be more than capable of managing 60,000 Taliban.... The Afghan leadership had no sense of will or determination to take care of their own country – that is surprising."

If we read the Parliamentary reports on the training of the Afghan National Army from the time period when I was deployed, the situation portrayed to the public by the Army, bureaucrats and politicians looked pretty good. Historians will note that, officially, we thought: "that Canadian Afghan National Army (ANA) training efforts in Kandahar have 'shown promising progress' and that the ANA could be capable of autonomous operations by 2011. The significance of ANA progress cannot be overstated and should be celebrated as a major Canadian and Allied achievement."

## NOT NECESSARILY LIES, BUT NOT QUITE THE WHOLE TRUTH

So how did an Afghan National Army that we thought would be capable of autonomous operations by 2011 fade into nothing by 2021? Was it corruption? Was it duplicity? Was it simply a craven political calculation on the part of the Afghan high command? Historians, I am sure, will find a million fathers for this disaster. It is with some confidence that I can add another: Institutional fear of giving a true picture of the ability of the Afghans to protect their own country.

Yes, there was a possibility in 2008 that the Afghan Army "could be capable of autonomous operations by 2011." But what was never officially transmitted was the general feeling that many of us had that it was equally, or even more possible, that by 2011 that they could fall apart, break into factions based on tribal lines, or desert en masse if left to their own devices.



The author. PHOTO: CANADIAN FORCES COMBAT CAMERA

Given the amount of money Canada was spending, there was immense pressure for a lot of military leaders, professional bureaucrats, and politicians to ensure that the trend line was always seen to be moving forward. The idea that the Afghan forces could plateau or, God forbid, slip backwards in capability was simply anathema.

## A LITTLE OFFICER IN A LITTLE OFFICE

How would I know? Well, for nine months during 2008–2009, I served as a lowly staff officer in the Canadian Task Force Headquarters in Kandahar. My duties included tracking and reporting on the development of the Afghan National Army and Afghan Police. On a weekly basis we used to report to the Canadian Expeditionary Forces Command (CEFCOM) (referred to at the time as "the Eye of Sauron") using a scoring matrix where various training goals, or benchmarks, would be assessed and scored. We would then tally up the scores and give the Afghan National Army a score out of 4. Months went by where reports from the trainers to the Afghan forces would come in showing that they were consistently missing benchmarks and for months these reports were scored by my office as a 2. As you can imagine this was problematic for a lot of people in the system.

## WORKING THE REF

It started subtly at first with senior staff officers inquiring "Are you sure it isn't a 3 this time?" progressing to "would be





great to see that number go up” and finally moving to questions surrounding our professional competence with “perhaps you are applying the criteria a little too harshly.” Each time I was asked about it, I would answer: “We are following the criteria you gave us. We give the score based on what the people on the ground are seeing and reporting” and discussed how the actual assessment of the Afghan National Army is critical because it is showing our headquarters, higher headquarters in Canada and our political leadership that the Afghans just aren’t getting it.

Finally, remembering the Somalia affair, I recognized that a day would come in the future when there would be a “blamestorming” session so I took the opportunity to memorialize my concerns and I sent an email saying that if people higher up the chain of command wanted to change the scores they could do so, but that it could not be under my signature block and that they themselves would have to sign it. Then for a few days there was ... silence.

#### **HAVING TROUBLE SCORING? MAKE THE GOAL POSTS WIDER!**

Resolution was found in two ways. First, locally, myself and another officer were told that we no longer had responsibility for doing this reporting and that another agency would do it. Second, we

were informed that the old scoring system was being “updated” as it “wasn’t discrete enough.” The new scoring system was now out of 8. So the Afghan Army that had been a consistent “2” instantly became a “4.” I can remember on a later video conference a staff officer back in Ottawa remarking that “it was nice to see that number finally go up – nice work everyone.” The movie Borat was still quoted from back then and one of my compatriots leaned over to me and whispered in an Eastern-bloc accent, “Great Success!”

#### **A METAPHOR FOR YOU TO VISUALIZE**

For 20 years the US and NATO (of which we are a part) ran beside the Afghan Army like a parent holding onto a bicycle as a child tries to ride for the first time, the whole time telling the world that any time now he is going to ride right down the driveway unaided. Rotation after rotation of dedicated Canadians ran beside that bicycle, coaching, instructing, cajoling awaiting the day that we would let go of the bike and watched the Afghan forces pedal on their own.

When the time finally came and the West decided to leave, we let go of the handles and watched the Afghan Army not even pedal but rather coast a few feet, careen into the ditch, remove the tires and sell them, then go and sit in the shade under a pomegranate tree.

We can say a great deal about this situation. We can be angry or disappointed but we cannot say that in our heart of hearts that we are truly “shocked” or “surprised.”

#### **FINALLY, THE QUESTION THAT I GET ASKED THE MOST**

Do I think that my time there was a failure? No. Canadians gave the Afghans years of protection and years of opportunity, with the Americans giving even more years after we as a nation left. The fact that they didn’t take advantage of it is no more our national failure than calling people who take part in a drug intervention ‘failures’ if the person they wanted to help returns to drugs. It was, overall, a noble undertaking that ended in tragedy. The fact that this time it failed should never be allowed to be used as our national excuse to never be noble again. That would be the true disservice to our service personnel who died there.

*About the author: Michael J. McCloskey CD is a retired Canadian Forces Officer and veteran of multiple operational deployments that included Kosovo and, immediately prior to retirement, a nine-month tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2008. He holds an Honours Degree in Political Science from Laurentian University, and is a frequent writer and commentator on municipal politics. He resides with his family on a property outside of Quadeville, Ontario.*

# Bay Fitness a family affair

DANIELLE PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

The entrepreneurial spirit runs deep in the Valley and where there's a niche, you'll find some bright spark with the will and creativity to fill it. Local residents can thank a whole family with that spirit for the recent opening of Bay Fitness at 19574 Opeongo Line (Hwy 60) in Barry's Bay. Left with vacant premises after the *Valley Gazette* relocated, the Faulkner family put some of son David's workout machines in the empty space for the family's personal gym. It wasn't long before older sister Ashley Faulkner suggested that it wouldn't take much to bring in more equipment and turn the former newspaper offices into a fitness centre.

Ashley, who earned a general business diploma from Algonquin College online during the pandemic, is the facility manager. With a keen understanding of customer needs developed while working at Eve's Escape Spa, she quickly recognized that many Madawaska Valley residents have had nowhere close to home to workout since the municipality closed the fitness centre at Madawaska Valley District High School (MVDHS).

The Faulkner family moved to Madawaska Valley from Ottawa in 2013 and Ashley attended MVDHS for one year before graduation. David was an MVDHS student for Grades 9 through 12 so he used the school fitness equipment all through high school. Their parents are well known locally – Robert runs Faulkner Heating & Cooling, and Marilyn O'Reilly has plenty of business acumen as well. She said she ran a variety of small businesses when her children were young, including a candle making enterprise with Ashley. Her brother is Neil O'Reilly of Barry's Bay Metro/Homestead at Wolf Ridge fame.

Covid restrictions limit capacity at Bay Fitness to three people, so the interior space was redesigned to accommodate equipment while maintaining the necessary physical distancing between users. Clients must wear masks. To accommodate different schedules, Bay Fitness is open Monday to Friday from



Ashley Faulkner and her mother Marilyn O'Reilly beside the leg press, holding Bay Fitness merchandise.

7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sessions are scheduled in 1.5 hour increments to allow 30 minutes for sanitizing between sessions.

A full range of fitness equipment is available. A small cardio room is suitable for two persons now, but post-Covid there will be a third machine. The power rack has a back attachment for lateral pull downs, and is also equipped with pull up bars. It has safety bars and a platform for additional safety when working with heavy weights. It is fully adjustable to suit individual training requirements. The "free" space has two benches, an exercise ball, resistance bands, various sizes of free (hand) weights and a body weight machine to use as you like. A small bench press in its own area is used with 1-inch plates. With the smart treadmill you can follow along with a fitness class, follow the iFit program, adjust inclines. It will even run the program for you automatically. The newest addition is a leg press machine to be used with 2-inch Olympic plates. Ashley said that although Bay Fitness had more than 400 lbs of weights at our visit, a further 300 lbs will arrive soon. There are yoga mats to purchase as well as Bay Fitness branded merchandise.

Regular Bay Fitness client Thomas Giffin arrived for a session while we were there and was happy to demonstrate how he uses the fully adjustable power rack to develop his strength. He

signed up as a member as soon as Bay Fitness opened so that he could workout daily in preparation for the hockey season. By the time you read this, he will have had his first tryout.

Cost is always a big consideration and Bay Fitness aims to be affordable for all. There are three levels of membership, as well as a pay as you go option. Appointments are required for all sessions.

- Tier One \$50 for up to 20 sessions (\$2.50 each)
- Tier Two \$45 up to 15 sessions (\$3 each)
- Tier Three \$40 up to 10 sessions (\$4 each)
- Pay as you go \$10 Book by 5 pm the day before the session
- Privacy fee \$10 reserves the gym for your personal use

Ashley hopes that later this year Covid rules will relax enough to allow them to hold a Grand Opening. From September, Bay Fitness will have a personal trainer available by appointment for one-on-one sessions, or for up to two clients. Future plans could even include outdoor classes in the back yard, if conditions and Covid permit. For further information you can call Ashley Faulkner on (613) 401-1604 or email [barrysbayfitness@gmail.com](mailto:barrysbayfitness@gmail.com). You can follow Bay Fitness on Instagram or visit the website at [barrysbayfitness.com](http://barrysbayfitness.com).



# Court dismisses MV's request to gag *The Current* and its owners

THE CURRENT  
PEMBROKE

A Superior Court judge has thrown out an application by Madawaska Valley Council and the Township (the “Defendants”) to impose a gag order on *The Current* and its owners (the “Plaintiffs”). The Court had been asked by the Defendants to halt the Plaintiffs’ lawsuit which alleges abuse of power and defamation. The Defendants are accused of attempting to muzzle *The Current* because they were displeased with some of its investigative reporting.

In a 47-page decision released on August 6, Justice Adriana Doyle rejected the Defendants’ request stating that the Plaintiffs’ lawsuit falls outside the category of actions that merit Anti-SLAPP (“gag”) orders. She also said, “... The evidence establishes that the Plaintiffs could succeed on their claims for financial and reputational harm.” And also, “I conclude that the public interest weighs in favour of allowing the action to proceed to a determination on its merits.”

All members of Council as well as the municipal corporation were represented by lawyer Paul Cassan of the Sault Ste. Marie firm Wishart Law. Those familiar with the background to this litigation will recall that it was Cassan’s misguided questioning of the publisher’s honesty about his legal career that set in motion the events that followed.

Justice Doyle’s Decision refers to the Plaintiffs’ offer, made before starting the lawsuit, to take no legal steps if the Defendants would agree to issue an apology and retraction, as well as make a \$500 donation to the St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation. No response was received to this offer, and subsequent invitations to enter into mediation were also either rejected or ignored. CAO Suzanne Klatt has revealed that Wishart Law billed the Township \$60,848.81 in legal fees for work they did in the very early stages of this application. *The Current* has asked Klatt to advise how much Wishart Law has billed in total but as of this date no re-



ply has been received.

Roger Paul, *The Current*’s publisher, has released the following statement. “My wife and I are pleased that Justice Doyle has explicitly vindicated our decision to bring this proceeding. We said from the beginning that it was in the public interest that we pursue this legal claim because the Defendants’ conduct, followed by their stonewalling about it, was contrary to the interests of their constituents.”

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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](mailto: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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Printed by Bayberry Design, Barry’s Bay, Ontario

**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](http://madvalleycurrent.com)

# High-tech dental practice in the Bay celebrates third anniversary

DANIELLE PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

Barry's Bay Family Dental Practice celebrated its third anniversary under the ownership of Dr. Zulfar Moledina on August 10 and that was the day *The Current* visited the practice to learn about the changes he has implemented since 2018. His enthusiasm for bringing state-of-the-art dentistry to rural Ottawa Valley remains undiminished, as does Dr. Moledina's feelings for this area: "I've fallen in love with the place." Despite having practices in Ottawa, Pembroke and Petawawa, he now spends three days per week in Barry's Bay, describing it as "Having the best of both worlds."

## UPGRADES TO THE OFFICE

Covid regulations have brought many changes, restrictions and difficulties, but as Dr. Moledina puts it, "The problem is when you do these major renovations you need to close the office down and then you're not able to take care of patients. So Covid actually encouraged us to move forward. During the first wave, we were closed for three months." He applauds municipal staff who, despite the first wave shutdown, encouraged people to apply for building permits. Because of this, he said, "I had it all planned.... As soon as we were able to do a build, I think we found out on the Thursday, and we were able to start on Monday."

Receptionist Valerie Kerr explained that people in Barry's Bay and the surrounding community deserve a good, up-to-date dental office. "We do everything here—root canals, implants, everything." She pointed out the upgrades during a tour of the building:

**Infection control:** Covid required installation of doors throughout the building. Kerr explained, though, that the biggest thing is the galley style sterilization (steri) centre. Dr. Moledina insisted on a state-of-the-art system. Not only does the steri centre have two main areas (Red = dirty, Blue = clean and sterilized) but the process means every item is digitized, recorded and the foolproof system will not function

if there is a problem; instead it sends a message so staff can respond. After cleaning, all equipment leaves the system sealed in a steri-pack and is not opened until the patient's treatment. The inventory system keeps a record of all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gowns, shields.

**Digital imaging:** Everything is digitized so that patients' X-rays can be easily uploaded and transferred. The panoramic imaging machine gives an ear to ear view of the patient's mouth. Explaining that it is useful to see impacted wisdom teeth, Kerr says, "[It's] really cool when you have a little person; you can see all the baby teeth still to erupt." Dr. Moledina says, "We are keeping abreast of all the technology; we have the scanners here as well. We have a Cone-beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) machine in our Petawawa office so we are able to work with our other office and send patients there to have the special imaging." He explains that he standardized the software in all four of his practices in Ottawa, Petawawa, Pembroke and Barry's Bay "by having the same software—management software, software for the inter-oral radiographs. This way it makes it so much easier."

**Additional treatment rooms:** Each dentist works in two adjoining operatories, there are two additional operatories for the dental hygienists to use, and a separate area for denture checks, emergency appointments, etc.

**Furniture:** Modular dental storage cabinets by A-dec are evident throughout, with additional customized features such as built-in X-ray equipment that can be shared by adjoining operatories. Dr. Moledina favours the A-dec chairs as well, saying "They are one of the high-end brands that we like." He points out the value of buying good quality, "The other chairs that I have ... we have just reupholstered them; mechanically they are just the same."

## NEW FACES

Dr. Brian Bishop joined the practice last September. Like Dr. Moledina his dentistry training was done at the West-



Gathering outside the steri centre, from left (back row) Dr. Brian Bishop, Shelby Cashubec, Trisha Stewart, Dr. Zulfar Moledina, Valerie Kerr, Tory O'Shea. (front row) Lynn Hewson, Jennifer Villemaire

ern University, and he had practised in Bancroft since 1977. He is no stranger to Barry's Bay, though, having bought his cottage on Kamaniskeg Lake in 1976. He also recalls this very dental office in its earlier years saying, "I remember the way it was because I used to come here as a kid." Covid restrictions in 2020 closed the Bancroft dental office where he worked at the same time as Dr. Moledina's practice closed, but he did not return when it reopened. Dr. Bishop said the owners of the practice did not make "the changes to make me feel comfortable going back." When Dr. Moledina gave him a tour of the upgraded office, he said, "It was wonderful and where I wanted to be working. And it was close to the cottage too, so that didn't hurt."

## WHAT THE PATIENTS SAY

"Wow! It's the Wow factor. They cannot believe the transformation. It's just incredible. They are so happy to see the facilities updated," says Dr. Moledina.

Dr. Bishop says, "I've had a lot of patients that were patients of mine in Bancroft who found me up here and they have said the same thing.... They walk in and say, This is beautiful. They feel safe. You can see all the procedures and processes to keep it that way."

Dr. Moledina explains, "The staff really enjoy coming here ... it's a sense of belonging for them – they feel proud to be working here."



# Venue changed for local COVID-19 vaccinations — SFMH takes over from Legion



From left: Brenda Gabourie, Myrna Florent and Shirley Hill RN. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## SUBMITTED BARRY'S BAY

After nearly six months at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406 in Barry's Bay, the Barry's Bay COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic relocated to St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) as of Thursday, August 19. Since the Clinics opened in March, a staggering 11,455 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered by the Barry's Bay COVID-19 Vaccination Team. Greg McLeod, Chief Operating Officer at SFMH said, "Beginning August 19th, the Barry's Bay COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic will be held at St. Francis Memorial Hospital. There will no longer be a vaccination clinic offered at the Barry's Bay Legion. We are incredibly grateful for the support that the Barry's Bay Legion Branch 406 and its leaders provided over the past six months. Their contribution to our community's vaccination efforts is appreciated by all."

Dates and time of the Vaccination Clinic at SFMH will be publicized. The phone number for the vaccination clinic is now (613) 717-6311.

Mike Poliquin, Treasurer and Branch 406 Ways and Means Officer, said the Legion considered the Vaccination Clinic an "operational imperative" due to the importance of the vaccine program and for that reason they were more than happy to provide facilities

for it at the Legion. When local health-care partners were selecting a venue last winter, they approved of the Legion as, among other things, it was fully accessible with separate entrance and exit doors. Poliquin said that although the hall is not big compared to some venues, it was a good size for the number of staff running the Barry's Bay Vaccination Clinic.

Both McLeod and Poliquin — along with many other residents — praised the Barry's Bay Vaccination Team for their care and efficiency. Poliquin emphasized the high quality of teamwork between SFMH staff and the Legion. He was impressed by the efficiency and hard work of the Vaccination Team who on some days administered vaccine doses to 400 people.

McLeod told *The Current* there were more than 30 members of the Barry's Bay COVID-19 Vaccination Team, saying the excellent group included many nurses who came back out of retirement to support the effort. They often multi-tasked preparing vaccine, registration, screening, vaccination, etc. Team leaders were Val Redmond RN, Joanne Plebon RN, and Susan Farrar.

*The Current* congratulates both the Barry's Bay COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Team members and members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406 for this significant collaborative effort to protect our community.

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# Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College to investigate its handling of Uwe Lieflander

JAMES DI FIORE  
BARRY'S BAY

*Exclusive to The Current*

In January, 2019, multiple news sources reported that Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College's (SWC) former assistant professor of music Uwe Lieflander had been charged by Ottawa Police with sexual assault. The charges relate to offences alleged to have occurred in 2016 and 2017. Lieflander was employed by SWC from 2007 to 2017.

In late July, a spokesperson for SWC informed *The Current* of its decision to conduct an investigation into its handling of Lieflander during his period of employment. The decision follows the publication on July 1 of an article entitled 'Canadian college, church, and community ignored predatory choir-master's red flags.' It was authored by American journalists Damien and Simcha Fisher, who regularly contribute to Catholic and secular publications. The duo is known for investigative work focussing on sexual abuse in Catholic institutions.

Among the accusations made in the piece was that Lieflander groomed a victim, named "Sam" in the article, and eventually assumed a quasi-parental role in her life, which included forcing her to call him "dad." Sam accuses him of raping her although she states it happened after she ceased being a student at SWC. She is also reported as saying that there was a pattern of Lieflander forging especially deep connections with vulnerable children like her. "Once you were one of his favorites, you really felt important," she said.

The article states that Lieflander's lessons included probing into her home life, and also his trademark method of touching children during rehearsal as part of his teaching method. "There was a lot of touch," Sam said about her lessons.

The Fishers claim in their article that "Lieflander's alleged predation didn't happen in a vacuum. The members of his small Canadian community, par-

ents of his students, colleagues, and even a priest ignored red flags and explained away the behavior that Lieflander himself likened to grooming ..."

Following publication of the Fisher article, *The Current* was contacted by Harold Visser, Chaplaincy Leader at Notre Dame High School in Ottawa. He and his wife had volunteered with Lieflander's youth music programs and had read our 2019 report of the criminal charges. He told *The Current* that "We supported Sparrows for many years in Ottawa and are horrified at the crime that Mr. Lieflander is charged with.... May the organizations that employed him acknowledge any ways in which they facilitated his behaviour, ensure proper protections are in place to protect the vulnerable, and publicly recognize the charges and encourage any other possible victims to come forward."

Visser also advised *The Current* that the Fisher article had caught the attention of German media in the region where Lieflander, now 57 years old, has worked as a parish organist since March 2018, initially on a part-time basis, then later as a full-time employee. Subsequent German media reports said the Diocese of Augsburg has released Lieflander from duties "pending clarification or further notice."

In an email to this reporter SWC spokesperson, Dr. Natasha Duquette, who is also the Academic Dean and a Professor of Literature, said the investigation would be "conducted by an external organization.... This external management of the process will increase its objectivity. The continuing openness of the Board of Directors and Interim President to this type of investigation is confirming my hope for the future of the college. A full official announcement from SWC will follow soon."

Lieflander was riding a moped from Germany to Africa this summer, according to his YouTube page. His last post is dated June 29, 2021, in which he describes arriving home in Regensburg, Germany after travelling 7,500 km.



# Two years of living with bladder cancer

PETER GLOFCHESKIE  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

On a mid-November morning in 2019, my wife Bev and I sat unsuspectingly in my urologist's office. We had been told twice that the red patches on my bladder wall were infection or inflammation and not to worry. The patches had been surgically removed a couple of weeks earlier and we were called in to get the oncology results. My urologist sat and said "Peter, your results came back as High Grade Papillary Urothelial Carcinoma. You will need to begin treatment now". This aggressive cancer has a 61% one-year recurrence rate and a 45% five-year progression rate.

We sat there stunned.

Today, I am almost two years into my three years plus treatment regimen. Covid has slowed things, but I am on a reasonable path. I have had one small reoccurrence. The journey has had its moments—numerous cystoscopies and CT scans, UT infections, epididymitis, urethra blockages, several hospital emerg visits and cumulative side effects of fatigue, body aches and reactive arthritis. My treatments are done in sets of once a week for three weeks. I resume treatments again in October. Best news, I still have my bladder and it usually works well enough.

Bladder cancer is the 5th most common cancer in Canada. 3/4 of all bladder cancer patients are men. Although bladder cancer is the most expensive cancer to treat it is 12th in dollars for research in Canada. About 12,000 Canadians will be diagnosed with this cancer this year and about 80,000 Canadians are presently survivors. Blood in the urine is the most common symptom and this was true for me. Smoking is the most common risk factor and I have never smoked.

## BLADDER CANCER CANADA

When I was diagnosed, I was totally unaware of what I had and what was to come. I came across Bladder Cancer Canada (BCC). BCC, a Canadian charity, was founded 12 years ago by two men, bladder cancer survivors. It is dedicated to providing patient support, increasing awareness and fund-

ing research. On the BCC website I found educational webinars delivered in plain language by professionals. I read with a better understanding their patient guidebooks that outlined treatments and options. On the forum I conversed with people who were further in their journey and gained from their experience. I felt a bond and became more hopeful.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP PEOPLE LIKE ME

BCC is almost entirely self funded. Charity Intelligence Canada has given BCC a four-star rating for use of funds, reporting and transparency. Only four Canadian cancer charities received this highest ranking. Almost 2/3 of the BCC annual budget comes from their national Awareness 5k Walk held in major Canadian cities every September. Last year Covid-19 cancelled these walks and BCC reached out asking for virtual participation.

It was time for me to help the people who helped me.

So, last September I pledged to do a 50k bicycle ride followed by the virtual 5k walk. I was not feeling the best, but I was determined and just needed to push.

Community support was astounding. Friends and family donated over \$11,000 in my name. I was in the top 10 in Canada in funds raised and had 170 sponsors. This is remarkable for a community the size of the Madawaska Valley, something we can be proud of. Overall BCC was able to raise about 75% of their 600-thousand-dollar goal for 2020.

So, it's 2021 and September is upon us. Covid has once again forced the BCC Walk to be a virtual one. This year I will cycle 75k, Barry's Bay to about Latchford Bridge and back on September 25. Bev and I will walk 5k on the 26th.

Please consider supporting this initiative online at <https://bladdercancer-canada.org/en/>

Tap "Bladder Cancer Walk", then "Donate", enter my name as "Individual" and fill in the donation form. You can also donate directly to Bev or me and we will get your tax receipt for you.

You will be helping people just like me.

[www.madvalleycurrent.com](http://www.madvalleycurrent.com)



Peter Glofcheskie. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Thank you for your time and support. And remember if you see red, even just one time, see a doctor.

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# MV Gardening Club holds outdoor show

THE CURRENT  
MADAWASKA VALLEY

The Madawaska Valley Gardening Club held its 2021 annual Flower and Vegetable Show on the lawn behind the Opeongo

Seniors Centre. Club members were delighted with the setting despite the hot and humid conditions on Aug.21.

The impressive range of displays included designs, specimens of flowers, vegetables, plants and photos. Enjoy this closer look at some of them.



Clockwise from top left: MV Gardening Club members (from left) Edén Guidroz, Ritsuko Honda, Sandy Kingsmith, Jeneene Brunton. Ritsuko Honda with her Best in Show design "Cycle of Life." Peter Langtvet displays an exhibit of a "member." Flower and Vegetable Show outdoors.

## Carley Fortune's debut novel set in Barry's Bay

DANIELLE PAUL  
BARRY'S BAY

During last summer's lockdown here, Carley Fortune, Executive Editor at Refinery29, decided her pandemic project would be to write a fictional story with the result that her debut novel *Every Summer After* was scooped up by Penguin Random House and is now available to pre-order on Amazon.com (Canadian publication due next year.) Amazon's online synopsis reads: "Five summers to fall in love. One moment to fall apart. A weekend to get it right. A magazine writer has to make a choice when she returns to the lake she grew up on, and to the man she thought



***Every Summer After* (left), by Carley Fortune (right).**

PHOTOS: PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE (LEFT); TWITTER/@CARLEYFORTUNE (RIGHT)



she'd never have to live without, in this achingly nostalgic debut."

Barry's Bay resident (and proud mom) Nancy Fortune shared with us a recent interview her daughter gave to writer

Melissa Yang. In it, Carley said there is a bit of her in both main characters.

"I grew up on this little dirt road on Kamaniskeg Lake, and my parents ran a restaurant, so that's quite a lot like Sam.... All the glittery lake scenery and the drive north to Barry's Bay from the city, that's all very much drawn from my life."

"It's such a beautiful corner of the world, and particularly where the book is set. It's my favorite place to be.... I was just feeling very nostalgic about my time growing up on a lake and my friends from that time so the book is really infused with that nostalgia."

Read the full interview online at [refinery29.com](http://refinery29.com).