

THE NORTH RENFREW TIMES

DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

\$2.00 (HST INCL.)

Board accepts Keys deal

It appears the purchase of the former Keys School is a done deal.

While there has been no official confirmation that the transaction is complete, a report to the county's development and property committee last week notes that the Renfrew County District School Board has accepted the

"revised terms and conditions" outlined in the "agreement of purchase and sale" for Keys.

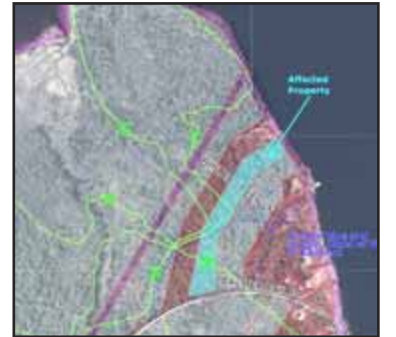
Director Jason Davis says in his report that the revised terms were approved with "one additional item," a "first right of refusal" to buy back property for the purchase price of \$299,000 "on a date

agreed upon by both parties."

"This agreement signifies the mutual consent of all involved parties to proceed with the transaction, ensuring that all stipulated provisions have been reviewed and agreed upon," Davis says.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE:



SKI CLUB AGAINST NEW EAST END LOTS



U11 KNIGHTS WIN B CHAMPIONSHIP

QUOTEWORTHY:

"Behaviour that disrespects, devalues, and/or creates an unsafe environment will not and should not be tolerated."

- Student loses bid for review, page 5



Bad start to holiday season

Ontario Provincial Police responded Sunday afternoon to a single-vehicle collision on Highway 17 in Head, Clara and Maria. They were dispatched shortly before 1 pm to the scene about halfway between Colton Creek Road and Harvey Creek Road. The vehicle involved in the collision had been westbound on the highway when it crossed over into the eastbound lane and struck a rock cut. Police and Renfrew County paramedics were able to get the driver out of the vehicle and she was taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The highway was closed for a brief period of time to allow for removal of the vehicle. The cause of the collision remains under investigation. Photo: Vance Gutzman



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NORTH RENFREW
TIMES

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PLEASE RECYCLE

DRDH urges town to support new housing development

Local health care leaders are urging the town of Deep River to “act now” to increase housing development in the municipality.

In a letter to town council on tonight’s council agenda, Janna Hotson and David Cox, the president and board chair of Deep River and District Health, say the organization is looking forward to the opening of the new 96-bed Four Seasons Lodge long-term care home.

The new home is “currently under construction, and is anticipated to open in 2027,” they note.

“This project represents a significant milestone for our community, bringing increased care capacity and doubling our healthcare workforce.”

NEW STAFF

Hotson and Cox said that as they prepare to welcome roughly 200 new staff members, bringing DRDH’s total staff team to more than 380, “one pressing consideration is the availability of local housing options.”

“We want these valued and diverse professionals - including nurses, personal support workers, dietary staff, support staff, and more - to have the

opportunity to live here in Deep River, the community they will serve,” they say.

Many new staff members are expected to be “newcomers” to the area, and “suitable housing availability plays a foundational role in attracting and retaining these healthcare professionals.”

“Currently, the limited housing availability is likely to compel many of these new staff members to seek accommodations in neighbouring towns, leading to longer commutes and less integration into the vibrant fabric of our town.”

Hotson and Cox say DRDH has also heard, through its recent “community needs assessment” and other consultations, that “the lack of suitable housing is a barrier to the health and well-being of our overall community.”

“Encouraging housing projects now will help the town of Deep River capture the full benefits of this workforce growth,” they say.

“By supporting initiatives to increase affordable and accessible housing options, you can help ensure that our new staff and their families can call this amazing community home.

“Not only will this foster stronger connections between healthcare workers and

residents, but it will also generate positive economic impacts - staff members who live locally will shop, dine, and participate in community life right here in Deep River.”

TIME TO ACT

“The time to act is now,” they continue.

“With 2027 fast approaching, these next few years present a critical window of opportunity for the town of Deep River to prioritize planning and implementing affordable housing developments to meet the anticipated needs of our expanding healthcare workforce in our community.”

Hotson and Cox say they are confident that with council’s leadership, “Deep River can position itself as a welcoming and inclusive place for both our current and future healthcare workforce to live and thrive.”

“By encouraging and supporting sustainable housing development now, council can ensure that Deep River is known as a strong and growing community, and assist DRDH in attracting and retaining healthcare professionals to provide excellent, compassionate care for all those we serve.”

Keys deal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The acceptance marks a pivotal step in finalizing the transfer of ownership, aligning with the board’s commitment to effective and transparent asset management.”

Deep River council approved the purchase of the former Keys School property back in September, despite concerns from two of its members that the decision could saddle the town with a white elephant.

A recorded vote on a bylaw to enter into a co-ownership agreement with the County of Renfrew for the property saw Councillors Terry Myers and Tom Vaughan giving the deal a thumbs-down.

The school board declared the former school as surplus early last year.

The town and the county later agreed to submit a combined expression of interest in the property, followed by an offer to purchase.

The two municipal partners are seeking to determine the potential of the property for housing and/or community space.

OPERATING COSTS

In a report to council, Deep River CAO Sean Patterson said that once the offer has been formally accepted, the town and the county will work in tandem to identify development potentials for the property, “and work with suitable development partners to implement the concept which best meets the community’s needs and fulfills the town and county’s mandates.”

The co-ownership agreement will see the town and county each own 50 per-

cent of the property, with all costs and revenues shared equally.

Annual operating costs while the school is unoccupied have been estimated at \$100,000.

The agreement stipulates that it’s not the town and county’s intention to own the property long-term.

If by April 30, 2026, an agreement with a developer has not been reached, either party can buy the other out, or agree to list the land and building for sale on the open market.

The report on the property also points out that the former school building “is in poor to fair condition, contains asbestos, and will require roof rehabilitation work in the short to medium term would be required.”

“The building is not safe for any occupancy as it is,” Patterson told council in September.

Ski club objects to new lots in east end

BY VANCE GUTZMAN

The Deep River Cross Country Ski Club (DRXC) is encouraging people to speak out against a proposed Official Plan amendment that's on this week's agenda of town council.

Council will be holding a public meeting to garner input on the proposed amendment, put forth by a property owner seeking to re-designate 3.6 hectares of land from "Rural" to "Rural – Exception 3" in order to create five new residential lots.

The property has 95 metres of frontage on Balmer Bay Road and 63 metres on Wintergreen Lane, and it also has water frontage on the Ottawa River.

Four of the new lots would front on Wintergreen Lane while another, along with the retained lot, would front on Balmer Bay Road.

A post on the DRXC's Facebook page by its vice president, Lindsay Arthur-Dooch, cautions the proposed rezoning "greatly impacts trails C and P of the club's Four Seasons trail system," and is encouraging its members to send objections to town council.

LOW-IMPACT RECREATION

"Although this lot was purchased privately, it was done in concert with the donor-community's 1995 acquisition of the neighbouring land – the Deep River Community Woods," says the club's Facebook post, which the club wants its members to share in emails to the town.

"With the community and town council agreeing that this area would be used for low-impact recreation and nature preservation, the private landowners agreed to allow portions of their land to function in harmony with the neighbouring Deep River Community Woods.

"The well-maintained trails, in use long before 1995, are vital to our community's health, well-being and identity.

"Rezoning for housing development would under-

mine this long-standing agreement, disrupt our natural environment and diminish the quality of life for many residents."

A planning justification report prepared by Jp2G Consultants for the owner of the property, however, states the rezoning application has merits.

The report states that, while the Official Plan amendment would permit up to five lots, "the number of lots may in fact be less depending on the outcome of certain studies required to support the consent applications."

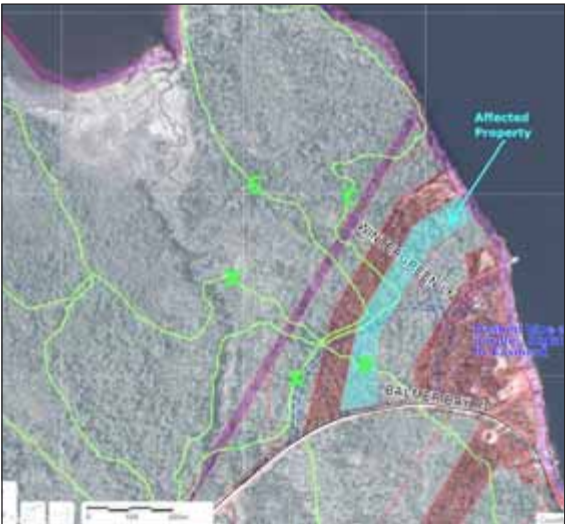
The report adds that a hydrogeological assessment will be required for all the lots, and an archeological investigation will be required for "at least that portion of the property that is within 300 metres of the Ottawa River."

The planning report also states the proposal complies with Ontario's Provincial Policy Statement, in regards to its regulations for the development and use of land.

"The subject property represents an underutilized vacant site with existing frontage on a municipally maintained road and additional access via a private road," the report states.

"No new municipal infrastructure would be required. The proposed Official Plan amendment would allow for the creation of new lots that would, in turn, provide the opportunity to provide new housing units within the town."

The public meeting will take place at the beginning of Wednesday's council meeting, which starts at 6 pm.



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Province to provide aid for OPP costs

The Ontario government is stepping in to help municipalities deal with rising OPP costs.

The province announced last Friday that it will provide over \$77 million in financial relief to municipalities to help offset the increased cost of municipal police services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

"This investment will help these predominantly small and rural communities address the budget impacts resulting from the collective bargaining agreement that was reached between the province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA) in July 2024," the province said in the announcement.

"Our government is working closely with our municipal partners and our women and men in uniform to keep communities across Ontario safe," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner.

"The financial relief we are proposing will help municipal leaders balance their budgets and invest in their communities while ensuring no change to the policing provided by the OPP that

keeps families and businesses safe."

The government's proposal would support small and rural municipalities by offsetting the 2025 impacts of OPP salary increases.

This includes:

- A 3.75 per cent bill reduction on 2023 total reconciled costs,
- A 44 per cent bill reduction on 2023 reconciled overtime costs, and
- A 10 per cent bill reduction on amounts invoiced for 2025 policing costs.

The province said it will also be "examining options" for reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure that it meets the needs of communities across the province.

Overall, the OPP provides municipal policing services to 330 municipalities across Ontario, including almost all of Renfrew County.

The OPPA and the provincial government reached a new contract agreement last spring that included general salary increases for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

The increases total almost 16 per

cent over the four years.

Robin Jones, president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), said he is pleased that "the government has listened" to concerns about the increase in OPP billing costs.

"Without the provincial action, the rise in OPP costs would have significantly impacted small, rural, and north-eastern communities serviced by the OPP," he said.

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

"Municipal fiscal sustainability is under pressure across Ontario, and municipalities struggle to balance their budgets.

"This proposition is an important recognition of this challenge and will help support quality of life for residents across the province."

The issue of rising OPP costs was raised earlier this fall at Renfrew County's finance committee.

The county does not contract police services with the OPP directly, but 16 of the county's 17 municipalities, plus

the city of Pembroke, rely on the OPP for their policing.

Local municipalities have been receiving notices from the OPP outlining their costs for 2025, with many seeing increases of 20 per cent or more.

In Laurentian Hills, for example, OPP billing was due to rise from \$400,758 this year to \$481,578 in 2025, an increase of 20.2%.

In Head Clara Maria, OPP costs were set to rise from \$86,010 for 2024 to \$101,745 next year, an increase of 18.3%.

Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy, the committee chair, noted her community's OPP billing was set to rise from \$750,000 to over \$900,000, an increase of 22.85% or a four per cent hike in their residential property tax levy.

Murphy said that like the county's efforts to lobby the province for relief on municipal water and wastewater rates, OPP costing is an issue that affects every municipality in one way or another.

"And I believe that it's imperative that we advocate on behalf of our citizens," she said.

Admaston Bromley Mayor Michael Donohue noted that according to figures from 2022, municipalities pay 28% of the OPP's total budget but have no say over police costing.

Donohue said he has no problem with the OPP's front-line officers and the service they provide, but from a "corporate" perspective, "I am quite dissatisfied with the relationship."

"And in fact it does not seem to be an equitable relationship in any sense or fashion."

MPP John Yakabuski agreed something had to be done at the provincial level to soften the blow.

Members of the PC party, particularly those whose ridings are policed by the OPP, have had discussions about the increases and they all agree the increases will be hard for municipalities to absorb, he said prior to the province's announcement.

"There is no question about it that something is going to have to be done at the provincial level to alleviate some of that burden," he said.



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County student loses appeal for review

BY TERRY MYERS

A Renfrew County student who was suspended and then expelled from school over allegations that he bullied transgender classmates has lost an appeal to have his case submitted to a judicial review.

Josh Alexander was suspended from St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew on November 23, 2022 and expelled in January 2023 after an investigation by the school's principal.

A committee of trustees upheld Alexander's ongoing expulsion in December 2023 after a two-day hearing.

In a case filed with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Alexander sought to have the committee's decision submitted to a judicial review on the basis that it was not "reasonable" and not "justifiable in law."

The case was heard last month by a panel of three Superior Court judges, Janet Leiper, Shaun O'Brien and Audrey Ramsay.

In a decision written by Justice Leiper and released last week, the court dismissed Alexander's appeal and opened the door to the school board claiming its legal costs against him.

In the decision, Justice Leiper notes that Alexander was first suspended after the principal found that he had "made inappropriate comments to trans students; continued to refer to a trans student by their deadname, and refused to recognize the gender they lived by; made comments that trans students were a risk to other students in reference to use of washroom facilities in the school; made inappropriate comments with respect to trans students in the school and on social media; and used a derogatory term in reference to a trans student."

Specifically, Alexander referred to transgender students using the bathroom of their choice as "perverted," said that the transgender students were "predators," and alleged that the school's bathroom policy was part of a

"pedophilic agenda."

At the end of the original 20-day suspension, the principal told Alexander that he could return to school on the condition that he "be respectful," not use transgendered students' deadnames, and avoid contact with two students identified as transgender.

"UNNECESSARY CONFLICT"

"On January 8, 2023, after the applicant made it known that he would not abide by these conditions, and his lawyer wrote to the principal that there would be an 'unfortunate and unnecessary' conflict at the school upon the applicant's return, the principal made an exclusion order," Justice Leiper wrote.

Alexander "attended at school despite the order."

"He did not attend his scheduled morning classes, but instead chose only to go to the two classes in which the affected transgendered students were enrolled."

As a result of Alexander's actions, the principal expelled him for the remainder of the school year.

He issued a further "exclusion order" the next September in response to "online content posted by the applicant."

"The post included a 28-second video showing the applicant discharging a firearm into a target in the woods."

"The message on the video read: 'Given the multitude of weak men that have corrupted our society, hard times are inevitable. Prepare accordingly'."

"FAITHISM"

Alexander confirmed in a meeting with the principal on September 9, 2023, that the reference to "weak men" was a reference to "those who allow males to enter female washrooms."

"He confirmed that he 'expected a whole lot of them in the school board'."

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Town Hall:

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Zoning By-law 07-2024

3.22.1 Parking Requirements

(k) Storage of Recreational Vehicles. Snowmobiles and Off-Road Vehicles (ORV)

No person shall, in any Residential Zone, use any lot for the parking or storage of any recreational vehicle except in accordance with the following prov1s10ns:

(a) No recreational vehicle may be stored on any lot that does not contain at least one (1) dwelling unit.

(b) The owner or occupant of any lot, building or structure, in any Residential Zone containing a dwelling may store or park on the lot. not more than one recreational vehicle of any type (except a snowmobile or ORV) and not more than two snowmobiles or ORVs. of which he/she is the owner.

(c) The recreational vehicle shall be stored within a private garage or carport or located within the rear yard or interior side yard provided that such recreational vehicle is located no closer than 1.0 metre to the rear lot line or interior side lot line, nor within any front yard, nor on a corner lot, closer to any street than the main wall of the main building.

(d) Notwithstanding the above, there shall be no limitations imposed which will restrict the number of such recreational vehicles that arc fully enclosed within a garage provided that such recreational vehicles are owned by the occupant of such lot or dwelling.

The full Zoning By-law can be viewed by visiting www.deepriver.ca under the Development & Planning tab.

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

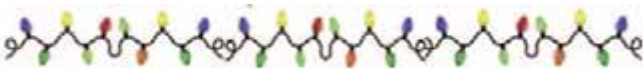
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Deep River Santa Claus Parade

5:30pm, Saturday, December 7

The parade begins at 5:30 at the Lawrence Hall parking lot (close to the Library) and will commence onto Ridge Rd, then right on to Deep River Rd, right on to Champlain St and then left on to Forest St then continuing back to the Lawrence Hall parking lot.



Deep River
Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 7

Everyone is invited to hang a homemade Christmas Decoration or special wish on the Town Christmas tree. The Christmas Tree will be a symbol of peace and hope of the Christmas Season.

Time	Location	Event
9:30-11:30 am	Town Hall	Holiday Paint Workshop (\$25.00) Hosted By: Phoenix Rising (geared adults & children 8 & up) Pre-registration required: app.univerusrec.com/deepriverpub/courses/index.asp
1-4 pm	Town Hall	Outdoor Christmas Vendors Market
1-4 pm	Town Hall	Happy Valley Face Painting
10:30-11:30 am Check-in at 10am	Green Space beside Giant Tiger	Reindeer Run (1 KM Loop) Pre-registration: app.univerusrec.com/deepriverpub/courses/index.asp
10:30 am -2:30 pm	Deep River Library	Build a LEGO Tree Join Lego club as we make trees to display in the Library 2 Christmas themed - Take & Make Kits available: 1. Lego Ornaments kit ages 4 & up 2. Paper Chain Tree ages 0-4 (while supplies last)
11am -2pm	Marina	Dip To Donate Polar Plunge (Deep River & District Hospital)
10am-2pm	valu-mart	Cram the Cruiser Food Drive
11am-2pm	Canadian Tire Parking Lot	Fill the Fire Truck (Toy Drive) DRPFFA Local 1276 In Partnership with Canadian Tire. Stop by for a free hot chocolate
4:45 pm	Town Hall	Candle-lit Christmas Carols
5:15 pm	Town Hall	Christmas Tree Lighting
5:30 pm	Downtown	Santa Claus Parade

Town of Deep River Parking By-law 33-2021

2.09 NO OVERNIGHT PARKING IN WINTER:

(a) Despite Sections 2.08 no person shall park a vehicle on Champlain Street from Deep River Road to Ridge Road, from November 1st of one year to April 30th of the following year at any time between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., or during such shorter period as identified by authorized signs and no person shall park a vehicle on any other highway from November 1st of one year to April 30th of the following year at any time between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., or during such shorter period as identified by authorized signs.

Deep River Police Service



Cram the Cruiser
FOOD DRIVE

10 – 2 pm, Saturday Dec 9

valumart, 75 Deep River Rd

The Deep River Police Service with the Deep River and Area Food Bank are hosting the annual Cram the Cruiser event December 9th, 2023. All proceeds of food and cash donations will go to The Deep River and Area Food Bank during this time of need. The Deep River Food Bank provides food relief to individuals and families in the community who need help. This partnership between the Deep River Police Service and Deep River and Area Food Bank has existed for several years and it is another way that the Police Service, with the help of our local shoppers, continue to give back to the community it serves.

Notice - Temporary Pool Closure

As part of the ongoing pool roof rehabilitation project, the pool will temporarily close starting Saturday, November 23, at 6:00 PM to allow essential work to progress efficiently.

We understand this may cause inconvenience and appreciate your patience during this time. Efforts are being made to ensure the pool can reopen before the Christmas break.

Updates will be shared regularly through email, our website, and social media to keep you informed.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Walk In The Halls Program

Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:30pm
Mackenzie Community School, sign in at the auditorium.

Free for all ages. Please bring indoor shoes.

Deep River Public Library

Mon & Sat: 10am – 3pm Tues & Thurs: 10am – 8pm

Wed & Fri: 10am – 5:30pm

info@deepriverlibrary.ca 613-584-4244

NOTE: The Library will close 12-1pm on Saturday, Dec 7th so that staff can take part in the Dip to Donate challenge. Find The Dewey Dippers online!

Christmas Tree Lighting Day, Dec 7: Come build a LEGO tree to display at the library. Festive take-and-make kits available while supplies last!

Community Memory Vault question of the week: “A one-of-a-kind place”. What thoughts, memories, and/or family stories come to mind when you think of the theme “a one-of-a-kind place” in the context of Deep River & Area’s history? What specific items of local knowledge should be recorded for future generations, regarding “a one-of-a-kind place” in our local context, historically?

Holiday Art Show & Sale: Our walls are again decked out with incredible local art during this festive season! Items are available for purchase. Meet the artists on December 5th from 6-8pm.

Local Author Book Launch! Join us to celebrate Tracy Kasaboski’s latest novel, “Mr. Isbister’s Marvellous Ride”. Friday, December 13th at 7pm. Endearing, big-hearted and humorous, this novel is a delightful voyage of self-discovery. Books available for purchase.

Updated Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

In the matter of Sections 17 and 22 of the Planning Act, the Town of Deep River hereby gives NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- i) Application to amend the Official Plan of the Town of Deep River
- ii) A public meeting regarding an application for an amendment to the Official Plan of the Town of Deep River

Subject Lands Part of Lot 42, Range B, geographic Township of Buchanan, in the Town of Deep River, as shown on the attached Key Map.

Public Meeting A public meeting to inform the public of the proposed official plan amendment will be held at the Town of Deep River Municipal Office on December 4th at 6pm.

Proposed Official Plan Amendment

The purpose and effect of the proposed Official Plan amendment is to redesignate the subject lands from Rural to Rural – Exception Three in order to permit the severance of new residential lots with frontage on a private road.

Additional information regarding the Official Plan amendment is available for inspection at the Town of Deep River Municipal Office during regular office hours.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Deep River before the proposed Official Plan amendment is adopted by the Town, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the County of Renfrew (approval authority), to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Deep River before the proposed Official Plan amendment is adopted by the Town, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or the public body as a party.

Please note that third parties (anyone who is not a specified person or public body) do not have the right to appeal a decision for an official plan amendment to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan amendment, or of the refusal of a request to amend the Official Plan, or for further information, you must make a written request to:

Jackie Melon, Clerk
Town of Deep River
Deep River, ON K0J 1P0
(613) 584-2000



County to download roads?

RATIONALIZATION REPORT

BY VANCE GUTZMAN

Officials are cautioning that nothing is carved in stone in the first major roads rationalization study undertaken by the County of Renfrew since 1998.

The study, which was presented to county council last week, goes hand in hand with ongoing development of the county’s transportation master plan.

Prepared by consulting firm Egis Canada Ltd, the study adjusted the current criteria for which roads should be included in the county roads system.

There are currently 512 sections of county roads in Renfrew County, totalling 820 km in length.

Using the 11 updated criteria, the consultants determined that 122 km of those sections don’t meet the threshold to remain as county roads, and are recommended to be transferred back to the municipalities in their jurisdiction.

The updated criteria also brought forth consultants’ recommendation that 18 km of municipal roads do meet the threshold to be included in the county roads system.

The study is also recommending an additional 25 km of county roads be included in a proposed “connecting link program,” which would see municipalities assume administrative responsibilities of urban road sections in terms of things like speed limits and development approvals.

“SENSITIVE PROCESS”

In Deep River, both Deep River Road and Ridge Road, which have already been included in the county roads system, are up for consideration in the connecting link program.

The town has also budgeted \$400,000 in next year’s capital budget for the repaving of Banting Drive from Highway 17 to the hospital, to bring it up to condition

for possible inclusion in the county’s roads system, with the county maintaining it in future years as well.

“Rationalization of a road network can be a sensitive process, given the financial, administrative and land-use implications to stakeholders,” the study states.

“However, rationalization is critical in ensuring the county road network is serving its intended purpose as efficiently as possible.

“The economic realities facing many municipalities is that available resources are finite.”

It was stressed at county council that the recommendations are just that, recommendations, and affected municipalities will be consulted as part of the process going forward.

“Sometimes people, in moments of passion, say things that start to resonate and take on a life of their own,” County Warden Peter Emon told his fellow mayors and reeves.

“It would be unfortunate to see something in the local press saying the county is trying to bigfoot us and hand us a road or take our best roads and give us seven bad ones.”

Deep River Reeve Glenn Doncaster, who chairs the county’s operations committee which will be steering the consultation process, echoed that sentiment.

“It’s fluid right at the moment and there is no intention on transferring in one direction or another, but we’d certainly like feedback from the lower-tier municipalities,” he said.

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OPINION

NORTH RENFREW TIMES

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NRT Editorial Board:
B. Bishop (BB), D. Tennant (DT),
K. Lapping (KL), T. Myers (TM)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dangerous misconception

Re: “Density at what cost?”, letter NRT November 27.
In the November 27 edition of the North Renfrew Times, Merrill Gasmann states:
“Within about the last 20 years, roughly 800 acres of Deep River’s land was given to the Four Seasons Conservancy. Eight hundred acres!”

Gasmann implies that the Deep River Community Woods and the Four Seasons Conservancy (FSC) lands are where high density housing should be developed.

Nothing could be further from the truth.
None of this land was “given” to the FSC. From the February 14, 2024 edition of the North Renfrew Times:

“Bounded by the Ottawa River, Highway 17, Banting Drive and Balmer’s Bay, Deep River’s east end comprises 440 ha of pristine forest, shoreline, creek and marshlands, threaded with trails for low-impact recreation.

“This conservation area/nature reserve is a unique inheritance for our small community.
“The area is not a public park, (and) is not supported by your tax dollars. It was purchased entirely by the donors represented by the Four Seasons Conservancy, now a registered charity.

“The Conservancy conveyed part of the area to the Town of Deep River in 1995 for safe-keeping as undeveloped open space.

“The remainder, including most trailheads and road frontages, remains privately owned by the Conservancy and several individual landowners.”

That is, a group of like minded folks first acquired all the land then shared it for all of us to enjoy.
It is disheartening when long-time residents are unaware of how the east-end lands were acquired, by whom, and for what purpose.

It is very concerning to think that a town council could also fall prey to such misconceptions, resulting in inappropriate planning and zoning decisions.

As for “giving” the land, now that the FSC is a registered charity, the question is why hasn’t the land been “returned” to the FSC, or registered as a community conservation area?

Stuart Craig



Beaver off Centennial Rock

Photo: Bruce Heinmiller

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Operation names

I am Captain James Shrub, one of the public affairs officers for Garrison Petawawa, and read the article from the North Renfrew Times that was published November 27 (“Base troops training for mission to Latvia”).

I wanted to clarify that the operations that the soldiers of Garrison Petawawa will be supporting, as mentioned by Colonel Guiney in the article are mis-labelled.

Petawawa will be sending soldiers to support Operation REASSURANCE and Operation UNIFIER. Please correct as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Captain James Shrub

LETTERS ARE WELCOME

The North Renfrew Times welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and must include return contact information for verification. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Send your letters by email to NRT@northrenfrewtimes.ca



Former resident telling the story of the “farmerettes”

BY HAZEL ATKINS,
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

“Who were the farmerettes?” wondered Bonnie Sitter in 2017, as she sorted through old photographs belonging to her late husband’s family.

Looking at the back of a small photo of four girls dressed in farm clothes, Sitter saw written, “Farmerettes, 1946.”

Sitter started asking questions and re-searching, and she found herself catapulted into a wonderful story of thousands of teenage girls who, during the Second World War, volunteered as farm labourers in Southwestern Ontario, and why there was a photo of four of them among her husband’s family photographs.

Sitter is a former resident of Deep River who moved to Exeter, Ontario, in 1986 after bringing up her family in Deep River and running a travel agency here.

She never had any intention of writing books but always enjoyed photography.

After retiring in 2008, she co-authored two books about Southwestern Ontario with a fellow photographer, and her love for the farm country of that area and for research was fired.

After finding the old photo of the farmerettes, Sitter did as much research as she could, feeling a bit indignant that there was a piece of Ontario history here that

she’d never even heard of before.

Eventually she had enough material to write a magazine article, which was published in The Rural Voice in June 2018.

Her article got passed around until it landed with Shirleyan English, who had been a farmerette in the summer of 1952, working on the Sitter farm and dating the man who became Bonnie Sitter’s brother-in-law.

English and Sitter were delighted to connect in London, Ontario, in 2018.

When they met, English told Sitter that she had been a writer for the London Free Press, and in 1995 she had put out a notice in the paper saying, “If you were a farmerette, get in touch with me,” intending to write a magazine article someday.

She received upwards of 300 letters in response, but she never proceeded with that writing, and the letters sat in a bag until the day that Sitter showed up.

Sitter requested to see the letters and said to English, “We’re going to write a book, and we’re going to do it in a year. These women have waited a long time to hear their story told.”

The story of the farmerettes is one of teenage girls between 16-18 years old who applied to volunteer as farm labourers in the Niagara region between 1941-1952.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, hosted by St. Andrew’s United Church, weekly at CR Lions Hall
1:15 pm, Wednesday Social Bridge, DR Library
1:30-3:30 pm, “GriefShare” grief support group meets, everyone welcome, Real Hope Christian Assembly, Hwy 17 (final week)
4 pm, Toddler storytime, Chalk River Library

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

10 am, Seniors Friendship Club: Coffee, Tea and Conversation, Deep River Library
12:45 pm, Duplicate Bridge Club meets, Deep River Library
6-7:30 pm, “Walk in the Halls,” Mackenzie Community School (continues Tuesdays and Thursdays until March 27)
7 pm, Fun Euchre, Deep River Legion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

7 pm, Fun Darts, all welcome, Chalk River Legion
7:30 pm, THEOP presents the Durham County Poets, Childs Auditorium, Mackenzie Community School

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

10 am - 12 pm, Deep River Scouts Christmas Tree Sale, Balmer Bay Road (look for sign past hospital)
10 am - 2 pm, Deep River Police “Cram the Cruiser” for the Deep River & Area Food Bank, Jan’s Valu-mart parking lot
11 am - 2 pm, “Dip to Donate” Polar Plunge for the DRDH Foundation, Deep River Marina
5:30 pm, Deep River Santa Claus Parade, downtown Deep River (for full list of day’s Christmas events, see page 6)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

11 am - 3 pm, Shuffleboard, all welcome, Chalk River Legion
1 pm, Lions Bingo, Chalk River Lions Hall
2-5 pm, Acoustic open mic, Deep River Legion
2 pm, Knights of Columbus free Family Skate, DR Arena

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

10 am - 1 pm, Deep River and Area Food Bank open (weekly except holidays), at the Deep River and District Hospital (for more information, phone 584-3333 ext 7910)
12 pm, Senior Cards, Chalk River Legion
7 pm, Fun Darts, Deep River Legion
7 pm, Al-Anon, group support for families & friends having alcohol addiction, CE Centre (behind DR Community Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:30 am, LH Library children’s storytime, Pt Alexander branch
7 pm, Seniors Friendship Club presents Military Wives Choir Christmas Concert, Deep River Legion

Farmerettes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

They pledged to work a minimum of 13 weeks and were paid 25 cents per hour. They were excused from school exams and worked on the farms from April to September.

“A lot of them came from Northern Ontario,” said Sitter, “and they’d no idea what they were getting into.

“They had never seen fields that stretched on and on, apparently for eternity. They had no idea what it meant to be a farm labourer.”

The girls stayed in camps that could house up to 100 of them, in old grist mills and similar buildings. They were fed and their bedding was washed for them, but they were responsible for their own laundry.

ADVENTURE AND CAMARADERIE

“These were girls who had never been more than seven miles away from home,” Sitter described.

“They had no idea what they were signing up for, but there was adventure and camaraderie.”

Many girls came back summer after summer and invited their sisters and friends back home to join the program too.

Sitter said that an estimated 40,000 teenage girls participated in the farmerettes program. Of the ones she has been privileged to speak with, many say that those summers were the best of their lives.

As she worked on the book, Sitter became more

and more convinced that this story needed wider recognition within Canada.

“I decided they needed to be recognized for their service. People had forgotten that before you can fire bullets and drop bombs to win a war, you have to have food, and these girls were key to the food production in Ontario.”

“I got in touch with the corporation that designs stamps,” said Sitter.

“My idea didn’t fly, and I was turned down, but I decided to go back and try again.”

The designing of stamps for Canada Post is a two-year undertaking, and in late October 2024 a commemorative stamp collection was issued.

“The farmerettes are thrilled to be recognized by the Canadian government and to have a stamp issued,” Sitter said.

This has been a big year for the spreading of the farmerettes’ story. A play production of their story, based on Sitter’s book “Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes,” had been planned for 2022, but was derailed by Covid.

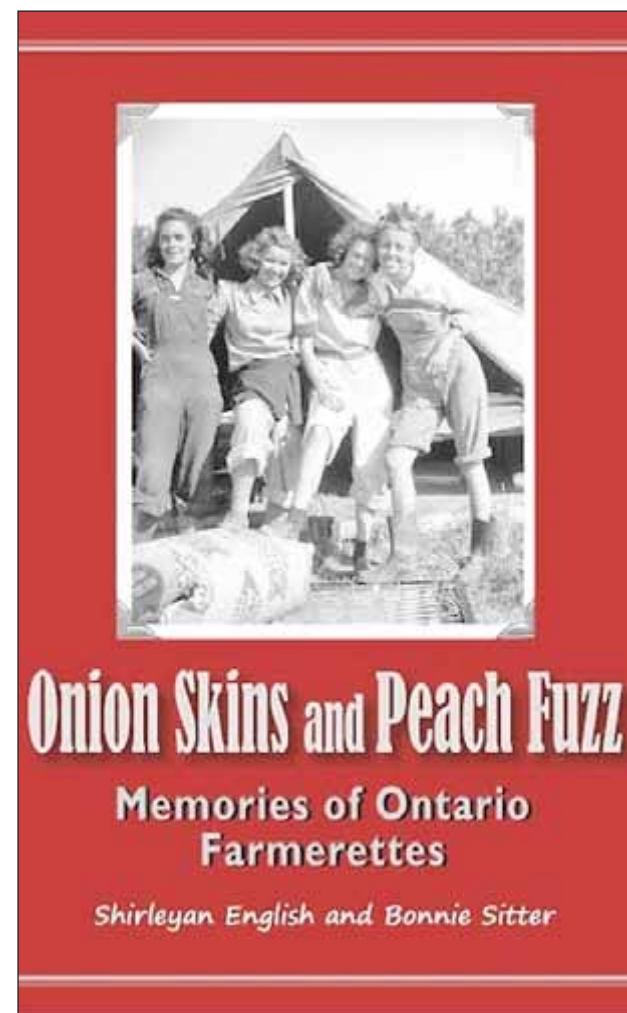
The play was finally staged earlier this year in two theatres, the 4th Line Theatre in Millbrook and the Blyth Theatre.

Sitter is currently working on a documentary on the farmerettes. Originally, the documentary intended to interview 10 farmerettes, but given the success of the book and play, now the number is more like 20.

Sitter hopes it will be ready to send to film festivals in the New Year.

“I feel absolutely blessed that I found that picture, and I’m so glad I didn’t throw it out,” said Sitter.

“The farmerettes are over the moon that their story is being told.”



A play based on Sitter’s book, “Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz,” was staged earlier this year.

TRAVEL TIPS

#13 Travel Agents and Tours

BY LARRIE THOMSON

Booking your vacation through a local travel agent is a convenient and cost-effective way to get where you want to go and see the important sites.

Although prices may be higher than booking everything yourself, all the details are handled by a professional.

Agents know more than anyone else about unique destinations, accommodation, transportation, timetables, eating options, and can offer deals for reliable travel of all types.

If you’re not sure where you should

travel next, tour agents have brochures and information for a wide variety of options to match your interests and budget.

Some tour companies offer travel to small groups who want to go to the same destination at the same time. You’ll be with fellow travellers with whom you can share information and experiences.

Agent representatives meet you when you arrive at your destination airport, take you to the chosen hotel, tell you where and when the meals are served, book the buses and trains, and accompany you around the sites specially chosen for your itinerary.

The guides are experts who know about each detail before you get there.

Local agents in our area sometimes even provide pickup and drop-off services to groups.

Agents offer personal security and financial security. If your trip is disrupted by weather, strikes, cancellations or other event, it is the tour company’s responsibility to look

after you and rebook or rearrange your trip.

A tour operator can negotiate prices with other companies to get the best price for each attraction, hotel or flight.

Some places are inaccessible to the public or only allow tourists to visit with a guide. For example, without a tour company you wouldn’t be allowed to visit places like Antarctica.

And you probably wouldn’t try visiting places such as China all by yourself if you didn’t know the language and customs. Tour companies provide guides who know all this and know how to get service.

Importantly, a good agent can make quick changes if things go wrong, like if you get sick along the way and have to miss a flight connection.

CITY TOURS

Some cities have walking tours with local guides to show you some highlights and explain selected local lore. Most often these tours are free or you

only pay some amount at the end depending on your personal appreciation of the tour.

The guides commonly stand in a city square with a big umbrella with Free Tours written on it. Check the timing for their next tour.

Many cities offer so-called hop-on/hop-off buses that show you the main sites in a couple of hours.

These colourful buses, often double-decker, run throughout the day and offer an easy way to get a good overview of a new city.

They usually offer one- or two-day passes, which make it easy to go back to any sites you want to explore in detail.

Recorded or live commentaries are standard on these buses to explain the sites and give a brief history of the city.

In Ireland, your live bus commentary is guaranteed to have you laughing and even singing along.

Send your tips for travel agents and tours to tipsfortrips4@gmail.com

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: CURLERS CELEBRATE OPENING OF NEW CLUB

70 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 1, 1954: Once again the citizens of Deep River have come through and given the necessary financial support to put the 1954 Red Feather campaign over the top. The target this year was \$6,000 and this has now been reached with some late returns still to be reported. Once again it will be possible for our community to pull its weight in the financial support of the various agencies both national and local in nature, which are doing much excellent and important work in the field of social welfare.

DECEMBER 1, 1954: The winner of the Free Turkey Shoot held Wednesday night in the Rod & Gun Club's indoor rifle range was Captain McBratney, Headquarters staff, Camp Petawawa. So impressed was Captain McBratney by the good shooting done by those ladies present that he turned the turkey back for a Women's competition to be shot on a Lucky Number target.

60 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 2, 1964: When nominations closed for municipal elections in Deep River Wednesday night, Mayor WW Prest, Reeve Peter McConnachie and ward 3 Councillors David Walker and James Baird had been returned to office by acclamation. Two councillors must be elected from each of the four remaining wards. Deputy Reeve Mrs EG Sinclair, seeking her sixth term in office, will be opposed by Councillor WN Rounding.

DECEMBER 2, 1964: Deep River curlers, like curlers everywhere, can usually have a celebration for no reason whatsoever. When they have reason to celebrate, their enthusiasm is boundless. Last Saturday's official opening of the new curling club provided a very good reason. The celebration began with a reception at 7 pm, followed by a dinner which terminated with the official opening ceremonies. The evening continued with dancing until the wee small hours.

50 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 4, 1974: The Renfrew County Board of Education last Wednesday approved an agreement covering the use of school facilities by the community, and the board's use of municipal facilities, under a joint facilities agreement prepared by representatives of the town and the board of education. The municipal facilities to be covered by the agreement are the arena, municipal buildings, parks, beaches, meet-



Mackenzie High School girls played football last week for their traditional East vs West Powderpuff game. In an energetic and exciting game, East vanquished West by a final score of 14-7. Running with the ball is Carrie Cotnam. (NRT December 5, 1984)

ing rooms and library.

DECEMBER 4, 1974: The IMA's Winter concert on Saturday, December 14 at the Childs Auditorium will give Deep River concert goers their first opportunity of hearing the Deep River Symphony under its new conductor, James Wegg. Mr Wegg, who is still in his early twenties, is well-known in Ottawa music circles as principal clarinet with the Ottawa Civic Symphony and several of his compositions have already received public performance.

40 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 5, 1984: The northern part of Renfrew County, including Deep River, Chalk River and the surrounding area, could become part of the district of Parry Sound under changes to Ontario's electoral boundaries proposed last week by the Electoral Boundaries Commission. "The proposals are preposterous," said Liberal MPP Sean Conway.

DECEMBER 5, 1984: The girls took to the football field on Friday, November 30 in the East-West Powderpuff game. West had some tricky plays with big runs from Dawn Usackis and Jen Cox, and playmaking by quarterbacks Melanie Park and Tessa Arciszewski. However, East were on the attack with the forceful kicking of Debbie Ferrigan and the quickness of Sherry Tellard and Suzanne Evraire. East was victorious 14-7.

30 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 7, 1994: Tom Tennant says Chalk River council should always be aware of the confidence placed in it by the public. That is one of the many

comments the new village reeve made as he opened the first meeting of the new council last Thursday. The reeve took the oath of office along with councillors John Allen, Ray Brisebois, Diedrie Burton and Max Smith. None of the five members of the previous council is serving another term.

DECEMBER 7, 1994: The province's hard-hitting anti-smoking law, billed as the toughest in North America, hopes to deter young people from smoking and reduce second-hand smoke. Among other things, students will be forced to travel off school grounds to light up. This aspect of the law has angered many Renfrew County Board of Education trustees who say they cannot ensure a student's safety while off school property.

20 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 8, 2004: If school closures do become a reality in Deep River, then it's more than likely that both Morison and Keys would be closed at the same time and their students moved to Mackenzie High School. That was the opinion of Steve Silwa, a superintendent with the Renfrew County District School Board, who is heading up the local consolidation study committee.

DECEMBER 8, 2004: Four members of the Deep River Skating Club - Sezen Yetisir, Megan Hamilton, Sabrina Robertson and Matilda (Tilly) Greenfield - took part in a skater development program in Napanee on November 19. The following day they took part in Napanee's Invitational Skating Competition. All four girls finished on the podium for the competition and were proud to be coming home carrying a medal.

NUCLEAR HERITAGE

“Father of the Hydrogen Bomb”

BY JIM UNGRIN

In addition to the collection of over 650 “physical artifacts” that the Canadian Nuclear Heritage Museum (CNHM) houses, there is a collection of over 2,500 books, documents, DVD/CDs, brochures etc. and over 1,800 catalogued photographs.

One of the books recently donated, titled “Memoirs,” was written by the controversial physicist Edward Teller.

Colin Orpen rescued this 600+ page book from the discard section at the WB Lewis Library and donated it to the CNHM.

I received the book several days after watching the recently released movie “Oppenheimer” and was pleased to find a 32-page transcript in the appendix of the book that covered the testimony of Teller at the 1954 Personnel Security Board inquiry.

This inquiry resulted in the controversial decision to cancel Oppenheimer’s security clearance. A significant part of the movie focuses on this inquiry.

The transcript was interesting enough to prompt me to read the entire book. Teller, a proud Hungarian emigre to the USA (1935), is often referred to as the “father of the hydrogen bomb.”

The book details his early life in Hungary and is a very pleasant and informative read for the period from his birth in 1908 to 1960.

It is sprinkled with many anecdotes and humorous footnotes such as: “A Hungarian is a person who enters a revolving door after you but exits ahead of you.”

In addition to his role in the weapons programs at Los Alamos and later at Livermore, Teller served

for many years on the Reactor Safeguards Committee, a body similar at that time to the AECB (Atomic Energy Control Board) in Canada.

He reports that in October 1953 “I attended a second US-British conference on reactors, this one held at the Chalk River facility in Canada.”

“We reported on the NEPA (Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of an Aircraft) reactor accident that had occurred at the Argonne Laboratory. There was also a small accident at the Chalk River facility, although I no longer recall the details of it.”

An interesting take on the serious 1952 NRX accident!

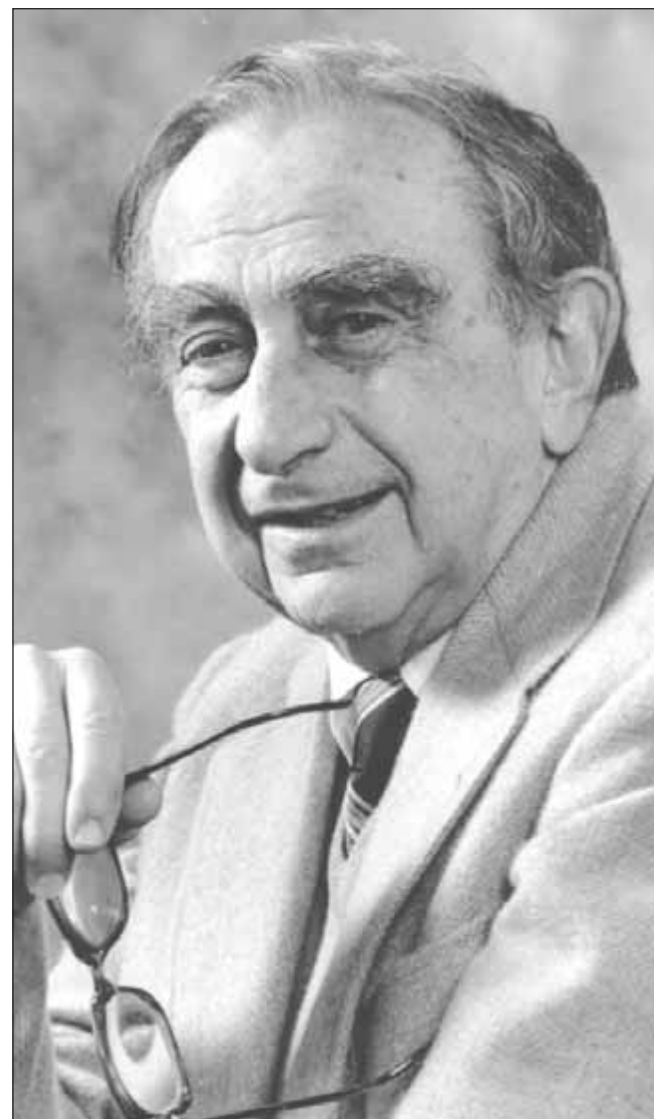
During his lifetime Teller collaborated with a huge number of pioneers of the nuclear era including Bohr, Einstein, Bethe and Fermi, as well as advising various US political figures including US Presidents from Roosevelt to Reagan as he attempted to sell his version of the case for more and better nuclear weapons.

The latter part of the book (1960-2000) covers much of his role in weapons testing, the development of the hydrogen bomb, the Cold War, the race to produce missiles to carry nuclear weapons, and finally the collapse of the USSR.

Edward Teller died in 2003.

Visitors to the CNHM are encouraged to browse the huge library collection and try our comfy new armchairs.

Our library has not only technical documents but many other equally interesting and informative human-interest books; most are listed on the reference section of the website www.nuclearheritage.com.



The Nuclear Heritage library includes the “Memoirs” of Edward Teller, a proud Hungarian emigre to the USA often referred to as the “father of the hydrogen bomb.”

AUDITIONS

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OF NEUTRONS²**

...the echo edition

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Show dates: June 6, 7, 12, 13, 14



www.DeepRiverPlayers.ca

OPP WARNS OF EMAIL SCAM

The Upper Ottawa Valley (UOV) detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is warning residents of an email scam that has recently surfaced in the area.

Those targeted have received an unsolicited email from someone claiming to have gained access to their device(s). The message tells the recipient they are re-

quired to pay via Bitcoin or intimate images of them will be released to their contact list.

The message has some readily available information to make it appear they have invaded your device(s).

Warning signs and how to protect yourself:

- Beware of unsolicited text messages and emails from individuals or organizations asking you to click a link or attachment.

- Watch for spelling mistakes in unsolicited messages.

- Verify the hyperlink behind the link’s text button or by hovering over the text with your mouse.

- Do not click on links or attachments in unsolicited messages; they can contain viruses or spyware.

- Do not send any financial information, money, or purchase gift cards to send the authorization codes.

If a scam artist contacts you, or if you have been defrauded, contact the UOV OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or your local police service.

You can also contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-496-8501 or visit their website at www.antifraudcentre.ca.



Children’s SHOPPING DAY

for ages 12
& under only

Wrapping paper & cards supplied for each gift.
Helpers will be available to guide the children
- parents are asked to wait in the hall.

10am - noon
Sat, Dec 7

THE Whistle Stop
Community Centre



THEOP welcomes the Durham County Poets to Childs Auditorium at Mackenzie Community School this Friday, December 6 in the next concert of their 2024-25 season. The Poets play a variety of musical styles, including blues, soul, folk, R&B, and gospel, all weaving together to create a genuine Canadiana sound. The show begins at 7:30 pm. For tickets and more information, visit theop.ca.

Submitted photo

Candlelight carol service Sunday

Are you looking for an event that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas?

Would you like an opportunity to experience the peace and joy of the season, to escape the anxiety and commercialism that is so often part of Christmas preparations?

The Deep River Community Church choir's annual Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols could be exactly what you are looking for!

This year's Candlelight Carol Service will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 7:30 pm, in the Deep River Community Church

on Deep River Road.

Choir director Susan Butler has selected a beautiful program of music to be sung by our Candlelight Choir, which is made up of the Community Church Choir with additional singers from other local churches and choirs.

Brenda Forsythe will accompany the choir on piano and organ.

The program includes a musical guest: Peter Morris, viola solo, who will play "Arioso" by JS Bach from Cantata No. 156.

Selected scripture readings from both Old and New Testaments of the Bible will tell of the proph-

sied birth of Jesus Christ.

As always, everyone is invited to join in singing well-loved Christmas carols and to enjoy the reception following the service.

There will be a freewill offering in support of North Renfrew Family Services and the work of the Community Church. And of course, there will be candles!

All are welcome to celebrate the love and joy of the Christmas season at the Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 8.

Don't miss this heartwarming event and be sure to bring a friend.

LIONS TO HOLD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

The Chalk River & Area Lions Club are holding a Christmas House Decorating Contest.

This is a chance for everyone to show off their decorating skills and create a wonderful display for Christmas.

This contest is open to residents in Laurentian Hills, Deep River, and Head, Clara & Maria. These are challenging times for everyone and what is better than checking out Christmas decorations.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st - \$200, 2nd - \$150.00 and 3rd - \$100.

To enter your house or a house you think should be entered, call Eileen at 613-401-4546 or Vandeline at 613-602-2869.

Get decorating everyone!

Deadline to enter is Monday, December 9. Judging will take place on December 10.

DECEMBER
is
FUNDRAISING
MONTH

.....

We need your help.
NRFS relies on
donations for
50% of its funding.

HOW CAN YOU
DONATE?

1. **CHEQUE** - mail or drop off to
NRFS – 109 Banting Dr. PO BOX
1334, Deep River K0J 1P0,
or

2. **CANADAHELPS.ORG**
Search and select North Renfrew
Family Services, and enter online
donation for automatic submission
and tax receipt.

3. **QUESTIONS?**
Call us at 613-584-3358

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Chalk River to Deux Rivieres.

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• Basic Needs

• Support to our
Community



North Renfrew
family
SERVICES inc.
Deep River



Supported by
United Way Eastern Ontario

Community Band is “Swingin’ into Christmas”

With signs of the festive season upon us, the Deep River Community Band is pleased to present its Christmas concert, “Swingin’ into Christmas,” at the Deep River Legion, Sunday, December 15, at 3 pm.

Admission is free but cash donations, gratefully accepted at the door, enable the band to aid worthwhile causes in our community.

Donations from this concert will support the activities of the North Renfrew Family Services.

Co-directors Anne Dickson and Rob Carson will conduct the band in an enjoyable performance of both seasonal and non-seasonal music.

Anne will open the concert with “Jing, Jing, Jingle,” a tune based on the popular holiday favourite “Jingle Bells” arranged in the swinging style of big band era jazz.

Now a holiday standard, “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” a top-10 hit for Bing Crosby in 1943, elegantly expressed the wish of soldiers overseas in World War II.

Our first medley is a real swinging piece titled, “Swingin’ From the Moon.” Each selection features the

moon beginning with an old favourite from Rogers and Hart, “Blue Moon,” followed by “Moonlight Serenade,” the popular hit theme song of big band leader, Glenn Miller.

Rounding out the medley is, “How High the Moon.” Les Paul and Mary Ford’s hit record of “How High the Moon” introduced many listeners to his invention of multi-track recording.

“Rest” takes a step back in time to the traditional carol, “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen.” This work reflects the composer’s enjoyment of the calmer sights and sounds of Christmas in Minnesota after a chaotic visit to a large shopping mall.

Winner of 26 Grammys, five Academy Awards, and numerous other awards, John Williams’ career spans seven decades and enhances many epic cinematic productions.

The band is pleased to perform his “Midway March” from the soundtrack of the 1976 movie, “Midway.”

John Williams placed repetitive staccato notes in the brass section to honour the significant contribution of

codebreakers who influenced the battle’s outcome.

The beloved character Rudolph in “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” was created in 1939 by Robert May as an in-house, cost-saving assignment from retailer Montgomery Ward for their free Christmas colouring books.



Like Rudolph in the story, the character initially suffered rejection because in 1930’s popular culture, a bright red nose was erroneously associated with excessive drinking.

A cute, alert reindeer, created by illustrator Denver Gillen, caused management to remove its objection.

The second half of the concert opens with “Sands of the Sahara,” painting a musical picture of the desert with percussion sounds of wind, a mirage-like melody and exciting, driving rhythms.

“Waltz Noel” is based on the traditional “The First Noel” with parts of the popular carol delicately interwoven with a lyrical composition until it broadly emerges at the finish.

Another non-seasonal favourite “Selections from Mary Poppins” is a medley from the much-loved, Disney musical.

The 1964 film received 13 Academy Award nominations, won five, and is the only Disney film to earn a Best Picture nomination during Walt Disney’s lifetime.

This happy medley features, “Step in Time,” “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious,” “Feed the Birds” and “Chim Chim Cher-ee,” which won the Oscar for Best Original Song.

A poem by Christina Rossetti, “In the Bleak Midwinter,” was published under the title of “A Christmas Carol” in 1872. The poem has been set to music at various times; the Gustav Holst hymn tune presented by the band is a popular, singable rendition.

The final concert selection is a modern, Latin-style Christmas classic by Puerto Rican singer/guitarist, Jose Feliciano.

The band wishes you “Feliz Navidad,” Spanish for Happy Christmas!

Please join the Deep River Community Band for a musical start to the holidays at the Deep River Legion on

ADOPT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is spreading cheer for animals in need through its “iAdopt for the Holidays” campaign.

Running now through December 24, the campaign aims to find loving homes for 500 animals across Ontario, including 40 at the

Ontario SPCA Renfrew County Animal Centre.

Why adopt this holiday season?

For those considering adding a furry friend to their family, the holiday season can be the “purr-fect time.”

With more people home during the holidays, animals can adjust to their forever homes with extra attention and care.

Animals adopted from the Ontario SPCA are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated, and they go home with food from Royal Canin to help ensure a smooth transition.

To see animals available for adoption, visit ontariospca.ca/adopt.

If you can’t adopt, there are still many ways to support animals in need. Donations help provide shelter and care for animals waiting for their forever homes.

Additionally, animal lovers can shop “Paws & Give,” the Ontario SPCA’s online giving store.

Visit ontariospca.ca to donate or shop “Paws & Give” today.

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St. Barnabas Anglican Church played host on Saturday afternoon to its popular annual Holly Tea and Bazaar, in celebration of the festive Christmas season. The church's basement was full to capacity as people sipped in tea and coffee while munching on sandwiches and desserts. There was also something for everyone to buy, including gifts, baking and deli items. The Venerable Patrick Stephens, left, is shown pouring tea for a delighted patron as church volunteer Bob Cleland looks on.

Photo: Vance Gutzman

Choral Group offers songs to fill the spirit

When 50 singers blend their voices in harmony, the effect is magical.

Come hear the magic on Saturday, December 21 starting at 7:30 pm at the Childs Auditorium in Deep River.

The Deep River Choral Group, led by director Peter Morris and accompanied by the talented Dian Wilkie, will perform a wide range of pieces.

You may recognize pieces from Handel's Messiah (For Unto Us a Child is Born; Hallelujah) and some beautiful classics (Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming; Cantique de Jean Racine).

You'll hear delightful twists on carols (Still, Still Night; Fantasia on Christmas Carols; Fanfare for Christmas Day; We Wish You a Merry Christmas;

Candlelight Carol).

And some whimsical pieces just for fun (Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy; The Birds and Beasts; The Gentle Donkey).

Then there's the title song for the concert, "I Wonder as I Wander," which is bound to fill our spirits just in time for the holiday celebrations.

Thank you for supporting the Choral Group! Tickets are available at the door.

You can also get tickets by contacting Helena Rummens at 613-584-4321 or by email at rummsh1@gmail.com.

Choral Group



Student showcase RECITAL

Deep River Youth Orchestra

Solo performers

7:15 pm, Thurs., Dec 12

DR Community Church

Freewill donation

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CHRISTMAS CRAFT

- Monday Pool, Snooker, Darts and Shuffleboard at the Deep River Legion will resume again December 9 and 16 before stopping for a Christmas break. Time: 1-3 pm.
- The Thursday morning Coffee and Conversation will be at the Deep River Library program room at the usual time of 10 am on December 5.
- For the Walk in the Woods this Wednesday, December 4 meet at the chalet on Balmer's Bay Road ready to walk at 1:30 pm. Route will depend on weather and trail conditions.
- Tuesday mornings in the Deep River Library program room:
 December 10: Natural Christmas Craft at 11 am with John and Kathryn Torok. Using natural items previously collected, participants will create a Christmas table centrepiece. All other materials provided.
 Registration for the workshop is still

- open. In the comment section of your etransfer to 23uovsfc55@gmail.com please make note of the workshop or include a note in the SFC drop box in the Deep River town hall.
- Please let us know if you are planning to attend but haven't registered. No need to bring greenery - we have lots.
- December 10: 9-10:30 am, Old fashioned gaming in the Deep River Library program room. (Start earlier as we have to finish before the Christmas Craft.)
 - December 17: 9:30 am - 12 noon: Old fashioned gaming. Bring a game to play with friends.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

- Also coming up in December: Christmas Concert by the Military Wives Choir: Tuesday, December 10, 7 pm in the Deep River Legion.
 Admission at the door. As well, we will be accepting donations to the Deep River and Area Food Bank at this event, eg. wholesome foods that can be stored in a pantry (crackers, pasta, tins of tuna, coffee, real juice boxes, or low-sugar cereal).

- Thursday, December 12 at noon: Christmas Luncheon at the Bear's Den. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings; tax and gratuity are included.
 Pre-registration by December 5 at 23uovsfc55@gmail.com is necessary so we can ensure we have a space for you. As well, we will be accepting donations to the Deep River and Area Food Bank at this event.

WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOPS

- Tuesdays in January: January 7 & 14, we will start the new year with watercolour painting workshops with artist Elaine Bisson for those who have very little or no experience with water-colour painting and want to give it a try.
 Participants will learn about painting techniques, apps and tools for drawing. A white plate for your pallet is needed. All other supplies needed for class will be provided.
 Registration for this two-week workshop at the usual 23uovsfc55@gmail.com is required before January 1, 2025.
- For all of our events that have a cost, unless otherwise stated, e-transfer

- to 23uovsfc55@gmail.com is encouraged with a note to say which event it is for and who it is from.
- Alternatively, payment can be made using the SFC drop box in the Deep River town hall. Please also include a note as to who it is from and for what event you are paying.

SURVEY

- An interest survey has been sent electronically to our members to plan for our workshops in the winter and spring. Feel free to complete it with a friend or as a couple so we can plan activities for Tuesdays that are of interest to you and our membership.
 If you have ideas and do not know where to direct them, please place a note in the mailbox in the town of Deep River or email 23uovsfc55@gmail.com. Your feedback is important to us.
- We are looking for someone who knows how to play Mahjong to lead a session in the winter/spring.
 If you know someone who plays and would be willing and interested in teaching others to play, please let us know by a note in the SFC drop box in

COVID-19 & Flu Vaccines
 (Anyone 6 months of age and older)



COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available at participating pharmacies, through healthcare providers, or at RCDHU clinics for **anyone 6 months of age and older**.

For more information about COVID-19 and flu immunization, visit www.rcdhu.com.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule		
Arnprior Nick Smith Centre 77 James St. Arnprior, ON K7S 1C9	December 3, 2024	2:00-5:00pm
	December 17, 2024	2:00-5:00pm
Barry's Bay Royal Canadian Legion 250 John St. Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0	December 4, 2024	3:00-6:00pm
Pembroke Royal Canadian Legion 202 Pembroke St. E Pembroke, ON K8A 3J7	December 5, 2024	3:00-6:00pm
	December 19, 2024	3:00-6:00pm
Chalk River & Area Lion's Club 11 Kellett St, Chalk River, ON, K0J 1B0	December 10, 2024	3:00-6:00pm
Renfrew myFM Centre 1 Ma-Te-Way Park Dr. Renfrew, ON K7V 4J4	December 12, 2024	1:00-4:00pm

COVID-19 immunization at RCDHU clinics is **by appointment only** and **must be booked through the Ontario Provincial Appointment Booking system**. To book, visit www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/ or call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

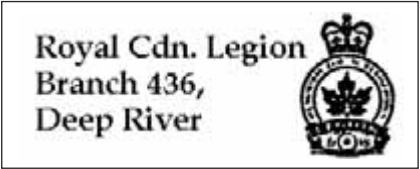
Flu vaccines will be offered at RCDHU clinics on a **walk-in basis**. Wait times will vary.



the Deep River town office or by emailing 23uovsfc55@gmail.com.

- The Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club is open to all adults living in the area from Chalk River to Deux Rivieres.

Our website is seniorsfriendship-club.ca and Facebook page is www.facebook.com/sfc.uov.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa will take place at the Legion this Sunday, December 6 from 9 am to 1 pm.

- We have some amazing artists in Deep River and area! The annual Remembrance Day Poster and Literary contest winners are:

Primary Colour Poster: 1. Jasper

Koebel, St Mary's, 2. Breeze Leachman, St Mary's, 3. Isla Burns Sy Mary's

Junior Colour Poster: 1. Lena Krieger, St Mary's, 2. Rhyalen Thompson, St Mary's, 3. Gavin Macleod, St Mary's.

Black and White: 1. Emma Pehkonen, 2. Lillyanna Lade.

Poem: 1. Henry Hocking, St Mary's, 2. Cecily Vaughan, St Mary's.

Intermediate Colour Poster: 1. Brooklynn Carty, St Mary's, 2. Elise Bostock, Mackenzie, 3. Hilary Hoszowski, St Mary's.

Black and White: 1. Hannah Vaughan, St Mary's.

Poem: Elise Bostock, Mackenzie.

Amazing artwork and poems - good luck to all the finalists moving forward.

- Meat roll is back starting December 6 at 7 pm. Come try your luck - who doesn't want meat?
- We had some amazing special entertainers at the open mic on Sunday. Abigail who is three and Declan who is

six sang and danced a duet, then they both did solos to the roar of the crowd. There might have even been a tear or two shed by proud parents and grandparents.

Well done ladies, you are future stars and will do great things!

- The Rusty Dillabough draw will be rocking on December 21 with Santa showing up and a potluck also. Get out your ugly sweaters, there will be a contest! Mark your calendar, you don't want to miss this event.

Now for this week's winners: 173 Joe, Scott & Paul, 445 Ellen Sutherland, 321 Coreen Alexander, 451 Steve & Gayle Severin, 491 Russell McQuestion, 179 Petra Berube, 269 Mary Ann Hill, 426 Terry & Brian Corbett, 376 Chad Boyer, 471 Barb Hooper, 211 Derek Lukus, 467 Patrick Mansfield, 330 Jean Schade, 202 Richard & Colleen, 331 Jason & Aryn Hutchinson.

Attendance, 498 Rose Trotter not here, so it grows.



THE SOUND OF NEUTRONS


Join the Deep River Players for an information night for their next show, "The Sound of Neutrons (the echo edition)," on Friday, December 6 at 7 pm.

We will gather in the basement of the CEC (Community Church Education Centre, 115 Deep River Rd, Deep River) where you will hear more about the play and the characters.

This show will have a huge cast. There are lots of speaking and non-speaking roles. No acting, singing, or dancing experience is required.

Come out and enjoy the fun.

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NRT@NORTHRENFREWTIMES.CA



COFFEE BREAK

sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

							5	9
6					8			
3	7						2	1
5	9	8				4		
				8	2			
	3	6			4			
				2			9	
	6		4	7		5		
		3		9			1	

cross word

answers use American spelling

ACROSS


- Lawn tree
- Mastered
- Chip in chips
- Feathered stole
- _____ shirt
- Poet Keats
- Cereal container
- Gardening tool
- Eager
- Faucet
- Lawn
- Hazardous
- Stare blankly
- Screening
- 24th letters
- Lad
- Estate unit
- Deerskin
- Ancient harp
- Clothes
- Planet's path
- Perceive
- Give notice
- Land amid water
- Hops beverage
- Fifty-fifty
- Gentle
- Bring to court
- Attaches a button
- Writing tablets
- Five plus five

DOWN

- Fades
- Part of a bow
- Long skirt
- Smock
- Paint layers
- Forest creature
- Fawn's mother
- Not totally closed
- PBS science show
- Not that
- Last bits
- Invited person
- _____ whiz!
- Helm direction
- Saute
- Hair preparation
- Bunyan's tool
- Pod inhabitant
- Manservant
- Wintry
- Miscalculate
- Very small
- Risk cash
- Lid
- Ran a motor
- Stinks
- Has loans
- Rant
- Make beer
- Rustic hotels
- Bridge seat
- Piece of evidence
- MTV watcher
- Little demon
- Yellow or Red, e.g.

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EXTRA STRENGTH

A small crowd of six pairs showed up for duplicate on American Thanksgiving Day and a three-table Howell was played.

Geoffrey Edwards and Rosemary Nishimura finished first with 65% and Ian and Sandy Towner second with 60%.

• The biggest hand of the night was board 17, writes director Geoffrey Edwards. Grand slams are available in clubs, diamonds, or no trump but the optimum spot is 6NT for E/W.

With lots of extra strength, NT often scores as many tricks as a suit fit and it can often survive a bad break in one suit by switching to another.

In 6NT West counts 11 top tricks. Twelve tricks are certain whether or not clubs or spades are attacked (if North has all the spades, South will show out on the second round and declarer can then go up As and finesse in clubs in safety).

The point of the hand is that spades should be ignored altogether in favour of clubs since the Kc with North (as here) hands declarer 13 tricks whereas the Qs

Duplicate Bridge



with South only guarantees 12 as E/W since the suit breaks badly.

Two pairs bid a small slam Thursday afternoon, one in spades (+1460, making an over-

trick by somehow avoiding the unavoidable loser) and one in diamonds (+940 for 13 tricks).

These two pairs were awarded 2 and 1 matchpoints respectively. The third pair were in 3NT (the only pair in the right strain, but languishing on the wrong level) and got 0 matchpoints.

Dir: N
Vul: None

17

♠ 6
♥ J 9 7 6 3 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ K 10 5

♠ A J 5 4 3
♥ A K Q
♦ K J
♣ 9 8 6

♠ K 9 8
♥ 4
♦ A Q 10 9 5
♣ A Q J 2

♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 7 4 3

CYCLIST STRUCK BY OBJECT

The Upper Ottawa Valley (UOV) detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is asking for the public's help in locating the person or persons who assaulted a cyclist.

On December 1, 2024, around midnight, a cyclist was travelling along Pembroke Street East between Drive-in Road and Old Mill Road when a dark coloured vehicle approached with three or four people inside.

The 24-year-old cyclist was struck in the head with an object thrown from the vehicle. The cyclist suffered injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

The OPP is asking anyone who was in the area and may have witnessed the incident or has any video/dash cam footage from that area between 11 pm on November 30 and 12:30 am December 1, to contact the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP at 613-732-3332 or Renfrew County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

MATCH UP

To put a free notice in Match-Up, phone the NRT office at 613-584-4161, or email <NRT@northrenfrewtimes.ca>.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT: A local resident needs to build up some strength in their legs before they undergo surgery. They are hoping someone has a stationary exercise bike or elliptical (perhaps just a pedal exerciser?) to lend or donate. If you think you can help, please call 613-633-9988.

POTS: A local resident is looking for a couple of flower pots that orchids are sold in. If you can help, please call 613-584-1640.

COOKBOOK: The Laurentian Hills Library is looking for a copy of the Point Alexander Library Cookbook from the 1980s. It has a yellow cover with a picture of a woodstove. If you have a spare copy, please bring it to the Point Alexander branch of the library or give them a call at 613-584-2714.


SPIDERMAN: A lonely Spiderman Lego figure was found recently near Grouse Park. If you have lost your friendly web-slinger, please call 613-584-2821.

DVD CHANGER: Looking for a new home are a 26-inch flat screen Vizio TV, a 14-inch small box style Panasonic TV, and a large DVD changer. All are in working order and available to anyone who might be able to use them. If interested, please call 613-584-3881.

WATER HEATER: Free for the taking, a 40-gallon Moffat electric water heater. It came with a nine-year warranty and has been used six years. Still in working condition. If interested, please call 613-586-2228.

CARPET: Two pieces of red plush carpet in excellent, clean condition deserve a better home than the landfill. They would be ideal for a cottage, children's bedroom, or family rec room (sizes 104 x 92" and 64 x 38"). If interested, please call Carole at 613-584-4418 and leave a message.

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DRDCF fund focus series: Milton Family Fund

This is the first in a series of articles from the Deep River and District Community Foundation (DRDCF) with each article focusing on the people and their stories behind some of our funds.

• Since 2002, the Deep River and District Community Foundation (DRDCF) has been a cornerstone of our local community, ensuring long-term benefits for future generations.

By investing donated funds, the DRDCF distributes the earned income annually to support a wide range of initiatives.

As one of over 200 Community Foundations across Canada, DRDCF is a federally

incorporated not-for-profit public foundation and registered charity, dedicated to enriching our community by funding local charities.

Currently, we manage 27 endowment funds, each with a unique focus, all of which can be explored on our website www.drdcf.ca/funds.

One of the earliest and most impactful funds created at DRDCF's inception is the Milton Family Fund.

Established by Gwen and Doug Milton, this fund reflects their deep commitment to the community they loved.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

As founding members of DRDCF, Gwen and Doug played a pivotal role in the foundation's creation, collaborating with friends and fellow community members to establish a local organization that could address a wide range of needs, from social services and health to the environment, education, arts and culture, and community events.

Through the dedication and hard work of many capable leaders, the DRDCF has grown steadily, and the foundation's influence has expanded across Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Head Clara Maria, and Rapides des Joachims.

Since its inception, DRDCF has disbursed over \$739,000 back into the community, and thanks to continued community support, the foundation's assets have now surpassed \$1.8 million.

This growth allows the DRDCF to

make an even greater impact each year.

The Milton Family Fund, established in 2002, was created with a mission to support environmental, arts, and cultural initiatives within the community.

Over the years, the fund has grown, with contributions from the Milton family and in memory of them.

A significant bequest in 2023 from the estate of Doug Milton of over \$200,000 brought the fund's total to approximately \$375,000.

This generous donation has made the Milton Family Fund one of the largest funds within DRDCF.

Since its creation, the Milton Family

Fund has provided numerous grants to support various community projects.

Recently, the fund has contributed to the following grants:

- THEOP for performances for students - school shows program (Renfrew County District School Board): \$5,000 (2024)
- Seniors Friendship Club and Deep River Public Library - art workshops (2023)
- SPCNH (Nuclear Heritage Museum) - website upgrade: \$5,000 (2023)
- DR Community Church (Senior Friendship Club) - culture & social events: \$400 (2022)
- Valley Mental Health - CREATE Connection program: \$1,000 (2022)
- Town of Deep River and Rotary North Renfrew - community gazebo: \$2,900 and \$2,328 (2020, 2021)
- North Renfrew Long-Term Care - boiler replacement: \$3,733 (2020)
- Maison des Jeunes (Swisha): \$1,436 (2020).

These projects are just a snapshot of the meaningful impact the Milton Family Fund continues to make in our community, supporting organizations and initiatives that enrich our lives and preserve our cultural and environmental heritage.

The Milton family's generosity and vision have left an enduring legacy that will benefit our community for years to come.


If you would like to learn more about how you can contribute to the foundation or leave a legacy of your own, please contact Lisa Joudrey at info@drdcf.ca or visit our website at www.drdcf.ca.

DR & District
Community
Foundation



MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Northern Credit Union's Deep River branch has their Christmas PJ's tree up, and already has a generous collection of PJ donations towards the annual Community Christmas Basket program. Drop off new PJ's of all sizes, with an emphasis on adult S-XL, until Friday, December 6. Donations of unwrapped gifts are also welcome to be dropped off until Friday at the Deep River town hall.




DRDCF - Milton Family Fund

A lasting legacy of giving back

Gwen and Doug Milton, founding members of the DRDCF, established one of the foundation's first funds in 2002—the Milton Family Fund.

For over 20 years, this fund has been a vital source of support for the community and has grown to become one of the largest funds managed by the foundation.

Supporting local environmental, arts, and cultural initiatives





HOLIDAY PARTIES

If you're drinking or taking drugs, don't drive!



During the holidays, you often hear tragic stories of people losing their lives in road accidents involving alcohol and drug use. However, these tragedies can be prevented. Here are a few simple tips to ensure you and those around you stay safe this festive season.

ARE YOU A DRIVER?

Even if you feel okay to drive, it's a proven fact that consuming alcohol and drugs — no matter how much — will still impair your judgment. It's best to have a plan of action before you go out. Consider arranging to stay overnight at the party location or assign a designated driver for your group.

ARE YOU A PASSENGER OR WITNESS?

If you notice that someone is unfit to drive and still intends to get behind the wheel, speak up! Let them know it's not okay and suggest alternative options. The same applies if you're a passenger in a group that must share a vehicle. If you're asked to ride with a driver who has been consuming drugs or alcohol, refuse and do everything you can to encourage others to do the same.

When it comes to alcohol and drugs, everyone shares the responsibility to stay safe. As a driver, avoid getting behind the wheel, and as a witness, act. Everyone can do something to prevent the devastating consequences of impaired driving — including criminal penalties, severe injury and death — by working together.

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SPORTS



U11 KNIGHTS WIN B CHAMPIONSHIP

On Saturday, November 30, the Deep River Knights U11 House Team 2 competed in their first tournament of the season in Cobden. The young athletes showcased the hard work and dedication they've put into the season, demonstrating remarkable improvement. Throughout the tournament, the team played with incredible teamwork and determination, finally coming together as a cohesive unit. Their effort paid off as they emerged victorious, earning the title of B Champions. It was a well-deserved win for the Knights, marking a major milestone in their season. Congratulations to the team for their outstanding performance and sportsmanship!

Submitted photo

OUTDOORS

Trusting to luck?

BY WAYNE THOMPSON

In the first part of this column, reference is made to the extensive write-up on the emergency plan being put together for the Dumoine trail system north of Swisha.

First of all, I congratulate those involved, including Marc Audet, with whom I had a discussion last fall concerning what was an initial idea at the time. I attended a number of courses on emergency planning sponsored by the federal government back in the 1980's and early '90's when involved in search-and-rescue at the time.

Back then, emergency planning was deemed as a sort of "big city thing," being ready to deal with incidents such as train wrecks, toxic spills, plane crashes, nuclear war and a repeat of Hurricane Hazel. Rural

residents and municipalities were largely left out of the picture. In reading what the Dumoine plan has to offer, it seems to zero in on medical type emergencies for the most part, which is good. The idea of having supply kits and a response headquarters in a cabin is great, in addition to proposed emergency kits stashed at principal points along the trail system. Audet points to one problem, that being bears. In fact, bears should not be too much, if any, challenge.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



School unveils new display for Paralympian Kyle Tremblay

LEFT: Mackenzie Community School has unveiled a new permanent display for Mackenzie alumni Kyle Tremblay. The display celebrates Kyle's success in representing Canada in para- archery, most recently at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris. Kyle attended the unveiling along with his parents, family friends, and his football coaches from his time at Mackenzie, Dave Miller, and Charles Sims. The display is at the gym entrance to the school - check it out when you get a chance.

BELOW: The stars of the future were on the ice recently as the U9 program held practices at the Deep River Arena. U9 Team 1 will travel to Pembroke for an away game Thursday night.



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DEATHS



YAKABUSKIE,
Elmer Michael

Peacefully at Miramichi Lodge on Monday, November 18th, 2024 in his 86th year. Elmer Yakabuskie of Pembroke, beloved husband of Monica Yakabuskie (nee Norlock). Loving father of Kimberly Micalleff, Tammy Yakabuskie (Lee Nesbitt) and Pamela Yakabuskie. Caring grandpa of Victoria and Harrison. Dear brother of Catherine, Marla (Edward) Recoskie and Irene Yakabuskie (Dave).

Predeceased by parents Thomas and Tessie Yakabuskie (nee Yendreskie), and by brothers Gerald (Beverly) and Allan Yakabuskie (Joan).

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at The Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Pembroke on Friday, December 6th, 2024 at 11 a.m. Inurnment in St. Columba's Cemetery, Pembroke. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Kidney Foundation of Canada or Ottawa Heart Institute would be appreciated.

Arrangements by the Neville Funeral Home, 491 Isabella St., Pembroke. Online Condolences may be left at www.nevillefuneral-home.ca

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With Canada Post currently on strike, the delivery of your final 2024 water and sewer bills may be interrupted.

Residents are reminded that the November/December 2024 water and sewer bills are still due December 31, 2024.

Payments can be made on-line, cheques can be dropped off anytime at the drop boxes located at 19 Railway St in Chalk River, or at the Municipal Office located at 34465 Highway 17. Payments may also be made in person at the municipal office (cash or cheque only).

If you need assistance with making an on-line payment or require your account balance, please contact the office at 613-584-3114.

Announcement from Dr. Glenn Hanniman, Optometrist

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Wahdat Hamidi** has agreed to accept my patients under his care at 100 Victoria Street, Pembroke, Ontario.

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Monday: 10am - 4pm
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Friday: 10am - 1pm

The office is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Reece Duder, 5, has celebrated Christmas a few times over the years but this will definitely be the first time for his little brother Grayson who, at just 11 days old, joined his brother in sitting on Santa's lap when the jolly old elf paid an early visit to the Chalk River and Area Lions Hall Sunday afternoon. Santa was there to hand out presents to all good boys and girls following the Lions' annual Christmas dance for kids.

Photo: Vance Gutzman

JEEP STOLEN FROM DRIVEWAY

The Upper Ottawa Valley (UOV) detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is asking for the public's assistance in locating a stolen Jeep.

On November 28, 2024, just after 6:30 am, UOV OPP were advised of the vehicle

being taken from the driveway of a residence in Whitewater Region township. The vehicle was last seen around 10 pm on November 27. The vehicle is a 2018 black Jeep Wrangler four-door. At the time it was taken it had Ontario licence plate CKWF 842. Anyone who sees the vehicle should contact the Upper Ottawa Valley detachment at 1-888-310-1122 to report it.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	2	1	7	4	3	6	5	9
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Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

The biggest threat is by thieves (human ones).

One major issue that must be addressed is that of emergencies triggered through climate change. This has become of major concern over the last few years, as is growing by a considerable extent, with wildfires and super storms being a major issue in BC and Alberta.

The Jasper fire outbreak, which consumed a major portion of the townsite and park, is one that will be talked about for years, if not decades.

In this respect, we should not be saying that such an incident cannot happen here. Back in 1870, a large wildfire covered an area from Bissett Creek to the Petawawa River. Storms are getting more severe and causing more damage.

What the folks involved in the Dumoine plan should do is to set up some sort of warning system in respect of extreme fire conditions, existing fires, together with severe storm warnings.

Signage at the start of the trail

system could be properly set up and someone or group be authorized to update same with any warnings as may be issued by fire and weather officials.

This second part of the column is to address the current situation concerning emergencies along our river.

Some weeks ago came the report on a dramatic rescue of someone in distress on the water. This is not the first such occurrence.

In this case, and in several others in which people in trouble either got out of the situation on their own, or were assisted by other boaters that were nearby, it was trust to luck.

I well remember the days in which the town had a boat used by the fire department ready to assist anyone in distress.

The question now seems to be that of who has the jurisdiction on the river. Legally, it's the provincial police on each side. The problem is that their marine units are based far off.

Our town police are willing to help, but they don't even have a boat anymore. Basically, it's simply a trust to luck thing that must be resolved, sooner than later.



Learn more about the decisions of Renfrew County Council.

Committee and Council meetings
streamed live on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/countyofrenfrew

Scan now for the November Council Summary



Student loses appeal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

At the trustee committee hearing to review his expulsion order in December, Alexander argued that the actions taken against him were the result of “faithism,” and he cited biblical scripture supporting his views and how those views informed his position that he could not “speak falsehoods about gender when required to do so by human authorities.”

Alexander argued that the school washroom policy (to allow students to use the washroom of the gender they identified with) “was at the heart of the reason he was suspended and excluded and that he was being sanctioned because he opposed that policy.”

“He submitted that the sanctions imposed on him failed to accommodate his right to (express) minority creed beliefs regarding gender and sexuality, including beliefs that people cannot actually change their gender or sex and that people should not be compelled to share sex-segregated spaces with people of the opposite sex’.”

In his written submissions, Alexander “did not accept that he had objectively caused any harm to any student.”

“His submissions stated that while he may have offended students, there was no actual harm.”

The trustee committee, however, Alexander’s expulsion from school was not about religious beliefs, and that it “goes without saying” that individuals are entitled to their beliefs, religious or otherwise.

Instead, the committee said, Alexander’s case was about “behaviour and in particular, behaviour towards other people.”

“While individuals are entitled to their religious beliefs, opinions, and



views, what they are not entitled to do is act in a manner that disrespects, discriminates, insults, denigrates, harasses, bullies, or otherwise creates an unsafe environment for any person in the school.

“Beliefs, opinions, and views, no matter how genuinely held, cannot be used to justify treating any individual with disrespect or in any way that devalues them or makes them feel unsafe.”

“RESPECT AND DIGNITY”

“Our society, as enshrined in the Charter (of Rights and Freedoms), is founded on the premise that all human beings are worthy of respect and dignity and are recognized as human beings to be treated equally,” the committee wrote.

“The Catholic faith and faith-based education, express similar principles that all individuals are made in the likeness and image of God, worthy of respect and dignity.

“Behaviour that disrespects, devalues, and/or creates an unsafe environment will not and should not be tolerated.”

In her decision, Justice Leiper agreed that the committee’s decision was “reasonable.”

“The committee’s logic is clear throughout its reasons: (Alexander) has the right to his religious beliefs, including to voice his concerns about school policy in ways that do not harm others, such as by holding a rally or quoting scripture,” Justice Leiper wrote.

“The committee focused on the school board’s obligations to ensure a safe school environment for all students.

“As the Human Rights Commission has highlighted, transgendered students can be vulnerable.

“The evidence before the committee was that (Alexander’s) conduct was making some transgendered students feel unsafe.

“The committee chose to uphold the principal’s decision to place limits on (Alexander’s) behaviour, specifically his past conduct and future intentions to use demeaning, derogatory or harassing language toward transgendered students.”

However, in a partial dissent, Justice Ramsay said she did not agree that Alexander’s original behaviour met the definition of “bullying.”

Justice Ramsay said there was no “power imbalance,” and that Alexander “was in a similar position to the transgendered students.”

“He was invited to give his views in

math class, and when he did he was called a transphobe, a homophobe and so on.”

Justice Ramsay also agreed that Alexander was subject to “faithism” under the Ontario Human Rights Code, and that the school board should have used “progressive discipline” to deal with him.

“It was beyond question on the evidence that the applicant’s views were the product of sincerely held beliefs in a recognized religion. I would have quashed the suspension,” Justice Ramsay said.

However, she did not let him entirely off the hook. When Alexander “persisted in attending school after he had been excluded he made himself unmanageable. I agree that the exclusion order should be upheld,” she said.

“DAVID AND GOLIATH”?

Alexander has found support online and a “GiveSendGo” page has been set up to support his legal costs.

The page describes Alexander’s case as “a modern day David and Goliath story.”

“Joshua Alexander who is a devout christian, was 16 years old attending a Catholic high school in Renfrew, Ontario when he took a stand in regards to the transgender agenda being pushed in his school.

“He was standing up for the girls who were uncomfortable at having boys in their bathrooms and change rooms.

“His education had already been disrupted by the Covid mandates and after expressing his views that there are only two genders as per his convictions as a bible believing follower of Jesus, he was suspended multiple times - in the end he was permanently prevented from attending classes - but not until after being arrested for trying to attend.”

As of Monday, the page had raised \$9,981 of its \$60,000 goal.

CNL welcomes NWMO site decision

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories has welcomed the announcement last week of a long-term solution for Canada’s high-level radioactive waste.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced last Thursday that it has selected Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and

the township of Ignace as the host communities for the future site for Canada’s deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel.

In a post on Facebook, CNL welcomed the “historic milestone” and noted the NWMO’s decision is the result of a “community-driven, consent-based site selection process that began in 2010.”

“With this decision, Canada has taken one of many important steps towards to a responsible disposal solution for nuclear fuel, including those fuels currently in safe long-term storage at CNL-managed sites,” the company said.

NWMO said there is international scientific consensus that a deep geological repository is the safest way to manage used nuclear fuel over the long term, “and Canada is among the leading countries on this solution.”

“As the project now advances into the regulatory decision-making process, Canada will take another step forward on this long-term management solution for its used nuclear fuel, which will protect people and the environment, including water, while supporting its goals around energy security and climate change.”



CAF completes investigation into deadly Chinook crash

The Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) Directorate of Flight Safety, which is the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) Airworthiness Investigative Authority, has concluded its investigation into the accident that occurred on June 20, 2023, in the Ottawa River near Garrison Petawawa involving a CH-147F Chinook helicopter that claimed the lives of two CAF members.

The helicopter, known by its call-sign Hammer 31, was conducting a nighttime training flight over the river.

The training flight had a crew of four members. Tragically, the two pilots, Captain Marc Larouche and Captain David Domagala, were fatally injured. The two flight engineers egressed the helicopter with minor injuries.

The flight safety investigation determined that as the crew initiated a turning manoeuvre over the river, the aircraft entered a constant but imperceptible descent.

None of the crew realized the aircraft's altitude and/or rate of descent until impact, resulting in a "Controlled Flight into Terrain" (CFIT) accident.

The investigation concluded that unrecognized downward acceleration, along with environmental conditions that night, were significant contributors to the accident, causing "spatial disorientation" among the crew.

"This accident was not caused by a single factor, instead, multiple elements con-

tributed to the unrecognized spatial disorientation of all crew members of Hammer 31, leading to the continued descent until water impact," said Colonel Jean-François Gauvin, director of flight safety, Royal Canadian Air Force.

"Over 16 months, we thoroughly analyzed a large amount of data and collaborated closely with partners to identify additional contributing factors. Several recommendations are provided to help prevent similar accidents in the future."

"We continue to grieve alongside all those affected, and our thoughts remain with the loved ones of Captain Marc Larouche and Captain David Domagala," added Lieutenant-General Eric Kenny, commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

"The results of the Flight Safety investigation provide us details and recommendations surrounding this tragic accident.

"We are committed to learning from this heartbreaking loss, and providing safety for our aviators as we continue our mission in service of Canada."

Prior to being publicly released, the flight safety investigation report was briefed to all designated next of kin of the fallen RCAF personnel.

The report recommends preventative measures at the base, squadron, wing, division and strategic levels to enhance safety and mitigate the risks associated with over-water missions.

Petawawa to study on-demand transit

BY HAZEL ATKINS,
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REPORTER

Currently, Petawawa has a community transport program (Carefor) that caters to the vulnerable population only.

At the town's most recent council meeting, Dawn Recoskie, public works & fire services co-ordinator, brought forward an option that would allow for a secondary form of public transit available to anyone.

Recoskie recently became aware of a federal grant program called the Rural Transit Solutions Fund, which provides grants of up to \$50,000 in support of transit planning for new or expanded transit options.

Recoskie asked council to consider approving a request to apply for funding to hire a consultant to look into the feasibility of expanding Petawawa's current community transportation service to the community at large using a different service provider.

Mayor Gary Serviss clarified the request, saying, "Should this new form come about, it would be open to anybody who wants to use it, so we would have two different forms of transportation available."

The question of how this would affect cab and taxi services came

up, and the mayor pointed out that there is a sector of society that is unable to afford to take a taxi.

"This might serve that sector," he said.

"I think it's great that we will potentially provide a secondary form of transportation."

In her report, Recoskie provided an example of the transit system in the municipality of North Grenville (Kemptville).

There, residents can book a ride by phone, online, or through an app. A single ride costs \$5 per adult or \$3 per youth (12-19).

Children under 12 and those assisting residents with accessibility issues are free.

OFFICIAL PLAN

The city of Pembroke is also looking at an on-demand transit system, with a "request for proposals" (RFP) that closes this Thursday, December 5.

Recoskie also noted that Petawawa's Official Plan includes policies supporting public transit, including a goal to "expand and maintain a transportation network that is capable of providing for the safe, efficient, and accessible movement of people and goods."

Council approved the recommendation to hire a consultant to perform a feasibility study.

SHOT THROUGH WALL

A local resident is facing serious charges after an investigation in the town of Petawawa.

Members of the Upper Ottawa Valley detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police began investigating on November 18, 2024.

A Petawawa resident reported returning home to their apartment to find that a gun shot had been fired through a wall shared with an adjacent apartment.

At the time of the incident the victim's apartment was unoccupied and no one was injured. Dur-

ing the course of the investigation police seized several firearms and ammunition.

As a result of this investigation 23-year-old Matthew Raghunath of Petawawa has been charged with the following offences:

- Discharge a firearm into or at a place in a reckless manner
- Mischief under \$5,000
- Mischief - interfering with any person in the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property under \$5,000.

The accused was released and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Pembroke on December 30.

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