

THE NORTH RENFREW TIMES

DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

\$2.00 (HST INCL.)



Marley Highsted, 4, tries her hand at the cello with help from Brandon Wilkie during Summermusic's annual "Musical Instrument Zoo" at the CE Centre in Deep River Saturday. The "zoo" gives kids a chance to try out instruments they might like to practice at the annual music day-camp, or just for the fun of it. Photo: Terry Myers

QUOTEWORTHY:

"It's too flowery, so that tells me there's a lack of substance, so I can't support it the way it is."

- Renfrew Reeve
Peter Emon, page 2

INSIDE:



COUNTY CHANGES TRACK ON HS RAIL



LODGE SEEKS SUPPORT FOR HUB

Earthquake rattles the Valley

Did you feel it?

Social media was abuzz Tuesday afternoon after an earthquake shook the region.

Comments suggested the quake was felt from North Bay to Eganville and was strong enough to shake blinds and spill water from aquariums.

Earthquakes Canada reported that the earthquake hit at 12:36 pm and was centred approximately 20 km northeast of Shawville, Quebec.

The quake registered as 3.9 Mw, relatively low on the Richter scale.

Earthquakes Canada says under a magnitude of 3.5 are recorded on local

seismographs, "but generally not felt, while those 3.5 to 5.4 are "often felt, but rarely cause damage."

"Major" earthquakes causing "serious damage over larger areas" are measured at 7.0 and above.

An earthquake of magnitude 5.2 was felt in the same region on May 17, 2013.

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**NORTH RENFREW
TIMES**

VOL. 73, No. 14

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PLEASE RECYCLE

County changes track on HS rail

OPPOSITION “PREMATURE”

Renfrew County council has rejected a motion from its Eastern Ontario colleagues to oppose the federal government’s high-speed rail project.

County council voted last Wednesday on a motion from the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC) that calls on the government and Alto, the Crown corporation created to build the high-speed rail connection between Toronto and Quebec City, to “fully explore train route options along existing infrastructure corridors, such as VIA Rail and/or Highway 401.”

The motion notes that EOWC “formally opposes the Alto project in its current form.”

EOWC says its opposition is “based on concerns related to insufficient municipal consultation, unclear rural and small-urban impacts, potential environmental effects, and alignments with existing eastern Ontario planning and infrastructure priorities.”

The motion notes that in the face of potential impacts from the project, “municipal governments are responsible for protecting local interests, ensuring compatibility with existing planning frameworks, as well as safeguarding environmental, community, and resident mental health and well-being.”

“EOWC is eastern Ontario’s united advocacy voice representing 103 communities who value and will advocate for the region’s beautiful lands that hold deep agricultural and cultural roots, and that are home to our rural and small-urban communities that will be impacted by Alto.”

But in a surprise move, council voted unanimously to reject the motion.

TOO FLOWERY

Renfrew Reeve Peter Emon said he felt the motion was “premature.”

He said the “details” the EOWC is looking for are similar to people who turn out at the first mention of a new subdivision looking for drainage plans and other specifics.

“You know that that’s not going to happen until you get to the signing of the site plan agreement and things like that,” he said.

“So I think this is premature, because I

don’t think those answers are going to be available for at least five years,” until the final route has been set.

Emon said he would have liked to have seen a “more nuanced motion,” suggesting “limited acceptance of the idea, with the understanding that a bunch of questions” still need to be answered.

“Because I think all the questions are being asked are very relevant, but I don’t see this being the stage to say, no, we’re going to turn her back on a \$60 billion infrastructure investment that benefits all of Canada.”

Emon said that when he sees words like “beautiful countryside” in a motion, “that always sets off alarms to me because that’s like saying, you know, there’s a blue sky overhead today.”

“It’s too flowery, so that tells me there’s a lack of substance, so I can’t support it the way it is.”



Admaston Bromley Mayor Michael Donohue agreed.

Donohue said he has seen no background information to support or reject the motion.

“I don’t have a position, and I can’t see how I could possibly have a position on Alto with no information, except this resolution in front of us that will now ask me to... endorse (EOWC’s) opinion without knowing anything about how (EOWC) arrived at their opinion.”

Donohue said that if the motion had said EOWC could not support high-speed rail without further consultation, “that might perhaps have gotten close enough for me.”

“But (this motion) is suggesting that it is actively opposing this, and that is what presents the challenge,” he said.

Warden Jennifer Murphy said little information is available at this point.

Murphy noted that some Eastern Ontario municipalities have had closed door meetings with Alto but have had to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) promising not to talk about the details of the meetings afterwards.

“They couldn’t even spout numbers, so the members (of the EOWC) that this is affecting the most are very, very, very frustrated that they couldn’t say (anything), she said.

Deep River Reeve Glenn Doncaster also spoke against the motion.

Doncaster agreed that without more information, “it’s very difficult” to support a motion against the high-speed rail project.

He said that like the nuclear industry, “people protest against that without having any information on a daily basis.”

“We know that people really don’t like change,” he said.

“Yet all of these same people, who will fight this project till the end of time, they’re also the same people that’ll go to Europe and talk about how great the train system is.”

NATION BUILDING

Doncaster said like any “nation building” project, there are going to be impacts.

But “what’s going to be displaced and what are the effects going to be when Highway 17 is four-lane all the way through Renfrew County?” he said.

Doncaster said he would prefer to see the county pass a motion saying that, “as a matter of principle,” it supports nation-building projects like Alto, “employing thousands of Canadians and businesses, and using primarily Canadian materials to enhance our country’s ability to leverage, process, build, and move or manufacture Canadian resources, materials, people, products, and services much faster to a wider provincial, national, and international markets.”

Emon asked if Doncaster would like to move such a motion in place of the EOWC’s, but Doncaster said he would defer to the next meeting.

With no further discussion, county council voted as one to defeat the EOWC motion.

Former prime minister Justin Trudeau announced in February 2025 that the federal government will invest \$3.9 billion over the next six years to help develop a high-speed rail service under Alto.

The full cost of the project is expected to hit \$60-90 billion.

The proposed route will connect Toronto to Quebec City with stops in Peterborough, Ottawa, Montreal, Laval, and Trois Rivieres.

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Lodge seeks support for Indigenous centre

BY HAZEL ATKINS,
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Four members of the Circle of Turtle Lodge visited Petawawa town council to present their vision for an Indigenous knowledge hub and their petition for the land on which to build it.

Chairperson Steve Fortin said, “We respectfully present our vision for an Indigenous knowledge hub, and a sustainable community centre.”

“We are petitioning for the allocation of 2-3 acres of municipally owned land near Pembroke on the Kitchi Sibi river. If the land does not already contain an existing structure, we will seek funding to build one.”

The Circle of Turtle Lodge provides services for cultural revitalization, community healing, and environmental healing.

“For more than 25 years the circle has delivered impactful community programs,” Fortin went on.

Renfrew County is home to over 9,000 Indigenous people, almost 10 per cent of the population.

“This is approximately three times the provincial average,” he explained.

“The Circle of Turtle Lodge is the primary organization providing dedicated Indigenous led services to the off-reserve residents in the county.”

He emphasized that the organization maintains political neutrality.

“Our current challenges arise because demand for our services is growing,” he said.

“We lack a permanent dedicated space. Our solution is an Indigenous knowledge centre for our multipurpose Indigenous-led facilities.”

The Circle of Turtle Lodge has a mission to revive, promote, and restore traditional Anishinabe culture and teachings in the Ottawa Valley.

GROUNDING

“We need a hub where our elders can come and teach the ceremonies and practices that have existed for hundreds and hundreds of years. We need a place for this to take place before these elders are gone.”

“Offering these teachings help keep our young people grounded, give them purpose, and help to keep them from straying from the path,” added Aimee Bailey, founding member of the Circle of Turtle Lodge.

They came to Petawawa to ask for a letter of support that can be forwarded to Queen’s Park.

Mayor Gary Serviss thanked them for their presentation and assured them that the question will be carefully considered.

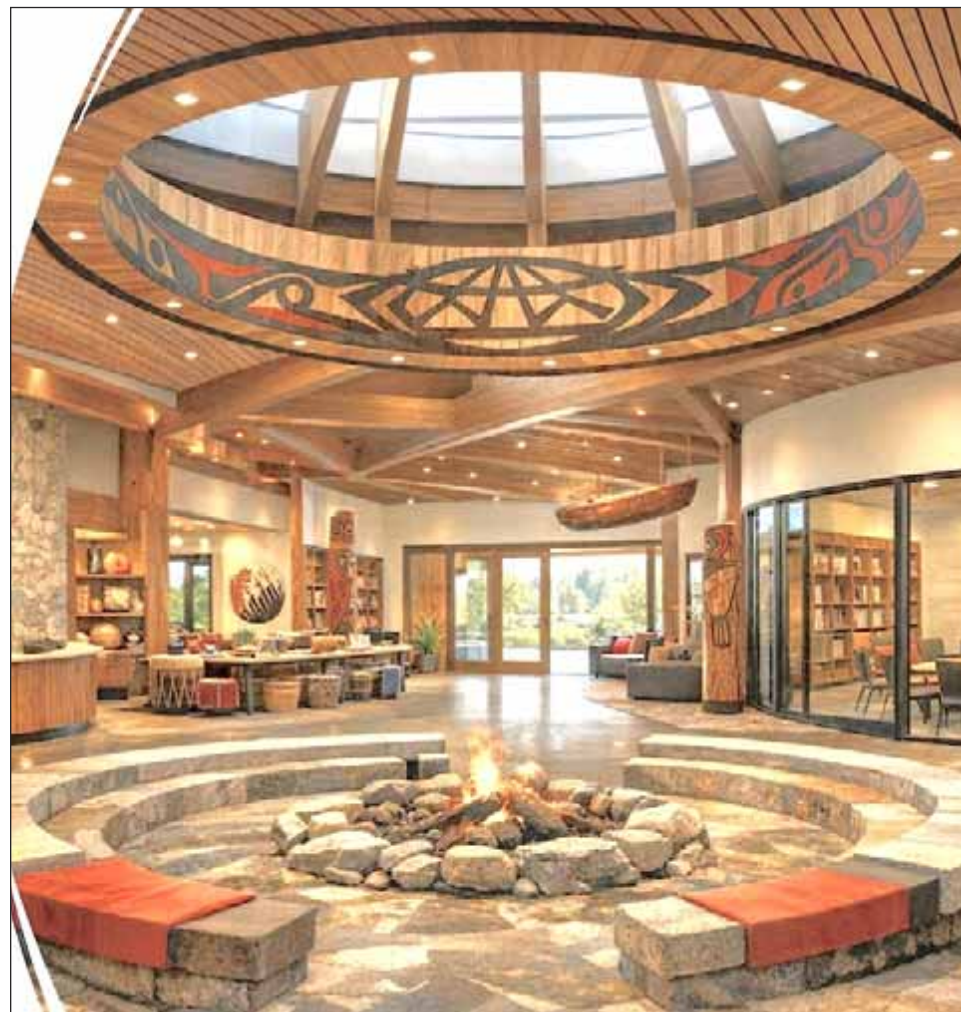


Illustration of a proposed indigenous knowledge centre included in a presentation to Petawawa council by representatives of the Circle of Turtle Lodge.

Council remuneration tops \$330K

Council remuneration and expenses topped \$330,000 in the town of Petawawa last year.

The province requires municipalities to prepare a report each year on the remunera-

tion and expenses paid to each member of council, as well as those appointed by council to other local boards or bodies.

Petawawa’s report for 2025 shows that Mayor Gary Serviss received remuneration of just over \$67,272 last year, plus expenses of \$4,749, for a total of \$72,022.

Deputy Mayor Theresa Sabourin received remuneration of \$43,758 plus per diems of \$1,400 and expenses of \$1,595, for a total in 2025 of \$46,753.

Totals for Councillors James Carmody, Lisa Coutu, Karen Donovan, Adam Driscoll, and Murray Rutz fell into a range from \$38,504 to \$41,960.

Sabourin and Carmody also received \$3,424 for serving on the OPP police detachment board.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Board objects to new education legislation

“MOVE TOWARD CENTRALIZATION”

The head of Renfrew County’s Catholic school board says he shares concerns about new legislation tabled Monday by Ontario Minister of Education Paul Calandra.

Called the “Putting Student Achievement First Act,” Calandra said the legislation will “strengthen school board oversight and accountability and ensure more consistent learning experiences for students to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow.”

“Ontario’s education system must remain focused on its core responsibility: student success. In some school boards, that focus has been lost, and students are paying the price,” Calandra said.

Among the changes in the Act, Calandra said the province will:

- limit the number of school board trustees to a maximum of 12
- require English-language school

boards to replace their director of education with two new roles: chief executive officer, responsible for financial and operational oversight of the board, and chief education officer, appointed by the CEO to focus on student achievement

- give school board CEOs the lead in setting school budgets, and
- turning over central bargaining to the Council of Ontario Directors of Education instead of provincial trustee associations.

“Ontario’s teachers and education workers are dedicated professionals who work tirelessly every day to support students, often under challenging circumstances,” Calandra said.

“They deserve stable, accountable leadership that supports their work and puts learning first. If further action is required to protect students and reinforce respect for the professionals who teach them, we will not hesitate to act.”

But in a statement Tuesday morning, Bob Schreder, chair of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board,

said that while the board shares the province’s goal of student success, “we believe that achievement is best fostered through local, democratically elected leadership.”

“Here in the Ottawa Valley, our results speak for themselves,” he said.

“Our students continually outperformed the province in EQAO testing; a feat achieved because our governance is rooted in the specific needs of our rural and small-town communities.”

“ONE SIZE FITS ALL”

Schreder said that along with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association, the RCCDSB is reviewing the proposed legislation through four “critical lenses.”

First, he said, “we must protect the unique Catholic identity of our schools.”

“Any shift toward centralized control must not erode the essential responsibilities of our locally elected trustees, who serve as the voice for Catholic

ratepayers from Arnprior to Deep River.”

Second, he said, does the legislation “promote academic excellence and faith formation”?

“Our success is built on a holistic approach to education,” he said.

“We are concerned that a ‘one-size-fits-all’ provincial mandate could stifle the local innovations that have led to our high EQAO scores and the spiritual well-being of our students.”

Third, any legislation must maintain the board as the employer, he added.

“To remain accountable to our families, the RCCDSB must retain its role as the employer of our dedicated staff.

“This ensures we can continue to prioritize local initiatives, such as our recent investments in mental health and special education within our \$94.9 million budget.”

Finally, Schreder said, the board supports the OCSTA’s position that provincial trustee associations “must remain the legal bargaining agents.”

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Council Meetings

Council meetings can be live streamed, or viewed later on the "Corporation of the Town of Deep River" YouTube channel. Archived Council Meeting videos <https://www.deepriver.ca/council/council-meeting-videos/> Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://deepriver.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>

SPRING CLEAN-UP

May 4th – May 15th

YARD WASTE

- Leaf & yard waste (biodegradable bags)
- Branches & brush (biodegradable bags or bundled & tied, under 4" in diameter)

METAL

- Pipes, ductwork, metal appliances (No propane tanks)

ELECTRONIC WASTE

- Electronics for safe disposal e.g.: TVs, computers, keyboards, monitors, laptops, radios.

Set out ALL waste by 7:00 AM on May 4th – only one collection pass per stream per street! Items may be placed curbside one week in advance. Place materials on the shoulder of the road or back lane next to your driveway.

Items NOT Accepted:

Household garbage, recyclables, construction materials, furniture, mattresses, large tree limbs, plastic toys, tires, hazardous waste (e.g., oil, paint, batteries), propane tanks and more.

April

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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SPEAKER - NIGEL BELLCHAMBER

Nigel began his career in municipal finance with the Ontario government, then as the Commissioner of Finance with the City of London and then Chief Administrative Officer with Middlesex County. Nigel has trained municipal staff and councils for a number of years through Amberly Gavel and N.G. Bellchamber & Associates.



3 SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

1 Thursday April 23, 2026 2:00 - 4:30 pm - Eganville Arena 178 Jane St., Eganville ON	3 Friday April 24, 2026 2:00 - 4:30 pm - Petawawa Civic Centre 16 Civic Centre Rd., Petawawa ON
2 Thursday April 23, 2026 7:00 - 9:30 pm - Murray Yantha Com. Centre 2473 Russett Dr., Arnprior ON	zoom Friday April 24, 2026 2:00 - 4:30 pm - Petawawa Civic Centre 16 Civic Centre Rd., Petawawa ON

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Deep River Fire Department

Spring Fire Safety

Spring Cleaning

Add the following tasks to your spring cleaning "to do" list to ensure your home is safe and free of fire hazards.

- Ensure your address number is visible from the road. Remove debris that could obstruct the view of first responders.
- Clean out filters above your stove.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms; replace batteries immediately if they are dead. Replace entire units for smoke alarms more than 10 years old, or CO alarms more than 5 to 7 years old.
- Ensure you have an emergency preparedness kit in case of events, such as power outages or floods.
- Pull out the fridge and dust or vacuum the coils. Temporarily unplug the fridge so there is no power running through the coils when you are cleaning them.
- Practise your home escape plan so everyone in the household knows what to do in a fire. Windows should be checked to ensure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as an exit. Clean out stairs and landings clear so they are accessible during an evacuation in the case of an emergency.
- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances for animal nests and to ensure proper wiring.
- Get rid of old newspapers, magazine and junk mail by recycling them. These items tend to pile up and can greatly contribute to the severity and spread of fire.
- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuels containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- Remove leaves and trash from carports and garages: Combustible materials are dangerous if they are exposed to heated automobile components, especially under the vehicles.

Deep River Public Library

Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am – 5:30pm
 Sat: 10am – 3pm Tues & Thurs: 10am – 8pm
info@deepriverlibrary.ca 613-584-4244

Community Memory Vault: Deep River's Greenspaces – Deep River & Area is lucky to be immersed in so many wonderful natural greenspaces! Does any one particular greenspace have a special place in your heart? Tell us the story of what this place means to you and/or your family.

Spring Storytime & Babytime sessions start the week of April 21

Youth Poetry Contest: Are you a budding poet (who knows it) ages 6 – 19? Do you want to share your poetry with the people of Deep River? Submit your poems between April 1st – 26th to rdennis@deepriverlibrary.ca or in person to become a published poet. The winner will be featured in our spring newsletter and will receive a gift from a local establishment. Good luck, young poets! We can't wait to read what you have to write.

National Canadian Film Day Showing "The Queen of My Dreams". Wednesday, April 15th at 7pm. Doors open at 6:45pm.

Caregiver Coffee Time: "Strategies to Reach For When Your Loved One is Resistant to Receiving Care" with Sherry Cameron of the Dementia Society. Thursday, April 16th at 1:3pm.

An Engineer's Guide to Nuclear Reactor Core Materials by Malcolm Griffiths. Friday, April 17th at 7pm. Malcolm will present a brief history of his book and the motivation behind it, as well as some of the more interesting aspects of life of aging reactor core components.

Portrait Workshop: Saturday, April 18th at 1pm. Bring a friend, paint each other, or bring a reference photo! Hosted in partnership with the Library Arts Committee.

Sewcial Club: Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30pm. Bring your mending project or make an embroidered flower pin with us. All welcome!

Deep River Police Service



On the 7th of April we were wearing green in support of #GreenShirtDay to raise awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated team at DRDH and to our community partners who continue to stand with us in support of this cause, including the Deep River Police Service, Deep River Fire Department, Town of Deep River, and the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.

Green Shirt Day was inspired by Logan Boulet, whose decision to be an organ donor sparked the #LoganBouletEffect - a movement that has inspired thousands of Canadians to register as donors. His legacy is a powerful reminder that one person can make an extraordinary difference.

Join the movement and register today at www.beadonor.ca

Education legislation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“This is vital to ensure that the unique geographic and operational challenges of a board like ours are represented at the provincial table,” he said.

“Today’s announcement suggests a move toward centralization that falls short of respecting these pillars.

“We remain hopeful for a meaningful dialogue with the Minister and our local MPP to ensure that ‘modernization’ does not come at the expense of the constitutional rights and local voices that make Catholic education in Renfrew County so vibrant.”

Ontario’s teacher unions also expressed concerns with the proposed legislation.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) said the province is “failing students and their families, teachers, and education workers by ignoring the real issues in our schools: rising violence, growing class sizes, and chronic underfunding.”

“Instead of addressing these urgent concerns, the government is pushing education governance changes that distract from the real problems.”

“Let’s be clear - replacing directors

with CEOs with no experience in education or shifting governance structures doesn’t change who actually makes the decisions,” said Martha Hradowy, OSSTF president.

“No matter who sits across the bargaining table, the government holds the power and the purse strings, and right now, they are choosing to underfund public education.”

The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) agreed.

“While the Ford government ultimately rejected Minister Calandra’s initial plan to eliminate all democratically elected trustees - a reversal achieved through months of sustained advocacy by ETFO and its education partners - this legislation removes the essential powers trustees need to genuinely represent families and students,” said ETFO president David Mastin.

“This government should focus on what is in the best interests of students and not on political manoeuvres that weaken democratic oversight.”

“Families deserve trustees who are democratically elected to make decisions, not CEOs with business credentials installed to manage public education like a corporate enterprise,” Mastin added.

“The fallout from this government’s poor decisions belongs to this government alone. Trustees are not elected to serve as a buffer for your reckless decision-making.”

FIREARMS RECOVERED

Members of the OPP Renfrew County Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of Upper Ottawa Valley OPP uniform officers, recently recovered two firearms that were stolen during a break and enter to a residence in Laurentian Valley township in October 2024.

Police say that on April 8, 2026, CSCU officers executed a search warrant at a residence in North Algona Wilberforce township.

Officers recovered a .22 calibre rifle

and a 12-gauge shotgun.

Two firearms remain outstanding from the break and enter that occurred during the overnight hours of October 13-14, 2024, on Joe Street in Laurentian Valley. The outstanding stolen firearms are described as follows:

- Lee-Enfield .303 calibre rifle
- Winchester 12-gauge shotgun.

There have been no arrests or charges at this time. The investigation is continuing with the assistance of an OPP Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO) and the CSCU.

Remuneration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Overall, the grand total for council plus four civilian members of the police board came to \$334,358 last year.

“The town provides reasonable remuneration and expense reimbursement to members of council and committee members for reasonable and permitted expenses incurred while carrying out their respective roles and responsibilities,” the report notes.

“All expenses are for costs incurred in the 2025 fiscal year, net of any HST rebates.”

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Published by
Digest Media Inc.
8 Glendale Ave, PO Box 310,
Deep River, ON K0J 1P0



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MPs who cross the floor owe voters a byelection

BY MICHEL MAISONNEUVE

Matt Jeneroux's decision on February 18 to join the Liberals brings into sharp focus a simple question: when an MP changes parties, does the mandate voters granted still stand?

Five opposition MPs have now crossed the floor to join the Carney government since last spring's federal election: Conservatives Chris d'Entremont in November and Michael Ma in December of last year, Matt Jeneroux in February, NDP MP Lori Idlout in March and Marilyn Gladu in April of this year. That Gladu herself told a local news outlet in January 2026 that floor crossers "deserve a chance to have a redo" from voters (only to cross the floor weeks later) illustrates precisely the problem this piece addresses.

In Canada's parliamentary system, MPs are legally free to change party affiliation without resigning their seat. Canadians elect individual candidates, not parties, and there is no requirement to resign after crossing the floor. But party affiliation is not incidental. It signals a governing philosophy, a legislative direction and a set of promises. When that signal changes, it alters the framework under which voters made their choice.

Whatever the reason for a defection, it has consequences. MPs are elected under a party name, a platform and a set of commitments presented to voters. When that affiliation changes, the mandate changes.

Loyalty in politics is not blind obedience to a leader. MPs must exercise judgment and conscience. But loyalty does mean honouring the commitments made to voters. A party label signals direction and governing philosophy, and constituents vote with that understanding.

Floor crossings are not new in Canadian politics. Belinda Stronach and Joe Comuzzi changed party affiliation during their time in office. But precedent does not eliminate responsibility. Each defection raises the same fundamental question: does the MP still represent what voters chose?

Some argue that MPs who change parties should resign and seek a renewed mandate through a byelection. That principle is sound. In May 1996, Sheila Copps resigned her seat over a policy commitment and recontested it in a byelection, winning again.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



A barred owl was a regular visitor to the home of Dave and Linda Cox in Deep River last week, using its perch on a birdfeeder to spy out chipmunks and mice picking through discarded seed husks. The same owl stayed around for at least three days, taking various perches to watch the rodent smorgasbord.

Photo: David Cox

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Admiring recognition

Re: "DR Library growing strong," NRT April 8.

I would like to submit a brief but sincerely admiring recognition of the tremendous work of librarian Naomi Balla-Boudreau and the staff and volunteers at the Deep River Public Library (DRPL).

I recently read the April 8 article outlining the many ways the library supports and enriches life in Deep River and the surrounding

area, and I was moved to say well done.

I can easily recall my own hours of reading enjoyment at - and because of - DRPL, with stacks of books brought home over the years.

While the library's services and activities have diversified and expanded, it remains an absolutely essential hub for the community.

Ms. Balla-Boudreau and her colleagues deserve recognition and sustained applause for their efforts and accomplishments.

I am delighted to read of their success and wish them many more years of it.

**Elizabeth (Walker) Mantz, MLIS
London, Ontario**



Members of the Seniors Friendship Club enjoy a weekly Wednesday Walk.

COMMUNITY GEMS

Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club

BY HAZEL ATKINS,
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

One of Deep River's continually growing community gems is undoubtedly the Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club.

Begun in 2013 by a small group of people who realized that, when lawn bowling closed for the season, there wasn't a lot happening for seniors in town, the club has gone from strength to strength and now has over 360 members.

"Our catchment area is Chalk River to Deux Rivieres," said Melanie Theil, club secretary.

"We provide social, recreational, educational activities, as well as arts and crafts. We try to provide a wide variety of activities to keep seniors active and healthy."

The club belongs to a larger organization called the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario, founded in the 1970s, which provides ongoing liaison and advocacy with government and other provincial associations in matters affecting older adult centres and older adults.

"They are a great resource," said Theil. "We can apply for grants from them."

One of these grants goes toward the UOVSF's biennial Seniors Active Living Fair, which is a major event for the club and which will be happening this fall at the Deep River Legion.

The fair is a free event for area seniors,

caregivers, and their families, and it has taken place twice before in Deep River. The fair includes snacks, speakers, demonstrations, exhibitors, swag bags, and more.

Exhibitions and demonstrations might include stair lifts, representatives from CRA, insurance and will-writing services, dieticians, foot care specialists, paramedics, and police.

"The fair highlights really practical and useful services," said Theil.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

While grants like this make certain events possible, other programs and events put on by the club do require a small fee, but "we try to keep costs down," emphasized Theil.

For instance, club membership for 13 months costs only \$25, and typically there are several things scheduled per week all year long excepting the summer months.

Regular programs include Thursday coffee mornings at the library, which are "great fun," according to club president Wanda Harvey.

Harvey always recommends that people who might be interested in joining the club come out to a coffee morning to get a sense of the flavour of the club and to enjoy conversation.

"We never know where the conversation is going to go!" she said.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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TIMES

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

8-10:30 am, Coffee Club, Chalk River Lions Hall

11:30 - 12:30 pm, St Andrew's United Church Soup & Sandwich luncheon, Chalk River Lions Hall

1 pm, GriefShare support group meets, Real Hope Christian Assembly, Hwy 17 Deep River (until June 17)

1:15 pm, Social Bridge, Deep River Library

6:30-8 pm, Spring Ladies' Night, help make a lego bouquet, Point Alexander Library

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

10 am, Seniors Friendship Club: Coffee, Tea and Conversation, Deep River Library

12:45 pm, Duplicate Bridge Club meets, Deep River Library program room

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

10:30 am, World Day of Prayer Service, everyone welcome, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Hwy 17 Deep River

6 pm, Fun Darts, all welcome, Chalk River Legion

7 pm, Local author Malcolm Griffiths to launch "An Engineer's Guide to Reactor Core Materials," DR Library

7 pm, MCS Theatre Arts Company (TACo) presents "The 9 Worst Breakups of All Time," Childs Auditorium, Mackenzie Community School (second show Saturday at 2 pm)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

8 am - 12 pm, Spring Garage Sale, large selection, St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Deep River

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

8 am - 12 pm, Annual Jim Boulanger Pancake Breakfast, Chalk River Lions Hall

11 am - 3 pm, Shuffleboard, all welcome, Chalk River Legion

2-5 pm, Acoustic open mic, DR Legion

MONDAY, APRIL 20

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)

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)

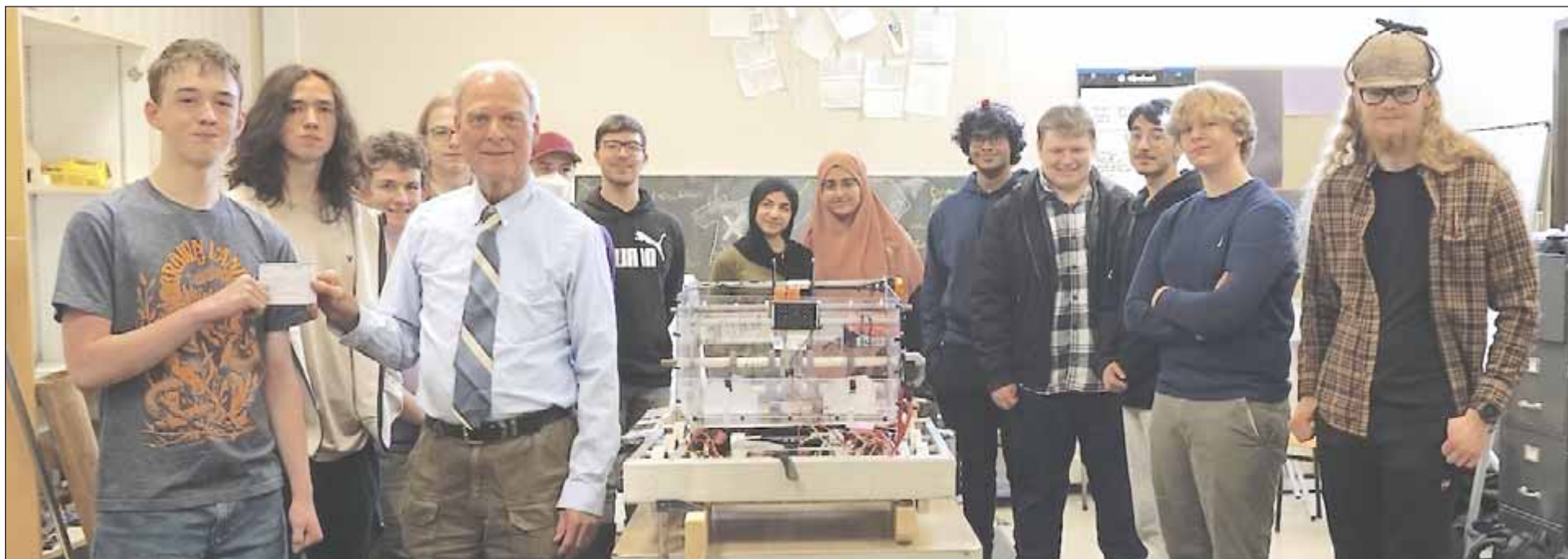
TUESDAY, APRIL 21

10:30 am, Storytime, Deep River Library

1 pm, 49ers meet, Deep River Legion

4 pm, After School Chess (ages 8+), Deep River Library

**To submit your event, email nrt@northrenfrewtimes.ca
For more to do, visit tinyurl.com/ActivityList2024January**



The Mackenzie Community School Robotics team recently received the Rising All-Star Award for their achievement in the North Bay First Robotics Competition and will be one of 130 teams competing at the First Ontario Provincial Championship in Niagara Falls from April 16-19. Knights of Columbus Council 5649 financial secretary Bob Cowhey recognized the team's achievement by presenting a cheque of \$1,000 to Gene Urbach to assist in the purchase of tools and equipment. Contributions from the community to help these budding scientist engineers with their project can be made at www.schoolcashionline.com or cochranel@rcdsb.on.ca, or by phone to Loralie Cochrane at 613-584-3361 ext 302.

Submitted photo

Byelection

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

While she did not switch parties, she recognized that voters deserved the opportunity to decide whether they still endorsed her.

Disagreement within caucus is inevitable. MPs can argue internally, dissent publicly or choose not to run again. Crossing the floor, however, is different. It alters the political identity under which they were elected.

Voters are entitled to clarity and an explanation when that occurs. More importantly, they are entitled to a choice. When party allegiance changes mid-stream, the only honest remedy is to return to the electorate and seek endorsement under the new banner.

Public trust in institutions is not inexhaustible. When voters believe that outcomes can shift after ballots are cast, cynicism grows. Participation declines. The distance between citizens and Parliament widens. Democratic systems endure because people accept the results of elections. That acceptance depends on the belief that the mandate granted on election day will not be quietly transformed afterward.

Parliamentary democracy runs on trust, not just legal authority. That trust weakens when elected representatives switch partisan allegiance without renewed consent. The remedy is simple: let voters decide.

Michel Maisonneuve is a retired lieutenant-general, a senior fellow at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy and the author of "In Defence of Canada: Reflections of a Patriot" (2024). © Troy Media

Seniors Friendship Club

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Coffee mornings take place at the library during the winter and at the Hexagon during the summer.

Other regular activities include Wednesday Walks through the woods around town and movie afternoons in the new Family Health Team conference space at DRDH.

The club hosts craft workshops, educational talks, dinner dances, sing-alongs, and much more.

"We try to provide a variety of activities to keep seniors active and healthy," said Harvey.

A new venture for this year is their Community Breakfast, held once a month at the CEC by members of the club who provide breakfast for the wider Deep River community.

There have been two breakfasts so far with growing attendance as word spreads.

"This is a way for us to give back to our community," explained Harvey.

The club is planning to start something new in the fall, called Just Desserts. The idea is to meet up at one of the local restaurants for dessert.

"We are also hoping to do sleigh rides next winter," said Harvey. There's something happening for everyone.

Theil has been club secretary for 11 years. She said, "I have a special place in my heart for seniors."

"They have given a lot and made a lot of sacrifices for us and I want to give back and make their

time as enjoyable as possible."

Her favourite highlights are the sing-alongs and an annual acapella performance by the Military Wives' Choir from Petawawa at Christmas.

Harvey said, "Coming from a career in health care as I do, caring for the mental health of seniors is really important to me. It's so critical. We need to make sure they're not isolated."

She loves the coffee mornings and the arts and crafts workshops.

"It's very rewarding when we hold an event and everyone is having such a great time."

Like many things in Deep River, the club relies heavily on volunteers. Since it does not have a space of its own in town, it holds its events between the Legion, the library, and the new Family Health Team building.

As the club has grown, it has accumulated more and more gear, and this is stashed in several homes of members. On the wish list for the club's future is definitely a designated space in town, even if just for storage.

The club would also love to offer a once-a-week bus service into town for seniors to do their shopping, attend appointments, and have lunch out. The problem is the availability of a suitable vehicle.

The club is always on the look-out for new ideas, opportunities, and volunteers.

Continually growing and adapting to the needs of its members, it is dedicated to making sure that no senior in this area need experience isolation or boredom.

("Community Gems" is a series about some of the clubs and organizations that make the community of North Renfrew a special place to live.)

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: TOWNSHIPS LOOK AT FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE

75 YEARS AGO

APRIL 13, 1951: The Red Cross Campaign has passed our target of \$1,500! One or two returns have yet to be handed in, but the total contributions have now reached \$1,691.50. This is a noteworthy achievement, especially with the rise in the cost of living. The Deep River Branch of the Red Cross Society wishes to thank all those who supported the campaign and gave so generously.

APRIL 13, 1951: The annual general meeting of the Deep River Tennis Club will take place in the lounge of the Community Centre at 8 pm, Thursday, April 26. A number of important matters affecting the club will have to be decided, including participation in the Ottawa and District Lawn Tennis Association, and the possibility of financing additional club facilities.

60 YEARS AGO

APRIL 13, 1966: At last Wednesday's regular meeting, Deep River town council decided to modify specifications for improvements on the river bank to be carried out as the town's centennial project. Councillor Rachuk, chairman of lands and parks, reported that the tenders were higher than expected and Proctor and Redfern, engineering consultants, had recommended certain changes to keep costs nearer the original estimate.

APRIL 13, 1966: At the March executive meeting, Mrs J Aspinall reported that 638 members signed up during the annual Deep River Horticultural Society canvass the first week of March, and orders taken for 40.2 tons of fertilizer. In addition, the peat moss order totalled 177 bags. Members willing to help on committees, at flower shows, and flower bed maintenance totalled 143.

50 YEARS AGO

APRIL 14, 1976: At a recent meeting of the Citizens' Committee for Community Health service, a resolution was passed asking for a full-time ambulance service in Deep River. Mrs Marjorie von Fintel told council last Wednesday that an ambulance service has been expected in Deep River for some time. There was to have been



Local Guides practically sold out at their Saturday morning bike exchange at the Deep River Police garage. From left to right, Lynne Wills, Heidi Ebert, and Meaghan Kyle. (April 17, 1996)

money for this service and indeed an ambulance garage was built at the new hospital. But effectively there is still no ambulance service in Deep River, she reported.

APRIL 14, 1976: Tom Roche, the son of Kevin and Margaret Roche of 44 Alder Cres, Deep River, was called to the Bar of the province of Ontario at a convocation held in Ottawa on Monday, April 12. Tom graduated from University of Western Law School in June of 1974 and articulated with the firm of Brock & Coleman in Kitchener Waterloo during the 1974-75 year. Tom has decided to return to Deep River to pursue his career and has joined local lawyer Russ Merredew as an associate.

40 YEARS AGO

APRIL 16, 1986: The operating costs of the Deep River and District Hospital will increase by 12.7% to \$2.6 million in 1986-87, according to budget estimates approved last Wednesday by the hospital board. Chairman of the board's finance committee, Elizabeth Ells, in speaking to the budget documents, said

some staff increases have been approved for the coming year in the laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and physiotherapy departments.

APRIL 16, 1986: A relatively small group of ratepayers, as well as members of council, turned out to a meeting in Stonecliffe town hall last Tuesday to discuss the possibility of having some kind of fire protection in the townships of Head, Clara and Maria. A survey of the townships for fire protection requirements was made in 1982 and the report that followed recommended that the townships set up a volunteer fire department with a fire truck located at Stonecliffe and an equipped tanker at Deux Rivieres.

30 YEARS AGO

APRIL 17, 1996: The visitor centre at the Petawawa Research Forest may re-open this year, thanks to Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay council. Council has approved a plan to hire summer students to staff the visitors centre, a popular tourist attraction for decades. The centre shut down as part

of the closing of the Petawawa National Forestry Institute, which was announced last April.

APRIL 17, 1996: Interest in the Deep River Community Pool appears to be rising. And that could become critical as town officials come to grips with the cost of operating the facility and how much might be too much for taxpayers to handle. Attendance at recent special events held at the pool was very good, according to senior pool supervisor Sara Bourgeois. More than 100 people took part in March Break public swims, as well as an Easter Monday fun swim.

20 YEARS AGO

APRIL 19, 2006: The woman described as the "matriarch of the Progressive Conservative party in Ontario" was honoured at the annual meeting of the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke riding association. Deep River's Jean Twocock was presented with the Provincial Progressive Conservative Trillium Award for her longstanding contributions to the party.



Mackenzie Community School's Theatre Arts Company (TACo) is set to present its production of "The 9 Worst Breakups of All Time" this week, Friday, April 17 at 7 pm and Saturday, April 18 at 2 pm in the Childs Auditorium at MCS. Come see a show full of the most outrageous relationship drama in the world. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Submitted photo

Inquiring minds: Invasive diseases threaten forests

In this year's final Inquiring Minds presentation, Dr. Richard Wilson provided a sobering and detailed overview of the various invasive diseases currently threatening Ontario's forests.

Wilson, a retired forest pathologist, shifted the focus from better-known insect threats such as the Emerald Ash Borer to the "cryptic" and often more devastating fungal pathogens that have been quietly reshaping the Canadian landscape.

The talk began with a startling statistic: of the eight endangered tree species in Ontario, three - the American Chestnut, Butternut, and Flowering Dogwood - were listed specifically because of non-native pathogens.

Wilson emphasized that while native diseases are part of a healthy ecosystem, these invasive "hitchhikers" entered through global trade - often in packing materials or nursery stock - and local populations lacked any natural resistance.

Wilson highlighted several key diseases:

- White Pine Blister Rust: A century-old invasive pathogen that requires an alternate host (currant or gooseberry bushes) to complete its life cycle. Seedlings and young tree are mostly at risk under the right environmental conditions as they can easily become

girdled by the pathogen. This results in mortality.

- Beech Bark Disease: A two-stage threat involving a scale insect that creates wounds for a fungal pathogen to enter. Rapid mortality along with wood rotting fungi leads to "beech snap," where once-sturdy trees became dangerously brittle and prone to sudden collapse.

- Butternut Canker: This pathogen has decimated populations so severely that the Butternut has become a protected species under the Invasive Species Act and it is illegal to cut down these trees.

- Oak Wilt (photo, next page): A newer and highly aggressive threat discovered in Ontario in 2023. It can kill a red oak in just four to six weeks by clogging its water-conducting vessels.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

SPRING BOOK SALE

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

APRIL 23rd: 5-8pm

APRIL 24th: 10am-5:30pm

APRIL 25th: 10am-12pm



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APRIL 22, 2026

WHERE: DRDH FAMILY HEALTH TEAM COMMUNITY ROOM,
109 BANTING DRIVE

WHEN: 7:30PM

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER?
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Choral Group spring concert coming soon

The Deep River Choral Group is all set to bring you their Spring Concert which they have titled “What A Wonderful World.”

If you think that is a song title, you are correct! The song “What A Wonderful World” was made famous mostly after its use in the movie “Good Morning Vietnam.”

Please join us for this matinee presentation on Sunday, May 3 in Childs Auditorium at Mackenzie Community School. Our special guests are the Deep River Children’s Choir.

The program will present a wide variety of selections in a variety of styles – gospel, spiritual, folk, music from musicals – something for everyone.

It will be a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Both choirs are directed by Peter Morris and accompanied by Dian Wilkie.

Tickets are available in advance by contacting Anne Dickson at 613-584-3737 and will be available at the door, cash only.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Inquiring minds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

One of the most valuable aspects of the talk was Wilson’s focus on the “aftermath forests.”

He explained that while these diseases rarely wiped out a species entirely, they fundamentally changed the ecosystem’s structure, cultural value, and economic worth - noting that home values are often tied to the health of large, mature trees.

The lecture concluded with a critical look at the “failures” of management.

Wilson argued that prevention was the only truly effective tool, because current treatments such as root severing or chemical injections are prohibi-

tively expensive for large-scale use.

He called for a more global and uniform approach in searching for resistant or disease tolerant trees, and decried the lack of long-term funding for the consistent studies needed.

Overall, Wilson’s presentation served as an urgent call to action for better public education and more robust scientific collaboration to protect the trees and the wider biodiversity of Ontario’s woodlands.

This being the final talk in the Inquiring Minds seminar series for 2025-26, the Deep River Library is also pleased to announce that, over the course of the current series, our voluntary exit fee has yielded over \$1,700 of donations to the Food Bank.

Stay tuned for the 2026-2027 series beginning next September.

(Note: This review was prepared by the Gemini AI with minor human alterations.)

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Acclaimed Klezmer Band closes THEOP season

BY MARGARET MACPHERSON

Paris, France. Leipzig, Germany. Santiago, Chile. Deep River, Canada. Anyone have a Sesame Street classic running through their mind? “One of things is not like the others...”

Above is a partial list of 2026 performances by the Quebec-based band “Oktopus,” and it seems fitting that THEOP’s last concert of the 2025-26 season should sit squarely at the centre of an impressive international touring schedule for a band that has garnered awards from around the globe.

Oktopus is rightly names for the

eight - yes, count ‘em, eight - musicians who will occupy and enliven the Bernard Childs auditorium Saturday, April 25 for a single evening season finale of hotter than hot music.

Eight accomplished musicians, a crush of instruments, a tangle of cords, a host of harmonies and stage banter to boot, Oktopus promises traditional klezmer music delivered in both soulful melodies and joyful rhythms.

Sometimes referred to as “joy with tears” Oktopus’ vibrant sound borrows from classical, Quebecois, and jazz repertoires but is firmly rooted in the Yiddish traditions of Central and East-

ern European Ashkenazi Jews.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Oktopus to Deep River,” said THEOP programming director Susan Kendal.

“It’s a big group with a big sound, and we want that enormous energy to close what has been a wonderfully diverse and rewarding season for THEOP. This is a show our subscribers, indeed, our whole community, will enjoy.”

Respect for different traditions and for authenticity, plus the desire to bring people together through music, is what lies at the heart of Oktopus’ artistic approach.

Melancholy tunes that reflect persecution over the centuries entwine with a boundless sense of celebration, so the music is both passionate and ever-changing.

Sprinkled between intricate arrangements and virtuoso performances are humorous narrative, in the age-old tradition of collective story telling.

With over 350 performances at home and abroad since the octet’s inception in 2010, Oktopus is delighted to light up a late April evening in Deep River with a show that promises energy and excitement, eight-fold.

Octothorpe Oktopus!

SWISHA TO HOST FRAME WORKSHOP

BY DEBBIE FOLEY

The community centre at Maison des Jeunes is happy to announce a Stained Glass Picture Frame workshop on Tuesday, May 5. Juby Jewels is hosting the workshop and it will run from 1 to 3 pm.

There are a number of picture frame options, and you will need to register with Kelsey, giving her your choice of kit.

Numbers are limited, so reach out to Kelsey at 819-360-0092 or kdaly.md-jpontiact@outlook.com to express your interest.

The fish dinner and dance was enjoyed by all who attended on April 11. The fish was cooked to perfection and the band had folks moving to the beat.

Many thanks to the Association Plein Air RDJ Outdoorsmen for such a wonderful evening.

The club needs new blood on the executive to keep it going, and would love to have you attend their AGM to express your interest. As soon as a date is provided, it will be posted!

The trails are getting slippery as the snow is disappearing and replaced with ice. The river trail, close to the town, is under water as the spring melt is start-

ing. The control dam is spilling, so that will increase as water comes down the river from the north.

We have seen more beavers along the rivers edge, geese and ducks are returning and at least one bear left its footprints on the river trail. Spring is coming!

We hope everyone stays safe along the river, as the cold water and swift current is not to be taken lightly. We hope to see you here!

Seniors Friendship Club



DINNER & DANCE

- Walk in the Woods: Sorry, no plans for a walk. The trails in the woods are too messy now.
- Thursday morning Coffee and Conversation will be at the Deep River Library at 10 am on April 16.
- Ballroom Dancing with Mac and Elizabeth: second session Tuesday, April 21 from 9-11 am in the Deep River Library program room. The first session had us foxtrotting and swinging in great style. Registration closed April 1 but there could be room for more, especially men, as they were few in number.
- Roast Beef Dinner & DJ Dance Saturday, May 2, Deep River Legion. Please register/pay by April 15 at

23uovsfc55@gmail.com. Limited capacity. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm. Spot dance prizes.

• County wide bus trip to the Ottawa Tulip Festival, along with dinner, on May 11. The seats for Deep River are now full, however we are keeping a cancellation list in case someone cancels or in case the seats in Petawawa and Pembroke do not fill up.

(There will be four buses leaving from different locations in the county.)

Bus 2: Lead is Melanie Theil, Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club, 613-401-3452 or 23uovsfc55@gmail.com.

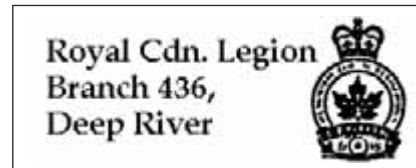
• Valvular heart diseases are dysfunctions of the doors that direct blood flow within the heart. These diseases affect hundreds of thousands of people in Canada. Heart valve problems are often undetected, and late detection may have severe consequences.

Free screening clinics conducted by the Ottawa Heart Institute are being hosted by the UOV Senior's Friendship

Club for people 65+ with no known heart issues.

The clinics on April 30 and October 20 are fully booked, but a third date may be added. We had hoped for one in May but this could not be arranged. Stay tuned.

To participate in upcoming clinics at Real Hope Christian Assembly, please call 613-696-7412 or email at heartvalve@ottawaheart.ca.



THURSDAY KARAOKE

Hello everyone - looks like spring might be here finally.

• Lots of dart playing this weekend as the ladies from the Auxiliary went to Almonte and had a great time. Mike

and Chris went all the way to Drummondville at the last report they were playing well and moving on in the league.

• The Ladies Auxiliary had their zone convention yesterday with elections and such also a great supper.

• Maven Catering's beer tasting went well with about 20 people participating - they also had a cornhole tournament and a euchre tournament.

• At the Open Mic on Sunday, we had a famous music critic Casimin Hartwig - 2.5 years old and kept time with the music. Before he left, he said he would recommend the open mic to all his friends and family members and to anyone who appreciates good tunes.

• Coming up on April 16 (Thursday) is Karaoke, on April 18 (Saturday) the Ladies Auxiliary is hosting a cribbage tournament (11:30 am registration, 12 pm start). The end of the month pool tournament is on Friday, April 24.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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.

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

cross word

answers use American spelling

ACROSS

- Mop, to a sailor
- Butter units
- TV spots
- South-of-the-border food
- Land unit
- Twosome
- Ripened
- Cut of meat
- Puzzling
- Positive answers
- Engine part
- To each his _____
- Huck Finn's boat
- Fitness center
- Spar
- Willing's partner
- Spoiled
- Shout
- Plus
- Thumb through
- Sweet tuber
- Wagers
- Respect
- Film's Robert and Meg
- Tear to pieces
- Bring legal action
- Dime or penny
- Roof edge
- Distinct period
- Musical pitch
- Release
- Picnic pest
- Frozen precipitation
- Baby-sit


1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		
12					13						14			
15					16						17			
18				19		20				21				
					22	23				24	25	26		
27	28	29		30			31		32					
33			34				35	36						
37						38	39				40			
41								42						
				43		44	45			46	47	48	49	50
51	52				53			54		55				
56					57					58				
59					60						61			

DOWN

- Don't leave!
- Pay
- Point-winning serves
- Foretell
- Amigo
- Squirrels' treats
- Musical group
- Mailed
- Endearingly
- Loser
- Grass section
- "____ Like It Hot"
- Given by mouth
- Rolls of bills
- Hopping insect
- Period
- Seize
- Christmastime
- Abuse
- Defrost
- Prying
- Wallet items
- Gambling house
- Performs onstage
- Midday
- Weight
- Barely cooked
- Constant
- Accomplishment
- Baltic or North
- Large coffeepot
- ____ Jersey

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SIX FULL TABLES

Six full Duplicate Bridge tables played a Howell Movement last Thursday with Master-points awarded to the following teams:

1. Rosemary Nishimura and Geoff Edwards, 62.08%
 2. Erik Hagberg and Lois Fitzpatrick, 57.92%
 3. Ian Towner and Sandy Towner, 57.50%
 4. Ken Philipose and Leela Philipose, 57.08%
 5. Kerry Burns and Mike Atfield, 52.08%
 6. Brent Woods and Pravin Shah, 51.25%
- Top results from the game played Thursday, April 4 were as follows:
1. Lois Fitzpatrick and Erik Hagberg, 61.11%
 2. Rosemary McGuire and Pravin Shah, 52.78%
 3. Kerry Burns and Mike Atfield, 51.39%

A REVERSE

The bidding on board 18 is an example of a “reverse,” a bidding treatment that novice bridge players find quite mysterious, writes director Geoff Edwards.

Here East deals and opens 1H and West responds 2D. If North should venture 3C here, East and West, both having top cards and extreme shortness in the other’s suit, would both be delighted to double for penalty and get +500 - a score better than any E/W game.

If North stays out, East can now bid 2S. This bid, in a higher suit than opened, is called a “reverse.” It shows extra values (16+ HCP), because it forces partner to bid at the three level and here it shows longer hearts than spades (since hearts were opened).

West, whose hand looks much better now, is naturally delighted to jump to the spade game.

Duplicate Bridge



In 3NT or 4S, nine tricks are easily available by playing As and a spade to the Qs, setting up 3 spades and 2 top tricks in each of the

other suits. In spades, an extra trick is available because the last two little spades produce two tricks on a cross-ruff.

In both contracts, an overtrick also falls into an alert declarer’s lap. For example, in spades, after winning the club lead, playing two rounds of spades (North winning the Ks and exiting a heart) and a third round to draw trump, declarer can cash their side suit winners and exit with either a low heart or a low diamond.

After winning this, South has to lead away from the Jd (setting up the 10d in the West hand) or from the Qh (setting up the Jh in the East hand).

This afternoon, most players got stubborn with their six card suits and the spade fit was missed. The scores were (N/S scores and matchpoints in brackets):

- 5D E-2 (+100, 3.5 matchpoints)
- 4H E-2 (+100, 3.5 matchpoints)
- 4H*E-1 (+100, 3.5 matchpoints)
- 3NTW-2 (+100, 3.5 matchpoints)
- 4HE-1 (+50, 1 matchpoint)
- 4SE+1 (-450, 0 matchpoints)

Dir: E	18
Vul: N-S	
♠ K109	
♥ 107	
♦ Q	
♣ QJ76432	
♠ A742	♣ Q653
♥ —	♥ AKJ843
♦ K106532	♦ A
♣ K98	♣ A5
8	♠ J8
10 18	♥ Q9652
4	♦ J9874
	♣ 10

MORNING HOURS

LAURENTIAN HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

• Don’t want to go out in the evening? Don’t want to hang with the after-school crowd?

Starting April 13, the Chalk River branch will have additional open hours on Mondays at 10 am - 1 pm for those who want some quiet browsing time earlier in the day!

• Spring Ladies’ Night will be held at the Point Alexander branch on Wednesday, April 15 from 6:30-8 pm. Ladies 14+ are invited to help make lego flower bouquets to decorate the library.

• 2026 Knitting Groups at Point Alexander branch: every other Thursday afternoon at 1:30 pm (April 16 & 30) and some Monday mornings at 10:30 am (April 20) to make dish cloths, baby hats, small baby blankets or work on your project of choice. Beginners and experienced knitters welcome!

• Preschool Playtime at Point Alexander Library – toys, games, stories and crafts for 2-4 year-olds Tuesdays at 10:30 am, from April 7 to May 26.

• Crafters Unite at Chalk River library: Get out of the cold and come warm up with your fellow crafters. You bring your work-in-progress, we’ll provide the companionship.

Crafters of all levels welcome. Mondays at 2:30-4 pm.

• Note: Afternoon Games at Point Alexander will take a break for the spring/summer and resume in the fall.

• Look for Laurentian Hills Library on Facebook and follow library.laurentianhills.ca on Instagram.

DEEP RIVER LEGION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

• We have had the last Rusty Dillabough Memorial Draw for this year - don’t be sad, it will be back in the fall. Here are the results of the last two draws.

Week 25: 214 Mike Miller, 447 Cecile Brazeau, 294 Alanna Hawley Meilleur, 51 Lauren Watt, 137 Jacques Gareau, 100 Kevin Julliette, 213 Peter Brown, 476 Diane Davis, 85 Tony Leclair, 417 Cece Dennis, 444 Raymond Woodcroft, 20 Max, Becca, MJ & Pierre, 72 Chef, 158 Jimmy Hogue,

58 Yardsale & wholesale; attendance, not here.

Week 26: 347 Noreen Elliot, 32 Mike Paquette, 397 Julie & Joanne Ward, 409 Charlie & Bev, 137 Jacques Garbeau, 235 Jenn Frotton, 252 Paul Adams, 201 Jodie Primeau, 246 Suzanne & Georges Martin, 189 the Full Monty, 424 Anne Marie Prout, 333 Eileen Burke, 311 Mary Chisholm, 234 The Bellans, 308 Pat Causey; the attendance, 40 Neil Armstrong & Linda Goyette.

Thank you to all the sellers and the buyers - we will see you again in September when the draw sales start again, have a great summer in the meantime.



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MATCH UP

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

CANOE: A local resident is looking for a lightweight (less than 45 lbs) canoe, 15-16 ft long, presumably to borrow. If you can help, please call 343-548-3200.

DOILY: Does anyone have a round lace doily and some white linen material to lend or give? These would be for a spiritual event. For more information, or to help, please call 613-633-9988.

BINDERS: The same resident is looking for binders and desktop file sorters (trays). If you have some you don’t need, they would be happy to have them. Please call 613-633-9988.

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Same great cause: book sale, murder mystery

For many years, the Friends of the Deep River Library have been putting on a giant book sale in the spring and fall to allow folks to pick up as many books as they want while donating money to the library.

This money helps run programs and purchase special equipment.

There are thousands of books to choose from, including books of all genres and children's books, as well as music CDs.

The theme is: "Take what you like; donate what you can!"

This spring's book bonanza takes place on Thursday, April 23 from 5-8 pm; Friday, April 24 from 10 am -5:30 pm; and Saturday, April 25 from 10 am - 12 noon.

Please stop by and "shop" remembering to bring one or more re-usable bags to take away your treasures! Donation is by cash or cheque.

This fundraising effort is being enhanced this spring by theatre performances by the Deep River Players entitled "Murder by the Book," where a community theatre troupe tries to save the town of Two Spruce's local library... with deadly (and hilarious) results!

The script came compliments of a library fundraising initiative by mystery writer Louise Penny and playwright Laura Teasdale.

Performances will take place on May 1, 8 and 9 at 7 pm and on May 2 at 2 pm. All performances will be at St. Barnabas Church basement which is an accessible space. Tickets can be purchased at www.deepriverplayers.ca.

In previous years, community members from all over our region have been incredibly generous at our fundraising events. For example, in 2025, from the two book sales in the spring and fall, almost \$6,000 was raised.

This speaks to the support that local residents give to our incredible library.

This money has been used to either wholly or partially fund the purchase of the following equipment, so necessary to keep our gathering space at the library relevant and welcoming to all.



Lyra and Jasper enjoy an after school read in the library's bright red chairs.

Some examples:

- New red chairs for little readers
- New mobile shelving unit which allows for flexible use of space, while meeting accessibility standards.

- Soft seating armchairs for group gatherings around the fireplace

- Tables and chairs for the library program room.
- Please help us

make this year's fundraising events even more successful. We look forward to wel-

coming you into a fun and dynamic space that is now the Deep River Library.

SATURDAY YOUTH SPORTS • RCDSB Community-use-of-schools

Saturday Youth Sports

LAST SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

FREE DROP-IN ACTIVITIES:

- 9 am to 10:00 am Indoor Tennis learning courts (ages 4 to 10 years)
- 9 am to 10:30 am Indoor Tennis full court (11 years to 18 years)
- 10:00 am to 11:30 am Parent Tot Playtime (ages 1 to 4 years)
- Noon to 2 pm Youth Volleyball Round Robin play, prizes for everyone
- Noon to 2 pm Karate (ages 7 to 18 years) drop in and give it a try
- 2 pm to 4 pm Basketball (High school ages) Round Robin play, prizes for everyone
- 2 pm to 4 pm Badminton (11 years to 18 years) Round Robin play, prizes for everyone

This is for youth to drop in, enjoy and discover recreational sports, with respectful and Screened volunteer supervisors.

Thanks to all our volunteer coaches, parents and youth, and special thanks to the Mackenzie Custodians and RCDSB staff.





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The NRT advises all readers that any advertisement requesting you to send money for any reason is most likely not properly representing their promises of services or products. Please be aware that this is not the way most businesses operate and caution should be used.

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Baggs Road: Open Tuesday 9am to 6pm, Wednesday to Saturday, 9am to 4pm, all waste except Construction & Demolition (C&D).

Millers Road: Tues-Sat 9am-12noon, C&D waste only. Info 613-401-0434 www.northrenfrew-landfill.com

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"The Whistle Stop" (in same building as the Bowling Alley) is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 1:30-3:30pm. Thursday evenings 6:30-8:00pm. CLEAN donations thankfully accepted during these hours. NO FURNITURE, baby furniture, sports helmets, TV, stereo or computers please.

DEATHS



GENDRON, Ida Alexina

It is with great sadness the family of Ida Alexina Gendron (nee Turcotte) announces her peaceful passing on April 8, 2026, at North Renfrew Long-Term Care at the age of 89.

Beloved wife of the late Alcide Gendron. Loving and devoted mother of Larry (Donna), Madeleine (Robert), Jean-Paul (Anita), Rickey (Sue), Lynn (Gary), Connie (Steven) and Lyle (Denise).

Cherished grandmother

of 14 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. Dear sister of Pauline McKenzie and Brenda Martin, of Pembroke. Predeceased by her brother Gerald Turcotte.

Mom's love for her family and dear friends was unwavering, as was her Faith.

Respecting Ida's wishes, cremation will take place. A mass in the presence of ashes will be celebrated in St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Chalk River on June 05, at 11am.

Those wishing to make a charitable donation in memory of Ida, can reach out to North Renfrew Long-Term Care directly.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Valley Funeral Home, Deep River.

VALLEY FUNERAL HOME

Auction Sales

Saturday April 18 at 11:00am

for Kevin & Jane White,
1878 Pleasant Valley Rd, Westmeath, Ont

Deutz Fahr M600 Agrotion tractor, with Quicke Q5 loader, 130 HP, approx. 1900 hrs; Massey Ferguson 5455 tractor, 85 HP, approx. 6000 hrs; Case 40XT skidsteer, 55 HP, 2700 hrs; Wil-Rich 2500 cultivator with levelers; Alfa Laval bulk tank, 600 gal; 2007 Chev Silverado truck, 4WD, 4 door; assort of steel & lumber; misc shop items. Note: Household items selling first.

White's have sold their farm, everything has been well cared for.

Saturday April 25 at 10:30 am

for the Estate of Merlyn Martin,
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Deep River on list of “friendliest towns to retire”

Deep River has been named one of the nine “friendliest towns to retire in Ontario.”

The town received the designation last week from the website worldatlas.com.

“Built along the mighty Ottawa River, Deep River is a retiree’s dream location to call home,” the website’s entry says.

“Aside from the beautiful waterfront view of the Laurentian Mountain range, there are several beaches, the Four Seasons trail system for hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing, and a lush forest enclosing the rest of the town.

“Set along the Trans Canada Highway, Deep River is only a two hour drive from Ottawa (to the east) and North Bay (to the west), ensuring a quiet little town with easy access to a city adventure.

“Within the town itself, the Deep River Public Library, North Renfrew Long Term Care, and the town hall itself offer programming and amenities both day and night in the form of art exhibitions, kayak rentals, book clubs, live music, game nights and more.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

“More than a quarter of the population is retirement age, and there is something for every one of those retirees, whether it be performing in Choral Group, Community Band, Deep River Symphony Orchestra, catching a cabaret from River Run Theatre, or having a day of pickleball, followed by some great food and drink at the Deep River Yacht Club’s Hexagon Waterfront Patio & Restaurant, Deep River keeps its seniors active and engaged with a wide variety of entertainment and activity.”

The site also draws attention to “Deep River’s Unity Park, with an awe-inspiring view of the Ottawa River and Laurentian Mountains.”

Other towns on the website’s list of nine “friendliest” places to retire include Mattawa, Paris Ontario, Huntsville, Arnprior, Eganville, Renfrew, St. Mary’s, and Rainy River.

“These nine Ontario towns offer some of the province’s best in arts, leisure, amenities, and all-around friendly neighbourhood vibes for those looking for a place to retire,” the site says.

“(Each of) the above nine towns shine in their own particular ways to give a beautiful, unique, friendly and senior-oriented way of living that will make anyone feel at home.”

It’s not the first time Deep River has made a top 10 list.

In 2022 and 2023, “Moving Waldo” - a website and mobile app that helps people organize and book their move to a new home - rated Deep River as one of the best places to live in Canada.

 JUST LISTED 18 Summit St 2+1-bed, fin bsmt, gas heat/ca, det heated garage. Close to downtown. MLS X12958584 \$339,900	 JUST LISTED 7 Martin St Wheelchair access, 3 bed, oak kit, 3 season rm, hot tub, part fin bsmt, woodstove MLS X12955880 \$485,000	 JUST LISTED 979 Lea St 4 bed, 1 bath, gas heat/ca, spacious, close to west end amenities. MLS X12938214 \$170,000	 JUST LISTED 20 Main St 4 bed, 2 updated baths, custom kit, woodstove, fenced yard, deck, new roof MLS X12947226 \$349,900	 JUST LISTED 12 Boudreau Rd 2+2 bed, open concept, ensuite w/jet tub, fin bsmt, storage gar, shed, workshop MLS X12931950 \$849,900																						
 JUST LISTED 1108 Boundary Rd 2+2bed, 2 bath, updated floors/appl/siding, lg deck, pool, insul gar/workshop MLS X12983232 \$549,900	 JUST LISTED 101 Frontenac Cr 2+2 bed, 2 bath, hdwd floors, fin bsmt, large deck, fenced yd, garden shed MLS X12983754 \$509,900	 JUST LISTED 25 Laurentian St 2 bed, 2 bath, wood fp, fin bsmt, large yard, screened porch, inground pool MLS X12371517 \$495,000	 JUST LISTED 116 Frontenac Cr 4+1 bed, 3 baths, quality updated kit, 2 fp, scrn rm, lg lot borders woodland MLS X12427011 \$599,900	 JUST LISTED 88 Glendale Ave Newly renovated 3 bed, mn fl laundry, gas heat, detached garage MLS X12706000 \$399,900																						
 JUST LISTED 101 Lance Rd 3 bed, full bsmt w/airtight woodstove, prop furn/ca, dble gar w/ht workshop MLS X12542466 \$409,900	 JUST LISTED 115 Lorne Pl 2+1 bed, open concept, updated kit, den/home office, 3 seas rm, lg private yard MLS X12823122 \$360,000	 JUST LISTED 14 Huron St 2 bedroom units w/4pc bath, kit, laundry/utility, recent renovations, 4 garages MLS X12626844 \$507,000	 JUST LISTED 1 Brockhouse Way # 201 1-bed, recent reno, new floor, river view, close to downtown MLS X12757012 \$219,900	 JUST LISTED 119 Frontenac Cr 3+1 bed, 2 baths, updated kit, 4 season rm, fenced yard, gas fp, workshop MLS X12414977 \$535,000																						
 JUST LISTED 120 Wylie Rd 3+1bed custom cedar w/den, cath ceiling, stone fp, jet tub, fin bsmt, dble det gar MLS X12750676 \$849,900	 JUST LISTED 10 Iberville St. 3 bed semi-det, eat-in kit, updated bath, gas heat/central air, lg private backyard MLS X12743346 \$224,900	 JUST LISTED 8 Tweedsmuir Pl 4 bed, 3 bath, gas fireplace, basement rec room, workshop, detached gar MLS X12426980 \$525,000	 JUST LISTED 5 Hammond Ct 2+2 bed, hdwd, spacious, fin bsmt, carport, close to parks, cul-de-sac MLS X12146168 \$359,900	 JUST LISTED 33416 Hwy 17 2 bds, updated bath, 5 appl, new gas furnace, updated roof, bsmt rec rm MLS X12902806 \$339,900																						
 RIVERFRONT 581 Rocky Point Ln 3 bed custom bungalow, 2 baths, lg gar walkout bsmt, 254' river front MLS X12645418 \$1,200,000	 RIVERFRONT 11 Hammond Ct 3 +1 bed on cul-de-sac, eat-in kit, fin bsmt, private back yard, storage shed MLS X12182431 \$379,900	 RIVERFRONT 276 Colton Creek Rd 4 bed log home, 19.7ac, stone fireplace, 2 level deck, custom dock, 3 bay gar MLS X12754368 \$1,499,000	 RIVERFRONT 294 Lau-Ren Rd Custom 4 bed 5 bath home on 2.3 acres, 200 ft sand beach, fin walk-out bsmt MLS X12969998 \$1,449,900	 RIVERFRONT 123 Algonquin St 3 bed semi, gas heat, fin bsmt, updated win, siding & roof, gazebo, det gar MLS X12341392 \$259,900																						
 RIVERFRONT 6 Hillcrest Ave 1 bedroom w/att sitting rm/ office, new gas furn, AC, new 1.5 car garage MLS X12904676 \$299,900	 COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL 94 Glendale Ave 1.5 storey, 3+1 bed, gas fp, breakfast nook, mn fl laundry, det gar w/storage, lg yard MLS X12652092 \$390,000	 COMMERCIAL 313 Meilleur's Rd Custom home on 19.77 ac. 3 bed, 3 bath, 3-season room, garage/wkshop MLS X12472118 \$1,170,000	 COMMERCIAL 34224 Hwy 17 26 acres, 3 bed, 2 bath, gas fp, 3 season room, newer furn & roof, att gar, shed MLS X12129172 \$929,900	 COMMERCIAL 44A Main St 3+1 bed, lg kit w/ vaulted ceil & solid wood cpbds, gs fp, en suite w/jacuzzi, fin bsmt MLS X12251556 \$899,900																						
 RIVERFRONT 196 Loon Valley Ln 1 ac, 2+1 bed bungalow, 2 baths, partially fin walk out bsmt, 3 car gar w/ loft MLS X12234990 \$949,900	 COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL 120 Deep River Rd 5 offices, 2 & 3rd level features custom finished residential area w/ stunning views MLS X12740224 \$1,150,000	 COMMERCIAL 10 Ridge Rd 700 sq. ft, downtown, presently rented w/signed lease, updated roof, new siding MLS X12681362. \$199,900	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE Market Evaluation 584-3377</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please call anytime. No Obligation.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Valid only within the service area of our office. This is not intended to solicit properties already listed or while your property is for sale.</p> </div>																							
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Local students win big at Regional Science Fair

The top science students in Renfrew County met at the Pembroke campus of Algonquin College on Saturday, April 11 for the 46th Annual Renfrew County Regional Science & Technology Fair.

Students from across the county set up projects to be judged by experts from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and other scientific organizations.

Then, the students enjoyed an afternoon of interactive activities with CNL, Algonquin College, "Let's Talk Science!" and the Professional Engineers Ontario before an awards ceremony closed out the day.

The Canadian Nuclear Laboratories grand prize winners, who won a fully paid trip to the Canada Wide Science Fair,

held in Edmonton, Alberta from May 23 to 30, are:

- Abigail Baker from Valour School in Petawawa with her project "Practical Polymers 2"

- Stella Ziegler from Fel-lowes High School in Pembroke with "Kombucha leather... what if?"

- Henry Hocking from Mackenzie Community School in Deep River with "Sediment Salmon Science," and

- Jiya Savsani from West Ferris Secondary School in North Bay with "Highway Harvest 2.0: Optimizing Wind Unit Placement on Highways for Efficient Power Production."

The Renfrew County District School Board grand prize best Grade 5 and 6 winners

were Kara Lariviere from Rockwood Elementary School with "Breaking Ice" and Thea Corrigan & Isabelle Schizkoske from Highview Elementary School with "Electronic vs. Manual Mobility Cane."

Divisional awards were presented by the town of Deep River, the city of Pembroke, SRB Technologies, Nu-Tech Precision Metals, and Ontario Power Generation.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Special awards were presented by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Ontario Power Generation, the Algonquin chapter of Professional Engineers Ontario, MPP Billy De-

nault, several local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Canadian Nuclear Society.

Other winners from Deep River and the local area include:

- "Evaporation Project" by Ellena Butler (Mackenzie Community School), third place, Earth and Environmental Sciences junior division

- "Up, Up and Pulley Away" by Natalie Phillion (Mackenzie Community School), first place, Engineering and Computer Science, Grades 5&6 - Ontario Power Generation Award, Best Energy Project

- "Powered by Pressure: How Fluids Create Force" by Anna Phillion (Mackenzie Community School), second place, Engineering and Computer Science junior division - Professional Engineers Ontario Award

- "The Get Real Cost of Education Estimator" by Mark Wendland (home school), first place, Engineering and Computer Science intermediate division - Member of Provincial Parliament Award, Shad Community Changemaker Award

- "Micro:bit Hit Tracker" by Riley Roblin (Mackenzie Community School), second place, Health Sciences, Grades 5&6

- "Soda, So Don't!" by Clara Pettigrew & Heidi McLaughlin (Mackenzie Community School), honourable mention, Health Sciences, Grades 5&6

- "Do They Really Match - A Comparison of CGM and Finger Prick Readings" by Cecily Vaughan (St. Mary's School), first place, Health Sciences junior division

- "Drip Irrigation System" by Aarna Podila & Maddox Klein (Mackenzie Community School), first place, Life Sciences, Grades 5&6 - CNL Budding Young Scientist Award

- "Baking Cookies for Hungry People" by June Hocking & Zoey Keeping (Mackenzie Community School), honourable mention, Physical & Mathematical Sciences, Grades 5&6.

A full list of winners is available at region.youth-science.ca/renfrew-county.

In addition, the chair of the RCRSTF organizing committee, Aidan Leach, was presented with a Distinguished Service Award from Youth Science Canada for his contributions to science fairs and STEM education at the school, regional and national levels in his 16 years of volunteering with the regional science fair committee.

The next Renfrew County Regional Science & Technology Fair will be held on April 10, 2027 and is open to all Renfrew County students from Grade 5 to 12.

No prior entry into a school fair is required and it is never too early to start your project.



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING NOXIOUS WEEDS

The main purpose of the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990 is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on the industries of agriculture and horticulture. This Act excludes lawns, gardens and private areas for personal enjoyment and leisure.

Under the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 13, 16, 18 and 23, you are requested to destroy all noxious weeds and weed seeds on your property by June 14th, 2026 and throughout the season. Sections 3, 13, 16, 18 and 23 do not apply to noxious weeds that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes, as they do not interfere with that use.

After June 14th, 2026, the County of Renfrew Weed Inspector may enter upon the said lands and may cause any noxious weeds discovered to be destroyed, charging the cost against the land, as set out in the Act.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE NOXIOUS WEEDS:

Common Barberry, Dodder spp., Wild Parsnip, Cypress Spurge, Smooth Bedstraw, Dog-Strangling Vine, Poison Hemlock, Leafy Spurge, European Buckthorn, Dog-Strangling Vine-Black, Poison-ivy, Bull Thistle, Wild Chervil, Jointed Goatgrass, Ragweed spp., Canada Thistle, Colt's-foot, Giant Hogweed, Tansy Ragwort, Serrated Tussock, Common Crupina, Knapweed spp., Sow-Thistle spp., Woolly Cupgrass, Kudzu.

Bryton Weckworth, Area Weed Inspector
 County of Renfrew
 9 International Drive
 Pembroke ON, K8A 6W5
 Phone: (613) 735-7288 ext.491
bweckworth@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

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

CROSSWORD

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Fly me to the moon

BLUE SKIES, BY VANCE GUTZMAN

It's hard to believe, but just a few short years ago, at the height of the pandemic, people all around the world were ordered to stay away from each other.

Out of an abundance of caution, as officials were so fond of saying at the time.

Now, what, like four years later, we're cramming people into a space capsule like sardines, and sending them to the moon like it's going out of style.

Social distancing has gone out of style, 'tis true, yet I'm glad NASA has

finally taken steps to determine the validity of the theory put forth long ago by a renowned Canadian astronomer.

You might think it's goofy, but the man in the moon is a Newfie.

Okay, so Stompin' Tom Connors wasn't an astronomer, but he was able to transport a large cow all the way from Newfoundland to Toronto, as a test flight to see if cows could one day jump over the moon.

To then moo the historic words... that's one small step for a cow, one giant leap for cowkind.

And it's more than appropriate there's a Canadian astronaut aboard the space capsule to pay witness to the discovery, 'cause Margo's got the cargo, bye, and Reggie's got the rig.

Now the wife, she doesn't know much when it comes to Stompin' Tom so, when I played Big Joe Mufferaw

for her the other day, she found it incredible that a man could paddle all the way from Ottawa to Mattawa.

In just one day, yet.

"I know, right," I said to the wife.

"But with the price of gas these days, can you blame him?"

Now the whole purpose of this space mission is to pave the way for future exploration of the moon.

To determine if mankind can settle on the moon.

Me? I'd be happy enough just to settle on Pamela Anderson's mons huygens, and to go where no man has gone before.

Except they have, but that's okay, because momma never raised me to be no pioneer, and I'd be more than happy to discover something that's already been discovered a hundred times or more.

I eagerly await pictures from Artemis

II of the dark side of the moon, showing Codfish Dan eating green cheese up there with Pink Floyd, but I hope NASA has taken into account the fact cheese is high in cholesterol, should mankind decide to settle there instead of on Pamela Anderson where it belongs.

Fortunately, I've got a large cache of cholesterol pills my doctor has prescribed for me which I've been saving for that exact purpose.

I'd be more than happy to sell them to NASA, though I may have to cut them with a little fentanyl if there's going to be enough to go around for all mankind.

At a ridiculously high profit-margin, I might add, for have you seen the price of gas these days?

And I have to get from Ottawa to Mattawa.

Answer the call.

Volunteer with Ontario Corps.

Sign up at ontario.ca/OntarioCorps

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