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DID YOU KNOW...?

- You can purchase maps listing snowmobile and ATV trails from the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association. Call 613-732-4364.
- Bob Sweet will be the only Warden in the history of the County of Renfrew to serve five terms in the Office of Warden
- For More Information, contact

The County of Renfrew at 613-735-7288 or 1-800-273-0183 or visit www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN



I am pleased to have the honour of serving as the Warden of the County of Renfrew for 2012. This is a terrific opportunity for me and all my fellow councilors to lead the County of Renfrew through many challenges and opportunities in the coming months. One of the first major projects that we will be working on is setting the annual budget for our county. The 2012 budget process will be filled with many challenges and unknowns as the County of Renfrew, and many local governments are waiting for information from the Province of Ontario in relation to funding and any changes to

program delivery for our residents. As we do every year, our Council is committed to a minimal financial burden on our ratepayers, and we will continue to ensure that your tax dollars are used wisely. In other county-related business, many of us were disappointed as we watched some of the railway tracks being removed in areas around Cobden and Renfrew. With the elimination of the CP Railway in the county, our Council is partnering with our neighbours in Lanark County and Mattawa area to help determine the future usage of the abandoned railway corridors. Our County Council has struck a special committee to deal with the issue of ownership, development and other aspects of the railway corridor. Although the loss of the railway is challenging, our Council is determined to

transform that challenge into an opportunity. For example, the County of Renfrew developed the abandoned K&P Railway Corridor and it is now a multi-use recreational trail that is recognized as a tourist destination. We will keep you updated on further development. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to any new residents who have chosen to call the County of Renfrew their new home. You have chosen one of the Top Ten Places in Canada to live, and I know that as you travel around and get to know the area, you will be amazed at the incredible natural beauty of the region and all it has to offer. Finally, I want to wish all the residents of the County of Renfrew a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warden Bob Sweet

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



It is my pleasure to announce that employees will have an opportunity to help a great local organization by becoming involved with the local Renfrew County United Way. Some of our employees will be canvassing over the next few weeks and offering staff a chance to sign up for automatic payroll contributions. As well, I want to congratulate senior management staff for leading the way in the new Situational Leadership Training across the corporation. This new approach will only improve upon the great service that our residents receive from our staff. I want to thank all employees who were involved with the 2011 October Wellness Initiatives. This program fostered a sense of health and activity among the staff. Finally, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



United Way Canvassers Evelyn Van Starckenburg; Jean Bird; Brian Leabey; Dianne Johnston and Bruce McIntyre

UNITED WAY LAUNCHES AT THE COUNTY OF RENFREW

The Corporation of the County of Renfrew will be launching a new initiative to allow employees to make donations to the local Renfrew County United Way through payroll deductions. The slogan for the new campaign is **“Use your change to make a change!”** It is completely voluntary for county staff to join the campaign. If an employee wants to donate 50 cents or \$5.00 as part of their bi-weekly paycheque, it is up to them. The goal of this first year is to have 30% of County of Renfrew staff sign on for the payroll contribution. The United Way Committee will be canvassing from No-

vember 21 through December 5 and all employees are invited to take part in this new campaign. The canvassers (will be available for staff to contact for information. The official kick-off for the campaign takes place on Monday November 21 beginning at 9:30 AM. There will be events planned at the County Administration Building, Renfrew County Place, Miramichi Lodge and Bonnechere Manor. In addition to the voluntary payroll deductions, employees are also invited to make a one-time donation if they wish. The County of Renfrew United Way Committee hopes to draw attention

to the many services and agencies that the local United Way Chapter services. The United Way assists a number of local non-profit organizations in the delivery of various programs for the residents of the County of Renfrew. For information on the campaign, contact:

Evelyn Van Starckenburg: *County Admin Building*
 Jean Bird: *Miramichi Lodge*
 Brian Leabey: *Emergency Services*
 Dianne Johnston: *Bonnechere Manor*
 Bruce McIntyre: *POA/Public Works/Childcare Services*
 Dave Mitchell: *Social Services*

PREPARING FOR WINTER DRIVING

As we enter into the upcoming Winter Season, the County of Renfrew's Manager of Operations Steve Boland wants to take this time to remind all drivers of the need to adjust from summer to winter driving. As fall draws to a close, there is still the threat of deer collisions on many county roads, and the area OPP report that there have been a number of accidents in the area in 2011. As the winter season approaches, there will still

be deer active in the area, and combined with anticipated snow and freezing rain, residents and visitors should take extra caution on local roads. It is always a good idea to switch to snow tires in late November and early December. The County of Renfrew operates a number of snow plows on over 800 km of county roads and quite often these plows are out long before the first light. Although the snow plow operators do a great job of keeping

our county roads as clear as possible, it is still up to the individual drivers to exercise good judgment and caution with winter driving. As Steve Boland points out, “the conditions on area roads can change quickly and drastically in our region, so all drivers should be aware of road conditions, and it is always a good idea to carry an Emergency Kit in your trunk just in case it is needed.”



Renfrew Chamber Rep and MYFM Owner Jon Pole and guest speaker Ian Portsmouth at Bridges To Better Business

BRIDGES TO BETTER BUSINESS: UNDERSTANDING THE NEW ECONOMY

Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) and the Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce partnered together to host the eighth Bridges to Better Business conference, **“New Economy – New Opportunities!”** at the Renfrew Armouries in Renfrew on Friday October 21, 2011 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. This annual event was a one-day learning and networking opportunity packed with great ideas to help entrepreneurs

succeed. The event provided entrepreneurs with the opportunity to develop valuable networking contacts and share innovative ideas with their peers. Some have described the New Economy as an entrepreneurial driven sector that integrates aspects of social media, creative economy, home-based businesses and other factors that are non-traditional. Keynote speaker was Ian Portsmouth, Editor and Associate

Publisher of *PROFIT*, Canada's best-read publication for entrepreneurial business. Over 100 participants gathered in the Armouries to hear about how to retain and expand their businesses. Other speakers included John Wilson of Renfrew Money Concepts and Rob Campbell owner of TIPs unLTD. All the speakers focused on building success in business, and the need to share best practices to remain competitive in today's market.



HEALTHY WORKPLACE COMMITTEE: ENGAGING STAFF AND MANAGEMENT

The County of Renfrew's Health & Wellness Committee recently completed its October month-long campaign designed to get employees involved in various health initiatives. The process was well received among all areas of the corporation and the participation rate was very high as many employees became involved in a number of activities such as lunch-time walks, a corporate weigh-in completion, and the checking of individual vital signs with our Paramedics helping staff understand their sugar counts and blood pressure numbers. The goal of the campaign was to promote a healthy and active workplace. It has been proven that a healthy and active workplace reduces the long term costs associated with sickness. The Health, Safety & Wellness Committee was comprised of staff from all departments of the corporation from across all of the county, and they met regularly leading up to the campaign in order to have all sections of the Corporation involved. Bernie Tremblay (inset), who works out of the Pembroke Ontario Works Office was the big winner as he took home the 43-inch Samsung Flat Screen TV which was awarded in a draw for daily wellness participation. Other winners included Deb Vaillancourt from Child Care Services and Kerry McNulty from the Arnprior Ontario Works Office. They both won a \$50 Gift Certificate in a draw for the overall Wellness Challenge. Carolyn Lepine of Bonnechere Manor won a \$35 Gift Certificate for her photo submission of her family enjoying a winter day and being active. Gladys Bennett of Bonnechere Manor won a \$35 Gift Certificate in the draw for the weekly Word Search and Sherri Hendry of Miramichi Lodge (inset) also won a \$35 Gift Certificate. In addition to the individual award, there was a new Corporate Challenge Cup introduced. The Challenge Cup is awarded to a Department that had the greatest overall percentage of participation during the month of October. The Committee is pleased to announce that the Social Services Department are the winners of the County of Renfrew Corporate Wellness Challenge Cup. Congratulations to all those employees who took part in the Healthy Workplace Challenge!



Employee Health Coordinator Bev Zadow makes presentations to Sherry Hendry and Bernie Tremblay

County Employees pitch in to keep roadway clean



Warden Sweet and HR Director Bruce Beakley make a cheque presentation to Lyn Smith for the Backpack Program, one of three recipients of monies raised



COUNTY OF RENFREW STAFF CLEAN UP THEIR ADOPTED ROAD!

On a cool sunny Autumn day, many County of Renfrew staff at the main Administration Building in Pembroke donned safety vests and gloves and began a massive cleanup of a local road. Staff at the main County of Renfrew Administration Building adopted a section of Mud Lake Road (County Road 19) and once a

year some staff members they fill up garbage bags with both recyclable and non-recyclable objects as they clean up the sides of the road. Under the direction of the Public Works Department, this county-wide program was started in 2005, and there are now over 60 groups or individuals that have adopted over 100 kilometers of

county roads in an effort to keep them clean. Many of the roads have been adopted by service clubs, individuals, recreational clubs, schools and other organizations to help keep Renfrew County beautiful. If you, or an organization would like to adopt a road, please contact Mark Behm at 613-732-4353 for details.

2011 WARDEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT A HUGE SUCCESS!



The annual County of Renfrew Golf Tournament was held at the Renfrew Golf Club on Friday September 16, 2011. The sunny skies brought out the best of the golfers as \$5700.00

was raised to assist three local organizations. Warden Sweet presented cheques in the amount of \$1900.00 each to the local Chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society; the Child Poverty Action Network's Backpack Program; and the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Since the tournament began in 2005, over \$27,000 has been raised to support local organizations. One of the unique features of the annual tournament is that

all monies raised stay in the county to assist local groups. Warden Sweet also presented the Warden's Cup to the 2011 Champions. This year, bragging rights belonged to Eastway Contracting of Pembroke. The team members were Steffen Behnke, Randy Roesler, Tony Johnson and Kevin Brennan. Warden Sweet extended a special thanks to all the sponsors who helped make the tournament a success and he congratulated all the golfers for their great sportsmanship!

"I am proud to be the representative for Madawaska Valley on Renfrew County Council. Our township offers amazing tourism and business opportunities, so I invite everyone to drop by and discover our area.

-Mayor Dave Shulist

Winter Will Soon Be Here!



County of Renfrew Contact Information:

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Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 6W5
613-735-7288 or
1-800-273-0183*

*Visit our Website at:
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca*



County Council Profile: Madawaska Valley Township Mayor Dave Shulist



Mayor Dave Shulist is one of the newcomers to Renfrew County Council after winning the 2010 Municipal Election. It was Dave's first attempt at elected office. Dave is best known locally for his work promoting and preserving the Kashubian culture and heritage in Renfrew County and also forging ties and building bridges between Kaszebe Europe and Renfrew County in particular the Madawaska Valley which is home to Canada's first Kashubian settlements, Wilno, Barry's Bay and Round Lake Centre. His passion for his Kashubian heritage inspired him to promote other cultures and created a few Multicultural events such as the Opeongo Heritage Hockey Tournament, the Canadian Multicultural Golf tournament and the Canadian Multicultural Curling Bonspiel. Dave was also the official County of Renfrew Olympic Torch Bearer during the 2010 National Olympic Torch Run. Following these accomplishments, Dave ran for the Office of Mayor and won. Dave ran on a platform of road maintenance and encouraging local health-care. Dave serves on the County's Social Services and Operations Committees and is truly enjoying his time at County Council.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA)?

A: The OVTA is a local tourist marketing organization that highlights local tourist operators.

Q: Where can I find out about skiing and snowmobile/ATV trails?

A: Please call 613-732-4364 or 1-800-757-6580 for information and trail maps.

WINTER FUN IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY! FEEDBACK!

The Ottawa Valley Tourist Organization (OVTA) encourages everyone not to hibernate during the winter months, but instead get out and take advantage of the incredible winter opportunities that exist right in our own backyard. Yes, there is the traditional game of pond-hockey, or skating on a local rink, but there are many tourism opportunities for you and your friends to discover. There are over 2500 kms of groomed snowmobile trails throughout the Valley that attract not only local enthusiasts, but many visitors to the region that make the trek to Renfrew County. This is a major boost to the local economy. The OVTA has a number of trail guides that list numerous snowmobile and ATV trails in the Ottawa Valley, and those trails that also link to other trails networks throughout Eastern Ontario. There are also many lakes and rivers that boast some great ice-fishing adventures, and many local hotels and lodges cater to outdoor activities. Many communities sponsor ice-fishing derbys throughout the winter season. There are also many trails that provide amazing cross-country skiing with pristine beauty along the way. The OVTA can keep you informed of the many events and tourist operators that will keep you busy during those long winter days and nights. For a complete listing of winter events, or to learn more, go to the OVTA website at www.ottawavalley.travel/ or call 1-800-757-6580.

Any ideas for the next issue?

We encourage your feedback on this edition of the newsletter. One of the responsibilities of elected officials and public servants is to communicate our efforts both internally and externally. We were encouraged by the feedback on the last issue, and have incorporated some of those suggestions into more about how your County works for you and some of the staff who provide the services. In order to do this, we need your help. So, once again, we are looking to you for comments, suggestions, and submissions. If you have a community event or project that you would like mentioned in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Bruce McIntyre
Media Relations*