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DID YOU KNOW...?

- There are over 2500 kms of groomed snowmobile trails in the County of Renfrew.
- There will be three Taste of the Valley events held this year! They will be held in Barry's Bay, Amprior and Cobden. Details to follow.
- For More Information, contact

The County of Renfrew at 613-735-7288 or 1-800-273-0183 or visit [www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca](http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca)



## MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN

To all the residents of the County of Renfrew, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is



Don Rathwell, and it is my honour to be able to hold the Office of Warden of the County of Renfrew for 2009! Prior to assuming this prestigious office, I was, and remain the Mayor of Whitewater Region Township. Since joining County Council in 2003, I have witnessed many wonderful events and met so many great people in our county. One thing that always strikes me is the genuine warmth and graciousness of Renfrew County. As your Warden, I will work with my sixteen fellow Council members as we wade through some very perilous economic

times. Despite all the doom and gloom we hear every day, we have many opportunities here in the county. During my inaugural address, I spoke of the tremendous growth that our tourist sector represents. I think this year more than ever, we should encourage our residents to discover the many wonderful and unique sights in our county. As well, tourism leads to increased economic development and that helps to retain and create jobs. Finally, I want to congratulate my fellow councillors for the passing of our 2009 budget. We were aiming for a 3% levy on local ratepayers, and we were able to deliver a 2.61% rate. By reducing the tax levy, we are putting less of a burden on our residents. In these challenging times, this is the moral and responsible approach to the financial management of the many services and programs delivered by the County of Renfrew. I look forward to meeting many residents over the next year!

*Warden Don Rathwell*

### What's Happening!

-The annual Petawawa Homeshow will take place at the Civic Centre from April 17-19.

-The Radcliffe Ski Hills in Barry's Bay is open again for business! Call 756-1754 for more details.

-The annual Polish Kashub Day will take place at the Wilno Heritage Park on Saturday May 2nd. All families are invited to attend. Visit: [www.wilno.org](http://www.wilno.org) for details.

-The Pembroke Farmers Market Opening Day is May 20th! Mark your calendars and buy local!

-Whitewater Village in Beachburg will host a BBQ and boat tour on May 23-24. Visit [www.whitwatervillage.ca](http://www.whitwatervillage.ca)

To submit an upcoming event in "What's Happening," please contact Bruce McIntyre at:

[bmcintyre@countyofrenfrew.on.ca](mailto:bmcintyre@countyofrenfrew.on.ca)

## UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: NORM LEMKE

Welcome to 2009! I want to welcome our new Warden, Don Rathwell, and I know that staff look forward to working with him. County Council recently passed the 2009 budget



with a strong mandate to deliver programs to our residents while being fiscally responsible. We begin this edition of the newsletter by highlighting some outstanding staff members across the corporation and their commitment to client service. As well, we begin a new feature

that will appear in subsequent editions that highlight the history of the county as we prepare for its 150th Anniversary in 2011. Finally, I want to invite you to take part in the County of Renfrew's 2009 Golf Tournament. It is both a fun and worthwhile event!



County of Renfrew Paramedic Services and Heart & Stroke Foundation in partnership!



## PARAMEDICS USE AED TO SAVE A LIFE LIFESAVING SKILLS PUT TO THE TEST!



On the morning of February 2, Duane MacDougall, a 56 year old retired teacher, collapsed from sudden cardiac arrest while playing hockey at the Silver Dart Arena in Petawawa.



Due to the quick action of fellow teammates and off duty paramedics, Leo Boland (above) and Jeff Latiok (below) MacDougall

quickly regained a pulse and breathing from CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the use of an on-site AED (Automated External Defibrillator), originally placed by the Department of National Defence. With just one shock, coupled with CPR, MacDougall was revived and later transported to the Pembroke Regional Hospital where he recovered. The County's Public Access Defibrillator program, made possible through a partnership with

the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and the Paramedic Service, has helped to place AEDs in the community. A \$3 million grant from the Ministry of Health Promotion— the largest in North America – coupled with a \$1 million donation from The Frank Cowan Foundation ensured that 1,000 AEDs would be distributed throughout the province. For more information on AEDs, call 735-7288 ext. 500. A big thank you to Leo and Jeff!

MP Gallant presents a cheque for \$1 million to Capital Works Manager Mike Pinet, CAO Norm Lemke and Warden Don Rathwell



## BUILD CANADA COMMUNITIES FUND: GOVERNMENTS COME TOGETHER FOR LOCAL ROAD

The County of Renfrew will soon begin one of its most ambitious road projects thanks to its successful grant application to the Build Canada Fund. Barron Canyon Road, is a county road that leads directly into Algonquin Park near the Town of Petawawa. Through its partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, the county will contribute \$1 million to the \$3 million

project. The other levels of government are also contributing \$1 million each. According to Mike Pinet, Capital Works Manager, the road is a vital link for a number of reasons. "Barron Canyon Road is a vital link for many local businesses, and is also crucial for the many tourists who use this route to enter Algonquin Park or visit other areas of the county. As well, this road is identified as a secondary

emergency route if for some reason Highway 17 is unavailable. It is for these reasons, and various safety concerns due to its poor road condition, that Barron Canyon Road was chosen as the county's project for the application." With the announcement in the recent Federal Budget that money will be made available for new infrastructure projects, county staff will continue its policy of applying for grants where feasible.

The County of Renfrew's newest snow plow operator, Kelly Nitschkie



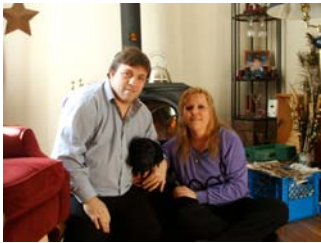
## MEET KELLY NITSCHKIE: THE COUNTY'S FIRST FEMALE SNOW PLOW OPERATOR

It is not uncommon to think of snowplow operators as the stereotypical Public Works man sporting a ball cap, who enjoys watching Hockey Night in Canada, having a slice of pizza and enjoying hunting and fishing when the weather allows him. For the last two years, there has been a new face behind the snowplow. The ball cap is still there, but it is pink. The driver still enjoys watching a hockey game, and still loves the outdoors. But this driver is Kelly Nitschkie, and she is the first County of Renfrew

female snowplow operator. Kelly responded to an ad that called for a casual driver to be on call for the winter months. Kelly was on maternity leave with their second child when she saw the ad and decided to apply. When asked about being the first woman to drive a snowplow for the County of Renfrew, Kelly doesn't really see any major distinction. "I am treated no differently than the guys I work with. We all have a job to do, and we all take pride in doing our part to keep the roads safe." Kelly says the

biggest obstacle to being a female snowplow operator is the same her male counterparts encounter. "We all have to deal with the adverse weather, but our biggest challenge is the drivers who decide to pass us in the middle of a storm. But for the most part, drivers respect us when we are out on the roads, and that makes it a little bit easier." Respect. That is what Kelly appreciates about her male counterparts. They don't see Kelly as a female snowplow operator; they see Kelly as a fellow employee, and that suits Kelly just fine.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM: FROM DREAM TO REALITY!



For many individuals in our society, the dream of owning a home is just that, a dream. The actual purchase of a home is perhaps the greatest financial investment anyone can make in their lifetime. One of the greatest obstacles to the actual purchase of a home is the required down payment that opens the door to securing that dream home. However, for some residents in the County of Renfrew,

that door was opened thanks to the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP). For some residents of the County of Renfrew, this program represents a rare opportunity to finally move out of their rental unit and into their own home. Through a shared funding formula, the County of Renfrew received approximately \$189,000 to assist these individuals. The program is administered through the Renfrew County Housing Corporation, and to date eighteen down payment assistance cheques were issued totaling \$143,245. According to Renfrew County Housing Corporation General Manager Carol Neill, the feedback from the community has been very positive. Carol Neill also credits her staff with helping new homeowners make the transition. In fact, she

singles out the efforts of Andrea Blackburn, who helps administer the program. "Andrea has really been the first and primary contact for the clients applying to the program. Two people that are very grateful to Andrea and the staff of the Renfrew County Housing Corporation are Chris Stone and Nancy Lacasse of Pembroke (in photo). Prior to October 30, 2008, they were renting a unit through the Housing Corporation, but now are proud homeowners as a direct result of the Affordable Housing Program. As Chris says, "for Nancy and I, there is no greater satisfaction. We are thankful to have been given this chance through the AFP, and we are especially grateful to Andrea and all those involved who helped make our dream become a reality!"



*Renfrew County Housing Manager Carol Neill and Andrea Blackburn review some AHP Applications*

*John Doran was the first Warden prior to Incorporation in 1861 and*



*John Doran*

*Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Mayor Janice Visneskie, pictured below, was the first woman to hold the Office of Warden for a two-year term*



## 2011: 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF COUNTY OF RENFREW WE START LOOKING BACK AT OUR HISTORY!

The programs and services of Renfrew County were not always as encompassing as they are today. Prior to the incorporation of the County of Renfrew, the original Warden was Reeve John Doran of Pembroke who held the Office of Warden of United Counties of Lan-

ark & Renfrew in 1854. When the County of Renfrew was incorporated in 1861, the first Warden was Reeve Thomas P. French of Sebastopol and Griffith. With 2011 fast approaching, some elected members of Renfrew County have begun planning for special events

to mark the occasion. In keeping with the spirit, Warden Rathwell appointed Mayor Bob Sweet to chair the special 150th Anniversary Committee. Over the next few months, Mayor Sweet will be working on the committee structure for the planned events in 2011.

## THE WARDEN OF RENFREW COUNTY: HOW DOES IT WORK?

Thomas French was the first Warden in 1861. The Office of the Warden of the County of Renfrew is the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and acts as Chairperson for the remaining sixteen elected representatives that make up the County of Renfrew. Once a year at the December Inaugural Session of County

Council, the seventeen members select a representative among themselves to hold this honourable position. Their fellow councillors can either elect the Warden after letting their name stand for the Office or they can be acclaimed. This election process requires that two fellow councillors nominate them. If there are

two or more individuals seeking office, an election is held by secret ballot to determine who will be elected as the new Warden. If only one name is put forward, and no one else comes forward, that individual is acclaimed. Don Rathwell of Whitewater Region was acclaimed Warden for a one-year term that ends in December of this year

*"One of my greatest concerns is access to health services. One area I am working on is to try and secure some type of Air Ambulance Service to our many remote areas. I hope to make this a reality through the efforts of staff and my fellow elected officials."*

*-Reeve Tammy Stewart*

*County of Renfrew Contact Information:*

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613-735-7288 or  
1-800-273-0183*

*Visit our Website at:  
[www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca](http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca)*



**2008 Arnprior Paramedics will be back to defend the Wardens Cup at the 2009 County of Renfrew Golf Tournament**



## County Council Profile: Reeve Tammy Stewart: Head, Clara & Maria Twp

Reeve Tammy Stewart of Stonecliffe first came to County Council in 2006. As the Reeve,



Tammy represents the township's interest at the county level. As part of County Council, Tammy serves as Vice-Chair of the Health Committee and also serves on the Development & Property Committee. One of Tammy's true passions is the delivery of health care services to her residents. Because of this, Tammy is a member of the Renfrew County & District Health Unit where she also serves as Vice-Chair. Tammy has called Stonecliffe home since 1970, and although she represents the most northerly local government in the county, Tammy loves the rugged landscape of the area around Mackey and Stonecliffe. When Tammy is not busy in the township serving as the Chair of the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP Advisory Board, she likes to spend quality time with her 13-year old son and 6-year old daughter.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How can I register for the 2009 edition of the Warden's Invitational Golf Tournament?**

**A: Call 735-7288 ext. 490 or email [bmcintyre@countyofrenfrew.on.ca](mailto:bmcintyre@countyofrenfrew.on.ca)**

**Q: Which charity will receive the proceeds from the County Golf Tournament?**

**A: This year's recipient will be the Multiple Sclerosis Society.**

**Q: When will the 2009 County of Renfrew budget be passed?**

**A: The 2009 budget was passed at the January Session of County Council.**

## COMMUNITY AGENCY PROFILE: THE PHOENIX CENTRE

### FEEDBACK!

#### *Any ideas for the next issue?*

*As you have seen, much of this issue has been devoted to some staff members who have excelled in delivering services to members of our community. If you know of a county employee who has really gone a step beyond their usual duties, please let us know. 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. 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*

The Phoenix Centre for Children and Families is a children's mental health centre providing a range of mental health services to children ages 0 to 18 and their families in Renfrew County. Created in 1978 and governed by a Board of Directors, the Phoenix Centre is a non profit, charitable corporation which operates under the Ontario Child and Family Services Act. The main funder is the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth. Families using the services do so voluntarily and no fees are required. The Phoenix Centre utilizes best practice and is continually striving to evaluate its performance in an effort to offer the most effective and efficient services to children and families. The agency is an accredited member of the Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Centres and is highly regarded in the Province as a leader in

both delivery and development of programs and services.

The Phoenix Centre offers a wide variety of programs to children and families who are experiencing mental health issues. Some of the services include: a Respite Program, Family and Child Treatment Program, Friends & Neighbours Anti-Bullying Club and many other services. The Phoenix Centre has become a leader in the provision of services to military families, primarily because of the large increase in military families who have been requesting help and the provision of special funding from the Province and National Defense. To make a referral, volunteer, or find out more information about the Phoenix Centre call 613-735-2374 or you can go to the website at: [www.phoenixctr.com](http://www.phoenixctr.com)