A vision

Imagine receiving a one-time Christmas gift of \$592,479 and the only catch is you have to use the money to find efficiencies in the way you go about your daily routine and that way, you will cut down wasted time and concentrate on the really big things that affect your life.

That is kind of what happened to Bonnechere Valley (and many other municipalities) when the province earmarked close to \$600,000 to the township and told council to find more efficient ways to deliver services for the benefit of your residents.

More than 400 other municipalities received some type of lump payment back in March and the majority of them, BV included, have focused on the creation or extension of partnerships with their neighbours in areas like fire services and recreation.

These are good starting points, but perhaps now is the time for Bonnechere Valley to go even further and maybe look just a few blocks down the street.

There is an old saying everything is for sale as long as you make the right offer. Maybe the old creamery building might be the answer. Although it was recently purchased, there is no harm in asking the new owner if there is any interest in selling.

Since this is the Christmas season, we are all allowed to make a secret wish we only share with Santa. What if BV council made a wish about purchasing the old creamery building and property and turning it into a municipal centre, creating a town centre as it were. It would be beautiful backing on to the Bonnechere.

When the current municipal building was constructed 25 years ago, it was designed for the needs of the Village of Eganville only. It was not built for the amalgamation of four separate municipalities to suddenly come under one roof a mere five years later.

Today, the original and dated building houses not only the township offices, but also a 24/7 Renfrew County paramedic base and the fire department and several emergency vehicles. Simply put, this space is no longer adequate for everything that is happening there.

Building a new structure and leaving the current building for emergency services would be the beginning of a revitalization of the downtown core. It would be a good way to start spending that modernization and efficiency funding of almost \$600,000 and there may be other grants available, as well as financing.

This is the time for Christmas wishes, after all, and it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the Valley with twinkling lights, and during this darkest time of the year, the lights add an ambiance and a feeling of welcome to communities.

Take a stroll through Barry's Bay. It is especially delightful. It is not only the municipality, but also businesses which get into the spirit of the season with decorations and lights, creating a welcoming, inviting, small town atmosphere all of us are nostalgic for at Christmas.

The same is true of Renfrew where the annual Scott's Hardware Store window display is legendary, and it helps that the province and town invested millions into downtown revitalization. Pembroke's downtown has seen a dramatic makeover the last two years as its local council has worked proactively with new business owners and the core is alive again.

In our own beautiful Eganville, a bit more could be done to make our community the picture postcard Christmas village people long to come to. While the lights on the bridge and the dam on the river are beautiful, and the Christmas tree with nativity scene at the Information Centre is a welcome sight, much more could be done to make our community the inviting small town it can be.

Eganville has the potential to be the most beautiful, picturesque Christmas village in the county, but there needs to be a willingness, vision and leadership to get there.

Working to improve our downtown core -- and creating a town centre -- through some beautification, enthusiasm and vision is a start. But the municipality has to be the one to take the lead.

Letter

The Diplomat

Dear Editor: Re: "The Diplomat"

I'm certain Mr. Ford would be

glowing when reading this editorial, outlining his statesman-like stature, his precedent-setting conciliatory attitude, his congeniality. He would also, I'm sure, be sur-

prised that anyone noticed he demonstrated such self-control of his selfrighteous smirking and aggravated attention to difficult questioning on hard-pressed issues; almost just short of saintly.

But as you say he was busy governing the province during the election, cutting funding for liquid oxygen that

Published every Wolnesday

∆ocna

some Ontarians require, and other things like explaining class sizes to Canada's finest teachers. With all those diplomas on his wall, he must have more than them. Not being a pundit, I wouldn't know, though I try to be observant. Just haven't heard or read much about the teachers.

Your editorial was spot on saying that democracy was served during our election. Anyone speaking about separation is not much of a Canadian, wouldn't you agree?

In closing, Merry Christmas to you

and yours and all those at the Leader. Edward McColgan, Golden Lake

Black Friday vs. Christmas Wish Book

Black Friday and Cyber Monday, now regular events on the pre-Christmas shopping calendar, have come and gone for another year. I have never participated in either of these events but I hear from family and friends that fabulous deals are to be had if you can endure the crowds and the chaos or if you can negotiate your way around various websites. This year there was a shooting in one opular mall just across the border. It makes me nostalgic for the simple days of the Christmas Wish Book.

In our family, as in many families in the Ottawa Valley, the Christmas Wish Book was exactly that, a catalogue of gifts, lovely to look at and to wish for, out the wishes were unlikely to appear underneath the Christmas tree.

We spent many happy Sunday afternoons slowly turning the pages, pickng out our favorite toy on each page, knowing full well we'd never receive any of them. Just to see them in the catalogue, to discuss earnestly which one we wanted was pleasure enough in itself. We were of, course, by this time of winter, on our best (Dutch) behaviour for fear that Zwarte Piet Sinterklaas's dark-skinned Moorish elper who is now considered politically incorrect) was watching. Just as the Elf on the Shelf monitors the behaviour of today's children, Zwarte

A View from **Bulger's Corners** (and Wilno and Douglas and Barcelona)



Johanna Zomers

Piet kept us in line for fear of receiving only lumps of coal in our wooden shoe from Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas) on Dec 5.

Regardless of what we chose in the Wish Book, the gifts we did receive always turned out to be just perfect! Christmas was the absolute high point of our existence and the only time we got new (or second hand) toys or books. By today's shopping standards, we may have been deprived of gifts but we were certainly not deprived of anticipation, joy or appreciation of what did appear on Christmas morning.

To this day, we still have one or two of our childhood favourite toys: a stuffed dog, a walking doll still standing stiffly in her cardboard box, a storybook with the cover worn over the years, a music box with a revolving ballerina. A new toy also revitalized our interest in what we'd played with all year long. A tiny set of doll's dishes inspired weeks of doll dinner parties; the toy chainsaw revived the firewood piled on the 'log trucks' we built out of kitchen chairs. Like most rural children, we played childhood versions of grown-up work. We taught school to dolls, took plastic livestock to the sales barn, cooked and ironed, drove teams of toy horses and used Shredded Wheat as hay bales on toy wagons.

If there were guns involved at Christmas, it was the toy cap pistols we used to play cowboys, or the plastic rifles with a cork and a string. The cap pistol came with one roll of red 'caps' and when they were used up, we ran around shouting 'bang, bang'. It was a simpler time then, despite the fact the world had just survived the horrors of the Second World War.

Indeed, perhaps that was the reason that people seemed content with fewer material goods. There was peace on earth and Christmas brought out goodwill toward all and, for a while, that was all that mattered.

Letters

Announced grants for seniors not new money

I am writing in relation to the article in the Nov. 27 Leader titled: "Several county seniors' groups receive grants". I have also now seen the original Press Release issued by MPP John Yakabuski, where he also quoted Raymond Cho, Provincial Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

Though I have been on the board of the Eganville & District Seniors (EDS) for over four years (mostly as Board President), even I was initially taken in by this press release! I thought it was new money coming to Ontario's Seniors' Centres, specifically \$400,000 to Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (including \$52,727 to the EDS). Unfortunately, the reality is that this provincial government is awarding the same amount of money as we have been receiving for the last nine years... no more, no less.

Most Senior Active Living Centres (SALC) in Ontario have received an annual grant of \$42,700 since 2010. In addition, we receive a (variable) supplementary grant that usually amounts to \$9-10,000. Over the last nine years, there has been no increase to compensate for inflation and no increase to compensate for the increasing proportion of seniors in the community.

Each year it gets more difficult to maintain and operate the on-going programs and services that we offer given that we have had, due to inflation, an annual reduction (in today's monetary value) in SALC funding of about \$14,000 since 2010 (about a 27% decrease in real terms). Of course, to be fair, most of this reduction in real terms came under the two previous Liberal governments even though they were the ones who started these grants in 2009.

The EDS has been and remains strong, both financially and strategically, in terms of our servicing the needs of the seniors and disabled community in Bonnechere Valley, North Algona Wilberforce, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan and the Bromley portion of Admaston/Bromley. However, because of no increases in funding from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and the Ministry of Health (via the Champlain LHIN) for nine years, we have had to fundraise and elicit donations more and more in order to keep up.

Frankly, the salaries (with no benefits) we can offer our hard-working, dedicated EDS staff are the lowest for such positions in all of Ontario. Without our circa 100 volunteers (including a lot of fundraising effort), we would be in dire straits; but even our volunteer base sometimes struggles to keep up with the increasing demand and we worry about volunteer burnout.

So, Mr. Yakabuski, please don't publish misleading press releases (that lead the community to think the current provincial government is upping its support for seniors) but please do acknowledge and act on the fact that SALCs are not somehow immune from inflation and that we are trying to cope with the increasing senior population. After nine years, it would be nice for SALCs to get a real and significant increase in funding.

William Enright (acting in my personal capacity),

MADE IN CHINA

The truth will set us free

The impossible is only possible if we are true optimists, and we have just witnessed a strange kind of optimism among the leaders hoping to become them a plus for trying, especially those whose hope was as slim as my hope of becoming Pope. Mr. Scheer instilled fear in me of him following his model, Mr. Trump, and becoming Canada's first hard-boiled dictator. If we follow world news it must be evident there are already far too many of those brutal corrupt individuals in other parts of the world.

Too close to home, in our beloved Ouebec, something is happening that is disturbing my peace of mind. It is called Bill 21, outlawing the wearing of any religious symbol in the workplace. One report stated in public as well as the workplace. If this Bill becomes law it will be a tragedy. It is aimed at religious clothing worn by immigrants from other countries, even from U.S.A., those trying to escape Trump's tyranny. What is really upsetting is that radicals attract radicals. Nun's habits and Roman collars worn by clergy could be targeted. Schools, convent kitchens and church halls where meals are served could be classified as workplaces.

What is happening to our fine neighbours in Quebec is very similar to what happened to Renfrew County council 50 or 60 years ago, and I have a feeling the same group of people are behind it, only now they call themselves I.S.I.S. Then, they called themselves the Human Rights Commission. Their female leader claimed she was the supreme power in Canada, more powerful than Parliament and Prime Minister Paul Martin. They were a group of fake Muslims asking for fairness for all religions by banning the Lord's Prayer at all council meetings. It was our first taste of terrorism in Canada, the start of seeing empty pews in our churches, a contagious disease from which we have not yet fully recovered.

An Old Man's **Opinion**

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

If you doubt what I have written I suggest you talk to Petawawa Mayor Bob Sweet. He was our county warden at that time and shared our helplessness and frustration. Please pardon my grammar, but those fake bastards must have been inspired by Satan, knowing we valued our religion, and then pretending to be very religious when their sole purpose is to destroy every religion.

They were partly successful in causing us to abandon our religion, but thank God our religion didn't abandon us. Our churches remained open and our pastors welcomed us back with open arms. In another article I started but never finished I suggested minority governments are the best way to avoid dictatorship, and the leaders of each of the four main parties should have one year out of the four to sit in the PM's chair and try out that party's way of governing. It would do away with all the stupid bickering and bitching. It has never been tried but is worth a try. Rotating leadership in our three Christian churches is not only possible

but the only way we can defend our-

selves from the radicals intent on destroying Christianity. The timing seems right to write this article. Watching Vision Channel today it was predicted it will take a major disaster to again fill our church news. Then he named all the countries that have nuclear weapons and looking for an excuse to use them.

One such country is our closest neighbour. No longer can we feel really safe, even in our beloved Canada. When something terribly wrong is happening and a large group of courageous people object strongly enough, like the brave souls in Hong Kong, this wrong can be righted as more people line up on the side of the oppressed. In everyday language the objectors are also called protestors. In religious language they are known as Protestants. This may sound strange, but when

the Sicilian Mafia took full control of Vatican City it was the Catholics turned Protestant who saved our Catholic church from the grasp of Satan. During those tragic days, especially in Ireland, there was pure bedlam, divided families with one Catholic brother at war with his Protestant brother. There were tyrant Catholic priests, totally unaware of what was happening in Rome excommunicating the wrong people, making life easier for the mafia. Pope John 23rd realized something was not as it should be when millions of poor people were starving to death while the Vatican bank was the richest in the world. Sadly, like Pope Benedict 16, they both felt helpless to do anything about it.

In closing, I would like to share with our readers the truth about Martin Luther. I believe he was a devout highly respected Catholic priest who had the courage to challenge what was happening in Rome a few centuries ago. He did not abandon his church; he was booted out by a powerful Mafia mob boss dressed in the robes worn by Popes. All of us who call ourselves Christians can say a fervent prayer of gratitude that those dark days are gone forever.

Opeongo High Musical Society

Thursday & Friday December 5 & 6 at 6:30 Saturday - 2 p.m.

150 John St. P.O. Hex 310 Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0

Ph: 613-628-2332

www.eganvilleleader.ca

Editorial: leader@nrtco.net Display Advertising: leaderads@nrtco.net Classified Advertising: <u>leaderwentads@nrtco.net</u>

Canada



Subscriptions: leaderwantade@nrtco.net

\$60 (\$57.14 + GST) To all addresses in Renfrew County



"Our Pathon, who are in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give no this day our daily bread and forgive us our trequences, as we forgive there who trespent against us. And found us not into temperation, and deliver us from will. For Thine is the kingdom, and the poper and the giory, for ever and ever, Amer

Postal Agreement # 40005333

Kditorial Page

Page A8

Strength through unity

It was 78 years ago today when nearly 5,000 Canadian soldiers stormed the pebble beaches at Dieppe. Many of the inexperienced young soldiers, tumbling out of landing craft into the murderous machine-gun sights and heavy guns of the waiting and battle-hardened German army, never reached the shore. More than 65 per cent of the men who made it ashore were killed, wounded or captured. No major objectives were achieved. The raid didn't go as planned; in fact, nothing that fateful day really went as planned.

However, it has often been argued that valuable lessons were learned and the sacrifices of those young brave Canadian soldiers were not in vain. Their failed mission led the way to the greatest air, sea and land assault two years later when the Allies stormed the beaches of France in the now famous D-Day raid on June 6, 1944.

What stood out from that tragic August day at Dieppe was the collective resolve to learn from our mistakes and to rally as one nation among an Allied force committed to defeating the scourge known as the Third Reich. Canadians looked adversity in the eye and never backed down.

It is that same commitment to a national cause that has helped Canada endure the economic and social devastation of the first wave of the deadly COVID-19 virus. When all levels of government introduced drastic emergency measures that effectively shut down the economic and social fabric of our society, the vast majority of Canadians understood what was being asked of them. Just like the Canadian High Command learned from their tragic mistakes at Dieppe, Canadian political leaders and civilians alike have learned as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. We learned the simple task of washing our hands, wearing a mask and social distancing helps reduce the spread of the virus.

We learned the hard way what happens when large groups of people meet in a confined area without practicing social distancing. We found out how quickly the virus can spread in the confines of nursing homes among some of the most vulnerable of our citizens. That lesson was the loss of hundreds of seniors in long-term care homes, and they accounted for close to 80 per cent of all lives lost due to COVID-19.

Most importantly, we learned that trust, transparency and communication is the only way to maintain a national resolve to remain united in our battle against COVID-19. Political leaders have finally come to the realization that the simple task of talking to their citizens, and not talking at them, is the only way to maintain a continued awareness of the virus as we head into what could be a deadly flu season.

The Dieppe generation never lost its resolve, and they remained firm in their commitment to remain united to defeat their enemy -- an enemy whose only goal was to destroy the world they knew and build a new world based on its evil racist belief.

Just as Canadians 78 years ago realized the battle was not over on the shores of Dieppe, we realize our efforts to keep COVID at bay have only begun. This fall, with back to school season, and a change in some government assistance programs, will be a challenge. However, we are up to this challenge if we work together to follow health directives, do our part and realize this too will pass and we will emerge victorious in the end.

We did it before and we can do it again.

Letter

Is this democracy?

Dear Editor:

Out here in the country we're so blessed with being able to see the Milky Way, our home galaxy, directly overhead every clear night this summer. Right next to it in the early night are the bright planets Jupiter and Saturn (the easterly one); then later we get to see Mars rising and then overhead. In the early morning before sun rises, we get to see Venus, which last week did a close dance with moon as she waned towards new. Our neighbours in the solar system, so visible to

folks with minimal outdoor lighting. Might this blessing of ours help us have compassion for those Ontario Conservative government bureaucrats and string pullers who have been stuck in offices looking at screens and hardly able to see the sun, let alone look at the stars to see our place in the cosmos and thus don't have a real earth-based long-term vision. Such people in the government of Doug Ford and John Yakabuski are using the cover of a pandemic lockdown to impose their "Official Plan" of what they want to see Renfrew County become in 15 years.

We paid tax money and our valuable time for multiple well attended consultations with our paid county officials to formulate a "Made in Renfrew County" Official Plan for Land Use and Development. Money and time tossed out the window with the imposition of an urban-based vision during a time when Renfrew County people are not allowed by that government to gather and talk about such issues. Is this democracy?

Can we also now grow some more compassion for the Wet'suwet'en People (and other Indigenous People)

who have put their time and money into consultations with Canadian government officials about pipelines and many other Corporate "developments", only to have the conclusion of profit for the few outweigh the voices of the people being consulted.

Again amidst the pandemic lockdown, the Liberal Canadian government has given the go-ahead to the foreign-owned Coastal Link Pipeline to build on Wet'suwet'en lands right by the Healing Lodge where the traditional legitimate government of those people stopped the pipeline in February. And they have suspended funding water quality monitoring activities across Canada since the beginning of the pandemic, including monitoring water quality of the oil sands. The idea of the lockdown was to ensure the health of the people. By stopping water quality monitoring, we are ensuring a degradation in the health of the people dependent on the water that was to be monitored.

Not enough looking at the stars, in my opinion. Not enough respect for the basic principles of democracy. Too much going through the motions while not believing in the basic principles of public consultations. In the case of the Doug Ford government, I have just reviewed the promises Ford made to rural Ontario just before being sworn into office. Nowhere did he promise to shut down rural western Renfrew County -- the Renfrew County he came to first, asking for support, in his election bid two years ago, with John Yakabuski at his side.

Do we still call this democracy? Robbie Anderman, *Killaloe*

Bringing in the sheaves

To everything there is a season.

Turn! Turn! Turn! The popular song by the Byrds took the Biblical, Shakespearean and folk knowledge that all life is cyclical and turned it into a top-40 hit back in the 60s. The lyrics have a particular sadness today in our disrupted COVID-19 existence.

While we humans struggle to adjust our daily routines to make sense of this new reality, the grain ripens, the peaches, apples and grapes hang ready for picking, birds begin to flock and the insect hum of August fills hot days and cooler nights. These are the busiest days for gardeners and farmers, or at least they were before the advent of modern machinery and powerful kitchen tools.

Haying time. Clattering knives on the horse-drawn mower. The dump rake. The hay loader. Riding atop the load on the wagon. The hay fork descending through the dust, whirling in the beams of sunlight, dropping another load into the sweltering mow. Haying was long and laborious and the novelty wore off about mid-July when the distractions of a trip into Eganville or Pembroke seemed as distant as the moon. With the pilgrimage behind us, we kids began to worry about the Rotary picnic. Would we get there or not?

In Brudenell none of these things had mattered. Only the parish bazaar and supper loomed on the horizon and we were pretty sure, but never positive, that we would get there (there was

A View from **Bulger's Corners**



Johanna Zomers

always the possibility of having to stay home because a cow was calving). In Brudenell, our life revolved around the farm, the schoolhouse and the church. Aside from our obsession with Bonanza on the television at Basil Shield's store on Sunday evening, we created our amusement in the activities of daily life.

Late August was the most interesting time of year next to Christmas. We were fascinated by the annual appearance of the binder, that marvellous contraption with its revolving wooden blades, rolling canvas and clattering knives. It featured a clever device which knew exactly when to knot the twine when it was working

properly and gave entire days of frustration when it wasn't. Our farm had an array of old machinery which was rapidly being replaced in the modern world. In the remote untouched magical worlds of Brudenell, Rockingham, Killaloe, Wilno and Combermere, things remained much as they had for the past half century. The hay loader, the binder, the threshing machine were in their twilight years, already being replaced by new, sleek more efficient models.

But in the late 1950s, IF nothing broke, it was a perfect August day on the farm at the end of the long driveway along the Opeongo. The binder whirled round and round the field of golden oats with sheaves falling behind it. Meanwhile, in the kitchen, the wood-fired Renfrew cookstove fueled a volcano of boiling water in the blue canner as quart sealers were filled with peaches which my aunt brought from southern Ontario to provide something to do during her annual holiday. Wooden shelves in the cellar already held jar after jar of beans -- green, yellow and sliced string beans. With the addition of potatoes, carrots and hundreds of containers of applesauce, we had the basics for our Dutch winter cuisine. Just as the novelty of canning wore off and the binder broke down again, it was time for threshing, time to pick potatoes, pile firewood, kill the pigs and make sausage. All of it happening in its own right time in the turning of the seasons.

Letter

Reflecting on our rural reality

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your editorial dated August 5, 2020.

There seems to be a long-standing need to bring Toronto, in particular, and Ottawa, in this case, into the discussion of rural problems. To set the record straight, there are lots of "city" people who have wonderful gardens, both flower and vegetable. The GTA has some of the most beautiful parks and recreation areas in the world. The Rouge Valley National Park and the Don Valley system are two that I could mention. That having been said, I've lived in the Valley for more than 45 years and would never move to Toronto. Ottawa has awesome parks

I'd love to see what process you would have engaged in to stop/control the growth of these large urban centres. How do you overcome the access to the US border and the St. Lawrence Seaway as examples? To write that cities have more "more problems than benefits" is simply an inaccurate rural viewpoint that can't be substantiated. Instead of name-calling let's focus on our rural needs.

Two of the issues that I see are distance to market and technology. The first can't be controlled. Heck, they even removed our railway tracks. Our ridiculously low level of technology is a huge problem. Let me explain,

COVID-19 pointed out, clearly, how possible it is to work from home, effectively, while doing a great job. But there are certain conditions required to achieve success. Every area of Ontario/Canada must have equal access to all internet, Wifi, etc. services.

It's nuts! I can tell you, better than most people, the amazing quality of the work our county population can produce. Hundreds of our young people have left the area to find excellent jobs in larger centres. We should still be able to participate in this booming economy in our area.

Back to COVID-19 and the example it has given us. There is no reason that our talented Valley people should not be doing a number of highly-skilled jobs right here. Accounting, drafting, engineering, customer service, order processing, web consulting, graphic arts, and plenty more, are jobs that can all be done locally. This is true of rural areas all across Ontario and, indeed, Canada. The Eganville Leader could provide any number of services to larger centres at a very competitive cost.

To achieve this we "all" need the same national level of service so that we can use our computers and technology, equally. This will cost a lot of money. Actually, a huge amount of money. If service providers won't do it then the government should. The short and long-term benefits to the local and national economy will be remarkable.

In Ontario, and across Canada, there are vast numbers of rural parliamentary representatives who are in different parties. They don't communicate and are completely unwilling to speak with one voice on an issue like this one. How about a free vote? It was amusing, and sad, to see that many rural Members of Parliament couldn't, easily, participate in House of Commons discussions. It is not amusing to see students in rural schools lack the same access to education as do urban students entirely because of where they live. Technology rules!

It's now recognized/proven people can do many, many jobs at home. Home can be anywhere that technol-

acts together and act on behalf of their local, constituent needs instead of always toeing the party line. It's 2020 and it's time. Don't hold your breath.

Petawawa

150 John St. P.O. Box 310

Ph: 613-628-2332

Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0

www.eganvilleleader.ca



Two different lives – one common thread

 \boldsymbol{I} he final days of the year 2015 proved to be the final days on earth for two people whose lifestyles were vastly different, but they shared one sterling quality. Both of them refused to let adversity destroy their lives and the lives of those closest to them. They died only a few hours apart, and left the same kind of legacy.

Natalie Cole was the daughter of the immortal Nat King Cole, the man with the golden voice. As could be expected, she followed in his footsteps in the entertainment world. What is most memorable about Natalie is her rendition of the song "Unforgettable". Then, through the magic of computers, it has become a duet with her father. If my darling wife happens to read this column, she will know what album I would like for Christmas. As happens much too often, in the entertainment industry, there was money to burn and hard lessons to learn. Her life became a tangled mess, the victim of drugs, two of the real deadly ones, crack cocaine and heroin.

I have been told that this addiction is almost over-powering and is the worst mind-crippling in the drug trade. Somehow, enough of her friends were able to convince her that her life was worth saving and she fought through the addiction, which has to be her greatest legacy. The other life I want to commemorate belonged to Garry Boldt, son of the late Clarence Boldt, and the late Viola Hein. Garry was an Eganville native, married for 53 years to one of Eganville's little sweethearts, a lady by the name of Patricia Welk. Both Garry and I had the good fortune

An Old Man's **Opinion**

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

to have two of the McNamara sisters for our mothers-in-law; Grace, who was married to Walter Welk, and Mary, who was married to Stanley Poole. We could not have fared better.

If my memory doesn't desert me, I will dwell a little longer on the subject of mothers-in-law, but, first, I want to return to Garry. About 20 years ago, he was suddenly stricken with an unusual muscular disease that claimed the use of his legs. Rather than feel sorry for himself, he was determined to fight back and not let the disease slow him down. He was one of the first soccer coaches in Pembroke and when he took over the club, we had only one soccer field. Within a few years, he added four more and won the admiration of a few hundred players and soccer parents. He has made me feel like a piker, worrying about my loss of vision.

Besides soccer, his legacy has to be his acceptance, without even once complaining about whatever cross he had to bear in life.

Now, back to the mother-in-law.

When we choose a wife, generally, the

mother-in-law comes along as part of the package and some men are not so lucky when they unwrap the package. The story goes that a married couple had planned a trip to visit the Holy Land. At the last minute, the motherin-law decided to tag along. They were there, only a couple of days, when she took a massive heart attack and died. The undertaker they selected was very helpful and understanding, advising them there was little sense in holding a wake, or funeral service. He could give them the bare bones treatment of digging a grave and burying her and he could provide this service for the bare bones price of \$200. However, if he had to prepare the body, and ship it back to Canada the cost would be \$5,000. Without hesitation, the son-in-law told him he would have to take the expensive route and have her shipped home.

The undertaker remarked that he must think an awful lot of his mother-in-law to make that choice. The man explained it really wasn't that way. They had heard of a fellow being buried in the Holy Land, about 2000 years ago, and three days later he was seen walking around, large as life. There was no way he was going to take the chance of his mother-in-law doing the same.

These words of wisdom from one of my former co-workers; he told me the real difference between men and women is that men can only get knocked down.

ogy will support. That would result in hundreds of thousands of rural jobs. The skills exist. The means doesn't. Our MPs and MPPs should get their

Stay safe, everyone. Doug Stoneman,

Upe Agambille Aeamer

Subscriptions: leader@nrtco.net

\$60 (\$57.14 + GST) To all addresses in Renfrew County

\$65 (\$61.90 + GST) To all addresses outside Renfrew County

\$50 (\$47.62 + GST) **On-line subscription**

Published every Wednesday

∆ocna

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Display Advertising: leaderads@nrtco.net Classified Advertising: leaderads@nrtco.net

Editorial: leader@nrtco.net

Canadä

 $Founded \ in \ 1902$ Published by The Eganville Leader Publishing Ltd. at 150 John Street, Eganville, Ontario Gerald Tracey, Publisher

Kditorial Page

Log home memories

Dear Editor:

Re: Fire destroys Golden Lake

It was with sadness that I saw the front page of the Leader (May 20) and the fire which destroyed the beautiful antique log house on main street in Golden Lake.

You can see the logs were so straight. It was probably built 150 years ago with true craftmanship and probably by German immigrants. In the early days, Golden Lake had many German-speaking families who attended our Evangelical church and the Lutheran churches at Germanicus.

Just a bit of history on the house.

It was owned by my great uncle, Edward Budde until the early 1960s. I don't know who built the house. My great uncle was a shoemaker, meaning he repaired shoes and boots of all kinds and sizes. In those days it was cheaper to fix your shoes and boots than to buy new. Just like Benny

Afelskie used to do in Killaloe. He had all kinds of tools in his little front room. In business hours, you just rapped on the door and walked in.

I was in that house several times with my mother when I was a little girl. Memories!

Norma (Noack) Brose,

Get out of our lives

Dear Editor:

You know it is bad enough for Trudeau to become a dictator and stick his nose into our everyday lives telling us what we can say and do and what we can't. He is also pushing his way into provincial policies little by little holding companies hostage to get money from the feds. Our money.

But now we have a provincial government doing the same. Mr. Yakabuski must not want to get elected again. It is too bad. I campaigned on my own from Ottawa to Thunder Bay and my son put out some good videos on Facebook and other media platforms that were very well received to help get this government elected. We wanted and needed a Ford government, but now I am really mad about this policy that will stop any kind of

development in its tracks. All for deer grazing! Give me a break.

Who is the fool who wrote that up? Do they want some deer? I have 15 around my house everyday. I can send them some.

This is devastating for everyone, farmers included. I'll tell you one thing. I will do what I want with my properties that I pay lots of taxes on and they can take me to court because they will be up for one hell of a fight. Get out of our lives. Creeping, creeping until they take it all. Mr. Donohue (Admaston/Bromley Mayor Michael Donohue) is right on the money and I will put money in to take that idiot of a government to court.

Get out of our lives.

Pat McHale, Eganville and Carp

Disappointed with LCPOA

Dear Editor:

I wrote a letter in last week's *Leader* about the attempt by the Lake Clear Property Owners' Association (LCPOA) to make changes to the constitution in an unconstitutional manner. It has come to my attention that their response to this improper attempt is to reference the "State of Emergency" order issued by the province, which gives them the right to proceed with the email/mail-in

Wow! This might be palatable if the

constitution issue was an emergency! There was a necessity (from the present constitution) to have a review of the document, which indeed happened last year, although with a rejection of the proposed amendments. I can only think that this heavy-handed manipulation of this amendment issue will further erode the trust and respect of this board by many of the membership.

Disappointing news, indeed! Megan McGrath, Eganville

Where are all of our summer students?

Dear Editor:

As I imagine most of your readers know, many organizations around the county, especially not-for-profits (NFP) like the Eganville & District Seniors (EDS) and Fairfields (a seniors residence facility), apply for one or two students every year under the Canada Summer Jobs Program (CSJP). Normally, approval happens in April, so we have time to advertise for a May start date.

For at least the last decade, the EDS and Fairfields have always received one student (and sometimes two). These students are a great help to such seniors focused NFPs as they bring new ideas, social media skills and youthful attitudes, in addition to helping the staff with day-to-day activities. Of course, the other great advantage of the CSJP is that these post-secondary students receive money to help towards their on-going studies and get to learn a variety of practical skills, as well as adding something useful to their resume. So, a win-win scenario all round.

This year, both the EDS and Fairfields applied for two students each. We only heard now in June that we are receiving no funding! I assumed (naively) that we would receive all four this year and maybe even be offered more given the current COVID-19 pandemic and the huge amount of lip service being paid to seniors by both Ontario and Canada. In addition, note that the need for summer students in other NFPs are reduced because of non-openings (e.g., Bonnechere Museum) of other NFPs. Even Bonnechere Valley Township only received one of the

seven students requested.

So, what is going on? Where are the usual cohort of summer student funded positions? I talked to the relevant Service Canada person in Toronto and was told that every year there is competition, not everyone gets funded, etc. etc. I knew all this but why no students for our seniors' organizations in Eganville this year given what I mentioned above? There was no mention of reduced total funding for this program but the woman in Toronto did say that the federal MP in each riding helps decide the priorities where students are placed.

To add salt to the wound, during the pandemic, there is a program in place called the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) which will help students financially at this time if they are eligible and are "unable to find full-time employment". Obviously, with many businesses closed, such jobs are scarce in businesses but NFPs like the EDS and Fairfields have the jobs but don't have the CSJP funding!

So, instead, the CESB provides some post-secondary students (i.e., those who make \$1,000/month and don't already receive EI or CERB cheques) with \$1,250 per month from May through August to sit at home while our NFPs are not receiving funds to employ them. A lose-lose situation because these students are likely bored and are certainly not adding to their skills base and resumes.

Organizations that are devoted to helping seniors are being let down because of this foolishness.

William Enright (in a personal capacity) **Eganville**

A View from

 ${\cal A}$ fter almost three months of solitary isolation in a small apartment, the world of travel on buses, trains and planes feels a bit overwhelming.

I flew to Malaga with Air Transat in January, in what seems like another lifetime (B.C. - Before Covid). Long before my scheduled return in April, Transat, like so many other airlines, suspended all flights. My only option to return home became Air Canada from Madrid to Montreal via Frankfurt. With most public transportation still on reduced service, this will become a two-day journey involving a bus to Malaga, the high-speed train to Madrid, a night on a bench in the airport, a stop in Frankfurt and then the final leg to Montreal.

The Greyhound no longer runs from the airport to Ottawa (and onwards) so a friend will pick me up and drive me to my Round Lake refuge for my two weeks of mandatory quarantine. All this is manageable in normal times, but I feel out of practice with the world!

During my weeks of confinement, thanks to a gigantic television screen and an international streaming box, I've watched more news than I've done since the days when I was married to a CTV cameraman and Max's 'six o'clock' was sacred in our household. Having firsthand experience of how news is packaged was a godsend in the early days of **Bulger's Corners**



Johanna Zomers

alarming footage. Effective news visuals are by definition dramatic and COVID-19 coverage provided this round the clock. Pandemic teams in hazmat suits, sirens, flashing lights, ambulances, hearses... It was a news producer's dream with stories cut and recut, the same images reused until it seemed the entire world was imploding with COVID-19 casualties. It was a godsend to read the Eganville Leader online to see that life in Renfrew County, while certainly not untouched by the pandemic, was in many ways reassuringly normal as spring unfolded along the back roads.

ture. Cows calved and sheep lambed. Farmers cultivated and planted. Gardeners set out seedlings. Lilacs, tulips and apple trees blossomed. Mother Nature continues. During the darkest days of world war two in Britain, people planted Victory gardens, largely for a food supply but also as a statement that life would continue, despite the bombs and the destruction.

Rural life is what I missed most during nine weeks of confinement to an urban fifth floor apartment. Nerja has charming cobbled streets, mountain vistas to the north and the sparkling expanse of the Mediterranean to the south. It has sun drenched white walls and wrought iron balconies covered in blossoms... but not a cow, sheep or hen in sight. I resorted to watching 'Anne with an E' on Netflix as much for the sights of the Canadian landscape and Matthew forking hay in the barn at Green Gables as for the adventures of my favourite red-haired heroine.

By the time you read this, I will hopefully be back by the comforting green shores of the Bonnechere. After two weeks of quarantine, I'm planning a tour of the back roads. Accompanied by tunes from Terry McLeish, Mac Beattie and the Wilno Express, I'll be getting reacquainted with the early summer countryside from Combermere to Cormac, from Donegal to Douglas, Wilno to Westmeath and from Brudenell to Bulger's Corners.

Take me back to the Valley Official Plan is a disaster

Dear Editor:

Thank you, Debbi Christinck for the article Provincial Plan Shuts Down Development In County.

I realize I am just a small potato in Renfrew County but I do own land and am furious that my rights (or did I have any) says my children will not be able to build on our property because we now live in an area called a deer wintering yard.

Warren Johnston, Reeve of Sebastopol, 30 years ago, once told me that the government is trying to eliminate all people living in rural

Here is an example. Some of our children hope to build a home on our property. They mention they want to be close by when we get older.

These people love the land and family.

A deer wintering yard! I know there are other issues in the official plan.

But please, help us eliminate the restrictions that no one can build or subdivide acreage.

Could the county make it any harder for us to read the map 4 of Renfrew

What a horrible coincidence that the provincial government decided to do this during the pandemic.

Coincidence? I think not. Laurie Stephenson, Eganville

How do you stand?

Dear Editor:

"White Silence is Violence" protest sign in Minneapolis, May

I am a white woman, a citizen. I stand with the victims of police brutality and racism all over the world, and here in the Ottawa Valley.

Because it happens here too.

I stand with the victims, their families and their friends, who have completely lost trust in the police force that is supposed to protect them.

I stand with communities, who see police getting away with brutality and racism, with no accountability or punishment.

I stand with every person who feels betrayed by their police and government.

When people are harmed by police, they need to be heard and to be

believed. They need to see genuine remorse: not just words, but actions today and

forever. We all need to know it cannot happen again, before we feel justice is

served. So, I add my voice to the great rising cry: "Take your knee off my neck."protest anthem

I agree that police officers and officials who act with brutality and racism must be named publicly, criminally charged and removed from their jobs, just as we do with everyone else.

I agree that all police and government officials must take honest responsibility for the actions of all of their members, and make brutality and racism a firing offence at every level of their organizations.

Our police systems have lost the moral authority to police themselves. I join the call for truly independent, objective and effective oversight of policing, to ensure that they actively respect the dignity and rights of every person, and act in a lawful manner. We choose our future, when we

choose to stand.

How do you stand? Genevieve Way,



Beware the easy-to-believe lies

An Old Man's

I hey are the lies told by people in high places who really should be believed. The person who ripped me apart in the May 13th issue must be one of those easy believers. Perhaps he or she would sleep better at night if they stopped watching C.N.N. and stopped reading page 8 in the Leader. Sometimes lies are easier to swallow than the truth. I am fighting on behalf of our three children, six grandchildren and the other 3 million Canadians who call America their homeland. That letter to the editor told me in a very blunt manner to mind my own cotton pickin business. However, that letter should have been addressed to Mr. Trump, who has been walking a tight rope ever since January 20, 2017, the day of his inauguration. Also, I believe the writer's comments about former President Obama are totally unjustified. He inherited the worst economy in this century. As a black person in a so called white man's world, he had three strikes against him but his honest appearance and willingness to lay all his cards on the table won the respect of many of the Big Boys in the business world. One of those easy to believe lies is the strong economy that Mr. Trump inherited from Mr. Obama, but claims to have created. The present President's first major mistake was to accept a campaign contribution of multi million dollars from the manufacturers of powerful rifles that have taken the lives of hundreds of innocent helpless school children. The other easy to believe lie

Opinion Not Necessarily Ours

Al Donohue

could be the look alike pills that Mr. Trump is bragging about swallowing to make himself look indestructible. If we believe those pills are real we could easily believe that he climbed the highest mountain on Planet Earth on his bicycle without stopping to breathe. I know quite a bit about lies, having told a pile of them to escape from the wrath of my father. There are white lies, off colour lies and the dangerously damaging black ones that cost thousands of human lives. Trump is accusing Obama of committing a serious crime but seems unable or too chicken to name the crime. We think he is trying to call Obama Care a crime, because he taxes the rich a few dollars in order to provide 22 million poor Americans with Health Insurance or Medicare. One would think that when

when we have excellent example to follow, surely 3 ½ years should be sufficient time to become fully qualified. Sadly for Mr. Trump he spent so much time trying to look important and trying to impress us with his new found importance he forgot to qualify. By acting like a cheer leader and spreader of only good news, he has given this deadly virus a head start that will be almost impossible to stop. Mr. Trump's lie for today is his excuse to not fund the World Health Organization claiming that China only donates a tiny sum while the U.S. donates a huge sum. The truth of the matter is that the amounts contributed by the G7 Summit Countries are based on population. The greater the number of people receiving the benefits of the W.H.O. the more money they are expected to contribute. Alexa tells me that the 2018 population of China was 1.39 billion while that of the U.S. at that time was 327 million. Did anyone hear the President say he is sorry for twisting the truth? May our kind Higher Power save us if the other world leaders follow Trump's example to punish China by withholding their support of the W.H.O. If that were to happen it is predicted that our vaccine pills could cost 8000 dollars each, meaning that only the really rich will survive. Sorry, dear faithful readers, this is all the good news for today.

we apply for a new job, especially

Will some kind American please inform their President that it doesn't matter a damn if they are a Republican or a Democrat, dead people don't vote.

Killaloe 150 John St. P.O. Box 310

Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0

Ph: 613-628-2332

Subscriptions: leader@nrtco.net

\$60 (\$57.14 + GST) To all addresses in Renfrew County

\$65 (\$61.90 + GST) To all addresses outside Renfrew County

\$50 (\$47.62 + GST) On-line subscription

Founded in 1902 Published every Wednesday

∆ocna

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

www.eganvilleleader.ca

Editorial: leader@nrtco.net

Display Advertising: leaderads@nrtco.net Classified Advertising: leaderads@nrtco.net

