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AND

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FRIDAY, JUNE 17

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Auctioneer**

Music by the County Lads!



*"I'll travel anywhere to hear the County Lads
- J. H., Eganville*

SILENT AUCTION

inside arena 6 to 9 pm.

\$5,000

*in brand new and
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Renfrew County's largest paid circulation newspaper

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120th Year - No. 47

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Eganville, Ontario

(\$2.86 plus 14 cents GST) \$3

Leader sponsoring huge fundraiser for Ukraine relief

By Johanna Zomers
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Eganville – Night after night, like so many other people, *Leader* publisher Gerald Tracey watched the TV news and the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops and artillery turn into an all out war. And as the senseless killing of innocent people and destruction of once-beautiful villages, towns and cities continued day after day, he felt compelled to do something.

On Friday, June 17, *The Eganville Leader* will be hosting a huge fundraiser in the Eganville Arena with the hopes of raising \$100,000 to help the Ukrainian people.

"It sounds like a lot of money for a small community, but with the support of all of Renfrew County and beyond it can happen. The \$100,000 is only a drop in the bucket when it will take billions of dollars to even begin to rebuild the places that have been destroyed," Mr. Tracey said. "And that does not take into account the personal losses of property and possessions millions of Ukrainians have suffered, let alone the thousands of senseless deaths and injuries."

Mr. Tracey began thinking of some kind of a fundraiser two months ago, but then there was a surge of COVID cases locally and he worried people would not want to attend a public event. However, after meeting a young Ukrainian woman who arrived in the area on April 29th and is now living with a Barry's Bay family of Ukrainian descent, he was convinced it was time to do something.

The arena has been booked and the evening will consist of an evening of music and dancing, an auction sale of donated items which will be handled by the well-known auctioneer Preston Cull of Douglas, a silent auction and possibly some visitors from the Ukrainian community in Ottawa who will share some of their culture and customs.

"Some people might recall the huge Renfrew County Night we held at the arena as part of Eganville's centennial celebrations back in 1991," Mr. Tracey said. "That night, we had almost 1,000 people in the arena and it was one of the best events ever held in the community."

While plans for the fundraiser are still in the making, the tentative plan is to open the doors at about 7 p.m. with musical entertainment by *The County Lads*, a trio of young men from the Alexandria area who have played at functions in and around Douglas.

"The band is excellent and they play a range of music to suit everyone's taste," Mr. Tracey said. "People who have heard them will tell you they are among the best they have heard locally."

Depending on the number of items collected for the auction sale, it could be held outside the arena beginning at 6 p.m. or inside during a break in the music. Already many businesses and individuals have offered to donate some pretty interesting and valuable items. They range from new to slightly used.

Anyone who would like to donate excess items they have lying around their home or on their properties are also encouraged to donate.

"We will accept anything from used vehicles, bicycles, lawnmowers, snowblowers, canoes, good appliances and the like," Mr. Tracey said. "We all seem to have things sitting around we don't need or use, and this is not only a good time to do some purging, but also a time to help these people who are desperately trying to survive. They have lost so much."

Admission to the fundraiser will be by donation. Additionally, businesses, community organizations, churches and individuals will be asked to consider more sizeable donations. The larger donations will be announced

on stage that night or donors will also have the option of anonymity.

"We have all seen the images from these horrendous actions by Russia and each and every one of us should help out as much as we can," Mr. Tracey said. "Ukraine went from a peaceful, beautiful country, just like Canada, to what it is now. We can't even begin to imagine what it must be like for these people."

The funds will be directed to where they are most vitally needed in consultation with Ukrainian officials.

A small committee has been formed to launch the effort and more people will be added as the event grows in size and more help is required.

Assisting at this point are William Enright, who will look after logistics; Johanna Zomers, publicity; Tetyana Moiseyeva of Barry's Bay, who is

originally from Ukraine and has been working relentlessly with others in the Madawaska Valley collecting medicines, clothing, toiletries and money to send back to her native land; Zig Mintha, who will assist with getting items for the auction sale, and Jackie Agnew who, after hearing of the fundraiser, has offered to help out in any way she can.

Local school children will be invited

to put their artistic talents to work to come up with artwork that will be displayed in the arena. Where help is needed is in creating a Ukrainian theme inside the arena and Mr. Tracey is hopeful volunteers or a group will come forward and take on this task.

Anyone looking for more information, can contact Mr. Tracey at the *Leader* – 613-628-2332 or his cell – 613-732-0377.



Mayville running for mayor in Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

By Leader Staff
Killaloe – David Mayville will be running for mayor of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Township in the October 2022 municipal election saying he is eager to give township residents their voice back after years of the same leadership. This will be the second mayoral run for Mr. Mayville, a long-time resident of the township, who was defeated by incumbent Mayor Janice Tiedje in the 2018 election.

"I am excited to once again put myself forward for the opportunity to lead this municipality," he said. "We need to embrace the idea of more transparent township decision making and budgeting and be more strategic with our economic planning. Are we spending our money wisely?"

Mr. Mayville said he is eager to give township residents their voice back after years of the same leadership, noting outcomes like building a new fire hall and the decision not to address the ward system or the number of councillors should be made with data from the public at large and not just a few select people at the table.

"It's time to give everyone their voice back," he said.

With a career in major junior hockey in the Ontario Hockey League as a

general manager and as a scout in the NHL, and an accounting background of almost 20 years in the manufacturing sector, Mr. Mayville is poised to take on the leadership and economic issues that face the region.

"I am regularly out and about in our community talking to people," he said. "There are lots of good ideas out there."

As Mayor, he also promises to



Dave Mayville

address the importance of volunteers, both individuals and organized groups, in the community.

"I've dedicated a lot of my time to community activities including the creation of youth sports programs," Mr. Mayville said. "Our community absolutely thrives on the strength and commitment of our volunteers and I want to see these people get the respect they deserve."

He also recognizes the hard work and commitment of local businesses to stay afloat during these difficult times and looks forward to working together with all of them to maintain and improve the business landscape.

"I am mentally and physically ready for this journey and plan to respect the job of mayor as a full-time position by being present daily to field your questions and comments and also to be present regularly at council and county council meetings, proudly representing our township," Mr. Mayville said.

He said voting for him is a vote for a new perspective, fresh eyes and a fresh attitude without years of baggage.

"It's a vote that will open the doors so your voice can be heard," he said. "It's a vote for a creative outlook. It's time for a new leader."

Tandem truck rolls at Pikwakanagan

Hank de Boer of Douglas, a long-time driver with Cavanagh Construction out of the company's Douglas location, surveys his tri-axle dump truck that rolled over into a swampy area during the noon hour Tuesday. Mr. de Boer was delivering sand to a work site at Pikwakanagan when the shoulder of the road gave way as he was meeting an oncoming vehicle. The veteran driver, who was uninjured, managed to extricate himself from the vehicle. The Pikwakanagan Fire Department responded and ensured there was no leaking fuel. Provincial police from Killaloe also responded to the scene. The company was dispatching its own equipment to upright the truck. Mr. de Boer did not believe damage to the vehicle would be significant. With the end of Half Load restrictions this past Monday, local roads are once again busy with the movement of larger vehicles.

Valley newspapers are still in search for a new printer

Eganville -- The *Eganville Leader* is still searching for a plant to print the newspaper and has three potential options available.

Publisher Gerald Tracey said the *Leader* and three other Valley publishers had all hoped to be able to print at the same location, but not all of the plants are able to cater to each individual newspaper's needs.

"Just when we think we might have a solution, something crops up that doesn't make it feasible for one of the papers to use the same plant. It could be cost of printing compared to our current contracts with McLaren Press in Bracebridge, the size of the

newspaper, time slots available for printing and now, not surprisingly, delivery costs. Three of the newspapers are tabloid-style publications with the *Leader* being the only broadsheet.

"One of our preferred options is to move our business to an independently-owned plant in Montreal, but the challenge that has arisen is the high cost of delivery, much of it brought on in recent months by soaring fuel prices," he said. "If we can somehow find a way to make delivery more affordable, it would be a perfect fit for us as the plant is run in much the same way as McLaren's."

If that plan doesn't work, there

will be two options left, both of which are closer to the Valley but will necessitate a change in the size of the paper, a limited number of pages in one section and manually inserting sections.

Mr. Tracey is hopeful a solution can be found in the next week.

McLaren Press announced May 2 its plans to close its plant after 48 years in business. The closure was brought on due to newsprint shortages, soaring costs, the loss of staff due to COVID, the loss of printing contracts during the pandemic and the loss of its largest customer who left the firm with significant unpaid accounts.

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A major fundraiser for Ukraine
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7pm to Midnight - Eganville Arena

We have all seen the images.
We have all seen the destruction. We have all
seen the senseless killing of innocent people of all ages.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

*The best way we can help is by providing money for
food, medications, fuel and other needs. Every little bit
will help, and the more communities that help, the
more Ukrainians who will survive this murderous
invasion by Russia.*

OUTDOOR/INDOOR AUCTION

Preston Cull - Auctioneer

Continuous music featuring
The County Lads, one of Eastern
Ontario's top notch bands, along
with special guests from around
Renfrew County.

ADMISSION BY DONATION

More details to follow

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120th Year - No. 48

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Eganville, Ontario

\$2.86+14c GST \$3

Stage is set for Ukraine fundraiser in Eganville

By Debbi Christinck
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Eganville – The stage is set for this Friday's major fundraiser for Ukraine at the Eganville Arena.

The event – to raise money for Ukrainian Relief -- is being sponsored by the Eganville Leader to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the newspaper.

It starts at 5 o'clock when viewing is open for more than 80 items that will be auctioned off beginning at 6 p.m. by Preston Cull of Douglas.

A brief opening ceremony will commence about 7:30 followed by an evening of music, dancing and camaraderie. Entertainment is by *The County Lads*, comprised of the MacDonald brothers – Alec and Hamish, Nolan Laframboise and Joah Vaillancourt, all of Alexandria. The foursome plays a variety of Celtic and Country Music and are quickly becoming one of Eastern Ontario's top musical groups, attracting a large following of fans and music lovers. They have played a few events in and around Douglas, but Friday's appearance will be their first in Eganville and in Renfrew County outside of Douglas.

A capacity crowd is expected to attend this event which is attracting wide support from all corners of Renfrew County.

Eganville Leader Publisher Gerald Tracey said he is extremely grateful for the response to the plea for support and especially with the assistance being provided by many people in the community.

"Preston Cull is donating his auctioneering services and that in itself is reason enough to attend the sale," he said. "Preston's humour and wit-ness with the people who come to bid is always enjoyed by the crowd. I would say that in itself is worth the price of admission, but there is no admission."

People attending are being asked to donate whatever amount they can to the **Trust for Ukraine Community** fund. All donations of \$50 or more will be eligible for a tax receipt.

Numerous items have been donated for the sale which will take place outside at the rear of the arena. The sale will start at 6 sharp



Everything is ready to go for Friday's live and silent auction sales and dance at the Eganville Arena Friday. Sponsored by the Eganville Leader, Publisher Gerald Tracey hopes the event will raise \$100,000 for Ukrainian relief needs. From left to right, Merv Boldt, Mr. Tracey, William Enright and Zig Mintha take a break after collecting some of the many items donated for the sale which begins at 6 p.m. It will be conducted by Preston Cull of Douglas. The Leader learned just before press time Tuesday Ukrainian Ambassador Yulia Kovaliv might be attending.

and hopefully be finished by 7:30. (See an updated list on the Leader's Facebook page).

There will be a short opening ceremony with remarks from Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MP Cheryl Gallant, Renfrew County Warden Debbie Robinson, Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy and North Algona Wilberforce Township Mayor James Brose. Mayors from several municipalities in the county are expected to be in attendance and will be introduced. MPP John

Yakabuski cannot attend due to a previous commitment.

Throughout the evening and until 9:30, guests will have the opportunity to bid on up to 60 silent auction items that will be displayed in the arena.

Mr. Tracey said although the event has been organized in a short time period, the response has been overwhelming. Shortly after the event was announced, Bonnechere Valley Township threw its support behind the event by waiving the rental fee at the arena and also having the donations flow through their

operations so that donors could get tax receipts.

And what started out as a small group of helpers made up of William Enright, Johanna Zomers, Zig Mintha and Tetyana Moiseyeva, a Ukrainian living near Barry's Bay, has grown into a small army of people who will be providing assistance Friday.

The response to a request for financial assistance was almost instantaneous, Mr. Tracey said, adding in the first few days of announcing the fundraiser, donations of \$5,000,

\$2,500 and \$1,000 were received.

Monday, June 20 marks the 120th anniversary of the Leader and while anniversary celebrations are usually marked in 25-year intervals, Mr. Tracey said this year's anniversary is significant for a few reasons and more than just the newspaper's birthday.

"This event can also be considered as a celebration of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic," he said. "We know it's not over, but the main threat and risk is at its lowest point in more than two years and finally

people can get out and see other people again.

"If you are like me, when I see some people for the first time in 27 months, I don't readily recognize them. Hair styles may have changed and let's face it, we do age, like it or not. But it is going to be just a wonderful night to socialize again."

It has also been a challenging spring for the Leader family with the news that its longtime printing plant was closing at the end of May. There was a lot of concern over a four-week period whether or not the Leader would find an alternate printing plant within reasonable distance at an affordable cost.

"When it came down to the 11th hour, we had three options, but really only one good one and that was to select Hebdco-Lithographers in Montreal to print the Leader," he said. "Our first edition was printed in Montreal last week and it arrived in Eganville at about 5 a.m. Wednesday, only about one to one-and-a-half hours later than when it was printed in Bracebridge."

"The transition was seamless and for that we most grateful," he said.

So, this is in part a celebration and in part a fundraiser and guaranteed to be a lot of fun. However, at the heart of it is the devastating destruction in the Ukraine after Russia attacked on February 24. The United Nations reports 15 million people have fled their homes since the invasion began. Half of these have fled the country while many are displaced within the Ukraine. Some have come to Canada and Renfrew County as refugees.

Mr. Tracey noted the suffering of the people in Ukraine has galvanized the community to rally in support, just as they have in past for causes near and beyond. Coordinating with the Ukrainian Embassy and refugees moving into Renfrew County needing assistance, the funds are going to assist those so deeply impacted in this war, now in its 15th week.

"World events are continuously reminding us of how lucky we are to live in Canada and specifically the Ottawa Valley," Mr. Tracey said. "This is an opportunity to lend a helping hand."

Inquest hears how murder victims feared for their lives

By Johanna Zomers
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Pembroke -- Jurors at the Coroner's inquest into the deaths of three area women by Intimate Partner Violence in 2015 heard gripping testimony about the efforts made to keep them safe despite the perpetrator's history of abusing women.

Faye Cassista, Assistant Coordinator Victim Service Renfrew County, spoke at length on Monday, in the second week of the three-week inquest, about how her agency developed safety plans with both Anastasia (Stacia) Kuyzk

and Nathalie Warmerdam in the two years after Basil Borutski was released from prison after being convicted of assault charges. She told of how the agency worked with each individual woman who had dealt with Mr. Borutski to formulate strategies based on the victim's experience and knowledge of the perpetrator.

"Women minimize so much of what they live with," she said. "The safety plan has to be hers. She has to own it but sometimes they don't see the dangers that we see. I take my cues from her reality. We try to give her the tools to keep her safe."

For Ms. Warmerdam, a community palliative care nurse who worked out of an office in Eganville but travelled all over the area seeing her patients, that meant being equipped with an MTS (Mobile Tracking Device) which when activated would send ongoing GPS signals to the Ontario Provincial Police about her location. Driving alone at night on isolated country roads frightened Ms. Warmerdam who knew Mr. Borutski frequently borrowed different cars from a friend who owned a garage and she never knew what vehicle he might be driving. The jury heard that she

kept the tracking device with her at all times on her house calls and beside her bed at night, right up to the date of her murder on September 22, 2015.

The inquest also heard that Ms. Warmerdam was very proactive in formulating a safety plan for herself and her children which included a strategy for all to run in different directions if Mr. Borutski should show up at their house near Cormac. Her son Adrian followed that directive when he fled into the bush on the morning of his mother's death.

Ms. Cassista also spoke of Ms. Warmerdam's frustration with the

probation system as her calls about Mr. Borutski's release date and details of where he would live went unanswered for months. Eventually, Ms. Cassista and Ms. Warmerdam wrote a formal letter requesting that information.

Ms. Warmerdam was very disturbed that Mr. Borutski's release date had been changed from February 2015 to December 27, 2014.

She told Ms. Cassista, "this will be my best Christmas ever because he's not getting out until February."

She went into full panic mode when she heard about the early release date because she felt none

of the protective services would be open over the holidays and she knew she would be most at risk right after his release.

"It all caused her so much anxiety, struggling to get information when no one called her back," Ms. Cassista said.

Anastasia Kuyzk had a different approach to acknowledging her exposure to danger. Ms. Cassista spoke of how she urged Ms. Kuyzk who also travelled alone to show real estate to clients, to always let someone know where she was going and when she would return.

See Page A7

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Viewing at 5 pm

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Preston Cull,
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Music by the County Lads!



"I'll travel anywhere to hear the Country Lads"
- J. H., Eganville

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120th Year - No. 51 Wednesday, June 22, 2022 Eganville, Ontario \$2.86+14c GST \$3

Great support for Ukraine fundraiser

By Terry Fleurie
 Staff Writer
Eganville – The Ottawa Valley has a long and proud reputation of coming to the aid of anyone in need and that was never better exemplified than in Eganville on Friday night when individuals, organizations, and businesses opened their hearts and wallets to assist people in war-ravaged Ukraine.

Approximately 600 people turned out at the Eganville Community Centre for the Ukrainian Fundraiser, where a live and silent auction and donations raised almost \$90,000 in support of the *United 24* initiative launched by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and local initiatives to assist Ukrainians.

The event was hosted by the *Eganville Leader* and emcee Publisher Gerald Tracey, in honour of the paper's 120th anniversary, with Andrii Bukvych, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa, and his wife, Natallia, as the special guests for the evening.

Well-known auctioneer Preston Cull of Douglas and his team spent 90 minutes going through the multitude of items that included everything from 100 pounds of freshly butchered beef to a five-night stay in Toronto. Inside the arena, there were another 60-plus items on display for the silent auction.

Following the auction, the official opening ceremony commenced, with Mr. Tracey acknowledging the team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly since the idea of the fundraiser was first discussed, suggesting from the prices he witnessed during the live auction, the goal of \$100,000 would be met and probably exceeded.

"Our contribution is but a grain of sand in the overall needs of Ukraine, but we sincerely hope our contribution will impact the lives of many Ukrainians," he said.

"We cannot, for a moment, im-



Deputy Head of Mission with the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa, Andrii Bukvych and his wife, Natallia, are joined by the organizing committee for Friday night's Ukrainian fundraiser in Eganville. From the left are Zig Mintha, Gerald and Wanda Tracey, the Bukvychs, William Enright and Johanna Zomers. Missing from the photo is Tetyana Moiseyeva. The event has so far raised over \$90,000 and the campaign will continue until the end of June as organizers hope to reach an unofficial goal of \$100,000.

quaine the loss of property, the destruction of cities, towns and village, the loss of human lives, the untold injuries, both physical and mental," he added. "The impact on children, seniors, and society at large."

He noted damage to the infrastructure of the country was in the trillions of dollars and the loss grows on a daily basis.

"We are a small community here,

but we stand behind you, and support you as best we can through your hour of need," he remarked.

Mr. Tracey suggested if other small communities in developed countries did something similar, the impact would be much greater. He acknowledged the hundreds of people who contributed to the event, either financially, through donations of merchandise for both

auctions and in-kind materials and services, and for those in other volunteer roles.

"The swift response to requests for donations and pleas for help has made this a success and it really shows the empathy we have for Ukrainians and our desire to help," he said.

He said financial donations have so far ranged from \$50 to \$5,000 from a couple living in the area.

"When that first donation of \$5,000 was committed, it certainly boosted our energy levels and made us positive that this would be a success," he added.

Following the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem by Olga Hynes, of Chapeau, a Ukrainian native who came to Canada 20 years ago, and the Canadian national anthem by Alex McDonald, lead singer in the band, *The County Lads*, Mr. Tracey recognized the members of various Ukrainian families who had recently escaped the war and were staying with host families in the county.

Watching in Horror

Bonnechere Valley (BV) Mayor Jennifer Murphy said it was an honour to bring greetings on behalf of council, staff and the ratepayers in BV. She thanked Mr. Bukvych, the members of other councils, and the representatives of both MP Cheryl Gallant and MPP John Yakabuski for attending.

"Over the past four months, we

have all watched, in horror, the atrocities that have been inflicted upon the Ukrainian people. "We thank you for your contributions and your support."

She thanked the members of the organizing committee, noting it was a definite success despite being organized at "lightning speed", over many phone calls, emails and meetings and a lot of logistics at play.

"So thank you to the entire team," she added.

Kirby Whiteduck, a former chief of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, brought greetings on behalf of current Chief Wendy Jocko and council. He said he tries to listen to the news daily to see what is happening in Canada and around the world.

"Since the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, I've been constantly looking for news on the war, hoping to hear positive news for Ukraine," he said. "That they were holding strong, that they have re-gained land, that aid is continuing to come to help them protect their land and their people."

He said the people of Pikwakanagan think what is happening is horrible and horrendous on many fronts.

"Innocent citizens, children and babies are being killed and maimed and the onslaught continues with no apparent regard for this. What kind of person or persons would do this and continue to do this?"

He said when this is over, Russia

will be a maligned and isolated country, noting he sincerely hopes that significant sanctions against Russia continue for a long time.

"They definitely need to know that they better think long and hard about doing something like this again and they need to have a definite, strong deterrent over a long period of time."

He thanked everyone involved and acknowledged the importance of Mr. Bukvych being in attendance.

North Algona Wilberforce Mayor James Brose said it was great to see so many people out, noting once the community recognizes a need and the call goes out, the response is fantastic.

"So, a special thank you to each and every one of you, the residents of the community, who always rise to the occasion, who always bring your support."

He said while Canadians see things on the news regarding what is happening in the Ukraine, they have no real idea of what it is like there.

"It probably doesn't even cover half of what is actually happening there. But we can do our own small part and tonight is a great example of how our community is providing that support in a way that we can only hope creates a sense of love and comradeship for those who are fighting this awful battle."

Warmth of Renfrew County

Renfrew County Warden Debbie Robinson, Reeve of Laurentian Valley (LV) Township, said it was events like Friday that make her especially proud to say she is the warden "of the greatest county in the province of Ontario."

She acknowledged her fellow municipal politicians who were in attendance, including Petawawa Mayor Bob Sweet, Renfrew Reeve Peter Emon, Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Mayor Janice Tiedje, Admaston/Bromley Mayor Michael Donohue, Madawaska Valley Councillor David Shulist, BV Councillor Merv Buckwald, and Amprior Councillor Dan Lynch.

"Andrii (Bukvych), welcome, I'm hoping you feel the warmth that we have in Renfrew County, not just for you and the Ukrainian people that are here tonight, but for your country."

Warden Robinson said people turned out and donated to the event because Renfrew County is a community of givers, who have compassion for not only their fellow residents, but for people around the world.

"It's an innate belief that every one of us share that it is our duty to assist whenever we can."

She shared how the week before, she met a nine-year-old Ukrainian girl at her granddaughter's birthday party.

"Her name is Sophia and she is here with her mom, dad, and her brother Oleg. She is learning how to speak English and she has been absolutely embraced by her classmates.

See Page A3



Musicans they are not, but auctioneers yes! Well at least the fellow on the left. Preston Cull sold goods and services Friday night raising more than \$30,000 for the fund. He is joined by the *Leader's* Gerald Tracey as he takes bids on an electric guitar.

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Resolve of Ukrainian people will carry them in war

By Terry Fleurie
Staff Writer

Eganville – While the ongoing war between Russia and the Ukraine could perhaps be compared to the Biblical David versus Goliath story with one much larger combatant than the other, the outcome will be very similar according to a delegate from the Ukrainian embassy in Ottawa.

Andrii Bukvych, the Deputy Head of Mission, and his wife, Nattalia, were in Eganville Friday evening as the special guests for the Ukrainian fundraiser and he believes the incredible resolve of his people will help them overcome the overwhelming odds to secure victory.

“Stand free and united with Ukrainians,” he challenged those at the Eganville Arena. “Make your small, but important steps to help, as you do today. Our small step together becomes a great power that any, the most sinister tyranny, will never, ever overcome.”

Below is a copy of his entire address.

“Dear ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends of Ukraine!
Today’s event has brought together lots of very special people. Special because you are all people of big hearts, filled with kindness and empathy.

Let me address the words of deep gratitude to you, Mr. Tracey, as the lead organizer of this fundraiser. I can only imagine how much effort you have invested to organize today’s event.

But also thank you for keeping Ukraine on the radar in the Eganville community since the very start of the Russian full-fledged war. I know that each week the Eganville Leader newspaper saw a new story about Ukraine and the ways of how to help it in these trying times.

Please think about it. Hundreds of Ukrainians – civilians and soldiers – are losing their lives every single day. 313 Ukrainian children will never grow up. Nearly 220,000 people lost their homes; 8 million Ukrainians became IDPs (Internally Displaced People). Almost 6 million left for abroad.

But the entire world stands with Ukraine. Stands on the right page of history.

This means we will put an end to

this war. This means we will win this war. Yet we can do it only together. And we must do it as soon as possible – to save people’s lives.

I am grateful to the organizers of today’s fundraising for their decision to transfer funds to be collected today to the United 24 initiative. This initiative has been recently launched by President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy.

It is a fundraising platform for those willing to support Ukraine directly. Each of you can try it.

It’s very simple - with one click you can transfer a donation. I assure you: each donation, no matter big or small, makes a difference!

Heartfelt thank you to all donors and guests, whose empathy and generosity fill the air today with a vibe of kindness and compassion.

Sometimes, we feel desperate witnessing atrocities and crimes of such scale as in Ukraine.

It seems that the best way to overcome the desperation from these atrocities is to help someone near you or as far as in Ukraine. The feeling of helping someone can always replace the pain in our hearts.

I believe you feel with all your heart that something wrong happens in Ukraine. You read news, see reports from the frontline, see all these ruins. Ruins that used to be green parks, homes of happy families, schools where kids were shouting and playing, hospitals where people were treated to get back to normal life, museums, theatres.

Now it’s all ruins. Smoking, lifeless. Sick reminder that a war equals death and darkness. Never believe the propaganda that glorifies war. Any soldier who survived a real war would never wish it would happen again. A soldier knows that there is not a single good thing about war.

Good people do not choose war. Unfortunately, a war itself comes to their homes uninvited.

Sometimes you don’t need philosophical concepts and complicated intellectual theories to explain such complicated and appalling things as atrocities of war. Ukrainian journalists keep recording the words Ukrainian children say to their parents while spending hours in bomb shelters.

Mom, how many more bombs Putin has?

Mom, do Russian kids watch the



Andrii Bukvych, Deputy Head of Mission at the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa, said he was overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of the Valley on Friday night. Although facing insurmountable odds, he said the Ukraine will eventually win the battle with Russia.

war? Don’t they feel sorry for us?

Mom, you told me all dreams of kids come true. Mine don’t anymore. Am I grown up now?

Mom, our soldiers kill their soldiers. But why their soldiers kill women, children and ruin the houses?

For 114 days already, the brave Ukrainian men and women have been defending their homeland from the ruthless enemy. On February 24, Russian invaders crossed the border with Ukraine again like they did in 2014.

Despite having tremendous military advantage, Russia failed to break the resistance of Ukrainian Armed Forces and ordinary Ukrainian citizens, who are fighting for

freedom, for life, for future.

In fact, our war with different form of Russian, Soviet and Russian-Soviet empire lasts for 300 years already if not longer. Ukrainian people always want to be free, to be sovereign and independent, while empire want us to be obedient, weak and dependent.

This is also a war of identities. A war of values. Ukrainians do fight and die to live and love. We do not live to fight and die. We want to be a part of European family of democratic states. We want to build our well-being, to speak our language, to praise our history, to create our culture, to make our own mistakes after all. We don’t need a dictator from metropole telling us what to do.

The war was designed by Kremlin as quick and easy exercise to exterminate the state of Ukraine, erase the Ukrainian identity with its unique culture, language and history.

They failed as today is the 114th day of Ukraine’s successful resistance backed up by international partners. All these evil plans crushed by Ukrainian courage and valor. Russia has failed already, but is not defeated yet. Ukraine is prevailing, but the victory is yet to be achieved. If Russia will not be defeated the terrible consequences will reach far beyond Ukrainian borders. The world will no longer be as we know it.

Please mind. This war is the biggest one since 1939 and a pivotal point in the history of a democracy.

This war was also designed by Kremlin as another test for the democratic world. The test that unfortunately has not been passed in 2008 in Georgia, in 2011 in Syria, in 2014 in Ukraine.

Why is this war not only about Ukraine?

Russian war against Ukraine is about freedom against tyranny, values against money, peace against war. Unless the democratic world would stand united with Ukraine, the atrocities, conflicts, economic, energy, food crisis like cancer will spread all over Europe and beyond.

We will lose faith in values; we will lose rule-based order and the voting power on all major issues will be determined only by the size of one’s army or nuclear arsenal.

That shall happen if we fail the test today. Unless all free citizens of the world support Ukraine in its fight till a complete defeat of a dying empire and its dictator, it is only a matter of time when war comes to Poland, Baltic States, EU and even at your own backyard some day.

The good news -- the empire looks lousy when it comes to real combat action against free people who are not afraid and defend their own land and values. The bad thing -- the empire has no human ethics, morals or dignity and there is no limit to their barbaric actions against the innocent and unprotected who became Russian targets in the first place. There is hardly one single war crime Russia has not committed so far, just after three months of bar-

baric aggression against Ukrainian civilians.

Do you remember I’ve told you? Ukrainians fight to live and love? Ukraine struggles to live no matter what. Since 24 February more than 25,000 couples have gotten married. More than 38,000 baby Ukrainians were born since the beginning of the war.

We are also continuing sowing and planting in Ukraine wherever it is possible. Land and weather cannot wait till Russia would realize how futile their attempt to break Ukrainians and their will to struggle.

President Zelenskyy wrote about what would happen in Ukraine. Life will win over death and light will win over darkness. And all of you here today, wonderful people of Eganville and area, have a very important thing in common with Ukrainians.

You want to live, you want to love, you want to create, you want to play and listen to the music. You want to be a part of this wonderful, yet undiscovered world, as Ukrainians do.

I see you are ready to stand and fight with other free people for our common values. I see you sincerely want to help people who are suffering.

After this re-invasion I am often asked here in Canada what the government can do to support Ukraine? What can Canada do to help Ukraine? What can I do to support Ukraine?

My message to you all -- stand free and united with Ukrainians. Make your small, but important steps to help. As you do today.

Our small step together becomes a great power that any, the most sinister tyranny, will never, ever overcome.

Today the Ukrainian flag is flying over the City Hall of Ottawa. It is my duty today to present the Ukrainian flag to the mayor of Bonnechere Valley, the Honourable Jennifer Murphy, as a sign of recognition to the citizens of Eganville. If the flag would be raised at the town hall in Eganville as a sign of support and standing by Ukraine, Mayor, Mr. Tracey, it would be an honour for Ukraine indeed.

Dear friends, a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for coming, for your compassion and support!



Mr. Bukvych presented a Ukrainian flag to Bonnechere Valley Township Mayor Jennifer Murphy Friday night, asking her to fly it at the town hall. The presentation of the flag followed the official opening ceremony which included a moving and heart-rending address from Mr. Bukvych.



Members of the Cull family, Joseph, of Ottawa, and Terry, Preston and Ella Mae of Douglas, take a break after wrapping up the live auction to listen to the official speeches. Nattalia Bukvych, wife of the Deputy-Head of Mission, at right, accompanied her husband, Andrii, to the fundraiser.

Your Support of
Ukraine Relief
is Appreciated

You can still contribute to the fundraiser by dropping off or mailing a cheque (made out to Trust for Ukraine Community), P.O. Box 310, Eganville, ON K0J 1T0

or by using Interac e-transfer to Eganville.Ukraine.Fund@gmail.com

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Joseph Cull, seated, was busy recording all the winning bids in Friday night's live auction. His brother, Preston, managed to get the most he could for each item in the sale to aid the Ukrainian people.

Great support for Ukraine fundraiser

From front

"And that's what we do here, we embrace people who come," she added. "It was absolutely wonderful to see her in a swimming pool, with 15 other girls, laughing and joking. "I do hope that your people feel not only welcome, but wanted here," she added.

She encouraged Mr. Bukvych to share that Renfrew County embraces people, they want people, and if they decide to return to their homeland someday, they will be supported in that decision too.

"But should they decide to stay here and become part of our community in the long term, we would be very, very thrilled to see that happen."

She said everyone hopes and prays that something this unimaginable like the war never happens in Canada.

"I can't get my head around what it would be like to live through a war and the heartache and fear of losing your loved ones and taking care of your children. The bravery, strength and resilience that the Ukrainian people have shown, is absolutely incredible," she said.

Laura Lapinskie, the senior administrative assistant of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, who was unable to attend due to a previously booked family function, brought greetings on his behalf. She extended a warm welcome to all the new Ukrainian families who had settled in the area, echoing Warden Robinson's claim that the county is very receptive to our guests.

"That's what we're all about," she

said. "We open our hearts, we open our doors, and tonight, we open our wallets, which is wonderful."

Malcolm Montgomery, the senior administration assistant to Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MP Cheryl Gallant, said she had been away on NATO business but would have loved to have been there. He noted no one in this lifetime likely thought they would see a war in Europe again, but it was happening.

"And make no doubt about it, if Ukraine falls, we're going to see the Russians move into more of Europe," he said. "And if they move into a NATO country, that's going to have severe repercussions with people of this country, because of the alliances."

Mr. Montgomery said his grandparents came from Ukraine and he was very happy to see the fundraiser happening to support the nation.

Broke With Protocol

Mr. Tracey introduced Mr. Bukvych, noting he broke the usual protocol of having the special guest speak first, stating he felt he was the most important person and should then go last.

Mr. Bukvych quickly assured Mr. Tracey he in no way felt slighted by his decision.

"I think there is no need for protocol when you are in the circle of friends. I feel that and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity."

"Gerald (Mr. Tracey) just said you are a small community, but you are a small community with great people with big hearts and souls," he added. "Thank you so much for all the efforts and contributions. You are very

kind, and I feel proud that my fellow citizens are being welcomed."

He noted the level of hospitality that has been demonstrated to his countrymen in just unimaginable. He said he will share the story of this hospitality and generosity with everyone in the homeland. He thanked the organizing committee, and everyone present for keeping his country on their radar since the start of the war in February.

Mr. Bukvych shared numerous facts about his homeland that people would not see on the news noting the impact of the war on civilians. (See separate story.)

Unique Item For Auction

Mr. Bukvych also brought a very unique item to be included in the live auction, a framed stamp that is quite rare and originated in Ukraine. He explained when Canada celebrated its 150th birthday in 2017, students in high schools, colleges and universities were invited to compete in a contest to design a stamp to commemorate that milestone. Oksana Malyar, from Kharkiv, one of the cities now being shelled by the Russians, was selected the winner. The stamp was presented by the prime minister of the Ukraine to the public prior to his visit to Canada that year. Later in 2017, it was presented to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Mr. Bukvych said because of its unique design and limited quantities, in Ukraine, the stamp became very popular among collectors. The stamp was purchased in the auction Friday night by Ray Pilon, owner of the Canadian Tire in Pembroke, for \$1,500.



Auctioneer Preston Cull and Gerald Tracey applaud the donation of a rare stamp for the auction by Deputy Head of Mission, Andrii Bukvych. It was sold for \$1,500.



Malcolm Montgomery, left, senior assistant to MP Cheryl Gallant, and Laura Lapinskie, senior assistant to MPP John Yakabuski, hang the Ukrainian flag at the entrance to the Eganville Community Centre.



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Two Ukrainian families and their hosts were present Friday night. From left, Natalya Suprun, Mykola and Brian Luty, Maggie Moiseyeva, Tanya Moiseyeva, Natalia Bukvych, Amber Luty (front), Vadin, Julia, Andrey and Danil Kharchenko, Deputy Head of Mission Andrii Bukvych, David Shulist and Kostya Luty.



Ukraine native Olga Hynes sang the Ukrainian national anthem.



Natalia Bukvych, front, takes a photo of the official speech delivered by her husband, Deputy Head of Mission, Andrii Bukvych.



Maggie Moiseyeva displays a diamond ring for auctioneer Cull.

Photos on this page by Shari-Anne Schroeder of the Rustic Lens in Eganville



The numerous items up for bid drew plenty of interest from bidders.



Mr. Bukvych presented a Ukrainian flag to Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy.



Auctioneer Preston Cull had the audience in stitches on many occasions.

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Many of the individuals involved with the fundraiser on June 17 gathered for this photo of the presentation of the \$80,000 cheque to Ambassador Yulia Kovaliv, third from left, from Leader Publisher, Gerald Tracey.

Ukraine ambassador makes historic visit to Eganville

\$80,000 presented to United 24 campaign with balance of funds going to help Ukrainian refugees

By Terry Fleurie
Staff Writer

Eganville – History was made last Wednesday when the Ukrainian ambassador to Canada made an official visit to express her gratitude for the generosity people exhibited for her nation in a recent fundraiser and received a cheque for \$80,000.

The Ukrainian flag was flying from the village flagpole when Ambassador Yulia Kovaliv was the special guest at a luncheon at the Rio Rooftop Patio on July 13, where Leader Publisher Gerald Tracey, chair of the fundraising committee, formally presented the cheque designated for the *United 24* program in Ukraine. It is believed this is the first time an ambassador from another country has paid an official visit to Eganville.

The ambassador was accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission, Andrii Bukvych, who had officially represented Ms. Kovaliv at the June 17 fundraiser in the Eganville Community Centre.

“On behalf of all Ukrainians, it is so important what you are doing,” the ambassador said. “We really appreciate it.”

“Every day of the war, Ukrainians are dying, for democracy, for freedom, for everything that we together stand for,” she added. “It’s so important now for those men and women who are standing on the front lines defending what we believe in, to hear every voice of support, to know that the world is standing and protecting them and supporting them.”

She said the fundraiser was every bit as important as what the govern-

ments are doing to assist her country through their financial and military support.

“It is just as important for everybody to do what they can to stop the war and save Ukraine as a country but also to save the security of the world,” she remarked.

She noted everywhere she has gone since her arrival in Ottawa three months ago, she meets people who are supporting her country, not only through official government channels, but at other functions as well.

Mr. Tracey, who chaired a five-person committee that organized the event to mark the *Leader’s* 120th anniversary, pointed out a lot of people are praying for the people of Ukraine. He cited the example of a 93-year-old senior who had asked him to convey that message to the ambassador during her visit.

“So just know that many people are praying,” he said.

Many of the attendees were wearing their “I Stand With Ukraine” t-shirts, and Mr. Tracey noted Canadians stand in support of the war-ravaged nation.

“Today, we want to focus on the goodness and kindness of many people and businesses in this area,” he stated. “As a result of our recent fundraising efforts to raise money for Ukrainian relief, almost \$110,000 has been collected through donations, large and small, and live and silent auctions.”

Mr. Tracey said although Eganville is a small community that includes the broader Eganville area, it is made up of generous people with big hearts, noting when the

fundraiser was being planned, no actual goal was set. However, in the back of his mind, he personally felt \$100,000 was attainable.

“And we reached it, thanks to the generosity of many,” he revealed. “We are pleased to announce that \$80,000 will be going to *United 24* at the suggestion of embassy officials and the remaining funds will be used to help Ukrainians who have chosen to settle into communities in Renfrew County.”

He acknowledged the members of families who had recently emigrated to Canada who were in attendance, wishing them all a warm welcome to both Canada and Renfrew County.

He said working on the campaign had been an absolute privilege for he and his fellow committee members.

“There is no greater need, there is no greater satisfaction than helping those in need and nowhere else is there a need greater than in Ukraine.”

Mr. Tracey assured the ambassador her country would continue to be in the prayers of Canadians and that the community would continue to welcome refugees from Ukraine.

“The invasion by Russia, coupled with 29 months of COVID, has caused massive economic havoc throughout the world as all countries are seeing inflation rates rise to levels never before experienced. And while that has been causing hardship for many people, it pales in comparison to what the people of Ukraine are experiencing.”

He noted how the local donation is a mere drop in the bucket when considering the massive needs of Ukraine but said it will provide

some help to some people.

Overwhelmed By Generosity

Ambassador Kovaliv thanked everyone involved, noting Mr. Tracey had stated that Eganville was not the biggest community during his address.

“And we in Ukraine, it is not the biggest country on the global map. We were considered not to be the strongest country on the map, not a member of G-7, not a member of G-20.”

“But since the war started on February 24, we are fighting the so-called second strongest army in the world,” she added. “We’re not the biggest, or strongest, or most developed country, but we are showing all the world the leadership, courage, and how we all resist this barbaric Russian war and how we resist the terrorism that Russia is doing.”

She thanked Mr. Tracey for his leadership in the project, adding leadership drives things to change and drives the Ukrainian people to protect their country.

She explained *United 24* was a platform launched by their president to support Ukraine and funds are being directed for humanitarian, emergency re-building and some defence needs.

“For the humanitarian and rebuilding needs, this is the money which supports us to provide essentials for people who lost their homes, for people who lost their access to clean water, who lost their access to simple things like food, heating, everything that we value everyday as soon as we don’t have it” she explained.

She recalled how she woke up on February 24 in her hometown of Ivano-Frankivsk hearing huge explosions outside her window, as her two children, aged 13 and 7, were sleeping in the room next to her.

“It was around 5 o’clock and they were still sleeping, and I got this message the war had started,” she recalled. “It’s something that I can never forget.”

“And we, as Ukrainians, will live with this, but we also will live this understanding that we are doing the right things,” she added. “We are protecting our country, we are protecting our democracy, and we will continue to do it until our victory. And such a big gesture of support and such open hearts, that I especially feel here in Canada, I will bring to Ukrainians.”

She said it is very important for the men and women on the front lines to hear these stories of support from around the world, knowing they are not alone as they continue to resist

a much superior foe.

A Different Perspective

Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy, one of several local dignitaries, who was obviously very moved by the ambassador’s message, noted she had earlier shared with her how mainstream media is relied on to know what’s going on around the globe.

“And not realizing until Andrii (Mr. Bukvych) came and did his incredible speech, and then re-reading it in *The Eganville Leader*, knowing that we are only seeing a fraction of what is going on in Ukraine and what is happening to these amazing people.”

She said it was a real honour to host the ambassador and Mr. Bukvych, adding it feels like she has known them forever.

“You speak about warm hearts and that’s all we feel from both of you and all our wonderful new residents that are here from Ukraine. Your strength and your resilience, it’s incredible, and I’m truly honoured.”

Mr. Bukvych expressed his gratitude once again, saying he was honoured to be back in Eganville and for having gotten to know many of the people involved with the fundraiser.

“I felt that evening that I was at home. While the nature and landscape are very much like the region in Kyiv, where I am from, the heart and openness of all you people is the same as us Ukrainians too.”

“Thank you so much for this hospitality and your warm and open hearts.”

Renfrew County Warden Debbie Robinson said there are some recently emigrated Ukrainians spread across the county, adding as warden, she is immensely proud of the residents who have extended such warm welcomes to these families.

“My nine-year-old grand-daughter is thrilled to have a friend from Ukraine. When I watch all of these nine year old girls in a swimming pool and they just embraced Sofia and her brother, Oleg, it’s just so, so nice to see.”

She added everything possible will be done to continue to make the new Ukrainian families welcome, be it for short-term or long-term periods.

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski said he regretted being unable to attend the fundraiser, but added when Mr. Tracey told him about it, he had no doubt it would be a success.

He noted the flag at the municipal office, which could be seen from the rooftop patio, was one of perhaps hundreds and even thousands of Ukrainian flags he has seen on

homes, vehicles and other locations across the county.

“It is a testament to the way we feel, not only as people of Renfrew County, but as Canadians about what Ukrainians are going through.”

He noted he had the honour of being the liaison between his caucus and the Ukrainian community for three years and had attended many events in the Toronto area where there is a large Ukrainian population. He learned about how Russian oppression had gone on for a long time, adding much of the world was not shocked when Russia finally invaded Ukraine.

“But I think Russia was shocked by the immediate response of the world. They immediately made it clear that this was unacceptable, this invasion of a democratic country like Ukraine.”

He said while the reaction of countries around the globe is easy to see, it’s often more difficult to see the personal reactions of the people.

“Poland, where my ancestors came from, the way they have embraced and welcomed Ukrainian refugees in numbers that are staggering for a country the size of Poland. But it speaks to the horror of this inhumane wrong that is being perpetrated on Ukrainian people. And I know the world will continue to stand, people in Renfrew County will continue to stand, people in Ontario and Canada will continue to stand with Ukraine until this terrible injustice is rectified.”

North Algona Wilberforce Mayor James Brose echoed the sentiments of others regarding the support being offered to the Ukrainian people because of what they were going through.

“It was never brought more to light than when Andrii spoke with such passion at the event in Eganville,” he noted, choking back his emotions.

Mr. Tracey concluded by noting after watching the nightly news for months with his wife, Wanda, they felt compelled to do something to help the Ukrainian people. Then after meeting Vita Ahaklova, a recent Ukrainian immigrant, on a Saturday in May, he enlisted four very dedicated volunteers to join him on the committee -- William Enright, Johanna Zomers, Tetyana Moiseyava and Zig Mintha -- and then a small group of local residents to help with the actual events at the arena in June 17.

“The whole experience has been wonderful for all of us and I thank all the people here today who were there to see it successfully carried out,” he said.



Leader Publisher Gerald Tracey told Ukraine Ambassador Yulia Kovaliv that \$30,000 of the \$110,000 raised will be used to assist Ukrainian refugees choosing to settle in Renfrew County.

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YOUR LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday July 20	Thursday July 21	Friday July 22	Saturday July 23	Sunday July 24
Risk of a thunderstorm	Mix of sun and clouds	Sunny	Chance of a shower	A few showers
HIGH 30°C (86°F) LOW 21°C (70°F)	HIGH 27°C (81°F) LOW 17°C (63°F)	HIGH 28°C (82°F) LOW 18°C (64°F)	HIGH 29°C (84°F) LOW 19°C (66°F)	HIGH 25°C (77°F) LOW 17°C (63°F)

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