

# AFA board chair Lemkay is honoured on his retirement

By Terry Fleurie  
Staff Writer

**Douglas** – Dave Lemkay has spent the past 40-plus years working in various capacities in the forestry sector, and he was recently honoured on his retirement from his most recent position as the Chair of the Board of the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA).

He was acknowledged by his peers at the October board meeting at The Sands on Golden Lake where he was presented with a certificate and a replica of an Ottawa River tugboat carved by Delbert (Dub) Juby of Lochwinnoch, thanking him for his 10 years of service, the past five as chair.

“The meeting just happened to coincide with the expiry of my term,” Mr. Lemkay explained. “So, the board chose to give me a little token of their appreciation.

“The time has come, I suppose I could have asked to be renewed,” he added. “I chose not to, just because I think the time is right to retire.”

Mr. Lemkay also retired this summer as the executive director of the recently dissolved Renfrew Industrial Commission (PIC), a post he held since 2020.

“So, between that coming to an end and my term with the AFA coming to an end, I guess I am finally retired,” he remarked.

He said his 10-year tenure with the AFA was one of the best experiences in his career in the forestry sector.

“The AFA was a really enjoyable experience, working at the board level with the harvesting and management of the forests in Algonquin Park. That reaches out to all the mills around the periphery of the park, on the Huntsville side and the Pembroke side.

“So, Heideman’s, Hokum’s Murray Bros., McRae, Shaw’s, mills in Huntsville and Haliburton,” he added.

Although the board does not interact directly with mill owners, they do have a connection with them because the AFA supplies timber to them.

“So, in that sense, it was exciting, it was engaging,” he noted.

In his tenure in office, he has met with at least five different ministers from the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, praising Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski for his time in that role.

“That was an easy mix to be able to work with John,” he said. “He’s always had our back at Queen’s Park for the forestry sector and if issues might have arisen to curtail harvesting in the park or other elements of that, John was always a pretty vocal advocate for us.”

Receiving a carving by Mr. Juby meant a lot to him as the two have been friends since the 1970s. In that period, he has purchased many of his carvings for gifts for other retirees in the forest industry.

“Back in his heyday, he had a contract with Eaton’s and Sears and wholesaled his carvings to them,” Mr. Lemkay said. “He tells me I’m his best customer.”

The carving he received is a replica of the boat Mr. Juby’s father captained in the 1930s and 40s that towed logs on Chats Lake down to Gillies sawmill in Arnprior.

Mr. Lemkay had tried to purchase the boat from Mr. Juby many years ago and was told it was not for sale, but Mr. Lemkay’s wife, Delores, somehow persuaded him to part with it for the AFA as a retirement gift for her husband.

“So, I’m feeling really warm about that gift, because it meant a lot to him and it means a lot to me. It’s river related.”

When he called to thank Mr. Juby for giving the carving up, he was told he had already started carving another one. He nominated Mr. Juby for a Queen’s Platinum Jubilee medal this past summer, which MP Cheryl Gallant presented to him in July.

Looking back on his career with the AFA, Mr. Lemkay is particularly proud of the 10-year Forest Management Plan developed by the management and staff that started in 2020 and runs through to 2030.

“A forest management plan for a forest operation as complex as Algonquin Park has to cross all the i’s and

dot all the t’s. And we’re in this fishbowl of harvesting in the only provincial park in Ontario where harvesting is permitted.”

He said he feels really good the plan has been completed, noting the consultation process was very robust and included every sector in the larger community.

Mr. Lemkay said the board includes individuals with expertise in finances, legal, management and the forestry fields, noting Robert Howe of Barry’s Bay and Leo Hall of Renfrew are two current members of the board.

As the chair the last five years, his philosophy was that the chair didn’t have to know everything, but they had to have the capability to get a consensus around the table with the expertise that exists there to achieve the goals that were set out.

“And I’ve been able to do that with this good team of people,” he said.

Approximately five years ago, the AFA received an award from the Canadian Institute of Forestry acknowledging the exemplary work being done in the park, which they are very proud of.

“There are now two other forest operations, one in Temagami, the other farther up by Terrace Bay and Wawa, that are built on the same template as the AFA operation,” he noted with pride.

He said what makes the AFA really interesting is that Algonquin is a multi-use forest and it has often been said that because of how well the harvesting is managed, many visitors have no idea that it is going on there.

“So, that’s a good sign that we do it well,” he remarked.

As his career has come to an end, it is obvious it was one Mr. Lemkay thoroughly enjoyed being a part of.

“I’ve had a most enjoyable career,” he concluded. “I didn’t consider it a job quite frankly.

“I had 40 years of doing fun, exciting and interesting things”.



Retiring board chair honoured by AFA

Dave Lemkay of Douglas was recently honoured on his retirement from the AFA Board of Directors, where he held the position of chair the last five years of his 10-year career with the organization.

## Police Briefs from local O.P.P. detachments

### Boom Lift Stolen

**Laurentian Valley Twp.** – Upper Ottawa Valley OPP are investigating the theft of a Haulotte brand boom lift, model 4527A, stolen from a business on Pembroke Street West in Laurentian Valley Township in the early morning hours of October 31.

The towable lift is yellow in colour and features a steel basket. OPP’s Forensic Identification Unit (FIU) is assisting with the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this theft is asked to contact the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP at 613-735-0188 or Pembroke/Renfrew County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or at [www.valleytips.ca](http://www.valleytips.ca).

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### Trail Signs Stolen

**Barry’s Bay** – Killaloe OPP is investigating a mischief to property incident involving the removal of signs on a snowmobile trail.

Last Friday, during the noon hour, police responded to a mischief call, in Madawaska Valley Township where several signs on the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, (OFSC) B102 trail had been pulled from the trail and left on the ground. Police are asking anyone with information to contact the Killaloe OPP Detachment at 613-757-2600 or Pembroke/ Renfrew County Crime Stoppers.

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### Assault and Breach Charges Laid

**Barry’s Bay** – Police have laid criminal charges resulting from an altercation that occurred on Stamplecoski Trail in Madawaska Valley Township last Friday.

Shortly after midnight, police responded to a report of an assault and as a result of an investigation, Edward Brenna, 25, of Sarnia was charged with assault and breach of undertaking conditions.

The accused was released on conditions and is scheduled to appear in Killaloe court on December 14.

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### Woman Faces Several Charges

**Palmer Rapids** – A 75-year-old woman from Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan Township is facing multiple charges after police officers from Killaloe responded to a weapons call on Wednesday, November 2.

As a result of the investigation, police arrested and charged Johannes Wynia with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose; unauthorized possession of a weapon; assault; break and enter and mischief to property under \$5000 (2 counts). The accused remains in custody.

# MAKWA BINGO

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Kerry Andrews, Bingo Manager



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**Human Resources, Renfrew County Catholic District School Board**  
499 Pembroke Street West, Pembroke, ON K8A 5P1

**Email: [hr@rccdsb.ca](mailto:hr@rccdsb.ca)**  
**Closing Date: November 11th, 2022 at noon**