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Valley-style Chamber Music

The trio known as the History Buffs performed for a small, but enthusiastic audience in the first of three intimate concerts at the Bonnechere Caves last Thursday evening. Space to the unique musical presentations is limited.

Warden Murphy returns from AMO conference optimistic

By R. Bruce McIntyre
Staff Writer

Eganville -- Jennifer Murphy, who wears the chains of office as both the Mayor of Bonnechere Valley and Warden of Renfrew County, attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference last week in Ottawa for the first time as warden and came away more optimistic moving forward.

"Bonnechere Valley is always my first responsibility, but this time I was pretty much representing Renfrew County as its warden during a number of meetings and workshops," she told the *Leader*. "It was a very long week and even though I was there six days, time just flew by and I learned very quickly you have to take advantage of every opportunity to network with colleagues and ministers."

Warden Murphy spent the Saturday and Sunday portions of the conference involved with the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC) as the group made a series of presentations, most notably to the Progressive Conservative (PC) and New Democratic Party (NDP) caucuses.

She was one of four of the 13 wardens who made formal presentations to the caucuses, and in her case, she sat directly across the table from PC leader Patrick Brown and NDP leader Andrew Horwath. The EOWC made four presentations.

They were: the proposed one per cent increase on the HST; the Fire-remed issue of having firefighters assume greater medical and first aid duties; changes to the Ontario Municipal Board and the issue of labour changes in the province. The Fire-remed issue

would enable firefighters certified as paramedics to respond to low acuity calls to treat and release or treat and refer a patient, and provide symptom relief to high acuity calls.

"I was tasked with explaining our outright opposition to the proposed changes to the medical responsibilities of firefighters," she said. "The EOWC has produced a quality report on why these proposals would be detrimental to the health of the patient. Both paramedics and firefighters have specialized training and this is just a bad idea."

Although she understands why the proposed one per cent increase on the HST was rejected by Premier Kathleen Wynne, she argues it is a good idea in the long run.

"This is an election year," she said. "No party is going to run on a platform of raising taxes. But this one per cent will surely address so many infrastructure problems. I think there is a chance it could be introduced after the 2018 election. There has not been an increase in the HST in 10 years, and in fact it was reduced by two per cent over the last few years."

The proposed hike, which came from an AMO report, would have the one per cent sent directly to municipalities and could be used only for infrastructure projects like roads, bridges and buildings. It would be a sustainable and guaranteed funding and allow local governments to make long range plans for major repairs. Warden Murphy said all local governments are facing deteriorating roads and buildings and this would be an incredible boost for municipalities. She said the program would be well

received so long as it does not reduce the funding levels for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, the Rural Economic Development Program or the annual funding from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund.

Along with that issue, she said there was excellent representation from all over Renfrew County and she had high praise for Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Mayor Janice Visneskie Moore with respect to this year's spring flooding.

"Janice did an incredible job when she made a presentation to the Minister of Natural Resources in relation to the flood damage we suffered from the spring flooding," she said. "She was prepared and professional when she met Minister McGarry. After her presentation, the minister agreed to have her Chief of Staff work with us and stakeholders to try and find some way to keep water levels low this year just in case we have a lot of snow and rain like we did last year."

She was pleased to hear the province and the federal government are close to finalizing a new infrastructure program for local governments, which will include money earmarked for recreation.

"Most of these programs usually exclude recreation, so hopefully this passes," she said. "The county does not have direct recreation responsibilities, but for townships like Bonnechere Valley, this could be a great source of funding."

After six days, Warden Murphy was glad to get back home, pointing out there is plenty of work to do as the mayor of the township as well as being warden.

Ministry responses towards flooding issues disappointing to KHR mayor

By Terry Fleurie
Staff Writer

Killaloe -- Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Township Mayor Janice Visneskie Moore attended the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in Ottawa hoping to plead the case of her constituents concerning the spring flooding and subsequent provincial relief programs to two provincial agencies.

Unfortunately, her meetings with both the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Kathryn McGarry and Minister of Municipal

Affairs and Housing, (MMAH) Bill Mauro, produced disappointing results.

Mayor Visneskie Moore went into the sessions hopeful Ms. McGarry would reverse the MNR's decision to not review the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan (BRWMP) and that Mr. Mauro would consider revisions to the Ontario Disaster Relief Program's criteria regarding who is eligible for flood damage funding.

"Minister McGarry said her staff had reviewed the plan since what had happened and it was determined that,

MNR, in their opinion, are not responsible for any flooding," she said.

The minister told the mayor the plan had nothing to do with flooding caused by nature and MNR was not prepared to address anything about that.

The mayor was told an MNR staff member had been assigned to the file and would be in touch with the municipality in regards to the process to making amendments to the plan.

"And they would entertain looking at them," she said.

Mayor Visneskie Moore advised the minister for the BRWMP to work bet-

ter there had to be both a short-term and long-term plan. She also noted for the process to be successful all stakeholders including MNR and Renfrew Power Generation (RPG) had to be at the table to suggest and approve amendments.

When the minister indicated she didn't have a problem with that, Mayor Visneskie Moore informed her both the MNR district manager from Pembroke, who agreed to help with the paperwork, was not prepared to sit at the table nor were representatives of RPG.

She urged the minister to insist local staff were part of those meetings and to encourage RPG to participate as well.

Her meeting with Mr. Mauro was equally disappointing as he stated up-front the ODRAP funding was designed strictly for disaster relief to immediately provide shelter and food for people who needed a place to live.

"So if you have a cottage, in his opinion, you had a place to go home to where you could survive the disaster," she said. "So he wasn't prepared to look at that."

Mayor Visneskie Moore said the

minister felt the program had been revamped in 2014 and was quite adequate to address the needs in emergencies.

"So he wasn't prepared to move on private roads, on shoreline damage, etc. I told him there were a lot of things not included like seasonal residences and again they had reviewed the plan and people of Ontario would be satisfied with how it read."

While the meetings were not very productive, she had promised taxpayers she would plead their case to ministry officials.

Officers nab speeder at almost three times the speed limit

Eganville -- A speeder who was caught on radar travelling at almost three times the posted speed limit on Highway 41 south of Eganville may have the dubious honour of setting a record in the area patrolled by the Killaloe Ontario Provincial Police.

Just shortly after 2 a.m. last Monday, August 14, Constables Jon Anderson and Kyle Fabian were operating moving radar when they observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed and locked it in at 215 km per hour in a posted 80 km hr. zone.

A 19-year-old male from Petawawa was charged with stunt driving and issued a summons to appear in

court. His licence was suspended for seven days and the vehicle impounded for the same period.

Killaloe OPP Staff Sgt. Paul Dowdall wasn't sure if this was a record for speeding in the detachment, but said from a police standpoint drivers who engage in stunt driving of all varieties needlessly put all road users at risk and will be charged accordingly.

A Second Charge
Later in the week, at about 2:30 last Friday afternoon, Constable Anderson was back on the same highway with moving radar when a vehicle was locked in at 166 km per hour in a posted 80 km hr. zone.

The male was also 19 with an address of Bonnechere Valley Township. He was charged with stunt driving, had his licence suspended and vehicle impounded.

Names of the accused are not released by police as the speeds are part of the evidence for court proceedings.

If convicted, fines can range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and the court can impose a licence suspension of up to 10 years for a second conviction within 10 years. A first time conviction can result in the accumulation of six demerit points, a maximum licence suspension of two years and a maximum six months in jail.

Pow wow is another big hit

By Terry Fleurie
Staff Writer

Pikwakanagan -- The 30th annual pow wow hosted by the Pikwakanagan First Nation wrapped up Sunday evening and organizers are calling it another success.

Jamie Sarazin, assistant co-ordinator, said 242 dancers were registered along with seven drum groups. She said the number of dancers is on par with previous years while the number of drum groups was down slightly from its usual number of 10 to 12.

"But it actually makes it easier to co-ordinate the songs with a smaller number of drums," she said.

Mrs. Sarazin said there were other pow wows scheduled for the same weekend which may have impacted the number of drums available for the Pikwakanagan event.

Although the exact number of visitors was not known at press time, Mrs. Sarazin felt there may have been a larger turn out over the two days than in past years.

"The stands were full on both Saturday and Sunday," she remarked. "Normally, the stands are full on the Saturday, but there are some spaces open on Sunday."

"But this year, they were filled on both days," she added.

She said there was great interaction between the dancers and the visitors during dances like the inter-tribal where guests are invited to join the pow wow dancers.

"There was a lot of participation from the spectators," she said.

Friday night's social was very well attended and she believes 12 new dancers were initiated that night.

Mrs. Sarazin said the theme of this year's pow wow, honouring the 60's scoop survivors, was very important to share, noting many people were unaware that had occurred (see separate story on page A2).

"The theme was pretty heavy," she remarked. "But that is what the pow wow is for, to heal."

She said the vendors were very pleased with business over the weekend, adding the grounds were a little crowded because of the area being reduced due to the wet conditions earlier in the spring.

"It was a little crowded, but they all managed. There were a couple of places where the craft places were back-to-back."

She thanked the many volunteers and participants for their role in making the pow wow a success.

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