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# THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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**The Villager**  
NEWS INSIDE

PM40050631R8905 Volume 127, Number 25 Chesterville, Ontario Wednesday, January 1, 2020 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)

## Briefly

### Best wishes

CHESTERVILLE – The offices of *The Chesterville Record* re-open Jan. 2, at 8:30 a.m. From everyone at the newspaper and Etcetera Publications, best wishes for a healthy, joyous and prosperous new year. May 2020 be fabulous for all our readers.

### Holiday skating

WILLIAMSTOWN – Drop by the Char-Lan Recreation Centre for skating and hot chocolate on Friday. Local MPP Jim McDonnell will host a free skating event on Jan. 3 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

### Blood donation

RUSSELL – Donors are needed for a Canadian Blood Services' clinic in Russell on Jan. 2. The mobile donation centre will be at the Russell Arena on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Bottle drive

RUSSELL – The 2nd Russell Scout Troop is raising funds for a summer camping adventure. The Scouts will be going door-to-door on Sat., Jan. 4, or you can drop-off beer bottles and cans, as well as wine bottles and donations at the Russell (Barry's) Home Hardware from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



### Many enjoyed a communal Christmas dinner

The annual Community Christmas Dinner is part of the community outreach ministry of the Winchester United Church. The free meal on Dec. 25 included refreshments and traditional Christmas fare, with local musicians providing entertainment.

Courtesy photo

## Sharing the holiday spirit

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

SDG – In both Morrisburg and Winchester, church groups hosted community Christmas dinners on Dec. 25 providing an opportunity for people to enjoy a full Christmas dinner and entertainment while visiting with family, friends and neighbours.

Organizers of the annual Community Christmas Dinner held at the Morrisburg Legion expected to serve 200 meals during the event. Donations were accepted at the door, with Rev. Canon Pat Martin explaining how any profit from the meal would go to the Apple Tree Ministry of the Anglican Parish of South Dundas, which is involved in outreach ministry in the community.

The historic Winchester United Church hosted its traditional Community Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25 in the church hall. Organizers were busy Christmas morning making the final preparations for the meal which included

Continued on page 2

## South Dundas gears up for busy 2020

Joseph Morin  
Record Staff

The municipality of South Dundas is moving into 2020 with optimism, determination, and most importantly, a plan.

The council is entering its second year, and as in many municipalities across Ontario, has its own short list of local issues it wants to deal with.

Landfill concerns, local infrastructure and finding solutions to longstanding problems are on the council's radar.

In a discussion with *The Chesterville Record*, Mayor Steven Byvelts was candid about the council's upcoming challenges.

He said, "As you know the council is fairly new and we got right to work, and started putting our stamp on the

municipality in trying to deal with some of the old files left by the old council."

Byvelts said he was encouraged by the council's work to date, and feels they are on the right track.

The mayor said, "We are not through them all yet as far as I am concerned, but I am certainly hopeful that by the time we are halfway through next year they will have been, for the most part, dealt with."

### Seeking a solution for landfill

There are issues in South Dundas that will be economically challenging.

One of those is the solution to the municipality's landfill situation – the site has about reached its expiry date – and another is the temporarily stalled retrofitting of the storm sewer in Morrisburg.

Continued on page 3



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**Community dinner**

**Continued from the front** light refreshments, a traditional Christmas dinner and local musicians performing during the event.

Heather Rose says funds for the event were raised in November by the Night Train Big Band Annual Christmas Benefit Concert as well as through donations from members of the congregation and the local community.



At the Christmas Day community dinner hosted by the Apple Tree Ministry, Anglican Parish of South Dundas, front row, from the left: Rev. Canon Pat Martin, Elizabeth Irwin. Back row: Candace Jamieson, Jim Jamieson, Brenda Bradley.

Thompson Goddard photo



**Chesterville Fire Station gets upgrade**

The North Dundas Fire Station 4 needed a new showcase for badges after the old one became too small, so they enlisted the help of the North Dundas District High School Grade 12's woodworking class to build one. The fire department purchased the materials and the high school assembled the showcase. On Mon., Dec. 9, the showcase was delivered by Raymond Bougie's woodworking class. Firefighters from all over North America exchange badges when they travel to different locales and then collect and display the badges at home. Pictured here are firefighters Dave Lannin, Matt Giles, students/builders Dan Harrison and Hunter Skov, Kent Merkley and Josh Seely.

Moore photo

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We'd like to raise a glass to all of the folks who have filled our year with so much joy!

We thank you for your patronage and friendship, and we wish you all the best in 2020 and always.

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# Flooding, trees and education: SNC looks back on productive year

FINCH - The past year was anything but dull for South Nation Conservation (SNC) as it continued to work closely with its 16 member municipalities, community partners and local residents to protect and restore the local environment, protect people and property from natural hazards, and support sustainable development activities.

"This year offered great opportunities, new challenges, partnerships and accomplishments; all of which were beneficial for protecting and restoring our local environment," explains John Mesman, SNC's communications lead.

This spring saw historic flooding along both the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, and SNC worked closely with its municipal partners to help provide advance notice of flooding to reduce risk to life and property damage through the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program. In total, SNC issued over 40 local watershed safety and flood messages in 2019.

SNC is continuously working to protect people and their property by updating natural hazard mapping, issuing approvals for development near watercourses, and enhancing emergency preparedness tools.

In addition to protecting people and property, SNC also works to protect our local natural resources. This year the conservation authority planted a record number of trees across its 4,384-sq. km. jurisdiction in Eastern Ontario, helping to increase local forest cover.

More than 150,000 trees were planted by SNC along watercourses and on private and public property in 2019 through municipal tree giveaways, the City of Ottawa's Ash Tree Replacement Program, municipal roadside planting projects, and tree planting subsidy programs for property owners.

SNC expanded upon its environmental outreach initiatives in 2019 by relaunching its flagship Maple Syrup Education Program, now at the new Oschmann Forest in North Dundas. This followed a year of fundraising to render the donated forest fit to host students for demonstrations of maple syrup production and sap extraction.

Thanks to community partnerships and fundraising initiatives, SNC delivered environmental outreach and educational programming to more than 3,000 local youth this year through the Maple Syrup Education Program, its Youth Fishing Camps, First Hunt Program and the Stream of Dreams Program.

SNC is also committed to working with its municipal partners to regularly maintain and improve its public conservation areas and trails to ensure accessible, year-round recreation for residents. SNC's fourteen local conservation areas attracted more than 80,000 visitors in 2019.

## SD 2020

Continued from the front

"The landfill issue will, I think, be the big one this year. We have to deal with the issue of waste and recycling. They are big files costing well over one million dollars in taxation."

He added, "So we need to come up with some solutions and do some thinking outside of the box. We are certainly looking at the economics behind this too."

Byvelds is confident about finding a solution regarding the landfill issue.

"There are various ways of dealing with it," he said. He pointed out that other municipalities have faced similar challenges.

"There are lots of options out there," he said. "We have to come out with a plan that makes sense for us."

Byvelds said the council will continue to work on



Mayor Steven Byveld  
Courtesy photo

economic development and tourism.

Infrastructure is an ongoing concern. "As good as they are in Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, there will always be issues with the roads and South Dundas is no different."

### Infrastructure issues

The municipality is starting to put aside funds for dealing with some of the bridge repairs it will face over the next five years. "We have a five-year road plan we will do our best to follow, and we have Ontario Street in

Morrisburg we still have not gotten settled," said Byvelds.

"We will see where it goes. We have tenders out and when they come back we hope we will get better pricing, but if not, we will figure something out, to do what we need to do," he said.

The Morrisburg issue is the result of the original storm sewer lines in old Morrisburg never being moved when the St. Lawrence Seaway construction took place.

Before the seaway was flooded, the lines went underneath the train tracks where there was an underpass at the intersection of Highway 31 and County Road 2. After the town was restructured to accommodate the construction, the line was left behind and is still there today.

It is not causing an issue, however the municipality would prefer to move it.

"We did not even know about this line until they finally found it," said Byvelds. "This is probably the biggest infrastructure project because of its uniqueness," he said.

The original cost for the project was pegged at \$1.2 million. It swelled to \$1.5 million and then \$2 million. The closest tender came in at \$2.7 million.

"At \$2.7 million council said no," said the mayor. The council decided to start the process over.

"We are hoping there will be contractors looking for work, and the bids that come in will be more competitive," said Byvelds.

Looking at what the council accomplished in 2019, Byvelds admitted he would have liked to get more done, but he is looking forward to 2020.

"I am sure we will get to where we want to go. We are not afraid of hard work," he said.

To our customers, neighbours, associates and friends, go our thanks and best wishes at the New Year. We wouldn't be where we are without people like you, and we're grateful for your loyal support.



We wish all of you a safe and Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you soon in 2020!

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we ring in the New Year, your South Dundas Mayor, Council and Staff wish you all the best for the year to come. Thank you for making 2019 a year to remember.

Please enjoy a safe and happy New Year!

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4. Get better education
5. Manage debt
6. Save money
7. Take a trip
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## Mayor's message

First, let me extend best wishes to everyone for 2020. This past year, being the first full year of the new council, was an extremely satisfying one.

There have been many challenges for staff and members of council to face and I am sure that every decision has not proved satisfactory for all concerned. Regardless, whenever I have been asked if I am enjoying being in the position of mayor, my answer has been "Yes."

The honour bestowed on me has been challenging, exciting and enlightening. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be the head of this council. The support that our council has received from the township staff, both administrative and labour, has been exceptional. Their dedication to ensuring that members of our community are served respectfully and efficiently has been a goal that I'm sure will continue to be met.

When I look back and start recounting successes, I immediately think of our efforts to connect with a wider spectrum of our community. We appreciate the delegations that come to our table and inform us of their achievements and of ways that we can work together.

Projects such as the rebuilding of Highway 43 between Chesterville and Winchester, the repairs and remodeling of Queen Street in Chesterville, new sidewalks and sewer grate repairs – to mention just a few of many projects completed – help make us proud of where we live. The celebration of achievements and milestones are noteworthy because they recognize the efforts and successes of members of our community.

The summer of 2019 was an enjoyable one. The fairs, festivals and events kept everyone busy enjoying the company of their neighbours, family and friends.

I am looking forward to another busy year for council and staff, hopefully busier, and with the new residential developments that are both continuing and starting in 2020, I am sure that the new year will be an exciting one.

**Tony Fraser**  
mayor, Township of North Dundas

## CASTOR Country

By Tom Van Dusen

### Bunny Blues

I thought my 93-year-old mother was going to tear up when Harold came on the home movie screen. In fact, she might have...I couldn't see her well enough from my chair in brother Mark and sister-in-law Joan's North Russell farmhouse to know for sure.

"Oh, Harold," Mom sighed wistfully when the huge brown rabbit sporting a red collar appeared in the grainy film Mark was rolling on the 8-mm projector. The bunny did his bit for the cameraman, who might have been young Mark. He couldn't quite remember; it could have been our late uncle Charles who lived across the gravel road from us growing up in Wychwood, an Aylmer cottage community.

Nicknamed Chook, Charles taught Mark everything he knows about eight- and 16-mm film, a long-gone technology that had the young people in the room on Christmas Eve shaking their heads in wonder as they checked their cell phones for any new messages. Mark has the cameras, projectors and even early Hollywood movies from Chook's collection. Our uncle had enough expertise to be employed at Aylmer's Pix Theatre in the 1950s and 1960s running the commercial projectors even

though he was deaf. Mark and I often joined him in the booth.

With great fanfare, Mark called guests together to view some of the home movies he said had been mysteriously lost for decades. It turns out he'd tucked them away somewhere during his constant renovations and only recently rediscovered them. They're a great addition to the Van Dusen family archives, of which Mark is the self-appointed custodian.

The movies drew hoots of laughter from siblings in Mark's rustic den when their younger selves showed up on screen hobnobbing at a family reunion back in the day and swimming in the Ottawa River. But the stars of the show weren't the kids but the animals, including Happy Diefenbaker, a showboating golden retriever that belonged to the former prime minister who regularly stayed with us, and Harold, the rabbit who sprawled in front of the fireplace like a dog, causing double-takes by visitors who at first thought that's what he was.

After the lights came back up, Mom explained her sadness. She feels she abandoned Harold, let him down. It was a story I'd never heard before. When my parents made the move from Aylmer to Russell in the 1970s, they did so without Harold, who had

disappeared and was presumed to be deceased. Then a few years later, she heard from my grandfather who still lived across from our old Wychwood place that a giant rabbit had shown up at his door and hopped right into the kitchen.

Mom was sure it was Harold searching for his departed family. Later she heard this rabbit had been attacked by dogs and killed. I tried to console her: "Mom, it wasn't your fault. Anyway, we have no way of knowing if it was actually Harold." She retorted immediately: "Well how many huge rabbits do you know that come right into the house?" I had to admit she had a point.

Other than the melancholy Harold moment, the evening was fun-filled, what with stuffing ourselves with Mark and Joan's home-grown turkey and piles of other great food, very loud conversation, goo-goo'ing over two new babies in the family – Ava and Leo born last summer about a month apart – and spontaneously making music on everything from a washboard and a battered fiddle to harmonicas, guitar, and ukulele. Unfortunately, very few Christmas carols were offered up, even though I came fully prepared, having completed the Russell Male Choir's Christmas program the previous day.



A more refined Christmas Day dinner took place at brother Peter and sister-in-law Ana's in the hallowed precinct of Centrepointe. Other commitments and sickness made it the smallest Christmas Day gathering ever, to the point where my son Oliver was the only occupant of the young people's table. He took it all in stride and merged with the old folk's table; I still belong to the somewhere-in-between table, at least for the time being.

Most of the Christmas Eve action unfolded in a side room of Mark's historic brick farmhouse. Mark built the room over a span of 20 years, using reclaimed materials and the labour of the two guys auditioning as his sons-in-law. Both Eric and Andrew must have passed the test because they're still around and are fathers of his grandkids, including the latest, the aforementioned Ava. Plenty of tests lie ahead for the next generation as well, including feeding chickens and collecting eggs, wrangling turkeys, and helping with various restoration projects... not to mention safeguarding the home movie collection.

## The Road Home

### Modern accessibilities

by Carolyn Thompson Goddard

As I sit here in the warm and dry comfort of my living room while watching my television in full colour and streamed over the internet, my thoughts return to my home on King Street.

I recall with clarity the small television which stood in one corner of the living room which brought first one then two channels in living ... black and white. It was quite the adventure to watch TV in those days with no outside antenna to help bring in our channels but utilizing something called "rabbit ears." This indoor contraption featured a small circular box with a metal antenna on either side. Depending on what was happening in the skies above (or perhaps outer space for that matter) in order to get a good picture, the metal antennas had to be moved until the picture improved or sometimes had to be wrapped in tin foil to get better reception.

There was one chair and a couch in the living room which meant the younger sibling had to sit on the floor to watch, but that didn't bother us at all. The favourite evening show was Hockey Night in Canada which aired on Wednesday and Saturday nights (if memory serves me correctly) while cartoons were a Saturday morning delight for youngsters of all ages.

Occasionally we would be ordered out of the living room

by Mom or Dad when news items of especially sensitive matters were televised. I remember quite well on one of those occasions standing behind the door and listening while the fate of a young fellow named Steven Truscott was discussed on the TV.

In those days I often got tonsillitis which usually meant a few days off school and a house visit from Dr. Howard. Once while he was preparing to look into my inflamed throat his eyes caught the children's show on TV which I had been watching and apparently told my mother that this new machine had the ability to babysit youngsters while adults were busy.

I am not sure when colour television came into Chesterville, but it must have been in the late 1960s. There were only a few of these TVs in the town and it took a bit of time before the Thompson household got one, but I can remember being amazed at seeing the Friendly Giant and other children's shows as well as The Brady Bunch in living colour.

Although there are hundreds of channels now available to viewers, I am not sure that any of them can compare with the CBC, CTV and Global television channels – maybe Channel 8, Channel 13 and Channel 6 in the old days – and the wonder they brought during those early years. Being the youngster in a large family, I am however, quite grateful for the invention of the remote control and cable – for never again will I have to stand re-arranging those "rabbit ears" or get up to change the channel.



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# Colourful past and interesting future for local resident

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

**CHESTERVILLE** – Graham Jack Durant is a longtime resident of North Dundas and a colourful storyteller.

He remembers his past like many remember last week.

There have been many chapters in his life, including 60 years of marriage to his wife Mary.

Over the years he has worked in a bank in Ottawa when he was younger, worked with his brother on his brother's farm, created Jack and Mary Farm Services Ltd., as well as operated a flatbed trucking company working throughout Ontario carrying farm machinery in the 1990s.

Meanwhile, he became a busy community supporter and an eight-year veteran of the former Winchester Township council.

Along the way, and over the years, Durant has kept moving forward with his various business interests.

At the age of 81 he is currently dealing with charges of circumventing custom and excise laws. He pragmatically views his latest situation as

one more adventure he is determined to get through.

**Recognizing opportunity**  
His entry into the custom farming industry came after observing where farming was going.

"I decided in 1978 farms were getting bigger, and there were people going out and buying machinery they couldn't afford to utilize on their own farm. The only people who were doing custom work were people who had a machine they couldn't afford and they would run down and make a mess of a neighbour's crop to make money to get the banks off their back," Durant said.

"I decided to do the same thing but without a crop of my own."

He realized the only way he would succeed is by doing such a good job that a farmer would call him back the next year.

"If I did not have your vote to do it next year I would be out of business," he said.

Durant included his wife's name in the business because he felt women, back in those days, did not get the credit they deserved when they shared the burden and workload of a farming

operation.

He sold the custom farming operation in 1990, but kept up his busy trucking business.

The trucking aspect of his business was successful, bringing an average of \$700,000 a year.

"We had fantastically good customers. A lot of them, we didn't even have to send them an invoice," he said.

**Always a farm boy**

Durant now lives near where he was born in 1938. Despite being raised on a farm, his first job was in Ottawa working at the bank of Canada. He stayed there for six years. "Because I was a farm boy, a job [for only] eight hours a day, five days a week was not enough. I studied commercial law and the fundamentals of accounting and the *Bank Act*."

He said, "After six years, even though you could bring

the boy to the city you could not get the country out of the boy; we moved back out here."

After a year or two working on a local farm he got a job at DuPont in Brockville.

Eventually he joined forces with his brother Donald and they purchased a combine. As luck would have it, he was injured when the tractor he was driving flipped over on him leaving him with a broken leg and pelvis.

He built some storage facilities on his property and created revenue by storing machinery and feed for local companies.

Durant remembers how much he enjoyed his time with local council.

The only challenge was his ever-present curiosity and fearless style of questioning issues. "I was, and am a very forward person," he said.

When it comes to his



Mary and Jack Durant in their kitchen.

Morin photo

recent brush with the law and the next chapter in his life, he is philosophical.

"I will have to see how it works out. It is what it is," he said.



**Police Report**

## OPP bust car-theft ring operating locally

**OTTAWA** – Several residents of Quebec are facing numerous Criminal Code of Canada charges following a multi-jurisdictional investigation into hundreds of high-end vehicle thefts throughout Central and Eastern Ontario and into Quebec.

Project Shildon, led by Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), began in June 2019.

The investigation identified two key groups who have been connected to hundreds of vehicle thefts spanning from the Greater Toronto Area through to East Region, including incidents at dealerships in Kingston, Brockville, Cornwall, Hawkesbury and Ottawa, and residential thefts in Kemptville, Prescott and Cornwall.

"We want to remind the public to take precautions when leaving their vehicles unattended, including parking in a well-lit area or a locked garage when possible. There have been hundreds of victims affected and we, along with our partners, will continue to take action against criminals who victimize members of our communities," said superintendent Bryan MacKillop, director, OPP Organized Crime

Enforcement Bureau.

The accused orchestrated a highly organized operation with multiple people involved in each vehicle theft, with the goal of exporting the stolen vehicles in shipping containers overseas through the Port of Montreal. During the investigation, the team was able to recover 97 stolen vehicles and interrupt their shipment overseas.

Investigators seized numerous items during the execution of the search warrants including items stolen from vehicles and a variety of controlled substances including methamphetamine tablets, MDMA, cocaine, ecstasy, cannabis and cannabis plants. In addition, police seized tools the accused utilized to gain entry to vehicles and replicate key fobs.

## Man arrested with stolen Lexus

**SOUTH DUNDAS** – On Dec. 19, at approximately 11:00 a.m., members SD&G OPP intercepted a stolen Lexus on Highway 401 in South Dundas. The investigation revealed that an adult was in possession of a stolen Lexus RX350 from Toronto.

An 18-year-old from Montreal was arrested and is charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000.

The accused was released and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Cornwall on Feb. 27.



# Forest skating trail adds lights

**MOOSE CREEK** — Countryside Adventures, the family-owned winter playground located outside Moose Creek, has opened for the 2020 season with a number of improvements in place.

The outdoor destination is a local favourite for skating, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing through the forest. New for this year is lighting along the trail.

“We strive to give all of our guests— families, friends, groups and individuals— the best possible day when they visit Countryside Adventures,” said owner Nicolas Séguin. “For that reason, we spent the entire off-season reviewing feedback and analyzing our trails to improve every possible aspect.”

The primary focus has been the three-kilometre trails. Thanks to a grant from

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, plus hours of work by Séguin and his team, visitors will enjoy smoother skating on wider trails. Plus, lighting has been installed throughout the path to provide a better experience in the evenings.

This allows Countryside Adventures to extend its hours and be open later on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Séguin also reviewed the little details that make a trip to Countryside Adventures run smoothly and made upgrades to

improve visitor experience.

For example, those who like to plan ahead now have the option to pre-purchase day tickets and season passes at [www.countrysideadventures.ca](http://www.countrysideadventures.ca). As well, change tables are now installed in both the men’s and women’s washrooms.

The new additions complement the already popular features winter enthusiasts enjoy at Countryside Adventures: rest area with a campfire, petting zoo, equipment rentals and a food truck.

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

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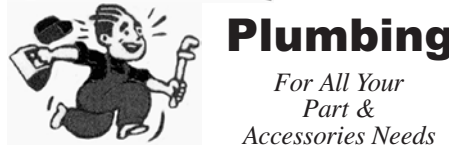
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# Obituary

## SHANE-VALLIANT, Catherine



With sincere sadness we announce the death of Cathy, December 27, 2019, surrounded by her family, at her home in Carp, Ontario, after a short battle with a very aggressive bile duct cancer.

Born September 21, 1959, the fifth child of a family of ten to Donald and Shirley Shane of Cryster, Ontario. Cathy leaves her loving family; her husband Ross and Ross's son Todd, whom Cathy cherished as her own son, and Todd's spouse Tammy, her granddaughter Isabelle, her grandson Charlie and Tammy's two boys;

Ross's brother Wayne and his wife Jane and their extended family.

Fondly remembered by her father Donald and his friend Loretta. Cathy further leaves five brothers and four sisters and their spouses, Debbie (Rene), Brian (Kathy), Carolyn (Theo), Richard (Margaret), Sheldon (Dianne), Sharon (Darren), Steven (Rita), Donna, and Charles (Jane).

She lovingly cherished all of her nieces and nephews. Cathy worked at the City of Ottawa for over thirty-eight years, retiring in 2015; her last several years as a Project Manager.

Cathy enjoyed golf, curling, kayaking and vegetable gardening; she relished her home and family cottage. She endeared her friends, neighbours and family.

Our family would like to especially thank the doctors and nurses who care for cancer patients in the hospitals and those who provide palliative care in one's home.

Family and friends may pay their respects at the Tubman Funeral Home, 115 Rivington St., Carp, Thursday, January 2, 2020 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Celebration of Life Service will be held in the Chapel on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Condolences may be made at [www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com).

# Obituary

## MERKLEY, Ronald L.



Ronald Merkley, formerly of Chesterville, passed away at Totara Hospice in Auckland, New Zealand on Sunday, December 22, 2019 surrounded by his New Zealand family. He was 75.

Ron was the beloved husband of Margaret Macdonald (nee Bouthoorn), much loved Dad of Chris Macdonald (Erin) of Auckland, New Zealand and Ryan Merkley (Sarah Leblanc) of Ottawa and dear Grandpa of Alexa and Isaac Macdonald. He was predeceased by his parents Kenneth and Annie Merkley (nee Windsor). Ron was a friend of Bill W.

Ron graduated from Chesterville High School and began work at Canada Starch in Cardinal. Realizing he needed a trade, he began an apprenticeship at C & M Texaco in Chesterville where he met his future wife. After obtaining his Class A Mechanics licence, he continued with C & M, then went on to work at George Petric Ford in Vernon and eventually Speedy Muffler in Ottawa.

During their 43 years together, Ron & Marg travelled extensively. Among their trips was a journey in 1995 for the wedding of Chris Macdonald and Erin Whibley when they fell in love with New Zealand, subsequently taking up permanent residency there in 1999.

Those who knew Ron will remember his wicked sense of humour. He could deliver any line with a completely deadpan expression. Even after leaving Canada he maintained many longtime friendships with his Canadian friends, co-workers and neighbours. He will be sadly missed.

A Celebration of Life was held at Totara Hospice on Friday, December 27, 2019. In Ron's memory, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

# - Obituary -

## MILTIMORE, Eva



It is with love and sadness that the McMillan and Miltimore families say goodbye to their beloved mother and stepmother who passed away at the Woodland Villa Nursing Home in Long Sault on Saturday, December 28, 2019. She was in her 99th year. Beloved wife of the late Carl McMillan and the late Claire Miltimore. Loving mother of Don McMillan (Barb) and Barry McMillan (Noreen). Loving stepmother of Graeme Miltimore (Joan), Bob Miltimore (Ruby), Doug Miltimore (Carole), and Linda Miltimore (Lorne Renwick). Eva will be fondly remembered by her grandchildren Trevor McMillan (Donna), Marsha Foulk (Benn), Michelle McMillan (Blain Moran), Sean McMillan (Sueanne), Kim Miltimore (Kendal Maci), Jeffrey Miltimore (Mary), Gregg Miltimore (Cheryl), Joanne Bourbonnais, Bobby Bourbonnais (Kelly) and several great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her parents Cecil and Lula Rupert (nee Hartwell), her sons Reginald and Brian "Rocky" McMillan and her brothers George, Enos and Lawrence Rupert. Also survived by nieces and nephews. Eva was a fantastic cook and loved it when her table was lined with family. She liked to keep up with the latest fashion trends as she always liked to look her best. Private family funeral arrangements. Interment will be at Maple Ridge Cemetery, Chesterville. Donations to Winchester Hospital would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. Online condolences may be made at [marsdenmclaughlin.com](http://marsdenmclaughlin.com).

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Tues., 7:00 P.M. - Prayer & Praise

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April 2020

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613-774-5170

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Rev. Daniel L. Wallace, Associate Pastor

[www.harmony-church.org](http://www.harmony-church.org)  
Sunday January 5, 2020

9:30 A.M. - Bible Discussion & Pre-Service Prayer  
10:30 A.M. - Worship Service

6:30 P.M. - Bible Time & Prayer Service  
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April 2019

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Sunday - 10:30 A.M. St. Mary

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Wed. - 9:00 A.M.  
Thurs. - 9:00 A.M.  
Fri. - 9:00 A.M.

St. Daniel - Wed. - 7:00 P.M.

April 2020

## ST. LUKE'S - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FINCH

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613-267-0928  
Minister: The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Gaver  
613-918-0506

Church 613-984-2201  
Sunday January 5, 2020

11:00 A.M. - Worship Service & Sunday School

Everyone Welcome!

April 2019

## The United Church of Canada CHRIST CHURCH UNITED

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613-448-2532

Church Office Hours: Wed. & Fri., 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Sunday January 5, 2020  
10:30 A.M. - Worship Service  
Sunday School at 10:15 A.M.

You are invited to join us.

April 2020

## The United Church of Canada AVONMORE-FINCH-MARTINTOWN

PASTORAL CHARGE

Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet  
BBA, BTH, MDIV

Contact : Tel: 613-346-1648  
Email: [revlgaudet@gmail.com](mailto:revlgaudet@gmail.com)

Sunday January 5, 2020  
Worship with Rev. Lois,  
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11:00 A.M. - St. Andrew's in Martintown  
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Come and worship with our family  
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April 2019

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Everyone Welcome.  
COME EXPECTING - LEAVE REJOICING

April 2020

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9:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist

10:30 A.M. - Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School at 10:30 A.M.

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December 2019

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April 2020

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Sunday church

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or email

[ads@chestervillerecord.com](mailto:ads@chestervillerecord.com)

# Obituary

## VANDEMHEEN, Adam



Peacefully at home on Sunday, December 22, 2019, Adam Vandemheen of St. Pascal, age 32. Loving husband of Marie-Eve Hamel. Beloved son of Carol Vandemheen (nee Irven) of Morrisburg and the late Rene Vandemheen.

Dear brother of Alan Lynch (Kaylee Morrell) of Morrisburg and David Vandemheen of Chesterville.

Predeceased by his sister Kristi Lynch. Adam will be fondly remembered by his aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and many friends.

Friends may call at the Royal Canadian Legion in Chesterville on Saturday, January 4th from 9 a.m. until time of the memorial service at 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow.

Spring interment of cremated remains will be at Morewood Cemetery. Donations to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre would be gratefully acknowledged by the family.

Online condolences may be made at [marsdenmclaughlin.com](http://marsdenmclaughlin.com).

# It's Time



To Say, "Happy New Year, Friends!"  
May 2020 hold many good times to come.

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# Our Best Wishes

As we wrap up another year,  
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well wishes with all of you.  
Happy New Year!

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# Holiday fun at Chesterville Heritage Centre

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – For a decade, the Chesterville & District Historical Society has held a holiday crokinole tournament in December. The 2019 tournament was held on Tues., Dec. 17 in the Heritage Centre on Victoria Street in Chesterville. Ten teams of two players enjoyed the evening competing for the trophy while visiting with friends and raising money for Community Food Share. CDHS president Ashley Harper described the evening as a good social event.

## Good turnout at crokinole tournament

There was plenty of fun and fellowship during the 2019 holiday crokinole tournament held on Dec. 17 at the Heritage Centre in Chesterville. Organized by members of the Chesterville & District Historical Society, the event was a fundraiser for Community Food Share.

Thompson Goddard photo



From the left: CDHS president Ashley Harper, CDHS treasurer Verne McMillian, first place winners Dan LaBelle and Robert Gilroy.

Thompson Goddard photo



## Christmas — celebrating the birth of Jesus

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Christians throughout the world gathered to celebrate the birth of a child born more than 2,000 years ago; a child that changed the world for all time. At this time of the year, churches often have a nativity scene depicting the birth of Jesus Christ, such as this one at St. Clare's Anglican Church in the Parish of North Dundas on the outskirts of Winchester. The concept of the nativity scene dates from the early 13th century and was created by St. Francis of Assisi in Italy.

Thompson Goddard photo



### Police Report

## Explosive devices found in vehicle

SOUTH STORMONT – On Dec. 16 at approximately 2:30 a.m., SD&G OPP officers responded to a report of a suspicious person on Headline Road, South

Stormont Township. Officers located an individual with various improvised explosive devices (suspected Molotov cocktails) within a vehicle.

The officers arrested a suspect and secured the area and the devices.

Christian Sandhu, age 37 of Richmond Hill, Ont., was arrested and charged with: Explosives - making or possessing for unlawful purpose.

# BABIES OF 2019

<p><b>Summer Leigh McMahon</b></p> <p><b>October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Daughter of Trevor &amp; Jodi McMahon. Proud grandparents are Jeff &amp; Julie McMahon as well as Orlan &amp; Kathy Crump.</p>	<p><b>Eligh Michael J. Cross</b></p> <p><b>July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Son of Mike &amp; Jenna Cross. Brother to Raymond &amp; Everly. Proud grandparents are Myles &amp; Christine Barkley and Larry &amp; Louise Moore.</p>	<p><b>Landyn Brenda Henderson</b></p> <p><b>November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Welcomed with love. Daughter of Brandon &amp; Lana Henderson. Proud grandparents are David Begg, Lorie &amp; Blake Henderson and Reggie &amp; Vaughn Burd. Born at 6:46 p.m., weighing 7 lbs, 13 oz and 20" long.</p>
<p><b>Robert David James Smalldon</b></p> <p><b>March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019</b> Son of Kristen &amp; Robert Smalldon. Proud grandparents are Norma &amp; Bob O'Hare, Becky &amp; Robert Smalldon and Mary Ann O'Hare.</p>	<p><b>Ruth Lynn Legue</b></p> <p><b>March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Daughter of Tyler &amp; Ashley Legue. Proud grandparents are Trevor &amp; Kelly Stewart and Randy &amp; Debbie Legue.</p>	<p><b>Logan George Harold Armstrong</b></p> <p><b>March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Son of Cathy Belaire &amp; George Armstrong.</p>
<p><b>Morgan Lynn Krumins</b></p> <p><b>June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Daughter of proud parents Lindsay &amp; Alex Krumins.</p>	<p><b>Kaleb Sheldrick</b></p> <p><b>September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019</b> Son of Grant &amp; Emily Sheldrick.</p>	<p><b>Josie Elliott</b></p> <p><b>January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> Daughter of Brittany Tessier &amp; Brandon Elliott. Welcomed with love by entire family!</p>





### Skating fun in Chesterville

Family and friends took advantage of the Christmas break to have some fun and skate along with music at the Chesterville Arena, Fri., Dec. 27. Pictured here are: front row, from the left: Abby Van Kessel, Victoria Meharg, Bethany and Katrina Geertsema. Back row, from the left, Samantha Greer and Lauren Meharg.

Morin photo

### Skating with friends and family

Families in Winchester enjoyed skating at the arena during the Christmas break. Here, Djenka Barkley and Grace Currie have some holiday fun.

Morin photo



### Morewood welcomes Santa

The Santa Express made its way through the streets of Morewood on Christmas Eve as members of North Dundas Fire Station No. 1 in Morewood accompanied Santa. Throughout the small community, people of all ages gathered to enjoy this holiday tradition and welcome the Jolly Old Elf as he passed by atop a fire truck.

Thompson Goddard photo

**2020**  
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Wishing you Peace, Health and Joy in this New Year.

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**2020**  
New Year

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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**The gift of life is yours to give**

The Joel Steele Community Centre in Winchester was home to the Canadian Blood Service's final North Dundas clinic of the year on Fri., Dec. 27. There were 93 donors registered and the service was looking for 77 units of blood as its target. There are four blood donor clinics in North Dundas each year; in 2020 the first one will be held March 26 at the community centre. Pictured here is Mary Grubb from Chesterville who donates whenever she can.

Morin photo



**Finch Market builds on unique flavours and local ingredients**

FINCH – New owners are bringing a new direction to The Finch Market. The market is open to serve the residents of Finch and the surrounding area with a wide range of products and services. The business which has operated for several years under different names, most recently as D&D Market, is expanding its product lines.

The Finch Market is located at 17 Main Street in the heart of the village and will continue to offer a fully stocked grocery, bakery, deli and butcher shop. The market is also an

outlet for the LCBO and Beer Store. The new direction is courtesy of new owners: chef Luc McCabe and former Finch resident Sue Stewart. Chef McCabe plans to bring his culinary talents to offer specialty products such as barbecue sauces and rubs, and to help make the Finch Market a destination for tourists and foodies alike.

“Karin and Duncan Devries have done an outstanding job, along with their amazing staff, in taking this store to the next level over the past two

years,” says McCabe. “Our goal is to build on that success by delivering what customers are asking for – good food that offers unique flavour profiles and is made with local ingredients.”

Chef McCabe is the former executive chef at the NAV Centre in Cornwall, and was part of the celebrated culinary event Around The World in 10000 Bites held recently in Houston, Texas. Most recently, after a trip to Japan, McCabe became one of the very few chefs in Canada to be certified in A5 Wagyu Beef. In addition to putting his personal touches on the deli, butchery and bakery, McCabe will also be offering catering services as well as hosting old-fashioned barbecues with all of the fixings.

Sue Stewart (Susie to the locals) grew up in Finch, spent 20 years in radio broadcasting and is now a realtor with RE/MAX Marquis. But you will catch her now and then behind the counter baking up her favourite cinnamon buns and banana bread.

“We will very much continue to offer the great service that our customers have come to expect,” says Stewart. “Finch was my original home, and, along with Luc and our three kids, we look forward to being part of this community.”

The Finch Market recently launched an online presence. Check it out at TheFinchMarket.ca, on Instagram or Facebook.



The new owners of The Finch Market, Luc McCabe and Sue Stewart, plan to add specialty products such as barbecue sauces and rubs, and to host old-fashioned barbecues. Courtesy photo

**Happy New Year, Everyone!**

Wishing you with all sincerity, a year filled with happiness, love, and prosperity.

Please know we are ever so thankful for your business and look forward to the chance to serve you in the year ahead.

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**2020**

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**Best Wishes at the New Year**

As we wrap up another year, we'd like to send our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020. Your support and goodwill in 2019 have meant a lot to us, and we look forward to serving you again in the new year.

Thanks for your generous support. Happy New Year!

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# Holiday message from Mayor Wert

NORTH STORMONT— No matter what job you do or what stage of life you are at, the holiday season is a great time of the year to look ahead with anticipation and perspective.

One of the many blessings I have enjoyed in my life has been the privilege of having two grandmothers who both celebrated 100 years of quality life with sharper minds than I will ever have. My best history lessons came with a cup of tea and

time spent with each of them. Their best advice usually focused around keeping things in perspective and understanding what is really important.

So when I watch the evening news, I often find myself seeing today's events through their eyes and suddenly the obstacles in our path don't look as big. They lived in an era that saw incredible challenges and unbelievable progress.

Their generation endured

wars, the dirty '30s, the Depression and daunting health risks, but the advancements were also unimaginable for the day. Electricity, mechanization, advances in medicine, communications and transportation - all factors that started moving us towards the quality of life we enjoy today.

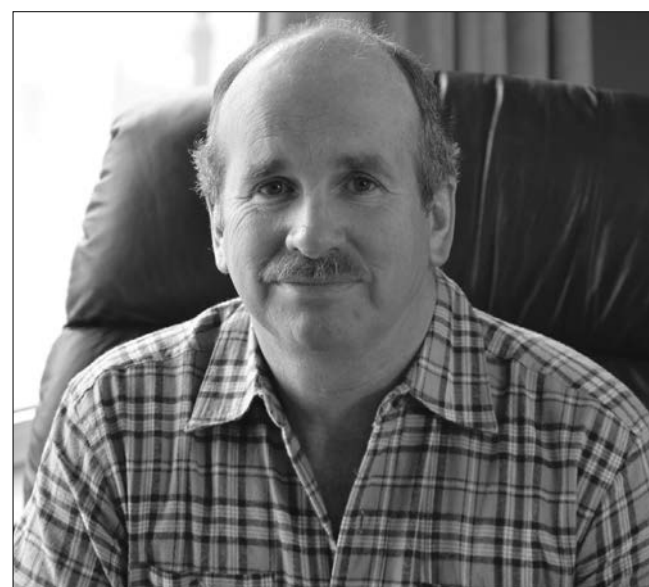
At this special time of year, I hope you allow yourself to focus on the things that enhance your quality of life and let you

keep perspective, like family, friends and community.

We live in the best country in the world, in a great province and in communities filled with people committed to improving the quality of life of those around them.

I hope the holiday season lets you count your blessings and on behalf of the council and staff of North Stormont, we wish you all the best in 2020.

**Jim Wert, mayor  
North Stormont**



Mayor Jim Wert

Courtesy photo



## Police Report

### Excessive speed

SD&G – On Dec. 19, Ontario Provincial Police officers conducted speed measuring enforcement in SD&G and intercepted a vehicle travelling at excessive speeds. At

approximately 10:30 p.m. a vehicle was stopped travelling 145 km/h in an 80 km/h zone on Highway 138. An 18-year-old driver from South Stormont had their permits seized for seven days, in accordance with policy, and the vehicle was impounded. The driver was charged with stunt driving under the *Highway Traffic Act*.

### Impaired driver

SOUTH STORMONT – On Dec. 20, at approximately 1:30 a.m.,

SD&G OPP officers conducted a traffic stop on Highway 138, South Stormont Township. Investigation revealed that the adult driver was under the influence of alcohol.

A 32-year-old from Ottawa was arrested and is charged with:

- Drive a Motor Vehicle while Impaired;
- Drive a Motor Vehicle with over 80 Milligrams of Alcohol in blood.

The accused was released and is scheduled to appear at Ontario Court of Justice in Cornwall Jan. 14.

# Regional immigration program to fill labour gaps

CORNWALL — The Ontario government is helping businesses in small and rural communities attract and retain skilled workers through a new Regional Immigration Pilot program. Cornwall and the United Counties of Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, Chatham-Kent and Belleville/Quinte West were selected to participate in an effort to fulfill labour needs that are not currently being met locally.

“By welcoming newcomers to Cornwall, we are helping our job creators grow their businesses and boost our local economy,” said Jim McDonell, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry. “Through the Regional Immigration Pilot, and with the infrastructure in place to assist newcomers in getting settled, we will help solve skilled labour challenges for our francophone and anglophone communities.”

The Regional Immigration Pilot — which is part of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) — will be an opportunity for businesses in the three communities to fill talent gaps and support economic

growth and a pathway for skilled foreign workers to become permanent residents.

While developing the pilot, the government gathered feedback from stakeholders in a number of small and rural communities across the province.

Communities were chosen based on their specific skilled labour challenges, the ability to help newcomers get settled and interest from community stakeholders. Additionally, francophone business needs in Cornwall and SDG were taken into

consideration. Outcomes from the pilot will help inform further efforts to regionalize economic immigration in Ontario.

“Many of Ontario’s regional economic challenges are exacerbated by a lack of workers,” said Rocco Rossi, president and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

“Immigration can be a powerful tool to mitigate these challenges. The OCC welcomes today’s announcement, as the rollout of the Regional Immigration Pilot will make it easier to connect highly

skilled immigrants with the smaller communities that need them.”

The OINP will allocate approximately 150 nominations for the pilot program through the OINP Employer Job Offer category. The OINP’s Employer Job Offer Category allows Ontario businesses to fill labour needs in professional, managerial and in-demand occupations with foreign workers and international students to meet shortages. Recruited workers must have a job offer and may apply from within or outside of Canada.



Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry MPP Jim McDonell, middle, presents a certificate of congratulations to Cornwall Mayor Bernadette Clement, third from left, who accepted on behalf of other representatives participating in the Regional Immigration Project, on Dec. 19 in Cornwall. Courtesy photo

## Everything's Set – For a Great Year!



This holiday season, you're invited to help yourself to a generous portion of our best wishes and gratitude. It's been a pleasure serving you! Have a great year!



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Whether you view the new year as a beginning or an end, what really counts is finding the time to spend with people you care about, doing the things that matter most, and for us that means letting you know just how much we appreciate your generous support!  
**Happy New Year and many thanks.**



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## Peewee B Rep Demons extend winning streak to six

Jeff Moore  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER—The North Dundas Rep B Demons played a pair of games leading up to the Christmas break in the UCMHL as they travelled to Cardinal on Dec. 16 to take on the South Grenville Rangers and welcomed the Smiths Falls Bears on Dec. 18.

### Demons 4 Bears 3

The North Dundas Rep B Demons welcomed the Smiths Falls Bears to the Joel Steele Community Centre on Wed., Dec. 18, in the UCMHL. The Demons were riding a five-game winning streak. They went into the game in a second place tie with the Kemptville Royals with 25 points each and sat eight points behind the first place Brockville Braves.

The Bears opened the scoring just 1:55 into the first period taking a 1-0 lead. The Bears made it 2-0 at 5:29 but the Demons answered at the eight-minute mark when Jake Weber snapped one to the back of the net from Jay-Zeus Mbarushimana and Josh Lafrance.

The Bears added a late first-period goal at 11:12 and took a 3-1 lead into the second period. The Demons got back to within one as Nathan Epps fired one home unassisted with just 1:19 remaining in the second period but trailed 3-2 heading into the third period.

The Demons knotted the affair at three

when Marcus Bols slammed one home unassisted at 4:25 of the third period. The teams battled to try to grab the lead and it was the Demons who took their first lead of the game as Epps scored his second of the game with just 2:03 remaining in regulation.

The Demons hung on for a 4-3 victory. With the win, the Demons are now in sole possession of second place moving to within six points of the Royals and hold a game in hand.

The Demons outshot the Bears 32-21. Picking up the win in the Demons' goal was Liam Sergeant making 18 saves.

### Demons 2 Rangers 1

The North Dundas Rep B Demons travelled to the Ingridion Centre in Cardinal on Mon., Dec. 16, to take on the Rangers in the UCMHL. The Demons went into the game in third place, two points behind the Kemptville Royals but had won their four previous games.

The teams battled to a scoreless first period but the Rangers opened the scoring at 8:36 of the second period. The Rangers took a 1-0 lead into the third period. The Demons tied the game when Gavin Eikelboom slammed one home from Patrick Guy and Ryan Wilson at 13:27.

The game appeared to be headed for a one-



The North Dundas Rep B Demons welcomed the Smiths Falls Bears to the Joel Steele Community Centre on Wed., Dec. 18, in the UCMHL. The Demons' forward Jay-Zeus Mbarushimana (18) tries to push the puck past the Bears' goalie Aiden Clarke as teammates Josh Lafrance and Jake Weber rush to the crease. Mbarushimana didn't score on this chance but did pick up an assist later in the game to help the Demons get past the Bears 4-3.

Moore photo

all draw but with just 16 seconds remaining, the Demons pulled a rabbit out of the hat as Eikelboom scored his second of the game from Carter Williams.

The Demons hung on to take the game 2-1, winning their fifth consecutive game and moving to a two-way tie with the Royals. Picking up the win in the Demons' goal was Kolton Belmonte.

**Up next:** The North Dundas Rep B Demons welcome the Char-Lan Rebels to the Joel Steele Community Centre on Wed., Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. and travel to the Smiths Falls Youth Arena on Sat., Jan 11, to take on the Bears at 12:20 p.m. and to the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptville on Sun., Jan. 12, to take on the Royals at 3 p.m.

## Junior T-Wolves explode for 140 points in two games

Jeff Moore  
Villager Staff

RUSSELL—The Russell High School T-Wolves Junior Basketball team played a pair of games leading up to the Christmas break as they travelled to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School on Dec. 16, to take on the Ravens and welcomed Le Relais from Alexandria on Dec. 18.

### T-Wolves 71 Le Relais 17

The Russell High School T-Wolves' Junior Basketball team welcomed École secondaire catholique Le Relais from Alexandria on Wed., Dec. 18, in PRSSAA. The T-Wolves were coming

off a huge 70-63 win over their cross-town rivals, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, in their previous game and looked to make it two wins in a week.

The T-Wolves wasted little time getting to work offensively, dropping 19 first-quarter points as they totally shut the door on Le Relais taking a 19-0 lead into the second quarter. The T-Wolves doubled Le Relais 14-7 in the second quarter and took a 30-7 lead into the break at the half.

The T-Wolves dominated the third quarter knocking down 23 points and held Le Relais to just five points. The

T-Wolves took a 53-12 lead into the final quarter. They kept the pressure on Le Relais, scoring another 18 points in the fourth quarter and again holding Le Relais to just five points.

The T-Wolves took the game 71-17 to move to 2-0, averaging 70.5 in those two games.

Scoring for the T-Wolves were Matt Marsh with 27 points, Evan Houle with 14, Teagan Williams with eight, Sam Peters with seven, Connor Ross with six, Josh Tuinder with four, Jon Barandiaran-Rivas with three and Clark Little with a deuce.

### T-Wolves 70 Ravens 63

The Russell High School T-Wolves' Junior Basketball team travelled across town to



The Russell High School T-Wolves' Junior Basketball team travelled across town to visit St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School on Mon., Dec. 16, to take on the Ravens in PRSSAA. The T-Wolves 2019 team members are from left, Curtiss Sturgeon, Jaedon Mathieu, Clark Little, Evan Houle, Owen Johnson, Connor Ross, coach Kim McKinnon, Sam Peters, Josh Tuinder, Teagan Williams, Matt Marsh, Jon Barandiaran-Rivas and Charlie Pascoe. The T-Wolves beat down the Ravens 70-63 on Dec. 16.

Moore photo

visit St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School on Mon., Dec. 16, to take on the Ravens in PRSSAA. The T-Wolves have a powerhouse

offence this season and looked to do big things.

The teams battled to an 11-all draw in the first quarter but the Ravens narrowly

outscored the T-Wolves 14-13 in the second quarter, taking a 25-24 lead into the halftime. The T-Wolves came out of the dressing room on a mission scoring 25 points in the third quarter but the Ravens kept pace scoring 17.

The T-Wolves took a 49-42 lead into the final quarter. Both offences were on fire in the fourth quarter dropping 21 points on each other but it was the T-Wolves who pulled off a 70-63 win.

Scoring for the T-Wolves were Matt Marsh with 22 points, Teagan Williams with 20, Jaedon Mathieu with 14, Evan Houle with six, Charlie Pascoe with five and Sam Peters with three.

Scoring the points for the Ravens were Logan Kinsella and Aurel Tebeu with 25 points each, Ryan Wood and Kaden Mikkelsen with four each and James Verspeek with three and Tanner Smith with a deuce.



The Ravens' guard Aidan McPhail (14) takes flight over the T-Wolves' Payton Rudder (21) in the third quarter. McPhail scored 11 points helping the Ravens to an 80-37 victory.

Moore photo

Catholic High School Ravens Senior Basketball team travel to the Vankleek Hill Collegiate Institute on Wed., Jan. 8, to take on the Warriors at 12 p.m.

## Senior Ravens head into break with a win

Jeff Moore  
Villager Staff

RUSSELL—The St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School Ravens Senior Basketball team played a make-up game against their cross-town rivals the Russell High School T-Wolves on Dec. 13, prior to the Christmas break.

### Ravens 80 T-Wolves 37

The St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School Ravens Senior Basketball team welcomed the Russell High School T-Wolves on Fri., Dec. 13, in PRSSAA. The Ravens went into the game with a 3-1 record and looked to improve to 4-1.

The Ravens offence was

on the ball in the first quarter knocking down 21 points and their defence held the T-Wolves to 10. The Ravens didn't let up offensively, scoring 20 more points in the second quarter while their defence held the T-Wolves to just three points.

The Ravens took a 41-13 lead into the dressing room at the half. The Ravens did not relent, scoring 23 points in the third quarter to the T-Wolves' eight, taking a 64-21 lead into the final quarter. The Ravens and the T-Wolves battled to a 16-all draw in the fourth quarter but it was the Ravens taking the game 80-37.

Scoring for the Ravens were Callum Tait with 17 points, Aidan McPhail and Matt Pietrkiewicz with 11 each, Macen Birch with 10, Dylan Clune with eight, Maverick Labrie with seven, Brock Ballantyne with five, Alex Caldwell with four, Thomas Buckle and Adam Cousineau with three each and Kai Daniel with a single.

Scoring for the T-Wolves were Scott Roos and Payton Rudder with 14 points each, Ruben Jaquemet with five, Hunter Wiggins with three and Seth Gillingham with a single.

### Up next

The St. Thomas Aquinas



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## Russell's Santa Express: Santa's secrets

David Strong  
Special to the Villager

RUSSELL - Last week, we talked about the 40-year history of Russell's Santa Express. Now, let's talk about the behind-the-scenes work that makes it all happen.

The most asked question about the Santa Express is: What would we do if a fire call came in during the express? This most secret of secrets is about to be revealed: Santa himself has received extensive training from the Russell Fire Department over the last 40 years, so much so that if a call were to come in, he would simply jump inside the truck and respond with us. Being the second longest-standing member of the department, besides Ron Hubbard, he might even assume command.

Another question we are often asked is, how do we ensure that every home is visited each year? Considering that the event starts at 5:30 p.m., it only gives us about four hours to visit every street in Russell, Marionville and North Russell. Plus, the Santa Express rarely travels any faster than a walking pace. This is another closely-guarded

secret within the fire department, and the answer is that we rely on a little Christmas magic provided by Santa himself. Just as he is able to visit all the homes of the world in one night, he does the same for us. One might even think we were in two places at the same time.

### Modern touch

As the department has modernized over the last number of years, technology has crept into the Santa Express. For a few years we could simply follow Santa's progress with our pagers. Now we post updates to our Facebook page. It's a great way for people to interact with us and post pictures of their special visit from Santa.

A large part of being involved with the Santa Express is experiencing the gratitude of all the people en route. As Christmas Eve is often a little chilly many people are worried about Santa getting cold as he completes his voyage around Russell, so it is common for Santa and his elves to be offered warm beverages to help keep the chill off them; especially beverages that have the ability to "warm" you from the inside. Unfortunately, some years

this resulted in poor Santa not being as steady as he should be as he sat on top of the truck. His red nose and flushed cheeks were not always the result of the biting winter winds; sometimes they were helped by over-generous residents sharing their Christmas cheer. Fortunately the elves who ride along with Santa now take charge of this and make sure Santa remains steady and safe as he completes his route.

As Russell has grown, Santa's helpers may not know every person we come across en route as in years past, but it certainly is a great way to meet new people and start traditions for new families. The first 40 years have come and gone, now we have the next 40 years to look forward to. The names will change, other people will take up the challenge, but you can be certain that as long as the Russell Fire Department exists, Santa will make his annual trip around Russell on Christmas Eve.

### Share your photos

The Russell Fire Department would appreciate if anyone with past photos of the Santa Express would share them with us; please post them to our Facebook page so we are able to share them with the entire community.

## Local art decorates UCPR council chambers

ALFRED - Eight works of art by local artists now line the walls of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell Council Chambers. The works were unveiled last Wed., Dec. 18.

The Conseil des arts Prescott-Russell Arts

Council (CAPRAC), in collaboration with the regional administration, launched a new project titled Expressions of Our Municipalities to promote the artists of Prescott and Russell and enliven the council chambers.

"We are very happy to open our doors and offer our walls to the beauty of artworks created by our local artists," said Robert Kirby, mayor of East Hawkesbury.

The purpose of this new initiative is to bring together a diversity of artistic expressions from the four corners of UCPR territory in an annual exhibition that will showcase one artist ambassador from each municipality to celebrate our shared community and regional identity.

To do so, the UCPR has invested in a new professional hanging system to exhibit the works.

In October, a public call to artists was launched to find eight artists and eight artworks that would represent their municipalities for the 2019-2020



Many of the artists were present for the unveiling on Dec. 18. Artist ambassadors (left to right): Susan Cornthwaite-Grenier, Marianne Dicaire, Nathalie Frenière, Monique Bergevin, Gisèle Savard-Lalonde, Christine Lenoir-Godin, Joyce Pihl and Shanna Steals, CAPRAC executive director. Courtesy photo



Gisèle Savard-Lalonde's art will hang in the UCPR council chambers for one year. Courtesy photo

year. A selection committee was mandated to choose the artworks from those submitted.

Gisèle Savard-Lalonde was chosen to represent Russell Township.

Also chosen as ambassadors for the 2019-

2020 exhibition are:

Casselman Municipality: Monique Bergevin

The Nation Municipality: Nathalie Frenière

Alfred and Plantagenet Township: Marianne Dicaire

City of Clarence-Rockland: Christine Lenoir-Godin

Champlain Township: Joyce Pihl

Town of Hawkesbury: Susan Cornthwaite-Grenier  
Township of East Hawkesbury: Rita Iriarte

**Wishing You a Spectacular New Year**

Sending best wishes your way for the coming year: Health, happiness, peace, prosperity, friendship and fun, just to name a few!

Thank you for helping to make 2019 a successful year for us. We couldn't do it without the support of great friends and customers like all of you.

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**2020**  
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## Fire department gets new life-saving equipment

Joseph Morin  
Villager Staff

RUSSELL – The Embrun Fire Department has new life-saving equipment.

Back in September, the department made an application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation of Canada for a grant to purchase a Hurst Combination Tool.

The equipment operates as an extraction device.

The fire department received word on Oct. 10 that its application had been

successful.

The grant totalled \$20,334.35 and allowed the department to go ahead and purchase the tool.

The news of the acquisition came at the Dec. 16 Russell council meeting.

In 2005, the Firehouse Subs Founders established Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in the U.S. with the mission of providing funding, lifesaving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations.

Ten years later, with the opening of the first Canadian Firehouse Subs restaurant in 2015, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation of Canada was born.

Through this registered charity, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation of Canada has granted more than \$847,000 to Hometown Heroes in Canada.

## Kin Club lottery ends the year on a high note

RUSSELL – What would you do with \$20,000? Take a “bucket list” vacation, pay off your credit cards, do some renovations?

The current “Catch the Ace” lottery, the third licence sponsored by the Kin Club of Russell, is growing. The jackpot was expected to reach \$20,000 on the Dec. 29 draw.

The reason for this rapid growth? Six local charities – Cystic Fibrosis Canada, Breast Cancer Action Ottawa, Osgoode Care Centre, Russell Minor Hockey Association, Valoris Foundation and Winchester District Memorial Hospital Foundation – have expanded both the

area and clientele for this popular progressive lottery.

In addition, the Kin Club of Russell developed an online version of this popular lottery allowing patrons from across Ontario to participate. Supporters of local charities can get their online tickets every week by going to <https://kinclubofrussell.ca> where they can choose one specific charity or all charities.

Tickets are sold during the week at selected ticket outlets, with draws on Sundays at Étienne Brûlé Brewery in Embrun. Some devoted fans of the lottery drop by the brewery to get their last-minute tickets.

# Spirit of Christmas shines during St. Mary’s free dinner

Tom Van Dusen  
Villager Contributor

RUSSELL – Loretta Roper is all about giving, giving back, to be more precise, and paying it forward. It all started when she was nursing her mother through Alzheimer’s and it just kept going.

For Roper, giving isn’t a seasonal thing; it’s a year-round activity culminating in the annual free-for-all

Christmas dinner at St. Mary’s Anglican in Russell. Served in the church hall Dec. 21, plates were laden with endless amounts of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing and other trimmings, followed by cookies and squares, tea and coffee.

Among celebrity servers were Russell Township Mayor Pierre Leroux, councillor Andre Brisson accompanied by several

members of his family, and Bill McInnis, a kingpin in the Russell Association for the Performing Arts for the past 20 years.

Organized with military precision, it was the 13th edition of the community dinner launched and still coordinated by Janice Stewart. She felt there was a need, brought the idea to St. Mary’s trustees... and away they went. Stewart empha-

sized that it isn’t a particular denomination event, that all faiths are welcome and do participate. She even takes holiday time from work to make sure everything clicks into place.

It is so free that Stewart doesn’t even put out a donation box for fear of intimidating guests with nothing to spare. Those who choose to can discreetly slip her some cash which she tucks away in her sweater to help cover expenses. This year, close to 300 meals were served, either in the hall or packaged by little helpers for delivery as far away as Vars and Casselman.

In all, 100 volunteers divided into work groups helped prepare, serve, and distribute 16 turkeys, 120 pounds of potatoes, and trimmings, with daughter Ashley Stewart alone whipping up 24 boxes of Stove Top stuffing. Ashley made it clear she wasn’t “voluntold” but was a willing volunteer who grew up with the annual Christmas community dinner as a family priority.

Flitting in and out among the tables was Loretta Roper, chatting up those who

seemed to be alone – including a forlorn newspaper reporter – and handing out small gifts from her Avon treasure trove. She talked about the spirit of giving and how important it


is, urging the cynical reporter to pay it forward whenever he could.

One of her rituals is to deliver home-baked chocolate pudding cakes – the

**Continued on page 16**



Loretta Roper makes a cake delivery on Dec. 22.  
Van Dusen photo



# Peace. Joy. Love. Harmony.

Hope Your Year Has It All!  
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# Cheers To You!

We're overflowing with gratitude  
For our neighbours and friends,  
And hope that the New Year  
Brings you joy without end!



## RUSSELL FOODLAND

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We hope 2020 brings all the best to your table!




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As we welcome a New Year, we'd like to display our gratitude to our friends and our customers.  
Happy New Year and Many Thanks!



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## St. Mary's dinner

Continued from page 15

perfect comfort food – to shut-ins and less fortunate families; she was taking around a dozen cakes the following morning and somehow the reporter found himself on her list despite



Mayor Pierre Leroux (left) and Bill McInnis dish out food. About 300 meals were served or delivered this year. Van Dusen photo

protests that he's consumed too much cake during his time. And Roper delivered: A pudding cake and a second sample banana chocolatey cake, along with more kind words about helping neighbours throughout the year, not just at Christmas time.

"Loretta has been doing wonderful things like this in the 18 years we've known her," said Peggy Shea-Marchessault. "She flies under the radar and just takes care of people."



Janice Stewart (right) coordinates operations at St. Mary's free Christmas dinner. Van Dusen photo



## A New Year's Wish

May 2020 overflow with happiness and good fortune for you!  
Thanks for brightening our year with your visits.

**PharmaChoice**  
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### Santa getting ready to ride

Looking just a little perplexed, the Jolly Old Elf himself directed last-minute preparations early Christmas Eve as Russell Fire Department Cpt. Duane Bourguignon adjusted lights on the 40th edition of the Santa Express. There was nothing to worry about, Santa, as Duane has been a volunteer Express driver for years and knows the drill, prepping the rig and carrying Santa on his rounds in and around Russell Village. The proof was in the Christmas pudding with the final product once again thrilling children of all ages. Van Dusen photo



Hope 2020 is a blast, from the first day until the last!

As we look back on another great year, we credit our success to loyal customers like you.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

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Sylvain Lafleche  
Emmanuel Lafontaine



**Heartfelt Wishes**  
for a Happy New Year

We thank you for making our year so very special with your visits.

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We deliver to Russell, Embrun, Limoges, Vars, St. Albert and surrounding areas.

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**2020**

Hope it's a blast, from the first day to the last!  
May the coming year be filled with peace, prosperity and plenty of good times.

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**CHEERS**

Thanks for adding so much sparkle to our year!

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