

EDITORIAL

NORTH RENFREW TIMES

Published by the
Deep River Community Association, Inc.
PO Box 310, Deep River, ON K0J 1P0

NRT Editorial Board:

A. Cahoon (AC), M. Coy (MC), K. McDonald (KMD),
T. Myers (TM), D. Tennant (DT), B. Wilkin (BW) - chair

Police services

There seems to be a general lack of trust from the public that the OPP can and will provide Deep River with the same level of policing that we currently have. Laurentian Hills certainly seems less than impressed with their services based on recent reports. They hardly ever see a police presence on their roads. Think about it: when was the last time you were, or saw anyone who was, pulled over in Chalk River? Certainly not everyone is abiding by traffic laws there. If asked the same question about Deep River, the answer would be very different. The police in Deep River maintain a visible presence daily. They can be seen monitoring traffic, checking on local properties, even picking up coffee at the local Tim Hortons and touching base with residents while they're there. This is a comfort to most people.

The town of Deep River receives a very personal level of care from the Deep River Police Service, for which we should be grateful. Why would we want this to change? Does the estimated cost of the OPP decrease after the initial three years? If so, have we been provided with numbers yet as to what the price of ongoing policing may be? Is it worth what we stand to lose?

As a town we do not currently lack access to any services. Anything that is not available through the Deep River Police as part of our basic services, we currently pay the OPP a fee to provide. This will remain the same even if the OPP take over policing in the town. Certain services that are not routinely required, such as the use of canines, are simply paid for on an "as needed" basis.

In addition our police service does many things within the community aside from just "policing." There is a lot of support to the community through outreach and education programs for seniors and students, support of our local food bank, and administrative services that we would be forced to drive to Petawawa for should the OPP take over. Will the outreach and support continue with the OPP? Will it be on the same scale as it does?

Residents have spoken out against the change to OPP on social media and here in the NRT. No one to date has been very vocal about supporting the move, though a perspective from the other side would be very interesting to hear. However, there seem to be more questions than answers available to residents, which leaves people wondering one more thing: Why are we trying to fix what doesn't seem to be broken?

MC

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE NORTH RENFREW TIMES WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. SEND LETTERS TO PO BOX 310, DEEP RIVER, OR BY EMAIL TO NRT@MAGMA.CA



This artwork by Julia Feenstra is one example of the collage works done by several of Olga Nazarkina's students in the "Art by Children 2" exhibit now showing at the Deep River Library. Each child chose an animal or bird and then picked various tapes and papers, many of them shiny and bright, to make their collage. Included, along with one to eight artworks for each of the 31 children exhibiting, are bios and photos of the artists. The exhibit is open all regular library hours, however Saturday, March 25 is your last chance to see this delightful and inspiring exhibit. As Picasso said, "Every Child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist when we grow up."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reinventing the wheel?

I have been watching with interest for some time the question of "bag tags" and "clear bags" and "bag sizes" reported recently in the NRT and discussed hotly by the town of Laurentian Hills.

I wonder if it is a question of inventing the wheel again. I say this because a very similar community, the township of Bonnechere Valley (which includes Eganville), solved the problem 14 years ago.

From Bylaw-2003-17 I extract the following paragraph:

"a) Residents who receive curbside pick-up will be required to purchase specially marked bags that are available at the municipal office for the cost of \$1 per bag. All garbage placed at the curb must be in specially marked bags."

The township simply chose a bag size (in Eganville's case, using clear bags), then had bags printed with its logo. Whether Laurentian Hills chooses to charge for the bags or simply issues 104 free ones per year with a charge for extras can then be a simple decision.

Eganville has now had many years of experience and a few quick phone calls should confirm how it has worked out.

Jim Ungrin

Daffodil Month

When loved ones are diagnosed with or die of cancer, friends and family often want to do something to help or honour them.

This April, the Canadian Cancer Society wants the people of Renfrew County to know there is something you can do.

This April, by volunteering just a few hours of your time selling daffodil pins or canvassing your neighbourhood in support of the Daffodil Month campaign, local residents can help save lives and support people who are living with cancer.

Money raised during Daffodil Month helps local patients and their families living with more than 100 different types of cancer.

With these donations, the Canadian Cancer Society funds life-saving research and support services, as well as other important work, so that fewer Canadians are affected by cancer.

Volunteers are essential to the success of the Daffodil Month campaign. We need you!

If you can spare a few hours during this critical fundraising time, please call our office at 613-735-2571.

If you are unable to volunteer, you can still join the fight this April by donating money and wearing a daffodil pin in support of Daffodil Month.

Roger Martin, community office manager
Canadian Cancer Society, Renfrew County