# EST. BONNECHERE 2001 VALLEY TOWNSHIP

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



#### Idea Bombing: Recreation, Community Development & Canada 150

The Township of Bonnechere Valley hosted a well attended "Idea Bombing" session and spaghetti dinner on Tuesday, January 17th at the Eagle's Nest. It was an interactive gathering where council, staff and residents came together to share ideas for what

kinds of things residents wished to see happening in our community. It was a great opportunity for council and staff to hear directly the priorities and pressing issues within our community. This was a valuable exercise. Important because when funding opportunities arise we can focus our efforts on projects the community is behind. Also it helps guide council on issues of interest to the public.

There were numerous activities discussed at this outreach session: Recreation, Canada 150 and Eganville 125 review, economic development, downtown revitalization and our Community Improvement Plan.

**CANADA 150**: Many great event ideas were shared and events that we held in the past were recommended to be repeated on an annual basis such as, a children's festival with bouncy castles, the amazing race, homemade boat races, road race - climbing Foymount Hill, science and astronomy event, a farm tour, stand up paddle boat jousting, slip & slide, logging displays and demo log rolling contest, celebrity challenge, buskers festival, Egan Fest, Holiday family party, fishing derby, indoor famers' market, poetry contest, father/daughter ball, Holiday family party, Melissa Bishop Day, night parade, community free pantry project, love your neighbourhood events and pumpkin walk.



The Canada 150 Committee Co-Chaired by Jackie Agnew and Meredith Jamieson with Dana Jennings as our staff lead, have met and reviewed the longer list of ideas and are putting together a calendar of events. We can only do as many events as we have volunteers to help out. So please get in touch with <a href="mailto:danaj@eganville.com">danaj@eganville.com</a> to help make this year's 150 events fabulous.

**RECREATION** ideas brought forth were: use of the arena in the summer for roller blading circuit like public skating, walking and running indoors, swimming lessons at Lake Clear, tennis courts re-surfacing, bus trips to a ski hill, transportation to events, bubble balls, bus trip to the Pembroke Pool, outdoor arena or play structure at Cormac, earlier pick up hockey times and lending hub expansion to include winter sports like snow shoe rentals or cross country skiis. Council is in the initial stages of putting together a volunteer Recreation Committee to help make some of these and more a reality. Please let us know if you would be interested in serving on such a committee of Council.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITILIZATION**: Some ideas that emerged were: awards from the Township honouring great businesses, better internet (see CRTC article), downtown signature look, selfie picture signs, food trucks, Advertising Eganville to urban centres as an affordable place to live outside the hustle and bustle, Community Hub building at the Creamery site, the formation of a Business Development Committee and updates to the change rooms at the Rotary Beach.

#### Water System Affordability Raised

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association annual conference was held in Toronto on January 29-31, 2017. This year Renfrew County Warden and Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy, Councillor Meredith Jamieson, and CAO Bryan Martin attended the conference on behalf of the municipality. We are pleased to report that we had a terrific meeting with Grant Crack, the Parliamentary Assistant for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs as well as Ministerial staff. We discussed the unsustainabil-

Rural Ontario Municipal Association

ity of our town water facility given our limited user base. Council and CAO Martin put together a background paper highlighting the economic strain on our town residence with suggested solutions that we presented to the Ministry. It was very well received and we are hoping that we will become a case study in association with WaterTap and a representative of the ministry to study this important issue in small rural communities. We are confident that this issue is now on the Provincial government's radar.

#### **Trending At Council**



Council meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays. We start with a committee meeting at 1:30 pm and this is where most

of our discussions take place. All meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend. This section is designed to let your know some of the topics that we are or will be discussing. Even if you can not attend a meeting we would love to hear your thoughts. Letters and emails are always circulated to all council members and read. We can do a better job with your help!



Our 2017 budget meeting is set for March 24 & March 27, 2017 at 10:00 am in council chambers. Budget

meeting, like all of our meetings are open to the public and you are invited to stop by and watch us agonize over how we are spending your money.

Radar Sign Board: Has been purchased and the 27" wide and 40" high sign will be placed on a trailer to be rotated among the various areas in the municipality.

**Speed Bumps:** They will be installed on a trial basis on Buelow Road and Lake Clear Road.

Youth Dances: The 2017 Youth Dances for Grades 5-8 have been confirmed for the school year. The dates are: Friday March 24; Friday, May 26; Friday June 23, Friday October 20 and Friday December 1, 2017. We are always looking for chaperones to assist with these dances. If you can donate a couple hours of your time with any of the above dates please let us know. Contact danaj@eganville.com.

Grand Finale Chili Cook Off April 21, 2017

11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Eganville Seniors Centre (30 Bell Street



Champions from the past four years will compete for grand champion at the last and final chili cookoff. BV Fire Chief Dave Murphy will try to defend his title.

#### **Eganville Arena**

The Township of Bonnechere Valley is very excited to announce that the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has approved our Ontario 150 Community Capital Program funding application in the amount of \$445,000. The funding will be used to replace the brine system, ice pad and dehumidifiers at the Eganville Community Centre. Fostering more active lifestyles, this initiative is helping infrastructure for unstructured and structured physical activities. This funding comes under the umbrella of Minister Elea-



nor McMahon's portfolio with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

We have a very short window of opportunity to complete this project as we will be honouring previous facility bookings occurring in the months of May and June. Construction will begin in July and must be completed by the mid August to accommodate other bookings. We will try to keep disruptions to a minimum but please understand that this work must be done.

#### **CRTC RULING**

The CRTC has declared broadband internet a basic telecommunications service. In a ruling handed down on December 21, 2016, the national regulator ordered the country's internet providers to begin working toward boosting internet service and speeds in rural and isolated areas.

"The future of our economy, our prosperity and our society — indeed, the future of every citizen — requires us to set ambitious goals, and to get on with connecting all Canadians for the 21st century," said Jean-Pierre Blais, the CRTC's chair, at a news conference in Gatineau, Que.

"Today's decision signals a fundamental shift in our regulations for basic services from voice-related issues to broadband-related issues."

Until now, local landline telephone service was the only service deemed "basic" or essential by the CRTC.

The CRTC has set new targets for internet service providers to offer customers in all parts of the country download speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of at least 10 Mbps, and to also offer the option of unlimited data. The CRTC estimates two million Canadian households, or roughly 18 per cent, don't have access to those speeds or data. The CRTC's goal is to reduce that to 10 per cent by 2021 and down to zero in the next 10 to 15 years. The CRTC is also taking steps to improve notices for consumers about when and why they are going over the limits of their data plans.

The regulator says Canadians had complained about getting excessive charges on their mobile phone bills, without warning, because of data-sucking apps. Now, wireless providers will have to provide consumers with information about tools to manage their data, better data plans and information to avoid service charges.

If consumers don't see an improvement in notices within six months, they can file a complaint against their provider with the CRTC's Commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services.

#### 911 Alternatives

Did you know that our policing costs are affected by the number of calls we make to the OPP over the 911 system? The 911 system is designed to be used for emergency calls to summon the police, fire department or ambulance services. Once you call 911 there has to be a response by one of these three services even if you hang up right away and those responses are paid for by all of us through our taxes. There are other numbers to use for non-emergency calls that may be a better choice if all you need is some information about a police, fire or health related matter. For example, if you are concerned about a dog running at large on your property you don't want the police unless that dog is aggressive and you fear for your safety. Instead you should call the township animal control number, 613-628-5914.

Here are some other numbers you can use:

\*Non-emergency police concerns: 888-310-1122

\*Non-emergency fire concerns: 613-312-7361

\*Non-emergency medical concerns: 866-797-0000

Remember: if you feel it is an emergency, do not hesitate to call 911.

Better safe than sorry.

#### Safe Burning Tips

Every year in Ontario, multiple rural residents and cottages are burned by fires that could have been prevented. Over 200 fires per year (or nearly one third) are caused by careless burning.

If you're found responsible for a forest fire, because of improper fire usage, you could be accountable for the costs of putting out the fire and for any property damage that occurs.

Consider chipping or composting brush or grass before burning. If you must burn, make sure you know the rules and follow these tips to ensure you burn grass and wood debris safely.

- 1. Choose a safe time: Burn during the coolest, dampest and calmest time of the day (2 hours before sunset or later). A fire is more llikely to get out of control on a hot, dry or windy day. Remember to put fires out two hours after sunrise or earlier.
- 2. Keep your fire small: Small fires can be controlled by 1 person using hand tools and water. Keep your pile of wood, brush, or wood byproducts to be burned less than 2 metres in diameter and less than 1 metre high. Permit burns cannot be within 10 metres of a building and burning standing grass or brush is restricted to a special permit.
- 3. Choose a safe site: Keep burning piles at least 5 metres from other flammable materials so the fire doesn't escape by running along the ground away from the pile or burn area. Ensure the smoke from burning material does not impede visibility on any public thoroughfare.
- 4. Stay with your fire: If you start a fire outdoors, you must tend to the fire, keep it under control, and extinguish it before leaving the site. A responsible person must be present to tend the fire at all times. Remember to keep adequate tools and water on hand to control the fire if it begins to spread.

In Bonnechere Valley a fire permit must be obtained and the regulations set forth in the Open Air By-Law observed. You may come directly into the municipal office to receive your permit or one may be completed a permit online through the Township of Bonnechere Valley's website.

 $\label{thm:com/departments/fire-department/open-air-burns/} Visit www.bonnecherevalleytwp.com/departments/fire-department/open-air-burns/$ 



The Bonnechere Valley Fire Department is committed to your safety. We are conducting smoke and CO alarm inspections at your convenience. Please contact us to book an appointment.

Daylight Savings Time Begins - March 12th



#### **Community Champion - Terry Stewart**

Those who know Terry Stewart know they can expect to see her at the Tourist Information Centre in Eganville. Our community benefits from her many years of experience in customer service.

Eganville has become famous for its annual Bonnechere Authors Festival, Stone Fence Theatre, Music in the Park, the Bonnechere Museum and the Bonnechere Caves. Ms. Stewart ensures that her volunteers and the summer student in which the Tourist Centre employees for the summer is well versed in the numerous events and activities taking place in Renfrew County, the Ottawa Valley and the Bonnechere Valley area.



Her friendly, helpful nature is a perfect fit for helping visitors find their way. She is first to offer help and welcome new and returning visitors to our area.

Thank you Terry for your numerous years of time and dedication to promoting the beautiful place we call home!

#### **News Briefs**

#### Water Bottle Filling Station:

The Recreation Department has received funding for a water bottle filling station which will be installed at the Tourist Information Booth in the Spring of 2017.



Business Directory: Bonnechere Valley's new Business Directory is now live on the township's website. If you or someone you know have a business and would like your information as part of the Directory you can either upload the information yourself or provide Dana Jennings at danaj@eganville.com with your information.

Water & Sewer Rates: The 2017 Water & Sewer rates have increased by two percent and the budget will reflect the 2017 spending and the impact that it has on the capital deficit.

**VEWS BRIEFS...NEWS BRIEFS...NEWS BRIEFS...NEWS BRIEFS...NEWS BRIEFS...NEWS** 



Ontario 150 Funding Application: The application submitted to the Ontario 150 Community Celebration Program for the enhancement of Canada Day activities was declined.

**Canada 150 Funding Application:** The application submitted to the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program for the Natural Playspace project was declined.

Ontario Sport and Recreation Fund: An application was submitted to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund for Summer, Saturday's in the Fall and March Break programming. This is a collaborative application between the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa (Camp Smitty), North Algona Wilberforce Township and the Township of Bonnechere Valley.

#### **On-Line or Telephone Payments**

There are big changes coming to the Township's accounting system. As a result, if you are currently making on-line or telephone banking payments your accounts will need to be set up again. This also applies if you have automatic payments in place.

As we transition in the coming weeks, all ratepayers will need to make sure to chose the appropriate bill account (Bonnechere Valley Water & Sewer or Bonnechere Valley-Taxes). The digits that will be your account number is the same account number that will appear on your bill.

Please take note that: Tax accounts will be the 19 digits on the bill and the Water & Sewer accounts will be the 14 digits on the bill.



### Calendar of Events

## PUBLIC SKATING

Free Public Skating at the Eganville Arena

March 5th, 6-7:15 pm. Sponsored by Riverside Dental.

March 10th, 2-3:15 pm. Sponsored by Eganville Rotary Club.

March 12th, 3-4:15 pm. Sponsored by Signature Team Realty.

March 13th, 3:30-4:45 pm. Sponsored by Pikwakanagan Fuels.

March 14th, 3:30-4:45 pm. Sponsored by BMO.

March 15th, 3:30-4:45 pm. Sponsored by Heideman's Saw Mill.

March 16th, 3:30-4:45 pm. Sponsored by Canadian Woodworking.

March 17th, 3:30-4:45 pm. Sponsored by St. John's Anglican Church.

March 19th, 3:00-4:15 pm. Sponsored by the Eganville Legion.

March 26th, 3:00-4:15 pm. Sponsored by the Eganville Legion.



March Break Madness Schedule at BUPL

March 10, 2017, 12 noon - March Break Movie! Come watch Moana and eat popcorn!

March 11, 2017, 3 pm - March Break Matinee featuring The Lucky Charms!

March 13, 2017, 1 pm - Purim Party! Dress up in your favourite costume and celebrate the Jewish holiday Purim! Snacks, games and stories. Open to all!

March 14, 2017, 1 pm - March Break Bingo! Prizes will be won!

March 15, 2017, 1 pm - Candy Sushi! Registration required. Limited space!

March 16, 2017, 1 pm - Design Your Own Snakes & Ladders board game!

March 17, 2017, 1 pm - St. Patrick's Day Fun! Make crafts and scavenge for shamrocks in the shelves!

Freedom to Read Week: Sunday, February 26, 2017 to Saturday, March 4, 2017 at BUPL. Check out their display of challenged books, and get "caught" reading at their mugshot station!

Lego Challenge: Every book read in March will earn kids 3 Lego pieces each! Add your pieces to the base and at the end of the month see what you've created along side your community at the Bonnechere Union Public Library.

**Belly Dancing Classes/Yarnia:** Rotating Thursdays at 6 pm at the Bonnechere Union Public Library. Inquire at the Library for dates.

**St. David's Day:** Join the Bonnechere Union Public Library on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 6 pm as they celebrate St. David. Come craft and eat Welsh cakes. Open to all

**Blood Donor Clinic:** Monday, March 6, 2017 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Eganville Legion.

**Adult Pickleball:** Tuesday March 7th, 21st & 28th, 2017 from 7 pm to 9 pm at EDPS school.

St. Patricks' Soup & Sandwich: March 10, 2017, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Senior Centre. Music by Guy Jamieson. Cost \$8



Ways & Means St. Patrick's Day Party: March 12, 2017 from 2 pm - 6 pm at the Eganville Legion. Cost is \$7/person. Music by the Nelson Towns Band. Donations of sandwiches and squares gratefully accept-

Eganville & Area Horticultural Society Meeting: March 20, 2017, 7 pm at the Eganville Legion. Guest speaker: Terry Newcombe, Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society (Barry's Bay), will present Organic Farming on an Island Volcano.

Youth Dance: March 24, 2017 from 7 pm - 9:30 pm at the Eganville Legion for Grades 5-8. Cost is \$5/person. Music by DJ Shanon.

Curling Club Trivia Night: March 24, 2017 from 7:30 pm at the Eganville Curling Centre. Team of 6 at \$60/team. Prizes for top teams; door prizes. Limited space. MUST book in advance. Call Gerald at 613.628.1836.



Ways & Means Dance: April 2, 2017 from 2 pm - 6 pm in the Eganville Legion Main Hall. Cost is \$7/person. Music by the Douglas Connection.

**Adult Pickleball:** April 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th from 7 pm - 9 pm at EDPS school.

**Poetry Slam:** April 5, 2017, 6 pm at BUPL in celebration of Poetry Month.

Passover/Easter Party: April 12, 2017, 6 pm at BUPL. Join them for an Easter Egg Hunt.

### CHECK THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND ADDITIONS!

Eganville Skating Club End of Season Ice Show: April 1, 2017 at the Eganville Arena. Free-will donation.

National Canadian Film Day: April 19, 2017 at BUPL. The Library has joined forces with REEL Canada to celebrate a nation wide movement. They will be hosting a Double Feature Film simultaneously with every province across Canada. At 6 pm viewing: Blue Butterfly (PG) and 8 pm viewing: Defendor (14A). FREE tickets available at BUPL and the BV municipal office.

**Red Hot Mamas:** April 26, 2017, 2 pm at the Seniors Centre will be entertaining with jokes and song.

My Big Fun BUPL "Wedding" Library Fundraiser: April 29, 2017 at the Eagle's Nest. Hosted by the Library Board. Tickets available at the Library.



An Evening with Elvis: April 29, 2017, Eganville Legion. Featuring Norm Ackland Jr. Doors open, 7 pm; Show starts, 8 pm. Cost is \$20, with luncheon. Tickets call 613.570.1884 or 613.281.4325



**Business Bistro Networking Event:** May 1, 2017. Details to TBA.

**Blood Donor Clinic:** May 1, 2017 from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Eganville Legion.

May the Fourth Party: May 4, 2017, 6 pm at BUPL. Dress up in your favourite Star Wars character!



**EDPS Fun Fair:** May 11, 2017 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the school.

Ways & Means Dance: May 14, 2017 from 2 pm - 6 pm in the Eganville Legion Main Hall. Cost is \$7/person. Music by the Peter White & Mixed Country.

Eganville & Area Horticultural Society Meeting: May 15, 2017 at 7 pm, Eganville Legion. Guest speakers: Sarah Lawless & Alex Marchant, Fern & Fungi of Killaloe.

**P.A. Day Film:** May 19, 2017, noon at BUPL. Stop by for a featured film and popcorn. Family friendly. Film TBA.

**Plant & Bake Sale:** May 20, 2017, 8 am at the Seniors Centre.

Eganville Curling Club Fundraising Brunch: May 21, 2017 from 9 am to 12:30 pm at the Curling Club. Adults \$9, under 12 \$4, under 6 free.



Youth Dance: May 26, 2017 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm for Grades 5 to 8 at the Legion. Cost is \$5. Music by DJ Shanon.