

# PEMBROKE TILE CARPET & DRAPERY

611 Hamilton St  
Pembroke 735-0123

We offer: Carpet, Vinyl, Vinyl Tile, Ceramic Tile, Laminate  
Flooring, Hardwood, Area Rugs, Wallpaper, Fabric, Window  
Shades & Other Home Accessories

"THE SMARTER WAY TO BUY" 1-800-273-0313



PEMBROKE HONDA 1405 Pembroke St, Pembroke

Keetch's  
Building  
Supplies

Two great  
locations to serve  
your building  
needs

C.A.  
Reiche &  
Sons Ltd.

6 North Street  
Killaloe  
613-757-2616



Hwy 41  
Pembroke  
613-735-4104

# The Eganville Leader

Renfrew County's weekly with the largest paid circulation

Independently-owned since 1902

108th Year - No. 36

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Eganville, Ontario

(\$1.19 + 6 cents GST) \$1.25

## Municipal leaders will meet to try and save CP rail line

Second meeting is slated for Thursday in Petawawa; municipal leaders from Smiths Falls to North Bay invited

By Gerald Tracey  
News Editor

**Eganville** -- Two local municipalities have thrown their support behind a resolution from the Town of Arnprior calling on the County of Renfrew to take the lead in calling together the mayor of North Bay, the warden of Lanark County and the mayors of all the municipalities along the CP line from Coniston to Smiths Falls to explore the possible ways of saving the line.

At meetings held by Canadian Pacific in communities between Smiths Falls and North Bay, the company announced it would be giving "notice of sale or discontinuance of railway lines" for the portion of the rail line between Smiths Falls and Mattawa. That would mean the disappearance of rail service of any kind through the Ottawa Valley.

Advertisements have already been placed in newspapers for the sale of the line and if no interest is expressed by April 5 for its continued operation, CP will then offer it to the federal, provincial and municipal governments, respectively. If no agreement to transfer is reached, CP will then close out its operations by abandoning the line and selling the steel rails for scrap.

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday) in Petawawa and all municipalities along the line between Smiths Falls and North Bay have been invited to send two representatives each. Up for discussion at the meeting are two items: CP's options in accordance with the Canada Transportation Act, and municipal issues/implications concerning the continuance of a railway operation or possible abandonment of the line.

Councillor Bob Peltzer said Bonnechere Valley Township ratepayers might wonder why closing the line is an issue and why council would be concerned about it.

"This is the last remaining rail link in Renfrew County and while it may not be important to you as a taxpayer in Bonnechere Valley, think of its importance to the economic vitality of the community, the fibreboard plant, (in Laurentian Valley Twp), for example. If it's going to reopen,

it's going to need that rail line."

Coun. Peltzer said there might be other uses for the line but because some multi-national company headquartered in the United States is ready to sell the rail line as scrap iron, perhaps the federal government has to remind the owner of the line that the scrap iron was paid for by the people of Canada.

"So the people of Canada have a stake in these rail lines," he said. "These lines can still be profitable. I've seen small short haul rail lines spring up that have been bought out by relatively small groups. You don't have a hundred car train going through any more, but you have small trains pulled by switcher engines that could handle things like the fibreboard plant and some other industries, not only in Arnprior, but in other places. You don't know what they're possibly going to have need of a rail line for in the future."

"Not everything you need to make things comes by truck," he added. "We can't even begin to see how important that could be to our future."

Coun. Peltzer said the Valley cannot afford to sit by and let the tracks be pulled up and bridges be pulled down because somebody sitting in Georgia decided that because they are not making as much money as they would like to they will go somewhere else.

The Arnprior resolution notes that access to an integrated transportation network is a critical component in attracting, retaining and expanding business through accessing regional, national and international markets.

It also states that railroads are emerging as energy efficient, cost effective and environmentally sound ways to transport passengers and goods.

"The loss of this track would remove Renfrew County from the integrated transportation network of Eastern Ontario, causing it to be a less competitive location in all areas of industry including but not limited to forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing," the resolution states. "The magnitude and veracity of this dire matter calls for resolute leadership and a broadly co-ordinated approach."



Happy 100th Birthday, Mary!

Mary St. Louis, who was born, raised and lived most of her life in the Constant Lake area of the former Township of Grattan, celebrated her 100th birthday Sunday. On Saturday, many relatives and friends attended an open house in her honour at the Dacre and Area Community Association Centre. See Page 8 for story.

## Charges possible in Friday night EHL incident

**Eganville** -- Three people involved in an ugly incident following the Friday night Eganville Hockey League contest between the Golden Lake T-Birds and Pembroke Auto Sales could be facing charges for their involvement in the incident.

League President Jason Swant said the incident occurred as the officials were leaving the ice following Pembroke's 4-3 win in triple overtime.

"The officials were headed to their dressing room when a suspended player from the T-Birds and a couple of fans attacked them," he explained.

Mr. Swant said one of the officials had his sweater torn off while the other official's helmet was broken in the melee. The officials later requested a police escort before they would leave the arena. This was provided by members of the Killaloe OPP.

Mr. Swant said Gordie Goldberg, the former referee-in-chief for the league, told him the two officials plan to press charges as a result of the incident. Mr. Goldberg also refused to allow his officials to continue handling the EHL playoffs and Mr. Swant was forced to quickly find a back-up crew for Sunday's fourth game in both series. Chris Olmstead of Cobden was the referee while Tom O'Gorman and Randy Schauer of Eganville were the linesmen.

Mr. Swant said a hearing between the various team representatives will be held later to determine the suspended player's future with the league.

## Family fears dignity lost for the sake of anti-smoking agenda

Renfrew County's smoke ban now in place for seniors' residences

By Neil Etienne  
Staff Writer

**Renfrew** -- Even within the county council ranks it wasn't the most popular move when the decision was made last year to ban smoking at both Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew and Miramichi Lodge in Pembroke.

Finally passed early last spring after some debate with an extended deadline to full implementation just this past March 1, it's only been in place a little more than a week and already at least one family is fuming, saying their father is being forced into unsafe

conditions off the Bonnechere Manor property, where he's already taken one spill out of his wheelchair to a host of bruises, and has to navigate through a busy parking lot in the face of all elements just to sit at the busy, uneven roadside.

Meanwhile, the safe confines of the expansive lawn around and the former covered smoking section in the private courtyard sit unused, now subject to the smoking ban on the county-owned property.

It's not the form of dignity Bill Jamieson had hoped for his father, J.R., when he became a resident.

Now 85, in failing health and a resident of Bonnechere Manor for well more than five years now, J.R. is a life-long pipe smoker and one of only about 10 residents between both senior care facilities who still

smoke. Still fairly mobile, able to dress himself in the mornings and out for breakfast, he does use a wheelchair to get around, having had a hip replacement some years back. Son Bill says his father also suffers from a progressively worsening kidney issue and has had open heart surgery.

"The truth of the matter is Dad is not in good health," he said. "At this point in his life, that (smoking his pipe) is his social life; that is what he gets up in the mornings for; without it he would wither up and die, it is his one joy."

"They told him it's (quitting) going to add 10 more years to his life; he's 85, he said 'what do I want to live 10 more years for,'" the junior Mr. Jamieson said. "Regardless, he doesn't have 10 years left and he wants to enjoy what he does have; now he

lives in fear.

"Fear they are going to kick him out, even fear from the police," he continued. "They're hanging out on the street, it's not safe, it's not dignified and my Dad can't get out there. There's snow all over the walks. You'd have to have a four-wheel drive wheelchair just to get through."

Mr. Jamieson said his father and those friends from the seniors home who join him are fearful they are now trespassing on Town of Renfrew property, having been kicked off the manor boundary if they want to light up. He said there has been no accommodations made, like butt cans, let alone a snow-cleared spot or cover from the weather, and said the residents have expressed fear police may show up, angry about littering and loitering.

See Page 2

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 14

**NEW**  
Renfrew  
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP  
SEE OUR FLYER INSIDE THIS PAPER FOR FANTASTIC DEALS!!  
376 O'Brien Road, Renfrew 1-888-432-8532  
www.renfrewchrysler.ca