FREE Prints

ONAPING FALLS NEWS

Special Points of Interest

- •The Tradition Keeps on...
- •Golden Age Club
- •SUMMERFEST 2019
- Local Food Bank
- Mother 's Day Menu
- Church News
- Golf Course
- Mother 's Day Flowers 705-855-3321



Inside this issue:

- ♦ Kids Korner
- ♦ A Moment with Melinda
- ♦ The Learning Curve
- ♦ School News
- ♦ OF Lions Club
- ♦ Heart & Soul
- ♦ Legion, Branch 503
- ♦ Blockhead Blunders
- Healthy Living
- ♦ O.F.C.A.N.
- ◊ Did you know!
- ♦ May Crossword

Volume 20

MAY 2019

C.V.D.C.S. Flyers Junior Co-Ed Volleyball CHAMPS!

From left to right ~ Mr. Murray (Coach), Lacey Hein, Owen Dane, Matt Deslauriers, Memphis Andrews, Elizabeth Pratt, Skylar Dale, Mrs. Jokinen (Coach) and Ellis Albrecht



On June 1, 2019 the Knights of Columbus Council 11565 will be having a Sausage Drive Fundraiser

The sausages are to be sold at \$5.00 per pound in 5 pound lots <u>only</u> which will cost \$25.00 ea. You have a choice of mild, hot, super hot, porketta, honey garlic and breakfast sausage - form or loose.



Knights may be approaching you to see if you're interested in placing an order or you can call Mike Maisonneuve at 705,966.3926 or cell 705.919.5549 to order or ask questions.

All orders must be in and paid for by May 22, 2019. Profits will go to Knights and the Parish needs.

Thank You!





STORE HOURS
Monday to Saturday
from 9am to 5pm
CLOSED on Sundays

47 Levack Drive, Levack, Ontario

705-966-3335

Check out our many products online at www.homehardware.ca







May 9 to 15 (9214)

May 16 to 22 (9215)

May 23 to 29 (9216)



Marc Serré

M.P. / Deputé Nickel Belt

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Tel: 705-897-2222 Email: marc.serre.parl.gc.ca

marcserre.ca
Facebook @ marcserreMP

Did You Know!

Personal messages of Congratulations are available for milestone birthdays and anniversaries!
You can call the MP's office or visit his website at www.marcserre.ca, click on the link 'MP Services' and select 'Congratulatory Message' from the drop down menu and fill out the form online.
While visiting the site you can also find out all the other wonderful things our MP's office can do for us here in Nickel Belt!

Birthdays

- 65th and over message from the Prime Minister
- 90th and over message from the Governor General
- 100th and every 5th year thereafter message from Her Majesty The Queen Wedding Anniversaries
- 25th and over message from the Prime Minister
- 50th and over message from the Governor General
- 60th and every 5th year thereafter message from Her



Onaping Falls Lions Club

27 Sturgeon Street, Dowling, Ontario 705-855-1765



ONAPING FALLS LION'S



6:30pm - WARM UPS

7pm - REGUALAR

MONDAY MIGHTS Dowling Lion's Den

27 Sturgeon St.

Must be 18yrs of age to play

LION'S YARDSALE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

MAY 25th & 26th

8am TO 4pm

DOWLING LION'S DEN

27 STURGEON ST.

SOMETHING FOR

EVERYONE

BBQ Saturday and Sunday

too!

ONAPING FALLS LIONS

TUESDAY EUCHRE

Doors open at 12noon WHEN: Every Tuesday WHERE: Dowling Lions Den 27 Sturgeon St START TIME: 12:30 pm COST: \$1.00

WE PLAY FOR FUN HERE!

THE ONAPING FALLS





YARDSALE DONATIONS Carmen Portelance



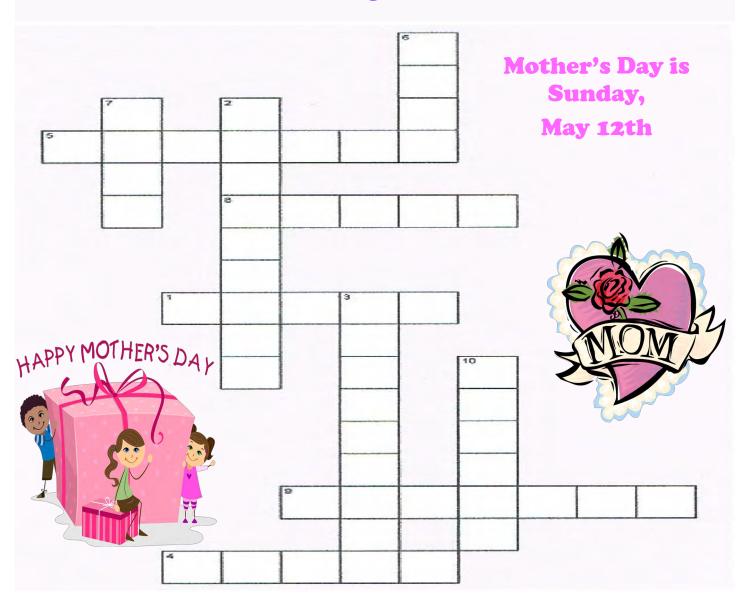
If you have any donations please call: Carmen Portelance @ 705 562 9067

FOR LION'S DEN HALL RENTAL

PLEASE CALL:

@ 705 562 9067

Mother's Day Crossword



Across

- 1. Flat rectangular pieces of stiff paper with a sentiment written within.
- 4. Firm reliance on the integrity or character of a person or thing.
- 5. A special day in May dedicated to these ladies.
- 8. A rich confection made with sugar.
- 9. Ornaments such as bracelets or earrings.

Down

- 2. Fermented and ground cacao seeds combined with sweetener.
- 3. Plural form of daughter
- 6. To clasp or hold closely; embrace
- 7. A deep affection
- 10. To touch with the lips as an expression of affection.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

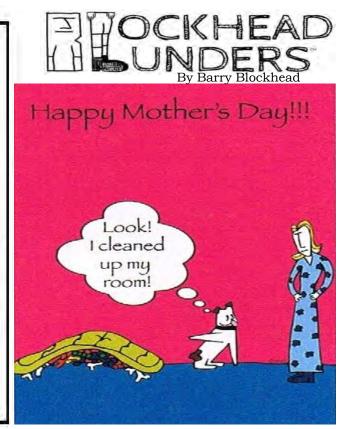
Our Community Office Team is available to help residents of Nickel Belt in areas such as:

- Birth Certificates and Certificates of Marriage
- Commissioner of Oath Stamp
- Congratulatory Messages (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Accomplishments)
- Family Responsibility Office
- Health Services (Home Care, Ontario Drug Benefit, Travel Grants)
- Ministry of Transportation (Licensing, Medical Review)
- Social Services



Published on the 1st day of each month
Submission deadline is the 23rd of each month by noon
Editor ~ Dolly Gordon 705-662-9095
Website/Online Editor ~ Samantha Brazeau-Wilson
Contributors ~ Kyleen Gray, Sean 'Blue' Gray, Arianna Thibodeau,
Jana Lahnalampi, Danika Lavoie-Rochette, Blockhead Blunders
and Melinda Mott

400 paper copies are distributed within the community.
You can view the full online version at www.onapingfallsnews.com
Join our Facebook page for daily happenings.
For more information please email justdolly@persona.ca
Call or text. 705-662-9095

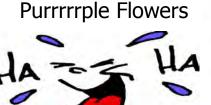


Kies

Korner

By Arianna Thibodeau

What color flowers do mama cats like to get on Mother's Day?



Mom, what is it like to have the best child in the world??

I don't know! Go ask your Grandparents!!



Start

LOST ~ PLEASE HELP FIND !!

One of our dearest seniors has lost a gold coloured necklace with a medallion and crystal birth stone. **It carries deep sentimental value**. Reward of \$20.

Please keep your eyes open. Lost around Christmas...possibly downtown Levack.

Contact Dolly via text or phone if you find it please.

705-662-9095





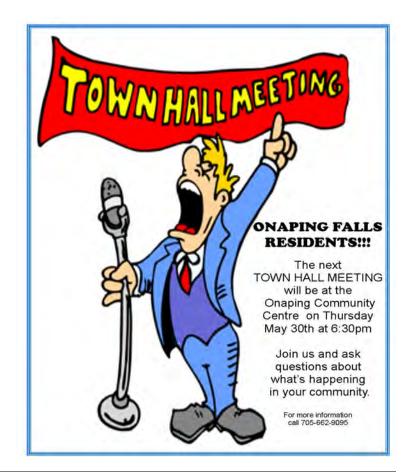
2019 Soccer Season is here

Ages 3+ welcome \$35

Season runs from May 20th to June 26th Price includes jersey, shorts, socks, soccer ball and medal.



Register online at https://sites.google.com/view/soccerclub/
Contact Shannon Boyce 705-691-7426
Or email ofsoccerclub@gmail.com







The PUCKHOGS new album is coming soon....

Brent Wohlberg was born and raised in Levack. He and his band mates, Chris Leblanc from Whitefish and Sean Barette from Kapuskasing formed the Puckhogs in the Fall of 2013.

They entered one of their songs ,'For the Love of the Game' in the CBC Hockey Night in Canada Song Quest to find the next Great Canadian Hockey Song. It 's an awesome song but it came in second place as runner up in the contest. Still an honour when you compete against over 1000 other Canadian artists! Have a listen to the song on Youtube.

Almost 6 years later they are 'soon to release' their debut album. Best described as Canadiana, or 'music about your camp to listen to at camp', the 10 original songs are lively, authentic, sincere, and often humoruous glimpses of what it means to live in Canada and Northern Ontario.

Their debut album is titled 'The Puckhogs'. It was recorded in Brent's studio Artifact Media. Follow the Puckhogs on Facebook. Their music will be available on CD and on all digital

platforms. Support them when their music is released and be sure to go and see them play when they are about town!

Dolly

Onaping Falls Pastoral Charge

Larchwood Memorial, Dowling & St. John's, Levack, Onaping, Cartier

Schedule of Services

Larchwood Memorial, Dowling 9:30 a.m.
St. John's, Levack 11:00 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD at St. John's on May 19th
'Mostly Music Service' with Shannon Boland
Hymn Suggestions are welcome!

Pastoral Charge Photo Directory - Photos will be taken of all congregants following worship at St. John's on April 28th, May 5th and May 12th and at Larchwood Memorial on May 5th, 12th and 19th

Please pass the Word to folks and make sure to get your pic-

Kim Depatie is a Registered Practical Nurse.

Her business
Kind Hearts Home Care
offers non-medical and medical
services to residents of
Onaping Falls and throughout
Greater Sudbury.
For more information or to book a
free consultation call

705-920-1861





Catholic Parishes / Paroisses catholiques

Onaping Falls & Cartier P.O. Box 650
Levack Ontario POM 2C0
Telephone: 705-966-3762
Fax: 705-966-0820

Email: catholicp4@eastlink.ca

Pastor / Curé: Joseph Ogah Cell# 705-920-1514

St. Bartholomew/ St. Bartélemy in Levack Masses / Messes:

Tues. 10am Wed. 7pm Sat. 7pm Sun. 9:45am

St. Francis Xavier / St-François Xavier in Cartier Masses / Messes:

Thurs. 9am Sun. 8:30am

St. Stephen the Martyr / St-Étienne in Dowling Masses / Messes:

Wed. 10am Fri. 10am Sun. 11am

Parish Office – 30 Church Street, Levack Open Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. Closed daily from 11:30am to noon







Carmen Portelance Sales Representative

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A moment with Melinda

Let us be kind and compassionate and help remove the sadness in the world!

ONAPING FALLS



June 22, 2019 Dowling Leisure Centre

\$ 10/bracelet per child - 2 yrs & under free

Vendor's 10 am to 4 pm Kid's Attractions 11 am to 3 pm







Gerry Montpellier

City of Greater Sudbury Councillor ~ Ward 3

Phone: 705-698-2759

Email

gerry.montpellier@greatersudbury.ca Facebook @ Gerry Montpellier Join today - \$20 a year - age 50 plus

Onaping Falls Golden Age

Golden Age Club

705-966-2502

109 Service Road, Onaping , Ontario PoM 1Lo

ONAPING FALLSGOLDEN AGE CLUB

Membership Open to anyone age 50 or over. For only \$20.00 per year. (one spouse must be 50) Some activities are open to everyone legal age.

Club has – Pool, Cards, Shuffle Board, Exercise Room, Reading Room, Computer room, Rental facilities, Bocce, Horse Shoe, Bowling league, Two Bars, Fully equipped Kitchen and more.

OPEN-BINGO EVERY TUESDAY at 7:pm

Open- <u>RUMMOLI NIGHT</u> with Sharon Second Saturday of the month, May 11. 6:30 pm.) Call Sharon 705-677-4585

General Meeting & Pot Luck May 30th.

2:pm. Information- Call 705-966-0137

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

WHERE:- Golden Age Club

WHEN: JUNE 1 st. 2019

TIME: 10:a.m. to 4:p.m.

Book your table early for only \$ 10.00. Open to any family in the Community.

B.B.Q. 11:am to 1:30 p.m.

Call - Sharon 705-677-4585

ART SHOW AND TEA

WHERE: Golden Age Club, Onaping

WHEN: Sunday MAY 5, 2019

Time: 12:30 pm. - 4: pm.

The Onaping Falls ART Club

presents their Annual Spring Art

Display. Youth Art welcome.

Accompanied by a Golden Age Club

Tea. Door prize "Painting by a local

Artist.

Admission - Donation at the Door

Call Nevaida 705-966-0137

NOTE: SUMMER NEWS

Onaping Falls Golden Age Club

Summer Mens OPEN Pool Schedule.

EVERY TUESDAY EVENING 6:30 pm.

Call Roger 705-966-2619

Ladies OPEN Pool: Thursday & Sunday

6:30 pm.Call 705-966-0137

Club is looking for a Bocce & Horse

Shoe Convenor, Call 705-966 0137

Onaping Falls Golden Age club Season Closing Party June 22. TIME 12:30 to 6:p.m. Open to Members and Guests.

open to members and Guests.

FREE- B.B.Q. (Complete Meal.)

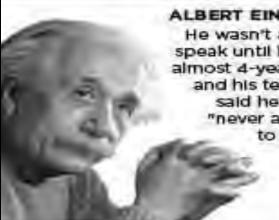
Free- Live Entertainment and games.

Sign up at the Club.

Call – Roger for info. 705-966-2619

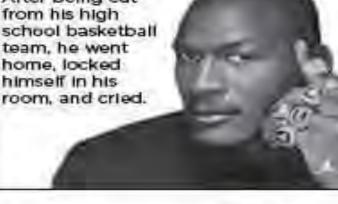


FAMOUS FAILURES



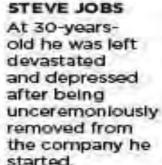
ALBERT EINSTEIN He wasn't able to speak until he was almost 4-years-old and his teachers said he would "never amount to much*

MICHAEL JORDAN After being cut from his high school basketball team, he went home, locked himself in his





WALT DISNEY Fired from a newspaper for "lacking imagination" and "having no original ideas."







Was demoted from her Job as a news anchor because she "wasn't fit for television."

THE BEATLES Rejected by Decca Recording Studios, who said "We don't like their soundthey have no future in show business."



IF YOU'VE NEVER FAILED. YOU'VE NEVER TRIED ANYTHING NEW



Available date for APRIL and MAY in ONAPING

Located with Cathy's Artistic Cuts beside the LCBO

Brandi Purvis ~ Registered Massage Therapist



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Direct billing for MOST providers.

This location is Cash or e-transfer only please.



Healthy Living with Danika

by Danika Lavoie- Rochette

Finally, the warmth and the sun are here! The extra light that comes with it makes us notice all of the grimy little corners we were unable to get to throughout the dark, wintery months. This time of year calls for Spring Cleaning!

Especially during this season, we use several different types of cleaners. Unfortunately, many of these are harmful for the environment, but more notably, for ourselves. One of the main issues is that these products leave behind unhealthy toxins in the air we breathe and can be dangerously absorbed by our skin.

Are you looking for an efficient, non-toxic All-Purpose Cleaner? Simply incorporate ½ cup of white vinegar, 2 tbsp. of baking soda and warm water in a spray bottle. Gently mix together, spray the desired area and wipe with a clean cloth. If you are looking to add a bit of freshness to the mixture, why not add a few drops of lemon, orange or lavender oils? Essential oils have become very popular over the past few years and studies have proved their overall health benefits when used appropriately.

There are plenty of cleaning concoctions that we can create with our own natural household ingredients that are just as powerful and effective. They are also healthier for ourselves and all living organisms on our planet. Let's do our part in preserving our earth by veering away from heavily infused chemical products.

Wishing you all a wonderful Spring season!

Danika







1,2,3,FORE!

Its Time for Golf

Come to Play, Stay for the Day! Join the Fun!

Everyone is welcome! No experience Necessary!

Homecooking at its finest! Try our homemade Burgers & Fresh Cut Fries

Sunday Brunch Served From July long weekend to September long weekend

Book now for Parties, meetings, lunches and tournaments! We'll cater your Needs!

Inquire about the benefits of our Memberships, 2019 memberships on sale now!

Gift Certificates available!

NEVER GOLFED? Join for the fun of it

TRIAL Memberships -Try out the beach & course

for the month of July for \$200*



For more information call 705-966-2077 or check online at www.golfwindy.com

Mark your calendars and join us for league play.

Men's night Hole in One contest jackpot is growing!

*some restrictions apply

Men's Night—Tuesday Evenings Sr. Ladies—Wednesday Mornings

Sr. Men's—Thursday Mornings Thirsty Nighters—Open to all Thursday Evenings

Couple's Night—Friday Evenings Many more Special Events!

OFCAN

Onaping Falls Community Action Network

We listen to you and work to create a better community.

WHAT DO YOU NEED? WANT?

We can help!!

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Dog Park
- **Community Gardens**

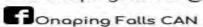
Want to get involved?

We're always looking for new community members who want to make a difference. Our meetings take place on the second Thursday of every month at 6pm at the Onaping Falls Community Centre (north rear doors).

CONTACT US NOW!!



onapingfallscan@gmail.com





St. John's United Church



Korean Martial Arts **DOWLING**

Yvon Carriere

Master 705-626-1814

yvoncarriere@hotmail.com

SEWING CLASSES with LEONA

Every Tuesday at 10am Every Thursday at 6:30pm

Please call Leona if you are interested in joining

705-966-3493





Ten Point Archery is your local source for top-quality archery products, including bows, targets, hunting clothing and more.

Located at 3450 Hwy 144 in Chelmsford, our store also features an air-conditioned range where you can test your aim.

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- Hunting Equipment
- Game Calls
- Scents & Attractants
- Bow Accessories & Targets
- **Hunting Clothing and Apparel**
- **DVD** Rentals

Our Brands

- Hoyt
- Mathews
- Elite
- PSE
- Bear
- Quest
- Prime

- Mission
- Diamond
- Bowtech
- Martin
- landao
- Obsession Excalibur
 - Stryker
 - Killer Instinct

www.tenpointarchery.ca info@tenpointarchery.ca

Call us today! 1-705-222-0010

Onaping Oldtimers

story continued from February 2019 by Ellard Durling

Fifteen years, running the Levack/Onaping Winter Carnival, our group was happy to turn it

over to a dedicated Onaping Falls Recreation Committee in 2015. The program we always enjoyed was getting 'families' to enjoy outdoor events at a minimal

We thank the Onaping Falls Curling Club for offering their facilities by serving a delicious pancake breakfast, allowing the children to try their hand at curling and also to Lafontagne

The arena staff, under the direction of Mark Taylor, are always appreciated for maintaining

Currently, in the years 2000-2019 the team is still going strong with local men. The Bluebird tavern, with hosts Shirley & Harry, are still involved in our program. Early recruits ~ Fred Law, Walter Sarazin, Lawrence Thibodeau, Dave Spicer, Clint Piette, Kelly Taylor, Dave Berbier, Mitch Mirka, Bo Lappan, Richard Eady, Erin O'Connor, Tim O'Connor, Fred Burns, Dave Bishop, Chad Thibodeau, Don Genereux, Mike Belanger, Dave Pardy, Tom Semadeni, Doug Koroscil, Bobo Demers, Brent Farrow, Karl Bubalo, John Wrixon, Danny Hull, Doug Parenteau, Glenn Eady.

As the years progressed we picked up new recruits Rob Demers, Mike Deziel, Byron House, Jim Laberge, Wally McCarthy, Chris Kiernan, Peter Dexter, Darren Romain, Dave Spicer Jr., Jim Golden, Billy Mills, Aaron Ayotte, Graham Wilson, Billy Yarkie, Mark Turcotte, David Belec, Ben Demore, Todd Deslauriers and john McDonald.

We originally hired Dr. Dwight Moulin and Dr. Andrew Pike to play and look after any injuries. To date none occurred therefore they left town to practice medicine elsewhere.

The Red/Green Tradition is ongoing as we await the 2020 season.

(Photo of Red/Green team on following page)



Tim (T.J.) Gordon, Professional Sales Consultant

Fax: 705-523-0120 Service: 705-523-5235

Cell: 705-670-7856

tim@southsidechev.com

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Farms for their Horse Pulled Sleigh Rides.

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the arena facilities.

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Moments That Matter

CHARTWELL MEADOWBROOK

18 Jacobson Drive, Lively 705-836-9999 • CHARTWELL.COM





ONAPING OLDTIMERS (circa 2012)

Red & Green

Photo above Back row ~ Chad Thibodeau, Jim Golden, Todd Moggy, Wayne Morley, Dave Bishop, Tim Durling, Walter Sarazin, Larry Whalen, Dave Spicer, Doug Armstrong, Pat O'Byrn, Erin O'Connor, John Jelen, and Mike Belanger

Centre Row ~ Ellard Durling, Larry Thibodeau, Shawn Downey, Dan Besserer and Wayne Thibodeau Front Row ~ Chris Kiernan, Alex Rouleau, Jack Lampi, Mark Mooney, Dave Hawryluk and Wally McCarthy



Photo to left
ONAPING
OLDTIMERS
back in the day
Can you name
the faces??

(Thank you to Ellard Durling for sharing these timeless photos)



Onaping Falls Branch 503 1 St James, Onaping, ON 705-966-2387

Legion

Email: Branch503@eastlink.ca

Branch 503 held their Annual Good Friday Fish Fry ~ April 19, 2019



What a Fun Full House in our Legion Hall ~ a fantastic Fish Dinner with all the fixins, and lots of good friends and family out having a great time!



Thank-You to All our Volunteers that put on this year's Fish Fry ~ in the Kitchen Joanne Martel, Jolene Wheatley with Chefs Yvon Martel and Jeff Dane, and Sharon Getchell and Victoria Brookes.

We also send a Most Special ThankYou to Emily Getchell for organizing everything and everyone once again ~ it was another terrific Good Friday Fish Fry !!

Weekly Events at Branch 503

Mixed Pool ~ in the Club Room ~ \$5.00 Monday 7:00 pm

(until end of May)

Euchre - Upstairs in the Hall ~ \$14.00 Thursday 7:00 pm

Porquetta Bingo ~ in the Club Room ~ \$15.00 Saturday 3:00 pm

Monday to Friday ~ 4:00 pm to closing Club Room Hours:

> Saturday ~ 1:00 pm to closing Sunday ~ 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm



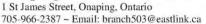




Legion

Everyone is Welcome to Join in No Partner is required for any of our Weekly Events

BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT at Onaping Falls Branch 503







President:

Onaping Falls Branch 503 ELECTIONS 2019-2021 Wednesday May 15th 7:00 pm

The Branch 503 ELECTIONS will take place on Wednesday May 15th at the General Membership Meeting.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the upstairs Legion Hall.

Nominations at April 10th meeting:

John Getchell MB **Andy Chartrand**

Jeff Dane

1st Vice: Victoria Brookes 2nd Vice: Joanne Martel

Ramona Halldorson Jolene Wheatley Todd Spicer

Sharon Getchell Secretary: Treasurer: Kathy Moggy Sgt. At Arms:

Doug Moggy Bill Frohlick

*Nominations will be open again before the Elections begin on May 15th.

Executive Committee Nominations:

Melanie Moggy, Jolene Wheatley, Karen Luttrell, Joce Desrochers, Ramor Halldorson, Joanne Martel, Jean Nerpin, Todd Spicer, Bill Frohlick, Victoria Brookes, Jan Lacko, Sharon Getchell, Bill Burnside, Angele

We look forward to seeing ALL our Members come out to Elect the Branch 503 Legion leadership for the 2019-2021 term.

Branch 503 congratulates Comrade Emily Getchell on receiving the Zone H-3 **RCL Volunteer Appreciation Award!**

Comrade Emily has been serving our Branch since 1976 and it is a pleasure to see her recognized for her good work and deeds for the Legion.

The Award was presented at the April 10th General Membership Meeting by President John Getchell MB, pictured here with Comrade Emily, Treasurer Kathy Moggy and Secretary Sharon Getchell.



Join The Royal Canadian Legion **Onaping Falls Branch 503** Annual Membership is Only \$50

Every Member makes a difference in the lives of Veterans, their families, our youth, and our communities! Branch 503 donates thousands of dollars each year for specialized medical equipment, youth organizations, local activities, sports teams and individuals in need of assistance.

> Pick up a Membership Form at the Legion 1 St James in Onaping or Contact us at 705-966-2387

THANK YOU for Supporting Branch 503 ~

Members participating in 2019 Legion Activities must have Dues Paid up to date.

The Learning Eurve by Kyleen Gray

The Impact of Ford's Changes to Education in Ontario

Education reform is big news in Ontario these days. What does it really mean for students, though; will schooling really change that much? Read on to decide for yourself.

Change #1: Curriculum Revisions and Updating

Impact: Financial literacy has been added as a mandatory section of the Civics/Careers course in grade 10, the sex-ed curriculum has been re-vamped from the Wynne governments' more Liberal revision in 2015, math will be returning to a 'back to basics' strategy and away from the Liberal's 'discovery math', and the revision of the First Nations curriculum document has been put on ice...indefinitely.

Change #2: Staffing and Hiring Practices

Impact: The Ford government plans to cut 3,475 Ontario teaching jobs. Schools will operate with lower teacher numbers, and class sizes will become larger. This will also impact extra-curricular teams and activities as there will be fewer people to run school programming. Hiring will move away from a seniority-based structure.

Change #3: Cell Phone Ban

Impact: Cell phones will be banned from classrooms. Students will be able to have cell phone access between classes or before and after school.

Change #4: Standardized Testing

Impact: All new teachers will be required to take a standardized 'math test' before earning their teaching certificate.

Mr. Ford has created a new job at EQAO for a failed PC candidate from the last election, as the 'head' of EQAO with a note about a complete 'revision' of the standardized testing system...but no real specifics about what changes will actually occur.

Change #5: Education Funding

Impact: There has been a 25 million dollar funding cut to EPO (education programming – other) funding. These cuts will impact 'non-academic' program funding often related to socioeconomic, special education and extracurricular programs/ initiatives. The Ford government has also made a 100 million dollar cut to fixing school infrastructure, which will likely result in the closing of older schools. Funding has also been cut in relation to any food and beverages at any staff meetings of government employees.









Leopards!

Together, let's help your child get ready for school! Join us for "Early Learning Kindergarten" orientation and learn about great family activities that will help your child have a successful transition to school!

When: Thursday May 16/2019

Where: Levack Public School

<u>Time:</u> 5:30-6:30pm

Who: Parents/Guardians and

new JK students

Community Heart & Soul

By Jana Niemi-Lahnalampi

Dan and Violet Dube

For most of us, our life's work is merely an occupation. For a gifted few, their unique skill-set answers a higher calling. Dan and Violet Dube are two of the chosen few whose amazing ability to love, accept and teach has brought comfort, strength and healing to some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

For this installment I will use the very eloquent words of Dan and Violet to share their experience of being a foster family:



Selfie portrait specifically taken for this issue of the OFN

How long have you been Foster parents? 15yrs.

What is the process of becoming a foster parent? Once you contact CAS, they send someone to give you an initial interview. If you qualify the next part of the process is a home study. This part can be quite in depth and lengthy. There are interviews and writing assignments, amongst other things. There is also a nine week educational course. The whole process in our experience can be quite intrusive and thorough. (Understandably so!)

How many children have you fostered? We have fostered 21 children full time and have fostered about 10 temporarily.

What is the most rewarding part of being a foster parent? The most rewarding part of fostering children is the unconditional love and trust they give you and watching them grow to be happy and self assured.

What is the most challenging part of being a foster parent? One of the most challenging parts of being a foster parent is learning what each of your children need and providing it for them. While another potential challenge may be extremely challenging dealings with biological families, by far the biggest challenge is letting go. In order to do a good job with foster children, you love them as if they are your birth children and it is usually bittersweet when they leave. Heart wrenching... but you have to be part of something bigger like repairing families and fostering better futures for them whatever they might be.

What do you wish people knew about foster parenting? We wish people knew just how easy it was to provide a loving safe environment for a child or children who are not biologically yours. These children may have had circumstances and challenges that other children haven't had to face and are vulnerable. They need stability and love. To us that is something most people can easily provide. That being said you must be committed even if the fit isn't there immediately because it is very harmful for children to be moved from foster home to foster home.

What prompted you to become foster parents? Once our children were a certain age and we decided we were not going to have anymore we thought we might be able to provide some help and "give back" to society by providing some love to children in need. This process was started but then put on hold once we had taken in our niece and nephew (when Violet's sister died). Once we felt that they were stable and our family could help we started the process again and became a foster family.

Why or why not would you recommend foster parenting? We have recommended fostering absolutely, but have also told people it is not necessarily for everyone. There are so many rewards and challenges. If anyone feels that they could love up these children/babies and provide them a safe environment we encourage them for sure!! There is a great need for foster families. How long have you been married? 29 years on May 25th. How many children do you have of your own? We have two children from birth and two that are actually our niece and nephew.

Whether we are parents or not, everyone knows how difficult parenting can be. The daily grind of: diapering, disciplining, guiding, the sleepless nights, laundry, and transporting, the effort of keeping them safe and emotionally supported is often tedious and thankless. However, after many years of personal sacrifice one hopes to see the result of the years of hard work in productive and kind individuals. For Dan and Violet they must set aside their egos and find reward in knowing that they have played an essential role in the development of an individual during a most formidable time. Because individuals make up a society, in providing love, stability, acceptance and guidance, not only are Dan and Violet making the world of difference in the lives of many individuals but also in society as a whole.

If the world were fair, we would not heap money and trophies on talented hockey players, we would not give gifted performers Academy Awards nor would fame and glory be given to "reality" stars. Instead the true heroes of our society, foster parents such as Dan and Violet, would be awarded the Stanley Cup, the Golden Globe and millions of dollars. As this won't be happening anytime soon, please join me in thanking Dan and Violet the next time you see them out and about or send them a message. As a society, the is no way to adequately compensate them for their wonderful service. We are deeply indebted to them for their incredible talents and selfless act.