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## Agnew is officially nominated Liberal Party candidate

### Unchallenged at Saturday meeting

By Debbi Christinck  
Staff Writer

**Eganville** -- It's official. Bonnechere Valley councillor Jackie Agnew is the candidate for the Liberal Party in the upcoming provincial election.

"I have chosen to run for the Provincial Liberals because I choose a party that invests in mental health, that invests in women, that invests in seniors, in youth, that supports a living wage, that infuses money into health care, pharmacare and dental, that will open 100,000 new child-care spots and 30,000 new long-term care beds," she said in her nomination speech at the Eganville Legion on Saturday. "I choose a party that understands that broadband and cell service is crucial to rural Ontario, a party that is investing in our arenas and our downtowns, that has invested in our sawmills, our hospitals and the four-laning of the 417."

The Liberals are a party moving forward, not backward, she said. With political experience in the township, she understands the issues small municipalities face, she said. Working as the program co-ordinator for Housing and Homelessness for the County of Renfrew, she sees the issues facing the homeless, the poor, low income residents and seniors, she noted.

"Most recently I have started a Mental Health Task force to address the mental health issue in our county," she said. "I understand how frustrating it is to try and access help for a family member only to be turned away repeatedly."

With her family by her side, including children Andy, Bree and Emily, as well as her husband Steve, she said she is thankful for their support.

"I'd like to thank my team for their dedication and support," she said.

"Cathy Beauchamp, my CFO, words can't do justice for all you've done the last few weeks and I can't imagine going forward with anyone else by my side. We are building a great team but are looking for more help. Please let us know if you'd like to join Team Jackie Agnew."

The top cheerleader for the team is easily her husband.

"I'm really excited for her," Mr. Agnew said. "I know she can handle it."

He is very proud of her work in being an advocate for those who need a champion.

"She has a passion for dealing with people on subjects like mental health and homelessness," he said. "There are things we don't think about like homelessness, but it is here in Renfrew County."

Partners for the last 14 years and married going on 12 years, he is her biggest supporter, he admitted.

"I am the side man for Team Jackie," he joked.

During the coming months she will be very busy, but he will be supporting her in the home, he said.

"I am proud of her and how far she has come in the last 10 years," he said.

Born and raised in Eganville, he works in construction, and is well known as a musician and song writer.

"I will be singing at a few of Jackie's events," he said.

He has even performed with incumbent Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski.

"And John and Jackie are friends, and will be after this too," he said.

There will also be times for him to play with Mr. Yakabuski again as well, he added.

Mrs. Agnew was unopposed for the nomination.

About 30 people attended the nomination.



### The calm before the campaign

A day after she was officially nominated as the Liberal candidate for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke in the June 7 provincial election, Jackie Agnew of Eganville and husband Steve enjoy a personal moment out for a walk Sunday afternoon. A member of Bonnechere Valley Township council and an employee of Renfrew County working as the co-ordinator for Housing and Homelessness, she will be taking a leave from her job to challenge incumbent Progressive Conservative MPP John Yakabuski.

## Senseless rampage wracked up big bill

By R. Bruce McIntyre  
Staff Writer

**Renfrew** -- During his report to Admaston/Bromley Township council last week, Councillor Mike Quilty, who is chair of the Protective Services Committee, stated the cost to ratepayers for investigation into damage of mailboxes is approximately \$20,000.

In his report, he said 30 mailboxes were damaged by a group of young offenders a few months ago and although they were eventually found and faced charges, the cost to local taxpayers is steep.

"A few months ago, a number of mailboxes were destroyed by a group of young people throughout the area," he said. "There were several destroyed in and around Renfrew, Calabogie, McNab-Braeside and Admaston/Bromley. The OPP eventually tracked them down and formally charged them, but that investigation comes with a cost."

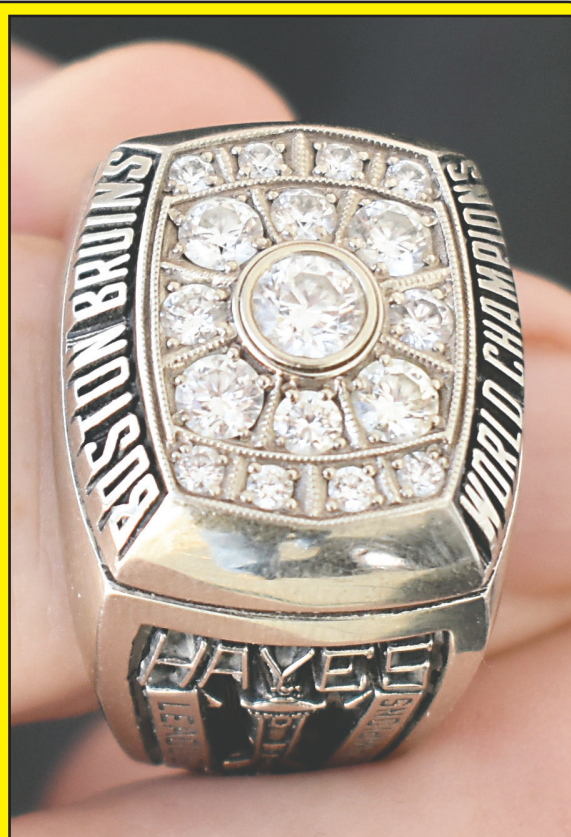
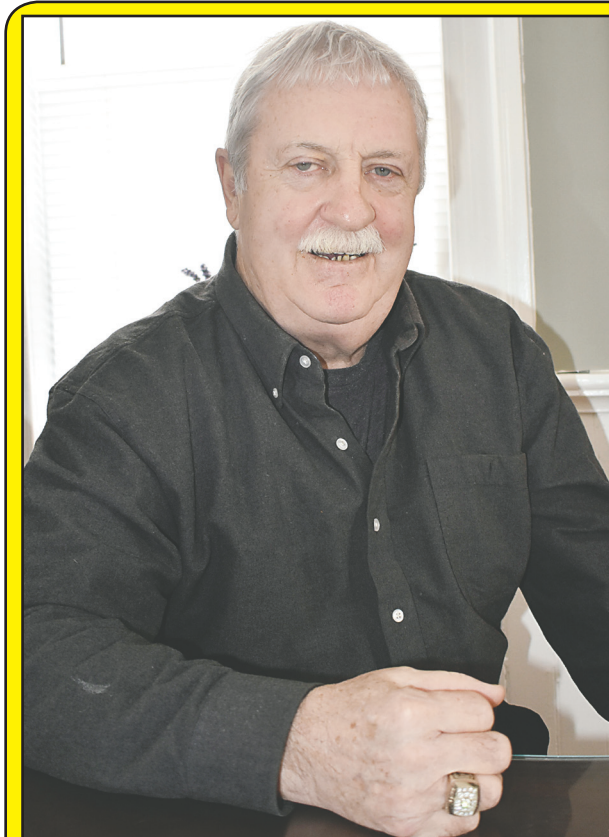
He explained each incident required about 7.3 hours of investigation by members of the Renfrew Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the OPP bills the township \$100 per hour/per investigation.

"You do the math and you see the final cost to our ratepayers is \$20,000," he said angrily to council. "These are just senseless acts by a bunch of thugs and now we have to pay the cost."

He said the juveniles, who cannot be named under the Young Offenders Act, have been enrolled in the Restorative Justice program, which diverts them away from a formal court hearing.

"I am not sure if there will be some type of restitution made to all the victims of these crimes, but I sure hope they have to pay something."

Coun. Quilty said each victim has been contacted by authorities for further information as to the cost of the mailboxes and other pertinent information.



**Member of Bruin's Stanley Cup win waited 46 years for his championship ring!**  
Chapeau's Chris Hayes was a member of the 1971/72 Stanley Cup champion Boston Bruins but never received his championship ring until last week with the help of former MP Hec Clouthier. He shares the story with the Leader this week on pages 12 and 13.

## BV council is moving to hire custodian

By Debbi Christinck  
Staff Writer

**Eganville** -- Bonnechere Valley Township will be hiring a custodian to take care of cleaning township properties instead of contracting the service out in an effort to save some taxpayer dollars.

"We feel we can do the same job for ourselves for less," CAO Bryan Martin noted at a committee meeting of council on Tuesday afternoon.

The township is currently paying over \$8,200 monthly and staff recommends this could be done cheaper in-house, he said. This figure does include supplies, he added.

Councillor Meredith Jamieson asked if there was going to be a head custodian and then workers under this individual.

"I'm not hiring a head custodian," he said. "If we need someone to coordinate that, then we will let that happen," he said.

Instead, the custodian will be answerable to the different department heads where the clean up work is being done, he explained.

This is a new venture for the township, but something that should work, Mr. Martin added.

"We will post the job and see what happens," he said. "I know we will have a learning curve at the beginning."

Mayor Jennifer Murphy said there is also an opportunity for staff to do some tidying up as time allows.

"If there is a slow time at the arena, pick up a rag and wipe something down," she said.

Coun. Jamieson said it will be important for staff to set the standard for what is required and desired when the new custodian begins.

"If it is not clean, then they will hear from me," Mr. Martin promised. "The department heads can let them know too."

The recommendation came to council after a review of the cleaning costs for the township, he added.

"I think it is time to manage it internally with our own staff," he said.

Mayor Murphy pointed out the individual hired will be on a three-month probationary period. The individual will also receive benefits as a staff employee.

Mr. Martin said if one person is hired, it will definitely be better for the municipality. The current plan is to hire one full-time custodian and additional part-time help as required.

"It is our hope this will be more cost effective," the mayor said.

## Jersey day

Children and adults across Canada are encouraged to wear hockey jerseys to show their support for the victims and their families of the Humboldt Bronco hockey team. Last weekend, 15 people associated with the Saskatchewan team were killed in a tragic bus crash.

Locally, Eganville District Public School students will be wearing their jerseys, and a bake sale spearheaded by the students will take place at the school with all proceeds going to the memorial fund.

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