

A vision

Imagine receiving a one-time Christmas gift of \$592,479 and the only catch is you have to use the money to find efficiencies in the way you go about your daily routine and that way, you will cut down wasted time and concentrate on the really big things that affect your life.

That is kind of what happened to Bonnechere Valley (and many other municipalities) when the province earmarked close to \$600,000 to the township and told council to find more efficient ways to deliver services for the benefit of your residents.

More than 400 other municipalities received some type of lump payment back in March and the majority of them, BV included, have focused on the creation or extension of partnerships with their neighbours in areas like fire services and recreation.

These are good starting points, but perhaps now is the time for Bonnechere Valley to go even further and maybe look just a few blocks down the street.

There is an old saying everything is for sale as long as you make the right offer. Maybe the old creamery building might be the answer. Although it was recently purchased, there is no harm in asking the new owner if there is any interest in selling.

Since this is the Christmas season, we are all allowed to make a secret wish we only share with Santa. What if BV council made a wish about purchasing the old creamery building and property and turning it into a municipal centre, creating a town centre as it were. It would be beautiful backing on to the Bonnechere.

When the current municipal building was constructed 25 years ago, it was designed for the needs of the Village of Eganville only. It was not built for the amalgamation of four separate municipalities to suddenly come under one roof a mere five years later.

Today, the original and dated building houses not only the township offices, but also a 24/7 Renfrew County paramedic base and the fire department and several emergency vehicles. Simply put, this space is no longer adequate for everything that is happening there.

Building a new structure and leaving the current building for emergency services would be the beginning of a revitalization of the downtown core. It would be a good way to start spending that modernization and efficiency funding of almost \$600,000 and there may be other grants available, as well as financing.

This is the time for Christmas wishes, after all, and it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the Valley with twinkling lights, and during this darkest time of the year, the lights add an ambiance and a feeling of welcome to communities.

Take a stroll through Barry's Bay. It is especially delightful. It is not only the municipality, but also businesses which get into the spirit of the season with decorations and lights, creating a welcoming, inviting, small town atmosphere all of us are nostalgic for at Christmas.

The same is true of Renfrew where the annual Scott's Hardware Store window display is legendary, and it helps that the province and town invested millions into downtown revitalization. Pembroke's downtown has seen a dramatic makeover the last two years as its local council has worked proactively with new business owners and the core is alive again.

In our own beautiful Eganville, a bit more could be done to make our community the picture postcard Christmas village people long to come to. While the lights on the bridge and the dam on the river are beautiful, and the Christmas tree with nativity scene at the Information Centre is a welcome sight, much more could be done to make our community the inviting small town it can be.

Eganville has the potential to be the most beautiful, picturesque Christmas village in the county, but there needs to be a willingness, vision and leadership to get there.

Working to improve our downtown core -- and creating a town centre -- through some beautification, enthusiasm and vision is a start. But the municipality has to be the one to take the lead.

Letter

The Diplomat

Dear Editor:
Re: 'The Diplomat'

I'm certain Mr. Ford would be glowing when reading this editorial, outlining his statesman-like stature, his precedent-setting conciliatory attitude, his congeniality.

He would also, I'm sure, be surprised that anyone noticed he demonstrated such self-control of his self-righteous smirking and aggravated attention to difficult questioning on hard-pressed issues; almost just short of saintly.

But as you say he was busy governing the province during the election, cutting funding for liquid oxygen that

some Ontarians require, and other things like explaining class sizes to Canada's finest teachers. With all those diplomas on his wall, he must have more than them. Not being a pundit, I wouldn't know, though I try to be observant. Just haven't heard or read much about the teachers.

Your editorial was spot on saying that democracy was served during our election. Anyone speaking about separation is not much of a Canadian, wouldn't you agree?

In closing, Merry Christmas to you and yours and all those at the Leader.
Edward McColgan,
Golden Lake

Black Friday vs. Christmas Wish Book

A View from Bulger's Corners

(and Wilno and Douglas and Barcelona)



Johanna Zomers

Piet kept us in line for fear of receiving only lumps of coal in our wooden shoe from Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas) on Dec 5.

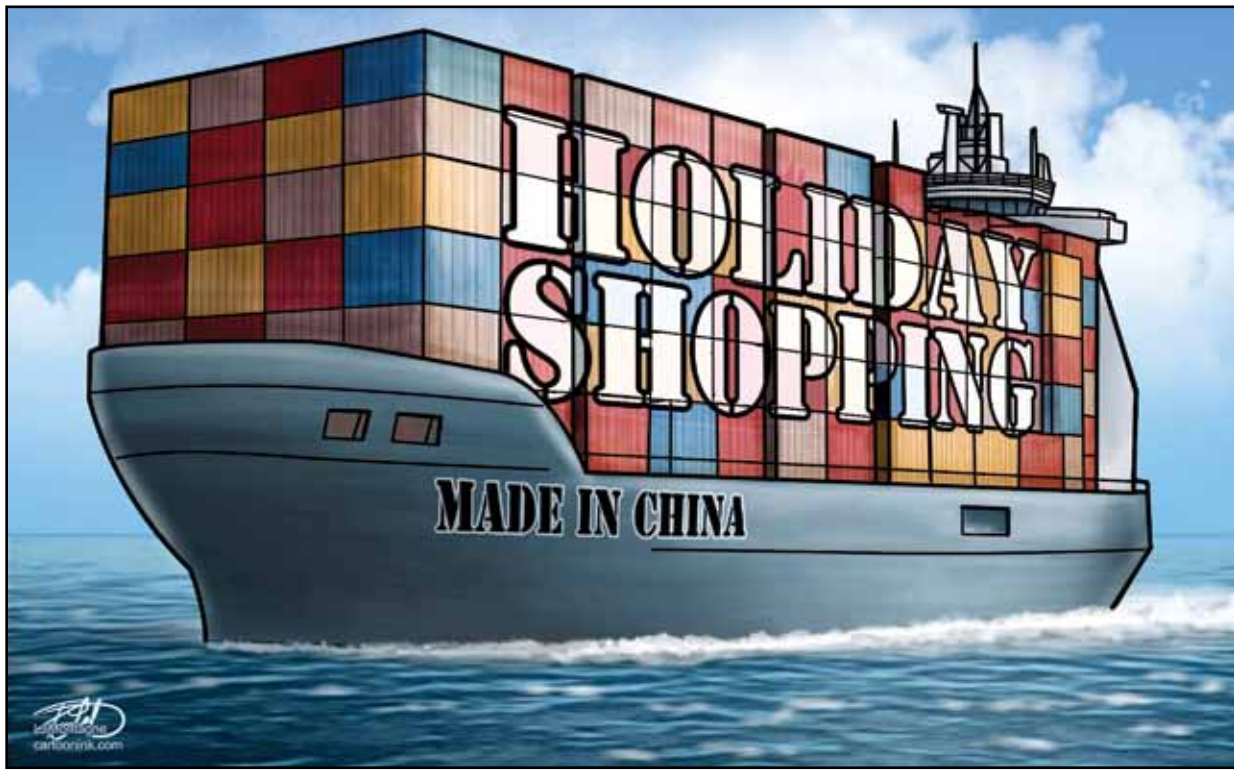
Regardless of what we chose in the Wish Book, the gifts we did receive always turned out to be just perfect! Christmas was the absolute high point of our existence and the only time we got new (or second hand) toys or books. By today's shopping standards, we may have been deprived of gifts but we were certainly not deprived of anticipation, joy or appreciation of what

did appear on Christmas morning.

To this day, we still have one or two of our childhood favourite toys: a stuffed dog, a walking doll still standing stiffly in her cardboard box, a storybook with the cover worn over the years, a music box with a revolving ballerina. A new toy also revitalized our interest in what we'd played with all year long. A tiny set of doll's dishes inspired weeks of doll dinner parties; the toy chainsaw revived the firewood piled on the 'log trucks' we built out of kitchen chairs. Like most rural children, we played childhood versions of grown-up work. We taught school to dolls, took plastic livestock to the sales barn, cooked and ironed, drove teams of toy horses and used Shredded Wheat as hay bales on toy wagons.

If there were guns involved at Christmas, it was the toy cap pistols we used to play cowboys, or the plastic rifles with a cork and a string. The cap pistol came with one roll of red 'caps' and when they were used up, we ran around shouting 'bang, bang'. It was a simpler time then, despite the fact the world had just survived the horrors of the Second World War.

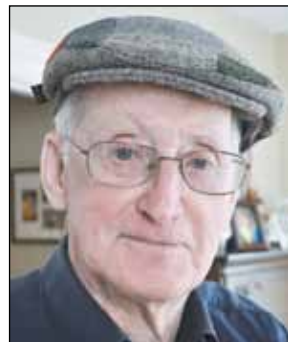
Indeed, perhaps that was the reason that people seemed content with fewer material goods. There was peace on earth and Christmas brought out goodwill toward all and, for a while, that was all that mattered.



The truth will set us free

An Old Man's Opinion

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

If you doubt what I have written I suggest you talk to Petawawa Mayor Bob Sweet. He was our county warden at that time and shared our helplessness and frustration. Please pardon my grammar, but those fake bastards must have been inspired by Satan, knowing we valued our religion, and then pretending to be very religious when their sole purpose is to destroy every religion.

They were partly successful in causing us to abandon our religion, but thank God our religion didn't abandon us. Our churches remained open and our pastors welcomed us back with open arms. In another article I stated but never finished I suggested minority governments are the best way to avoid dictatorship, and the leaders of each of the four main parties should have one year out of the four to sit in the PM's chair and try out that party's way of governing. It would do away with all the stupid bickering and bitching. It has never been tried but is worth a try.

Rotating leadership in our three Christian churches is not only possible but the only way we can defend our-

selves from the radicals intent on destroying Christianity. The timing seems right to write this article. Watching Vision Channel today it was predicted it will take a major disaster to again fill our church pews. Then he named all the countries that have nuclear weapons and looking for an excuse to use them.

One such country is our closest neighbour. No longer can we feel really safe, even in our beloved Canada. When something terribly wrong is happening and a large group of courageous people object strongly enough, like the brave souls in Hong Kong, this wrong can be righted as more people line up on the side of the oppressed. In everyday language the objectors are also called protestors. In religious language they are known as Protestants.

This may sound strange, but when the Sicilian Mafia took full control of Vatican City it was the Catholics turned Protestant who saved our Catholic church from the grasp of Satan. During those tragic days, especially in Ireland, there was pure bedlam, divided families with one Catholic brother at war with his Protestant brother. There were tyrant Catholic priests, totally unaware of what was happening in Rome excommunicating the wrong people, making life easier for the mafia. Pope John 23rd realized something was not as it should be when millions of poor people were starving to death while the Vatican bank was the richest in the world. Sadly, like Pope Benedict 16, they both felt helpless to do anything about it.

In closing, I would like to share with our readers the truth about Martin Luther. I believe he was a devout highly respected Catholic priest who had the courage to challenge what was happening in Rome a few centuries ago. He did not abandon his church; he was booted out by a powerful Mafia mob boss dressed in the robes worn by Popes. All of us who call ourselves Christians can say a fervent prayer of gratitude that those dark days are gone forever.

Letters

Announced grants for seniors not new money

Dear Editor:

I am writing in relation to the article in the Nov. 27 Leader titled: "Several county seniors' groups receive grants". I have also now seen the original Press Release issued by MPP John Yakabuski, where he also quoted Raymond Cho, Provincial Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

Though I have been on the board of the Eganville & District Seniors (EDS) for over four years (mostly as Board President), even I was initially taken in by this press release! I thought it was new money coming to Ontario's Seniors' Centres, specifically \$400,000 to Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (including \$52,727 to the EDS). Unfortunately, the reality is that this provincial government is awarding the same amount of money as we have been receiving for the last nine years... no more, no less.

Most Senior Active Living Centres (SALC) in Ontario have received an annual grant of \$42,700 since 2010. In addition, we receive a (variable) supplementary grant that usually amounts to \$9-10,000. Over the last nine years, there has been no increase to compensate for inflation and no increase to compensate for the increasing proportion of seniors in the community.

Each year it gets more difficult to maintain and operate the on-going programs and services that we offer given that we have had, due to inflation, an annual reduction (in today's monetary value) in SALC funding of about \$14,000 since 2010 (about a 27% decrease in real terms). Of course, to be fair, most of this reduction in real terms came under the two previous Liberal governments even though they were the ones who started these grants in 2009.

The EDS has been and remains strong, both financially and strategically, in terms of our servicing the needs of the seniors and disabled community in Bonnechere Valley, North Algona Wilberforce, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan and the Bromley portion of Admaston/Bromley. However, because of no increases in funding from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and the Ministry of Health (via the Champlain LHIN) for nine years, we have had to fundraise and elicit donations more and more in order to keep up.

Frankly, the salaries (with no benefits) we can offer our hard-working, dedicated EDS staff are the lowest for such positions in all of Ontario. Without our circa 100 volunteers (including a lot of fundraising effort), we would be in dire straits; but even our volunteer base sometimes struggles to keep up with the increasing demand and we worry about volunteer burnout.

So, Mr. Yakabuski, please don't publish misleading press releases (that lead the community to think the current provincial government is upping its support for seniors) but please do acknowledge and act on the fact that SALCs are not somehow immune from inflation and that we are trying to cope with the increasing senior population. After nine years, it would be nice for SALCs to get a real and significant increase in funding.

William Enright (acting in my personal capacity),

Opeongo High Musical Society
MAMMA MIA
Thursday & Friday
December 5 & 6
at 6:30
Saturday - 2 p.m.

The Eganville Leader

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"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen."

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.





Letters

# Log home memories

**Dear Editor:**  
*Re: Fire destroys Golden Lake home.*  
It was with sadness that I saw the front page of the *Leader* (May 20) and the fire which destroyed the beautiful antique log house on main street in Golden Lake.  
You can see the logs were so straight. It was probably built 150 years ago with true craftsmanship and probably by German immigrants. In the early days, Golden Lake had many German-speaking families who attended our Evangelical church and the Lutheran churches at Germanicus. Just a bit of history on the house.

It was owned by my great uncle, Edward Budde until the early 1960s. I don't know who built the house. My great uncle was a shoemaker, meaning he repaired shoes and boots of all kinds and sizes. In those days it was cheaper to fix your shoes and boots than to buy new. Just like Benny Afelskie used to do in Killaloe.  
He had all kinds of tools in his little front room. In business hours, you just rapped on the door and walked in.  
I was in that house several times with my mother when I was a little girl. Memories!  
**Norma (Noack) Brose, Killaloe**

# Get out of our lives

**Dear Editor:**  
You know it is bad enough for Trudeau to become a dictator and stick his nose into our everyday lives telling us what we can say and do and what we can't. He is also pushing his way into provincial policies little by little holding companies hostage to get money from the feds. Our money.  
But now we have a provincial government doing the same. Mr. Yaka-buski must not want to get elected again. It is too bad. I campaigned on my own from Ottawa to Thunder Bay and my son put out some good videos on Facebook and other media platforms that were very well received to help get this government elected. We wanted and needed a Ford government, but now I am really mad about this policy that will stop any kind of

development in its tracks. All for deer grazing! Give me a break.  
Who is the fool who wrote that up? Do they want some deer? I have 15 around my house everyday. I can send them some.  
This is devastating for everyone, farmers included. I'll tell you one thing. I will do what I want with my properties that I pay lots of taxes on and they can take me to court because they will be up for one hell of a fight.  
Get out of our lives. Creeping, creeping until they take it all. Mr. Donohue (Admaston/Bromley Mayor Michael Donohue) is right on the money and I will put money in to take that idiot of a government to court.  
Get out of our lives.  
**Pat McHale, Eganville and Carp**

# Disappointed with LCPOA

**Dear Editor:**  
I wrote a letter in last week's *Leader* about the attempt by the Lake Clear Property Owners' Association (LCPOA) to make changes to the constitution in an unconstitutional manner. It has come to my attention that their response to this improper attempt is to reference the "State of Emergency" order issued by the province, which gives them the right to proceed with the email/mail-in vote.  
Wow! This might be palatable if the

constitution issue was an emergency! There was a necessity (from the present constitution) to have a review of the document, which indeed happened last year, although with a rejection of the proposed amendments. I can only think that this heavy-handed manipulation of this amendment issue will further erode the trust and respect of this board by many of the membership.  
Disappointing news, indeed!  
**Megan McGrath, Eganville**

# Where are all of our summer students?

**Dear Editor:**  
As I imagine most of your readers know, many organizations around the county, especially not-for-profits (NFP) like the Eganville & District Seniors (EDS) and Fairfields (a seniors residence facility), apply for one or two students every year under the Canada Summer Jobs Program (CSJP). Normally, approval happens in April, so we have time to advertise for a May start date.  
For at least the last decade, the EDS and Fairfields have always received one student (and sometimes two). These students are a great help to such seniors focused NFPs as they bring new ideas, social media skills and youthful attitudes, in addition to helping the staff with day-to-day activities. Of course, the other great advantage of the CSJP is that these post-secondary students receive money to help towards their on-going studies and get to learn a variety of practical skills, as well as adding something useful to their resume. So, a win-win scenario all round.  
This year, both the EDS and Fairfields applied for two students each. We only heard now in June that we are receiving no funding! I assumed (naively) that we would receive all four this year and maybe even be offered more given the current COVID-19 pandemic and the huge amount of lip service being paid to seniors by both Ontario and Canada. In addition, note that the need for summer students in other NFPs are reduced because of non-openings (e.g., Bonnechere Museum) of other NFPs. Even Bonnechere Valley Township only received one of the

seven students requested.  
So, what is going on? Where are the usual cohort of summer student funded positions? I talked to the relevant Service Canada person in Toronto and was told that every year there is competition, not everyone gets funded, etc. etc. I knew all this but why no students for our seniors' organizations in Eganville this year given what I mentioned above? There was no mention of reduced total funding for this program but the woman in Toronto did say that the federal MP in each riding helps decide the priorities where students are placed.  
To add salt to the wound, during the pandemic, there is a program in place called the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) which will help students financially at this time if they are eligible and are "unable to find full-time employment". Obviously, with many businesses closed, such jobs are scarce in businesses but NFPs like the EDS and Fairfields have the jobs but don't have the CSJP funding!  
So, instead, the CESB provides some post-secondary students (i.e., those who make \$1,000/month and don't already receive EI or CERB cheques) with \$1,250 per month from May through August to sit at home while our NFPs are not receiving funds to employ them. A lose-lose situation because these students are likely bored and are certainly not adding to their skills base and resumes.  
Organizations that are devoted to helping seniors are being let down because of this foolishness.  
**William Enright (in a personal capacity) Eganville**

# Take me back to the Valley Official Plan is a disaster

## A View from Bulger's Corners

(and Wilno and Douglas and Barcelona)



Johanna Zomers

After almost three months of solitary isolation in a small apartment, the world of travel on buses, trains and planes feels a bit overwhelming.  
I flew to Malaga with Air Transat in January, in what seems like another lifetime (B.C. - Before Covid). Long before my scheduled return in April, Transat, like so many other airlines, suspended all flights. My only option to return home became Air Canada from Madrid to Montreal via Frankfurt. With most public transportation still on reduced service, this will become a two-day journey involving a bus to Malaga, the high-speed train to Madrid, a night on a bench in the airport, a stop in Frankfurt and then the final leg to Montreal.  
The Greyhound no longer runs from the airport to Ottawa (and onwards) so a friend will pick me up and drive me to my Round Lake refuge for my two weeks of mandatory quarantine. All this is manageable in normal times, but I feel out of practice with the world!  
During my weeks of confinement, thanks to a gigantic television screen and an international streaming box, I've watched more news than I've done since the days when I was married to a CTV cameraman and Max's 'six o'clock' was sacred in our household. Having firsthand experience of how news is packaged was a godsend in the early days of

alarming footage. Effective news visuals are by definition dramatic and COVID-19 coverage provided this round the clock. Pandemic teams in hazmat suits, sirens, flashing lights, ambulances, hearses... It was a news producer's dream with stories cut and recut, the same images reused until it seemed the entire world was imploding with COVID-19 casualties. It was a godsend to read the Eganville Leader online to see that life in Renfrew County, while certainly not untouched by the pandemic, was in many ways reassuringly normal as spring unfolded along the back roads. Rural life lends itself to a larger pic-  
ture. Cows calved and sheep lambled. Farmers cultivated and planted. Gardeners set out seedlings. Lilacs, tulips and apple trees blossomed. Mother Nature continues. During the darkest days of world war two in Britain, people planted Victory gardens, largely for a food supply but also as a statement that life would continue, despite the bombs and the destruction.  
Rural life is what I missed most during nine weeks of confinement to an urban fifth floor apartment. Nerja has charming cobbled streets, mountain vistas to the north and the sparkling expanse of the Mediterranean to the south. It has sun drenched white walls and wrought iron balconies covered in blossoms... but not a cow, sheep or hen in sight. I resorted to watching 'Anne with an E' on Netflix as much for the sights of the Canadian landscape and Matthew forking hay in the barn at *Green Gables* as for the adventures of my favourite red-haired heroine.  
By the time you read this, I will hopefully be back by the comforting green shores of the Bonnechere. After two weeks of quarantine, I'm planning a tour of the back roads. Accompanied by tunes from Terry McLeish, Mac Beattie and the *Wilno Express*, I'll be getting reacquainted with the early summer countryside from Combemere to Cormac, from Donegal to Douglas, Wilno to Westmeath and from Brudenell to Bulger's Corners. It will be good to be home!

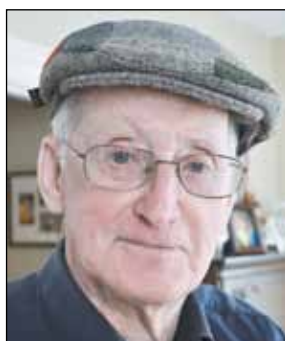
**Dear Editor:**  
Thank you, Debbi Christinck for the article *Provincial Plan Shuts Down Development In County*.  
I realize I am just a small potato in Renfrew County but I do own land and am furious that my rights (or did I have any) says my children will not be able to build on our property because we now live in an area called a deer wintering yard.  
Warren Johnston, Reeve of Sebastopol, 30 years ago, once told me that the government is trying to eliminate all people living in rural Ontario.  
Here is an example. Some of our children hope to build a home on our property. They mention they want to be close by when we get older.  
These people love the land and family.  
A deer wintering yard! I know there are other issues in the official plan.  
But please, help us eliminate the restrictions that no one can build or subdivide acreage.  
Could the county make it any harder for us to read the map 4 of Renfrew County?  
What a horrible coincidence that the provincial government decided to do this during the pandemic.  
Coincidence? I think not.  
**Laurie Stephenson, Eganville**



# Beware the easy-to-believe lies

## An Old Man's Opinion

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

They are the lies told by people in high places who really should be believed. The person who ripped me apart in the May 13<sup>th</sup> issue must be one of those easy believers. Perhaps he or she would sleep better at night if they stopped watching C.N.N. and stopped reading page 8 in the *Leader*. Sometimes lies are easier to swallow than the truth. I am fighting on behalf of our three children, six grandchildren and the other 3 million Canadians who call America their homeland. That letter to the editor told me in a very blunt manner to mind my own cotton pickin business. However, that letter should have been addressed to Mr. Trump, who has been walking a tight rope ever since January 20, 2017, the day of his inauguration. Also, I believe the writer's comments about former President Obama are totally unjustified. He inherited the worst economy in this century. As a black person in a so called white man's world, he had three strikes against him but his honest appearance and willingness to lay all his cards on the table won the respect of many of the Big Boys in the business world. One of those easy to believe lies is the strong economy that Mr. Trump inherited from Mr. Obama, but claims to have created. The present President's first major mistake was to accept a campaign contribution of multi million dollars from the manufacturers of powerful rifles that have taken the lives of hundreds of innocent helpless school children. The other easy to believe lie

we apply for a new job, especially when we have excellent example to follow, surely 3 1/2 years should be sufficient time to become fully qualified. Sadly for Mr. Trump he spent so much time trying to look important and trying to impress us with his new found importance he forgot to qualify. By acting like a cheer leader and spreader of only good news, he has given this deadly virus a head start that will be almost impossible to stop. Mr. Trump's lie for today is his excuse to not fund the World Health Organization claiming that China only donates a tiny sum while the U.S. donates a huge sum. The truth of the matter is that the amounts contributed by the G7 Summit Countries are based on population. The greater the number of people receiving the benefits of the W.H.O. the more money they are expected to contribute. Alexa tells me that the 2018 population of China was 1.39 billion while that of the U.S. at that time was 327 million. Did anyone hear the President say he is sorry for twisting the truth? May our kind Higher Power save us if the other world leaders follow Trump's example to punish China by withholding their support of the W.H.O. If that were to happen it is predicted that our vaccine pills could cost 8000 dollars each, meaning that only the really rich will survive. Sorry, dear faithful readers, this is all the good news for today.  
Will some kind American please inform their President that it doesn't matter a damn if they are a Republican or a Democrat, dead people don't vote.

# How do you stand?

**Dear Editor:**  
"White Silence is Violence" - protest sign in Minneapolis, May 31, 2020  
I am a white woman, a citizen. I stand with the victims of police brutality and racism all over the world, and here in the Ottawa Valley.  
Because it happens here too.  
I stand with the victims, their families and their friends, who have completely lost trust in the police force that is supposed to protect them.  
I stand with communities, who see police getting away with brutality and racism, with no accountability or punishment.  
I stand with every person who feels betrayed by their police and government.  
When people are harmed by police, they need to be heard and to be believed.  
They need to see genuine remorse: not just words, but actions today and forever.  
We all need to know it cannot happen again, before we feel justice is served.  
So, I add my voice to the great rising cry: "Take your knee off my neck." - protest anthem  
I agree that police officers and officials who act with brutality and racism must be named publicly, criminally charged and removed from their jobs, just as we do with everyone else.  
I agree that all police and government officials must take honest responsibility for the actions of all of their members, and make brutality and racism a firing offence at every level of their organizations.  
Our police systems have lost the moral authority to police themselves. I join the call for truly independent, objective and effective oversight of policing, to ensure that they actively respect the dignity and rights of every person, and act in a lawful manner.  
We choose our future, when we choose to stand.  
How do you stand?  
**Genevieve Way, Killaloe**

**The Eganville Leader**

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