

## Health unit future

The pending retirement of Dr. Robert Cushman from his role as acting medical officer of health for the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU) brings the role of the health unit and the medical officer of health into focus yet again.

The acting in the title is because Dr. Cushman never intended to stay permanently when he accepted the role seven years ago. Yet who could have foreseen the pandemic which crippled Ontario and caused the role of the health unit to spring into vital importance for all county residents and Ontarians in general? Far from being something most people didn't think about, the health unit became a part of almost daily life with updates, reminders, coordinating vaccines and guiding the way through something none of us could have imagined with shutdowns, lock downs, masking, mandates and vaccination clinics in arenas.

Now a new interim has been found but will the RCDHU ever have a permanent chief medical officer of health again? Does the health unit need one? Prior to the pandemic there was discussion in Ontario of amalgamating health units to find savings as the Ford government came in with a bang to make Ontario more efficient and cost effective. When the pandemic hit the discussions ended. Perhaps now is a good time to begin looking at this again. Amalgamating the health unit with neighbouring areas would be one way of reducing administrative overhead as long as local services are maintained. We remember not too long ago when there was a health unit office in Eganville but now services have been consolidated. Most area residents don't care much what the name of the health unit is as long as they can receive services like water testing, vaccinations, well-baby checks and breastfeeding support to name a few, so this might be a good time to look at doing things smarter, not only in Renfrew County but all of Ontario.

To Dr. Cushman, we extend our gratitude for his hard work and excellent communication with the media and our readers, especially in the last few years with the pandemic. He spoke his mind and was a voice of guidance in the turbulent storm of COVID and we will miss him.

### Letters

## Lest we forget

#### Dear Editor:

As Remembrance Day approaches I notice seniors sitting at tables offering poppies in return for a small donation. I am reminded that over a million Canadian men and women served in World War II. Over 40,000 lost their lives in that terrible war. Thousands more came home bearing wounds and scars.

My father had a good job at a steel mill. He left this steady job and safe existence and joined the Royal Canadian Navy to help protect the essential convoys carrying supplies to the European theater.

Enemy U-Boats were sinking hundreds of ships in the Battle of the Atlantic. Other Canadians served in the army and air forces. These war-

riors were the reason we were able to defeat an enemy whose leadership was determined to take away our freedoms. There would have been no voting if the enemy had won.

In fact, my father was literally in the original Freedom Convoy. This month every one of us, including those who supported the Freedom Convoy protests in Ottawa last February, should go out and find one of these veterans and give thanks for the sacrifice they made for us. And remember the 44,000 who never came home. And put a big donation in the jar. These heroes are getting hard to find.

Lest We Forget.  
**John Epps,**  
 Eganville

## Student discrimination

#### Dear Editor:

It's disappointing to see the *Leader* continue to publish false information about students in Renfrew County schools identifying as animals. This hateful propaganda has spread across North America to mock and dehumanize transgender and non-binary people.

Anyone who truly cares about the well-being of young people in our community will understand that we don't need to worry about furry fandom kids who enjoy creating animal costumes and role playing. (For the record, they don't "identify as animals.")

What we need to worry about are the kids who face bullying and isolation, at school and online, just for being who they are. At Pflag Renfrew County we speak to those students, their teachers and family members on a regular basis, and the experiences they share are heartbreaking.

A 2021 study by Egale Canada revealed that 62 percent of students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans feel unsafe at school. This compares to 11 percent of their straight, cisgender counterparts who feel unsafe. Even that is an unacceptable number. Every student deserves to feel safe at school.

Studies also show that LGBT

students are at elevated risk of self-harm, substance abuse and suicide. Not because of who they are, but because of the challenges of navigating a society that repeatedly tells them they don't belong.

Thankfully the Renfrew County District School Board has introduced policies, practices and activities to foster a more inclusive and safe learning environment for LGBT students. I'm less familiar with actions by the Catholic board, but I'm encouraged by my conversations with school administrators and initiatives I've heard about from students and parents.

I sincerely hope that school trustees and concerned citizens will focus their energy on helping, not harming, vulnerable students. This takes all of us working together to create school, community and home environments where everyone feels safe, welcome and valued.

**Jill Holroyd,**  
 Pflag Renfrew County,  
 Pembroke

Editor's note: It was confirmed by a school board trustee there are seven children who identify as animals, so stating the *Leader* is publishing false information is simply untrue. There was also no connection in an article or letter ever made with transgender or non-binary people.

# The Day of the Dead

## A View from Bulger's Corners

(and Wilno and Douglas and Barcelona)



Johanna Zomers

I suppose I should label this column as having "triggers" which might offend or frighten people not acquainted with the realities of rural life not portrayed in popular *Hallmark* movies. Their cozy plaid flannel vision of country life or small towns decked out for the Christmas season never includes wet mittens, cleaning stove pipes or the smell of the family dog who has just discovered something buried in the hot manure pile. Nor does it include the realities of life and death which were commonplace not so long ago.

While some are busy unfolding cozy fleece throws and blankets for evenings of predictable plot lines and impossibly perfect Christmas trees on television, others are sharpening knives and sighting in guns. Filling the freezer with venison is a throw-back to the days when meat didn't come pristinely arranged on Styrofoam trays with little to remind the consumer of the origin of the pork chop or the stewing beef. In this era of disconnect, it is not a bad thing to become aware of the costs -- human or environmental -- that go into the things we take for granted.

In the colder days of November, farmers slaughtered pigs and perhaps a milk cow past her prime or a steer fattened for the winter's meat. In Brudenell we would come

home from school to the smell of woodsmoke from a cauldron of boiling water in the barnyard and the smell of blood and singed hair. What had been a pen full of curious grunting pigs that morning was now a row of headless, neatly disemboweled carcasses. Were we sad because we'd known some of those piglets since their birth, wrapped them in doll blankets and wheeled them around in our toy baby carriage? Yes, we were sad and in those difficult emotions we learned to accept some of the harsher facts of life.

We were sad when our old cows

had to go to the sales barn or an injured horse had to be put down. We doctored pigeons and crows with broken wings and barn cats that had been stepped on by a cow or newborn lambs that had narrowly escaped death by hypothermia, and we buried them when they didn't survive. In what would now be called "traumatic" experiences, we subliminally learned that life is not always easy, or pleasant or without pain. We also learned that life went on and that "this too will pass."

I have just arrived in Spain where people are decorating their family graves for All Saints and All Souls Day which is a two-day religious, work and bank holiday. In Mexico it is called *The Day of the Dead*. No one thinks it macabre or ghoulish to spend the sunny afternoon in the cemetery, dusting and rearranging the plastic flowers and the mementos that keep a loved one's presence alive in memories.

In autumn, graveyards are quiet peaceful places where we remember that all things come to an end. If we are mourning an untimely or tragic or unjust death, we can also remind ourselves that we see only our own small threads in the larger tapestry of life. Eventually, if we are lucky enough to live a long full life, we will hopefully come to accept those truths.

### Letters

## Beware of anti-privacy laws

#### Dear Editor:

To establish facts for a journalism article, journalists are trained to answer these questions: "Who, what, where, how, when and why?"

We know now that Trudeau's government, with NDP support, is rushing through Parliament as fast as possible Bills 11, 26 and 27, to add control over Canadian people's privacy and access to internet feeds.

However, we don't know the real reason "why?"

Iran is countering recent anti-government protests with a cyber system called "SIAM." SIAM can control if where, when and how users can connect via cell phones and internet. It is a repression and control system to limit the capability of users to dissent and protest. SIAM gives the Iran government turnkey access to the activities and capabilities of all the country's mobile users.

We know similar cyber systems exist in such countries as China, North Korea and others. China even uses such a system in their application of "Social Credit points" which surveil citizen's messages and movement and limits the movement of people who don't have enough "points", based on compliance with government mandates.

So how does this relate to Canada?

In September, Privacy Commissioner Dufresne testified to the Senate and raised serious concerns about Bill C-11 and its failure to add protections for user data privacy. Bill C-11 also doesn't exclude your user generated content from being treated as broadcasting. So if you post a video online, the CRTC can subject it to broadcasting regulations if it sees fit.

The CRTC could thus regulate your videos, podcasts and pictures on online platforms. They would have the power to manipulate our feeds, search results and playlists to prioritize officially recognized "Canadian Content." Essentially, it would make Canada the most censored "democratic" country in the world.

Bill C-27 empowers businesses to use our sensitive data in increasingly more ways without our knowledge or consent. Privacy is not recognized as a fundamental human right in C-27, nor special protections for sensitive data. It's a big step back in terms of protecting the privacy of the people in Canada. Just read its fine print, not what the government claims in press releases.

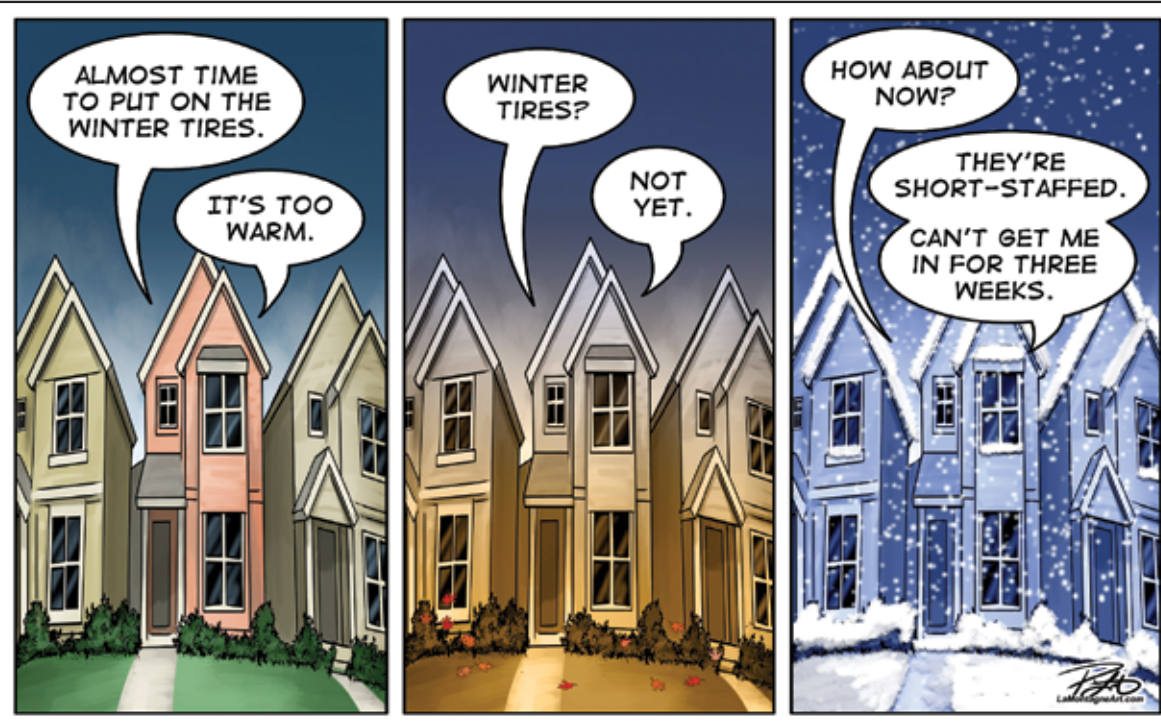
Bill C-18 makes federal supports to news providers to be tied to Big Tech, while disproportionately underfunding supports to small independent news providers. In Australia, where a similar bill was passed, 90 percent of funding went to the top three news chains.

Bill C-26 fails to balance our cybersecurity and our fundamental rights, whether through disconnection orders, or through new information sharing arrangements between Canada's spy agencies and ISPs that circumvent traditional judicial oversight and expose our most sensitive information to abuse. We could get cut off from all internet use with no reason why, nor any recourse.

Last week, the government allowed Rogers to buy out Shaw, making only three Big Tech providers available in Canada. Small providers get bought up and prices go up.

Amidst the investigation of his use of the Emergencies Act, why is Trudeau rushing these anti-privacy laws through Parliament? What happened to freedom of expression?

**Robbie Anderman,**  
 Killaloe



## Lasting peace within our grasp

### An Old Man's Opinion

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

Iran's Parliament has become a torture chamber like nowhere else in our world. This is being written on October 10th, Canada's Thanksgiving Day. Today, we can feel grateful we are still one of the 42 percent of free countries in the world. If my brain is still ticking, that would be 114 countries that are not really free.

Maybe there is a lot of truth to Winston Churchill's statement that "democracy is the worst type of government except for all the others that have been tried and found worse".

After giving my eye a few days rest I am back in the saddle and the first thing I want to change is the topic of this article. The new topic should read: *All Dictators Please Look in the Mirror*. By doing so, they will see what we see. They will likely

see one of the most hated and hateful people on Planet Earth; one who is even hated by his well-paid bodyguards. If they watched World News any day of the week, they would see nothing but sad news created by themselves or by another dictator.

Today's news is that Mr. Putin is trying to ban World News everywhere in Russia. It makes me wonder if there is even a cheap mirror in the home of any of the 52 dictators. If they would promise to use them, I would gladly contribute to the dictator's mirror fund.

Because my column is an old man's opinion, I feel free to express it, something that I would not be allowed to do under a dictatorship. Several years ago, the United Nations was formed to protect the Free World from brutal dictators. It was considered the real cat's meow, until the doors were opened to the mortal sinners, China and Russia, who were both given a veto. We could call that taking the meow out of the cat by cutting off his tail close to his head.

There is one thing no dictator can tolerate, and that is a multitude of sanctions that curtail his greed for both money and power. They render him like the poor cat that can no longer meow. They will be like poor *Donald Duck* with the quack taken out of him by the Department of Justice. All the millions that his rich cabinet ministers bestowed upon him will have to be used to pay all his lawyers and all his unpaid bills and taxes, and he is only a would-be dictator.

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# 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

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## Seasonal events

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas as we approach December 1 with the festive lights and decorations, but the often-balmy weather this November is still calling out fall to many of us.

Saturday was truly a glorious day with temperatures up to 10 degrees, depending on where you were and just ideal weather for a parade or Christmas Tree lighting, or to travel around attending a craft show. Make no mistake, we are still living in the Ottawa Valley and Canada, so the evenings did turn cool enough to see people pull on their heavier coats and tuques, but there was no call for the heavy coats of other years.

Snowfall is part of life in Canada and many people look forward to the season as a time to snowmobile, snowshoe, ski or skate on a frozen lake. Others dread the coming of winter with the bundling up, -20 temperatures and risk of falling on the ice. For some Christmas just doesn't seem right if there is no snow, and with the big deal still four weeks away, that is a lot of time for an inch or two or more of the fluffy white stuff to beautify the surroundings.

Meanwhile, those putting up their lights and decorations on the weekend enjoyed fantastic weather and no frostbite on the fingers.

It is amazing to see the number of Christmas craft shows on in the Valley this year. On last weekend we were aware of four. While some are advertised in the Leader or through flyers, some seemed to have no advertising at all we could find, but perhaps the word is spread through social media or word-of-mouth. Good crowds at various events showed people want to come out to buy a Christmas craft, visit with Santa and grab some seasonal baking. It's a return to community events and seeing neighbours and friends.

There are still lots of Christmas events coming up. For those who want to finish off their Christmas shopping, the Ottawa Valley has lots to offer from the Christmas craft sales to small storefronts and home-based businesses. The glorious weather sure makes it easy to travel from one nook in the Valley to another to shop, explore and enjoy. If you are lucky, you may pass Santa along the way.

### Letter

## New order of service wasn't good for church

### Dear Editor:

I read with sadness Debbi Christinck's article, "Melville United Church To Be Sold" – Leader, Nov 2, 2022.

The gentleman interviewed expressed himself this way: "Young people don't come to church for some reason". From my perspective, there are a number of reasons why the United Church has been in a state of general decline for the past 50 years.

Let me take you back to the early 1960s. We are living in Ottawa and involved in building a congregation on Merivale Road in the suburbs. "Not United". At the same time a group of prominent United Church men have taken it upon themselves to modernize the church by developing "a new, modern and vital theology relevant to the times". Among these men are Reverend Howse, Moderator of the Church; AC Forest, Editor of the United Church Observer along with a group of laymen; one spent the weekend at our home visiting his daughter. There was lots of talk.

It seems to me they were using a simple method to establish a new system of guidelines; you eliminate what was there since the church beginnings in 1925. You call it the New Curriculum of the United Church. For example, there is no need for the 12 Articles of Faith (Apostles Creed) spoken by the Congregation and Minister as a vital part of the church confession of faith. That simple creed is embraced by all Christian churches as a foundational pillar of their faith. I personally cannot believe that all individual United Churches across Canada have ac-

cepted this new order of service. I feel the United Church is on a slippery slope. Are they now following a left-wing socialist manifesto as their "bread of life" instead of the scriptures? What about the Lord's Prayer? I have been involved in the more relaxed evangelical order of service since coming to Canada in 1950. It suits my way of thinking. Singing our confession of faith has such heart.

Like, 1. *My Faith has Found a Resting Place*, 2. *Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine*, and many others. Briefly coming back to the Melville Congregation, be assured that in both Cobden and Eganville there are churches who will welcome you with arms wide open. That's who we are! We are living in challenging times.

We need to give Christ the PRE-EMINENCE he needs to be seen as the Head of the Church. His words, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

In everything we do, how we conduct our services, where is Christ in the service -- we must be vigilant and above all glorify the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We are only weeks away from Christmas. From all over the world, wherever there are Christians, the Christmas music will be heard. The beautiful sounds of Handel's Messiah will be sung by thousands of choirs and soloists glorifying the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We can't compromise. To all who read this, a most Joyous Christmas. Pray for peace in Ukraine and all over the world.

Robert Postma,  
Renfrew

## The parade of music and light

### A View from Bulger's Corners (and Wilno and Douglas and Barcelona)



Johanna Zomers

### Wilno Parade of Music and Light'

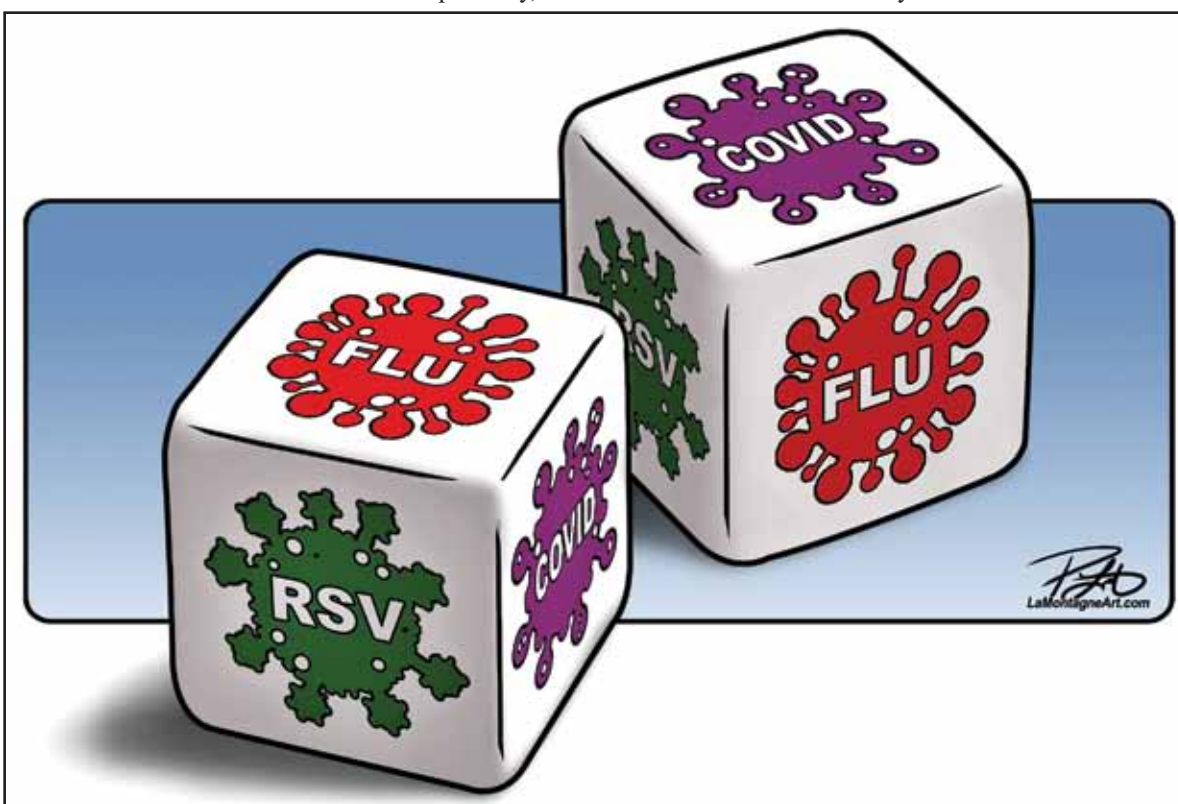
Being Wilno, we had a policy that it was easier to ask forgiveness rather than permission, so we said nothing to authorities about our plan to have Father Christmas ride in a green freighter canoe towed by a half ton departing from the end of Burchat Street, crossing Hwy. 60 at the General Store, and wending his way down the Stoppa Lake Parkway to our destination at the Wilno Rink. Sunday at sunset was the chosen time as we knew there would be fewer transports, log trucks and, most importantly, few cruisers on the road

late on a winter weekend afternoon.

Enthusiasm on the day was high, fueled by generous donations of the Wilno Tavern's famous Christmas hazelnut-flavoured eggnog for all adult participants. The big plywood Wilno Chicken, not yet scarred by having been stolen and abandoned on the Stafford Line, was brought out of winter retirement and set on a trailer towed by Frank's shiny blue tow truck, all lights flashing merrily. Barney McCaffrey, in his red and green jester's suit, strolled along playing Christmas favourites on the accordion and the children from St. Mary's school marched alongside the canoe. Father Christmas, an expat resident of the Wilno hills with a luxurious beard, was resplendent in a robe of deepest burgundy damask tablecloths, trimmed with a gold lame throw and the sleeves of an old fur coat.

Rounding out the parade was Mary in a gown of sky blue bedsheets and Joseph in robes of burlap shrub wrap. In authentic Biblical fashion, Mary rode on *Molly*, the resident village mule who had a mind of her own.

Off we went toward the rink where the box stove was blazing and the good ladies of Wilno were cooking up sausages and setting out homemade squares. All went well until the accordion spooked the mule but that story is best left for another time!



## Meditating a time well spent

### An Old Man's Opinion

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

We can think of meditating in both a spiritual or practical sense. My first encounter with the word was at Scarborough Foreign Mission Novitiate at St. Marys, Ontario.

Father Bill Amyot explained it in a way we could understand. We can meditate before and after we pray. First, we have to plan who needs our prayers. Then, we talk to God telling Him our needs and wait in silence for His answer.

Leaving the seminary and all my friends was not easy, but it was the right decision. Having learned to meditate and concentrate on my prayers is a blessing for which I will always be thankful. It was my prayers and the prayers of my loved ones that helped me survive bush accidents and a powerful addiction.

One Christmas I will never forget is lying in a bed in the Ottawa Civic Hospital after Dr. Brian Benoit had removed blood clots from my brain. They were caused by a large tree that came down in a sudden windstorm that I can never forget. That happened about one month after I traded my pen in for a chainsaw.

I guess it is truly a changing world. Nora just reminded me yesterday that I have changed my chainsaw for a pen. We never know, dear readers, what might happen. The lure of the forest is still quite strong. I could reverse the procedure all over again.

Getting back to the power of prayer. In my 25 years in forestry, I did

That close encounter with the wolves was 30 years ago but I have pictured those heads in two different nightmares since. I don't think they were meditating but were certainly planning their next meal, which would have been me instead of a deer. While there is no love lost between us, I have to admire their ability to plan their next meal by trying to hide behind the trees until the right moment.

Now that Dr. Britton has told me I am no longer a hunter I have to exchange my gun for a pen. Staying with the subject of wildlife ... because the red-breasted robin is the first to welcome spring, I love to welcome them. One spring as I watched a pair of them searching for a place to build their nest, I decided to build a couple of bird houses. I stuffed some grass inside and placed some bread crumbs at the entrance. There were two houses and about a half dozen robins, but only one house was ever occupied. I thought the houses were exactly the same, but the birds must have been more selective. It is time to let the birds build their own nest and return to the wild animals.

I can't finish this article without a tribute to Jim Brindle, River Boss on the mighty Abitibi River. He told me a little secret that may have saved my life. If a bear tried to crowd my space, start barking like a pack of wolves. If wolves are the aggressors, growl like a fierce old bear. I have tried both and am still alive.

### Letters

## Fear not a good counsellor

### Dear Editor:

Today I experienced an iconic event. Perhaps like the scene from Gandhi, where the Indian people, in defense of their rights and freedoms, peacefully walked two by two into the raised clubs of British soldiers. A reporter witnessing the event stated that the British had just lost "any moral right to govern India".

I attended a protest at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew to support a 16-year-old male student, who was defending the rights of adolescent girls in that school to modestly and privately avail themselves of the washroom facilities with the age-old perennial right to do so exclusively with females. Much like the age-old perennial right to use female only changing rooms.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, the school administration had denied this student's previous request to rectify the situation (as the girls were feeling unsafe and uncomfortable) by simply assigning an additional non-gender bathroom so all involved would be accommodated.

This young man, demonstrating courage and virtue, called for a student "walk out" and apparently had hundreds of students wanting to participate. The weapon of the administration was not to beat the students physically, but to threaten to expel any child who joined the protest and to deny them access to the school bus to get them home at the end of the day.

At that point, like the British, the administration lost all moral authority to govern.

Unfortunately, unlike the citizens of India, most of the students at St. Joseph's High School were beaten into submission by the threats and the young man stood virtually alone, with the exception of a few courageous youth who did stand by him.

The iconic moment actually was also reminiscent of the confrontation in the movie *High Noon*.

In fact, the time chosen for the confrontation was noon.

The strong individual faces of the youth protesting this injustice was juxtaposed by a sea of faceless counter protesters (a garish, largely masked, chaotic mob bussed in from Ottawa), loudly and rudely trying to drown out the witness of these brave young people by chanting mindless virtue signaling slogans and playing jarring loud music. The difference between real virtue and mob slogan virtue signaling was glaringly apparent.

My main question was, why weren't adults, especially parents, stepping into the breach to support these brave young people with justice, reason and virtue on their side? They remind me of the frightened townspeople in *High Noon*.

Fear is never a good counsellor. Let's be inspired by the witness of these young people and hope they don't just "ride out of town" and abandon their noble efforts on our behalf for justice for all.

Note: the young man has been suspended indefinitely with threat of expulsion. Perhaps a phone call to the principal of St. Joseph's Catholic High School would be in order.

Rae Stanley,  
Barry's Bay

## Reporting appreciated

### Dear Editor:

As the sun sets on my political career of over three decades I want to thank the "Leader" for their honest, fair and accurate reporting on events both in my community and throughout the county.

My grateful appreciation to your entire reporting staff.

Thank you  
Bob Sweet,  
Former Mayor, Petawawa, and former Warden, County of Renfrew

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## Start the discussion

As students are gearing up for graduation, parents have completed enrolling their children in kindergarten and schools and school boards continue to be at the forefront of controversy surrounding issues about Pride flags, trans-rights and inclusion, it is a good time to question if Ontario really needs and can support so many separate school systems anymore.

When the Catholic School system was created one of the aims was to support a separate Catholic education system but do so with government funding. In those days, only Catholics were welcome to be teachers there, the priest played a very visible role in the local school and Catholic families would never think of sending their child to the public school across the road. Things have changed in the ensuing decades. Visit any Catholic church during mass and it is painfully obvious the children are no longer being brought by their families to church. In fact, their families are not going either. Teachers at the Catholic school are not required to be Catholic or even religious. Ironically, the recent ongoing controversy about trans students in washrooms has focused on a Catholic school in the county, not one of the public schools. However, it is clear the situation was handled in a way which stressed the Ontario Human Rights Code and did not emphasize the Catholic stance on sexuality. This is after all an institution which still requires its priests to be male and celibate.

On the other side of the spectrum, Catholic boards are under attack for not being inclusive enough and the decision to not fly the pride flag was seen as both an attack and a victory by different groups of parents. So people on both sides of the spectrum are calling on the amalgamation of the Catholic school system into the public system.

In rural Ontario and in our small communities students have a choice of a variety of schools to attend. Some are bused into Pembroke to attend French-language schools – once again both public and Catholic. They often drive past the small public school or Catholic school to get there. Meanwhile those schools don't have enough students to offer an extended French program. Would we not be better off with one school for one community? Would this not break down barriers and establish a strong school for students in our villages and communities?

This is a difficult conversation to have. Schools and school boards have a lot of pride about "their school" and "their board" and there is that important fact Canada's constitution guarantees the right of a Catholic education in some provinces. However, just as we no longer see the need for other institutions from 1867, do we really need Catholic schools anymore? In 1867, there were strong divisions between Protestants and Catholics but thankfully, this is no longer the case. What is true is people want their children to have the best education possible and one strong school system is a good way to start. It is not an easy discussion to have, but with the rising cost of administration, school maintenance, new construction, busing and funding personnel at schools, it is a discussion which needs to take place.

## Letter

### Reflections on his faith and evangelizing at 90

#### Dear Editor:

I am responding to your timely editorial Where are we headed? (May 31, 2023).

I am drawing a parallel between your writing and the final exhortations by some of the apostles and the Scriptures. These men were living the mandate they received from Jesus to go into all the world and teach the Gospel to everyone. They were fully convinced that gospel was redemptive in nature and had the power to deliver from all bondage and sin.

The tenor of your editorial, Mr. Editor is much the same; the world situation is in crisis mode and something needs to be done.

We have seen by now that the UN is a farce; how in the name of decency and morality they can allow a monster and his henchmen to unleash a storm of murder and terror on a peace-loving nation while standing back and watching and talking and making resolutions?

This is only one area of horror and chaos. There are many more places

every bit as bad or worse.

So, you as the question, what is the goal and what is the end? From a Christian perspective our goal is peace on earth – all the earth. The only way this can be achieved is by the Second Coming of Christ to establish His government in the world. Christ himself warned there will be terrible times before his coming.

This is a time for the church to stop playing games. The evangelicals need to grasp the challenge and teach their members how to evangelize individually. Bring some hymns back into their services, open their eyes and hear and realize that becoming a Christian is a full-time job, much more than an hour on Sunday morning.

I am 90 years of age. All these changes from Orthodoxy to Liberalism began after WWII.

I wish I were younger. I pray in the night for revival.

Robert Potsma,  
Renfrew

## If it bleeds, it leads

Letter

### Change in Ottawa

#### Dear Editor:

I, like many Canadians, am watching national and international events daily with growing despair, frustration and incredulity. How can it even be possible to be facing a nuclear war over a previously solvable dispute between Ukraine and Russia? How can the leaders of the western world agree to fund the destruction of a country and the deaths of hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of people? Maybe this is explainable by the fact these same leaders of all the western nations have been actively participating in the social and economic destruction of their own countries in support of a Globalist agenda. One need only compare Canada in 2015 to the Canada of today and honestly ask if our country and the Western World is in a better place.

With the progressive takeover of Ottawa our history is being rewritten, our traditional families are under attack by activist mobs with their insane ideology, our energy industry is being priced and regulated out of existence, our education system is being hijacked and our military and police forces are transitioning to the new way. Meanwhile, our mainstream media has secured its place as an unabashed propaganda tool for the government, our national debt has skyrocketed, our freedoms to assemble and speak have been curtailed and our population is demoralized and divided like never before!

While the governing party in Ottawa has set and enforced this agenda of transformation and destruction, all mainstream parties are complicit. What parties pushed back against the Paris Climate Accord, which is intent upon the destruction of our fossil-fuel energy sector? What parties pushed back against the fear-based Climate Change Agenda that will destroy the economies, livelihoods and mental health of hundreds of millions of people? What parties pushed back against the World Health Organization over lockdowns, masking and vaccine mandates during the Covid hysteria? What parties have not bent the knee to every group with a complaint against our Country? What parties supported the Truckers in their efforts to regain individual freedoms for all Canadians? The brutal fact is that none of our mainstream parties have actively and openly resisted these threats to our nation. Canadians need to consider this fact if they want a real change in Ottawa. There is hope as all citizens still have the power to force change with their votes!

David Ainsworth,  
Renfrew

PPC Candidate for Renfrew-  
Nipissing-Pembroke

### We welcome letters to the editor for publication in the Eganville Leader.

Letters should include your home address as well as telephone number for verification purposes.

Letters should not exceed 600 words in length.

They can be mailed to:  
 The Eganville Leader, P.O. Box 310,  
 Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0  
 or emailed to [leader@nrtco.net](mailto:leader@nrtco.net)

The name of the author of the letter must be published.

### A View from Bulger's Corners

(and Wilno and Douglas and Barcelona)



Johanna Zomers

The day were well scheduled ahead of time and already penciled in on the assignment roster. Nevertheless, individual reporters argued for the importance of the story they were investigating, jockeying for more airtime. Parliament Hill, weather and sports coverage were guaranteed a predictable amount of airtime. But much else depended on other factors.

Like our own Eganville Leader, CJOH was deeply committed to covering stories that were relevant to the local community. That often meant breaking down national or even international news to how it affected the local viewing area. With one central news source, we lose that relevance.

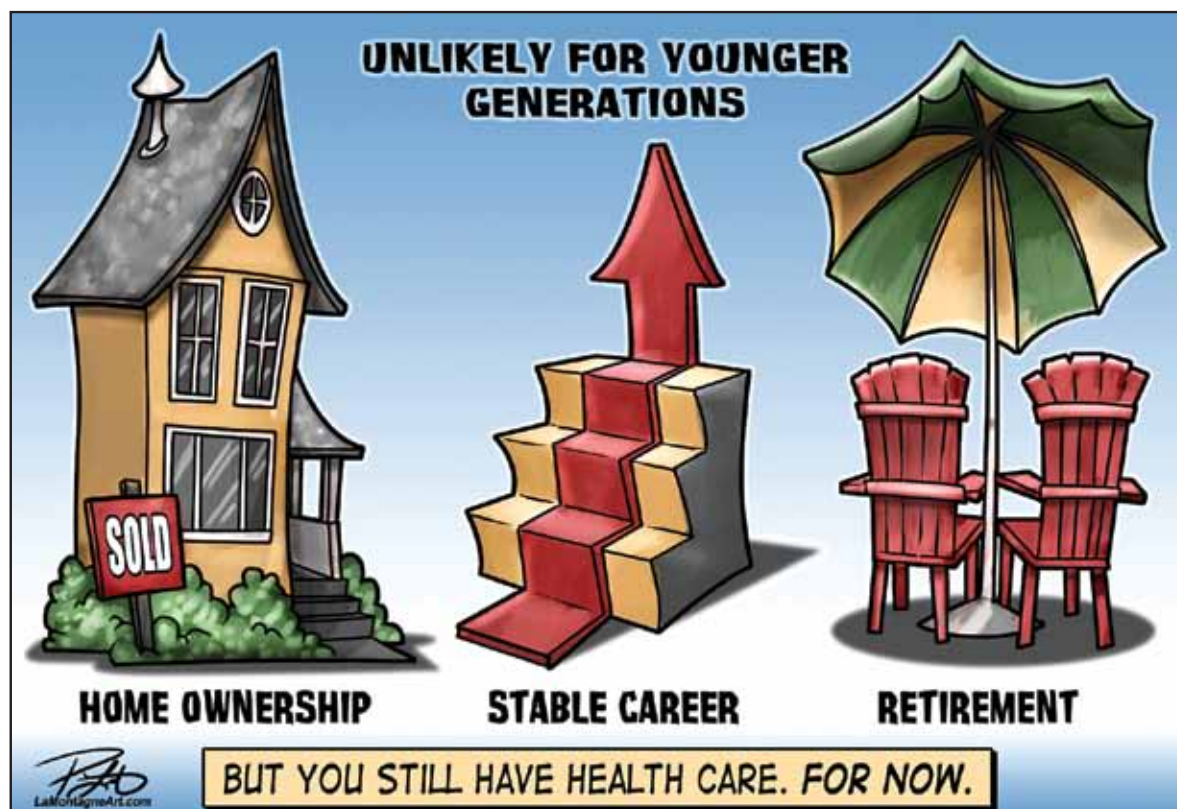
News is slanted toward the 'viewer demographic' -- that imaginary typical viewer who can be persuaded to buy the brand of toilet paper advertised during the commercials.

News directors/publishers/editors determine most of the news content. Advertisers, who provide the money that keeps news flowing to you, compete for eyeballs. Thus, the adage "if it bleeds, it leads". It's the reason that fires and accidents get front page or top story billing.

One of the big stories in Canada this week is the Manitoba highway crash which has claimed 15 lives, mostly seniors. Not so long ago, a similar prairie tragedy shook Humboldt, Saskatchewan. As a news junkie, I am curious as to how the two events will be covered on national television. Although lives lost are (should be) of equal value, I would bet a year's worth of Tim Horton's coffees that the Broncos story will garner vastly more news coverage in the passage of time. That's demographics at work as the advertising value of the tragic death of a dozen young men in their prime far exceeds that of a bus load of old folks.

It's why politicians make noisily provocative statements, why a former American President knows being indicted is good for his campaign, why there's no such thing as 'bad publicity'.

To counter all of that, support your local newspaper!



## The blame game is ours to share

It is the major oil companies who dig for oil in the ground and under the oceans. But they aren't more than one percent of the gas and diesel guzzling vehicles on every highway in our big wide world, in the air and on the oceans. These motors are still being produced, probably 10 times as many as the vehicles powered by batteries that produce electricity. Let us forget the blame game and face the changing world the best way possible.

For me there has been one hell of a change from the 1920's. One lasting memory is that there were far more horses pulling buggies, cutters and sleighs on gravel roads than motor vehicles on paved roads, and the only things flying in the sky were birds. The nicest memory of the old days, none of them produced carbon or carbon monoxide. The other nice thing, after we had our porridge, we were able to face the day without any powerful drugs to motivate us.

In all my years writing columns, this is the saddest and most difficult to write, because forest fires are proving almost impossible to control, causing several major prob-

### An Old Man's Opinion

Not Necessarily Ours



Al Donohue

lems. Fire fighters have reached the worn-out stage, mentally and physically. Firefighting equipment needed in three or four areas, at the same time. The demand has been from coast to coast, so costly that banks and insurance companies need Real Caouette's Social Credit Money or the same kind of money under a different name. None of these

losses were caused by carelessness or neglect but have caused the loss of human life, one of the greatest tragedies in our history.

It is time for every political party to overlook differences and prove they are true Canadians.

What I remember best about Mr. Caouette was his performance in the Holy House on the Hill. I also remember that he asked for money to build factories and other workplaces to give employment to his constituents. When we consider the homes, factories and other buildings lost in the 2023 fires, there will be employment for years to come. And let us not forget who will be smiling down from Heaven.

Dear faithful Leader readers, this article will be in two parts -- the birthday I remember, and the one I forgot. The Leader was born June 20, 1902. The old man who is wishing the Leader a Happy Birthday was born June 20, 1929. Happy Birthday to me too. What made my 94th special was that it was remembered by Renfrew County Paramedics and about a dozen more people with wonderful memories.

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# 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

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