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## TICK-TOCK, TICK-TOCK

The clock is running down to municipal election day this Monday, Oct. 25. See coverage of all-candidate sessions in Renfrew and Greater Madawaska, plus profiles on the race for trustee.



**3, 6 to 9, 30**

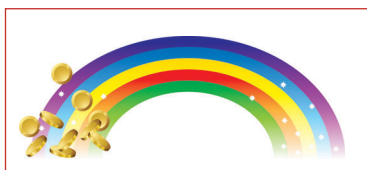
## HEALTHY START TO ONLINE VOTE IN TOWN OF RENFREW

As of mid-day Tuesday, 494 of just under 6,000 eligible Renfrew voters had voted, of which 311 (or 63 per cent) had cast their ballots online or by telephone. Another 183 had voted by paper ballot.

"I'm quite pleased with the Internet-telephone numbers," said town clerk Kim Bulmer. It's expected the 'internet' votes (collected by the Dartmouth company, Intelivote) will be available before 9 p.m. election day.

As of Friday morning, Renfrew voters in the October municipal election still have at least 20 more hours of on-site voting opportunities.

See **ONLINE**, Page 8



## TELETHON SUNDAY

The Reach for the Rainbow telethon for Renfrew's Sunshine Coach is this Sunday, and the public is invited to catch the action live at Renfrew Collegiate.



# The Renfrew Mercury

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CEO tours Groves Park Lodge

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Year 140, Issue 18    Thursday, October 21, 2010 • 56 pages    www.yourottawaregion.com



Mercury photo by Peter Clark

## RUNNING THE TRAILS AT MA-TE-WAY

Vicky Kubiseski, left, and Laura Troutman, centre, of St. Michael's Catholic School in Douglas, and a McNab Public School runner are among Admaston Milk Run competitors Thursday at Ma-Te-Way Park. St. Michael's finished second overall. For more, see Page 24

# First recruit!

Renfrew Industrial Commission, Home Hardware key players in doctor recruitment plan

STEVE NEWMAN

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The six-month-old Renfrew and Area Health Services Village board of directors is celebrating the recruitment of its first family physician, and hoping for a second one soon.

With nearly 60 people at Monday morning's news conference at the medical professional building, business development officer Norm Lemke unveiled the board's financial incentive plan and first recruit, or what he first described as "positive and meaningful economic news."

Dr. Jennifer Arcand of Prescott, Ont., will work out of Renfrew Victoria Hospital and as a family physician. She is doing a two-year residency out of the University of Ottawa and scheduled to start her medical practice in Renfrew by mid-2012.

The board is hoping for 14 recruits over the next six years, including four doctors by the end of this calendar year, and two more each of the following five years.

Helping pave Dr. Arcand's road to Renfrew is the board's \$2.1 million financial incentive program, a virtual carbon-copy of the County of Hastings's suc-

cessful recruitment program, over the next six years.

Each doctor recruited by the health services village board will be paid \$25,000 for each of six successive years. Helping to support these payouts are Renfrew Home Hardware Building Centre, with \$10,000 for each recruit in the first year of payments, and the Renfrew Industrial Commission, which will pay 60 per cent, or \$90,000 of each recruit's \$150,000.

That will leave \$50,000 per recruit to be paid various ways. This will include more planned contributions from the business community, money from a local fundraising campaign yet to be kicked off, and possibly money from the local taxpayer base. Meanwhile, each of the four municipalities – Renfrew, Greater Madawaska, Horton and Admaston-Bromley – is already contributing \$25,000 per year. Small portions of that money may be accessed to help pay for new recruits, say officials.

The health services board was established after Renfrew Victoria Hospital administration said it didn't have the resources to continue to spearhead local doctor recruitment.

See **ARCAND**, Page 2

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# Arcand: newest doctor recruit by health services village board

Continued from front

The new health services board, whose mandates include physician recruitment, is stipulating that each recruited doctor commit a minimum of five years.

Arcand, 27, said she and her partner, Andrew Address, would make the move to Renfrew "hopefully for the rest of our lives."

After spending part of her hospital residency working with Dr. Steve Radke and other local physicians, she says she fell in love with the place and knew within a few weeks that Renfrew was where she wanted to put down medical roots.

Health services vice-chair Raye-Anne

Briscoe said it's essential the Renfrew area retain and maintain jobs and to help ensure top-of-the-line municipal services.

"As individuals and a pro-active board, we are focused on building from where and what we are to a healthy and thriving tomorrow."

## OTHER RECRUITS

While the sense of satisfaction was palpable at Monday's news conference, more satisfaction may be just around the corner. Dave Lemkay, executive director of the Renfrew Industrial Commission, said he's optimistic three more doctors will be

recruited by the end of 2010. "I think it's very doable," concurred Lemke.

"One (candidate) is further down the road than the others. From what we've experienced from the various meetings, the individual is from Greater Madawaska and would be an absolute fit."

The word at the September 2010 job fairs for the University of Ottawa and Queen's University also suggested many medical students are looking to establish roots in rural communities, said Lemke.

One business identified as playing a part was the Renfrew Masonic Lodge. After the news conference, Mason chaplain Gordon Cross indicated the lodge is contributing \$1,000 for five straight years.

He knows that pales in comparison to what some companies may provide, but says: "I hope the program is so successful that we're able to get the best physi-

cians available. And I truly hope we don't get into the process of stealing from other towns. Every town is in the same situation. I hope we're going to be able to share (the doctor candidates out there)."

In addressing other local businesses, Karen Maxwell of Renfrew Home Hardware Building Centre said: "We do need your financial support. We can take this first recruitment initiative and make it a catalyst for the growth of our local economy, and ultimately bring more customers to your door."

If Home Hardware provides \$140,000 over the next six years that's a lot of money, says Maxwell. But money isn't the only incentive for doctors considering Renfrew as a home. She says a driving force behind the successful start to the recruitment program is physician Steve Radke, who was recruited to Renfrew a few years ago.



Dr. Jennifer Arcand, the newest doctor recruit to the area, signs her contract as two members of the Renfrew and Area Health Services Village board look on. At left is board chair Sandi Heins of Renfrew, at right vice-chair Raye-Anne Briscoe of Admaston-Bromley.

**X**

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