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ACCLAIMED
Acclaimed pianist Katherine Chi will perform in Eganville on April 3.

7



GAME ON!
Timberwolf Matt Johnston warms up at the Metro-Valley all-star game for the upcoming playoffs. The Wolves are in Perth Friday night, and then host the Blue Wings Sunday.

18



SHE LOVES THEM, YA, YA, YA
Renfrew native Mary-Lu Zahalan has garnered international attention for earning her master's degree in The Beatles.

24

The Renfrew Mercury
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FROSTY FUN IN DOUGLAS
Carnival fever continues
32 and 33

Year 140, Issue 34 Thursday, February 17, 2011 • 52 pages www.yourottaawaregion.com

New doctor signs on

Health Village group shares good-news announcement

PETER CLARK

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Renfrew has a new doctor. Dr. Angela Varrin became the second physician recruited by the Renfrew and Area Health Services Village Tuesday morning. Dr. Varrin was introduced at the Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting at the Ma-Te-Way Activity Centre.

The first doctor recruited to the Renfrew area was Dr. Jennifer Arcand in October of 2010. Dr. Arcand will begin her practice in 2012.

The RAHSV board plans to recruit 14 family physicians over 10 years.

DR. VARRIN INTRODUCED

Varrin grew up in Griffith and attended the one-room school of Holy Rosary. She is a graduate of St. Joseph's Catholic High School, and attended the University of Waterloo where she graduated on the dean's honours list with a bachelor of science degree, majoring in psychology with a biology minor.

Varrin finished a master's of science degree in molecular biology during which time she performed cancer-related studies on the cell cycle. It was during this research that she presented at various conferences and first authored a research article published in the peer reviewed journal, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*.

See 'New doctor', page 4



Photo by Peter Clark

Dr. Angela Varrin signs on the dotted line. From left are Renfrew & Area Health Services Village committee and board members Kent Tubman, Dave Lemkay, Greater Madawaska Mayor and board vice-chair Peter Emon, committee chair Karen Maxwell, Admaston-Bromley Mayor and board chair Raye-Anne Briscoe, Horton Mayor Don Eady, RVH CEO Randy Penney, Renfrew Mayor Bill Ringrose and Hessel VanderVelde.

MP Gallant in stormy political seas

STEVE NEWMAN

steve.newman@metroland.com

The Internet is rife with comments of outrage after local MP Cheryl Gallant suggested Newfoundlanders and Labradorians making their living from the sea should take more responsibility for their own safety and not expect to be rescued by the Coast Guard.

But the comments haven't stopped

there. Political commentators have also criticized Gallant's remarks made Feb. 1 before a federal defence committee meeting in St. John's. Naturally, party members bearing other than Conservative political stripes have also waded into the choppy waters.

The committee's audience included people whose relatives and co-workers have died in maritime accidents.

See 'Gallant', page 5

FEB. SALE DAYS ... SHOP AND SAVE ...

<p>BROIL KING BBQ's Signet 20 Sale \$477⁰⁰ "Free Set-up and Local Delivery"</p>	<p>3 PIECE PATIO SET "Wicker Style" Sale \$237⁰⁰ Great for Patio or Balcony</p>	<p>20 L BENJAMIN MOORE PRIMER/SEALER \$87⁰⁰ "Great for Spring Construction"</p>	<p>"New" LADDER STABILIZER A contractor's dream Sale only \$137⁰⁰ Drop in today</p>	<p>KODIAK PRO WORKER "WORK BOOTS" Sale only \$99⁰⁰</p>
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We cut keys "right"

Noack, MacMillan are rec committee's new community reps

STEVE NEWMAN

steve.newman@metroland.com

Adam Noack and Hannah MacMillan are the newest members of the Renfrew recreation committee.

That committee's activities could heat up in the current term, if the town moves closer to realizing the dream of building a second ice pad and a swimming pool.

At Monday's session of town council, community representatives were approved for four committees and the Police Services Board.

More than enough applications were received to fill vacancies for all committees, except the library board committee. In that instance, the returning community members are Donna Clark, Jacqueline Gaudreau and Lynda Janney.

The library board committee normally consists of seven members, including five community members, but the committee will go with the smallest permissible quorum of five members.

The council reps are councillors Andrew Evans and Clint McWhirter.

McWhirter and Evans also sit on the recreation committee, along with Coun. and chairman Tom Anderson.

One of the recreation committee's two community reps is Noack, a teacher and coach at Renfrew Collegiate Institute.

The other is MacMillan, a program coordinator with the Service Canada program, Skills Link. She works with youth who face barriers in the workplace, to help make them more employable.

"I grew up in Renfrew and used a lot of the facilities.

"And I really enjoy being part of the community," said MacMillan, who's also a member of Hospice Renfrew's fundraising committee.

The recreation committee's community members during the last term were Norm Bujold, Diana Wakely and Brenda Dillabough.

OTHER COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Other appointments include community residents Jeannette Songolo, John F. Stiefelmeyer and past councillor Bill Guyea for the committee of adjustment. They are joined by councillors Jim Miller and chair Gail Cole.

Songolo and Stiefelmeyer also sit on the planning committee with community member Chantal Lavigne.

The committee's council members are

chair Miller and Cole.

The final appointment was the Renfrew community member for the Renfrew Police Services Board. The vacancy, left by board chairman Rick Clemow, was filled by businessman and former councillor Jeff Scott.

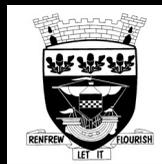
Mayor Bill Ringrose recognized Clemow for the "excellent job" he has done over the last three terms of office.

The other committee members include provincial representatives Lewis Mac-

Donald and Bill Welsh, plus Coun. Anderson and Reeve Audrey Green.

Ringrose also said council held a one-hour closed session of council Jan. 24 to determine the suitability of candidates and make final recommendations. All recommendations were approved at the Feb. 14 session of town council.

The other committees – finance, development and works, administration, fire and human resources – contain only council members.



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The Town of Renfrew is seeking Volunteer Fire Fighters to fill vacant positions within the volunteer sector of the Department.

The successful candidates should be in excellent physical condition, have good verbal communication skills and be able to pass the Fire Department oral, written, and physical fitness examinations. Successful candidates must reside and be employed within pager range of the Town of Renfrew. They must obtain written permission from their employer to be absent from work in the event of an emergency. Successful completion of grade 12 or equivalent is preferred along with a clean criminal records background check.

Completed resumes are to be mailed to the address below or dropped off at the Fire Hall in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Application for Volunteer". Closing date for applications is March 4th, 2011.

Apply to: **J.J. Guy Longtin, Chief**
Renfrew Fire Department
Postal Bag 2000
152 Plaunt Street, South
Renfrew, Ontario K7V 4G7

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OWNERS Property Tax Rebates for Vacant Commercial and Industrial Buildings

In accordance with Ontario Reg. 325/01, and the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, property tax relief for vacant commercial and industrial buildings in the Town of Renfrew will be provided to property owners through rebates that are issued by the municipality.

To be eligible for a rebate, a building or portion of a building must be unused for at least 90 consecutive days.

It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure the application meets regulatory standards.

For the 2010 tax year, the deadline to submit applications is February 28, 2011.

Applications may be obtained from the
Town of Renfrew Municipal Office,
127 Raglan Street, Renfrew, (613)432-4848

Email: vjahn@town.renfrew.on.ca

New doctor

Continued from front

Dr. Varrin later moved back to the Ottawa Valley and became an ambulance communications officer at the Renfrew Central Ambulance Communications Centre.

She then completed her M.D. at the University of Ottawa Medical School.

Dr. Varrin is undertaking her residency training in the department of family medicine at Queen's University.

Although her experiences in the big cities has been wonderful, she says she is looking forward to coming back home.

"The dedication the people of Renfrew have for the community hospital is incredible," Dr. Varrin said. "A family doctor here is not a job, it's a lifestyle.

"Doctors are supported by a dedicated staff (at Renfrew Victoria Hospital)," she added.

"The big city hospitals I've trained in are no comparison."

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT FUNDRAISING

"The grand total to fund physicians coming to town is \$2.1 million," RAHSV fundraising committee chair Karen Maxwell points out.

Maxwell heads a committee that includes Kent Tubman, Hessel VanderVelde, Bob Johnston, Sandi Heins and Dave Lemkay.

Admaston-Bromley Mayor Raye-Anne Briscoe chairs the RAHSV board, which also consists of vice-chair Greater Madawaska Mayor Peter Emon, Horton Mayor Don Eady, Renfrew Mayor Bill Ringrose, and Maxwell, Tubman, VanderVelde and Lemkay.

The Renfrew Industrial Commission has pledged \$1.26 million, Home Hardware Building Centre \$140,000, Scotiabank \$25,000, Jim and Laurie Millar of Jim Millar Insurance and Financial Services \$5,000, Sunlife \$1,000, the Masonic



Mercury photo by Peter Clark

Karen Maxwell presents the fundraising plan.

Lodge \$5,000, Robin and Dianne Postma of Ottawa Valley Insurance \$5,000, and Patrick and Crystal Cayen of Ottawa Valley Physiotherapy \$5,000.

The project is still in need of \$664,000, which is 31 per cent of the total program cost.

Maxwell says the primary goal of the fundraising committee will be to talk to small, medium and large businesses for support). She said individuals will be encouraged to get involved as well, both in donations and by lending their talents to fundraising events.

People wishing to donate can do so by mailing their cheque payable to the Renfrew & Area Health Services Village, 1 Innovation Drive, Renfrew, Ontario, K7V 3Z4. The phone number is 613-432-3328.

"Doctors coming to town bring hundreds of thousands of dollars of economic activity to the region and will be a catalyst for population growth," Maxwell added.

She is confident the funds will be raised to get the job done. "We trust this wonderful community to make a molehill out of a mountain," Maxwell concluded.