

Keetch's Building Supplies Three great locations to serve your building needs
613-757-2616
6 North Street, Killaloe
C.A. Reiche & Sons Ltd.
613-735-4104
Hwy 41, Pembroke
Eganville Country Depot
613-628-2272
Hwy 41-60 West, Eganville



"Get what you want"
PEMBROKE HONDA
1405 Pembroke St, Pembroke
1-800-273-0313
613-732-3673



\$39,900
2010 Mercedes Benz ML 350 Bluetec
3.0L, 6 Cyl AWD, Power Seats, ABS, Heated Seats, Heated Mirrors, AC, Running Boards, Power Windows, Side Head Airbags, Auto Climate Control, Diesel Fuel, Security System, Traction Control, Sunroof, Cruise, Luggage Rack



VALLEY WINDOW & DOOR
The Best of the Best!
873 Pembroke S. E., Pembroke
Phone: 613-735-6843
Toll Free: 1-800-668-2526

The Eganville Leader



Renfrew County's largest paid circulation newspaper

Independently-owned since 1902

111th Year - No. 24

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Eganville, Ontario

(\$1.42 + 8 cents GST) \$1.50



Sugarplum Tea treat

The weather was more than ideal for the annual Sugarplum Tea at the Bonnechere Museum on Sunday. With light snow falling and seasonal temperatures, many people got into the Christmas spirit and enjoyed a selection of desserts and beverages served by volunteers at the historic site in downtown Eganville. Linda Boland of Eganville enjoyed spending time with granddaughter Brooke Hammel, 8, of Pembroke at the annual event.

Foymount family homeless after Sunday morning blaze

By Terry Fleurie
Staff Writer

Foymount -- A Foymount family escaped a fiery fate with little more than just the clothes on their back when fire razed their home on Sebastopol Drive early Sunday morning.

Jason O'Brien, his wife, Mary Anne McCann and seven-year-old son, Daniel O'Brien were alerted to the blaze by two neighbours who pounded on the door of their residence to tell them of the danger.

The fire, which started in a shed next to their home and eventually spread to the residence, was noticed by two young men who pounded on their front door to alert them of the danger. Ms. McCann said they had retired early Saturday evening and were sound asleep when they heard the pounding on the door. Once alerted she called 911 and went upstairs to get Daniel in the bedroom on the shed side of their residence. She could see an orange glow through his window blind and could already feel the heat radiating from the wall. They headed outside where she put Daniel into the car and backed it out of the driveway while Mr. O'Brien attempted to throw some snow on the fire to slow its advance. She said the siding on the house was

"bubbling" from the heat then.

Unfortunately, the family managed to exit their home with not much more than the clothes on their backs. They were able to save a few paintings she considered family heirlooms that were on the main level and easy to gather as they evacuated the house.

Ms. O'Brien said she was impressed by the fast response of the Bonnechere Valley Township Fire Department, praising the firefighters for their efforts in trying to save their home.

"We were very pleased with everything they did. In Foymount, it's always windy, it's different conditions than anywhere else to fight a fire because there's always the weather conditions in Foymount.

"You don't know what you're going to get for weather and they did everything they could and they were very nice to us," she added. "They did their job, they did what they could do."

Thankfully, she and her husband are last minute shoppers and only one Christmas present was lost in the fire, she said.

"I'm never more thankful for that than right now," she noted.

The family is currently residing with Mr. O'Brien's father, Kenneth, in Quadeville. She advised her older

daughter, Michelle McCann, who is in college in North Bay, and her mother, Doreen McCann of Lake Clear of the loss later that morning.

Ms. McCann said they have owned the home for eight years. It was insured.

The couple is amazed by the outpouring of support they have received since their loss.

"We've had lots of people asking what can they do and how can they help us. It's wonderful that people are offering to help.

"I'm so used to being on the giving side of things and to be on the receiving side of it, it's just overwhelming how much people want to help," she added.

There was no electricity in the shed and they have no idea what caused the fire.

The couple said they are forever grateful to the two young men who alerted them to the danger.

"If they hadn't shown up... our fire alarms were going off once the smoke got into the house but I don't know how far it was gone by that point."

"It could have been a very different story had they not been there," she added.

See Page A3

Pembroke doctors donate property to MRI campaign

By Gerald Tracey
News Editor

Pembroke -- Two well-known doctors who have dedicated most of their professional careers to the health care of Pembroke and area residents have donated their former home/commercial building to the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation in support of the MRI: Image Matters campaign.

Drs. Ah Yin Eng and Wen Mei Pan officially turned over their Esther Street property to the foundation Tuesday morning saying they wanted to help the campaign to improve access to healthcare for all residents of Renfrew County.

Dr. Eng, a life-long vocal proponent of preventative medicine, first began the Esther St. Family Practice in the spring of

1971, and tended to patients until 2011.

Dr. Pan started her work as an Anesthesiologist in Pembroke in 1972, also worked as a family physician and continues to work today in Chronic Pain Management. Together they have four children: Susan, David, Helen and Arthur who grew up in Pembroke, but now live elsewhere.

See Page A11

Priest gets nine months plus in jail for molesting boys

By Debbi Christinck
Staff Writer

Pembroke -- Father Daniel Miller was led from court in handcuffs last Thursday after being sentenced to nine months and 10 days of prison time for molesting five pre-adolescent boys when he served as their parish priest almost four decades ago.

The priest, who pled guilty to five counts of indecent assault upon a male in June, returned to court five months later to hear the sentence. Father Miller, dressed in a non-descript gray jacket and pants, only spoke in the court once.

"I'm very sorry for everything," he said to the court when given the opportunity to speak.

The priest will also be on probation for three years and is banned from going to parks or anywhere there are young people for the next 20 years. He also must submit a DNA sample and has a firearms ban.

The Pembroke courtroom was full for the sentencing. Several people from the community of Deep River, where most of the victims were originally from, were present in court supporting the victims and their families. The boys were between nine and 13 when the priest molested them. Most of the assaults took place at the home

of his mother in Renfrew, but one occurred at the rectory of Our Lady of the Nativity in Pikwakanagan. The incidents occurred between 1969 and 1980.

The priest, who was not wearing a clerical collar in court, displayed no emotion as Justice Timothy Ray handed down his sentence and described the disgraced priest as a man who betrayed the faith put in him.

"By virtue of committing these offences against very young boys, he not only betrayed the trust of the community, but permanently undermined the confidence of the victims and their families in the church which had been an integral part of their lives and to which they had turned for comfort," the judge said. "That comfort was no longer available for them."

Justice Ray also had some words of criticism directed toward the church. "Ironically, while the church provided support for the defendant, I heard no evidence of any support offered by the church to support the victims or their families," he said. "The letter of apology by the defendant to one of the parents was only written at her insistence; these charges were laid over 10 years later."

Justice Ray noted all the offences occurred when the victims were altar

Renfrew native Father Dan Miller sentenced in Pembroke courtroom

boys assisting Father Miller with his pastoral duties as a Catholic Priest in the Diocese of Pembroke. The priest was involved with the families of the victims as a counsellor and priest, he added.

"Each of the victims was aware of their families close friendship with the defendant, which had been encouraged by the defendant," the judge said.

Father Miller sexually touched the boys; in most cases it was an isolated incident, but in one case repeatedly, the judge noted.

"The defendant (Father Miller) told the police when he was arrested that while he admits he touched the victims' genitalia, it had been only part of a tickling game," he said.

Abused As A Child

Justice Ray noted Father Miller was also the victim of abuse as a child. As a boy he reported a neighbour touched him inappropriately and his mother told him not to go back there. Later, when he was 11, an adult male put his hand down his shorts and the boy (Dan Miller) pulled away and stopped

spending time with him.

"He reported that at the time, he recognized the behaviour was inappropriate and he felt uncomfortable," the judge said. "In fact, the behaviour was almost identical to the behaviours to which the defendant pleaded guilty."

Father Miller still appears to show little understanding of the effect of his abuse, the judge said.

"The supervisor of the pre-sentence report noted while the defendant (Father Miller) regrets the effect of his actions, he did not see his actions at the time as inappropriate, even though he received negative reactions from each of the boys," the judge said. "The supervisor described this as minimizing his culpability."

A report on Father Miller also stated the priest is at low risk for recidivism and that he does not suffer from pedophilia.

Justice Ray rejected the move by Defence Lawyer Robert Carew to give Father Miller credit for time served in a treatment program in 2000. The judge also pointed out many of the letters of reference for

the priest showed the authors did not know the priest had pled guilty and still believed he was innocent of the charge of sexually molesting minor boys.

The impact on these young men was very evident in the victim impact statements filed with the court, the judge said.

"Most speak of relationship problems as adults because of the loss of trust created by the defendant (Father Miller)," he said. "They all speak of an angry visceral disgust with the defendant, priests and the church."

Behavioural problems were also described, he noted.

"The statements are a reminder of the tragic consequences that have been visited on all of these people as a result of the defendant's betrayal of his trust through the illegal pursuit of his own sexual gratification," Justice Ray said.

Father Miller's defence lawyer, Robert Carew, had asked for a conditional sentence, but this was soundly rejected by Justice Ray, who stated sexual offences are serious personal injury offences and a conditional sentence is not available.

Justice Ray noted Father Miller qualified his admission of guilt by suggesting he had not planned any-

thing with the young boys, but it had been a natural progression of tickling. He said this was not backed up by the evidence in the proceedings.

"The actual assaults were planned carefully by promising an outing or activity of some kind that he knew they would enjoy, then the defendant planned an overnight with the young boys at his mother's home with the assaults taking place in her upstairs bedroom," he said.

Justice Ray stressed the priest never unqualifiedly accepted responsibility and demonstrated insight into his conduct.

The maximum sentence for a conviction of this nature is 10 years and in 1959 whipping was also allowed for these sentences, Justice Ray said.

The sentence imposed on Father Miller was precisely what Crown Jason Nicol had requested. However, the legal tribulations of the priest are not over yet. He was charged with two more counts of gross indecency in October. Those charges will be addressed in January.

Father Miller was ordained in Renfrew in 1969 and served parishes in Arnprior, Deep River and Eganville.

Victims Feel Betrayed - Page A4
Diocese Issues Statement
Page B-5

DOOR CRASHER SPECIAL



2006 GMC SIERRA
Crew, leather, sunroof, 6.0L
76,000 kms Stock # 14034A

\$18,999 PLUS TAX
or 5.99% at 48 months

\$267 B/W, tax in

LAPOINTE

CHRYSLER

1-888-451-7461

Jeep DODGE RAM

"We are here to serve you!!!"

We won't be undersold, let us save you money"

 Matt Greenidge General Manager	 Scott Neville Sales Consultant	 Tiffany Schroeder Finance Manager	 Tim Stewart Sales Consultant
 Tiffany Burgess Sales Consultant	 Kevin Leahay Sales Consultant	 Jenike Baill Administrative Assistant	 Karen Selway Customer Service Manager