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Hallowe'en snowfall creates scary driving conditions

The first snowfall of the season Saturday night and Sunday morning made driving conditions extremely slippery. Two accidents occurred on Bruce Street in Eganville, commonly known as the Pembroke Hill. A 2007 Grand Prix went off the road descending the steep hill near the Water Tower and ended up between several trees. Just minutes later, a van with five occupants slid off the road in the same area and rolled over. A total of five people were taken to hospital in Pembroke by Renfrew County paramedics for observation and treatment of minor injuries. Const. Jeff McLeod of the Killaloe OPP investigated the mishaps. Firefighters from the Eganville Station were called out for extrication but all of the occupants managed to get out of the vehicle on their own.

Petawawa mayor will seek fourth term as warden

Defeated Bonnechere Valley Township Mayor Zig Mintha was destined to fill the position in 2011, the 150th anniversary year of Renfrew County

By Neil Etienne
Staff Writer

Pembroke -- Petawawa Mayor Bob Sweet already has the distinction of being the county's first-ever, three consecutive term warden.

If no one else steps forward to run or if he wins the first warden election race in about seven years, he stands to become the first ever four-term warden for the county.

Last Wednesday, the head of Petawawa council announced he would be seeking the warden's chair, standing as the only existing member of the council to put his name forth.

Initially, Bonnechere Valley incumbent Mayor Zig Mintha had put his name forward during council's late September meeting, but losing out in the October municipal election to mayor-elect Jennifer Murphy, Mayor Sweet said there was a void that needed to be filled.

"I was prepared to support Mayor Mintha's bid for the warden post, but such is politics and there was a void there to fill," he explained.

Mayor Sweet was first elected to municipal council as councillor in 1988 and has served Petawawa as mayor since taking the position in the 2000 election. He served the warden's post three consecutive years, from 2004 through 2006 and twice in that time chaired the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus. In his first attempt at the warden's chair, he was opposed by Renfrew Reeve Audrey Green -- also the last warden election for the county -- and was acclaimed to the position the following two terms, before Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Mayor Janice Visneskie and White-water Region Mayor Don Rathwell each served two consecutive terms, all unopposed.

Current Warden Don Rathwell said he will forego trying to secure a third consecutive term himself this year, throwing his support instead behind Mayor Sweet.

"I'm pleased to support Bob," he said. "I appointed him chair of the Expo 150 (organizing committee for the county's 150th anniversary since incorporation celebration next June) and I think it would be nice to see him as the warden during the 150th year."

"He's given a whole lot of his free time to that group and with everything he's done for the county, I think it would be very fitting," Warden Rathwell added.

Greater Madawaska Reeve Peter Emon forwarded the nomination while Admaston-Bromley Mayor Raye-Anne Briscoe seconded the motion.

"Bob has shown to have a really good understanding of Renfrew County, the people and the history," Reeve Emon said of offering his support. "With a lot of changes coming (from the federal and provincial governments) on how we're funded and the 150th anniversary, we're going to need someone who can sell Renfrew

County and he's the person.

"He's very concerned about AECL, (twinning Highway) 417, CFB Petawawa, tourism, the lumber and forestry industries; all the same concerns I have," Reeve Emon added. "It just makes sense for a lot of good reasons; he's a good package for what we need moving forward."

Mayor Sweet said it will be a special time to serve as warden if he's successful, as the 150th anniversary takes place in early June.

"But there's bigger issues I've got my fingers on; serious issues I hope to keep to the forefront," he said. "I'll expand on that (later in November or December if anyone else declares for the position)."

He did say one of the most pressing issues for county will be the possibility of the federal government pulling back its investment to the Eastern Ontario Development Fund, one he helped establish some years ago as chair of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus to spur on economic development.

"In a time of recession it seems counter-productive to reduce opportunities for economic development; we'll have to keep on that to make sure it remains," he said.

Inaugural Meeting Pushed Back

In order to give appropriate amount of time to anyone else declaring for the warden's post, the inaugural meeting for county council has been pushed back from December 14 to December 21. As most municipal councils will not be officially sworn in until the week of December 6, and as there is a 14-day minimum period to declare nominations for the warden's post, the meeting was pushed back to allow enough time for the new councils to take over and any new mayors to declare for the county warden post once sworn in.

Borne trial date possibly next fall

By Debbi Christinck
Staff Writer

Pembroke -- It will be a while before former St. James the Less parish priest Robert Borne has his day in court with no trial date set yet, but a tentative scheduling for the fall of 2011.

Facing four counts of sex related offences, Msgr. Borne was scheduled to appear in Pembroke court on Monday to set a trial date, however this was cancelled because during previous proceedings his lawyer indicated further applications before the trial were to be presented to the court. Because of this no trial date has been set, but there is the possibility the matter could go to trial in the fall of next year.

Msgr. Borne's next application will be heard on March 15 in Pembroke, and after this a trial date may be set.

Msgr Borne is facing four sex-related charges relating to two victims. The Diocese of Pembroke priest, who left Eganville in the summer of 2008

to work in the Diocesan office, faces two charges of gross indecency and two charges of indecent assault. These incidents are alleged to have taken place between 1977 and 1981 when the alleged victims were teenage boys and the priest would have been in his late 20s and early 30s. Now in his early 60s, Msgr. Borne has no official role in the diocese, where he once served as the assistant to the bishop. It is the policy of the diocese that a priest who has charges laid against him cannot function as a Catholic priest once the charges are laid.

Msgr. Borne originally faced 12 charges relating to five victims. For some of the original charges, including breach of trust and indecent assault, the Crown had elected not to seek committal, and in preliminary proceedings Justice Robert Selkirk dismissed one charge of sexual assault and two of gross indecency.

There is a publication ban on the evidence that was presented at the preliminary hearing. When the case

does go to trial, Msgr. Borne has elected to have it heard before a judge alone instead of a judge and jury.

The Renfrew County Crime Unit of the Ontario Provincial Police began its investigation in January 2008 after receiving a complaint that a sexual assault allegedly occurred while a teenage boy visited Msgr. Borne.

A native of Pembroke, Msgr. Borne was a prominent figure in the local Catholic church. In 1996, he was appointed parish priest in Eganville as well as at the church in Pikwakanagan, Nativity of Mary. He served as pastor in Eganville through to 2008. He was also the co-ordinator of activities at St. Ann's Parish in

Cormac where he held a high-profile position during the annual pilgrimage which attracts thousands of people each summer.

Ordained in 1974, he was a curate in Mattawa between 1974 and 1975. From 1975 until 2003 he served in a number of administrative roles including chancellor of the diocese, secretary to the bishop and curate at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Pembroke.

Msgr. Borne was transferred to the diocese office in September 2008, and assigned administrative duties. Charges were laid against him in April, 2009 and he was arrested in June, 2009.

Guthro will go to trial next October

Second degree murder charge

Pembroke -- Ryan Guthro will stand trial next year on a charge of second degree murder in connection with the death of Ashley Commanda of Pikwakanagan.

The trial is scheduled to begin on October 11, 2011 in Pembroke, over two years after the attack in which Mr. Commanda was allegedly beaten to death with a shovel in front of onlookers on a Pikwakanagan street. Originally charged with first degree murder, the charge was reduced to second degree earlier this year.

The 25-year-old was arrested after Mr. Commanda died following injuries he received during an altercation on Sept. 19, 2009. Police were called to Kagamin Inamo on the First Nation at approximately 8 a.m. that morning to investigate a disturbance. Upon their arrival, they discovered Pikwakanagan resident, Mr. Commanda, 35, lying seriously wounded on the roadway outside a local residence. Paramedics transported

him to Pembroke Regional Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Witnesses said at the time Mr. Commanda had gone to the home where Mr. Guthro was residing at Pikwakanagan because there had been an altercation in the home. He was struck on the head inside the home and then again outside with a beer bottle. Once he was on the ground, Mr. Guthro allegedly went back to the house for a shovel. He then returned to where Mr. Commanda was lying on the ground and struck him with a shovel. A third attack with the shovel broke the handle. The attack took place on a Saturday morning and people had been arriving to the adjacent Makwa Centre for a ball tournament scheduled for that day.

Mr. Guthro is being represented by Lorne Goldstein Ottawa. The accused also faces several other charges including choking, sexual assault, assault and assault with a weapon Those charges will be heard separately.



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Petawawa Mayor Bob Sweet



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