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Blaze consumes Augsburg-area barn

Firefighters from the two Bonnechere Valley Fire Stations responded to a barn fire at the Measor farm, near Augsburg, about six kms west of Eganville last Wednesday night. While flames consumed a smaller log barn on the farm, Mr. Measor managed to keep the flames from spreading to a nearby larger barn until firefighters arrived and went into action.

## Barn destroyed in evening fire

By Terry Fleurie  
Staff Writer

**Eganville** -- Firefighters from both the Eganville and Sebastopol Stations of the Bonnechere Valley Fire Department are being credited for their quick response to an early evening fire last Wednesday night on Crimson Maple Lane near Augsburg.

Despite losing the smaller of two barns on his hobby farm, Mark Measor said the department's prompt response definitely saved a larger structure which was located adjacent to the log barn that was destroyed. "It could have been much worse," Mr. Measor noted. "I probably would have lost the big barn had they not come when they did. It was getting hotter and hotter.

"I sincerely thank them and my neighbour (Ken Pilatzke) for allowing us to draw water from the pond on his property."

Mr. Measor was working in the garden while three of the couple's five children, Elijah, Rachel, and Jacob, were also outside when seven-year-old Elijah alerted him to smoke coming from the barn. That was about 7:15 o'clock.

"He said, 'Dad, there's smoke'. So I ran up and it was just a little fire to begin with when I first saw it," he added. "I ran to get the garden hose and by the time I got back, it was gone, the whole building was in flames."

It only took seconds for him to get the hose but the fire was burning out of control when he started spraying

water on the flames. He did what he could but soon realized it was beyond his control and ran to the house to call 911. He also notified his wife, Mary-Anne, who was at her job at Eganville Shell with the couple's other daughter, Rebecca. He returned to the burning structure and tried his best to keep the fire from spreading to the nearby larger barn.

"There was some straw on the ground and the fire was moving towards the other barn," he said. "That's when I got the hose again and started spraying wherever I could see the flames and spraying the barn as well."

A hobby farmer, Mr. Measor said there were no animals lost in the blaze. Had it been two weeks earlier, his

losses would have been significant.

"We used to keep our five horses in it and the sheep were in the back," he noted. "They were there until about two weeks ago when I moved them to the pasture."

"We were very fortunate." The two-storey barn had a large quantity of straw stored in the upper level.

"We lost about 60 bales of straw," he said.

The heat was intense as Mr. Measor fought the fire. He took shelter behind an old horse trailer as he sprayed water on the blaze.

"I couldn't stand out in the open, it was too hot," he noted.

Mr. Measor believes the cause of the fire may have been electrical. He said power to the building had been shut off after part of the roof collapsed last January. He said he was told by firefighters the lines were live the evening of the fire.

"I shut the hydro off, but maybe somebody turned it on by accident," he said. "The fire started in the corner where the light is for that building."

"They (the firefighters) said it was live so it's possible it was electrical," he added.

There was no insurance on the barn.

BV Fire Chief Morley Kosmack said it was fortunate the wind was blowing away from the larger barn, otherwise firefighters would have had a major blaze on their hands.

"It could have just kept going," he said.

About 24 firefighters from the two stations fought the blaze. Water was drawn from a nearby pond and two tankers hauled about 20 loads of water from the nearby Ken Pilatzke farm. The department remained at the scene till around midnight. Chief Kosmack said the cause of the fire is unknown.

## Priest is charged for sexual assaults

Msgr. Robert Borne served in area for 12 years

By Gerald Tracey  
News Editor

**Renfrew** -- A well-known priest of the Diocese of Pembroke who served as pastor at St. James Church in Eganville for 12 years is facing sexual-related charges for incidents that allegedly took place between 1977 and 1995.

Msgr. Robert Borne, a native of Pembroke, was charged on April 20 with two counts each of gross indecency, indecent assault and breach of trust in relation to three victims. The 60-year-old priest presented himself at the Renfrew Ontario Provincial Police detachment Friday where he was arrested and later released on conditions. He is scheduled to appear in court in Pembroke on July 7.

OPP said in a news release Friday police began an investigation in January 2008 into a complaint that Msgr. Borne had sexually assaulted a then teenage boy while he was visiting with the priest. As a result of their initial investigation, police said other victims were identified.

Msgr. Borne spent most of his religious career working in the Chancery Office in Pembroke. Ordained to the priesthood in April, 1974, he served as an assistant at Bancroft that summer and then transferred to Mattawa for one year before his appointment as Bishop's Assistant and Vice-Chancellor. In the early 1980s he was named Chancellor and became responsible for the day to day operations of the Chancery Office in Pembroke while continuing in his role as bishop's secretary.

Several months following the January 1995 fire that destroyed St. James Church in Eganville, he was named pastor of St. James Church with the appointment taking effect in December of that year upon the completion of the new church and following the retirement of Msgr. Michael Hass who had served as pastor here since 1969. Msgr. Hass had been a priest for 63 years and retired at the age of 87.

Msgr. Borne was also pastor for the

mission church, Nativity of Mary, at Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake). About five years after his arrival in Eganville, he was assigned St. Ann's Parish at Cormac following the cancellation of weekend masses in that community due to a shortage of priests. He celebrated mass each Wednesday night in Cormac and also worked with the small parish to organize the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Ann each July.

Msgr. Borne and Msgr. Michael Barry, who also worked in the Chancery Office in Pembroke, were appointed at the diocesan level by then Bishop Brendan O'Brien in 1996 to head up the building of the new St. James Church. The two priests met regularly with the St. James parish building committee to plan for the new edifice. He continued to work in the Chancery Office on a part-time basis during his early years in Eganville and also continued to fill his role as the Bishop's Assistant for a few years. His responsibilities included making arrangements for religious ceremonies and other important liturgical ceremonies such as confirmations and ordinations throughout the diocese.

Last June, Msgr. Borne was appointed to the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, based in Pembroke, by His Excellency Bishop Michael Mulhall.

Bishop Mulhall issued a release Friday in which he expressed his deep concern, and that of the diocese, for the people who have brought forth allegations against Msgr. Borne.

"Our commitment is to work in an open and co-operative way with the civil authorities as they endeavour to unfold the truth," Bishop Mulhall said. "Many persons are deeply troubled by these events and we will do all we can to express a spirit of honesty and compassion to all concerned."

"Our mission as a church is to build a supportive community. We wish to allow this mandate to inspire us as to how we can assist all persons affected by these matters."



Msgr. Robert Borne, who served as pastor in Eganville for 12 years up until last August, is facing sexual-assault charges.

## BV moves towards user fees at rec facilities for non-residents

By Gerald Tracey  
News Editor

**Eganville** -- User fees for non-residents of Bonnechere Valley Township who utilize recreational facilities here, primarily the arena, will be introduced this year.

BV Councillor Cairine Cybulski and Township CAO Bryan Martin are currently crunching numbers to determine the actual costs of operating the arena and other commonly used facilities. When compiled, the information will be shared with surrounding municipalities, and the band council at Pikwakanagan, whose residents are registered in programs such as minor hockey and figure skating.

Neighbouring North Algona Wilberforce Township is the next biggest user of the facilities.

"There is no choice about this down the road," Coun. Cybulski said. "This has been talked about and mulled around since, well, the previous term (of council). I think when you look at all the other municipalities .... even how Pembroke works their agreements out with Laurentian Valley, it's a very normal occurrence. If we can reach some type of solution between the councils it's better to do it that way."

BV council will provide options to neighbouring councils in the document and will also listen to suggestions they might have.

"If there is anything (another option) they want to come up with, we are willing to sit down and negotiate," she said. "We are lagging 10 years behind or five years behind."

After the information is forwarded and neighbouring councils have had time to study the data, the intent is for Coun. Cybulski, Mr. Martin and Mayor Zig Mintha to meet with those councils.

Mayor Zig Mintha said the present situation has gone on far too long.

"Every other municipality with an arena has had user fees in place for a number of years," he said. "Why should we be any different? We have to come up with accurate numbers and figures and talk to the surrounding municipalities."

"We are doing all of our homework and we will come up with a reasonable figure that is hopefully affordable for the users and municipalities that don't have arenas."

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