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The Glengarry News

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NG bids farewell to veteran councillor

By ANGELA BROWN
News Staff

A sports lover. A man with a soft spot for kids. A kind friend and colleague. A veteran North Glengarry municipal politician.

That was Gary Shepherd to many who were fortunate enough to know him. Mr. Shepherd, former Councillor-at-Large for North Glengarry Township, died as a result of complications related to heart surgery at Ottawa Civic Hospital on April 3.

"It's a sad thing really," said North Glengarry Mayor Chris McDonell. "He was a good friend of us all."

Mr. Shepherd, 68, devoted a large part of his life to his hometown of Alexandria, offering his support to the community any way he could.

Mr. Shepherd was also a longtime Township of North Glengarry councillor and a member of council since 1991.

Mr. McDonell visited Mr. Shepherd in hospital with former councillor George Currier the night before Mr. Shepherd's passing. Mr. McDonell went to school with Mr. Shepherd many years ago and also enjoyed working with him on council.

The Mayor said Mr. Shepherd was always a strong proponent of the regional water project, an ongoing effort to pipe water into Alexandria and Maxville from the St. Lawrence River.

"He has been interested in that for years," said Mayor McDonell. "He has been an advocate of everything to help the people to help build roads and sewers. He has been a big part of that."

Mr. Shepherd also had a big hand in supporting the Glengarry Indoor Sports Complex (Tim Hortons Dome), the local arena and the soccer fields.

"He was dedicated to the county of Glengarry that is for sure," said Mayor McDonell. "And he is a friend as well as a colleague."

Focus on the community

Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MPP Grant Crack was also a longtime friend of Mr. Shepherd's who worked with him on North Glengarry council.

He said hearing about Mr. Shepherd's passing came as a shock.

"We offer our thoughts and our condolences to Colleen his wife, the children and the family," said Mr. Crack. "Gary was certainly a good friend of mine. Personally, I

was fortunate to be able to work with him on council for 11 years, since my first election in 1994.

"He was a great community leader, a successful businessman who gave back to his community through good service, and by being an all-around good guy," he said.

"His 20-plus years in public service shows the type of character that he was," added Mr. Crack. "He was calm, however on occasion we would see a side of Gary that he was serious about what he believed in. He was always well respected."

Generous nature

Mr. Shepherd was also a family man when he wasn't busy serving on council or volunteering.

He has two grown children and four grandchildren.

"He never knew his own grandfathers, as they had passed away before he was born, so he loved his role as Grampa," said his wife Colleen.

He also used to enjoy spending time fishing, and was planning to replace a boat that was damaged from a fishing trip last year.

Colleen also recalled Mr. Shepherd's great generosity.

"He was one of the founders of the Junior B Glens hockey team, coached minor hockey, girls' broomball, and supplied many sets of sweaters over the years to different teams," she noted.

Among Mr. Shepherd's accomplishments include his work on the Hôpital Glengarry Memorial Hospital Board for 10 years.

"He was instrumental in the doctors having office space available right on location," said Colleen.

Fair-minded man

Coun. Carma Williams said during the past two years she has been on council she has come to know Mr. Shepherd well and "respects him deeply."

"It's such a loss because as council you become almost like a family," she said. "You get to know the personal side of a person. So it's been a loss not only professionally but personally as well."

"Gary, to sum him up I would say he is a very fair-minded person," Coun. Williams said. "That goes to the core of a person. Fair-mindedness indicates the consideration of others. Not only did he take great importance in terms of the thoughtfulness he had for the people he represented, but also it went as far as the people around the



COMMUNITY LOSS: Respected councillor and community volunteer Gary Shepherd died on April 3. Community members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Shepherd's efforts as a councillor, businessman and friend.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

council table as well."

Sports lover

Local resident Gwen Morris, 90, was also saddened by Mr. Shepherd's passing.

SEE SHEPHERD ON BACK PAGE

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INSIDE NEWS:
OPP Inspector moving on to Pan-Am Games.
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AGRICULTURE:
South Glengarry urged to enforce burning bylaw.
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INSIDE SPORTS:
News Cup champions could be crowned tonight in Maxville.
Page A7.

LOTTO NUMBERS:
Note: These are unofficial numbers. In case of discrepancy, please check your tickets with a licensed lottery retailer.

Lotto 6/49, Wed. April 3, 2013:
20, 26, 27, 32, 36, 46 Bonus: 49

Lotto 6/49, Sat. April 6, 2013:
11, 19, 27, 28, 30, 39 Bonus: 21

Lotto Max, Fri. April 5, 2013:
2, 14, 15, 17, 24, 38, 40 Bonus: 31

WEATHER:

WED 11°C 5°C 60%	THURS 4°C -2°C 60%	FRI 1°C -4°C
SAT 4°C -1°C	SUN 9°C -2°C	MON 10°C 1°C

TUES PREDICTION
10°C
0°C

TARTAN THIS WEEK
PAGET ANCIENT COLOURS



REPLICA COLOURS: The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders received the replica colours for the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment of Foot in Bainsville from the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada on Saturday morning. They then continued the re-enactment, carrying the flag over the same route taken by the 104th 200 years ago.

WENDY BESWICK PHOTO

Local Reserves re-enact 1812 trek to Kingston

By WENDY BESWICK
Special to The News

The Ontario Travel Centre in Bainsville may not have been there 200 years ago but that didn't stop it from hosting a re-enactment of a pivotal Canadian military effort on Saturday.

In the summer of 1812, British forces in Niagara were holding their own. However, they realized that the Americans would be launching a major offensive in the spring of 1813. Reinforcements were desperately needed. Reinforcements, which would normally travel by water up the St. Lawrence, would have to complete the journey with snowshoes.

The 104th Regiment of Foot received their marching orders on February 16, 1813. They were to make the arduous trek from Fredericton, New Brunswick over frozen, snow covered roads and trails to Kingston, over 1,100 kilometres away.

The 600 men arrived in Kingston 52 days later. They then participated in an amphibious raid on Sackets Harbour, New York, across Lake Ontario from Kingston. The regiment also fought in other major battles such as the 1814 campaign of Lunenburg and Fort Erie.

Two hundred years later, this incredible feat is being re-enacted by volunteers. It began in Fredericton on Feb. 16

with members of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves marching along the same route and on the same days taken by the 104th across New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario to commemorate their efforts.

The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton and York) carried the replica of the 104th flag from the Officer's Square at the Garrison District National Historic Site in Fredericton to Cabano, Quebec, where they participated in a hand over ceremony with the Les Fusiliers du Saint-Laurent on March 10.

The march through Quebec included a special commemorative ceremony at Quebec City on March 15 as well as a hand off ceremony between the Voltigeurs and the Montreal area Black Watch of Canada (Royal Highland Regiment) held on March 23 at the Stewart Museum in the historic fort on Ile Ste-Helene.

The handover between Quebec and Ontario was held at the Ontario Travel Information Centre in Bainsville on Saturday with the Black Watch and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders participating.

The SDG Highlanders will carry the flag to Cardinal where the official handover of the 104th Regiment replica colours from the SD&G Highlanders to the Brockville Rifles Regiment. The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment will receive the replica colours in Gananoque on April 11,

and they will carry it to its destination in Kingston at the Royal Military College grounds.

"We are working collaboratively with the St. Lawrence Bicentennial Alliance. We were very pleased when we were asked if we would like to participate," said Master Warrant Officer Snyder, Public Affairs Officer for 53 Brigade. "It's important to the reservists to be involved. We are proud to be commemorating the service of our predecessors."

Each of the regiments participating is reserves and volunteers. Many have served in Afghanistan, and other international theatres. They also helped out during the Ice Storm, and continue to be there when required according to MWO Snyder.

Just as the 104th Regiment of Foot would have depended on the kindness and generosity of civilians along the route in 1813, severe cutbacks in funding has also forced those participating in the re-enactment to depend on the generosity of local municipalities and organizations.

"The budget has been slashed," said Alicia Wanless, event co-ordinator for St. Lawrence War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance. "We approach municipalities, community groups such as the Legion, and interested individuals. We are very thankful for their generosity."

SEE TREK ON BACK PAGE

Menard to plead guilty

By SCOTT CARMICHAEL
News Staff

A 26-year-old South Glengarry man facing six charges for his role in a double traffic fatality in North Glengarry last fall will plead guilty to those offences in Cornwall court on June 7.

Kevin Menard was initially charged on Sept. 24, 2012 with two counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death following an early morning crash the previous day near the McCormick Road/Power Dam Road junction that claimed the lives of Colin Geddis, 21, and his girlfriend, Jasmine Morris, 26, both Alexandria-area residents.

He was alleged to have driven his east-bound 2006 Cadillac into a ditch and struck a tree, demolishing the car, which came to rest in an adjacent field.

Mr. Geddis and Ms. Morris, both passengers in the vehicle, were pronounced dead at the scene shortly after the incident took place (around 1 a.m.), while Mr. Menard was transported to Ottawa Civic Hospital with undisclosed serious injuries following the crash.

In the ensuing months, he was also charged with two counts each of impaired driving causing death and driving with a blood-alcohol content (BAC) exceeding the legal limit of 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

At the time of their deaths, Ms. Morris was employed as an esthetician at the Georgian House Restaurant & Day Spa in Alexandria, while Mr. Geddis, who had recently moved in with Ms. Morris and her two children after relocating from the Ottawa-area a few months prior, was planning to return to school in Kingston to study small engine mechanics.

Initially, it was expected that Mr. Menard would plead guilty to the charges at an April 3 court appearance in Alexandria.

However, the proceedings were adjourned to the upcoming June date.

Publisher leaves News

The Glengarry News's former publisher, Jeff Korenko, has tendered his resignation after four-and-a-half years with this newspaper.

We at The News wish him and his family well in their future endeavours.

Advertising manager Bonnie McDonell and managing editor Steven Warburton are sharing the publisher's duties until a replacement can be found.

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