



Charles Lanctôt holds a coffee mug he made on his pottery wheel while his partner, Frank Vienneau, cuts pucks of all-natural goat's milk soap he makes with the milk from his farm. The two men operate ceramics workshop on Archibald Street.

Two men, 24 goats

And a passion for pottery, ceramics and truly great soap

When he was just a boy, Frank Vienneau would walk by a certain farm on Archibald Street and wish he could live there. Now, he does.

At 59 years of age, Mr. Vienneau is living his dream. He and his partner, Charles Lanctôt, operate Lavi Ceramic and Pottery from a workshop on that farm.

"We may be one of the only ceramic shops in New Brunswick," says Mr. Vienneau. "It was a dying thing but it's coming back."

Lavi Ceramic has 16,000 molds and two kilns and a

massive inventory of ceramic objects of all types as well as pottery made by Mr. Lanctôt. Their customers can either come in and buy these items or choose to take a ceramics workshop and finish the pieces themselves with acrylic paints or glazes.

"Usually, we have between four and 11 people per class," says Mr. Vienneau.

Those three-hour classes are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays and cost \$5, plus materials.

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The Belledune Messenger

The voice of the Village of Belledune

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MESSAGE TO ALL BELLEDUNE RESIDENTS

Citizens of the community have been expressing concerns regarding the quality of winter maintenance of village streets

The provincial Department Of Transportation has an agreement with the Village of Belledune to carry out this important work in a timely, organized fashion. Listed below is the table of specifications of the said agreement.

The winter levels of service for the Village of Belledune are as follows:

“A-2” - Arterial highways and high volume collectors such as Route 11, Route 134 (Main Street) and Turgeon Road. These roads are to be plowed once 2 cm. of snow has accumulated. The driving lanes are to be bare within 24 hours after the end of the storm. Salt is used on these roads.



“B” maintenance covers Jacquet River Drive, which is plowed after 2-8 cm. of snow has accumulated. The center strip is to be bare within 48 hours after the storm and salt or sand is used.

“C” applies to all local low volume collectors. This covers all the municipal streets in the village. These are plowed after 8 cm. has accumulated and may be snow-packed after a storm. Sand is applied on these roads on hills, curves, and at intersections.

If you feel the service rendered is unreasonably slow or unsatisfactory, please do not hesitate to call the village office at 522-3700 or the Chief Administrative Officer at 522-3703 so we may address your concerns for remedial action.

REMEMBER TO ADJUST YOUR DRIVING HABITS TO WINTER CONDITIONS.

Candidates in elections: get your bios into the Messenger

Candidates in the May 14 municipal elections running for Village of Belledune council seats will be able to get their messages across through The Belledune Messenger.

In the April issue of The Belledune Messenger, mayoralty candidates will be able to get a 500-word message and a headshot published free of charge as part of our election coverage. Candidates for councillor positions will be allowed 300 words and a headshot.

All submissions must be in by March 14 at 4 p.m. and delivered by e-mail to: acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com.

Firefighters' pay

Clerk/treasurer sets the record straight

Brenda Cormier, the Village of Belledune's clerk/treasurer, read a prepared statement during the Jan. 16 public council meeting. In it, Ms. Cormier noted the issue of what to do with the firefighters' pay became a controversial issue in 2011.

"There were many false statements, innuendoes and personal slanders that have been publicly promoted throughout this incident, and still are, via many different media forms, including radio, newspapers and Facebook and face-to-face," said Ms. Cormier.

"Public meetings were held with citizens. One-on-one meetings, behind closed doors, as well as meetings at various public locations, such as at church, in parking lots, at funerals and even hayfields, [were held] in an attempt to force the municipal

treasurer's hand to be compliant to their will," she said.

Last year, a labour dispute crippled the Village of Belledune's fire department. It began when the village's administration received a cheque with no information of what it was intended to cover. Staff looked into it and learned it was for services provided by the fire department to a local business and included money intended to pay three volunteer firefighters for service over a nine-day period. Due to the irregularity of this billing process, village staff looked into the current practice for paying fire department personnel.

Ms. Cormier consulted with the municipal auditor and discovered she was not then in compliance with Revenue Canada legislation for the payment of volunteer firefighters. The

See TREASURER Page 6

Happy St. Valentine's Day!



Animal lover
Joan Robertson beams
as she holds her new,
six-week-old Shih Tzu
puppy, Bella. She likes
animals because "they
love you
unconditionally."

Love IS a warm puppy



James' Messenger

Run for the mayoralty or a seat on council

In Ontario, there's an agency whose job it is to invest the extra money from employment insurance premiums for all Canadians. The only problem is: there is no extra money. According to news reports, our government has spent more than \$3 million in two years for an office filled with people who basically do next to nothing.

Thing is, governments make boneheaded decisions all the time. And a lot of us shake our heads or gripe when they do. But that's not worth a whole lot, now is it? After all, just griping isn't going to solve the problem. We need action. We need solutions. And we need people to make things happen.

If you've ever thought governments in Canada make poor decisions and had ideas as to how to make things better, I strongly urge you to make a difference by running for office in the next municipal elections.

You don't need fancy university degrees or college diplomas. You don't need to be just the "right age" or have just the "right look". You just need good, decent common sense.

When election day rolls around I'm really hoping to see a good representation of both young and old candidates, women as well as men, and people with disabilities. I'm hoping good, decent people will step forward and offer up their ideas, time and effort.

It's what we all need in Canada to ensure our governments make the best possible decisions for all of us.

Village of Belledune Safety Tips

Be seen and stay safe walking along the road!

Taking a walk outside is a great way to stay toned and fit. But, like all activities, it can come with its own hazards. Follow these tips to stay safe.

1. Always wear bright and reflective clothing when walking along a road at night. You might be able to see the cars but they can't necessarily see you.

2. Carry a flashlight when walking after dark.

3. Be careful of falling snow and ice from overhanging rooves.

4. Hold the hand of any small child. Little ones can easily dart away and wind up in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

5. Walk in the opposite direction of the traffic to be able to see any on-coming cars or trucks.

6. Wear shoes or boots with soles that grip the ice and snow. Avoid footwear with smooth, hard soles which may slip more easily and stay away from high heels on ice.

7. Carry a cell phone with you. If you do fall, it will allow you to call for help.

Birthday Corner

Happy birthday, Robert and John! The publisher of The Belledune Messenger

wishes a very happy birthday to his younger brother, Robert Risdon, who turns the big 5-0 on Feb. 7, and John Risdon, who turns 59 on Feb. 8. Anyone wondering what kind of gifts to get them, please note John wants an authentic Fender Telecaster guitar and Robert will be happy with gifts of cash.

The Belledune Messenger

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Village of Belledune

Deputy Mayor: Emmie Flanagan

Councillors:

Elaine Levesque-Godin, Jerry Guitard, Mario Lapointe

Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Mel Parker

522-3703

melparker@nb.aibn.com

Town Hall: 522-3700

bell001@nbnet.nb.ca

Clerk/Treasurer: Brenda Cormier

Fax: 522-3704

Arena ice rentals: 522-3700

CDO – Andy Flanagan

522-3797

belledunedevlopment@nb.aibn.com



Sweeps Glen and Ray Godin get ready as skip Audel Godin throws a rock during the Rock N Roll Bonspiel at the Belledune Recreation and Cultural Centre.

Bonspiel raises \$\$\$\$ for Relay for Life

Men - and women - with brooms converged on the arena in Belledune in January to raise money for cancer research and have fun.

During the second annual Rock N Roll Bonspiel at the Belledune arena, almost 60 people turned up to do a little curling and help out the Canadian Cancer Society with some fundraising.

“Last year, we got \$1,000,” said event organizer Sandenn Killoran.

The goal for the event was \$1,500 but a final tally was unavailable by press deadline.



Sandenn Killoran

But clearly the participants had fun. “We won two games!” said Brad Guitard. “We’re trying to get in shape for the firefighters’ hockey tournament.”

This year, the Relay for Life will be held June 9 and a meeting of the organizing committee has been scheduled for St. Gabriel’s Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 9.

Belledune In Brief

Credit union plan draws about 50 memberships

The outcry against the Scotiabank’s branch closure in Jacquet River was huge.

The support from the community to set up a credit union in its place, not so much.

Late last year and again in January, the Credit Union Steering Committee called on members of the public to buy memberships in a local credit union. According to community development officer Andy Flanagan, only about 50 memberships had been pledged as of mid-January.

“I don’t find there was a very big

response,” said Mr. Flanagan. “Maybe in the 50ish range.”

Municipal council down to the bare bones

With the resignations of former Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden and former Councillor Paul Daley, the Village of Belledune’s council can now just barely make quorum.

That means if even one person is absent, the remaining members cannot hold a duly constituted public meeting and vote on matters such as motions and resolutions of council. The situation is expected to be resolved with the election of a new council on May 14.

“As long as there’s a quorum, there’s no problem,” said Mr. Flanagan. “Mind you, we can’t have anyone absent.”

The former mayor’s resignation was

accepted Jan. 16 when he stepped down to pursue the leadership of the provincial Liberal Party.

Village now owns former Belledune School

The Village of Belledune now owns the former Belledune School building.

“On Jan. 5, 2012, the Village received the keys and took ownership, said Mel Parker, the village’s interim chief administrative officer, at the January council meeting.

Already, some of the furnishings in the building have been transferred to the municipal library. A potential buyer is currently considering the building for a senior’s healthcare facility.

“I have heard there are other parties interested but I have not had anyone call or come to my door or put forth an alternate project,” said Mr. Parker.

Classifieds

Real Estate

3-bedroom house for sale at 4110 Main St., \$37,500. Contact Frank by e-mail at: spicke@rogers.com



1-acre lot for sale on Culligan Rd. \$8,000. Call: 522-2801

Trailer

For sale. Must be moved. 1976 Bendix trailer at 3800 Main St. \$4,500. Contact Mike: mikim@rogers.com



Babysitting

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Continued from Page 3

Treasurer must obey the law

auditor recommended keeping track of each individual firefighter's pay and issuing a T4 at the end of the year for anyone who earned more than \$1,000. This affected four or five volunteer firefighters.

"This is when everything took a turn for the worse and the manipulation, intimidation and other such activities and actions commenced in an attempt to bully me into breaking Revenue Canada legislation," said Ms. Cormier. "Despite the advice and recommendation of municipal legal counsel and auditors, which some members of council did not attend, the pressure continued in a variety of ways at my work and my personal life."

Even as this issue raged on last year, the government's tax rules for volunteer firefighters changed and this led to the Village of Belledune being required to issue T4 slips for all firefighters. Despite the clear and expert advice offered by the municipal administrator on this issue and a final ruling by Revenue

Canada in mid-November, however, Ms. Cormier said she was still being approached a month later after a public meeting to figure out a way to pay a firefighter who could not accept a cheque or T4 because of his financial circumstances.

In her address to council on Jan. 16, the clerk/treasurer noted she can be held personally liable for any illegal or fraudulent actions. She also said no-one, neither the mayor and council nor department heads have the authority to supersede Canadian laws or commit fraud. During the Jan. 16 council meeting, several members of council, including the deputy mayor, apologized to Ms. Cormier for what she endured.

Council Meeting Schedule

Feb. 20

7 p.m.

Belledune Community Resources

The Belledune Messenger is pleased to provide the following list of important community resources. Should there be others you would like to see added, please e-mail: acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com

Belledune District Planning Commission	542-2688
Belledune Public Library	522-3701
Emergency	911
Environment New Brunswick Emergencies	547-2092 1-800-565-1633, afterhours
MLA Roland Haché - Nigadoo Chaleur Riding	542-2424, during business hours
MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon - Miramichi Riding	1-800-567-5564 237-2333
NB Power - Outages - Streetlights	1-800-663-6272
RCMP	911 For emergencies 1-888-506-7267 Non-emergency
Blue Bin Recycling Program	546-8016, ask for Sarah
Restigouche County - SPCA - Animal Control	684-4396 / 557-9790 emergency
Roman Catholic churches - St. Gabriel The Archangel & St. John the Evangelist	237-2027
Royal Canadian Legion Durham - Jacquet River	237-2983
Village of Belledune Municipal Office	522-3700
Interim Chief Administrative Officer - Mel Parker	522-3703
Community Development Officer - Andy Flanagan	522-3797
Administrative Assistant - Nicole Carrier	522-3700



Scotiabank building listed at \$130,000

The empty Scotiabank building in Jacquet River was put on the block in January and is now listed with Royal LePage sales person Kathy Hickey. The real estate agent said last month there had already been a few people interested in the property which features about 2,200 square feet of retail space plus a full basement, washrooms, a lunch room and, of course, a safe.

Continued from Page 1

Ceramics workshop hosts b-day parties

"In the summer, we get tourists from Vancouver and Ontario and Quebec and they come here and paint," said Mr. Vienneau. Now and then, the workshop also hosts birthday parties.

But Mr. Vienneau's favourite thing these days is his all-natural goat's milk soap, made with milk from the farm's 24 goats. It comes in 28 scents and retails in his shop for \$5 per puck. He holds up a cinnamon-scented one.

"It's made for anxiety or depression," he says. "My soaps are all organic. There is nothing artificial. If you took this soap and washed with it, you would feel smooth and it suds more because of the palm and coconut oil and shea butter."

Children's Valentine's Day Dance



Friday Feb. 10

\$3 per person

Ages 1 - 6 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Ages 7 - 12 from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Canteen open - Prizes to be won

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Florence Daley celebrated her 99th birthday with family and friends and a cake bearing her likeness.

Old Belledune's most senior resident celebrates her 99th birthday

The oldest resident of old Belledune once again kicked off the New Year by celebrating her 99th birthday.

Florence Daley, born in 1913, has lived through the Great Depression, two world wars and seen the rise of most of the technologies in use today. She has six grown children, 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

And she still starts off every day with a smile and a healthy breakfast.

"I thank the good Lord for mother and I thank the great care that she's been given the last number of years because I think she wouldn't be here otherwise. She still wakes up every morning with a smile," said her daughter Theresa Daley.

At only one year shy of becoming a centenarian, Florence Daley still enjoys a good party and the company of friends and family. On New Year's day this year, her grand-daughter, Rhonda Bertin brought her a cake for the birthday celebration.

"There were 20 people who came out to wish mum happy birthday on Jan. 1 starting in the afternoon. We talked and laughed and told jokes and acted crazy and played cards and ate a chicken bouillon," said Theresa Daley.

She and her husband, Ron Doucet, thank everyone for the cards, gifts, flowers and phone calls which they say were much appreciated.



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