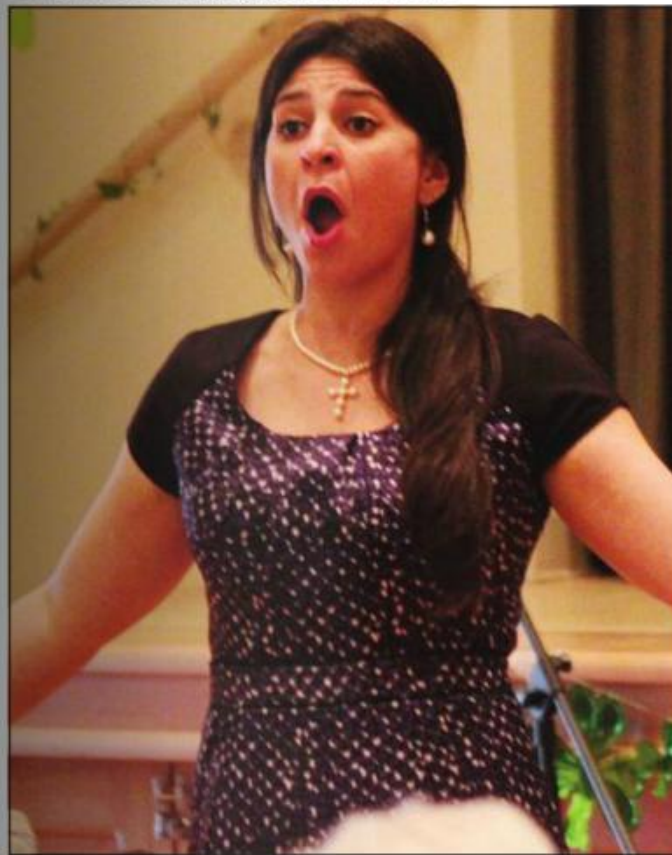


**BREAKING OUT:** Showing some serious style



**CYNDI MILLS**  
cyndi.mills@sunmedia.ca  
Joel Halvorsen shows his moves at the OPP March Break Extravaganza during the breakdancing workshop. This is the second year Ontario Provincial Police Constable Jerry Novack has organized the camp, which is run at The Grind. During the week students take part in various workshops, activities and outings. For more community photos please visit our website photo gallery at [www.dailyobserver.ca](http://www.dailyobserver.ca).

**MIRAMICHI LODGE:** Opera Lyra performs for residents



**SEAN CHASE** Sean.Chase@sunmedia.ca  
Armine Kassabian holds a long note as the mezzo-soprano sings for Miramichi Lodge residents recently. This special concert, presented by Opera Lyra, the opera company for the National Arts Centre, also included performances by pianist Judith Ginsburg and tenor David Lafleur. The session was hosted by Health Arts Society of Ontario and the Miramichi Lodge Foundation. For more community photos please visit our website photo gallery at [www.thedailyobserver.ca](http://www.thedailyobserver.ca).

**MARCH BREAK CAMP:** Put on by Boys and Girls Club



**STEPHEN UHLER** suhler@thedailyobserver.ca  
The Pembroke and Area Boys and Girls Club held its March Break camp, working out of the Knights of Columbus Hall on Ellis Street. Here, going left to right, campers Caleigh McMullan, Joshua Fuisz, Christopher Fuisz and Alyssa Morris try out a game.

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Madawaska Valley 613.756.2747	Bark Lake Waste Site 21966 Hwy 60
Kilisee Hagarty and Richards 613.757.2300	Mask Road Waste Site 1049 Mask Road

Questions? [redi\\_recycling@bell.net](mailto:redi_recycling@bell.net)

**NATIONAL FARMERS UNION:** Holds annual meeting in Beachburg  
**Dave Mackay re-elected for 7th term**

Beachburg - Renfrew County National Farmers Union (NFU) held its annual meeting recently at which Dave Mackay was again elected president for a seventh term.

Tim Tabbert was elected vice-president. Approximately 50 people attended the annual meeting to hear the guest speaker, Kyle Dickson from IP2g Consultants Ltd., who gave his personal experience as well as a broader scope on solar power systems and solar production in Renfrew County. Some of the information the crowd heard:

- Renfrew County is the prime location for solar radiation
- Environment Canada reports that Renfrew County is in second place as to having the largest number of solar systems installed in all of Canada
- The installation of any one of the three systems contributes to greenhouse gas reduction and contributes to sustainable communities
- A word of caution was given that those installing systems use credible suppliers who provide satisfactory warranties. A few years ago there were seven suppliers and now there are 200 suppliers
- Acquiring insurance coverage is sometimes an issue. Solar panels in certain areas are a target for vandalism
- Presently the approval process for installing solar panels is on hold until the provincial government releases its two-year review report at the end of April
- Up until now, nothing is clear as to the possibility of the assessment class on properties with solar systems being changed from residential to other
- The most important piece of information given: Anyone contemplating installing a solar system should not incur any costs or commence any work until approval is given by OPA, Hydro One and the municipality
- Apparently there are many applications waiting in line for approval in Renfrew County.

At the end of the meeting president Dave Mackay gave a summary of the many accomplishments during the past year of the NFU's involvement from working on revisions to predator control, to lobbying those in power for improved relations with SPCA, and the threat of the pending CETA agreement on local procurement of local food and local services.

Mackay added agriculture needs the federal and provincial governments to come to the table to better understand that family farms and local food production will guarantee this county sufficient good quality and safe food now and into the future.

The Renfrew County NFU also elected 16 directors: Christina Anderman, Stephanie Peterman, Robbie Anderman, Bob Dobson, Hugh Howard, Phillip Witt, Gordon White, Marshall Buchanan, Campbell Crogie, Harold Gallagher, Doug Clendenning, Ida Vaillancourt, Adrian Straathof, Tom Kelly, Zach Loeks, and Margaret Robertson.

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