

County's 2014 United Way campaign under way this month

By Bruce Peever

Petawawa Post

Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon will serve as honorary chair of the 2014 Renfrew County United Way campaign.

At a 'soft' campaign launch Aug. 27 — the real campaign kickoff is on Sept. 17 at Renfrew's Bonnechere Manor —

Emon was introduced as the honouring chair for the campaign running Sept. 15 to Dec. 18. The barbecue location was Pembroke's Waterfront Riverwalk Amphitheatre, with Giant Tiger donating refreshments.

The lunch allowed United Way staff and the community to get to know each other. Representatives from major

sponsors, including Garrison Petawawa, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd, and the Town of Deep River were on hand.

Gail Logan-McMeekin, RCUW Executive Director, said the 2014 goal will be \$400,000. She notes this year the campaign is a little more realistic.

"Last year the goal was \$500,000 with the campaign raising just \$385,000. Going forward we're looking to building our campaigns incrementally," Logan-McMeekin said.

The main kickoff on Sept. 17 at Bonnechere Manor will feature a continental breakfast catered by Tim Hortons and is to run from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

fall in the valley
craft and vendor show
Sunday, September 21st
10 am - 3 pm
Donations to the SPCA appreciated
Petawawa Civic Centre



Private Jonathan Hanna of 2 Service Battalion, at right with the tongs, tends to the grill with help from Deep River Fire Chief Doug Tennant at the barbecue to mark the Renfrew County United Way's 'soft' campaign launch held Aug. 27 at Pembroke's Waterfront Riverwalk Amphitheatre. Post photo by Bruce Peever

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"There's a lot of outreach with this program - it's not just 'what I did this summer'," said Chloe's mother Marilyn Lee. "It's an incredible opportunity to do real work with real scientists doing real research projects. It's not like doing a lab in school."

It's also a great tourism and economic development initiative for the area, Lee added. The majority of participants were first-time visitors to Deep River - prior to the program, many had no idea the town, and the opportunities at the Deep River Science Academy, existed.

"Even a lot of the staff who came as tutors, they'd never heard of Deep River either," Chloe added. "But it's great, they came and they think this is a really nice community, and now they're talking about maybe having a reunion in a few years from now, back in Deep River."

As for the aquifer project, Chloe explained the work is ongoing. The university will continue to collect data to track any future changes, including microbial activity, water temperature and flow rate.

With more than 30 per cent of Canadians reliant on groundwater, the real-world applications of the project are tangible, Chloe added.

"It was the most satisfying feeling looking at the spread sheets knowing that was all new data that you'd been working really hard for the last week to acquire," she remarked. "And now you can start interpreting it, figuring out what we've learned, what does it mean, why is it important."

It's that kind of passion that each student brings to the program, added Miller, that reinforces and endorses its value.

"This year we were

in a difficult position and almost had to forfeit Summer Science Immersion," she explained, noting the DRSA is a non-profit organization that runs solely on the contributions of corporate partners, government grants, local businesses and individual donors.

"Thanks to the support of community members and our corporate partners we were able to run the program, and after seeing the amazing, and extremely grateful group of students we had this year I am (so) happy we were able to go forward," she added. "I am very proud of each and every student who attends our program, and they continue to impress me with their professionalism and dedication."

For more information about the Deep River Science Academy and the programs it offers, visit www.drsc.ca

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