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A Baton Crafted From White Pine — Perfect for the McNab/Braeside 150 Relay

(Township of McNab/Braeside): It's crafted from white pine — a symbolic nod to the Township of McNab/Braeside's historic ties to the logging industry that employed so many of its residents, and to an industry that helped to build this country.

On Saturday, June 24, residents of all ages and abilities will be carrying this baton with pride. And at the end of its journey from one end of the township to the other, the baton will enjoy a final resting place in the township's 150th time capsule — along with mementoes, items and messages placed by participants and volunteers.

Carved by the Valley Carver Dub Juby, a resident of McNab/Braeside, the baton measures 18 inches long. Its light weight and handle will make it easy for young and old alike to carry.

"We are honoured that our very own Dub Juby agreed to use his carving talents to craft a baton for this unique event designed to celebrate and honour Canada's sesquicentennial, and showcase our township," says relay committee chair Heather Lang, a municipal councillor. "Dub enthusiastically rose to the occasion."

Relay committee member Andy Kalnins has been tasked with the challenge of fixing a tether to the baton for swimmers, paddle boarders, water skiers, etc.

The relay kicks off at 8 a.m. from the lighthouse at Sand Point with a flotilla of three Explorer canoes, headed to Red Pine Bay. The route takes participants through the village of Braeside, up Moore Street and along the CN recreational trail to Duncan Drive, across Highway 417 via the Pine Grove overpass, to Wellington Park in Pine Grove, along White Lake Road to Clay Bank Park, across and up the Madawaska River to the Flat Rapids landing, up Flat Rapids Road to Russett Drive, to McNab Centre Park, to Burnstown Beach and into the village of Burnstown, then to White Lake.

The finale takes place at Waba Cottage Museum and Gardens. In addition to entertainment, a barbecue, beer tent, bouncy castle, and an opportunity to pen messages and place items in the time capsule, participants and volunteers will gather for an aerial photo. "Everyone will form a 1-5-0 on the lawn and wave Canada flags for the photo," says Ms. Lang. "A local company in Burnstown called 1point1 has been hired to capture highlights of the relay and finale for a video using drone technology. A copy of the video will appear on the township website as well as placed in the time capsule. The capsule will be opened in 50 years."

The 150 relay has a unique twist. Residents are being asked to carry and pass the baton using a mode of transport of their choice. "We have members of the Prior Chestnuts and the Burnstown Rowing Club engaged, along with members of the Special Olympics baseball team and the Glasgow Women's Institute. We have residents who are snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water skiing, on pogo sticks and bicycles, driving motorcycles, tractors and vintage cars. We have dog walkers, kids playing hopscotch and on swings, kids hula hooping. We have people on horseback and in horse-drawn buggies. We have a fellow who is bringing out his float plane. We have walkers and runners, and people in wheelchairs. The committee is thrilled at the response we have received," Lang adds.

"All in all, it's going to be an absolutely fun day."

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