

# Women's Sexual Assault Centre

By R. Bruce McIntyre  
Staff Writer

**Eganville** -- The Women's Sexual Assault Centre (WSAC) of Renfrew County has received a grant to build a memorial in Centennial Park.

A grant from the Creative Engagement Fund to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment in Ontario will allow the centre to partner with Red Dress Productions (RDP) and the Ottawa Valley Community Arts Open Studio (OVCAOS) to build a large permanent pebble mosaic in the village.

The idea stemmed from an October 2014 meeting that had 75 women gather to try and find a way to help symbolize an end to violence against women.

JoAnne Brooks, director of the centre, is excited about making Eganville home to this new monument.

"We were so fortunate to have Red Dress Productions apply for the \$75,000 grant and partner with us," Ms. Brooks said. "The *Countdown Project* is the culmination of that October 2015 meeting. It was at that gathering that the seeds for The Countdown Project were sown, and lo and behold, they got light and air and water and now are growing.

"The partners will lead this "many hands, many hearts" effort in which community members will

imagine and build a large permanent pebble mosaic together in Eganville and smaller pieces of art will also be created and be installed in other parts of the county."

Ms. Brooks said now is the time for this type of project to be launched in the county because May was Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Ontario. According to Ms. Brooks, it is a chance to raise awareness about the far-reaching impacts of sexual violence and to focus on the ways to prevent further violence and to support survivors.

Eganville was selected as the site of the monument because the centre was actually based in Eganville between 1997 to 2005. As well, the other monument is located in Petawawa near the Petawawa River and the organizing committee wanted to place a monument along the Highway 60 and 41 corridors.

"When the centre was first located in Eganville, we chose the village because it was the geographical centre of the county," she said. "Now today we are coming back there, but also because it was so close to home to where the three women were murdered back on September 22, 2015. Many of those murdered women's families and friends live in and around Eganville so this will have special meaning for them."

Anna Camilleri of Red

Dress Productions is looking forward to partnering with the other organizations to create this lasting memorial.

"One of the main goals of The *Countdown Project* is to bring the issues of sexual violence in our society out of the closet, and into plain view," she said. "Our group has created more than 15 mural and pebble mosaic public artworks with community members."

The Eganville pebble mosaic will be created and built by Renfrew County community members and installed in Centennial Park. It will provide a public place where people can gather to reflect, remember and honour those affected by sexual violence.

For Bonnechere Valley Mayor Jennifer Murphy, she is both honoured and humbled the monument is coming to Eganville.

"I know that when our council was informed by the group they wanted to place the memorial in Centennial Park, we were so happy they chose our township," she said. "Although the memorial is remembering horrible tragedies, there is some small good that can come out of this. The memorial will allow our residents and visitors to take the time to reflect on the fact these women from our community lost their lives and perhaps it will in some small way help bring closure for their friends and families."

The Ottawa Valley Community Arts Open Studio will work in concert with RDP and WSAC to facilitate community gatherings and workshops from July to October in various locations in Renfrew County.

The first series on July 3, 4, 5 in Pembroke, Eganville, Killaloe and Pikwakanagan will invite people to come together to brainstorm and make art about what they think the mosaic could look like. Working with this information, the artistic leadership team will create some rough designs that will be brought back to the community for feedback in August. Then, in September, community members will have a chance to come



**EGANVILLE LEGION**

**FABULOUS FUN**

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**Saturday**

**10 am**

Community Yard Sale  
10 am - 3 pm

**YARD SALE**

# to build monument in Eganville

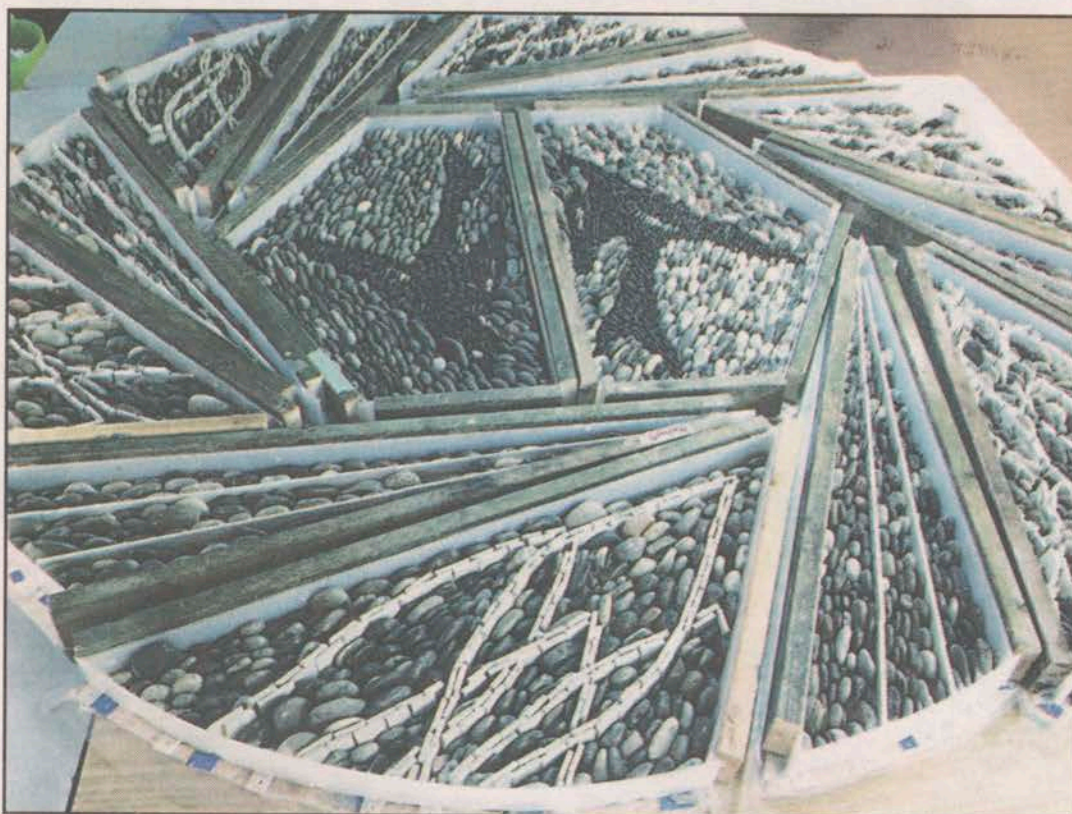
and actually build the mosaic itself. The pebble mosaic monument will be installed and unveiled on October 15.

On May 24, Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Township council approved the creation of a smaller "sister" monument in Station Park in Killaloe. The township was being considered for the larger monument but Andy Trull, artistic director of the OVCAOS advised council the committee had decided on Centennial Park for the main monument. Council agreed to provide in-kind services to assist with the development of the monument which was to be completed in conjunction with the larger one in



Eganville. Mr. Trull urged everyone interested in being involved to attend the various workshops so they too provide input into the design of the monument.

He explained the workshops led by Red Dress Productions will be done in three phases. The first will included arts-based research to come up with

the design, the second will include design presentation and feedback and the final will include the hands-on production of the mosaics.



The Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County selected Centennial Park in Eganville for a new memorial. The Centre partnered with other organizations to build a memorial using pebbles and other materials based on artistic consultation. It is scheduled to be completed in October 2016.

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**June 18**  
**3 pm**  
  
 BBQ  
 Hot dogs/Hamburgers  
 11 am - 3 pm  
 Entertainment

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