

Art exhibit looks at hockey as part of our heritage

By Sara Valsoney

On Feb. 28 through Apr. 11 at the South of 60 Art Centre in the Railway Station in Barry's Bay the exhibit *Our Game: Hockey in the Valley Then and Now* was revealed. They played hockey on frozen ponds, back yard rinks and arenas, as The Valley has for over a century. The exhibition looked back on hockey's history in the Madawaska Valley and featured contemporary art pieces inspired by the game.

Co-curator, Anya Gansterer, came up with the idea last year when developing the 2015 program with Danielle Paul. They particularly liked that the exhibition dates included the last weekend in March ? the same as the annual Opeongo Heritage Cup Tournament ? and taking place in the Madawaska Valley also. The tournament brought a lot of former residents back both to play and socialize. They thought the mixture of contemporary art and hockey history spanning nearly 120 years would be appealing.

?The show has indeed captured peoples' imaginations,? said the exhibit's co-curator Danielle Paul.

?A number of folks with valley connections as well as some of our partners in the Renfrew County Museums Network were generous enough to let us display some of their prized memorabilia - everything from antique equipment to ancient photos - plus a xylophone made out of old sticks!?

Later this week the South of 60 Arts Centre's FaceBook page will post a link to Chris Hinsperger's YouTube channel with a video of Hinsperger reading his hockey poem *Ovally Connected* at the opening of the exhibit. Hinsperger operates Bonnechere Caves but hockey has always been a huge part of his life. The exhibit is on display at the South of 60 Art Centre in the Railway Station in Barry's Bay.

For more information visit: www.southof60.com, or contact 613-756-5885.