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The Highlander

Thursday **October 7 2021** | Issue 510

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS

FREE



GAME ON

Patrick Saini defends the puck behind the Lindsay Muskies' net during the Haliburton County Huskies home opener Oct. 2 in Minden. See more Huskies coverage on pages 22-23. *Photo By Sam Gillett.*

HHHS reverses staff vaccine policy

By Sam Gillett

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has reversed an earlier decision meaning all staff must now be fully vaccinated by Nov. 15 or be put on unpaid leave until they are immunized.

The move comes after HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer told a Sept. 23 board meeting that the health provider would not be making vaccines mandatory for all staff.

That decision drew some criticism in the community.

The new direction, explained to staff in an Oct. 4 memo, comes after the Ontario government introduced mandatory vaccines

for workers in long-term care homes.

"Our organization is quite interconnected," said Plummer. Since HHHS staff must move between service centres, including the hospital and LTC homes, she said it would be difficult to reestablish segregation protocols and barriers which were in place during the early stages of the pandemic.

"This was a difficult decision that was not made lightly," Plummer said.

In the memo, Plummer wrote "using an ethical lens, there are a number of reasons for why this change is happening, including the interconnected nature of our organization, the services we deliver, the need for staff and physicians working in

other areas to access the long-term care homes, and the importance of equity across the organization."

Staff who remain unvaccinated, less than 12 per cent, have until Oct. 10 to get their first shot. There will be multiple drop-in appointments available for staff this week, and unvaccinated staff will be offered appointments.

On Sept. 23, Plummer initially said a decision had been made to not force vaccinations.

"The hospitals that have gone forward with policies that lead to termination for those who aren't vaccinated have the capacity to fill the gaps if staff do leave the

organization. We certainly don't have that same kind of capacity." She also previously mentioned individual choice as a factor in the decision.

However, she said the level of vaccinated individuals is much higher than when the hospital first made the decision in early September.

At around 88 per cent, there's less worry about losing staff who choose not to get vaccinated.

HHHS has also increased levels of contracted agency staff working in facilities, which Plummer said decreases the risk of

Continued 'Plummer' on page 2

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HHHS operates two LTC homes in the Highlands, Highland Wood and Hyland Crest. *File.*

Plummer says no staff have left

Continued from page 1

understaffing in some departments. "Regardless of which direction we took, we knew there were folks who would be supportive and folks who would be questioning the direction: we've seen that in both scenarios," she said. She also insisted the decision was not made quickly: "It isn't like we've started the vaccine policy discussion on Friday afternoon, we'd already talked through a lot of these issues. "If someone was concerned about

walking into the hospital and a staff being vaccinated at the time, my concern would be not having the hospital available at all," she said, without clarifying the number of staff who would have had to leave for service levels to become unstable.

Plummer said she is not aware of any staff choosing to leave HHHS because of the new ruling.

The Ontario Hospital Association is calling for a unified approach to vaccinations across Ontario. In an

Oct. 1 press release, CEO Anthony Dale wrote, "there is much evidence that hospitals have used measures to encourage, persuade and educate employees and staff who are vaccine-hesitant to get the vaccine voluntarily. With COVID-19 vaccination becoming mandatory in long-term care, we feel the time has come to adopt a mandatory approach for all healthcare workers, including those in hospitals, too."

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Shoreline bylaw 'prohibition by way of regulation'

By **Sam Gillett**

Through their Zoom screens, County residents gave feedback on varying setbacks, a streamlined application process, and raised questions about the consultation process itself during the second draft shoreline bylaw town hall.

Hosted by J.L. Richards (JLR) and Hutchinson Environmental (HES), the discussion focused on proposed changes to the bylaw rather than the restrictions of the previous draft bylaw itself.

Many of the 12 who spoke publicly, however, referred to the previous draft, which Jason Ferrigan said "represents a point in the conversation, but we are moving beyond that point in the conversation."

Specifically, JLR and HES were tasked with reviewing and then presenting a new draft bylaw, taking into consideration the opinions of stakeholders and the public while pursuing peer-reviewed scientific research and comparative studies of other municipalities.

Conner Harris, representing Black Rock Landscaping, said the previously proposed bylaw would seriously hamper business. Its permit process, which JLR suggests streamlining to make it less onerous and expensive, would mean potential clients would be far more hesitant to proceed with building projects.

Harris said the cost of undertaking the permit process would be "disproportionate to the value of the project being pursued and in Black Rock's view essentially amounts to prohibition by way of regulation."

Despite those concerns, Harris said the company is encouraged by the direction they see the draft bylaw going.

"So far that process has given Black Rock cause for optimism that these

concerns are being considered and will be fully incorporated into the final product when it's considered by council."

JLR has proposed multiple policy improvements which they suggest could improve the draft bylaw.

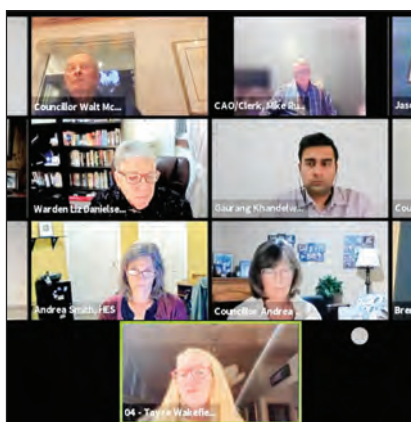
These include: creating a plain language bylaw; aligning the purpose of the bylaw with in-effect policies; creating a consistent area of application, harmonizing the bylaw with local requirements; recognizing variable site conditions; using performance-based standards; streamlining application requirements; broadening the matters that can be referred to council and creating a framework for transitioning to the new rules.

Disappointment with consultation process

Tayce Wakefield, a representative from a group of 150 properties on Kennis Lake and other Haliburton lakes, said she "regrets [their] input was not sought" by consultants. Wakefield, who also addressed planners at the County's July open house, spoke for approximately 17 minutes, outlining multiple key elements of the previous draft bylaw and raised questions which she said "remain to be answered."

Wakefield's group initially proposed to present a PowerPoint during the meeting. "It helps to make a clearer and more focused presentation," she said. Their request was denied.

"It does cause us to question how interested you are" in receiving thoughtful input from property owners," she told planners and council members. The slideshow presentation outlines multiple issues the group sees in the consultants' report, including how the previous draft did not include renaturalization incentives.



The town hall was held via Zoom. *File.*

At the beginning of the meeting, Warden Liz Danielsen said the issue of PowerPoint presentations is a "matter of equitable treatment of all presenters."

"Those individuals making delegations at our initial meeting didn't have that opportunity and we want to make sure we offer fair and equitable treatment for all those who have comments they wish to make," she said.

Wakefield and subsequent speaker Thomas Moch said they support healthy lakes but were concerned by how the previous bylaw "further restricts [the] enjoyment of [their] properties."

"No one intentionally goes out to destroy their habitat or destroy their lake in a negative context," Moch said.

Terry Moore, of Environment Haliburton! also had suggestions for a reconfigured consultation process; one which would work towards a common understanding of facts and science apart from the "vitriolic" discourse on social media sites like Facebook.

"We need to organize, I think, public discussion forums where we can talk about where we're coming from and why."

Council is set to receive a new draft bylaw Oct. 27.

COUNTY NEWS

Flood outlook

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry says there's still potential for flooding in the Burnt and Gull River areas until Oct. 8.

The ministry said residents should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams."

They said the public should look out for the elderly and children. They added that residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropriate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise. "Residents can expect increasingly high flows through water control structures as they are being managed to mitigate, as much as possible, the impacts from the expected rainfall," the release said.

Chamber executive announced

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has announced its new board of directors and executive committee for 2021-22.

Mark Bell is taking over as president from Andrea Strano.

"I am pleased to help our businesses transition and thrive as we emerge from this pandemic. We have several new board members representing a variety of business segments within the County. The Chamber plays an important role delivering services to and advocating for local business," he said.

Strano is staying on as past president.

Amy Joanu of Beauty Basics by Amy, Nick Falco of The Noble Barber, Joy Shikaze of MJS Communications, and mortgage broker, Ron May, have joined the board while existing board member Simon Payn of *The Highlander* has been added to the executive committee as second vice-president.

Executive director Amanda Conn said, "We are excited to channel the 2021/2022 board's talent, expertise, and energy into furthering business as a whole in our community."

Other members are: first vice-president Joe Cox; secretary Lisa Tompkins; treasurer Greg Hebert and Melissa Valentini, Terri Matthews-Carl and Ron May.

(County news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Long-term care crisis 'isn't going away'

By Mike Baker

More than 18 months on from the formation of the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition, and the release of a report compiled by the Canadian military that described conditions within certain facilities in Ontario as “horrific,” many local activists advocating for change in the industry have been left disappointed by what they perceive as a lack of action from the provincial government.

A protest held outside of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott’s office in downtown Lindsay Oct. 4 drew more than a dozen people. Armed with signs, and launching sporadic chants of “our seniors deserve better,” those in attendance made it clear that they feel the Ontario government is failing residents currently living in long-term care.

Bonnie Roe and Lynn Ritchie, members of the local LTC coalition, made the trip to Lindsay to participate in the hour-long event.

“We feel it’s important to meet and collectively do this ... it’s been over a year now since the military was called in to long-term care homes to assist, and, as we now know, they found appalling conditions in the places they visited. We’re here today

... because nothing has really changed,” Ritchie said.

As outlined in that report, military officials experienced cockroach and bug infestations, seniors calling out repeatedly for help before receiving assistance, rotting food left unattended, COVID-19 infected patients being put in the same room as those who were healthy, missed meals, and seniors being left in soiled diapers and linens.

It also highlighted serious concerns over staff shortages, a lack of personal protective equipment, and failures to follow basic procedures to keep both residents and staff safe.

“Long-term care hasn’t been great for a number of years, but I think COVID shed a real light on what was really happening,” Ritchie said. “It made me personally realize that real change is needed.”

As a collective, the local LTC coalition has identified six core priorities it would like the Ontario government to address to improve conditions within the sector. High on that list is advocating for the inclusion of long-term care into the Canada Health Act, something Roe believes will completely change the way the sector operates.

The group also wants all LTC residents to receive at least four hours of direct



Highlands residents Bonnie Roe and Lynn Ritchie participated in the protest.
Photo by Mike Baker.

care per day; reinstate annual resident quality inspections, with consistency in enforcement when inspections yield rule violations; explore new models of care; change the culture of long-term care to be more attentive to the value of elders; and stop for-profit companies from opening new nursing homes in Ontario.

Through previous correspondence with media, Scott has indicated she believes the Ontario government is doing a good job of reinvesting into long-term care. She stated that, in the 2021 budget, the government

invested more than \$2.5 billion to create more than 20,000 new beds province-wide, and upgraded almost 16,000 beds to a “modern, 21st century standard.” Scott said the province has also committed to investing \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the average of daily direct care from 2.75 hours to four hours.

“I think if these things were implemented sooner rather than later, that would be a big help,” Ritchie said. “I don’t see a lot of this taking place at this point in time. We need action, not words.”

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS



The cap of a holding tank in Minden Hills. *File.*

Septic re-inspection program delays

About 70 per cent of properties earmarked for septic re-inspections in Minden Hills this year were completed, contractor WSP Canada Inc. told council's Oct. 4 meeting.

Katelyn Sysiuk and Camille Taylor said the company had inspected 742 of 1,063 properties in year one of the five-year program.

They said the remaining 321 properties

(30 per cent) had either been booked for an inspection up to the end of September, property owners weren't there or ready for a scheduled inspection, or will be postponed until next year.

The first year of the program began June 2 and finished Sept. 27.

The contractor cited staffing issues for delays, including reports to property owners. They added that since it was the first year, they had a larger than anticipated volume of calls and emails. They said they'd continue to develop a FAQ for the

township website and are in the process of hiring more staff. They said they'd also experienced IT problems which meant people could not leave voicemails.

"WSP will work with the Township of Minden Hills to apply any lessons learned as part of the program in 2021 to improve the program for 2022," they said.

Mayor Brent Devolin asked what could be done so the timeframe of the program is met. Sysiuk said they would be able to catch up with more staff and starting inspections earlier next year.

Coun. Pam Sayne said most of the inspections were in her ward (2) and wanted to make sure no one had been fined due to glitches. She was told no fines had been levied to date.

Coun. Bob Carter wanted to drill down further on the 30 per cent of missed properties. He was told there were 55 no-shows but the bulk were due to homeowner changes and getting updated mailing information.

Carter commented, "The fear is that if there is somebody whose system is woefully inadequate, they may be trying to duck the program, so I just want to make sure that we don't have that type of situation going on."

Sysiuk and Taylor said the general response from property owners has been positive to the program. "Homeowners have been able to learn more about their system on their site, how to take care of it, and help it to last as long as it can."

WSP will report back with more specifics

on what the re-inspections have revealed at a later date. The company is also planning to send letters next March and April to properties not completed this season as well as to property owners from Zone B on how they can contact WSP to book an inspection for 2022.

Lochlin Hall to get new roof

Council awarded the contract for the replacement of the Lochlin Community Hall roof at the meeting.

Director of community services, Craig Belfry, said the roof "has come to the end of its useful asset life. Over the last few years leaks have developed in the roof causing some interior damage to the facility."

He said the need for a new roof first arose in 2019 but was delayed due to COVID and staffing changes.

He said they only had one bidder, D. Roofing, which submitted a quote of \$8,488.48.

They'll supply and install a 40-year steel roof; do eave and gable trim; venting and remove a chimney. Belfry further suggested a contingency in case the roofer finds rotten boards.

He said they already had \$8,000 in their department budget, from municipal reserves. The additional cost will come from the Lochlin Community Hall Reserves. *(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*

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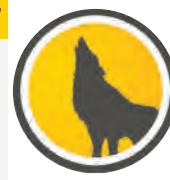
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MINDEN-HALIBURTON
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Hockey and beer on tap for new Minden arena

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County Huskies' fans will be able to enjoy an adult beverage while watching games this season.

Minden Hills Council approved expanding the available licensing area of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre beyond the existing Minden, Anson and Hindon rooms at its Oct. 4 meeting.

It means the township will apply to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to also include the gym; off-season rink; viewing and lobby areas; ice rink seating and the warm viewing area.

To accommodate the Huskies' desire to sell alcohol, the township had to declare that each of the team's home regular season games are events of municipal significance.

In a report to council, director of community services, Craig Belfry said, "The municipality has agreed to the use of the upper warm viewing area and community hall by the Haliburton Huskies for alcohol sales. In addition, the Huskies have requested that the sale of alcohol be permitted in the ice rink seating area."

Belfry said the request should be granted since the Huskies "are an important tenant, and that their games will have an economic

impact on the municipality as a whole."

However, he said staff also believe that an area should be reserved as a 'family zone' for patrons who don't want to sit where alcohol is permitted. Initially, it was suggested that 54 seats at the north east end could be sectioned off, clearly marked and under game day supervision of the Huskies.

Mayor Brent Devolin said he attended the Oct. 2 Huskies' home opener and team ownership and the township are on the same page, "to see how it goes, whether it's problematic or not and malleable on a go forward basis if things need to be added."

Coun. Bob Carter spoke in favour of expanding throughout the facility but not into the stands. "We should be limiting the sale of alcohol in the stands particularly in the first year 'til we see how it's going." He said drinking should be limited to the warm viewing and bar area. He added that designating 54 seats as a family zone represents just 12 percent of the facility and "doesn't seem to be a very family-friendly approach."

But Coun. Jean Neville replied, "Why we're throwing more obstacles in the way of this opportunity to have a junior A hockey team here, I don't understand. Why are we going to worry about things



Huskies fans will soon have the option of having a beer in the stands. *File.*

that might not happen? They are open to modifying this if there are issues."

She added Carter is inferring that parents and adults will not be responsible. However, she said "nobody's going to sit there and get hammered." She said people would have designated drivers and not cause altercations.

Coun. Pam Sayne said the township had done a lot for the team, a private company, and she is concerned about a perceived bias. She's also worried about competing with drinking establishments in town. However, Devolin said other bars and restaurants are "ecstatic" to have the team in town. Deputy

Mayor Lisa Schell said people who don't watch hockey won't be coming to drink.

Devolin asked if Carter would accept 100 seats as a compromise and he said, "certainly 100 is better than 50." Council eventually passed a resolution at that number.

"We'll see how it goes. If we're back here in a couple of months, with bad news, then we can make the next adjustment or if by the end of the whole season things are all positive then prior to another season we revisit it," Devolin said.

The Huskies will be providing Smart Serve and security, according to Belfry.

Council indecisive on new name for Sam Slick Park

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council is seeking further information from a citizen-led sub-committee that recently recommended the municipality consider renaming Sam Slick Park.

First unveiled in the early 1960s, the park is named after the character Sam Slick, who is featured in several stories written by Thomas Chandler Haliburton - a judge, politician and author for whom Haliburton village and the County of Haliburton is named. Earlier this year, concerns were brought to council that some of these stories, and specifically storylines surrounding Slick, are misogynistic and racist.

The committee recommended the park be incorporated as part of Head Lake Park, possibly with the designation of Head Lake Park West to avoid any potential confusion, given there is already a Head Lake Park in that area.

In explaining its decision, the sub-committee stated other municipalities across the country were taking measures to rename places and events inspired by individuals with a controversial past. The community of West Hants Regional Municipality in Nova Scotia, for example, recently renamed its annual Sam Slick Days event to Windsor-West Hants Summer Fest after being made aware of the contents of Haliburton's stories.

Some members of council, notably Walt McKechnie and John Smith, were uncomfortable with the idea of renaming the park.

"I know a lot of things have changed in our world, but tearing things down and changing names ... I just worry what's next [that's] going to change," McKechnie said. "This perfect world ... we're all not perfect. Needless to say the character Sam Slick wasn't. This perfect world that people want Walt McKechnie to live in, that doesn't exist in Walt McKechnie's

life. I don't know what we're trying to accomplish by this."

He added, "I think, in some way, the name Sam Slick should still be part of the park."

Smith agreed with McKechnie, echoing the sentiment that, by changing the name of Sam Slick Park, council may be opening themselves to more trouble down the road.

"I don't want someone next coming forward with a proposal to change the name of the Village of Haliburton, of the County of Haliburton because of what Thomas Chandler Haliburton wrote 200 years ago," Smith said. "This is a slippery slope."

McKechnie felt it was important that Dysart embrace its history and "learn from the mistakes that were made, rather than eliminate them."

Mayor Andrea Roberts noted that, should council decide to keep the name Sam Slick Park, a plaque could be erected explaining the origins behind the name

and acknowledging that the views outlined in the book are "totally different" to how people feel towards different cultures today.

Council asked staff to touch base with members of the sub-committee to see if they could send a representative to a future meeting to further discuss the issue.

Deputy mayor returns

Roberts kicked off last week's meeting with an announcement that Pat Kennedy would be returning to his role as deputy mayor effective Oct. 1.

Kennedy took a leave of absence from council earlier this year to deal with some health issues.

"We're all very excited and pleased that deputy mayor Kennedy will be returning back to his duties, both here at Dysart and at the County," Roberts said.

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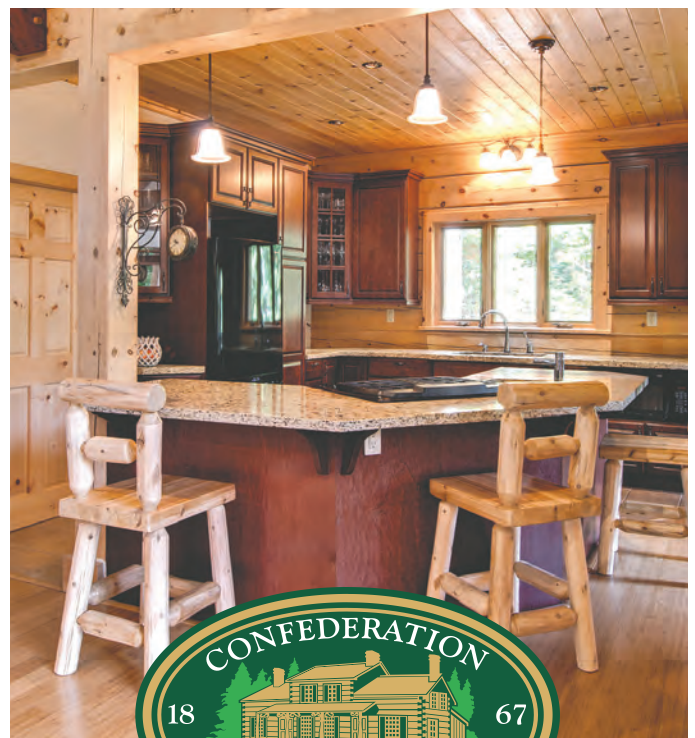
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TheHighlander

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)

Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

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We, Highlanders

By Simon Payn

A couple of weeks back, as I was filling the newspaper box outside Jug City, the thought crossed my mind: what are you doing here, thousands of kilometres from home, a newspaper delivery boy in a land of lakes, forests, snow and hockey?

In one of the best places on Earth.

This is the first and likely the last column I'll write for this newspaper. Despite having my name on this page as publisher, I don't get to decide what you read each week. That's the job of our editor and her team.

That's how it should be. I get all the responsibility (I sign the cheques) and not much of the power so we can protect our product; so you know what you read here is not influenced by commercial concerns.

What Lisa, Sam and Mike put in *The Highlander* is what they think this community needs to read. That's how they build an award-winning newspaper people love and tell their friends about, making it commercially viable as the go-to place for advertisers who want to reach our community.

That's not to say I don't have editorial input. Part of my job is to protect our mission, which you can find right above my

name on this page. I keep watch to make sure what you read here is in line with who we are.

The Highlander is 10 years old this week, so it's time to reinforce that mission, to double down on encouraging Highlanders "to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day."

This has never been more important. I'm not alone in noticing how the past 18 months has put us on some kind of precipice: it feels we're about to be pushed over the edge into something we don't want to be. For the first time, I am hearing long-time Highlanders say it might be time to move on.

It's said people come here for the lakes and stay for the community. This is true. Just look at the stories about our service clubs and not-for-profits, our thriving arts scene and successful businesses, and you'll know this community has something special going for it.

This is the kind of place where how you show up is more important than what you show up with, where you're part of this place rather just in this place.

We can protect all this, not by retreating

into the past but by standing strong, creating our own future based on what makes the Highlands great.

All that requires is a steadfast belief in who we are and a strong resolve to ensure our future is what we want it to be. It means we have to think carefully about the decisions we make as a community.

Above all, we need to know where we're going.

Here at *The Highlander*, we'll play a part in that. We're not arrogant enough to think we have all the answers, but we do know how to ask questions.

We also have you, our readers and our advertisers. We know you'll tell us what we're doing right and when we go wrong. You'll let us know what you want the Highlands to be and you'll share your ideas about how to get there.

Together, we will make the next 10 years a defining decade. We'll emerge stronger and happier, proud of who we are and the lives we've built - as Highlanders.



By Simon Payn

COVID CORNER

Cobra, the COVID-sniffing dog

"Sniffer dogs" are used for detection of human remains, lost persons, trafficked drugs, explosives, weapons and other illegal contraband. Many dogs have been trained to detect diseases including Parkinson's, various cancers, seizures, infections, low blood sugars in insulin-dependent diabetic patients.

A dog's olfactory cortex is reportedly 40 times larger than a human's, making it capable of storing and recalling vast numbers of scents for many years. With over 200 million scent receptors in comparison to a human's five million, a dog's nose can detect the odour of particular molecules and compounds that alter during disease. These odours are believed to come from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) produced by biochemical changes in the body caused by malignancies, inflammations, infections, and other pathological events, including viral infections such as COVID. The metabolic changes are detected in breath, sweat, urine and skin.

Critical to our efforts to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19 is having an efficient way to identify positive cases and tracing their contacts for purposes of isolation. Nasal swabs and CT scans may be accurate in diagnosing someone with COVID, but they are relatively expensive, require medical equipment, trained staff, time

to implement and obtain results. It is suggested that the use of trained dogs leads to earlier detection of infected persons at a lower cost.

Especially useful in situations when large numbers of people need to be screened quickly, a Sniffer Dog trained to detect COVID-19 helps identify asymptomatic carriers quickly. Each well-trained dog has a screening capacity of 250 samples per hour.

While there are dozens of COVID-sniffing dogs in Dubai and Miami airports now, Cobra, a Belgian Malinois, is a super sniffer, able to sniff out COVID with 99 per cent accuracy. She and her partner, One Betta, a Dutch Shepherd, work a checkpoint together at Miami International airport. They are part of a pilot program with the Global Forensic and Justice Center at Florida International University that uses detection dogs as a quick screen to identify people with COVID-19. Their detection rate is high - at more than 98 per cent - and the program has been such a success that it's being extended for another month at the airport.

The dogs have been so accurate in their detection of COVID-19 that they and other canines with similar training could be deployed to other places that have many people coming and going at once, including other airports or even schools. COVID-sniffing dogs are being used in university

classrooms now.

Cobra is given passengers' masks to sniff as the travelers make their way through a security check.

If she identifies a specific scent, she'll let her handler know by sitting down. Sitting means Cobra has detected an olfactory signal of the coronavirus. That means the passenger will get a swab.

Cobra and One Betta got their start learning to identify the presence of laurel wilt, a fungus that attacks avocado trees and kills them, costing Florida growers millions of dollars. Once a dog learns to identify one odour, it is easily trained to identify other scents assigned to them.

Cobra and One Betta were trained using mask samples from people hospitalized with COVID, and a control group of people who did not have the disease. When the dog correctly identified the virus, it got a favorite toy.

From Aug. 23 to Sept. 8, the two canines screened 1,093 people during eight working days, alerting on only one case. That person had tested positive for COVID two weeks earlier and was returning to work after quarantine. While the follow-up rapid test was negative, it highlights the exquisite sensitivity of the sniffers.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION?

Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Where is HHHS vigilance and respect?

Dear editor,

Re: HHHS says no to vaccine mandate – *The Highlander*, September 30, 2021.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) CEO, Carolyn Plummer, is quoted as saying the HHHS board made the difficult decision not to mandate COVID vaccines for employees because, “We took into consideration a number of factors including choice, including the availability of human resources in our organizations.”

On the first point, this clearly suggests that the administrative and policy centre of the health care system in Haliburton County is weighing the likes and dislikes, the personal opinions, sentiments and attitudes of its employees against the very health and wellbeing of those they are charged to protect.

Plummer says the decision also ensures “folks have a choice” about taking the vaccine. What a tolerant, permissive outlook. Does this also extend to a variety of other employment conditions like staff dress code (are flip flops and cutoff jeans acceptable in the ER)? What about work schedules or personal hygiene?

Think of how much easier things would be if drivers’ licenses were optional, or Social Insurance Numbers. What if we could choose how much tax to pay (or not)? Wouldn’t it be great if we didn’t have to write exams to demonstrate academic proficiency? Plummer goes on to say that, currently, 85 per cent of the staff are vaccinated. Eighty-five per cent is a terrific objective if you’re swinging at a baseball but would we be satisfied to know that 85 per cent of our doctors had actually graduated or 85 per cent of our water was safe?

Look no further than our schools. They have this niggling requirement that all children (not 85 per cent) who attend primary or secondary school must

be immunized against polio, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, meningitis, whooping cough and chickenpox. That’s nine communicable diseases and personal choice is not part of that edict. Surely this pandemic, with nearly 10,000 deaths to date in Ontario, deserves this same level of vigilance and respect.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

Concerned HHHS not mandating vaccines

Dear editor,

I read with deep concern that the HHHS will not mandate COVID vaccinations for all their staff.

We are told to “follow the science.” We are in a pandemic with proven vaccines that should be mandated for all workers in hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities, etc. In fact, provincially there will be a vaccine mandate for many venues but not those where vulnerable citizens may attend such as hospitals, churches and schools, where the vaccine has yet to be approved for children ages 5-12.

On March 17/18, 2021 the HHHS held vaccination clinics at the Pinestone for health care workers considered the “highest priority.” Now, nearly seven months later, the health care workers are no longer a priority group even though the Delta variant continues to rage across our country and indeed the world. The federal and provincial governments have been too little and too late to the disaster of this pandemic. Now we are told that in order to contain this virus we require 80-plus per cent of the entire population to be vaccinated. However, the HHHS will not mandate the vaccination for its workers.

Why are health care workers not setting the example for all workplaces? Who should set the bar high enough to ensure

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Greg Pichnej sent in this photo of otters on Bushwolf Lake.

vulnerable citizens are safe when they need care, if not the health care workers?

Staff at long-term care facilities must be vaccinated by a set date in November according to the provincial government. This again shows the disregard by the province for the most vulnerable of its citizens. The senior citizens of our province find it difficult to understand that they are viewed as not important enough to be protected by the staff of hospitals and long-term care homes when they may require support.

Leslie Banner
Haliburton

(Editor’s note: the above two letters were submitted before HHHS changed its policy).

Delay anti-vaxxer health care

Dear editor,

I so agree with Dennis Choptiany of Koshlong Lake on his comments in the Sept. 30 edition.

We only have individual rights when they don’t harm other people.

If we choose not to vaccinate and get sick, please line up behind cancer patients and all other serious operations. You chose. They did not. Live with your choice.

It is time triage stood up for human rights not selfish ones. It is time to delay the anti-vaxxers behind those who desperately need care.

Reet Murray
Algonquin Highlands

Do no harm

By Jack Brezina

In a system that is science-based, filled with professionals who spent years in school absorbing the knowledge acquired over centuries of trial and error to develop best practices, in a system that, with all this scientific knowledge designed and funded by our taxes to deliver the best possible health care to the community, I was more than disappointed to learn in last week’s edition of *The Highlander* that the Haliburton Highlands Health Services was not going to mandate that all staff within its facilities be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Since that article appeared, the Ford Government, yes, that slow to react to the crisis and keep the base placated provincial authority, has surprised many observers and stepped partially up to the plate to mandate all long-term care workers must be vaccinated. The edict, no doubt in

part to stem the potential embarrassment that emerged when the long-term-care residences became the leading cause of infection when COVID first arrived in the province, means that a large portion of the HHHS staff at the two care facilities it operates will be covered by a provincial directive.

But what of the two emergency departments, walk-in clinics and other services provided by HHHS in this County? When I visit the hospital for treatment of some condition, as I have a couple of times in the past year, I walk in thinking these are professionals who, thank goodness, have studied medicine, and whose first task is to do no harm. Suddenly, with this policy announcement from the corporation’s CEO, I am not so sure that is the case.

This stance also feeds right into the conspiracy-filled world that swirls through

the internet. Even though reputable health science has decreed that vaccination is our best line of defense, followed by masking and the other precautions, the fact that the local health authority is not mandating the job offers just another example of how the unsupported theories of the anti-vaxxers can gain even more traction.

The suggestion that potential staffing shortages might ensue if a mandate were imposed, is in fact a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once announced, those on the fence, those who buy into the wild online theories, can relax, because the consequences of not getting the protection offered through a vaccination have been all but eliminated. If there are no consequences, there is no incentive to move people off the fence.

There are many examples of mandated protections we demand of our fellow citizens, starting with children entering

the school system right through to wearing seat belts. If someone has chosen to serve their community in the health care field, then the best example they can set is to follow the science and get the jabs, not just for their own protection, but to protect those who come to them for health care. In the end, fully protected health care workers is a reasonable community expectation (those with valid health exemption notwithstanding) and if nothing else, it is the responsible thing to do.

(Editor’s note: the above column was submitted before HHHS changed its policy).



By Jack Brezina

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

A painful picture

Dear editor,

Thomas Moch, representing 100 Kushog Lake property owners, demonstrates the type of short-term thinking many seem to have in objecting to the environmental protection of shoreline vegetation.

The picture on page 6 of the Sept. 30 edition shows Mr. Moch on his steep shore, with lots of rocks, a few trees, and no underbrush.

Maybe he wishes to preserve his self-proclaimed right to clear underbrush from shorelines. But where is the next generation of trees going to come from if new young growth is not protected by underbrush? Even worse, where are any future replacement trees anyone tries to plant going to find soil in which to grow after erosion has taken away the meagre soil and put it in the lake? It seems he is committing the property to become a barren rock face - is this long-term stewardship?

Maybe his views and mobility have been maximized by his ravaging of his steep shore. But we need all property owners to think beyond their own desires and consider the long-term impacts of their actions on both the land and water. Unfortunately, it seems such indigenous-type thinking has not yet sunk in with persons objecting to limits on removal of shoreline vegetation. Thus, we need laws that limit further ravaging of shorelines, education of all waterfront owners of the importance of maintaining the ecosystems and demanding the destroyed habitat be returned to its natural state.

Rosalie Cowan
Haliburton

Walk or run for clean water

Dear editor,

Thanksgiving is coming. We have so much to be thankful for here in Canada. We live in a safe, informed, educated, healthy, society. We have lots of clean water to drink.

About 15-20 per cent of the world's population do not have clean water. We

want the blessed people in Canada to help give access to clean water in other countries. Heather Alloway and I have been doing this for 19 years. It has been a most significant and rewarding experience.

This has been made possible by the donations of time and money from friends and family, like you.

Women and children walk many kilometres to fetch water. They carry their buckets back home. Many people use five-gallon buckets or old gas cans. They weigh 50 pounds.

We are honouring these women and children by walking a similar distance locally and carrying a symbolic bucket.

There will be events in Glebe Park, Haliburton, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. and the Minden Bible Church, Oct. 23 at 1 p.m.

If you can help us, and would like to donate, please go to: walk-or-run-for-water.causevox.com/barry-heather or you can do your own walk, your own route, your own distance anytime in October. If you would like to set up your own walk and donation page, go to: waterambassadorscanada.org/walk-or-run-for-water/

In Haliburton, contact Ursula Devolin, udevolin@waterambassadorscanada.org

Barry Hart and Heather Alloway
Water Ambassadors Canada

An official thank you

Dear editor,

The physician teams at both the Minden and Haliburton sites of Haliburton Highlands Health Services would like to acknowledge and thank the nursing staff for the work they have done and continue to do despite exhausting circumstances.

A popular phrase 'health care never sleeps' used to allude to the fact that health care is available days/nights/weekends and holidays and this continues to be true. What is different in the last 18 months is that those dedicated nurses who need desperately to rest and refuel in order to continue with the day-to-day demands of work have had very little opportunity to do so.

In our County just as the general population began to enjoy the benefit of low COVID-19 case counts resulting from

public health restrictions and vaccination roll out, summer was upon us and our population exploded, with demands on our hospitals rising exponentially.

The prospect of nurses 'gearing up' for the busy summer when already overworked added emotional burden to the physical exhaustion already present. Despite this, nurses continued to show up and support both the needs of this County and their hard-working colleagues.

Nurses, we believe that the broader population supports your tireless work. We condemn anyone who directs inappropriate protests or comments in your direction but most importantly we thank you - and all the staff who support what nurses do - for the extraordinary effort and ongoing service you provide to the residents of this County who have and continue to benefit from your care.

The physician teams,
Haliburton Highlands Health Services

Hydro/Bell work in Eagle Lake

Dear editor,

Those of you who travel Eagle Lake Road (CR 6) will have noticed a lot of Hydro One and Bell trucks doing work on that road.

The work is a joint Hydro/Bell project. It started with Bell wanting to run a 12-kilometre fiber optic cable from West Guilford to a cell phone tower in Eagle Lake. Hydro is doing a major system upgrade which will make it easier to deal with outages.

Bell has activated the new system and we here in Eagle Lake can now access a much faster wireless internet service. The details are on the Bell website. The range for the new signal will be about 15 kilometres from the Eagle Lake cell phone tower. I don't know if the current available signal can go that far. Haliburton Lake residents will be pleased to know that they are now in the next five-year plan. I don't know if this means the first year or the fifth one.

Hydro still has work to do. Some replacing of poles etc.

For those of you whose property was

accessed as part of the project, we have been told that cleanup crews will do remedial work. Sir Sam's Road has the biggest mess, ours is not far behind.

Peter McLuskey
Eagle Lake

Treasure and preserve wetlands

Dear editor,

Our family is reacting with alarm and distress to the Harburn Holdings proposed development of 88 condominium units on Peninsula Road on Grass Lake.

The glaring problem is that these condominiums would be built, if not technically on, certainly immediately adjacent to, a huge wetland that is an important contributor, not just to tiny Grass Lake's ecosystem, but to the whole five-lake system of Lake Kashagawigamog.

Three weeks ago, our youngest, little Norah, spotted a loon lethargically languishing on our beach. Clearly it was not well. We took the loon to the wildlife sanctuary and crossed our fingers. After two weeks, we were advised it could be released back into the lake last Saturday. The sanctuary told us that the loon had not been getting enough to eat; it was actually starving.

How many other such stories are there from the other 71 properties around the lake, each one contributing to responsible stewardship of Grass Lake's ecosystem? If only the developers could demonstrate such responsible stewardship.

Surely there are other building sites in the municipality that do not infringe on our wetlands. We feel strongly that for council to approve the official plan and zoning bylaw amendments would be an abdication of responsible management of the environment. Is this the environmental legacy that we want to leave our children and grandchildren?

Wetlands are to be treasured and preserved.

Matthew Ross, Kate Cinnamon
and families
Haliburton

The Highlander welcomes all contributions, however we wish to remind readers of the following:

Letters to the editor policy

- Letters should be exclusive to *The Highlander*. We do not publish letters also addressed to other media outlets, open letters, letters to third parties, or cc'd letters.
- Letters must be signed with first and last name and home town. We also need an address and phone number for verification. The address and phone number won't be published. We do not run anonymous letters.
- Letters must be a maximum of 300 words. If submitted at greater length, they will be returned for editing.
- *The Highlander* may still edit for length and clarity.
- *The Highlander* has the right not to publish letters.

Social media policy

The Highlander expects respectful debate in Facebook and Twitter comments. We reserve the right to hide or delete posts, and to block commenters, if necessary.

Highlander business

Pandemic sparked property care business

By Sam Gillett

Clare and Jordan Kadlovski had wanted to work for themselves for a while. It was the pandemic and accompanying shutdowns that gave the couple the extra incentive to start up KADS Home and Cottage Services, a full-service home care company, last fall.

"We thought, well there's uncertainty in every job, we might as well give it a go," Jordan said.

It also gave them a chance to dream about how they could use their skills to create something new.

"For a while it was back of mind. We wanted to do our own thing and create our own schedule," added Clare.

Now they're on the road every day, offering everything from lawn care to cottage checks to stocking up kitchens with a weekend's worth of groceries.

"We try to incorporate as many things as possible. We offer to a broad range of clients," Clare said.

And they're doing it as a family. Their two young sons, Carter and Harper, often come along to jobs, especially since COVID-19 meant schools were closed.

"We've also been trying to juggle and manage that as well," explained Jordan.

The Kadlovskis said demand for their services has sometimes been "overwhelming."

"Now to think we have a steady clientele base already, it's unbelievable," Clare said.

They said much of that could be because

of the increase in tourism and interest in real estate in the County. Construction activity in the area is reaching all-time highs: in each municipality build values are nearly, if not more than, double amounts seen in 2020. That's mirrored in a steady uptick in tourism and many people finding short-term escapes from urban centres in the Highlands.

Their services cater to those markets: whether preparing cottages for short-term rentals, or maintaining and keeping a careful eye on properties while their owners might be elsewhere. The majority of their clients, Jordan said, reside outside the County.

With a brisk start to business right out of the gate, Jordan said KADS' top challenge has been the logistics of running a mobile business. He and Clare, as well as another full-time employee and a couple of part-time workers, spend each day driving from place to place performing different jobs for property owners. That means balancing long-term jobs such as seasonal deep cleaning and short order tasks such as emergency checks and small repairs.

"It's just trying to manage that time and access the properties at different times," he said.

Jordan said they're proud to be a sort of "one-stop shop" for homeowners.

"People really like the idea of going to one person, one company and getting a high quality of service."



Clare and Jordan Kadlovski, owners of KADS Home and Cottage Services, along with kids Carter and Harper. Photo by Sam Gillett.

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Highlander education

School board director urges COVID-19 vigilance

By Kirk Winter

The local school board's director of education says he's looking forward to a time when COVID updates are unnecessary at school board meetings.

Wes Hahn told the latest meeting, on Sept. 28, that there were currently almost 40 cases of COVID in the communities that send their children to Trillium Lakelands District School Board schools, including one new community case with five high risk contacts as of Oct. 5 in Haliburton.

"There have been no real spikes or real rises since school began and that is good," Hahn said. He added there are currently no active cases within the TLDSB but there have been five since schools opened.

Hahn said the board continues to strongly encourage students over the age of 12 and members of their extended families to get vaccinated. As of the Sept. 28 board meeting, he said 30-35 per cent of that student cohort is still unvaccinated.

"If we have a case in the high schools," Hahn said, "students who are double vaccinated can return to school immediately. Unvaccinated students cannot return unless you are cleared by public health, typically after 10 days of isolation. That is a lot of school missed.

"It is paramount for the protection of students that we have as many vaccinated as can be," Hahn said. "Vaccinations allow extra-curriculars to operate. Vaccinations allow more interactions between students to occur safely and vaccinations allow students to stay in school."

Haliburton area trustee Gary Brohman wanted to know when lockers are going to become available for students.

"They aren't," Hahn said. "We are concerned about unvaccinated kids congregating at lockers where a lot of



Haliburton Trustee Gary Brohman. *File.*

contact will occur. This is to be avoided. So, for now we are saying no to lockers."

Hahn added that 86 per cent of board staff were fully vaccinated, with 14 per cent medically exempt or performing the vaccine education program which includes testing twice a week for COVID.

Trustee Colleen Wilcox asked for an update of the health unit vaccination drives that had used board sites to host their events in September. Wilcox was told that four mass vaccination clinics had been held with "only 20-50" getting vaccinated at each school.

The Ministry of Health said that between Sept. 13 and Oct. 5, 12 to 17-year-olds were responsible for 13.11 per cent of all cases in Ontario. In the HKPR district health unit, that age group had 31.26 per cent still not vaccinated as of Oct. 5

INFORMATION PAGE

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development.

We are currently looking for:

Public Works

- Equipment Operator (Temporary Full Time)
- Labourer (Temporary Full Time)

Community Services

- Student Recreation Attendant
- Student Arena Attendant
- Casual Operator

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for a list of available jobs and how to apply.

Waste Reduction Tip of the Week

When grocery shopping, place produce such as green peppers and bananas loose into your cart rather than using disposable plastic produce bags. If you prefer to bag your produce, try reusable produce bags – now available to purchase at most grocery stores!

Fire Hydrant Flushing

Please note that mandatory Fire Hydrant flushing will be performed throughout the Minden Water Distribution System during the weeks of **October 11-15 and October 18-22**. During this period please allow your water to run for 2-5 minutes to clear any discolouration through the home plumbing. For more info, please call Melanie Oates, Clerical Assistant (705) 286-1260 ext. 500.

Hazardous Waste Collection Event

The final Household Hazardous Waste collection in 2020 will be held this **Saturday, October 9, 2021** at the Scotch Line Landfill from 8am to 11:30am. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a list of accepted items.

Notice – 2022 Budget Deliberations

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence its 2022 Budget deliberations during its Regular Council Meeting via web conference scheduled for October 14, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
705-286-1260 ext. 505
tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca

Notice of Public Meeting

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2021 during its Meeting of Council via web conference regarding its Fees and Charges By-law. More information will be provided at a later date.

Thanksgiving Office Closure

Minden Hills Council & Staff wish everyone a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Please enjoy the holiday responsibly and within the Provincial guidelines. Administration Offices and services will be CLOSED on October 11th.

A Message from the Fire Department

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove, hot food, liquids and knives.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Be sure electric cords are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.

Call for Interested Parties

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for individuals and/or companies for the clean-up of properties as per Property Standards By-law 11-61 for more information please visit our website at <https://mindenhills.ca/newsroom/> or email admin@mindenhills.ca.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

October 14

Regular Council Meeting

October 28

Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

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Highlander education

New protocols for school sports and clubs

By **Lisa Gervais and Kirk Winter**

When the Red Hawks girls' field hockey team took to the pitch at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Oct. 5 it was a rare inter-school match for this fall in Haliburton.

The girls will host another game Oct. 12 but that's about it for school matchups, other than cross-country runners who are also entering competitions this year.

There'll be no boys junior or senior football and girls' rugby has also been sidelined for the autumn.

Principal Chris Boulay said the school's athletics department is, however, easing back into fall extracurricular opportunities by offering a number of sport and fitness programs to engage students in physical activity and to help promote wellness.

"In addition to girls' field hockey, the Red Hawk Running Club (x-country running team), the Hawk's Nest fitness centre, and boys volleyball are underway," Boulay said.

He added, "currently, volleyball is happening as an after-school skills development/activity, along with the fitness centre in the Hawk's Nest."

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board discussed sports during its Sept. 28 meeting and specifically how it plans

to deal with transportation with a critical shortage of buses and what the protocol will be for spectators.

"Extracurriculars are back," director of education Wes Hahn said. "We are glad they are back but they are voluntary. Not all coaches and teams are going to be running. We will respect if staff feel uneasy or anxious about running teams again."

Participants will have to be driven by parents to competitions because "buses simply are not available because the driver shortage remains a serious issue," Hahn said.

Before someone will be allowed to drive they will have to have a criminal reference check; a license search; and a check for liability insurance. Drivers will not be considered if they have not been double vaccinated at least 14 days before the event. If they are driving children besides their own, everyone in the vehicle will need to be masked. Drivers will be allowed to watch the event.

All coaches and referees will need to be double vaccinated.

Haliburton area trustee Gary Brohman asked if volunteer drivers would be reimbursed for gas. Superintendent Kim Williams said each school would make that



The Red Hawks were able to field a girls' field hockey team this fall. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

decision based on their budgetary realities.

Brohman said parents are saving the board the cost of a bus, and "strongly encouraged schools to pay."

As for spectators, Williams said "only players, coaches and officials will be in attendance."

Williams said student participation is the priority for extra-curriculars this fall, and coaches should be devoting their attention to the competition and student safety

without worrying about whether parents, friends and siblings in the stands are masked, properly distanced and behaving appropriately.

Hahn is also hopeful that some kind of inter-school sporting activities will be made available for Grade 7 and 8 students, possibly focused around soccer. Superintendent Jay MacJanet is working on that activity, in addition to encouraging intramural competitions within each school.

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Highlander arts

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Haliburton County's makers open their doors

Grey skies and fall showers did little to keep crowds from traveling around the County for the annual fall Studio Tour. Thirty-four artists from a range of mediums exhibited work in their studios, living rooms, garages and on their front lawns from Saturday to Sunday. The tour continues on Oct. 9 and 10, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sam Gillett).

Top left: Paul Savage, a knife-maker, forges a blade while visitors look on. Top right: Savage softens and finishes his knives in an oven, blasting them with intense heat after finessing each layer of metal. Bottom: Glass-blower Lia Howe holds a glass ornament up to the light in her gallery on Gelert Road. Photos by Sam Gillett.

Highlander arts

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Top left: Kathleen Dewar explains the meaning behind her handcrafted leather ornaments. Top right: Barbara Joy Peel sits by the till while guests check out her expansive collection of stoneware and porcelain pottery. Bottom left: Al Van Mil and Annette Blady showcased some of their recent collaborative three-dimensional paintings which celebrate their 40-year marriage. Bottom right: Cathy Taylor warps up a moulded clay sculpture beside her exhibit of intricate mosaics and clay work. *Photos by Sam Gillett.*

The Studio Tour



Left: An image Deewar crafted from found pieces of leather. Right: At Blackbird Pottery, April Gates creates a range of dishware and mugs, also teaching pottery classes.
Photos by Sam Gillett.



Thanksgiving weekend serves up Studio Tour part two

By Lisa Gervais

Despite the weather, the first weekend of the 2021 Studio Tour - Haliburton Highlands was a huge success according to Hannah Sadlier.

"Visitors came from across the County, and province, to experience all that the Studio Tour, and their artists, had to offer," she said.

"From the layering of fabrics to piecing glass together; from hand-carved spoons to exotic handmade knives, there was

something for everyone to enjoy."

If you were unable to attend this past weekend, you still have a chance. The final 2021 Studio Tour - Haliburton Highlands weekend goes from Saturday, Oct. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, or if you have any questions about the tour, go to thestudiotour.ca or find them on Facebook and Instagram at The Studio Tour.

For photos from last weekend, see pages 16-17.



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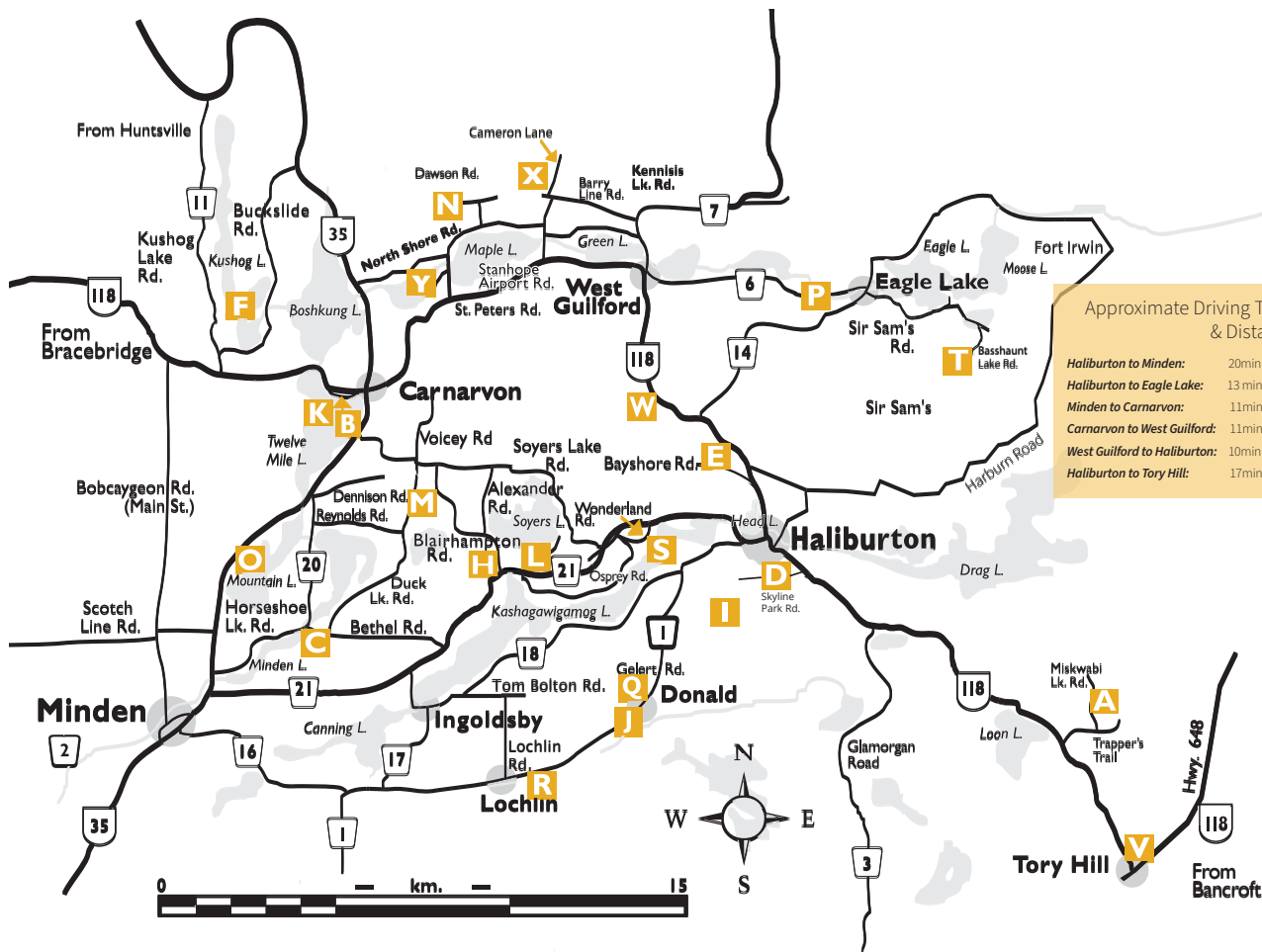
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Highlander arts

Naturalizing death in Agnes Jamieson exhibit

By Sam Gillett

"We live in a culture that is not very comfortable with death," said Barbara Brown, standing in a small room tucked inside the Agnes Jamieson Art Gallery in Minden.

Beside the photographer stands her collaborator, sculptor Cynthia O'Brien: around them the white walls are covered with small square photos and molded shapes, each representing a patient of long-term care homes who has passed away. Visitors are invited to write the names of their own deceased loved ones on scraps of paper and then slot them into niches around the room.

It's just one part of their exhibit, *Returning*, a show in which both artists explore the beauty and sadness in death as they process their time working in long-term care homes.

"We worked in large facilities, 450 beds," Brown said. "People died every day, but there was no conversation about it. There's a taboo to dying."

Returning plants that conversation in the natural world with photographs, clay sculptures; even dirt mounds shaped and hollowed out. In one three-dimensional work, *So Below As Above*, bone-coloured roots suspend a photo of a forest floor spread with dead leaves, clay shoots of new growth break the surface: death and life intermingled.

Many of the pieces, said O'Brien, are "imbued" with the memories of the people she got to know while working in long-term care. Aside from her work as a caregiver, her clay sculptures have been collected internationally.

"I think they'd be very happy that they're there. They're living on through me and through the pieces. I think that's a good thing," she said.

The show was first exhibited in 2018 at the Karsh-Masson Gallery in Ottawa. The two artists were co-workers when they realized the possibility of artistic collaboration. "We were talking about the projects we were working on artistically and found there were a lot of overlaps and what we were doing was based on our experience in long-term care," said Brown. She has exhibited widely across Canada and taken multiple artist residencies as far afield as India.

"We were also interested in flowers, growing things, and how that nature-based idea is in both our work," added O'Brien.

In the main room of the gallery, photos capturing the deep browns and rich greens contrast jagged roots of red, black and white. It's a discussion of decay and growth, said Brown, as well as how memories of lost loved ones stay with us.

"There is beauty in all things, and even though we see something as sad, there is peace in that as well," she said.



Artists Barbara Brown and Cynthia O'Brien, collaborators behind the Agnes Jamieson art gallery's new exhibit, *Returning*. Photo by Sam Gillett

O'Brien worked in a care home during the COVID-19 pandemic. For her, it's been encouraging to see people finally valuing, and noticing, the work and issues of care in the industry.

"The people I worked with are mothers and fathers, and we're all going there too. They deserve respect and I think everyone

should be directing their energies towards that," she said. "There is a beautiful thing engaging in someone's life to that degree, to be a part of their community."

That sense of beauty, in all its pain and complexity, is what *Returning* explores. The show runs until November 27.

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Highlander sports

This reporter was hurtin' in Haliburton

By Sam Gillett

Two days before the annual 8 Hours of Hurtin' in Haliburton race, I realized I had made some grave miscalculations.

The first was agreeing to organizer Marc Sinclair's generous offer of a complimentary press entry to the now infamous gravel race around a section of Haliburton Forest trail.

The second? I had no clue what gravel racing was. There's also the small fact I had never been in a cycling race, let alone one as long as my usual workday.

After frantically buying the bike shorts with the most posterior padding I could find, I googled "gravel racing" to find a whole world of tire specifications, carbon fiber racing cycles worth three times the price of my car and as many colour options of skin-tight lycra attire as there are Haliburton residents.

But as a reporter, my job is to find out the facts. Chase the story. Pursue truth, no matter the obstacles.

So I showed up with running shoes, a second-hand skateboarding helmet, a mountain bike and a hastily-bought bottle of Gatorade.

Bike racers drink Gatorade, right?

Under the sunny skies and swaying trees of The Haliburton Forest, I chatted with a couple of racers who were tinkering with their cycles or fuelling up on some strange sort of edible energy gel I had presumed only could exist in Star Trek.

As my solo men's class rolled off the starting gate, I took up last place as the sunglasses and smooth-helmeted crowd sped off upfront. The trail, I soon found out, is beautiful. It curves around still lakes, flowing rivers, imposing pines and firs, steep rock faces and rustic cottages. There are also hills. Near the end of the first lap, my journalistic training had alerted me to the fact that yes, the event was aptly named. I was indeed ... hurtin'.

Near the end of the second, my thighs made me feel incredibly empathetic for the experience of a tenderized T-bone steak.

Eight hours pass quickly.

Whether gulping down electrolyte powder, pedaling backwards to get help for a downed cyclist, reciting the entirety of U2's discography or expanding my curse word vocabulary on each hill climb, I kept myself occupied.

Despite passing me so fast I appeared to be pedaling in place, nearly every rider offered encouragement as vibrant lycra-clad bottoms disappeared up the trail.



A view from reporter Sam Gillett's bike along the back section of the 27-kilometer course. Photo by Sam Gillett.

It was a race, but also a community event, and one that felt incredibly open to a newbie like myself. One kind racer, after a chat about leg cramps, tossed me two Gatorades and a bag of candy. "Electrolytes are the key," he said.

It felt competitive, sure, but also like everyone was riding their own race; just doing it together. "That's the thing," said Sinclair before the race. "You make [the race] what you want it to be."

Strategic gravel grinding

Some riders completed seven or eight laps. Adam Hill cruised to first place in the men's division, riding 216 kilometres.

For Hill or Haliburton local Nick Emsley, who placed second, this race was small potatoes: both are friendly competitors on marathon rides that can stretch up to 24 hours or intense short cycles jostling neck and neck with other riders.

"Shorter distance stuff, sometimes it's more competitive but you go home and you find you didn't do as well as you thought," Hill said, after he crossed the finish, hardly breaking a sweat. He pointed to the field

of riders packing up next to the finish line. "But everyone who's here right now has ridden their bike for eight hours. That's a huge accomplishment."

For Emsley, "when you get to the strategic part of it, the racing, it's completely different," than short races or mountain biking, which is his forte.

Emsley talked about drafting other riders, overtaking competitors and measuring your speed.

"You have to learn yourself and learn your body. When you train, all the hours you put in, you have to learn about yourself." That's what he's spent years doing, as he pursues a mountain bike career that's taken him to races across Canada and beyond.

For me? I finished off the day with more than one carbonated beverage and what must have been the most delicious hamburger in all of history.

I'll spare you the details about my post-race condition but a basic understanding of human anatomy and bike seat ergonomics might give you a hint.

But will I be signing up for next year's race?

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Huskies forward Sam Solarino celebrates after scoring the opening goal in Friday's tilt with the Lindsay Muskies. Photo by Sam Gillett.

Huskies seek to improve on the road

By Mike Baker

It was a weekend of mixed emotions for the Haliburton County Huskies as they kicked off their inaugural OJHL season, recording an opening night victory over the Lindsay Muskies on the road on Friday, before a sobering shutout defeat against the same opponents on home ice the very next night.

In what head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay described as a monumental effort on Friday, the Huskies upset the hometown Muskies 3-2 in their season opener, imposing their will right from the first whistle and controlling large portions of the game.

Forward Sam Solarino got the Huskies off to a perfect start, stabbing home at 11:40 in the opening period after a nice pass from Jack Staniland to score the organization's very first goal. The Muskies responded well, drawing a penalty from Joe Boice and levelling the score at 15:08 through Duncan Scullion.

With the hometown crowd still celebrating, Huskies star forward Oliver Tarr took centre stage. Just 21 seconds after the Muskies tied the game, he ripped a shot past goaltender Fraser Ethan to restore the Huskies' lead. Against the balance of play,

Noah Pardy would again tie the game, scoring at 17:27 of the opening period.

In what was a more tentative second period, devoid of many real scoring chances, the eventual game winner came from the unlikeliest of sources, with Huskies defenseman Will Gourgouvelis following up on a rebound at 13:59 to score his very first junior goal.

"I saw Steve Li start bustling down the wing and I saw a bit of an opening, so I just turned on the jets and got to the net," Gourgouvelis said of his goal. "It was pretty exciting for me to get that first goal, but even better that we got the win."

A frantic, yet scoreless third period meant the Huskies were able to celebrate a win in what was their first ever OJHL game.

Gourgouvelis said it was a special night for many of the Huskies players, many of whom were hitting the ice in an official game for the first time in 18 months.

"Hockey is kind of our escape, and when COVID hit it prevented us from connecting with others, so getting back on the ice felt unreal tonight," Gourgouvelis said.

Ramsay commended his team for the way they fought throughout the contest, not giving the older Muskies an inch during an

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Top: Team captains, executives and Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin gather for the ceremonial puck drop during Saturday's home opener at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. *Photo submitted by the OJHL.* Bottom: Forward Sam Solarino, centre, prepares to hit the ice for puck-drop. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

enthralling game.

"It was a tight fought battle out there on the ice, and the boys worked really hard from the first minute to the last. I've been preaching all along that we need to have a level of competitiveness, and we need to play with speed – I thought we did both of those things well [on Friday]," Ramsay said.

As impressed as he was with his team's effort on Friday, Ramsay pulled no punches when breaking down the team's performance the following night.

In front of a packed crowd at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Saturday, with more than 200 area residents in attendance, the Huskies fell to a 4-0 defeat.

After a scoreless opening period, the Muskies Killian Rowlee broke the deadlock at 13:22 of the second period. The away side would go on to add three more goals in the third period without reply, leaving the Huskies, and coach Ramsay, to reflect on a hefty loss.

"I think we got outworked, we got outplayed. There's no beating around the bush, we didn't play a very good hockey game," Ramsay said of his team's performance on Saturday. "You're going to lose hockey games at this level, and we're fine with losing hockey games when you run into a good goalie, or you get some bad bounces, but it's just not acceptable to lose when the effort level isn't there."

Following that game, the Huskies made a move to improve their forward corps, signing 18-year-old left winger Nicholas Athanasakos. The forward was most recently signed with the Prince George Spruce Kings out of the British Columbia Hockey League.

The team has a couple of road games coming up, against the Wellington Dukes this coming Friday, and the North York Rangers on Sunday. The Huskies are next at home at SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Oct. 16 when they take on the Cobourg Cougars.



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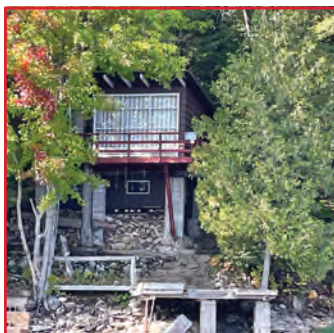
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Highlander community



Joanne Barnes of the Minden Community Food Centre. *File.*

Thanksgiving drive to support Food Centre

By Mike Baker

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, one local lake association is once again putting out the call to raise money in support of the Minden Community Food Centre.

For the past 10 years, the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners' Association has been donating food and money to the food bank in Minden as a way of "giving back" during a time when, typically, demand for support and assistance in the Highlands is on the rise.

"The idea was a simple one – we are all fortunate to be able to cottage or live in this community, and not all the people that make the community what it is are equally

fortunate," said Andy Muirhead, president of the MBC lake association. "So, we decided let's do something to make it just a bit easier for those in need of some help."

Originally, the group encouraged its members to donate food items that could be delivered to the food bank. Muirhead said many seasonal residents would close their cottage up in the fall, and clear out their larders. Rather than transport all of that leftover food home, many decided to donate it.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, Muirhead realized it wouldn't be possible to host a traditional food drive – so he turned his focus to cash donations instead. Last year, the association raised around \$1,500. "Then we added an additional \$1,000 onto

that amount," Muirhead said. "We decided early that we would match any donations coming in, up to a maximum of \$1,000."

The association will be doing a similar thing again this year. While Muirhead said he would be grateful for whatever donations his group receives, he would really like to push on and break the \$3,000 mark this year.

All money received will go towards supporting programming at the Minden Community Food Centre. According to Joanne Barnes, manager of the facility, the food bank serves over 250 families annually.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the food bank has also distributed more than 1,150 emergency boxes to individuals that have

never visited the facility before.

"Thanksgiving is not just a symbolically good time for helping out, it is also the beginning of the slower times here in the County," Muirhead said. "With the tourists and cottagers heading off, jobs are scarcer, and times get a bit harder."

He noted that while cash donations are being encouraged during this drive, the food bank is able to accept food donations directly at their facility.

Cash donations are being collected at St. Peter's Church on Maple Lake. Muirhead said the association will be hosting an appreciation raffle for donations over \$25.

To learn more about the Minden Community Food Centre, visit mindenfoodbank.org.

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COMPLETE BOAT DETAILING

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is pleased to invite members and the public to our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **November 28, 2021** at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery Meeting Hall between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

This year's guest speaker is a Conservation Officer from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR). Current topics as they relate to Hunting, Angling and interactions with CO's will be presented as well as a Q & A session will be included in the guest speaker session.

A summary of the HHOA's activities for the past year will be shared as well as the last fiscal year's financial report. The opportunity for invitations of prospective HHOA Board directors will take place as well. This commitment leads to becoming involved in the workings of the HHOA and assisting in maintaining Haliburton County as a premier Outdoor Activity destination in the Province of Ontario and beyond.

COVID protocols will be followed including proof of vaccination and accompanying ID as well as number of participants in order to maintain proper distancing within the meeting hall.

Hope to see you on November 28th!

OPEN OCTOBER 10-11 • 11AM - 5PM

CLOSED THANKSGIVING MONDAY

Wintergreen Maple is open for one more weekend this fall.
 Wintergreen will then be finished serving food on the patio and take out for 2021. We have frozen BBQ meat ready to go in portion sizes...just call 705-286-3202 to shop by appt. or by chance.

Next Open....Christmas Treasures Sale...the first 2 weekends in Nov. 9 a.m to 4 p.m. or for private shopping (syrup, preserves, gift baskets)...Open all weekends in Dec. for your personal shopping

Call Diane for more information.
Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone...Family Dawson
www.wintergreenmapleproducts.com

NEXT OPEN... first 2 weekends in NOVEMBER for early Christmas shopping in our retail area...
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Highlander community



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(empty and clean)



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Request for Interested Parties

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for individuals and/or companies for the clean-up of properties as per Property Standards By-Law 11-61.

Interested Parties would be required to perform any or all of the following duties:

- Clean up or Removal of:
- Household garbage
 - Miscellaneous debris
 - Building materials
 - Rubbish
 - Brush/long grass/growth and noxious weeds (as defined by the Weed Controlled Act)
 - Unlicensed/dismantled/wrecked/discarded vehicles/trailers/boats/machinery
 - Dilapidated/collapsed, fully constructed or partially constructed structures

Proof of Liability Insurance in the amount of \$5 Million with The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills named as additional insured and WSIB are mandatory.

Please submit letters of interest along with proof of Liability Insurance and WSIB coverage by mail, in person or email to:

Mail:
Property Standards/Clerks Department
Township of Minden Hills
PO Box 359, 7 Milne Street
Minden, ON
K0M 2K0

Email: sprentice@mindenhills.ca

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NOTICE



Notice of Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their October 26th, 2021 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2021-57, being a by-law to impose fees and charges. Planning Department Fees will be consolidated into the by-law and a new fee is being proposed to cover public notification expenses for License of Occupation applications.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on <https://www.dysartetel.ca/>.

Jeff Iles, Director of Planning and Land Information

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OBITUARY



Berniece "Bunny" Scott (nee Craey)

Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Highland Wood in Haliburton on Thursday morning, April 2, 2020 in her 98th year. Beloved

wife and best friend of Raymond "Scotty" Scott. Loving daughter of the late Walter & Ella Craey. Lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Bunny was a long term member of the Haliburton Curling Club.

Visitation, Celebration Of Life & Reception

Friends are invited to call at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Saturday morning, October 23, 2021 for a Celebration Of Life at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Attendance is limited. Please RSVP by visiting Berniece's notice online at www.communityfuneralhomes.com/obituary/BernieceBunny-ScottneeCraey or calling the funeral home. Masks must be worn. Interment Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHS Foundation) would be appreciated by the family.



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Thank you

The Minden Community Food Centre would like to thank the residents, cottagers and visitors for their generous donations at the Minden Beer Store for our Food Bank. It is very much appreciated.

Don Veno (Chairman)

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MARK'S RESTAURANT – Waitress required. No experience necessary, will train. Must be 18 years or older. Year round position. Contact Wilson Lee 705-286-1818.

SOLUTIONS FOR OCTOBER 7

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Full responsibilities and required qualifications can be found on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

Detailed resumes from qualified applicants are to be submitted no later than 4:30pm on Friday, October 15, 2021 to Andrea Bull, Director of Corporate Services at abull@haliburtoncounty.ca

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection



GROOMER OPERATORS

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is looking for trail groomer operators for the coming season. As a team member you will help care for the County's premier winter outdoor experience, the care of our 370 kilometers of trails

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To Bebop or Not to Bebop

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Qty.
- 4 Rotini shape
- 10 Opp. of port
- 14 "No ___, Jose!"
- 15 It gets smashed at parties
- 16 Rabbit's kin
- 17 Say "irregardless," say
- 18 "It's my turn on the teeter-totter!"
- 20 Like vacation postcard views
- 22 Places where the world is flat?
- 23 Butter wt., often
- 26 Bit of quippishness
- 27 Refrained from sobbing?
- 33 Yoko's family
- 34 Wooing and cooing, essentially
- 36 Needing salt, as a road
- 37 Ontario's main highway, to Caesar
- 39 CFL six-pointers
- 40 "Telefono" greeting
- 41 Went on coffee break, say
- 44 Suffix with "buck"
- 45 Undesirables with Stratocasters?
- 48 Researcher's advanced deg.
- 49 With everything included
- 50 Scam victim's comment
- 54 Stands at an outdoor market
- 58 Make one's audience laugh?
- 61 Alley in the comics
- 62 The same ___ a similar nature
- 63 Debilitate
- 64 Mere pittance
- 65 Swooned-over Garrett
- 66 Where blue meets green, on world maps
- 67 Gave the nod

Down

- 1 Blows away
- 2 Astronaut-turned-politician Garneau

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| 62 | | | | | | 63 | | | | | | 64 | | |
| 65 | | | | | | 66 | | | | | | 67 | | |

- 3 It might be in Mick Jagger's boot
- 4 Finger brace
- 5 Jack Nicholson film "Five Easy ___"
- 6 Credit card buildup: Abbr.
- 7 Hit at a demolition derby
- 8 ___ ton (gorged oneself)
- 9 "End," for many fairy tales
- 10 Dueller's belt attachments
- 11 Cold war news source
- 12 Hebridean hillside
- 13 Drops on the lawn
- 19 Authors T.S. and George
- 21 Rimouski refusals
- 24 More frilly
- 25 B preceder, on an invitation
- 27 "I'll ___" (volunteer's words)
- 28 Sporting a hat and shades, say, briefly
- 29 "___ mind?!"
- 30 Be rude in a queue, in a way
- 31 Butler's love
- 32 ___ Olay
- 35 Vanishing "sound"
- 37 "... miney, mo, ___ tiger ..."
- 38 Filled with emotion, as a soap opera
- 42 Dismissal, in slang
- 43 Madras mister
- 44 First name at Woodstock
- 46 Feign sorrow, say
- 47 Those in high places?
- 50 Swooner's subject
- 51 Had on
- 52 Yours: Fr.
- 53 Trial download
- 55 "Meh"
- 56 Ding-a-ling
- 57 Yukon Gold, e.g., slangily
- 59 U.S. antipollution grp.
- 60 Suffers from

SUDOKU

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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| 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 |

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| 1 | D | E | L | I | | 5 | L | P | S | | 8 | A | M | E | L | I | A | | |
| 14 | O | R | I | G | | 15 | P | I | P | E | D | R | E | A | M | S | | | |
| 17 | R | O | L | L | I | 18 | N | G | O | N | E | S | E | Y | E | S | | | |
| 19 | Y | O | Y | O | S | | 20 | O | I | L | | | | | 21 | T | A | T | |
| | | | | | 22 | O | N | G | O | L | D | E | N | P | O | N | D | | |
| 27 | E | F | F | | 30 | T | R | A | | | 31 | S | O | O | | | | | |
| 32 | S | U | L | A | | 34 | E | S | S | O | | 37 | E | L | S | I | E | | |
| 41 | T | H | E | S | K | 42 | Y | I | S | F | 43 | A | L | L | I | N | G | | |
| 44 | D | R | A | K | E | | 45 | S | E | T | H | | 46 | S | M | U | G | | |
| | | | | | 47 | T | R | E | | | 49 | E | U | R | | 51 | S | P | Y |
| 52 | F | L | O | O | R | M | 55 | A | N | A | G | E | R | | | | | | |
| 58 | O | L | E | | | 59 | A | A | A | | | 60 | S | O | P | U | P | | |
| 64 | L | A | U | G | 66 | H | I | N | G | 67 | M | A | T | T | E | R | S | | |
| 69 | I | N | F | I | E | L | D | E | R | S | | | 70 | F | L | I | T | | |
| 71 | C | O | S | E | T | S | | 72 | R | I | P | | | 73 | L | E | S | S | |

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Trillium Team would like to take this time to thank you for your continued business and support throughout the year.

We could not do it without you!

"Anthony and his team kept us informed, responded to our questions promptly, and provided sound advice. In a word, they are professional. I'd recommend them without hesitation."

- Keith Hay

"Chris was very helpful! Smooth and effortless! Great to deal with. I would highly recommend the Trillium Team!"

- RWA Trucking

"Anthony took a personal interest in my emotional journey of selling my beloved cottage property that I have had for half my life. He was a good listener, was optimistic when I was concerned and knew how to ride the market to strategize a sale. He went above and beyond what I expect from a realtor."

- Stephen Witkin

"Anthony, Marcia and Nanci helped us navigate the process of selling our beloved cottage Their marketing approach worked well They made the whole experience easy and gratifying. Thank you Team Trillium - we are so grateful for your help!"

- Lyne McMurchie

"Anthony and his team handled the sale of our property competently and professionally. The team is well organized and kept us abreast of all developments and provided good advice when needed. We highly recommend their services."

- David Gibb

"The professionalism was outstanding, from our initial meeting..... to talking us through the "paperwork", Anthony was always available to answer our questions, address our concerns and offer helpful "get ready" tips. Big shoutout to Nancy and Marcia for all their help,We would not hesitate to use or refer the Trillium team in the future."

- Dawna McCandless

"We engaged Chris Smolarz to market and sell our retreat property. Chris gave good advice and effort adapting the process as it developed. Ended up selling over listing price!"

- Paul Cutmore

"Anthony guided me through the process He answered all my questions and addressed my concerns with professionalism and in a timely manner.... frequent calls to check in with me and to update me on the timelines for listing and showing my cottage. Anthony is supported by Marcia and NancyI really felt supported by a team of experts!"

- Cathy Fullarton

"We were very fortunate to have met Erin is a very easy person to work with was very prompt with return correspondences. We would highly recommend there services."

- Alex & Cheryl

"We listed and sold our cottage in less than a week. Anthony and team were very helpful throughout the process."

- Ron Miles

"Our experience selling our property with the Trillium Team, specifically Anthony and Marcia, was excellent. Very professional, pleasant and patient."

- Susan Hay

"Got asking price for my vacant land after 8 days on the market, every question I had was answered quickly and honestly, very happy with the services."

- John Smith

"We want to express our appreciation to Chris James, for the way he took the time to understand exactly what we were looking for. Thank you for all of your time and effort in helping us get into our dream cottage, the whole process was made much easier than it could have been."

- Yolanda Liu

"We had an excellent experience with Anthony and his team. They were organized, communicated well, and helped us at every turn. I highly recommend their services!"

- Janice Bishop

"5 Stars does not do Anthony and his team the justice they deserve. Excellent service. Impeccable performance. Exceeded expectations (by far). Thank you so very much Anthony and team."

- Thomas Cleve

"As usual, Chris James did an amazing job selling our cottage. From start to finish, the job of listing and selling was done in only a few days. This was our fourth transaction with Chris. Would not hesitate to recommend the Trillium Team to anyone looking to buy or sell a property."

- Dave and Fran H

".....Chris was always available to answer any of our questions. He was knowledgeable and reassuring. Chris listened carefully, gave us good advice and put no pressure on us. He kept us well informed throughout the process. We recommend Chris Smolarz without hesitation. We felt as if we were losing a friend when we moved from the area."

- Roy and Sherilyn Hoare

"I would highly recommend the Trillium Team! They represented me in the purchase of my retirement home and property and it could not have gone smoother. I had very short timelines and was able to view the property, submit an offer, and with the advice of Erin Nichols, a Team Member, I was successful in the bid to purchase. I could not be happier than I am in my new home."

- Val Jones

MEET THE TEAM



Chris Smolarz*

Chris James*

Marcia Bell*

Anthony vanLieshout**

Erin Nicholls*

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