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# The Highlander

Thursday **October 21 2021** | Issue 512

**INSIDE: ACTIVE LIVING**

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## CARVING OUT HALLOWEEN FUN

Jeremy and Ben Gentle prepare to decorate a pumpkin at Abbey Garden's fall festival Oct. 16. *Photo By Sam Gillett.*

## Vaccine certificate scanning arrives in the Highlands

By **Sam Gillett**

Since Sept. 22, Highlands restaurants, gyms, arenas and many community spaces have been asking guests for proof of vaccination. Now, a new App-based identification system can be used to confirm whether diners, hockey fans, gym-goers or coffee-sippers are vaccinated.

In an Oct. 15 press conference, Premier

Doug Ford said the rules “mean we have the best chance to avoid being forced back into lockdowns nobody wants.”

County residents can access the new QR code via covid-19.ontario.ca/ and establishments can download a scanning app through the App Store or Google Play Store.

Multiple business owners and community

groups contacted by *The Highlander* reported a generally positive reception to the new rules.

Maple Avenue Tap and Grill owner Andy Oh said he supports the certificate program, however it's meant some guests have walked away after being asked to show receipts.

“It's affected business,” said Oh. He

added since Haliburton's population is, on average, older, people may have more difficulty obtaining app-based certificates.

“I understand what the government wants, to increase vaccination to a certain point. But here is a small town, compared to a big city,” said Oh.

Diners have the option of using a QR

Continued 'Restaurant' on page 2

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# Highlander news

## Restaurants hope capacity limits will be lifted

Continued from page 1

code, considered quicker than showing a printed version. Oh said methods so far had slowed service.

Craig Belfry, director of community services for Minden Hills, said the rules have been fairly easy to enforce. The township has hired a COVID screener to assist with checks.

"There's a little bit of waiting, but people are understanding," Belfry said. "We've had good feedback from community groups who use our space."

In an Oct. 13 press conference, HKPR chief medical officer of health, Dr. Natalie Bocking, reported only one establishment in the region has been fined in an incident related to vaccine certificate inspection. HKPR declined to confirm if the establishment was located in the Highlands. The Haliburton Highlands OPP reported one incident of a customer refusing to show proof of vaccination so far, however, the incident was resolved before officers arrived on the scene.

### Capacity limits lifted for some

On Oct. 9, the provincial government removed capacity restrictions for outdoor

events and indoor venues with less than 20,000 capacity. That includes sports venues such as the Minden arena.

"I think it allows us to really provide the community with the type of experience we want to be able to provide," said Jess Jackson, Huskies' game day operations manager. "It provides a social atmosphere I think is beneficial to the community itself."

Jackson said all fans attending games have been compliant with COVID-19 safety measures, such as masking and showing vaccine certificates.

Many in the restaurant and fitness industries say capacity limits set a double-standard as arena seating is often more confined than tables at a restaurant, for example.

It's expected restaurant capacity limits will be lifted in late October, however Ford urged a slower approach to easing restrictions.

"We've seen what happens in provinces that move too quickly, and the results can be horrifying," he said.

There are no active cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County, and 10 unresolved cases in the HKPR region. Most are occurring in people between 20-39 years of age. Since July 1, 63 per cent of cases were unvaccinated, 20 per cent partially vaccinated and 17 per cent fully vaccinated.

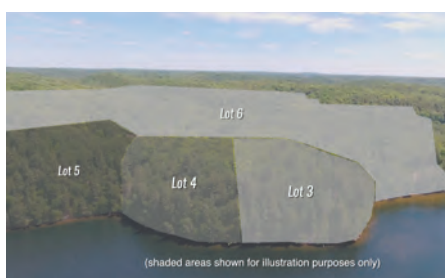


Those attending indoor venues and events, such as this Oct. 2 Huskies game at the Minden arena, can now show a QR code, which is scanned through a provincially-developed app. Photo by Sam Gillett.

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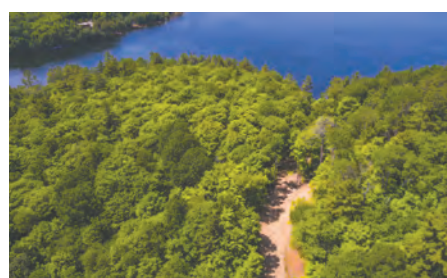
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## Province announces \$484K for LTC homes

By Lisa Gervais

Hyland Crest, Highland Wood and Extendicare Haliburton will get a combined \$484,451 from provincial government taxpayers to increase staffing, MPP Laurie Scott announced Oct. 15.

She said Hyland Crest in Minden will get up to \$220,852; Highland Wood in Haliburton \$106,861 and Extendicare Haliburton \$156,738 to increase hours of daily direct care for residents.

Further, she said they'll share in nearly \$3 million more by 2024-2025, with Hyland Crest to be handed \$1,352,700 a year more than current funding; Highland Wood, \$654,528, and Extendicare Haliburton \$959,976.

"This funding will allow long-term care homes in our community to hire additional staff so they can provide a better quality of care to local residents," Scott said. "This is part of our government's plan to train, hire, and retain thousands of new staff over the next four years."

Haliburton Highlands Health Services CAO Carolynn Plummer said as of Oct. 19, they had not yet received their specific funding letters for either LTC home they manage so they could not confirm the amounts they will receive.

"We do indeed appreciate the additional funding to support care for our residents; until we know for certain how much we will receive, it is difficult to know whether it will be enough to reach the target number

of hours per day," Plummer added.

Currently, residents province-wide receive an average of two hours and 45 minutes of direct care from nurses and personal support workers. This funding will increase the daily average to three hours, per resident per day by the end of this fiscal year, Minister of Health Rod Phillips said. The Ontario government said it wants to provide four hours of direct care by 2024-2025. Overall provincial funding also includes \$42.8M to homes to increase care by allied health care professionals, such as physiotherapists and social workers, by 10 per cent this year.

Plummer added that recruiting staff will be a challenge, not just for HHHS but across the province due to "a general shortage of human resources across all sectors of healthcare. It takes time to attract people to healthcare and have them trained in the various needed roles."

She said they did have an opportunity during the pandemic, when temporary funding was available, to create a caregiver support aide role, which helped to assist residents and staff during some difficult times - while at the same time creating opportunities for people to learn about LTC and potentially enroll in training programs such as a PSW program.

Bonnie Roe is one of the founding members of the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition.

"He (Phillips) is coming forward with



MPP Laurie Scott and HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer outside of Highlands Wood Oct. 12. Photo by Lisa Gervais.



money, it is not enough money, that is a definite, but it certainly shows the intention of the government," she said. "Because over the last year and a half of the pandemic, any promises they have made they have not come forward with any money or any changes to inspections, or quality of working conditions for people. There's always a lot of rhetoric and talk but until you see the money, you always question is this going to be the same as in the past?"

Phillips said the Ontario government will provide up to \$270 million this year to homes across the province and is investing \$4.9 billion over four years by adding 27,000 staff.

Plummer said, "I am thrilled that there is an opportunity ahead not only to improve care for our residents, but also to help improve the work experience for our staff giving them the supports they need to continue to do such amazing work."

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# Highlander news



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## Health unit fears unfunded service backlog

By Sam Gillett

After 18 months of COVID-19 program delays and cancellations, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit said it's unable to meet demands due to provincial government underfunding.

While Doug Ford's government has committed to reimbursing health units for COVID-19-related costs, that won't cover the price of restarting programs cancelled by the pandemic, the health unit said.

HKPR reports that 2,400 students have missed school-based immunizations, more than 70 drinking water systems are overdue for inspections and 5,300 children have not received regular oral health screening.

"We are reaching a point locally that if we don't start to catch up on these services the backlog will become too large of a hurdle to overcome," wrote HKPR board chairperson Doug Elmslie in a Sept. 16 letter to Minister of Health Christine Elliott.

Since then, said HKPR chief medical officer of health, Dr. Natalie Bocking, in an Oct. 13 press conference, the health unit hasn't "had communication from the province or an acknowledgment of the number of other additional expenses health units are accruing in regards to catch-up activities and recovery activities."

Current base funding levels, which have only been increased once in five years, can't cover the costs of restarting all these programs, she said.

"To do those catchup activities within our budgets, I don't believe that's a reasonable expectation."

Additional required programs such as vision screening, infection prevention and control complaints, swimming pool inspections, as well as inflation and rising salary costs, also stretch the budget, Elmslie noted.

"This means that we were already under-resourced to respond to an infectious disease emergency, as well as implement routine public health priorities prior to the pandemic," Elmslie wrote.

The health unit, responsible for enforcement, education and programs related to mental health, addiction, family services, and more, says its work might not be as easy to see as emergency services.

"We hear a lot about things like surgical backlogs and the gaps in other things like cancer screening in the acute health care system," Bocking said. "We hear very little about the backlog in public health. We're not as visible and people are not as familiar with the work we do."

MPP Laurie Scott did not directly address the health unit's question of additional funding, but said she's confident the province's new chief medical officer, Keiran Moore, will work for positive change.

"He's going to be leading, [talking about] what happened, what can we do better. Word will come on that," she said.



Medical officer of health, Dr. Natalie Bocking, said the health unit can't cover the cost of restarting certain services. *File.*

Scott said the difficulties incurred by public health units during COVID offer opportunities to "modernize."

Previously, the Ontario government reduced its funding of public health units

by five per cent, meaning municipalities are responsible for 30 per cent of public health costs, as opposed to 25 per cent. The County of Haliburton contributed \$463,508 in 2020.

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# Highlander news



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## Bad news bears plaguing Scotch Line landfill

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council will have to consider bear-proofing the Scotch Line landfill, manager of waste services, Tara Stephen, told council Oct. 14.

“I think everybody is aware we’ve had ongoing issues with bears accessing public areas at the Scotch Line landfill,” Stephen said. “The ministry has been raising red flags with me over the course of the last year and have directed us to take some action.”

Stephen said landfill attendants have been doing everything they can in the interim, including employing scaring devices and practicing proper waste cover, “but we have a few very stubborn bears that just won’t go away.”

She said, in talking to other municipalities with similar problems, it’s been recommended Minden Hills put up an electric fence. She included \$50,000 for that in the first draft of her department’s proposed capital budget.

Mayor Brent Devolin said he had noticed a difference with better cover. “I don’t have bears up at my vehicle helping me unload my garbage.”

However, the mayor added he was “going to ask my redneck question. The reality is \$50,000 versus selective culling of the problematic bears ... am I living in an alternate reality, or is that not even a consideration of what we may or may not do around our landfills?”

Stephen said it is an option, “but I don’t know how effective it is long-term. The populations turn over every year and this is something that we have to find a permanent solution for. If we want to get into culling



Black bears are proving a nuisance at Minden’s landfill. *Photo by Tom Melling/flickr.*

bears every year that is an option.”

Coun. Jean Neville asked if the bears are coming when the public is on-site or just at night.

Stephen said the bears are present during operating hours “and they are no longer afraid of humans, so we’re now concerned about people’s safety.”

Coun. Bob Carter asked about the size of the site and Stephen said eight hectares. Carter said he was having some problems with the proposal to erect an electric fence around the perimeter.

“If a farmer puts up 20 acres of electric fence to protect their sheep from wolves, they would go bankrupt paying this amount,” he said. Carter suggested the estimated cost was inflated. “Electric fences

are not that expensive. It is one of the reasons people use them. I am just a little shocked by that [\$50,000].” He said the township could go to a feed store and get an estimate.

Stephen said the price includes the cost of bringing hydro to Scotch Line and she had not gone out to the market to test the estimate.

Neville said an electric fence to deter bears would have to be stronger and taller, as opposed to fencing for cows or horses. She said the ones she has seen around honey operations in the County “are massive and much more voltage or amp.”

She and Coun. Ron Nesbitt added there were solar and battery-operated fences on the market.

Devolin asked Stephen if she thought the ministry was going to compel the township to do something.

She replied, “I think we’re getting to that point. It [electric fencing] may not necessarily be the exact solution but we’re very close to receiving an order from them to manage these bears.”

She said staff had built a very good working relationship with the district office and “we just want to show them that we are trying to address the issues that they raise.”

Coun. Pam Sayne said, “I think we need to do something here.” However, she said she’s hopeful Stephen can come up with less expensive options for the next council budget meeting.

## Public gets first look at Minden Hills budget

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills has gotten an early jump on its 2022 budget, holding its first meeting Oct. 14 versus an historical December first round of deliberations.

As usual, the initial needs and wants of various departments is inflated - at a 14.47 per cent levy increase (or \$1,333,065) - with a plan to whittle that number down over the coming months.

“It’s good to get the budget process going early,” Mayor Brent Devolin said.

CAO Trisha McKibbin said the game plan is to pass the budget in January to allow the township “to hit the ground running” with tender and procurement documents so work can start in the first financial quarter of 2022.

She acknowledged budget changes, including the continuing impact of COVID-19 on municipal services, such as several staff vacancies and service demands.

“The management team is aware of the challenges and pressures facing the municipality and the need to be fiscally responsible in our budget deliberations,” McKibbin said.

Referring to departmental needs and wants, she added, “We’re looking forward to working with council to prioritize these needs and to deliver a responsible budget. Staff is certainly aware this [14.47 per cent] is not an acceptable number.”

Last year, the township ended up with a 3.75 per cent tax levy increase.

McKibbin said the most significant increase is wages and benefits, showing a combined cost increase of \$478,085. She attributed that to a 1.7 per cent Cost of Living Adjustment, progression of staff on the salary grid, the full cost of staff to operationalize the new community centre and additional staff in the building, bylaw and planning department.

Roads are traditionally a big-ticket item and that is no different this year. Acting director of public works, Tara Stephen, is seeking nearly \$3.5 million to reconstruct sections of Scotch Line and Bobcaygeon roads and about \$1.2 million for the Sedgewick Road bridge.

There was also preliminary discussion of converting hard top to gravel on parts of Henderson, Bobcaygeon, Swinson, and Queen’s Line roads.

Coun. Bob Carter expressed some

concern about potentially borrowing for roadworks when the township has reserves. It’s like “going out and borrowing money and paying interest even though there’s a bunch of money in your savings accounts,” he said.

He also said he was “so disappointed” the municipality has still not produced a roads plan. “We’re looking at borrowing \$5 million or something like that this year. We really should know what’s coming next. In 2023, do we have to borrow another \$10 million? We need to have some kind of idea what’s going on here.”

The community services department is looking at an initial 14.7 per cent increase. Director Craig Belfry said that has to do with continuing to get the new recreation complex up and running, including paying off the loan and staff. He noted his budget now includes the cultural centre. They hope to fix up the boardwalk and village green as well.

The first draft of the building and bylaw department has a \$242,565 jump, including more staff. The fire chief is looking for an additional \$156,000, including new self-contained breathing apparatus and related equipment and fit training. Leasing

or an internal loan were suggested by councillors.

Stephen, who also manages waste services, proposed a \$183,000 increase for landfills.

She added one issue is the need for new trigger mechanisms to better alert the township of when contaminants move offsite. She said people are also dumping waste out of hours at Little Gull and they need to beef up security.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell asked if it wasn’t a good time to consider weigh scales at Scotch Line. Stephen said ideally within the year they hope to have a scale up and running.

Coun. Pam Sayne repeated a theme she has discussed numerous times at council. She said they have to push the provincial government to increase the HST by one per cent and direct that money to Ontario’s 444 municipalities to help them with infrastructure costs. She said they can’t keep going to ratepayers.

“We need to take a stand on that.”

McKibbin added it is her intention that the township work on a strategic plan for the 2023 budget.

The next meeting is Oct. 28.

# Highlander news

## TLDSB scrambling to find occasional staff

By Kirk Winter

Haliburton-area trustee Gary Brohman asked if the board has enough supply staff to meet demand during the Oct. 12 Trillium Lakelands District School Board meeting.

Superintendent of human resources, Traci Hubbert, replied, "We do not have enough occasional staff available. We have shortages on a daily basis. We are advertising aggressively on many different platforms to try to recruit."

She said it's a struggle and challenge to find occasional staff when the board pays some employee groups only marginally more than fast food chains.

She added, "We have teachers on paper, but the reality is a very different thing right now."

Hubbert said there are 285 teachers on the occasional teachers' lists across the board. On a typical day, the board has "high double-digit absences" but classes still can't be filled.

"Many occasional staff have taken leaves," Hubbert said. "They don't want to work at multiple locations during a pandemic and they don't want to work with unvaccinated students. We also have retired teachers on the list who can only work 50 days and teachers who have taken long-term occasional contracts (to cover a teacher's class for an extended time period) who still are counted on the list even though they are working."

Hubbert praised the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation for working cooperatively with the board to contact teachers on the list to see if they want to continue working as an occasional teacher.

Hubbert said she hopes to add an

additional 45 teachers to the secondary list soon. She said right now, secondary schools are getting by with teachers covering other teachers' absences as defined in their collective agreement, but those days are dwindling.

"We will have a problem at elementary covering teachers once board professional development begins," Hubbert said. "We have a much worse time covering absences for educational assistants."

Trustee Judy Saunders wanted clarification as to whether a teacher could just take up a spot on the supply list and not work.

"They can stay on the list and book a year of unpaid leave off," Hubbert said. "To remain on the list (when not on a leave) they do need to work a minimum number (30) of days."

### Driver shortages still an issue

The board is "in much better shape" than some others when it comes to bus drivers, Supt. Tim Ellis said, thanks to drivers doubling up, or running two routes in both the morning and afternoon.

Ellis said the board is servicing its contracted routes.

He added that in conversation with local operators, they were hopeful to see a steadier stream of job applicants in early October.

"Very few applicants came through the doors of operators in September," Ellis said. "So far in October there appear to be more folks looking for employment. This is not a typical year locally for drivers."

In Haliburton, Ellis said "We have had issues in getting single routes operational and have had to double run buses. This requires students to wait at school up to an hour after dismissal to be picked up, creating additional supervision for principals. The issues in Haliburton are because of the region's geographic diversity."

### Extracurriculars available

Elementary school students are participating in inter-school athletics, Supt. Jay MacJanet told the meeting.

He said with the help of the local health units they have put safety protocols in place and cross-country and soccer have happened or are going to happen by the end of the month. Chess and reading clubs are also up and running.

Archie Stouffer Elementary School will be hosting a countywide soccer tournament Nov. 3.

Supt. Kim Williams, who oversees high schools, said band, choir, chess, Gay-Straight Alliance, comedy-improv, intramurals, Outer's Club, Reach for the Top, robotics, student council and truth and reconciliation groups are all meeting.

Williams added girls' basketball, cross-country, field hockey, football, golf, girls' rugby, tennis and boys' volleyball are up and operating with badminton and swimming already gearing up for their seasons.

Board chair Bruce Reain wanted to know if district championships would be

hosted by the Georgian Bay Secondary School Association and the Central Ontario Secondary School Association at the completion of regular season schedules. Williams did not have any information that would indicate that was not the case.

Trustee John Byrne asked if interested fans could watch outdoor sporting events from property adjoining schools and was told there was nothing the board could do to prevent that. The board is still not budging on allowing fans onto school property or into the building to watch friends and family compete, citing COVID-19 concerns.

### HHSS enrolment up seven per cent

Enrolment is up seven per cent at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

It's impacted class sizes, teacher hiring and bus route capacities, the board was told.

As of Oct. 4 across the board, there were 11,611 students, 550 more than predicted last June. Secondary numbers were 4,664, up 100 from June estimates.

Director of education, Wes Hahn, said, "We believe a number of these kids are from outside the area and they have either decided to stay with grandparents or they are remaining at the family cottage as their parents are working remotely."

Hahn added that he "definitely knows" that some of the elementary numbers are very late registrations for kindergarten as parents waited for the last moment to commit because of COVID-19 and what school programming might look like.

## INFORMATION PAGE

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#### A Message from the Fire Department

##### Halloween Fire Safety Message

When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough to see out.

- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources.
- Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, do not block escape routes.

#### 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.

#### Waste Reduction Tip of the Week

Researchers estimate that it takes about 5 litres of water to produce a typical single-use water bottle. Reduce water consumption and waste generation by using a reusable water bottle.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting at 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 28, 2021 during its Meeting of Council via web conference regarding its Fees and Charges By-law. To review the proposed changes to Schedules C-Fire Services; D-Cultural Centre; F-Planning Services; G-Cemetery and H-Community Services, please visit [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/) to download the agenda.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2021.  
Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk • 705-286-1260 ext. 505  
[tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca)

#### Waste Reduction Week

This week is Waste Reduction Week! Follow our Facebook page for waste reduction tips that you can easily implement at home.

#### (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 28**  
Regular Council Meeting  
**November 11**  
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/](http://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/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/). Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

# Highlander news

## HHHS Foundation navigates milestone year

By Sam Gillett

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation contributed \$464,142 to Highlands' health care in its recent full year of operations.

With those funds, the hospital has purchased a portable digital X-ray machine, iPads for long-term care residents, completed a new website redesign, and made numerous COVID-19 capacity upgrades including hand-washing stations, automatic medication dispensing and additional beds, along with other upgrades.

"Not surprisingly given the generosity of our community, we received great acknowledgement and appreciation of our health-care professionals, and immediate support through many donations of COVID relief, including personal protective equipment (PPE)," wrote HHHS Foundation executive director Lisa Tompkins in an email. "And, we continue to be very grateful for the extraordinary generosity from permanent residents, seasonal residents, cottagers and visitors who helped the Foundation meet our fundraising goals in the past year."

It's also a milestone year for the foundation, which turns 25.

"I would like to acknowledge the 25 years of incredible support from the Foundation to build the service to what it is today," said Carolyn Plummer, HHHS CEO, at the foundation's annual general meeting Sept. 30.



93.5 Moose FM radio host Rick Lowes and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation executive director Lisa Tompkins at the Foundation's 2020 Radiothon. *File.*

### Audit reports stable finances

Thomas Turnbull, of Grant Thornton LLP, congratulated board members on weathering a difficult year of pandemic-style fundraising.

"Some kudos and applause need to go to management and the board to take this opportunity to manage discretionary expenses," Turnbull said.

Many of the Foundation's regular

fundraising events were transposed into COVID-19-safe conditions. The summer's Radiothon raised \$33,670 for new Workstations on Wheels systems for an upcoming clinical information system upgrade. Last year's Believe in the Magic of Giving campaign garnered \$163,375. Monthly online lotteries have netted \$32,764.

Tompkins said the most difficult part of the last year for her was working without volunteers, due to COVID-19 safety

protocols. "We miss our volunteers," Tompkins wrote. "A small organization like ours relies on the talent and expertise of volunteers in many aspects of our fundraising, and the Foundation has been blessed to have wonderful volunteers. We look forward to being able to work with them again soon."

The Foundation also announced at its Sept. 30 meeting that David Zilstra and Steve Todd will be on the board until AGM 2025.

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# Editorial opinion

## TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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## A start but a long way to go

When the Canadian military went into five long-term care homes in Ontario last year, they claimed they found horrific conditions: residents being bullied, drugged, improperly fed and left for hours and days in soiled bedding.

Soldiers were called in to the Pickering, Scarborough, Etobicoke, North York and Brampton facilities to help during COVID-19.

Reading their report was "gut-wrenching" and "the hardest thing I have done as premier," Premier Doug Ford said.

Yet, the Ontario Health Coalition claims there have been no fines levied against long-term care homes. Further, they allege unannounced annual inspections have not resumed.

So, when new minister of long-term care Rod Phillips - he of the sneaking out of the county during a lockdown - was appointed, advocates were skeptical.

But, after months of lobbying for improvements to Ontario's long-term care system, they were tossed a bone Oct. 15.

The numbers sounded impressive but as usual the devil is in the details.

Across the province, it supposedly means up to \$270 million this year to homes to increase staffing levels, leading to more direct care for residents.

Locally, it supposedly means nearly half-a-million dollars to be split between Highland

Wood, Hyland Crest and Extendicare Haliburton, and then an increase of about \$3 million by 2024-2025. That's when the asked for four hours of direct care per day for residents is supposed to kick in. Apparently, they are going to make the four-hour minimum a law, too.

Former nurse and MPP Laurie Scott took advantage of the news to take credit for local funding. She said her government plans to train, hire and retain thousands of new staff over the next four years.

Currently, residents receive an average of two hours and 45 minutes of direct care from nurses, registered practical nurses and personal support workers (PSWs).

The province says the money will bump it up to three by the end of the fiscal year. The funding also includes \$42.8M to homes to increase care by allied health care professionals (such as physiotherapists and social workers) by 10 per cent this year.

Getting lost further in the numbers, the government says it's spending nearly \$5 billion over four years by adding 27,000 people.

I guess we can say it's all a start.

The Ontario Health Coalition has projected that Ontario needs more than 33,600 full-time equivalent RNs, RPNs and PSWs to get LTC staffing levels up to four hours per resident per day. It's financial accountability office puts it at 37,000. The

province is falling 10,000 short.

Add to that the fact a reported 30 per cent of PSWs have left the industry during COVID, so there is some catching up to do.

And the Ontario government is providing money for new homes.

Let's also keep in mind the money has not flowed yet despite the presser claiming "immediate" action.

Health care providers are naturally tentative about popping the champagne corks when official funding letters have yet to arrive.

While long-term care homes in Haliburton County get good reports about patient care and quality of life, and have not suffered COVID-19 cases, the money is desperately needed. Finding and keeping staff has always been a challenge. It should be noted that waitlists for long-term care locally are also in the 'years' unless circumstances necessitate an emergency move.

No money will be turned aside but it's naive to think that throwing less money than what is needed at only one part of this problem is any kind of solution.



By Lisa Gervais

## COVID CORNER

# Current booster eligibility

Colin Powell died this week from complications of COVID-19. The former U.S. secretary of state had a type of blood cancer called multiple myeloma. This 84-year-old had two COVID vaccines and was about to get his third. He was eligible for a third shot because his cancer made his immune system less able to mount antibodies and build a strong defense against the virus. He was also eight months from his second vaccine.

A weaker or compromised immune system is both unable to mount a strong immune reaction and less likely to keep immunity. That's why annual influenza vaccines offer a "high dose" version for people over 65 years. As we age, our immune systems cannot build as strong an army of antibodies as can a young person's. In children and babies, a tiny dose of a vaccine turns on a highly robust immune response, which is why vaccinating babies is the ideal time to get the best immunity to diseases.

Scientists and health officials are gathering and analyzing data to determine how long we should wait between COVID vaccines and who is most likely to need earlier boosters. That people with suppressed immune systems would need sooner boosters has been certain. What is not certain is how long to wait.

One recent study analyzing Pfizer vaccines suggests antibody levels wane and disappear after seven months. This small study analyzed blood samples from 46

healthy young or middle-aged adults after receiving two doses, and then six months after the second dose. The initial high levels of antibodies dropped ten-fold by seven months. In half the adults neutralizing antibodies were undetectable six months after the second dose, particularly against Delta, Beta, and Mu. Neutralizing antibodies are only part of the body's immune defense against the virus but are still critical in protecting against infection. The authors recommend administering a booster around six to seven months from initial dose.

In contrast, a study in Italy showed that seven months after the second dose, there is no reduction in the efficacy of mRNA vaccines in the general population, with a slight decline seen for specific populations. This report by the health ministry examined data from more than 29 million people who received two doses of an mRNA vaccine. In the general population effectiveness against infection after seven months was 89 per cent. Protection from hospitalization and death at six months from the second dose was 96 per cent and 99 per cent respectively. However, in Italy mask rules are very strict and there are stringent behavioural rules, contributing to low infection rates. Also, individuals with compromised immune systems lost protection much faster, measurably lower after 28 days from the second dose.

Another study by Pfizer published in the

Lancet looked at 3.4 million fully vaccinated people and concluded that the vaccine remains highly effective at preventing nearly all virus-linked hospitalizations for "at least" six months, but protection from mild or moderate infection falls to less than 50 per cent.

Overall, the Pfizer vaccine remained 90 per cent effective at preventing hospitalizations for "all variants," including the delta, however protection against infection waned significantly over time, falling from 88 per cent within one month after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine to 47 per cent after six months. They concluded that "breakthrough infection" occurring in vaccinated people is because of waning immunity and not because the new variants are escaping protection.

In Ontario third shots are now being given to people: (1) with solid tumor transplants; (2) receiving chemotherapy; (3) receiving immune compromising treatment; (4) residents of LTC or seniors in congregate living settings. (5) Advanced HIV or AIDS or other primary immunodeficiency. Details in this link:

COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations ([gov.on.ca](https://www.gov.on.ca))



By Dr. Nell Thomas

# Editorial opinion

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Brenda Speers took this photo of a deer by Skyline Park in Haliburton.

## LETTERS

### We Highlanders, indeed

*Dear editor,*

Thank you for your insightful, timely "We Highlanders" message [Oct. 7] and Happy 10th Anniversary! It reminded me how I consciously chose this special place to live (19 yrs ago) and became an active part of a community which also happens to have lakes and natural beauty in abundance.

It is true that the pandemic has brought many to the precipice that Simon Payn described and I relate to the questioning of my own connection and value here. And then I remember how blessed I have been to meet and work with many amazing people to help our home thrive. I miss the one-on-ones as we all do, yet when I walk around Head Lake, see Sir Sandford Fleming College, remember the countless events and gatherings in the park, see families walking and playing, our libraries, the Rails End Gallery, flowers planted where mud used to be, our hospitals, palliative centre and community support groups still here, I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to be a part of all that.

I know that I truly believe in who we are and that we must think carefully about the decisions we make as a community and for our future. My recent decision to join the dedicated working group "Friends of Grass

Lake" restores my belief in our community and in my power to make our place in the world better every day.

Thank you from this inspired Highlander to *The Highlander* team. Keep standing strong.

**Sandre Daoust**  
**Haliburton**

### Time for a re-think of strategies

*Dear editor,*

What HCDC has been able to do during the pandemic is nothing short of extraordinary re. helping local businesses survive in as many creative ways as possible.

HCDC's long-term strategy of ensuring its own strong financial health certainly is the key enabler for being in such a strong position to help when this crisis hit. I commend both previous and current leadership for being in this position.

However, given that a crisis of this level is unlikely to happen again soon, I believe that HCDC needs to look to the future and revisit their strategy and tactics to broaden who they can help. While the incubator is a great program, there are key areas where further local job creation can be enabled.

Number one, figure out a more impactful way of enabling local entrepreneurs. If providing equity funding is still not within the risk profile of HCDC (although I would argue it should be), then take a look at a proper venture debt type of facility. It can work and work well.

Number two, there are more retirees and affluent folks moving to the area re. the 'work from home' trend and getting out of the city. Let's take advantage of this growing capital resource and perhaps help to create/sponsor a local angel network to kickstart more local start-ups. We have an incubator and a solid mentorship program. Let's have 10-20 companies in the incubator and not just two.

Number three, take more advantage of the world-class Haliburton School of Art & Design, especially as it relates to aligning with a specialty domain for venture debt and/or an angel network. (Example: the incubator in Peterborough specializes in clean-tech as it is directly aligned with Trent's clean-tech academic programs.)

HCDC has done great things. I just think that future local job creation will require a re-think of the needed strategies to continue to be successful.

**Brett Proud**  
**Irondale**

### Doug has a cottage in Muskoka

*Dear editor,*

Re. County 'begs' while 'Muskoka millions' flow" (Oct. 14).

After reading about the millions being directed by the Ford Government to the Muskoka Watershed and Conservation Management initiative to protect that Ontario "jewel," while failing to do anywhere near the same for Haliburton County despite consistent and damaging multi-year flooding in Minden, my first question was, "Where's Doug Ford's cottage?"

A Google search reveals – no surprise here – Muskoka! The man has no shame.

And that the local MPP, Laurie Scott, should defend this policy with bland government talking points makes it even more shameful.

This constituency needs an MPP with the courage to stand up to the premier.

**Carol Town**  
**Hamilton/cottage – Minden Hills**

**HAVE AN OPINION?**  
Send your letters to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)  
(300 words max)

# Active living

## Certified coach empowers transformation

By Lisa Harrison

Certified coach Heather Battié knows transformative changes in health and life require more than surface solutions.

"So often people know what to do, they know what to eat and not to eat, they know that exercise is good for them and that eating whole foods over fast foods is a better option, but the question is, why aren't they doing it then? or why do they start and stop, never make any real progress with their weight and health goals?" asked Battié.

"I realize that food, diet and exercise are only a very small piece to the puzzle of achieving and maintaining your weight loss and health goals."

Battié offers customized one-to-one programs and group cleanses to women around the world. She helps each client shine a light on any limiting beliefs so they no longer block the client from achieving the desired results, and make a plan "with realistic goals that they can achieve with ease."

"Past clients have reported that they were able to ditch feelings of deprivation, shame, guilt, worry and the feeling of impossibility surrounding their health and weight goals [and that] their self-confidence grew as they hit milestones and achieved their goals."

Born and raised in Charlottetown, PEI, Battié originally envisioned a school-teaching career. She took a year off after university and worked on private yachts in Florida, where she experienced yoga for the first time. Passionate about natural health and alternative healing since her late teens, she fell in love with yoga. It would set her life on a new course.

"I continued to attend classes wherever I was travelling and living, deepening my knowledge and love for how transformative it was for the body and the mind," said Battié. She did get her education degree and



Heather Battié is a certified health and life coach who offers customized programs to help clients set and achieve health and weight goals with ease. *Photo submitted.*

began teaching, but quickly saw that full-time teaching wasn't the path for her.

Battié switched to supply teaching and became a certified yoga teacher in 2006. After moving to Haliburton in 2009, she and her husband Marc had two sons. Battié gave up teaching yoga when their second son was born, but eventually missed sharing her passion for health and wellness with others.

Her next step was to create programs to help people lose weight, increase their energy, strengthen their relationship with food and their bodies and rediscover

themselves. Battié became a Certified Human Potential Coach through the Human Potential Institute and launched her coaching business in 2018, but she still wanted to provide her clients with greater support. She became a Certified Health and Life Coach through the Health Coach Institute in 2020 and is set to graduate from the HCI's Mastery Level Certification program this month.

"Having a coach is an amazing way to have the accountability to commit to your vision for health," said Battié. She offers a complimentary Weight Loss Transformation

Breakthrough Session that can help prove the point.

"As my clients develop the skill of managing their thoughts and tuning in to their bodies, emotional eating and yo-yo dieting become things of the past. I teach them essential skill sets for losing [weight] ... and maintaining their desired weight so they can thrive in all areas of their life with vibrant, joyful energy."

Heather Battié Coaching:  
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### PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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# Active living

## Throwing discs for a cause



Abbey Gardens' Ashley McAllister, Darrell Banks of Innova Disc Golf, and Abbey Gardens' board member Barb Smith at the course's opening in July 2021. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

By Sam Gillett

Since opening in July, disc golf fans from across Ontario have been playing Abbey Gardens' expansive 18-hole course.

Now, beginners, those fresh to the sport and any disc golfer looking for a good time have the chance to showcase their skills in the Leaf Drop Doubles Disc Golf Tournament Oct. 23.

"I wanted it to be family-friendly and anyone who's heard of it but hasn't thought to come out and play," said Victoria Fenninger of FR Bike - E-Bike Tours. She's organizing the tournament along with fellow disc golf enthusiast James McKenna.

Competitors can choose from three

categories based on their skill level. Beginners and novices will play from the short tees, while more experienced players will throw from the further tees.

Included in the cost of entry is a full-day disc golf pass so players can practice before or after the tournament. Experienced players will be on hand to assist those fresh to the sport.

Disc golf is much like golf: players tee-off at set locations and try and land their disc in a metal basket. At Abbey Gardens, the course takes players from a gravel pit to forests to ponds all over the property. It's also a growing sport.

"We've had a pretty good turnout every time I've been out there, there are multiple groups of people," she

said. "Especially this time of year as the colours begin to change; it's a beautiful walk in the woods."

Proceeds of the tournament and a raffle will go towards the Abbey Retreat Centre, a cancer care centre on Abbey Gardens property. "Because of COVID-19 there's been more of a focus on online retreats," Fenninger said. "Now they are looking at hosting in-person retreats now that people are getting vaccinated."

Funds from disc golfers will help with those retreats and help the center continue to develop new services throughout the pandemic.

To register, visit: [discgolfszene.com/tournaments/The\\_Leaf\\_Drop\\_Doubles\\_Disc\\_Golf\\_Tournament\\_2021](https://discgolfszene.com/tournaments/The_Leaf_Drop_Doubles_Disc_Golf_Tournament_2021)

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- Kelly Matthews

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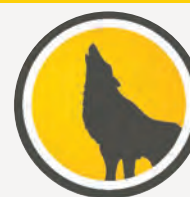
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# Highlander business



Owner Mike Rae said Haliburton will now be “home base” for Truss Food Works. Photo by Sam Gillett.

## A feast of flavour returns to the Forest

By Sam Gillett

Haliburton Forest’s iconic cookhouse is sizzling up barbecue classics once more as Truss Food Works assumes ownership of the establishment.

Owner Mike Rae has plenty of experience crafting grub suited for the outdoors, he said.

“It’s very camp, forest-based kind of food. It’s stuff you want to eat when you’re in the country.”

The Cookhouse will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. That includes Rae’s signature dishes such as rib-sticking brisket and his “Dino Ribs”: slow-smoked on the bone

for 16 hours before being roasted in house barbecue sauce.

“You basically get a pound of meat on one bone,” he said. Another centerpiece is his pasta featuring a Boshkung Brewery sauce with cheese, brisket and pulled pork. “It’s going to be cheesy goodness,” Rae said, mentioning how he hopes his food will be a perfect accompaniment to Haliburton’s cold winter pursuits such as snowmobiling and snowshoeing.

Rae started Truss Foodworks in Beaverton in 2020, and while he said operating the business during the pandemic has been stressful, he’s expanded into a thriving

catering partnership with Boshkung. He’ll be serving Boshkung ales through a four-tap draft system.

Rae said he’s excited to continue a partnership with the brewery.

“We’ve been more like family, the way we’re working together,” he said.

Rae is still hiring for multiple positions, however even with a widespread shortage of workers in the hospitality sector, he said the restaurant is designed to function well even with minimal staff.

“I come at it from the perspective of let’s base our restaurant around the staff we do have. If that means we need to change

the way we’re serving the guests then we change the way we serve the guests,”

For breakfast and lunch, patrons will order at the counter and food will be brought to their tables.

Rae also hopes to promote and host community events geared to locals and tourists on the location’s large back lawn.

On Oct. 23, he’s catering a concert at the Forest featuring Nick and Benton.

The Cookhouse opens Oct. 22 and will be open Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Once snowmobile trails are operational, they hope to be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



### County of Haliburton Notice 2022 Budget

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be reviewing the 2022 Budget at their regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

And that further 2022 budget discussions will occur thereafter at regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings until the budget is approved.

- Wednesday, December 8, 2021
- Wednesday January 12, 2022
- Wednesday February 9, 2022

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# Highlander arts



Rails End Gallery Director Laurie Jones and administrative assistant Michelle St. Pierre  
Photo by Sam Gillett.

## Summer Festival: funding 'saved our bacon'

By Sam Gillett

The Rails End Gallery and Highlands Summer Festival have been awarded provincial Community Building Fund grants.

The grants are given to arts organizations that have demonstrated impacts in their communities.

Laurie Jones, executive director of The Rails End Gallery, said their \$50,000 grant will help fund the staffing model of the gallery which supports the board and volunteer committees as they "get things rolling again."

While the gallery has been hosting virtual and socially-distanced functions outside, many cornerstone events such as their Haliburton Drum Fest, arts and crafts market or mass yard sale at Head Lake Park haven't been able to run for two seasons.

"That sidetracked us. It's like someone changed the deck of cards," Jones said.

She said the funds will be especially helpful over the next six months as they begin to "gear back up" to regular operations. Online programming will continue in some capacity: "everyone loves to talk about art in their pajamas having a coffee," said Jones.

The Highlands Summer Festival (HSF) will use their \$14,000 grant to fund the ongoing costs related to their office and storage space.

"We've had two seasons without any shows on the board. We've got some operating expenses, there's rent, there's heat, there's hydro, too," said HSF president Brian Kipping.

2022 will see HSF producing a slate of

shows that were planned for 2020. While some, such as "The Sound of Music," might need to be recast because of ageing cast members, Kipping said he looks forward to being able to gather in person to prepare for the season. In 2020, HSF's survival was unclear.

"When we looked forward, we couldn't say with any certainty that we were going to survive financially," Kipping said. "The grants saved our bacon."

Laurie Scott, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP, said the taxpayer-funded community building fund will help revitalize the arts communities around her riding.

Many have criticized the Ford government's treatment of the arts in Ontario since he assumed power in 2018. In 2019, he cut nearly half of funding from the Ontario Music Fund and reduced the Ontario Arts Council's funding by \$10 million.

However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Queen's Park funded 140 arts organizations to the tune of \$24 million in a one-time COVID-relief grant.

"I would say it's a little flip-floppy, they take with one hand and give with the other. A consistent approach would be much better," Jones said. She added she was encouraged by the support of the Trillium Fund, which awards the grants.

Despite a turbulent 18 months, both organizations say the grant will help keep them on track as they, and the rest of Haliburton's arts community, emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I really appreciate it," Kipping said. "The grant from Trillium: that's substantial."



**As of Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>**

the following activities will be offered out of the NEW! SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena

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# Highlander events



Top: The Water Ambassadors walked three laps of a two kilometre circuit around the Haliburton Sculpture Forest Oct. 16. Bottom left: Ashley McAllister and Stanley Gross served up hot chocolate and candied apples at the Fall Festival. Bottom right: Wayne Kelloway, Andy Baur and Aimee Kelloway at the Lions' Octoberfest. *Photos by Sam Gillett.*



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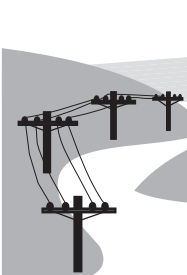
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# Highlander community



Share The Warmth volunteers organize donated items at the fifth annual giveaway held in November 2020. Submitted.

## Coat drive warms the Highlands

As the weather gets colder, SIRCH Community Services is on a mission to provide warm clothes to Highlanders in need and they want your help. The organization is kicking off its sixth annual Share the Warmth fundraiser. Each year, Highlands community members in need are given donated coats, boots, hats, gloves, and more. Starting Oct. 18, drop-off locations around the County will begin accepting donations, and SIRCH will be at Lakeside Baptist Church in Haliburton and St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden to distribute winter gear Nov. 6. Last year, Share the Warmth brought in

1,450 pieces of used winter clothing, which is all checked and sorted. The HKPR District Health Unit estimates that approximately 25 per cent of Highlands children live in poverty, which can mean good quality winter gear is out of reach. "It is more important than ever to help those who are vulnerable stay warm," writes SIRCH in a press release. SIRCH executive director, Gena Robertson, said in a press release that the initiative is a way for Highlanders to help their neighbours. "We have seen so much generosity in the past when it comes to Share the Warmth and we are hopeful this year will be no

different," she said. Included in the statement is the story of Haliburton resident Thomas Smith, who received a coat from Share the Warmth just after moving to the County. At that point in time I didn't have a job. I had just moved up here and only had a fall jacket and I didn't have any money to spend on a new coat," he told SIRCH. "It got me through and I still have it." All donated gear must be in good condition without stains, rips or tears. For more information about Share the Warmth call 705-457-1742 or email info@sirch.on.ca. (Sam Gillett)



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Top left: Huskies forward Lucas Stevenson carries the puck during Monday's 6-5 loss in Cobourg. *Photo by Mike Baker.* Top right: Sam Solarino sprints down the ice on Oct. 16. Bottom left: Teammates congratulate captain Lucas Stevenson, #19, on his goal during the team's Oct. 16 5-0 win. Bottom right: Forward Oliver Tarr scored a hat-trick and was named player of the game. *Photos by Sam Gillett.*

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# The Huskies



## Injuries take toll as Huskies split games

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies forward Oliver Tarr has been labelled “the best player in the league” by head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay after back-to-back hat-tricks against the Cobourg Cougars in OJHL action this past week.

The Huskies put in their best performance of the season on home ice Oct. 16, putting the Cougars to the sword 5-0 in front of a packed crowd at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Tarr was the star, scoring his team’s first, second and fourth goals and assisting the fifth. Davis Bone and Lucas Stevenson also found the scoresheet, while Patrick Saini put up four assists.

Ramsay reserved special praise for goaltender Christian Cicigoi, recently acquired from the Ontario Hockey League’s North Bay Battalion, for a 39-save shutout.

“We played a sound game on Saturday. I think it was our best 60 minutes as a team. We didn’t really have any letdowns or breakdowns, and the boys put in a huge effort,” Ramsay said. “With Cicigoi, he’s a good goalie who brings some leadership to our back end. Bringing him in was a big trade for us, and he’s settled in nicely so far.

The Oct. 18 return match-up in Cobourg was a barnburner, a frenetic back-and-forth game resulting in a 6-5 loss for the Huskies.

The team started poorly, quickly finding themselves down 2-0. Forward Sam Solarino was handed a game misconduct for

fighting at 6:59. That inspired the Huskies, who scored two goals – at 10:34 and 12:39 of the opening period – to tie the game. The first was a clever finish from Tarr, off a Stevenson pass. The second was a short-handed goal by Saini – who finished a two-on-one after a give-and-go with Nicholas Athanasakos.

The Cougars’ Steve Whittle then fired his second of the game at 14:23, giving the home side the lead at the end of the first period. Isaac Pascoal extended the Cougars’ lead mid-way through the second.

Tarr brought the Huskies back in the game with an absolute beauty on the breakaway at 2:32 of the third.

There was controversy at the mid-way point of the period, when a Huskies apparent goal was waived off. Ramsay said he was told the puck had struck both posts, but didn’t cross the line. Nine seconds later, the Cougars extended their lead to 5-3.

The Huskies replied with spirit and character. Tarr grabbed his hat-trick at 14:47, before Athanasakos notched his first goal as a Huskie, tying the game 37 seconds later.

But the team’s excitement was short-lived as the Cougars’ Kallaway Mercer pounced on a defensive error to fire in the game winner at 15:50.

Ramsay said, “Obviously there’s disappointment that we didn’t get the two points, but the compete level was there. We pretty much only had two and a half lines,



Oliver Tarr is denied a goal, after a good save from Cougar’s goaltender Mason Vaccari. Photo by Mike Baker.

so I think the boys did pretty well.”

Tarr is now at the top of the OJHL’s scoring leader charts, leading all players with nine goals in six games.

“Oliver’s a great player. He’s a young man that grew late, and is still really coming into his body. But I can’t say enough about the kid on and off the ice – he is, in my opinion, the best player in the league,” Ramsay said.

Tarr deflected the credit to his linemates.

“In these past couple of games, the puck just seemed to find its way on my stick, but I can’t not credit my boys for finding me

when I’m in good positions,” Tarr said.

An assistant captain, Tarr has enjoyed a leadership role with the Huskies. He said he wants the team to make the playoffs, and secure himself a scholarship for Division 1 hockey in the U.S.

The Huskies are 3-3 on the season, in last place in the East Division.

The Huskies have added forwards Christian Stevens from the Battalion and Graham Dickerson from the Kitchener Rangers. Both are expected to play Oct. 23 vs the Wellington Dukes. Puck drop in Minden at 4:30 p.m.

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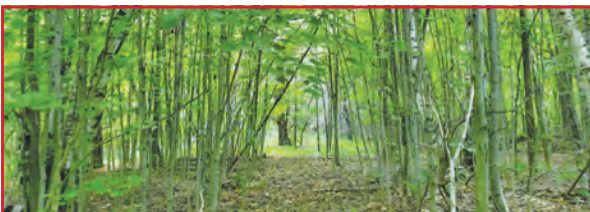
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# What's on

## Powerful women to gather for Halloween

By Sam Gillett

Fire dancers and aerial acrobats are coming to Abbey Gardens Oct. 22 and Oct. 23 for "Theatre on FIRE: The Witches."

It's a collaboration between NorthFIRE Circus, a troupe that's performed multiple times at the Gardens, and The Bass Witch Coven.

"We are drawing the parallels with the story of the witches with our own feminism," said NorthFIRE and Bass Witch member Jessica Clayton. "It's about witches being healers, powerful women in society who were oppressed."

The show revolves around three central characters' neopagan tradition: the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone.

"We kind of take that story and use it to perform our fire dance and be powerful women on stage, hopefully inspiring people to come to our performance, both men and women alike," Clayton said.

"The Witches" is produced, performed, and choreographed by women.

"It's going to be a very different show," said Clayton, mentioning how the choreography, production and style have changed from their show last year.

And it falls right near Halloween when all things witches and magic are top of mind

for many.

"It falls on a time of year we really love to perform this kind of a show, bringing that really powerful feminine energy but also it's in the spirit of Halloween."

NorthFIRE dancers celebrate the season with flaming batons and ropes as well as using aerial silks to perform twirling acrobatics, all to the electronica of Toronto-based producer Jonah K.

Alongside the performers will be a custom-made projection display by artist Jax A Muse.

All attendants will be seated in physically-distanced circles in the Gardens' Little Pit gravel pit.

Proof of vaccination is mandatory, and those over 12 must show their vaccination along with a government-issued ID.

NorthFIRE Circus is a performance troupe that has toured extensively around Ontario, bringing shows such as "From Chaos to Calm" and last year's performance of "The Witches" to the Highlands.

"We've really realized how important performing and bringing artistic experiences to rural Ontario is for us," said Hoops.

Tickets for "Theatre on Fire: The Witches" are available at [northfirecircus.com/the-witches](http://northfirecircus.com/the-witches)



NorthFIRE Circus dancers at last year's performance of "The Witches." Submitted.

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## OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Betty Williams**  
**(nee Secker)**  
**October 7, 2021**  
*(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)*

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Betty Williams. She passed peacefully at Highland Wood on October 7, 2021 in her 90th year. Pre-deceased by her loving husbands, Thomas and Maxwell. Adoring Mother to Bill, David (Sherrill), Bob, and Richard. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Robbie and Ryan. Missed by her sisters Anne and Pat in England. Missed by the friends she made at Highland Wood.

Betty enjoyed the many years she spent living in Lakefield, Ontario. She loved to sing, dance, and adored animals. Her kindness touched all.

### Gathering & Burial

Betty's urn will be buried at Honor Oak Crematorium in London, England. She will be laid to rest with her family there. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or The Alzheimer's Society of Canada would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario.



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Debbie Grozelle**  
**(nee Brown)**

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on October 13, 2021, surrounded by family. Debbie passed away in her 66th year. Daughter to the late Brenda (1995) & Albert (2003). Best

friend and wife to Don. Loving mother to Melissa (Mike) and step mother to Cam (Bonnie), Donald Jr. (Kendi), Sean (Joan), Dean (Kim), Kerry (Mary), and Candace. Fondly remembered by her sister Susan (Ron), her many grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Debbie lived a peaceful and quiet life at her home in the Highlands.

### Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to The Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13525 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209.



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Ella Aileen Smith**  
**(nee Barry)**

Passed away at home in Eagle Lake on Saturday, October 16, 2021, with her loving husband and daughter by her side, in her 88th year.

Beloved wife of Lloyd Smith for one month shy of 70 years. Loving mother of Teresa (the late Jim) Allison, Beverley Smith, Fred (Sybil) Smith, Jim (Jeanie) Smith, Gary (Bev) Smith, and Alec (Laurie) Smith. Loving granny of 18 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. Dear sister of Geraldine (Paul) Espie, Carol Johnston, predeceased by her brother Jack Barry, and by her sisters Noreen Leahy, Barb Keefer and Allison Soper. Fondly remembered by her brother-in-law Grant Smith and by her many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

In keeping with Ella's wishes, cremation has taken place. Private family arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



## SOLUTIONS FOR OCTOBER 14

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

# Highlander classifieds

## HELP WANTED



### The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Full-time Finance Assistant

The successful applicant must have progressive municipal and accounting experience, knowledge of standard accounting practices and be highly proficient with computer software including Microsoft Office applications.

Accounts payable & receivable are the core duties of this position. Please visit our website at [www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers](http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers) for a detailed posting and job description.

The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$29.53.

Please forward your resume to [shume@haliburtoncounty.ca](mailto:shume@haliburtoncounty.ca) no later than October 31, 2021.

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.



### FULL TIME EQUIPMENT OPERATORS NEEDED FOR THE ROADS DEPARTMENT

Duties include: various construction activities, snow/ice removal, maintenance and repair services to roads, bridges, culverts, drainage and other road works maintenance. Knowledge of and ability to use equipment, vehicles and materials used in road construction and maintenance is required. Must have a valid "DZ" Drivers Licence. Experience operating a grader is preferred. 42 hours/week, with hours subject to change seasonally. Rate of pay is \$25.24/hour as per the LOCAL 4286 Collective Agreement. Earnings will be subject to Union dues. Vacation, benefits package and pension plan included. Opportunities for training and development also provided.

**How to Apply:** Email or drop off a cover letter and resume to Shannon Prentice, Deputy Clerk at [sprentice@mindenhills.ca](mailto:sprentice@mindenhills.ca).

Visit our website at [www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/) for job postings and more information.



*an unwavering belief in people and possibilities*

SIRCH Community Services is a highly regarded Ontario non profit organization whose mandate is to level the playing field, reduce poverty, foster connection and build skills.

### Children's Activity Assistant Join our Haliburton team!

If you..

- Love planning activities for toddlers and preschoolers
- Have 3-5 years of experience working with children
- Are a team player
- Love the notion of helping young moms thrive
- Are professional, ethical and reliable
- Are sensitive to some of the struggles families face

This position is permanent, part time. An ECE is significantly advantageous.

**To discuss further,  
email us at [info@sirch.on.ca](mailto:info@sirch.on.ca)  
or call us at 705-457-1742.**



### JOB POSTING:

### CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY THERAPIST (FULL-TIME)

We are currently offering a full-time position in our clinic for a Child, Youth & Family Therapist. Responsibilities and duties include completing assessments and providing support to children, youth and parents in Haliburton County to address social, emotional and behavioural needs.

The ideal candidate will be a Registered Social Worker or Registered Psychotherapist with a background in mental health and an interest in the issues impacting the children, youth, and families in our community.

Point in Time is committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with and encourages applications from diverse backgrounds. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.

Visit [www.pointintime.ca](http://www.pointintime.ca) for a detailed job description.  
Please send cover letter and resume to [HR@pointintime.ca](mailto:HR@pointintime.ca) by  
**October 29, 2021.**

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents  
PO Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

**ROOFERS WANTED** – Local roofing company looking for reliable roofers and laborers. We offer competitive wages, paid travel time, and reliable work throughout the season. Applicants must have experience and knowledge of roofing procedures, materials and tools and be comfortable working at heights. "Working At Heights" Certificate an asset but willing to train. To apply please contact John at 705-879-2427

**NORTH STEEL – HIRING WELDER FITTERS.** Full time employment year round. Benefit package. Competitive wages. Call 705-457-6670

### CARETAKER/MAINTENANCE

staff required by general contractor. Must be experienced and have the following skill sets: carpentry, housekeeping, knowledge of electrical, plumbing/heating and overall general seasonal maintenance. Call 705-457-1224 or email [info@rodcoen.com](mailto:info@rodcoen.com)

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# Highlander puzzles

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### Ruff Life

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Having a commanding presence?
- 6 Puck dropper at centre ice
- 9 Hit the road
- 14 Computer code initials
- 15 Spell dog D-A-W-G, say
- 16 Laundry units
- 17 Opposite of old, in French
- 18 Straight-legged march
- 20 Beginning of a quip about a pampered pooch
- 22 Ending with brom- or chlor-
- 23 Something heaved
- 24 "As Time Goes By" player
- 27 Canadian songstress \_\_\_\_ Jordan
- 30 Did away with slowly, with "out"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18			19					
20						21								
			22					23						
24	25	26		27		28	29		30			31	32	33
34			35			36		37			38			
39					40					41				
42					43					44				
45				46			47		48			49		
			50			51			52		53			
	54	55					56	57				58	59	60
61										62				
63						64				65				
66						67				68				

34 Opt (to)

36 Words of woe

38 Farmer's outbuilding

39 Middle of the quip

42 Early Peruvian

43 Farming prefix

44 "Peachy!"

45 Comparatively close

47 Guinness Book suffixes

49 Book end?

50 "\_\_\_\_ of the D'Urbervilles"

52 Crazy way to go

54 End of the quip

61 Words after an interruption

62 Fixer-upper's need

63 Less dated

64 Works for an ed.

65 Crow or Cree

66 Makes one's way (along)

67 Barstool warmer

68 Cattle man?

Down

- 1 Mexican peninsula
- 2 Sugary suffixes
- 3 Lowly creep
- 4 Commandments mount
- 5 Makes way for
- 6 Signed up: Abbr.
- 7 Switch add-on
- 8 Tadpole's parents
- 9 Yuletide transport
- 10 Pronto, pretentiously
- 11 Plaster partner
- 12 Lightbulb in a strip
- 13 One-third of a tbsp.
- 19 Interac actions, at times
- 21 Perrins's partner in the sauce
- 24 European finch
- 25 Mme. Chrétien
- 26 Islamic holy destination
- 28 Vocalized a Verdi line
- 29 Kipling's \_\_\_\_ Khan ("Tiger King")
- 31 Rope-making fibre

32 First class class

33 Words with disturb or touch

35 Rented, as a houseboat

37 CATs' kin

40 1955 Pact signing site

41 On and off

46 Moray pursuers

48 "She's So High" singer  
Bachman

51 Too-good-to-be-true emails,  
often

53 Use force

54 You of yore

55 Felled, as a fir

56 \_\_\_\_ buco (veal dish)

57 It's shaken in anger

58 Together, in Trois-Rivières

59 Courtroom clothing

60 Belgian river

61 U-turn from ESE

### SUDOKU

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

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

1	M	A	C	L	E	A	N		8	A	L	A	M	O	S			
14	I	N	R	A	N	G	E		15	C	O	L	O	N	Y			
16	S	O	U	P	V	E	G		17	E	T	A	B	L	E	S		
18	E	N	I	D				19	S	M	S		20	E	D	I	T	H
		22	S	O	U	S		25	B	U	S	R	I	D	E	S		
27	F	L	I	G	H	T	Y		30	P	E	T	N	A	M	E		
31	I	O	N		32	S	O	T	S		34	D	A	G				
35	N	I	G	H		37	L	D	O	P	A		39	S	N	O	W	
		43	E	E	L			45	R	O	T	S		47	U	K	E	
48	S	C	O	R	N	E	D		52	G	E	T	S	M	A	D		
54	H	O	M	E	I	N	O	N		56	R	U	T	S				
57	A	N	E	G	G		D	O	A				60	A	K	A	S	
	63	F	R	O	M		S	O	U	P		65	T	O	N	U	T	S
	67	A	T	E	A	S	E			68	P	A	D	D	L	E	R	
	69	B	A	S	S	E	S			70	T	U	S	S	L	E	S	

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**Top 10 Questions Boomers Should Be Asking.**

Contact me to receive your copy.

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Call or text  
705-306-0491



**MARGIE PRESTWICH\***  
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- \$499,000 GRACE RIVER**
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  - 75 ft. frontage of clean sandy shoreline
  - Garage with workshop, private dock



- \$474,900 GULL LAKE**
- Neat and clean 3 bedroom open concept cottage
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  - Year round access 5 minutes from Minden village



- \$249,900 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD.**
- 2.49 acres, 275 feet frontage
  - Level lot, drilled well in place, close to amenities
  - Build the business of your dreams



- \$174,900 COUNTY ROAD 121**
- 1 bedroom cabin on year round municipal road
  - 2.97 acres, park-like property, close to trails
  - Full kitchen, large enclosed porch, high speed available



- \$149,900 DRAG RIVER**
- 0.66 acres, 150.9 feet frontage
  - Paved year round access off cul-de-sac
  - Driveway and building site roughed in



- \$84,900 NORLEY RD.**
- 1.2 acres, 187 feet frontage
  - Hydro and Bell along lot, year round municipal access
  - Level lot, sandy soil, great building condition



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Muriel Brown

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