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# The Highlander

Thursday **December 9 2021** | Issue 519

**INSIDE: CAO SAYS COVID SPEEDS UP SERVICE DELIVERY PROCESS PAGE 6 FREE**



## Christmas drive-thru style

Rotaract club member Vivian Collings readies gift bags for a family during the Rotary Club of Haliburton's second drive-thru style Rotary Christmas Party Dec. 4 at Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC. Cars lined up to roll through the dealership's garage, where the man in red was ready to hear Christmas wishes and Rotary elves delivered pizza, juice boxes and gift bags to the children. "Santa, are you vaxxed?" asked one child from a passing car. "Of course!" he called back, followed by a customary "ho ho ho." *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

## Builders say tough to meet housing ask

By Mike Baker

A new provincial report estimates about 1,200 new homes will have to be built in the County over the next decade to keep up with projected population changes. But officials from the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) say they're not sure the target is realistic.

Canadian economist Mike Moffatt held a virtual webinar Nov. 25. He outlined a "desperate need" for more housing. He predicted by 2031 more than one million new homes will be required in Ontario.

In the Highlands, experts say the population is expected to grow by more than 10 per cent over the next decade, and with housing already in demand, it's going to place enormous pressure on the market. Moffatt said there needs to be 1,190 new single-family homes built locally by 2031.

Aggie Tose, HCHBA executive officer, said a lack of buildable space, convoluted municipal planning and application processes, and resistance from existing property owners means the target will likely be difficult to reach.

"Like we've seen already [with existing proposals], nobody wants to see development in their backyard, and there's really not a whole lot of space for us to build. Planning takes a long time to move forward. I think that's a big number to hit over the next 10 years," Tose said.

### Local options

While the Highlands is home to some of the most expansive green spaces anywhere in the province, most of that land is

untouchable, Tose says, either protected by provincial or federal authorities, privately-owned, or within close enough proximity to a water source that it is already at maximum capacity.

Space for considerable developments, such as a new multi-home subdivision, is at a premium. Tose says there's no indication that such a build is on the horizon anywhere in Haliburton County. Options within Minden and Haliburton villages are almost non-existent, too, she says.

Continued 'Complex' on page 4-5

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# Highlander news

## COVID outbreak declared at J.D. Hodgson

By Mike Baker

A COVID-19 outbreak has been declared at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School after three cases of the virus were identified among students last week.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit says two cases were detected on Dec 4, with another identified over the weekend. Letters were sent to parents Dec. 6.

“Provincial guidance requires a school outbreak be declared when two or more linked confirmed cases occur within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school,” Bill Eekhof, TLDSB spokesperson, told *The Highlander*.

Eekhof said one classroom at J.D. Hodgson has been affected by this outbreak.

The situation is linked to an ongoing COVID-19 outbreak declared on school bus No. 32 in Haliburton County. As reported in last week’s edition of the paper, that bus was used to transport students to multiple schools in the area, including J.D. Hodgson, Stuart Baker Elementary School and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. All individuals who rode the bus and were identified as possible high-risk contacts were instructed to isolate and get tested.

Two positive cases from that outbreak have been confirmed to be students from Stuart Baker.

The positive cases interrupted the



Three J.D. Hodgson students tested positive for COVID-19, prompting an HKPR outbreak declaration. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Highland Storm schedule this past weekend.

While 13 cases of the new Omicron variant have been identified in Ontario since its emergence last month, Eekhof was keen to contain any worry, saying “at this

time, the health unit has not been notified of any local cases of Omicron variant in its region. The Delta variant remains the dominant stream of COVID-19 locally and across Ontario.”

Anyone with questions or concerned are encouraged to contact HKPR at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1508.

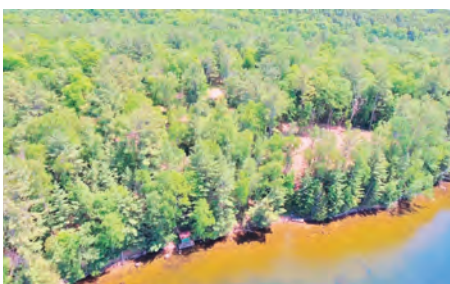


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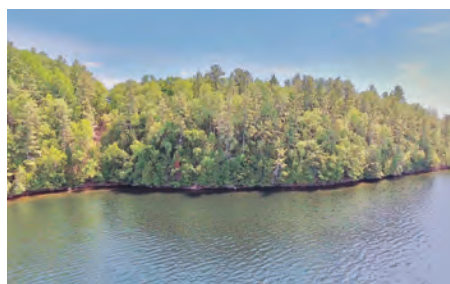
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# Highlander news

## Doc head-hunter hits the ground running

By Lisa Gervais

Wendy Welch hit the road last week, a potential doctor in tow, as she tried to entice the visitor to relocate to the Highlands.

The new physician recruitment coordinator said the female doctor and her family are considering moving to the area.

So, she and former coordinator Cheryl Kennedy drove in their car, and the doctor and her family in their car - for a tour, communicating via speaker phone.

"We made her feel very welcome," Welch said.

She said it is just one area where pivoting and compromise has been required due to the pandemic.

Welch is into her third week as the County's part-time physician recruitment coordinator.

A former Minden Hills area cottager, she moved to the County full-time four years ago. Her background is in nursing.

At her last job, as an external nurse assessor with Veterans Affairs Canada, she said she met with physicians regularly. She also did sales and marketing.

"So, that's why when I saw this job posting, it kind of popped out at me and I thought 'ok, this seems like it would fit different parts of my background'."

She said COVID cancelled a number of in-person career fairs at Ontario medical schools, but they are starting up again.

They are for residents who are graduating,

looking at where they're going to practice. They have been virtual and on Zoom, "which is awkward and challenging," Welch said.

However, she plans to attend one at Western University Jan. 28 with others at McMaster, Queen's and the University of Ottawa scheduled.

"I'll be there representing Haliburton County and be able to talk to them face-to-face about what we can offer, there's a lot of value in that."

She said the County would like to recruit four doctors.

Being relatively new to the area, she said she understands some of the concerns around practising in rural and regional Ontario and housing.

"I can relate to people saying 'there's nowhere to shop here, what do you do? Or what about if you need the care of a specialist? Then what? Where do you go and how does that work?'"

She said she feels like she can help them problem solve.

The County has a home it's renting the main floor of for physicians to stay in on a temporary basis.

Welch said she has been involved in developing properties since moving to the County. While not a real estate agent, she said she has her finger on the pulse and could help people in their search.

In addition to working with regional



Wendy Welch is the new County physician recruitment coordinator. Photo submitted.

partners, she plans to connect with interns and residents, and doctors that have already worked in the local system for short periods of time. "Talking about their goals and see if practising in Haliburton County full-time could be an option."

Welch said she is grateful that Kennedy - who was successful in getting two doctors - is showing her the ropes.

"My hope is to be just as successful as she has been."

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# Highlander news

## Complex problem requires government buy-in

Continued from page 1

The responsibility, she believes, falls on the County and the four lower-tier municipalities to come up with a plan to tackle housing shortages.

"Something has to change, otherwise we're going to be left behind," she added.

### CAO 'shocked' by stats

Haliburton County CAO Mike Rutter admitted he was shocked by some of the numbers presented in Moffatt's report.

He said housing is a "complex problem" that requires buy-in from all tiers of government if it is to be addressed properly. He pointed to the County's work with the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation as proof the municipality is taking issues surrounding homelessness and housing affordability seriously.

Many of the development proposals he has seen focus on multi-unit residential builds such as apartments and condos, which may not appeal to young families looking to enter the market.

Rutter says more needs to be done to encourage developers to invest in the Highlands.

"There are a lot of things we're doing, either through the service delivery review or other avenues, that may result in people wanting to develop in the County," Rutter said.

In a 2014 growth management strategy report adopted by County council, it was noted population increases would create a demand for 1,910 new residential units in the Highlands by 2036.



The Whispering Pines housing development on County Road 21. *File.*

Moffatt warns the projections outlined in his report *Baby Needs a New Home* are likely lower than the actual demand in some communities. He added many will be forced to look beyond the GTA if they want to buy a home of their own.

It's happening in the County already, with many people relocating to the area since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A housing shortage in Toronto is a problem for everyone in Ontario," Moffatt said. "We're starting to see population growth happening in smaller communities that hadn't really experienced much population growth since the 1960s, and you're getting higher housing prices that begin in the GTA and start to transmit all over the province."

### Housing numbers

While the County has the 2014 report, there's real plan to bring a large supply of new units to the Highlands to sustain growth targets, Tose said.

Over the past 10 years, based on statistics provided by each of the four lower tier municipalities, there have been 1,360 new

## INFORMATION PAGE

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#### (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:

#### **December 9**

Regular Council and Public Meetings and 2nd Round of the 2022 Budget Deliberations

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December.

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

dwelling built in Haliburton County. A significant number of those involved demolition of an existing home.

While slightly different given their mandate is to support the development of affordable housing, the KLH Housing Corporation says it projects 750 new units will be needed across the County to support population growth over the next 10 years.

Manager Michelle Corley said statistics suggest if there are more apartment-type builds in the future, that could free up enough single-family homes to help offset some of the excess demand for that type of property.

“Our existing households are very small in nature. One and two person households in the County make up 77.2 per cent of the household population ... however, in the County 92.8 per cent of the current dwelling type is single-detached homes,” Corley said. “This suggests that a lot of our households are ‘over housed’.”

## People are leaving

Karen Morgan moved to the County with her husband and young child in 2019. At the time rental properties were already scarce, but they were able to get a place in Wilberforce.

Months later, after a separation, Morgan found herself in the unenviable position of trying to find another apartment on a fixed income. She had \$800 per month for accommodation through ODSP, but that wasn’t enough. She eventually found a place in Highland Grove, where her landlord accepted significantly less than market value for a two-bedroom house.

“Things were great, then our landlord decided to sell,” Morgan said. She was given until Nov. 1 to find a new home for herself and her five-year-old daughter.

“I must have viewed more than 40 apartments, but they would go before I even had chance to get an application in,” she said.



Housing continues to be an issue for some Highlands residents. Photo by Mike Baker.

In the end, Morgan was forced to leave the County. She is now in Orillia, though hopes to be able to move back to the community so that her daughter can be closer to her father.

## What's next?

Tose reiterated there’s a need for almost all types of development in the Highlands. She

said the recent influx of new residents to the County, and an increase in the number of locals being forced away, suggests a change in approach may be required.

“Our college wants to expand, our businesses want to grow, and people are moving here, so we really don’t have any option other than to build. Where we’re going to build though, I don’t know. Looking between [Haliburton] and Minden,

there’s not a lot of good land. And wherever we do build, it can’t be too far outside of the centres because of infrastructure and transportation,” Tose said. “I don’t love the idea of apartments, and I know the word subdivision is almost a foofoo here in Haliburton County ... but as has been pointed out, the growth is here today. It’s very clear. It’s not going away, so we have to make a plan for the future.”

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# Highlander news

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County of Haliburton CAO Mike Rutter is overseeing the services delivery review process. *File.*

## Townships continue work on service review

By Lisa Gervais

County of Haliburton CAO Mike Rutter says COVID has helped speed up the service delivery review (SDR) process and residents should see improvements and savings in the coming months.

Much of the work is being done behind the scenes by staff of the County, Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills. However, the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) has been invited to the building, bylaw and septic working group.

Working groups are meeting regularly and report back to County council on a quarterly basis.

Rutter said since the pandemic began, the five CAOs have met once a week and that is continuing via Zoom.

"We simply did not communicate as often, or as well, prior to COVID. I would actually say we have come further, faster, on the service delivery review because of that meeting format," he said.

The most recent SDR steering committee with County councillors was on Nov. 24.

Rutter is at the helm of the review, based on the 140-page report from consultants Strategy Corp., who identified 12 broad initiatives aimed at finding more than \$900,000 in operational efficiencies and about \$200,000 in productivity gains by getting the five corporations to work together better.

Rutter said it's expected to take three years

to complete, or into 2023.

"While not everything will be fully implemented by then, I do think the respective councils will have made decisions on many of the recommendations in that timeframe," Rutter said.

However, he added, "That does not mean they will support every recommendation, but I do believe they will have all been debated and direction provided in that three-year horizon."

Rutter said he believes some changes will be implemented in the coming months. For example, the County has created, and now successfully recruited for, a director of economic development and tourism. Scott Ovell started Nov. 8, coming from the Town of Huntsville.

"As a result, residents should see improved service delivery/savings in those areas in the near term," Rutter said.

County councillors also gave the green light to hiring a procurement coordinator. However, they have been unable to find a candidate so that remains on hold as of now. The other suggested positions, for which there has been no movement to date, include an in-house legal position and a communications officer and grant writer.

### Building bylaw and septic

Referring to the building, bylaw and septic working group, Rutter said they

will be reviewing bylaw enforcement and developing a recommendation on the potential for integration of that service in the near future.

The HCHBA declined to be interviewed, saying "we are very pleased to be included in the process with the County and the municipalities."

According to meeting notes from Oct. 20, they asked that "given the level of activity in the building industry right now, is this the time to make monumental change like this?" They added if there is change, they want assurances service levels will not decrease during the transition.

The builders wanted to know if more municipal staff would be required. The answer was the model doesn't include more inspectors, and it's not yet known whether bylaw enforcement would be integrated.

The HCHBA also asked if changes would help the township attract more qualified staff. The answer was it was possible and there could be other benefits.

The builders said more discussion is needed on the pros and cons of having dedicated septic inspectors versus building officials who also do septic inspections. The four municipalities provide the services in a different way.

They said "consistency is critical" and were told an integrated model would result in consistent forms, interpretations, and approach.

The builders also wanted to know about maintaining connections with planning

staff they are already dealing with at each township. According to the notes, it's an area requiring more work.

The working group also had a number of questions for the builders. They wanted to know if it is important to have a physical office in each of the local municipalities. The HCHBA said that would be preferred. They said not everyone would be willing or able to submit plans electronically.

### Councillor says towns must 'work together'

Minden Hills Coun. Bob Carter, who has been keenly watching the process, said the need for change is crucial.

"We have four different criteria for the minimum size dwelling in the area. We have different rules for setbacks and little minor things like that, that drive builders crazy.

"I recall being in the office [Minden Hills] pre-pandemic and a builder came in and was showing the building department the plans for a garage he was building and they told him, 'well, you can't do that, and you can't do that,' and he said 'but I just took these same plans to Dysart et al and got approved'. And they said, 'oh well, that's Dysart'.

"That's craziness and it's hurting us all. I think that we have to work together."



# Highlander news

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## HHHS reports \$613,000 deficit

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is in a precarious financial position according to board chair David O'Brien, who says the organization is waiting on nearly \$3 million of COVID-19 related funding from the provincial government.

During a Dec. 2 board meeting, O'Brien said HHHS was "experiencing another very challenging year" in light of the ongoing pandemic. The organization is reporting a budget deficit of \$613,000 as of Sept. 30, although O'Brien indicated that number is likely significantly higher today. He noted the third quarter financials, once in, were "not going to be pretty."

Year to date the organization has seen lost revenues of approximately \$372,000, while staffing expenses are way up, totalling more than \$350,000. This is largely attributed to the use of staffing agencies to maintain services and miscellaneous recruitment costs, said Carolyn Plummer, HHHS president and CEO. A "significant" increase in housekeeping hours and security services has also impacted the budget.

O'Brien noted HHHS is experiencing cash flow issues, which is making things difficult operationally. As reported in the Nov. 25 *Highlander*, the organization is preparing to reduce services at its facilities in Haliburton and Minden in the near future, although that decision is being driven by staff shortages, according to Plummer.

"These challenges are particularly onerous on small rural hospitals who have very, very limited sources of external revenue that they can depend upon," O'Brien said. "We're going to continue to have serious issues going forward into the new year."

The money HHHS is owed by the province is accounted for in the budget, meaning when it comes in the organization will still have a fairly substantial shortfall. In her report to the board, Plummer stated she was still waiting on reimbursements for pandemic-related expenses dating back to March 2021.

MPP Laurie Scott did not respond to questions surrounding the funding as of press time.

### Emergency department closures

Plummer said an announcement on pending emergency department closures is coming, with the organization ironing out the details



HHHS is still to decide which of its two hospitals will be most impacted by planned emergency department service reductions. *File.*

on a new long-term service plan.

It is unclear at this time whether those changes will impact the Minden hospital, Haliburton hospital, or both. Plummer has previously stated that HHHS will ensure at least one emergency department is available at all times.

"Work is still underway to analyze some information that we have available to us, and to seek feedback from various groups," Plummer said.

HHHS physicians and clinicians have been involved in the process, she said. Other stakeholders such as Haliburton County Paramedic Services, Ontario Health, and community partners have also provided feedback.

Once a decision has been made, it will be shared at least 48 hours before any changes are implemented so as to give the community time to prepare.

"I don't think any of us wanted to see this happen, but it is the reality [of our situation]," Plummer said.

### Facility enhancements

HHHS has hired Thom Runciman to serve as environmental services supervisor. Plummer said he has a lot of experience in long-term care, and would be working to improve some of the organization's cleaning and maintenance protocols post-COVID-19.

Work to bring HHHS up to standards through the Johnson Controls Energy Efficiency Initiative is close to completion, Plummer noted. Staff have recently finished upgrading LED lighting throughout all

HHHS facilities, while a new building automation system has been installed.

"This system allows us to continuously monitor heating, cooling and ventilation trends in our main facilities, to help ensure our heating and air conditioning systems are functioning properly to maintain a comfortable environment for our patients, residents and staff," Plummer said.

The planned long-term care nurse call system replacement project will be completed at Highland Wood this month, with work to begin at Hyland Crest early next year. Plummer says the old system was outdated and difficult for residents to use. The project was funded by the HHHS Foundation.

### The magic of giving

The local hospital foundation reports it is off to "a very strong start" with its annual festive fundraiser. While she didn't provide any numbers, executive director Lisa Tompkins said she was "very grateful for, and very humbled" by the generosity of the Highlands community, who has continued to support the foundation throughout the pandemic.

All money raised through the Believe in the Magic of Giving campaign is donated back to HHHS to fund equipment and facility upgrades and service enhancements.

Tickets for the foundation's December 50/50 draw are still available, with an early bird draw taking place on Dec. 15 and grand prize draw happening Dec. 31.

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# Editorial opinion

## TheHighlander

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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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## You should care about the SDR

I would encourage the public to tune into the County service delivery review (SDR) steering committee meetings. The next one will likely be held in March or April via Zoom and YouTube.

I watched the Nov. 24 one and learned a lot about what is going on behind the scenes. There are a number of working groups, mostly comprising staff from the five townships, who meet frequently to chip away at recommendations in the November 2020 SDR. At the quarterly meetings at County council, you get a glimpse into what they're doing.

It also gives insight into what seems to be going smoothly and what isn't going so well, and those who appear more open to change than others.

At first glance, it struck me that it's going to take years. Turns out, I'm not wrong. CAO Mike Rutter said there's basically a three-year window from when the report was delivered in November 2020, which takes us to the fall of 2023.

Procedure-wise it's not simply a County council decision-making process, either. Each municipality will be voting on various recommendations before they are implemented. In other words, not all of them may be adopted if there is not the

political will.

There has been some movement. For example, Scott Ovell began his job as the new director of economic development and tourism on Nov. 8. It was one of five new positions recommended in the SDR to support coordination and increased service levels. The townships have also signed off on hiring a procurement specialist to achieve savings through better sourcing.

The only problem is they can't find anyone. I laud the building, bylaw and septic working group for inviting the Haliburton County Home Builders Association to the table. The human resources working group had Kyle Brewer attend a meeting. What better input than to hear from customers, or potential service providers, directly? We would encourage the other working groups to consider opening the door to dialogue with other key customers and user groups in the County.

I found the fire and emergency management discussion notes perhaps the most interesting, as well as what Dysart et al fire Chief Mike Iles had to say on behalf of the group.

They have basically discounted much of the SDRs recommendations, saying they already have a hybrid approach to

training and other collaborations they say were not reflected in the SDR report. However, they want a countywide community emergency management

coordinator, not recommended in the report.

The roads, bridges and drainage working group is looking into things such as joint tenders for engineering services and automated traffic control. The waste management group is exploring an integrated waste management program and joint hazardous waste events. The planning group is discussing the County doing all pre-consultation work for consent applications and a consolidated County official plan and harmonized fees. The human resources group is investigating pooling benefits.

This is just a quick snapshot of some of the work taking place. All of the eventual changes will affect you in some way, so it's a good idea to keep an eye on the process. I know we will.



By Lisa Gervais

## Funding Bezos' rocket

In late November, Highlanders lined the main streets of Minden and Haliburton to wave at Santa, the grinch, dancing elves and kids on floats grinning from ear to ear.

Around half the floats were sponsored by local businesses, often with the owners or their families riding on board.

Some of the County's most popular vendors didn't show up.

There was no Amazon float. Costco's board of directors weren't waving to the crowd; BestBuy didn't make an appearance either.

Jeff Bezos has almost certainly never heard of the Highland Storm, let alone donated money to fund a kid's hockey team or held a toy drive for a Highlands public school.

Short on cash? Not likely. Amazon's profits rose to more than \$100 billion a quarter in the first half of 2021, shipping with razor-sharp precision at a speed even Saint Nick would struggle to match.

If anything, COVID-19 has expanded the largest vendors' reach.

It's the local businesses who've felt the brunt of COVID-19: tourism operators, marinas, restaurants and car dealerships who are actively working in the County.

And many are struggling with long-term impacts of COVID-19: we reported on supply chain woes in late summer that still threaten nearly every niche, and the Highlands' inhospitable housing market makes it increasingly tough to find retail or service workers.

As a reporter, talking to people brave enough to start their own business is a highlight of the job. However, if I'm honest, I've often clicked "purchase" on gifts online I could have easily gotten from an independent shop within 20 kilometers.

It's the local storefronts that bustle with holiday cheer and garland this time of year. Those are the places that draw visitors and make towns into communities. Those are the places that support County kids with toy drives, gather coats for local families or take the time to get to know your name.

While large corporations strategized Boxing Day marketing, a group of artisans,

crafters and bakers gathered at Abbey Gardens over the weekend to sell their wares: mittens, baking, soaps and paintings that are injected with the personality and care of the maker.

Haliburton's Chamber of Commerce joined regional chambers in a new "Lovin' it Local" marketing initiative, all about increasing local shops' visibility.

In Haliburton, a Ladies Shopping night Dec. 9 is a night of sales, hot chocolate and late hours for local shops.

I recognize there is lots you just can't find without going online. But since I'm the kind of person who shops for Christmas a little last minute, I have a choice to make this holiday season: will I support the businesses working to build the kind of community I want to live in? Or will I chip in for Bezos' next rocket?



By Sam Gillett

*In our Dec. 2 edition The Highlander wrote the Santa Claus float used in the Haliburton parade belonged to the Haliburton Rotary Club. In fact, it was built and is maintained by the Haliburton and District Lions Club. The Highlander regrets the error.*

### 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.



# Editorial opinion

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Luba Cargill sent this photo Dec. 2 of morning sunshine at Kennisis Lake.

## LETTERS

### Housing a balancing act

*Dear editor,*

The column in last week's edition [Dec. 9, 2021] entitled "Housing Need is Great" discusses several housing development proposals under consideration for the Haliburton area, and appears to imply they are all similar in nature when they are actually very different.

For example, the Wallings Road project is being undertaken by a charity to exclusively

create affordable housing. The Grass Lake proposal couldn't be more different, in that it involves waterfront condos (not "apartments" as the article describes) promoted by a profit-oriented private sector developer.

The Grass Lake proposal also involves a site which includes environmentally-sensitive wetlands, threatened species and a lake that has already been designated by the municipality as over-capacity. The Grass Lake project, if approved, is much more

likely to attract higher-end buyers from outside of the region and those interested in an Airbnb type of seasonal rental property than provide affordable accommodation for individuals and families currently in the Haliburton area.

There is no doubt that the local housing need is great. Some potential sites for development are much more suited than others to the type of affordable housing required that do not entail permanent and irreversible damage to the lakes and other

natural features that make the Haliburton area attractive to residents and visitors alike, and also drive the local economy.

The challenge for decision-makers is to balance the pressing short-term need for housing with the longer-term considerations of protection of the wetlands, lakes and other elements that are so critical to this region's future success.

**Catherine Swift**  
*Friends of Grass Lake*

## COVID CORNER

### It's an odds game

Playing the odds. Can you cross the globe in December 2021 without contracting COVID-19? I wonder how many travellers are weighing the risks as they contemplate airports, airplanes, buses, train stations, taxis and the prospect of quarantining on arrival.

At our house we are apprehensively (yet excitedly) adding the ticks in the risk box, weighing against the benefits of an in-the-flesh (and blood!) family Christmas. My sister and her two sons, ages 14 and 10, are coming "home for Christmas." This is their first trip to Canada since pre-COVID, Christmas 2019.

Adding the risks: three international airports, 20+ hours in a tin can with hundreds of exhaling, laughing, coughing globe trotters, a 10-year-old who is not vaccinated (in Singapore they have not yet approved the vaccine for five-to-10-year-olds), the chance of a positive swab on arrival and spending two weeks of holiday in a hotel room at Pearson airport, Omicron - a rapidly spreading and highly contagious virus variant with more than a dozen

mutations, and a strictly imposed quarantine - with tracking ankle bracelets - upon return to Singapore.

On the side of risk-mitigation we have: all adults triple vaxxed, teenager double vaxxed, hand sanitizer, mask adherence, negative PCR swabs prior to departure for all passengers, PCR again on arrival, a safe and spacious place to isolate in our home, rapid swabs on days three and seven (-ish) after arrival, and the likelihood that should anyone in our house get COVID, the illness will not be life-threatening. The percentage of Canadians with two vaccines now is 78, and 83 per cent of Singaporeans are double vaxxed.

My husband calls Nicky (the unvaccinated 10-year-old) the "wild card." He is the one most likely to be infected, and, whether symptomatic or not, the one most at risk of spreading disease to others. Being 10, he is the one least likely to keep the mask firmly in place, wash hands thoroughly and repeatedly, avoid touching anything, and I anticipate is the one to be least tolerant of the swabs.

### Statistics for COVID

In Singapore, 662 new cases are reported in the past 24 hours, total confirmed cases 269,873 with 763 deaths. Globally, there have been 265,713,467 confirmed cases and 5,260,888 deaths reported to the WHO as of Dec. 7. Currently in the USA, more than 6,800 hospital admissions are reported each day and 1,100 deaths every day. In Canada, 219 COVID patients were hospitalized as of Dec. 7 (total in hospital 1,531 right now), 2,976 new cases were diagnosed today (total cumulative 1,815,180) and 181,664 vaccines were given today, for a total of 62,408,994 vaccines.

Omicron is now detected in more than 50 countries, but despite its ability to spread faster than previous variants, it appears Omicron is less deadly. A new preprint study (not yet published or peer reviewed) suggests this variant has picked up genetic code from the HCoV-229E coronavirus, which causes the common cold. They showed that SARS-CoV-2 and HCoV-

229E share the access code to human lung and gut cells (the ACE2 receptor), and it is presumed that in individuals who had both viruses simultaneously the two viruses shared genetic material with each other. This piece of genetic code has not been detected in other coronavirus variants so far, the authors say.

Risk/benefit ratio. The incidence of COVID infections globally weighed against a warm hug and shared laughter decorating a Christmas tree, toasting the new year, cooking together, walking together, tobogganing together, giggling together, dancing together, making snowmen together, and spending time with Gramma who will be 90 in 2022. It's an odds game that I don't think we will lose.



By Dr. Nell Thomas



# Highlander news

## DYSART ET AL NEWS

### Powerboat races may return to Head Lake

Dysart et al council has laid out several stipulations organizers of an annual powerboat racing series will have to meet if they wish to stage an event in Haliburton in 2022.

The Toronto Outboard Racing Club (TORC) plans to take over Head Lake from Aug. 19-22. They wrote a letter to council last month requesting exclusive use of the town docks that weekend, for a portion of the parking lot at Head Lake Park to be closed off and set aside as a staging area for participants, and for municipal staff to pick up and dispose of garbage accumulated over the course of the three-day event.

The series was last held in town in 2019. Attendance is free to the public, with various races taking place on Head Lake throughout the weekend.

Barb Hammond, organizer, says the powerboat races are a significant revenue generator for businesses in Haliburton. She noted some of the money raised, usually around \$1,000, is donated back to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

Ward 2 Coun. Larry Clarke didn't like the idea of essentially shutting down the public docks for an entire weekend, while Ward. 4 Coun. John Smith took exception to the group's request that municipal staff collect and dispose of any garbage generated by race participants.

Council asked staff to report back to TORC, letting them know that, for the event to move forward, they would need to cover the cost of advertising in local newspapers that the docks would be closed that weekend, install their own fences to close off a portion of the Head Lake Park parking lot, and remove their own garbage.



TORC will have to meet several conditions to host its powerboat racing event in Haliburton in 2022. *File.*

### Increase in crime

CAO Tamara Wilbee says the municipality has seen an increase in vandalism and reports of people feeling unsafe in some parts of downtown over the past 12 months.

Several facilities surrounding Head Lake Park, including the Haliburton Public Library, Rails End Gallery and the new Haliburton Welcome Centre have been targeted, with groups gathering near those sites and engaging in drug use, public consumption of alcohol and vandalism. Dan Collings, acting commander of the Haliburton Highlands OPP, said police have been keeping an eye on the area in recent months. Since Jan. 1, he said officers had responded to 16 calls of service in areas around the downtown park.

"Some of these occurrences have been criminal in nature," he said.

Wilbee noted the municipality was in the process of installing surveillance cameras

at several locations in and around the park. Collings added installing additional lighting in problematic spots.

He also touched on complaints from some businesses along Industrial Park Road who say their businesses have been targeted by thieves over the past 12 months. Collings said police responded to three separate incidents in the area over the summer, and found that in two of them items had been stolen from insecure buildings and insecure vehicles.

"Crime prevention can be achieved ... businesses can ramp up their own security, ensure they lock things up properly and don't leave things lying around," Collings said.

### New Welcome Centre 'appreciated'

Andrea Mueller, Dysart's events and recreation coordinator, said the new

Welcome Centre has been very well received by the community since opening July 13.

Over the summer, the facility was open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offered visitors information on the area's hiking and walking trails, accommodation options, and road maps, Mueller said. There were 3,502 visitors from July 13 to Nov. 30.

"Given that there were a lot of traffic restrictions and people weren't freely traveling, we still had people from afar come into the Welcome Centre," Mueller said. "We had visitors from China, Germany, all over the U.S. and the various provinces and territories in Canada."

The facility will be open daily throughout the winter, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Mueller saying there will be materials available for snowmobilers visiting the area. (Dysart news compiled by Mike Baker).



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The Storm's initiation one (top) and two (bottom) teams. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

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DECEMBER 3	
U15 REP vs Ennismore .....	5-1 L
U18 REP vs Lindsay .....	7-4 L
DECEMBER 4	
U13 REP vs Millbrook .....	8-2 L
DECEMBER 5	
U13LL vs South Mukoka .....	4-1 W
U11 REP vs Manvers .....	10-0 W

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Left: Goalie Christian Cicigoi was named a game star for his 22 saves. Top: The team celebrates after Bryce Richardson's winning goal against the Cougars. Bottom: Patrick Saini launches a Huskies attack Dec. 4. *Photos by Sam Gillett.*

## Huskies snarl back against Cougars

By Sam Gillett

The Haliburton County Huskies conquered rival Cobourg Cougars 3-2 at home in a tense come-from-behind victory Dec. 3.

The Cougars capitalized on a poor start by the Huskies, scoring goals with 16:07 and 4:45 to go in the first period, outshooting the home team.

"It wasn't the way we want to conduct ourselves out there," said head coach Ryan Ramsay, who had some "choice words" for his players during the intermission.

"We want guys that work hard and play within a team. Good for the players to rebound and delete that period," he said.

A revitalized home squad hit the ice for the second period.

Lucas Stevenson broke open the Cougars for a first goal, assisted by Cameron

Kosurko and Bryce Richardson.

Coming back from injury, Patrick Saini looked sharp, leading offensive plays and drawing Cougar frustration with some hard hits into the boards.

Saini slotted a second goal home on a Huskies' powerplay deep in the second period with help from Oliver Tarr and Payton Schaly.

"I was happy to be out there to pass it in," Saini said.

With 12 minutes to go in the third, Richardson bulged the netting with a sharp lower corner shot and the team erupted in cheers.

"The win, in general, felt great," he said.

"We just had to out-rough them and play our game." Richardson pointed to the top line's speed and technical skill as key game-

winning ingredients.

"If we played the way we did the last 40 [minutes], we're going to win hockey games," Ramsay said. "Hats off to the players, it's a big two points."

Towering defenceman, Isaac Sooklal, back from injury, was slammed hard into the boards near the end of the second period and sent to hospital for a check-up after being helped off the ice by teammates.

Goalie Christian Cicigoi was named one of the team's stars for his part in fending off 22 shots. Richardson and Saini joined him on the star parade, before hitting the locker room for a post-game dressing room celebration.

Saini said he's excited about the chance to face Cobourg in the playoffs. "Seems like there's some bad blood boiling, obviously

playoff hockey is where everyone wants to shine," he said.

### Triumph in Trenton

Saini shone in a 2-1 away win over conference leaders Trenton Dec. 5. The forward scored twice, assisted by Christian Stevens in the second minute of play, and Ryan Hall and Tarr in the fourth. While a Matthew Cato goal in the second period saw the Golden Hawks nipping at the Huskies' heels, Cicigoi's 33 saves kept the locals on top during a goalless third period.

With two wins in the books, the Huskies sit second in the OJHL's Eastern conference heading into the holiday season.

The squad faces Lindsay away Dec. 10, followed by a 4:30 p.m. home game versus Wellington Dec. 11.



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CENTURY 21



## Stevens boasts big league pedigree

By Mike Baker

While playing in the Ontario Hockey League fulfilled a childhood dream for Christian Stevens, the 19-year-old power forward is having the time of his life with the Haliburton County Huskies.

Signing in October, Stevens has 19 points in 17 games as one of the team's top forwards. He's been named assistant captain, cementing himself as a team leader.

The Brooklin native is treating the move as a homecoming, returning to an organization that gave him his first break three years ago. Stevens cracked the Whitby Fury roster as a 16-year-old in the 2018/19 season, playing 53 games as one of the team's primary checking forwards.

As he developed and grew into his 6-ft 2-inch frame, Stevens was handed a bigger role the next year. He impressed with his early season play, drawing interest from several teams in the Canadian Hockey League.

When the North Bay Battalion approached him, Stevens had to think about it. When he was 15, he committed to playing Division 1 NCAA hockey with the University of Massachusetts Amherst. If he wanted to play in the OHL, he would have to forego that, and a free education.

"I had a day to decide – at the time, UMass were doing really well. They had won a few national championships and had guys like Cale Makar, so I figured it was

going to be hard for a young player like me to crack their roster," Stevens said.

He started to think about the OHL more. He grew up watching the Oshawa Generals and the Peterborough Petes, and as a boy it was a goal to play in the league. "So, I took the opportunity," he added.

Stevens dressed in 22 games for the Battalion in 2019/20, playing alongside future NHL draftees Mason Primeau, Brandon Coe, Matvey Petrov and Joe Vrbetic, and current Huskies teammate Christian Cicigoi.

"It was a big step-up, more so off the ice. We would be at the rink all day, every day. We'd get there at 9 a.m., work out, skate a little bit, grab lunch, and then do a full practice and analysis in the afternoon," Stevens said. "There was a real professional feel, right from day one."

Like the majority of junior hockey players in Canada, COVID put Stevens on the sidelines last year. He returned to the Battalion this season, suiting up in four games before joining the Huskies.

He was hoping to stick in North Bay "but they have such a star-studded team, things just didn't quite work out for me. The break with COVID came at the worst time and deteriorated my play, and so I wasn't in the right spot that I wanted to be in when we got back," Stevens said.

Stevens has one more year of OJHL eligibility beyond this season, but he's looking to enrol in college or university



Christian Stevens joined the Haliburton County Huskies during the early part of the season, following a stint in the OHL. Photo by Mike Baker.

beginning next September. He has a full-ride package available to him as part of the deal he signed with the Battalion.

For now, though, Stevens is back among familiar faces. Head coach Ryan Ramsay has mentored him since he was a boy, and he's grown up playing alongside Isaac Sooklal and Oliver Tarr.

He's also excited about living in Haliburton County.

"I love Northern Ontario. I'd way rather be up here than in the big city. This is a passionate hockey community. The stands are full of fans every game, cheering us on."



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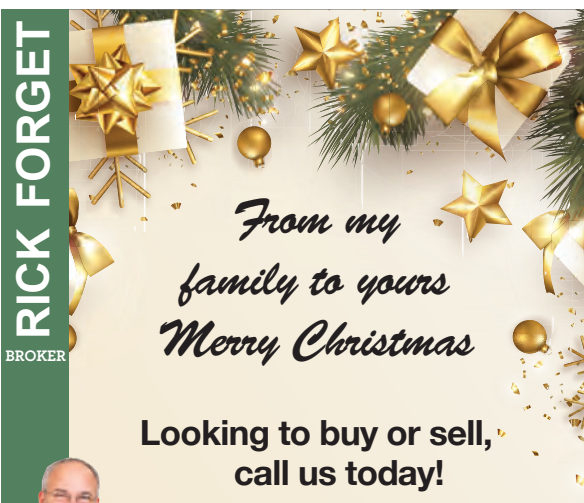
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# Highlander education



Former U-Links environmental program coordinator Brendan Martin at a U-links benthic monitoring clinic on Halls Lake. *File.*

## U-Links calls for curious Highlanders

By Sam Gillett

U-Links Centre for Community Based Research wants to turn questions about Haliburton County into academic studies.

The organization connects community groups and organizations with research teams from Trent University and Fleming College. They've completed local studies on topics from climate change to littering.

In November, they opened the call for 2022 research topics that may be picked up by winter or spring classes at each school.

Sadie Fischer, U-Links program coordinator, said she encourages anyone to come forward with an idea. Then, U-Links can help narrow a research focus or reach out to others who may be able to host research.

"We need a host organization, but that organization can be a business, it can be a volunteer group," she said.

U-Links can help develop project ideas and "define the appropriate research questions," a press release stated.

Fischer mentioned how many 2021 projects, such as benthic biomonitoring as well as monitoring trees in Land Trust forests, were centered on climate change.

"A major need in the community is looking at the environment and factors there," Fischer said.

However, U-Links has facilitated a range of projects on everything from community

development to healthcare outcomes to a wetlands assessment of Gull Lake.

Fischer has already received a number of project proposals this year. For example, Abbey Gardens wants to incorporate indigenous knowledge and practices into its facility, and Fischer said U-Links is developing plans to study the County's youth employment patterns.

Ideas or questions are passed on to research groups or classes within the schools. Sometimes an idea can spawn multiple academic projects.

In 2021, Fleming College students dove into waste management practices and common themes surrounding roadside dumping.

U-Links also conducts community learning activities, such as the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival coordinated by Trent environmental science students.

Fischer said the community's passion for learning and change is motivating.

"Because it is such a small community there are so many people who are trying to make a difference and trying to research and learn," Fischer said. "I think that's really inspiring."

To contact U-Links about a research topic, email Sadie Fischer at [environmental@ulinks.ca](mailto:environmental@ulinks.ca) or call 705-286-2411.



The EarlyON Child & Family Centre is currently seeking Board Members to serve on the Board of Directors.

We are a non-profit agency that is funded by the Ministry of Education to offer programs for children 0-6 years and their parents, grandparents and caregivers in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

- Volunteer commitment of 2 - 4 hours per month
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New programs starting in January, check our website or Facebook page for a community near you. No registration required for Zoom programs. Website & Facebook provide updates, flyers, parenting tips, and play ideas!

Closed the week of December 27  
Programs return January 3rd

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# Highlander business

## Chasing the sweet treats to Carnarvon

By Lisa Gervais

It may be on a different highway, but fans of The Country Bakery are finding the business's new home in the former Zion United Church in Carnarvon.

The bakery, coffee and lunch spot recently moved from its Hwy. 118 home of the past six years to the site along Hwy. 35.

Following their third weekend, spokesperson Jeanette Angus said, "We're finding the local people are very happy to have us here, very thankful we're here, and they're happy the church is being used again. Very good reception. They're all plugging us and telling their neighbours and strangers that we're in here."

The church ceased operations in May 2019 and was purchased by David and Helen Litt, who are renting part of the hall space to The Country Bakery and plan to sell antiques in future.

Angus said they'd been telling people at the other location for quite some time that they would be moving, they just didn't know exactly when. There were a few delays in getting the building up and running. However, that reopened Nov. 19.

"So, a lot of the Hwy. 118, lovely people that have supported us all these years, they know where to find us," she said.

Angus said the move is benefitting them in a number of ways.

"We're right on Hwy. 35 which is nice, a little bit more convenient for those folks,



Jeanette Angus at the newly-relocated Country Bakery. Photo by Lisa Gervais

when they come by, they don't have to deviate too far."

She added, "It's a nice, bright, happy, larger space for us. It's a larger kitchen to work in. The other location got a little bit small. We outgrew it. We were on top of each other. And we only had certain areas we could walk. Here, we have lots of choices to get around each other."

She said the only con, if you can call it that, is when she arrives very early in the morning to begin baking, she is entering a nearly 130-year-old former church building,

"It feels a little spooky. It's a big place. It's got its creaks and groans that I'm not used to."

Walking in, the bakery is taking up about half of the former Zion Church Hall with its various display cases. There are no tables and chairs yet but that is the plan.

"Eventually we'll have tables and chairs for sitting and have the little café back and there'll be more antiques. That will get better and bigger as well," Angus said. "The two things go together quite well."

The bakery is preparing for Christmas,

working on a scone order Dec. 6 at the time of the interview, and doggy treats were being packaged up as well.

"We're happy. We can make Christmas things and kind of get ready."

Their regular hours are Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. However, those days and hours may be extended over the holidays. Find them on Facebook for days and hours of operation and products or call 705-489-2917.

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# Highlander outdoors

## Outdoors association spawns steady year during COVID-19

By Sam Gillett

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association's (HHOA) year got off to a rocky start.

In January 2021, two pumps and a well failed at the hatchery.

Without water, there's no fish: the association has stocked Haliburton lakes with more than 700,000 since 1998.

"Local folks and the general public contributed, and we were able to get those major repairs," said association president Dan Smith.

Twelve months later, Smith said "it's been a good year."

Community contributions have been a major piece of the 2021 puzzle; resulting in a \$20,000 budget boost and triple the membership.

"That's a big shot in the arm for us, the community support we got this year."

Especially, said Smith, since much of the association's in-person fundraising was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

"We're on tenterhooks when we can't do fundraising," he said.

Smith said many members, the majority being seniors, were cautious to gather due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

"We got the same work done with less people," said Smith. An ongoing challenge is preserving the County's fisheries, with many respondents to the association's 2021 walleye survey reporting less than usual fish stock.

To combat that, the association



HHOA volunteers wash silt away from walleye spawning beds. File.

stocked locations by helicopter and distributed fish to 25 lakes across the Highlands. Volunteers also spent days cleaning silt off underwater spawning grounds.

Despite a strong financial year, the association is aiming to develop guaranteed incomes over the next years to decrease the reliance on donations.

"Every year we look at our year and say we gotta' raise this and this and this," said Smith.

A large source of support is the association's members themselves: the group went from 35 to 100 members in 2021. Membership chair Ken Fielding said at the HHOA AGM he hopes to attract 100 more by next year. Smith joined the group five years ago.

"I fished all my life and hunted. I wanted to know where the fish are going, and where the good fishing spots are," he said. "You can work as little or as much time as you want."



### Notice of Procedural By-Law Amendments

As per Policy No. 24 – Public Notice Policy, notice is hereby being provided that Dysart et al Council, at their regular meeting to be held on January 25, 2022, will be amending the Procedural By-Law to update Council and Committee meeting schedules.

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

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# Highlander arts

## Artist supports Canadian women for a cause

By Sam Gillett

Organic Times' new Haliburton location on Industrial Park Road is decorated for Christmas, with handcrafted gifts and housewares laid carefully around a Christmas tree.

Much of owner Deborah Lyons' inventory comes from local makers. However, one book on display in the weeks leading up to Christmas has a local and nationwide connection.

Haliburton-based artist Gerda Neubacher is selling copies of Portraits of Canadian Women Who Inspire with 100 per cent of the profits going to SIRCH Community Services.

It's a series of portraits accompanied by interviews with some of Canada's most influential women: Neubacher painted Kim Campbell in her pyjamas, chatted about family life with celebrated TV Anchor Farrah Nasser, and remains friends with many depicted in the book's glossy pages.

Neubacher's portraits of each woman reflect parts of their personalities, past or future aspirations. It was a project which took years. Neubacher writes in the introduction that it was one of her most challenging and rewarding life experiences.

Neubacher added: "This book has a long shelf life. It's as new now as it was 10 years ago."

She said it felt right to contribute the proceeds of each sale to SIRCH.



Gerda Neubacher and Deborah Lyons. Photo by Sam Gillett.

"I was so in awe with the idea of educating and training people there," Neubacher said.

"I'm talking about Canadian women who inspire: this is another group of Canadian women who inspire and take people to the next level," she said, mentioning SIRCH's community support and training programs.

Lyons pointed out one woman is from Haliburton: Marion Sedgewick. Sedgewick was a nurse, missionary and United Church

of Canada minister from Haliburton. Lyons said she values how the book uplifts women's experiences and accomplishments. "Those women need to be celebrated," Lyons said.

### Organic Times' new digs

Lyons said business has been brisk at the shop's new location so far. "It's so difficult

for people to travel, at times, from Eagle Lake, or Redstone to Minden," she said.

All her goods are aimed at creating sustainable lifestyles: soy candles, glass repurposed into Christmas ornaments, locally-made greeting cards and soaps.

"People are really happy to repurpose products, give new life to products: they're tired of the Amazons. They want to support local," she said.

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on it's way towards realizing that dream*

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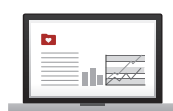
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# Highlander arts



## Creating collectively

The Limbic Collective opened its first group show Dec. 4 in a pop-up gallery space underneath Glecoff's Family Store in Haliburton. The show includes prints, paintings, mixed media works and sculptures from 11 Haliburton and surrounding area artists. Limbic collective founder Joey Varga said they hope the collective will help younger artists gain a foothold and find community. "Step into our mind" runs 1-7:30 p.m. until Dec. 11, with a closing ceremony at 6 p.m. (Sam Gillett).

Left: Joey Varga holds "Bind.", a composition of multiple photographs. Right: Artists craft a button from an art magazine. Visitors can create buttons for \$2. Photos by Sam Gillett.

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- Haliburton RPM - 5122 County Road 21
- RedKenn RPM - 4355 Kennis Lake Road

Let's work together and provide the children in our communities a Christmas they can remember. There are many families within our communities that will be unable, without our help, to provide toys and Christmas cheer to their children. Between all of us, we collectively have the capacity and means to contribute to this community cause.

All proceeds are being donated to families in need through the local public schools located near our RPM Marinas locations.

If you want to participate in this 1st annual RPM Toy Drive, drop in and see us and make a purchase and will contribute on your behalf to the fund.

Alternatively, you have the option of dropping off an unwrapped toy, gift card or cash at 1 of our 3 locations during working hours 9-4:30, Tuesday to Saturday until December 14 @ Haliburton or RedKenn and Wednesday to Sunday @ Balsam location. We will make your direct contributions to this worthy cause and ensure that we put a smile on our local children's faces Christmas morning. Cash will be converted to gift cards, food and toys.



# Highlander community



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Minden Rotary made two recent cheque presentations. One was for \$550 to the Minden Community Food Centre (bottom) and the other to Fuel for Warmth (top). *Submitted.*



### Cruisers filled with cheer

Haliburton Highlands OPP braved the snow Dec. 4 to fill cruisers with bags of toys, food, and monetary donations in Haliburton and Minden. Officers raised \$6,903 worth of food bags and cash donations, also collecting toys and winter jackets. (*Sam Gillett*).

Officers hold up bags of food with Haliburton Foodland owner Brad Park, right. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*



# Highlander community



## RPM holiday school fundraiser revs up

RPM Marinas has raised \$1,000 so far for families at local public schools. “We were brainstorming looking for ideas, trying to think of other things we can do community-wise,” said Cheryl Downs, general manager. She encouraged Highlanders to drop off unwrapped toys or gift cards to any RPM location. The funds will be donated to Haliburton schools after the fundraiser wraps up Dec. 14. The marina will donate \$5 from every retail, parts and accessories sale over \$15 and \$10 from RPM branded clothing purchases. They hope to expand the fundraiser next year and ask store suppliers to donate too. Downs said staff have been eager to support the project: “I think there’s a lot of pride,” she said. (Sam Gillett).

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# Highlander events



## The Gardens' Christmas

Abbey Gardens' first Christmas market saw hundreds of shoppers enjoying festive beverages, carolers and artisans at the organization's food hub Dec. 4. Paintings, leather goods, soap, baking and foraged food and drink ingredients were on display. (Sam Gillett).

Left: Eighteen vendors and organizations set up shop around Abbey Gardens. Right: Chris Gilmour from Wild Muskoka chats natural botanicals, cocktail mixers and foraged ingredients with a customer. Photos by Sam Gillett.

## WHAT'S ON

### Dec. 11 - 10 a.m.

'Lift your sweets' cookie sale. Buy your sweets for the holidays. Haliburton Legion. A project to raise funds for their elevator.

### Dec. 14 - 7:30 p.m.

Environment Haliburton! virtual Enviro-cafe featuring Korey McKay, Haliburton County's Climate Action Coordinator who will talk about the County climate action plan. Go to [environmenthaliburton.org](http://environmenthaliburton.org) to register.

The Rotaract Club (young adult Rotarians) is providing basic needs boxes to local families this Christmas. If this is something you'd like to help with, send an e-transfer this week to [haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com](mailto:haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com) - use the password Christmas, or drop a cheque or cash off this week to Lockside Trading.

The Interact Club (high school Rotary) is providing teenagers with shoebox gift packages. These get distributed through the school office and the 4Cs Food Bank to teens who may not get much this year. You can make a cheque payable to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (memo: Interact Shoebox) or cash and drop it at the school this week. Or, as they don't have a club bank account, you can e-transfer to Ursula Devolin if you're comfortable with that. [ursuladevolin@hotmail.com](mailto:ursuladevolin@hotmail.com). She works with the club and can get it to them. Please use the password Christmas.

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch 129, Haliburton • 705-457-2571

**Tuesdays:** Tuesday night dart league at 7 p.m. and Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. (Sept - June).

**Wednesdays:** bingo - doors open at 5 p.m., food available at 6 p.m., bingo at 7 p.m. \$500 jackpot.

**Thursdays:** general meeting the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. and ladies' auxiliary the last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

**Fridays:** meat draw - five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., six tickets for \$2 per draw. Don Pitman, MC and Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m.

**Saturdays:** 50/50 draw 4 p.m. draw - tickets are \$1 each available from 2 p.m.

**\* New Clubroom hours:** Mon. 3-7 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed. to Fri. 3-7 p.m. & Sat. 2-8 p.m.

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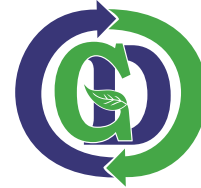


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3398 Gelert Rd., Minden, Ont.  
705-286-4350

## OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Donald Ross Downey**

Donald was born on Feb 26, 1924 and grew up in Alliston, Ontario. He joined the Air Force in 1943 and served in Dunville, Ontario and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia during World War II. After the war, he studied Anthropology at U. of T. and did graduate fieldwork in Archeology at University of Arizona. He then worked on weather stations in the Canadian Arctic as a Meteorologist for the Department of Transport for three years. He later discovered a love for teaching. First, he taught at Ryerson in Toronto, then taught high school in Dundalk, Alliston and Opeongo near Eganville, a total of 35 years.

Don was married to Margaret Isobel Hodgson for 63 years. Together, they were active members of St John's Anglican Church in Eganville for 56 years. Don was also elected as town councillor of Eganville for 8 years and organized the Rotary Ski School for 25 years and was an avid skier until he was 80. He had a record of 53 years of perfect attendance as a Rotarian and in 1988 became a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a member of the Eganville Royal Canadian Legion for 53 years. In 2013 he received the Senior Achievement Award from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in recognition of significant volunteer contribution to his community after the age of 65. He loved his family, the cottage, skiing, Star Trek, reading and playing card games with his kids and grandkids. He was known for his patience, kindness and giving nature, and lived by his favourite motto, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." He is survived by his wife Margaret, and his children, Jade, Shawn (Patti), Pam, Hugh (Marnie) and grandchildren, Alex (Joseph), Genna, Sigourney, Zackary, Jake, Ronan, Keenan and Kate.

### Private Celebration Of Life

A Private Celebration Of Life will take place. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



## OBITUARIES


*In Loving Memory of*  
**Nancy Marguerite Stinson (nee Easton)**

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on December 5, 2021.

Loving wife of Michael. Cherished mother of Lance (Debbie), Ryan (Lindsey), and Shannon. Nana to Brooke, Mikayla, Katie, Alex and Christopher. Predeceased by her parents Lance and Marguerite Easton. Sister of Michael (Cheryle), Eleanor (Ron), and sister in law to Lynda Easton.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) 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.



## NOTICES

**Say No to Condos on**  
**Grass Lake Wetlands**  
fograsslake@gmail.com  
by Friends of Grass Lake

## SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 9

1	M	2	O	3		4	D	5	E	6	A	7	L	8	A		9	K	10	I	11	T	12	E
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**Haliburton County Public Library**  
**Requires a**  
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This position is responsible for the safe and timely delivery of library materials. The successful applicant will possess secondary education, a valid G licence, as well as the ability to lift and move objects weighing up to 50 lbs.

The hourly range for this permanent position is \$16.08 - \$18.65.

Visit our website at [www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers](http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers) for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to [shume@haliburtoncounty.ca](mailto:shume@haliburtoncounty.ca) no later than December 17, 2021 at 4:30pm.

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.



# Highlander classifieds

## HELP WANTED



THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST  
Is Currently Seeking An  
**Assistant Environmental Operator**

### Position Details:

Reporting to the Environmental Supervisor, the Assistant Environmental Operator will be responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of all Municipal water and wastewater facilities, including treatment, distribution and collection systems. As an Environmental Operator duties will also include Operator-in-charge (OIC) designation in accordance with all relevant Municipal, Provincial, and Federal legislation, standards and policies. Perform on-call duties, as required, on a rotational basis.

### Position Requirements:

- Post-Secondary Diploma, such as Environmental Technician, or equivalent combination of education/work experience
- Preference will be given to individuals with a Class I or higher Water/Wastewater Operator Designation in all four disciplines (Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection).
- Minimum Operator-in-Training (OIT) certification in all four disciplines.
- Strong working knowledge of Ontario Health and Safety Act and Regulations, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, OWRA and EPA.
- WHMIS certification.
- Standard First Aid (considered an asset)
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Computer skills
- Sound mechanical ability
- Must possess an Ontario Class G Driver's License

**Hours of Work:** Shall consist of 40 hrs/wk, 7am to 3:30pm, Monday - Friday  
**Competitive Wage & Benefit Package Offered Including Pension**

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application -Assistant Environmental Operator"** may be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., December 13th, 2021 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer  
Municipality of Highlands East  
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road  
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: [shunter@highlandseast.ca](mailto:shunter@highlandseast.ca)

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer. Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.

**Hyland Taxi DRIVERS - part time or full time - needed for Hyland Taxi. G License for taxi is required. B, C or F License required for 11 passenger van and bus. Call 705-457-9898**

## NOTICES

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** meets Wednesday nights 7:00 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden – rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

**AL ANON- WE CARE,** are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) All are welcome.

## HELP WANTED



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Expanding Haliburton construction company looking for skilled carpenters. New builds, renovations and finish carpentry. Be part of a growing and ambitious team committed to high quality work. Year round employment available. Wages \$30/hr + based on experience. Please submit a resume to [briansuke@gmail.com](mailto:briansuke@gmail.com) or call 705-854-0160 for more information.

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**ROOM FOR RENT**  
– House to share.  
Algonquin Highlands area. Call 705-457-7058 for details.

## FOR SALE

**CANOE** – 14ft Langford "Heritage" canoe, Cedar strip. New last year, hasn't been in the water. \$5,500. **TRAILER** – 6ft X 12ft Aluminum Apogee folding trailer. New last year. \$5,500. **DRUMS** – 5 pc Pearl \$500. Call John at 705-457-7987

## HELP WANTED



*Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care*

**Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.**

**RN's and RPN's** are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. **The Registered Nurse** earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice and one year or more of previous emergency department or specialty department experience is preferred. **Temporary accommodation will be provided.** Recent experience is preferred.

**Registered Practical Nurses** earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

**Personnel Support Workers** earn \$22.25 - \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:  
The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

**Human Resources**  
**Haliburton Highlands Health Services**  
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
E-mail: [hr@hhhs.ca](mailto:hr@hhhs.ca)  
Fax: 705-457-4609



# Highlander puzzles

## Brand Mates

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

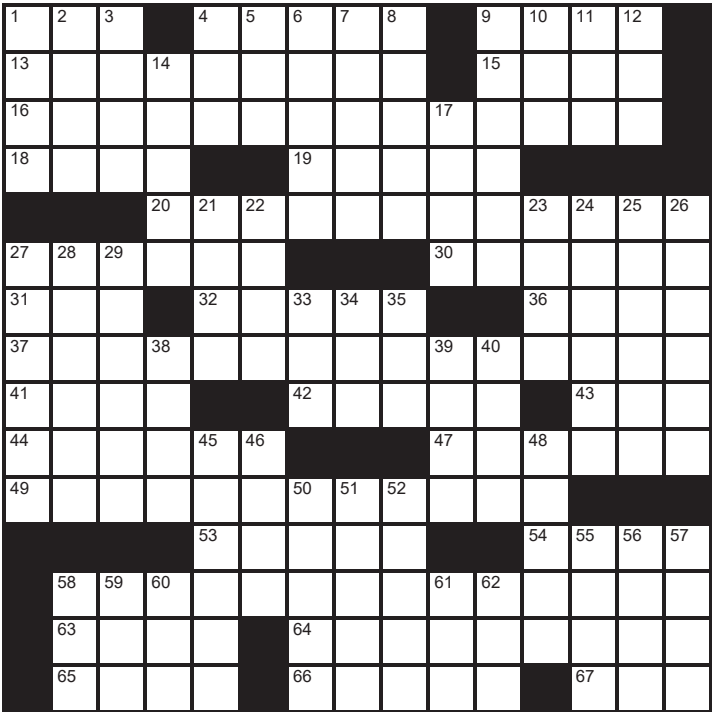
### Across

- 1 It's heard in a herd
- 4 \_\_\_ major blow (strike hard)
- 9 Charlie Brown item "eaten" by a 56-Down
- 13 Pop fly catcher, often
- 15 Tattooist's supply
- 16 Skin products brand used by Mark Zuckerberg?
- 18 Cigar butt?
- 19 "Is there no \_\_\_ this?"
- 20 Hair dye that can be used as an oven cleaner?
- 27 Lovelace and Ronstadt
- 30 Beardless man, e.g.
- 31 "Hometown Proud" supermarket
- 32 Like a reminiscer's eyes
- 36 Montreal's Schwartz's, for one
- 37 Chocolate bar made with a sugar substitute?
- 41 Mexican meower
- 42 "I feel the same"
- 43 Rooming house with no room, in the Bible
- 44 Like a single guy's band?
- 47 Said "Go, team!"
- 49 Denim clothing line owned by a cake maker?
- 53 Knight's "shining" gear, to an American
- 54 Kin mate
- 58 Ginger ale brand sold at certain gas stations?
- 63 Prepare feverishly for a test
- 64 Tangled up
- 65 Lip off
- 66 Prevent, to a lawyer
- 67 "\_\_\_ haw!" (hoedown holler)

### Down

- 1 Comic actor Myers
- 2 Words after sleep or step
- 3 "The Bells \_\_\_ Mary's"
- 4 Rep.'s political foe

- 5 Tarzan player Ron
- 6 Cost to run a classified
- 7 Country singer Rimes
- 8 Paris's \_\_\_ Triomphe
- 9 Ix-nay
- 10 Suffix with neutr-
- 11 Possible bout ender, briefly
- 12 Edm. footballer, before a name change
- 14 "Tell him \_\_\_ my love"
- 17 Cockpit guesstimates, for short
- 21 Simon & Garfunkel's "\_\_\_ Rock"
- 22 Spy grp. that works with the RCMP
- 23 "Blah, blah, blah," when tripled
- 24 Recovered from
- 25 Catlike
- 26 Foe opposite
- 27 Regional jargons
- 28 Large, spiny lizard
- 29 Be a motor-mouth
- 33 Certain bachelor, in ads
- 34 The beginning?
- 35 Albeit
- 38 Oval tomato
- 39 \_\_\_ Bora (Afghan region)
- 40 Show some cheek?
- 45 Burglary foils
- 46 Fiddling emperor
- 48 Schindler with a list
- 50 Toast maker, often
- 51 Rivers and Jett
- 52 Surrealist painter Max \_\_\_
- 55 In a loaferish way
- 56 Family reunion wall drawing, maybe
- 57 Fictional doctor's bad side
- 58 Windows runners
- 59 Chapter of history
- 60 Classroom aides, briefly
- 61 "I take that as \_\_\_"
- 62 Fist bump, in slang



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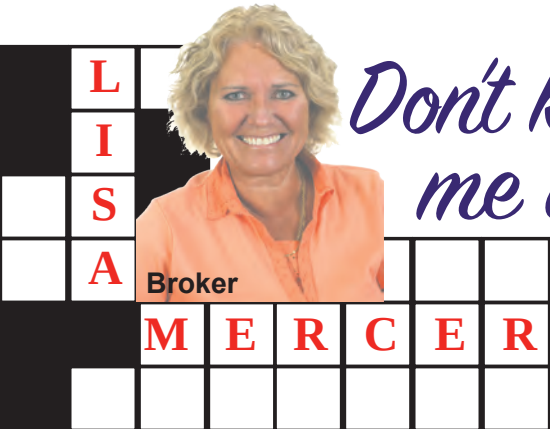
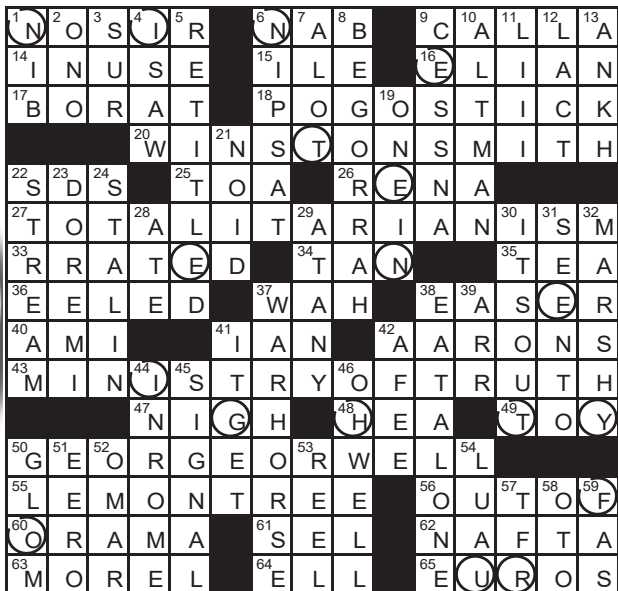
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## SUDOKU

9	4			1				
	8			7			3	
3			6				2	
	7	6			5			2
2			7		1			8
5			9			7	6	
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## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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



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1047 PARISH LINE ROAD, HALIBURTON ON K0M 1S0 CONTACT@HALIBURTONREALESTATE.ON.CA HALIBURTONREALESTATE.ON.CA

### Twelve Mile Lake Road



A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake & Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private & takes in multiple exposures & has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present & has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County. **\$1,995,000.** Price is plus HST.

### Mountain Street



Fantastic home, situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood just a short drive or walk to Haliburton village. This lovingly owned & maintained home features 3 bdrms & full bath on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area & kitchen. Step out to the sunroom & feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek & forest. Finished lower level with den/bdrm, renovated 3pc bath & large rec room. Great sized lot, with prepared vegetable garden site, shed, & large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities. **\$539,000**

### Kawagama Lake



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter. **\$279,000**

**SOLD**

### Stills Road



This beautiful 1.2-acre building lot is located in the heart of Eagle Lake. Driveway installed & building site is cleared & ready for your year-round home or getaway. Many apple trees throughout the property. Stunning park-like setting. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet neighbourhood. Paved year-round municipal road. Walking distance to Eagle Lake Country market, Eagle Lake public beach, & boat launch. Stop dreaming and start building your dream home or cottage. **\$128,500**

**SOLD**

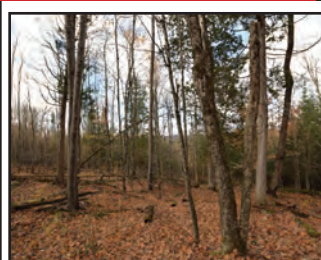
### Wenona Lake



Fantastic lot in a quiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake. Adjacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional privacy. **\$94,500**

**SOLD**

### Chelsea Lane



This pretty 1.52-acre lot is in the vicinity of the 3 lake chain-Green-Maple-Beech. Deeded access to Maple Lake within walking distance. Situated just outside West Guilford, between Camarvon and Haliburton with easy seasonal access off HWY 118. The lot is fairly level with a slight elevation to a great spot to build your retreat. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet area. Ample privacy and lots of space for the family to enjoy the outdoors. **\$69,900**



Call today to learn more about why **NOW** is the time to sell. **705-457-6508**

Based on 2020 residential transactions sides. Source: CREA, RE/MAX



# FOUR REASONS TO LIST DURING THE WINTER



- 1) People who look for a home or cottage during the winter are more serious buyers. By listing now, you may have fewer showings but more qualified and motivated buyers.
- 2) Buyers have more time available to look for a home or cottage during the winter season.
- 3) Serious buyers have fewer houses and cottages to choose from during the winter. You will have less competition, resulting in a quicker sale and better price for you.
- 4) Homes and cottages "Show Better" when decorated during the holidays. These decorations will created a warm atmosphere making it feel more like "home" to the buyer.

**Do you need assistance in selling your home or cottage?**

**Start by calling Linda Baumgartner and Baumgartner Realty Group today! 705.457.3461**