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HIGHLANDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The Highlander

Thursday **December 16 2021** | Issue 520

INSIDE: COVID HOLIDAY ADVICE PAGE 5

FREE



Jingle while you jog

Joleen Thomas brought her dog Finn along for a run on a brisk morning Dec. 12 as the annual Jolly Jog was held at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. See more photos on page 25. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Housing crisis impacts women's shelter

By Lisa Gervais

The Highlands' housing crisis is being felt by the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton with a lack of affordable housing meaning women and children are having to stay long-term at the County's only shelter.

YWCA director of client services, Darlene Smith-Harrison, said "sometimes the women are with us much longer than they want to be mostly due to the lack of affordable housing for them to move on to. It's such a huge barrier."

She added, "If there are any landlords out there at all who have decent, safe housing,

we'd really love to hear from them and make that connection so that we can help the women and the families move on."

Smith-Harrison made the comments in speaking about a \$50,000 donation to the YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS) by David and Patricia Morton of the Morton Family Foundation. They donated \$50,000 last year as well and have donated \$130,000 to date.

Smith-Harrison said just at HERS alone, they've had eight women and eight children with them from January last year to now.

Executive director Kim Dolan said the pandemic has created a toxic combination

of increased stress, isolation and job losses that is leading to a dramatic rise in domestic abuse.

"This is especially true for rural women, whose physical distance from police services and lack of resources to assist in accessing safety and support greatly increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence.

"HERS has been fully occupied since January 2021 and rural women in Haliburton County have reported abuse that is far more serious and complex throughout the pandemic. Like women's organizations across the province, the YWCA is facing

heightened demand and increasing costs."

Smith-Harrison said it's a continuous struggle because it's a small program that is staffed 24/7 when they are occupied, which they always are these days. It's a very expensive program, she added, noting government funding covers just a portion of what they do so they're left to fundraise anywhere from 25-30 per cent of what they need to operate.

She said that is why the Mortons' generosity is so important. It is helping to keep the doors open.

"One of the biggest struggles is, if HERS

Continued 'Donation' on page 2

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YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS DECOR AND GIFTS

Highlander news

Donation funds safe space in Highlands

Continued from page 1

isn't available and women need safety and accommodation, they have to leave the County," she said. But by being able to stay, she said women can sometimes keep part-time jobs and children continue to go to their schools. They can also stay connected to friends and family. She said having to uproot their lives and family to be safe and leave the area is "an awful separation."

Even with the Mortons and other donations, things remain difficult at HERS, Smith-Harrison said.

"When we're full, we're full, we can't bring women in. So, we have to work with women, as we do with all women, on safety planning, and helping them get to the next best safest place that we can come up with."

She noted all funds raised in Haliburton County stay in Haliburton County.

\$50,000 donation

The YWCA announced the Mortons' funding Dec. 9.

"We are deeply moved by Patricia and David's positive impact in the Haliburton County community," said

Dolan. "The Mortons' compassion for others is helping to ensure that women and children have ongoing access to our Emergency SafeSpace, nutritious food, basic necessities, and 24-hour support when home is the most dangerous place to be."

YWCA HERS provides safe and supportive temporary accommodations for women, with and without children, who are fleeing abuse in Haliburton County. The service, designed to be available on an as-needed basis in order to help reduce costs, offers space for up to two families at a time so that women can move away from the abusive situation in their home, without leaving their support systems. For safety reasons, the YWCA ensures 24-hour staffing during evenings, nights and weekends when the units are occupied.

"We are so happy to give this donation to such a worthy cause," said Patricia Morton on behalf of The Morton Family Foundation. "We have been greatly inspired by the expertise and tremendous dedication which the YW's Haliburton staff bring to their work, both in providing women with safety and security to plan



HERS is the only women's and children's shelter in Haliburton County. *File.*

how to build better lives for themselves and their children, and in providing expert professional support services to assist their healing from trauma."

David Morton added, "As a man, I am just appalled and disgusted by violence

against women and children. I am grateful at least to have this opportunity to extend a helping hand to the brave women who, with the wonderful support of our YWCA, are striving hard to empower themselves."

How to help or get help

Members of the public who wish to donate or find ways of supporting YWCA services in Haliburton County are encouraged to visit ywcahaliburton.org or contact Ria Nicholson at 705-743-3526 x113 or rnicholson@ywcapeterborough.org. Donations made before December 31 will be doubled during the YWCA's holiday season matching gift campaign. If you, or someone you know, needs support, contact the YWCA's 24 Hour Support & Crisis Line: toll free 1-800-461-7656; phone 705-286-6442 or text 705-854-1591.



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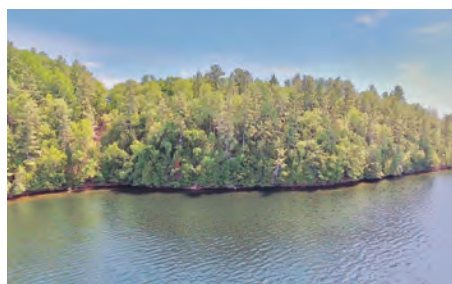
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7.56 per cent tax increase 'far too high'

By Mike Baker

A first draft of Dysart's 2022 budget calls for a 7.56 per cent increase to the residential tax levy, although some councillors suggested they won't support such a substantial hike with many families struggling during the pandemic.

Treasurer Barbara Swannell presented the budget to council Dec. 10, noting the increase would represent an additional \$22.48 per \$100,000 of residential assessment, \$33.33 commercial and \$38.62 industrial.

The typical residential property was valued in 2016 at approximately \$193,000 by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Using that total, the typical ratepayer in Dysart could see an increase of \$43.39 on their tax bill.

"I consider that to be far too high," said Ward 4 Coun. John Smith.

Swannell noted the budget accounted for 1.46 per cent of new taxation growth over the past 12 months.

Staff are requesting \$18.6 million – up from \$17.2 million last year. Transportation equates to 34 per cent, coming in at just under \$6.3 million. Protective services make up 20 per cent, at \$3.7 million, with environmental services closely behind at 19.5 per cent, or \$3.6 million. The parks and recreation department is looking to spend just under \$2.4 million, with general government expenditures slated to be over \$1.6 million. Planning and development costs are projected to run \$668,500, with

health services and social and family services coming in at \$164,000 and \$120,000 respectively.

Around \$11 million is expected to come from taxation, with an additional \$4.6 million from non-tax revenues and \$2.95 million from provincial and federal grants.

Municipal reserves are projected to stick around \$3.8 million next year.

A big chunk of the proposed budget increase relates to staffing, with five new hires proposed for 2022. The treasury department wants to bring in a part-time student to assist with paperwork (\$17,000); the bylaw department is requesting a new full-time staffer to help with work flow through the summer; the planning department is looking to hire a new planning assistant; the parks and recreation department wants to bring in a new maintenance and facility coordinator; while public works is asking for a mechanic's assistant (\$86,000).

Notable capital projects outlined in the document include a roof replacement at the Dysart fire hall (\$25,000); repairs to Reid House in Glebe Park (\$22,900); a new brine pump for A.J. LaRue Arena (\$28,500); a new pick-up truck for the parks department (\$100,000); replacement of the front entrance doors at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre (\$20,000); and the replacement of soffit, fascia and eavestrough at Rails End Gallery (\$20,000). The parks and rec department also asked that a new \$10,000 digital sign be installed



Coun. John Smith, at a past in-person meeting, says 7.56 per cent is too high. *File.*

behind the Welcome Centre.

Environmental manager John Watson asked council to invest \$129,000 to reconfigure the West Guilford landfill for waste transfer; public works director Rob Camelon asked for a new \$70,000 tractor, \$55,000 automated flagger system, and a \$45,000 half-ton pick-up truck.

Camelon noted a \$100,000 hydraulic survey of Redstone Brook and detailed design of the Redstone Brook bridge would need to be carried out soon. He included that item but said it could be pushed off. Around \$1.6 million has been set aside for road construction projects, with a list

coming to council soon.

Community groups are also requesting \$87,950.

"We're not used to numbers like this for an increase. Dysart, for the last three years, has seen incredibly low [tax increases]," said Mayor Andrea Roberts. "The big question I always ask myself is are our taxes fair, and are we being responsible ... During our next meeting, we'll do some deeper digging on some of these projects and proposals."

Dysart's next budget meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14.



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Dysart, developers to do final traffic study

By Lisa Gervais

County council is asking consultant, AECOM Canada Ltd., to draft a terms of reference so Dysart et al and Places for People, as well as proponents of a condo development for former MNRF land at 77 Wallings Rd., can provide a single traffic impact study to determine next steps for the quickly growing part of Haliburton.

Places for People, in partnership with the township, wants to build 48 units on the road with 63 parking spaces. A developer intends to construct 63 units and an 85 vehicle car park at 77 Wallings Rd. (former MNRF land). This is on top of the already built condos at 75 Wallings Rd., with 21 units and 30 parking spots.

The recommendation came after staff and councillors discussed traffic safety on the road, and at the intersection with County Rd. 21, during a Dec. 8 meeting. Staff would want the proponents to look at AECOM's 2017 study of the whole corridor as well.

"I assume that would consider the questions that are being raised by Dysart ... and that the actual study be done by the proponents and Dysart which should give us the information we need," said Warden Liz Danielsen.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts has specifically asked three questions: Can Wallings Road remain open for incoming traffic only, therefore creating a one-way street and then a further one-way street be built between Wallings Road and Halbiem Crescent; can Wallings Road safely be a no left turn (buses exempt) but still allowing

residential neighbourhood traffic to turn right; and is there another option to make that intersection safe, such as full traffic lights, prompted only if a vehicle is turning left similar to County Road 1 and 21 or at the Independent Grocers?

To date, AECOM has recommended either a partial closure with Haliburton Bus Lines still able to access CR21 from Wallings Road, along with three residential properties, or full closure and re-directing all traffic to Halbiem Crescent via new connections, with a cul-de-sac being constructed on Wallings Road at the Haliburton Bus Lines property.

Staff also said that, in the interest of expediency for the Places for People project, a temporary driveway entrance could be constructed onto Halbiem Crescent so as not to preclude a new road connection. They said the affordable housing project could be phased accordingly to allow time for a safe solution at the Wallings Road intersection with County Road 21.

The County has jurisdiction over the highway and Dysart et al the road.

Coun. Carol Moffatt said it was about "the right decisions for the right reasons through the right process, and if that means Dysart and the proponents working together to update that [an existing traffic study] and have those questions asked then that works for me."

Coun. Brent Devolin asked for an estimate on the cost and time of an additional study and did not get a clear answer from staff.

Coun. Pat Kennedy said, "The intersection is unsafe, whether there is any more



Development on Wallings Road is creating more traffic issues at the intersection of County Road 21. Photo by Sam Gillett.

development or not. Let's take a look at this as if there was no development in that area, there's no 77 Wallings Rd., no Places for People. It's an issue with that area.

"We need to determine where the street is going to go and how it's going to be handled and then we can fit these projects

into what the outcome is. I think that's where we need to get to, whether it's a two-way street, one-way street, that will have impacts on what Places for People will provide and just go from there. Take some emotion out. What's the safest path forward?"

INFORMATION PAGE

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A Message from the Fire Department

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- Do not leave the kitchen unattended when cooking. Unattended cooking was a factor in one-third of reported home cooking fires.

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SEASONS GREETINGS

From the Township of Minden Hills
Council and Staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills
a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Administration Office

Dec 20th to Dec 23rd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 a.m. to Jan 4th

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery - CLOSED Dec 20th to Jan 4th

Landfills - All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st

Community Services Department Administration Office

Dec 20th to Dec 23rd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 a.m. to Dec 26th
Dec 27th to Dec 30th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 31st at 11:30 a.m. to Jan 2nd

Public Works Department Administration Office

Dec 20th to December 23rd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 a.m.
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 a.m. to Jan 4th

Fire Department Administration Office

Dec 20th to December 23rd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 a.m. to Jan 4th

Regular hours resume Jan 4, 2022

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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:

January 13 – Regular Council Meeting

January 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to
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or by using the direct link provided in the
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Please note the live-stream link provided for
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Council is in session.

Highlander news



Abby Campbell
Associate Insurance/ Financial Advisor
Jason R Cottell & Associates Inc
1-41 Maple Avenue | Haliburton
O: 705-457-5199 | C: 705-854-0154
Abby_Campbell@cooperators.ca

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Holiday traditions with COVID caution

By Sam Gillett

Gail and Peter Stelter celebrated Christmas with their extended family just a few months ago. The socially-distanced, outdoor summer celebration was out-of-season, with COVID-19 delaying the festivities multiple times.

"Such is life in COVID times," said Gail.

This year, the Stelters are excited to welcome their family from the GTA back to the Highlands for Christmas in season.

"It's really special for us, and it's a lot of fun," Gail said.

All of the Stelters' eligible family members are double vaccinated, and their gathering will be under the HKPR recommended number of 25 guests for indoor private gatherings.

"Everything we are asked to do is for our own protection and the protection of people we love," she said.

In a Dec. 8 press release, chief medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking said "the reality is that we are still in a pandemic and with the new Omicron variant, we must remain vigilant to stop the spread. Small gatherings, smart planning and safe practices are the best ways to make the season merry and bright."

For Haliburton's Betty Mills, gathering still feels "a little bit scary, even with all the precautions we've decided to take."

Mills and her husband David Mills will welcome extended family back into their



Gail Stelter's family sliding at Glebe Park during their annual get-together. Submitted.

home. Just like the Stelters, COVID-19 safety will be a priority: they'll have a soup and beef on a bun meal, "so there's not a lot of contact, bowls being passed around or shared cutlery," Betty said.

Instead of their usual "steal a gift game," which requires passing presents back and forth, David said each family member will donate \$15 and name a charity: the winner of a draw gets all the money to donate to the charity of their choice.

Some of the couple's great-grandchildren

who aren't vaccinated won't be coming: both the Mills and the children's parents decided it was the best route to protect all involved.

"Family-wise, we've all been pretty diligent," said David.

Despite extra work planning a safer Christmas this year, the Stelters and Mills said they're both excited and grateful to be able to see family face-to-face this year.

"The spirit of Christmas is to be thankful," Gail said.

HKPR tips for safe Christmas gatherings

The HKPR health unit outlined a few tips for safe Christmas gatherings this year:

- Reminding guests to stay home if they feel sick, even if symptoms are mild.
- Encouraging people to frequently wash their hands by providing all necessary supplies, including hand sanitizer, soap and water.
- Keeping a list of attendees in case the Health Unit needs this information for contact tracing.
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces frequently.
- Following all rules and requirements at an eatery if the visit with family and friends involves eating at a restaurant. This includes providing proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

For breaking news see the highlander.ca

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HE tightens road allowance policy

By Sam Gillett

Hand-drawn development plans won't cut it in Highlands East after council voted in new rules governing shoreline road allowance purchases Dec. 14.

Junior planner Kim Roberts presented revised rules to council, including requirements for all land surveys to include reference to structures on a property.

Previously, applicants could sketch buildings themselves when applying to purchase municipal land abutting bodies of water. Often that results in measuring mistakes which then require minor variance applications, for example when measuring a setback to a property's high-water mark.

"This is just providing some clarification as to what we want as far as seeing buildings," Roberts said.

The new format outlines specifics such as

what a shoreline road allowance is, who can and cannot purchase a road allowance, as well as procedures for a revision.

"It's kind of like putting together a puzzle," she said.

Revisions include a summary of key terms and rationale, such as why the township sells shoreline road allowances and the necessary features of any application.

The municipality will also charge a non-refundable \$200 fee for merging lots and a \$350 non-refundable administration fee.

The changes come as Highlands East adjusts to raised shoreline road allowance purchase fees, which previously were lower than any surrounding municipality.

Highlands East experienced unprecedented building activity in 2021, with build values sitting at \$39.7 million, a more than 300 per cent rise over 2020 figures.



A road allowance is a township-owned strip of land, typically adjacent to a road separating the property from a body of water. *File.*

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Scytl tackles election

In conjunction with the three other municipalities, Highlands East will use global elections tech firm Scytl to conduct the 2022 election.

The company will facilitate online and telephone voting.

"We believe this company is the best when it comes to security and risk management," said CAO Shannon Hunter in a Dec. 14 meeting of council.

The contract will cost Highlands East \$2.35 per voter, totally about \$24,000 - it's expected to increase with more residents moving into the area this year boosting voter numbers.

"We're going to be needing to assist some

people up in this neck of the woods," said deputy mayor Cec Ryall.

Hunter said staff have started rolling out election information on the township's website. A brochure is set to alert voters to the new system during tax season.

"There's going to be more educational components added to this," she said.

Council okays bridge inspection

A wooden bridge on the IB&O trail will be inspected by an engineer. The township's trails and outdoors committee first suggested the bridge be inspected due to its seemingly unstable foundations.

The inspection is estimated to cost \$1000. Joanne Vanier said an engineer has accepted the job and is prepared to complete an inspection and suggest fixes before mid-winter.

Ryall said it's "definitely something we use and is a strong asset in our trail program."

New prices for HE cemeteries

It will be more expensive to be buried in Highlands East after council approved price changes to match neighbouring townships.

Clerk Robyn Rogers said the area sees

high cemetery service use, "probably because we are the lesser cost for interning."

Increases to burial plot costs for non-residents aim to "preserve our cemetery land for our own property owners in Highlands East."

For example, non-residents will pay \$1,826.84 for internment, care and maintenance at a Highlands East cemetery, while residents pay \$1,073. Rogers said the costs are still lower than many municipalities south of the Highlands.

A full list of prices can be found on the council agenda for Dec. 14, 2021.

(Highlands East news compiled by Sam Gillett).

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Liz Danielsen pictured the last time there was an in-person swearing in ceremony in 2019. *File.*

Continuity for everybody's benefit, four-term warden says

By Lisa Gervais

Sworn in for her fourth consecutive term as County Warden, Liz Danielsen said continuity is key as the public continues to navigate a global pandemic and weighty issues such as the shoreline preservation bylaw and service delivery review.

In a Dec. 9 interview prior to a virtual ceremony Dec. 14, Danielsen said she was proud to be the first warden to serve an entire municipal term.

In the past, County council rotated the warden's position among lower-tier municipalities, changing the head of council every year.

Danielsen said she wasn't the only warden who felt, "one year doesn't cut it, you're just getting your feet wet, you're finding out what the process is and getting comfy with it, a little more continuity is important."

She noted the warden also becomes part of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, which deals with "really weighty issues so much broader than the County. A longer term is appropriate."

She said another reason for continuity is a byproduct of COVID-19.

"We have gone through a really tough time, learned to do things differently, the population is generally unhappy, tired of this pandemic. More issues are being raised than we might ordinarily see. We're all very busy, very distracted ... for everybody's general benefit continuity is the word of the day."

Danielsen said she is proud of the work done during her tenure, such as the service delivery review and shoreline preservation bylaw.

"That's been a really important project," she said of the SDR. "There were expectations of amalgamation by some people who may not truly understand the full ramifications of that. We couldn't even go down that road without really looking very carefully at the services we're delivering. Is there a better way? I don't know if it will be more expensive, but a more efficient way of delivering services, more consistent across the County,

opportunities to examine the willingness of the four municipalities and the County to work together."

As for the shoreline preservation bylaw, she said it's unfortunate it's become as contentious and divisive as it has, but she's proud County council is "trying our very hardest to look at what needs to be done to protect our environment here and that can only be a good thing."

She said that in many ways, the County and its four lower tier townships have learned to work, and communicate, better.

"I'm really happy to be able to continue to do the work. I like it."



CAO Mike Rutter officiated the last in-person swearing in. *File.*

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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.

STAFF

PUBLISHER

Simon Payn | simon@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL

Lisa Gervais

Editor | editor@thehighlander.ca

Sam Gillett

Reporter | sam@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker

Reporter | mike@thehighlander.ca

SALES

Michele Guite

Sales manager | michele@thehighlander.ca

Dawn Poissant

Sales | dawn@thehighlander.ca

Laurie Johnson

Sales coordinator | laurie@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER

Glenda Mumford | admin@thehighlander.ca

PRODUCTION

Tania Moher

Design manager | production@thehighlander.ca

Peter Stewart

Designer | peter@thehighlander.ca

DISTRIBUTION

Walt Griffin

CONTACT

705-457-2900

123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024
Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

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Shelters forced to fundraise

The David and Patricia Morton Family Foundation, of Peterborough, have once again come forward with a generous donation to the County of Haliburton's only emergency shelter for women and children.

The YWCA Peterborough Haliburton announced Dec. 9 that the Mortons had donated \$50,000 towards the Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS).

To date, the Mortons have donated \$130,000 to the local shelter.

Without them, it's possible the shelter could be closed, or, at the very least, have seen its services scaled back - particularly during the COVID pandemic.

As a community, we cannot thank the Mortons enough for their generosity.

However, we should also be concerned, if not outraged, that the viability of the County's only shelter for abused women and their children, has to rely on private donors to ensure its doors stay open and its services remain intact - especially at a time when the pressures of COVID are sending more and more rural and remote women in its direction.

The shelter has been full since January 2021.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton executive director Kim Dolan says the pandemic has created a toxic combination of increased stress, isolation and job losses that are leading to a dramatic rise in violence.

It's especially true for rural women, who

aren't physically close to the OPP station in Minden, and may have trouble getting to safety due to a lack of transportation and other services.

We're told that Haliburton County women are reporting abuse that is far more serious and complex throughout this pandemic. Naturally, then, the YWCA is facing heightened demand and increasing costs.

It's a small program that is staffed 24/7 when they are occupied, which they always are these days. It's very expensive to run.

Government funding covers just a portion of what they do so they're left to fundraise anywhere from 25-30 per cent of what they need for the program. It might even be higher under COVID.

That simply isn't good enough.

There is something incredibly wrong in Ontario when the provincial government can announce \$3 million in funding for the Grey Cup and yet women's shelters are at risk of closing or scaling back their services due to a lack of financial support.

Shame on you, MPP Laurie Scott.

If closed, it would create a horrible scenario for these women. Not only would they be forced to flee their homes, but they would have to leave their community. That means the support of family and friends. It could mean the loss of a job. And if they have children, it means taking them out of their school environments - perhaps the only place they feel safe.

Even with the Mortons and other

donations, it is difficult as they cannot meet the demand. When they're full, they're full. They can't bring women and children in. They have to provide outreach as best they can, on safety planning, and helping women and children to get to the next best safest place that they can come up with.

We expect the provincial government to take action.

In the meantime, despite so many competing demands for charitable dollars in this County, we implore people to consider HERS. Women and children need access to the shelter, nutritious food, basic necessities and 24-hour support.

Members of the public who wish to donate or find ways of supporting YWCA services in Haliburton County are encouraged to visit ywcahaliburton.org or contact Ria Nicholson at 705-743-3526 x113 or micholson@ywcapeterborough.org. Donations made before Dec. 31 will be doubled during the YWCA's holiday season matching gift campaign.

If you, or someone you know, needs support, contact the YWCA's 24-Hour Support & Crisis Line: toll free 1-800-461-7656; phone 705-286-6442 or text 705-854-1591.



By Lisa Gervais

Humanizing health care systems

By Judy Suke (local family physician and medical psychotherapist)

I dream of a society with less stigma towards mental health and more comfortable access for people to reach out in times of need. And, where mental health can be recognized as no different than your need to see a doctor for blood pressure or a sore knee. While medical staff increasingly recognize the importance of mental health in the overall health of their patients, they have not always applied this same thinking about their own health. This double standard needs to change; and we need your help to do so.

As a child of a physician and among a family of health care providers, I can share that health care providers are not immune from medical conditions. If we promote health care systems that prioritize wellness, we make communities healthier. Achieving wellness as a health care provider has become a greater challenge in the past decade with increased volumes and expectations and then COVID arrived. Until we allow for 'humanizing medicine', health care cannot evolve and change to our benefit.

The past two years have brought uncertainty, and stressful work circumstances. Those working in health care, like many frontline workers, have

been anything but immune to the system stress that relates to this pandemic. The increased work goes beyond COVID cases and pandemic management, to how it has affected the health of our populations and the way we provide care to the public. Increased workloads come when many health care workers have pandemic-related increased commitments at home. Many may need time to return to a place of their own health.

Historically, no health care system has wanted to share their vulnerabilities with the public. It has felt like a duty not to. I believe we no longer need to live in our history. Creating safe spaces for sharing vulnerability is the foundation of patient care. I believe it should also form the foundation of care for our health care providers. More transparency can hopefully offer a helpful shift driven by the ongoing commitment to providing optimal patient care. It is in your best interest to know the pulse of your health care system. With transparency comes the opportunity for community support to help when systems are suffering.

Those who share vulnerabilities are showing great strength and resilience by stepping forward. When circumstances are challenging - like continued staffing shortages - I invite us all to get curious

and ask ourselves in what ways we can help. Opportunities may present, such as removing historic barriers between health care systems and the communities they serve. We are better with you and will be better for you when we accept and model our own shared humanity.

How you can help

Short-term: Be respectful and kind to staff; get your COVID vaccine and get your kids who now qualify vaccinated; follow public health recommendations, stay home when unwell and get tested for COVID when you have symptoms; only use the emergency room for emergencies. Use your family doctor for non-emergent health care needs. If you do not have a family doctor, explore one of the virtual OHIP-covered walk in clinic options.

Long-term: Write your MPP and MP about the need for rural communities' health care funding to be adjusted to better capture new population demographics and seasonal surges. Recruitment efforts and successes will be enhanced as funding improves; join recruitment efforts. Support our new County recruiter in exploring and promoting a local health care system that sustains our teams during these difficult times and attracts new graduates.

In the Dec. 9 story 'Doc head-hunter hits the ground running' we printed that Cheryl Kennedy helped to attract two doctors to the County. We should have said three. Also, contact details for the new physician recruitment co-ordinator, Wendy Welch, are wwelch@haliburtoncounty.ca or 705-935-0314.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Make severing land easier

Dear editor,

We have been building new homes and duplexes in Minden Hills for the past three years. Minden Hills council and its building and planning department are very pro-development. They are helpful and open to new development in the area.

We believe if the process of severing land was easier, with less red tape, this would open up a lot of land for building.

Severing of property could be streamlined if applications were a simple process – such as a one-or-two-page document that the County can look at and quickly decide whether a property is a candidate for severance. If a property is large enough and meets all zoning setbacks, and has adequate water and sewer (or allows for septic and well), then it should be easy to sever.

We believe this would help all four townships in the Haliburton Highlands with the housing crisis. If all townships could come together and create an easy and streamlined process for severing property, there would not be such a shortage of property for new development.

Dave Shearer
Shearer Homes Inc.

Disgraceful stain on council

Dear editor,

As residents of Peninsula Road for 58 years, our family is shocked at the proposed development of lands on our road for up to 88 medium density housing units.

This parcel of land is primarily on a wetlands on shallow Grass Lake, which is an essential part of the Lake Kashagawigamog ecosystem. We adamantly oppose Harburn Holdings' proposed rezoning and redesignation of these lands, a significant part of which is already designated as environmentally protected.

The extensive wetlands on the west end of Grass Lake works in conjunction with the wetlands on the east side of the lake to function as a Grass Lake ecosystem for animals, birds, fish, and reptiles, including the threatened Blanding's turtle species and recognized muskie spawning site adjoining the proposed development. The proposed rezoning, lot severance and condominium footprints would severely disturb their habitat and life cycling ability.

With vast tracts of land in the County, why would council even entertain the idea of placing a large medium density development on, or adjacent to, sensitive wetlands? Harburn Holdings is currently developing lands on the north side of County Road 21 directly across from Peninsula Road. As an example, wouldn't this be a far better choice of site for such a housing development?

Dysart's Official Plan stipulates responsible management of the environment

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Algonquin Highlands photographer Brenda-Lee Cunningham titled this 'Days Gone By.'

when considering development proposals. If approved, these Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments would clearly not constitute conscientious stewardship of the lands that we will be handing off to our children and grandchildren. Rather, this is an ill-conceived proposal that flaunts the spirit and intent of those environmental management stipulations, and would be a disgraceful stain on the credibility of council, if approved.

Donald G. Ross
Peninsula Road, Haliburton

Thank God for the outsiders

Dear editor,

Just an observation in regards to the letter from Catherine Swift, Friends of Grass Lake. The writer advises in her opinion "The Grass Lake project; if approved, is much more likely to attract higher-end

buyers from outside of the region."

I do not have any idea in what area of Haliburton County you were raised but I was born where the CanoeFM radio station is located and raised in Haliburton Village; base Camp Kennisis Lake and West Guilford. In the early 1950s, there may have been a maximum 10 camps or cabins on Big Kennisis Lake and Little Kennisis and not many more on Big and Little Redstone lakes.

Then hydro lines began to expand, roads improved, and by 1956, there were several cottages being built on a continuous basis, and thank the good Lord it was people from outside the region; they created jobs; and brought some badly-needed development in the area.

If you lived at the base camp in the 1950s, it was a godsend to see those headlights on a Friday evening come down the flat and turn towards the lake, at least I as a kid knew there were many more people around and I loved them as they gave me work as a student.

God bless those people from outside the

area we called tourists; this wasn't just on Kennisis but Redstone; Drag; Crooked and Kashagawigamog lakes besides many more of the 400 or 500 lakes within the Highlands.

If it wasn't for the outsiders moving into the Highlands, where would we be?

Richard (Dick) Schell
Minden

Pave paradise, put up a parking lot

Dear editor,

Canada has a housing shortage. But it should not be resolved by destroying our natural and essential environment. When the goal of profit overrides the necessity of preservation nothing is ultimately winning, we are losing.

Fred and Judy Phipps
Haliburton

Active living

Jan bringing smiles back to seniors' faces

By Sam Gillett

COVID-19 outbreaks in the province's long-term care homes laid bare gaps in funding and support for personal support workers. However, Jan Saugh, an activation manager, said the role of socially stimulating residents, commonly called activation, is still overlooked despite the province making moves to shore up the sector.

That's why Saugh is starting Activity On Wheels With Jan, a company that will provide customized activity plans and social interaction for seniors.

"The purpose of my job is to put a smile on people's faces," the Carnarvon resident said.

For people living with dementia, or those living in isolation, Saugh said "engaging a person one-on-one" can have long-term benefits on a person's quality of life.

Throughout her decade-long career as an activation manager in Huntsville and an activation worker at Haliburton Highlands Health Services, she's seen how engaging with residents can lift spirits and revitalize their enthusiasm for life.

"My job is to go over there, make them smile, take their hand - reach them at their level," she said. That means conversation,



Jan Saugh said she wants to make seniors "light up" with stimulating social activities. Photo by Sam Gillett.

playing cards, helping with outings or even researching a person's interests. Saugh could become an expert on golf if that would spark conversation and connection with a patient, for example.

She said music often unlocks memories. "You put on an old sing-along with music from their era: you see their faces light up," she said.

Saugh said she once sang the hymn

Jesus Loves Me to a patient with dementia who was non-verbal. "She looked up, and she started singing. That was the greatest feeling."

With her independent practice, Saugh will visit clients around the County at their residence after developing a care plan. That includes an interview with caregivers to find out a person's interests, abilities, and possible conversation topics.

Saugh uses that information to determine how she can fill gaps in care.

"We need the basics of healthy living," she said. Even if a person receives home care, Saugh said "there's still that one missing piece. We all need social interaction. we all need to be socially stimulated."

Saugh can be reached at 705-644-9074 or jancare@hotmail.com.

AROUND THE COUNTY NEWS

Nomination for enviro-heroes open

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is seeking nominations for its annual enviro-hero awards.

The awards recognize and celebrate environmental excellence in our community.

In a press release, the HHLT said this year they've decided to once again focus on finding an unsung hero. They'll be

honouring one adult or group who's contributed to the protection and sustainability of natural resources and environment through actions, initiative, education or stewardship. Stewardship is conserving or protecting water, flora, fauna or mineral resources. Education is effectively organizing and delivering environmental teachings.

Nominations, including a short description, and contact information can be sent to: 705-457-3700, admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

Nominations close Dec. 21. Winners will be announced Dec. 29. For further information, contact admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca or joan.duhaime@hotmail.com.

New Horizons open

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) 2021-2022 has started its call for proposals for community-based project grants - worth up to \$25,000 for one year. The application period will continue until

Dec. 21, 2021 at 3 p.m.

It's a federal grants and contributions program that provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities.

If organizations would like to apply or learn, visit: canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/new-horizonsseniors. You can also contact the office of MP Jamie Schmale at 705-324-2400 or 866-688-9881. (Around the County news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

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Active living



Deb Banks of Boshkung Brewing Co. has partnered with Highland Wood to spread some Christmas cheer this festive season. Photo by Mike Baker.

Spreading the spirit of the holidays at Highland Wood

By Mike Baker

Everyone needs a little Christmas cheer in their lives this time of year, and Boshkung Brewing Co. is partnering with Highland Wood Long-Term Care Home to ensure some of our most vulnerable residents have something to smile about on the big day.

Deb Banks conceptualized the 'Be a Santa to a Senior' initiative several years ago while she was working in another community. Having recently relocated to the Highlands, she was on the lookout for something similar she could support here.

Banks contacted Highland Wood and got talking to Brenda Wingerden, a nurse who has worked at the home for several years. She quickly learned that no such program exists in Haliburton County. "It's Christmas, the whole idea behind this is to spread the spirit and help people feel special at this

time of the year," Banks said. "With COVID, things have been really difficult for people living in long-term care homes. They haven't been able to see their relatives or friends, and maybe haven't had much of anything around this time of year, so we wanted to step in and kind of help brighten the holidays for them."

Stockings have already been put together for the 28 seniors who reside at Highland Wood. They are filled with personal care items, toiletries and small treats designed to "bring a smile to their faces," Banks said.

Wingerden confirmed this was the first time an initiative like this had been brought to Highland Wood.

"Our staff were really excited when they heard about this ... The last year and a half has been very stressful for residents. They haven't had a whole lot to be happy about," Wingerden said. "I think this program is great.

It's helping the generation that has done so much for us. It's not much, but it's something that will make a big difference in their lives."

Banks said she is still taking monetary donations to cover the cost of some of the stockings, noting residents can sponsor a stocking for \$10. Boshkung Brewing Co. is also running a festive food drive, with all proceeds going to area food banks. Boxes for non-perishable items have been set up at their locations in Carnarvon and Minden.

All stockings will be delivered to Highland Wood by Christmas Eve.

"We have had generous donations already from people supporting this program. I'm just excited that we were able to pull this off. Our seniors paved the way for us, so I feel it's important that we let them know we appreciate all they have done for us, and that we care," Banks said.

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COUNTY NEWS

Budget sitting at 3.21 per cent increase

The County of Haliburton 2022 budget is currently sitting on a 3.21 per cent tax rate increase over 2021, director of corporate services Andrea Bull told council at a Dec. 8 meeting.

She attributed a decrease from a previously proposed 3.53 per cent hike to decreased wages and benefits and increased revenue for the Haliburton County Public Library; three new positions for the shoreline preservation bylaw being for six months, not 10; there is a new community safety and wellbeing position for nine months; an adjustment of employee benefits from an estimated five per cent increase to an actual renewal rate of 4.1 per cent; and the addition of an integrated waste management study.

The second draft also includes updated assessment data which includes an

additional \$5.1 million in assessment which resulted in an approximate 0.05 per cent tax rate decrease from the first draft.

Coun. Brent Devolin called it “a great new story.” He and warden Liz Danielsen also panned MPAC, which they say are using six-year-old growth figures that are denying municipalities additional income.

Paramedics respond to pending ER closures

Haliburton County Paramedic chief Tim Waite provided a verbal report to council on the pending closure of emergency department services.

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services said Nov. 22 it may have to make cutbacks due to staff shortages.

Waite said he had attended one meeting on the issue and HHHS had been able to find some agency nurses, meaning they may be able to postpone possible closures until later

in January. He said no decisions had been made about sites.

If it is Minden, he said the service might transport southern patients to the Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay during the days and hours it's closed. If Haliburton, he said those living in the east of the County could be taken to Bancroft for 911 calls.

Devolin expressed concern over the possible cutbacks, saying “the potential for disaster here is unbelievable, I'm the last person in the world that wants litigious things but I see potential for disaster is huge in this regard. I wouldn't want to wear that responsibility.”

E-meetings to continue for now

Council decided it would re-evaluate how to conduct meetings during its late January meeting.

That means they will continue to meet

on Zoom, broadcast on YouTube for the foreseeable future.

Danielsen said she would want to gauge the echo effects from holiday gatherings first.

Devolin said Minden Hills had deferred discussions to its last meeting in January as well, to also see the impact of the Omicron variant.

Coun. Andrea Roberts said she attended an in-person board of health meeting Dec. 2, and was surprised with how many councillors there said they had resumed in-person meetings. However, she noted they have bigger council chambers so it is easier to social distance. She said she was comfortable with the local format and would not like to have to wear a mask during a meeting.

CAO Mike Rutter said there was “a little bit of everything” going on in other municipalities. (County news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

High equipment costs hit fire department

While Minden Hills fire department is likely to remain under budget, a 45 per cent jump in supply costs is hitting the department's wallet.

At a Dec. 9 council meeting, fire Chief Nelson Johnson said increased call volumes are causing costs to rise at the department: for example, fire suppressing foam cost the service \$1,500 and they also purchased \$3,000 worth of PFDs.

Johnson outlined other expenditures, such as first aid kits and traffic cones, which were needed to keep the department fully operational.

“This is the year where we need to play

catch-up, with an increase in calls by 40 per cent we needed to adjust our practices and equipment to meet the needs,” he wrote in a report to council.

A new mini pumper truck is soon to be delivered to the department, funded by \$414,979 of the department's reserve funds. Johnson said the vehicle will act as an operational rapid attack vehicle, able to be quickly deployed during emergencies.

Municipal elections contracted out

In 2021, council approved voting for next year's municipal election by phone or web. Now, Scyt Canada has been hired

to undertake election roll-out at a cost of \$2.75 per voter.

CAO Trisha McKibbin said Scyt demonstrated the capacity to handle online voting through an interface that is “easy to understand.”

Mayor Brent Devolin said “this is a big day,” to finalize a cohesive online voting system across all four municipalities.

\$185,300 for Bobcaygeon and Scotch Line re-do

The township has hired Engage Engineering to complete a reconstruction study of Bobcaygeon Road and Scotch Line Road.

Engage Engineering was also awarded the engineering, site supervision and contract administration of this work in the amount of \$18,300.

Engage will also provide engineering services for the Bobcaygeon/Scotch Line project and replacement of nearby Marsh Creek culverts for a total amount of \$167,000.

The total value of work to be delivered by Engage is \$185,300. That amount falls within the projected 2022 capital roads budget.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Sam Gillett).

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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM



Left: Nathan Guild leads the chase down the ice. Right: Goalie Taylor Consack makes a save. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

Storm battle hard in win over South Muskoka

On Dec. 10, the Highland Storm LLU15 faced South Muskoka Cavalcade Ford at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The game started with end-to-end action as Taylor Consack worked hard between the posts. The Storm took the lead when Nathan Guild scored the first goal of the game, assisted by Carson Conlin and Jacob Davis. Just a few minutes later, Guild charged the net again and scored off a

nice pass from Davis. The start of the second period brought lots of excitement as South Muskoka fought hard to get back into the game. Haiden Bird increased the score to three as he worked hard and was rewarded with a goal, assisted by Layne Robinson and Conlin. With 3:02 left in the second, Bird stormed ahead again and found the back of the net with a puck passed from Robinson.

The Storm's great defence and goaltending had South Muskoka shut down at the end of the second. The third period brought the same action as South Muskoka worked hard on the powerplay and added two goals to the scoreboard. With 1:27 left in the game, Bird was hauled down on a breakaway to the net and was awarded a penalty shot. Davis took the shot and put it past the goalie resulting in a win for the Storm with a final score of 5-2. (Submitted).

SCOREBOARD	
DECEMBER 9	
U13 rep vs Muskies.....	7-1 L
DECEMBER 10	
U15LL vs South Muskoka	5-2 W
DECEMBER 11	
U15 LL vs Huntsville	2-0 L
U11 LL vs South Muskoka	8-1 L
U13 Rep vs Mariposa.....	6-1 L
DECEMBER 12	
U11 LL vs South Muskoka	6-0 L
U15 LL vs Almaguin.....	7-3 W
U13 LL vs Huntsville	7-0 L

REP STARS

1

Haiden Bird worked hard backchecking and pressuring the opposition while centering his forward line. His continuous hard work battling to the net earned the Storm a couple of goals.

2

Nathan Guild played a strong game like always, moving the puck up the ice and making some great passes to his teammates. Nathan opened the scoring to give the Storm the early lead.

3

Jacob Davis continually battled for the puck and didn't give up. His consistent hard work created the Storm scoring opportunities. Jacob's 110 per cent effort awarded him the third star of the game.

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Highlander news

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

AH septic reinspection program wrapping up

A four-year project analyzing septic systems in Algonquin Highlands will finish in 2022, with consultants WSP Global saying 75 per cent of properties have been inspected.

Kathryn Stasiuk Riddell told councillors Dec. 9 that 3,173 properties have been tested since 2018, with 966 to be examined next year. Most systems found in Algonquin Highlands are characterized as Class 4, featuring a septic tank and absorption system such as a leaching bed.

Of the 1,792 systems tested in 2020 and 2021, 39 per cent were deemed to be “inadequately maintained,” with Stasiuk Riddell saying property owners were given official remedial action notices outlining the work that needs to be done to bring their systems up to par. Less than one per cent were found to be in a state of disrepair, and ordered to be replaced.

The most common issue WSP found was vegetation growing over key components of a septic system.

“We’re seeing many leaching beds covered with small saplings ... Leaching beds should be maintained with short, manicured grass. If you allow brush to grow and grow, and woody vegetation to accumulate, then dense roots can get into the bed and can damage pipes,” Stasiuk Riddell said.

The cost to replace a Class 4 septic system is between \$5,000 and \$25,000 depending on the size and location of the property, and soil conditions.

Mayor Carol Moffatt said she was disappointed to hear that so many local systems required work. “With all the work that’s being done, it’s great we’re catching these folks and getting issues fixed, but it’s still sad they exist,” Moffatt said. “I would think folks would want to achieve more for

the land and place they love so much.”

Robert Passmore, a senior engineer with WPS, said it’s not that residents don’t want to maintain their systems.

“There’s a lack of fundamental understanding of how a sewage system works, and why it’s needed. I don’t think inherently people are malicious. They just don’t understand how it works,” Passmore said. “A sewage system is an investment, the same as a roof is. It needs to be seen that way from a homeowner’s perspective.”

Passmore said that, over the next year, WSP will be offering free information guides to municipalities to upload to their websites in an effort to educate residents about the importance of septic systems, and how they can be kept healthy and in working order.

ReUse centres reopening

Three ReUse centres designed to divert waste from area landfills will reopen in the new year.

The facilities, located at the Maple Lake and Oxtongue Lake landfill sites and the Dorset Transfer Station, have been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, environmental manager Melissa Murray told council.

“They’ve been closed for a long time, and gosh there’s a lot of things being landfilled right now that should be finding a second life,” Moffatt noted after Murray’s presentation. “ReUse centres are extremely successful, and a key component of our municipal waste diversion strategy.”

Items accepted for redistribution at the sites include books, records and DVDs; puzzles and games; antiques and collectibles; household items; musical instruments; bicycles and sporting goods; and tools and garden equipment.

“It’s time, a lot of people are hurting right



More than 3,000 septic systems have been inspected across Algonquin Highlands since 2020, with a further 966 to be inspected in 2022. *Metro Creative.*

now. Things are costing more. These ReUse centres provide an opportunity for people to find or replace items at no cost, and it helps us in reducing waste that would otherwise be going into the landfill,” deputy mayor Liz Danielsen said.

Dorset sidewalk maintenance

Algonquin Highlands will continue to provide winter maintenance on a 390-metre stretch of sidewalk in Dorset that lies outside of its jurisdiction.

A portion of the village’s main street sits within Lake of Bays, operations manager Lyell Bergstrom told council. Algonquin Highlands has performed winter maintenance and spring cleanup in the area for several years, despite having no formal agreement.

“There’s a few concerns we have with liability, and with doing the work. A new fence constructed along the sidewalk in Lake of Bays jurisdiction is making it more difficult for our staff to maintain the sidewalk,” Bergstrom said.

He presented three potential resolutions: to enter into an agreement to perform the maintenance; to stop providing maintenance; or to continue with the status quo – something Bergstrom said he does not recommend.

Moffatt said she’d like to see the municipality continue to maintain the area.

“Dorset is quite a walkable town, and I believe the sidewalks do need maintaining ... Our working relationship with Lake of Bays has come a long way, I would hate to see that go by the wayside over this,” Moffatt said. “I don’t want us to be the people that get into a gun fight over a couple of grand.”

Several years ago, Algonquin Highlands approached Lake of Bays with a proposal to cost share maintenance of the road, but it was denied. Coun. Jennifer Dailloux said “it’s a different time, and a different council,” today, and that a new agreement could be in the offing. Council asked staff to reach out to Lake of Bays and bring a resolution back to council, while continuing to provide maintenance in the interim. *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker).*

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Cicigoi gunning for glory with Huskies

By Mike Baker

Goaltenders are a special breed of hockey player admits Haliburton County Huskies netminder Christian Cicigoi, who is relishing the chance to backstop one of the OJHL's top contenders this season.

A late addition to the team's inaugural roster, Cicigoi has been a stabilizing presence on the backend for the dogs through 22 games. His calm, confident demeanor has resonated with teammates and coaching staff alike, providing a platform for the Huskies to challenge at the top of the league's competitive East Division.

He has thrived in high-pressure situations, coming in clutch in recent wins against the Lindsay Muskies and Cobourg Cougars when his team was up against it.

"The spotlight is always on you as a goalie. You have to be comfortable dealing with that pressure," Cicigoi said. "Everyone is looking at you and more often than not, you're the difference maker in a game."

"You also have to be OK with taking pucks to the head on a pretty frequent basis," he chuckled.

While his friends would take turns pretending to be Sidney Crosby or Alexander Ovechkin during scrimmages as a boy, Cicigoi would park himself between the sticks and do his best imitation of his heroes Martin Brodeur, Roberto Luongo and Carey Price.

As he moved through the minor hockey

system in northern Ontario, Cicigoi began turning heads with his play. He was a regular feature in the Thunder Bay Kings AAA program as a teenager.

Then, on April 7, 2017 he was selected by the North Bay Battalion in that year's OHL Priority Draft. He was taken in the sixth round, just a few picks ahead of future teammate and current Huskies captain Nathan Porter.

It was a dream come true.

"Such a special moment," Cicigoi said. "It's something I had been working for pretty much my whole life up until that point. Playing hockey at the highest level has always been the ultimate goal, so to be drafted into the OHL was very exciting."

He played in seven games for the Battalion during the shortened 2019/20 season.

Cicigo returned to training camp with the Battalion over the summer, but didn't secure a spot on their roster. While home weighing up options, he received a phone call.

"Coach Ryan (Ramsay) called, he told me all about Haliburton and his plans for the team. I just remember feeling really excited. I got the call on a Monday, and was on a plane by Wednesday," Cicigoi said.

He was thrust right into action upon his arrival, making his debut in a 5-0 shutout victory over the Cougars Oct. 16. He now holds a record of 15-6-1 heading into a busy festive period, with a goals against average



Haliburton County Huskies goaltender Christian Cicigoi is gunning for a championship in what is his final year of junior hockey. Photo by OJHL Images.

of 2.28 and a .923 save percentage.

Cicigoi is billeting with Lloyd and Barb Van den Hoek. He says he loves the rural lifestyle, and feels right at home in the Highlands.

In what is his final junior-eligible season, Cicigoi said he's "all in" on doing whatever it takes to lead this Huskies team to a championship.

"I want to do everything in my power to

win this year. If that means stopping one puck, or 8,000 pucks, that's what I'm going to do. If that means cheering on the boys (from the bench), that's what I'm going to do," Cicigoi said. "We have a great hard-working group. I truly believe anything is possible with the bunch of guys we've got. I'm so dialled in and focused. Every game is win at all costs for me."

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Top left: Haliburton County Huskies forward Cameron Kosurko carries the puck during the team's Dec. 10 2-1 come-from-behind victory over the Lindsay Muskies. Top right: Nick Athanasakos drives up the boards. Bottom left: Pat Saini prepares for a faceoff. Middle: The Huskies stand on the ice for the national anthem. Right: Sam Solarino brings the puck in close. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Huskies on the hunt for first place

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies moved to within four points of the Trenton Golden Hawks atop the OJHL East Division standings this week, claiming back-to-back road victories in Lindsay and Cobourg as their impressive run of form continues.

The battle of Hwy. 35 took centre stage at the Lindsay Recreation Complex Dec. 10, with the Huskies emerging with a 2-1 win. Third period goals from Payton Schaly and Jack Staniland, and a stellar 36-save performance from goaltender Christian Cicigoi got the job done for the dogs.

The Huskies started the game slowly, with Lindsay dominating much of the early play. Cameron Jackson handed the Muskies a deserved lead 9:05 into the opening period, capitalizing on his team having an extra

skater on the ice with officials preparing to send Oliver Tarr to the box.

Cicigoi stood strong to deny Jackson a second goal as the period drew to a close, keeping the Huskies within one. "It's beating a dead horse, but we just seem to get off our Huskies hockey at times and play to the style of our opponents," coach Ryan Ramsay said. "We had a game plan coming in, so I just told the boys during that first break to focus on the plan, and play their game."

The team came out rejuvenated during the second, penning the Muskies in their own zone for lengthy periods. The team was patient, waiting until the third period to get on the scoresheet. Schaly picked up a pass from Nick Athanasakos in the slot just 1:21 in, firing a rocket up and over the glove of Muskies goaltender Yacine Chemrouk to

notch his first goal as a Huskie.

Defenceman Staniland was the unlikely hero, scoring a phenomenal solo goal at 6:22 to give the Huskies the win.

"I took the puck up on the rush, dropped it in for one of our forwards, who hit the crossbar with his shot. I picked the puck up while heading back to the blueline and just started to make my way to the net," Staniland, who beat three Muskies players on the play, said. "I couldn't see a pass, so I walked in and caught the goalie on the backhand."

A power outage Dec. 11 in Minden ended the Huskies' match with the Wellington Dukes early. The hometown team raced out to a 2-0 lead in the opening period, with goals from Schaly and captain Nathan Porter. Ramsay said the game would be rescheduled, likely in the new year.

On Dec. 13, in Cobourg, the Huskies would not be denied. Schaly opened the scoring 49 seconds in after being fed by Tarr, only for the Cougars to tie the game through Justin Jamer at 13:28. Pat Saini scored his seventh of the season eight minutes into the second period, but the Cougars answered right back through Adam Cook. Tarr bagged the eventual game-winner 12:47 into the third, assisted by Saini and Porter.

The Huskies sit in second place in their division, with 36 points and a record of 17-8-1-1. They are back in action this weekend with a home double-header, hosting the Toronto Jr. Canadiens Dec. 17 (7:30 p.m. puck drop) and the Cougars Dec. 18 (4:30 p.m. puck drop).



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Highlander business



Shopping under the stars

Stores across Haliburton kept the lights on late Dec. 9 to welcome holiday shoppers. The annual "Ladies' Night", organized by the Haliburton BIA, included 25 shops, roaming carollers, and special sales. (Sam Gillett).

Top left: BIA treasurer Nelly Ashworth handed out hot chocolate, free shopping bags and cards to shoppers. Bottom left: Cara Oleksuk showcased hand-painted stones at SIRCH's cafe alongside other vendors, donating all profits back to the organization. Middle: Wendy Laduranteye and Stacy Mclean dish out hop apple cider at SIRCH Right: Carollers from St. George's Anglican Church sang festive tunes. Photos by Sam Gillett.

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Foundation nets \$60K for arts centre study

By Sam Gillett

Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation has reached another funding milestone in its quest to bring a performance venue to Haliburton County. The foundation recently received \$45,000 from Canadian Heritage and \$15,000 from Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) and the Ontario government. The funds will cover the next installment of an ongoing feasibility study.

"We're very grateful that OHTO and the Ontario government recognize the potential for broad impacts to tourism, community collaboration and the regional economy while we are in the early steps of our mandate," said foundation president Dan Manley in a Dec. 8 press release.

Toronto-based Janis A. Barlow and Associates have been hired to determine the possible size, funding strategy and possible locations for a performing arts centre in the County.

Manley didn't want to give away which locations are being considered.

"We don't want to prematurely affect land values and prices," he said.

In late November, Barlow's firm hosted interviews with multiple local stakeholders and toured different locations.

"We've loved so far working with them, they're a great team," said Manley. "We feel they're giving a personal touch."

With more funding, Manley said the centre's future is "not such an uphill climb."

Now, he and other board members get asked about the centre while out in public, and he said he feels like the project is gathering momentum.

"It's kind of like seeing a little nugget you helped create take on a life of its own," he said.

The board plan to release a finalized viability study in April 2022, and begin fundraising capital before the end of that year.



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Highlander community



Realtors share the spirit of Christmas

Minden RE/MAX held a food and toy drive at their office to donate to the Minden Community Food Centre. Pictured, left to right, Kelly Mercer, Lisa Mercer, Lynda Litwin, Terry Carr and Cheryl Smith. All of the agents donated but not everyone is in the photo. Submitted.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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Highlander community



Santa Fund lands in Wilberforce

The Highlands East Fire Department, Wilberforce Hall and Wilberforce FUNraising group donated bags of candy and picked out gifts for kids in need, dropping off the goodies at Wilberforce Elementary school last week as part of the “Santa Fund.” (Sam Gillett).

Wilberforce Elementary School principal Barb Davies and secretary Judy Buck pose with donations. *Submitted.*



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Highlander community



The club presents a donation to Wilberforce Elementary School. Pictured: Cathy McQuigge club secretary, Barb Davies, school principal, Gord Fitch, club president and Darrell McQuigge, vice president. *Photo submitted.*

Wilberforce curlers excited to get back on the rings

By Sam Gillett

The Wilberforce Curling Club wasn't sure if it would be able to open at all this year. However, with 24 new members signed up and COVID-19 protocols in place, the group is back to slinging stones and enjoying a community atmosphere. Club president Gord Fitch said the season so far

has been "fantastic. It's busier than ever."

He said many of the new members are new to the County. "They want to get out in the community, they wanted to get some activity going," he said.

While no bonspiels, club tournaments are scheduled so far. Fitch said they're currently curling five days a week. That's more than ever.

There's even a Friday morning ladies coffee club. The curlers are also back to hosting events such as an upcoming potluck. "We aim to have a good community and fun. It's competitive, but not too much," Fitch said. He said the club is passionate about "giving back to the community" of Highlands East. That's why they donated \$1,000 to the Wilberforce

Elementary School's snack program. "We have been doing that for about six years now, we missed it during COVID because we're not open," Fitch said. "This is coming back to it, giving back to the community again." Interested curlers can join the club for its season starting Jan. 18 by contacting wilberforcecurling@gmail.com.

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Highlander community



'We're here for our community'

Volunteers with the Minden Community Food Centre were at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena Dec. 12 as preparation for this year's Christmas Food Hamper program ramps up. According to food bank manager Joanne Barnes there will be at least 170 hampers handed out this year, which will include everything a family needs to prepare a Christmas dinner, and one week's worth of groceries. Between 90 and 100 families will also receive a sack of toys for their children to open on Christmas day. Anyone in need is asked to contact Barnes at 705-286-6838. "We're still accepting. We're not going to deny any family that needs food and toys for their children over the holidays. That's just not how we work," she said. (Mike Baker).

From left, Cathy Arbour, Joanne Barnes and Linda Shulist were hard at work Dec. 12 preparing festive food and toy packages for families in Minden. Photo by Mike Baker.



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Highlander events



Jolly Jog fosters festive spirit

A total of 17 participants dressed up in their favourite festive wear Dec. 12 as Dysart et al held its annual Jolly Jog at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Runners had the choice of participating in a short version of the event, taking place in Glebe Park, or a longer version that took them down through downtown Haliburton, around Head Lake and back to the museum. The event has been running since 2013, and was previously known as the Ugly Sweater Run. Participants in this year's Jolly Jog raised \$90, which has been donated to the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, along with some non-perishable food items. (Mike Baker).

Top: Participants in the ninth annual Jolly Jog gather in front of the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Bottom left: Carolyn Alder, Grace Alder and Violet Humphries check their tickets to see if they were winners of one of three pre-event prizes. Bottom right: Karen Gervais and daughter, Annika, were all smiles as they led the pack in Sunday's Jolly Jog event at Glebe Park. Photos by Mike Baker.



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Highlander events

Radiothon raises \$43K for food banks

Phone lines at Haliburton's 93.5 MooseFM were ringing off the hook Dec. 9 and 10 as the radio station held its 15th annual festive radiothon. The fundraiser supports the efforts of the Minden Community Food Centre, Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank and the Central Food Network during their busiest period of the year. This year's event brought in \$43,800. "The money raised is distributed proportionately to all of the food banks in Haliburton County," said MooseFM morning show host Rick Lowes. "The generosity of Haliburton County never ceases to amaze me, just a wonderful place to live." The radiothon ran from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. last Thursday and Friday, and featured special guests such as Minden Community Food Centre manager Joanne Barnes, 4Cs manager Judy MacDuff, MP Jamie Schmale and MPP Laurie Scott. Since launching the event in 2007, MooseFM has raised between \$350,000 and \$400,000 for the three food banks in Haliburton County. (Mike Baker).

MooseFM morning host Rick Lowes was in great spirits last week as the station held its annual festive radiothon in support of Haliburton County's food banks. Photo by Sam Gillett.



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RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS #1

July 28th | 7:30pm | location TBD

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS #2

July 29th | 7:30pm | location TBD

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS #3

July 30th | 7:30pm | location TBD

OPERAS

CANADIAN STORIES TOLD THROUGH OPERA - TBA

August 18th & 20th | 7:30pm | NLPAP, Haliburton
Join us for a cutting edge experience of opera, created by living composers, telling the stories of today!

EUGENE ONEGIN, BY TCHAIKOVSKY

August 25th, 27th, & 29th | 7:30pm | NLPAP
August 28th | 2:00pm | NLPAP, Haliburton
A masterpiece of 19th century Russian romanticism, the beautiful music of 'Eugene Onegin' tells the story of a selfish hero who lives to regret his nonchalant rejection of a young woman's love and his careless incitement of a fatal duel with his best friend.
(In Russian with English Surtitles)

CONCERTS

FROM OPERA TO BROADWAY

August 3rd | 7:30pm | St. George's Anglican, Haliburton

POP GOES THE OPERA!

August 6th | 7:30pm | location TBD

More opera and musical theatre favourites.

A NIGHT AT THE OPERETTA

August 9th | 7:30pm | location TBD

Merry Widow, Die Fledermaus, Gilbert & Sullivan!
Hear your favourites from the sparkling world of operetta!

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

August 11th | 7:30pm

St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton
Experience the beauty of vocal music composed by Canadian BIPOC composers, past and present.

COMMUNITY PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

WHY CHOOSE OPERA?

August 1st | 7:30 pm | location TBD

Relaxed concert and conversation featuring varied music other than opera.

MUSIC ON THE BAY

August 13th | 5:30pm | Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake

Launch your boat on Mountain Lake, Minden Hills, and join HOS performers in Fairfield Bay for a concert of opera, musical theatre, and pop! (Weather permitting)

CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE

August 15th | 7:30pm | St. George's Anglican, Haliburton

Relaxed concert of all types of songs.

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What's on

Highlands Opera Studio announces 2022 schedule

By Sam Gillett

Tales of heartbreak cascaded over a rapt Abbey Gardens audience in August. A brandished revolver, a descent into hell itself: it was all wrapped up into *The Leporello Diaries*, a fully-staged opera performed by Highlands Opera Studio for a socially distanced and masked audience.

"We were thrilled to see people coming out and being moved to tears once again," general and co-artistic director Valerie Kuinka said.

While the studio performed a few concerts in 2021, Kuinka said they're excited to raise the curtain on a full 2022 season, "reconnecting to the reason why live performance is special."

That includes a pay-what-you-can concert where studio members will perform non-operatic tunes and chat about what drew them to the classical practice. Other performances such as *Pop Goes the Opera* will mix show tunes and opera classics. Kuinka said the genre can feel intimidating to those unfamiliar with it who may think shows call for fancy dress or prior knowledge.

"The people in opera, good heavens they're anything but stuffy," Kuinka said.

She described how some newcomers who were brought by friends were skeptical at first. "They found they were unbelievably moved by being in the same room as this artistic expression."

Many requested operettas this year, said Kuinka. The shorter and lighter shows deal with the fun themes a modern audience might find familiar from romantic comedies.

"It's more just girl like boy, they fall in love; everything works out," Kuinka said.

Co-director and seasoned opera performer Richard Margison will also offer multiple vocal classes with 2022 studio members in late July.



The Highlands Opera Studio performed *The Leporello Diaries* in August 2021. File.

Reflecting on diversity

Many within the art world point to the 2020 murder of George Floyd and ensuing discussions about racial inequity as a wake-up call. Kuinka said it sparked more conversations within the world of opera about areas the industry falls short.

"It's a problem," Kuinka said. As a studio she said they want to increase the diversity

of performances and performers; the vast majority of opera singers worldwide are white.

Celebrating Diversity on Aug. 11, 2022 will be a showcase of diverse composers from Canada's past and present, and Kuinka said the studio will strive to uplift sexually and ethnically diverse performers and composers as it plans future seasons.

It's part of a renewed focus of recognizing "the unbalance in our society: including and

respecting and promoting equity," Kuinka said.

Opera, Kuinka said, is for everyone, telling stories that resonate through time.

"The word opera can scare people. Opera is theatre to music, and the stories are absolutely opera is theatre to music, and the stories are absolutely human and timeless."

More information and tickets for 2022 shows are available at highlandoperastudio.com.

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~Rick Gibson

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Minden Bible Church

Will be hosting a traditional Christmas Eve service from 6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. on December 24th.

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Thank You!

It is with grateful hearts that we, the family of the late Bill Johnston, want to thank our family, friends and community for your caring and support as Bill tried valiantly to recover from his first stroke in 2016. He shared with us his determination, common sense and steadfastness as he faced the challenges in the past five years. With the second and very much more debilitating stroke, we spent a week at his bedside and encouraged with love and understanding that it was time for him to go home to his parents, siblings and friends! Bill was remembered at the service by his children, a niece and Gary Brohman, long time friend, co-worker, hockey line mate and one of many of his golf friends.

Thank you so much for the phone calls, cards, food deliveries to the house, the many donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Service and Heart & Stroke Foundations. Our appreciation goes to the staff of the Haliburton Ambulance Service, Haliburton Hospital, Stroke and Palliative Care Units of the Peterborough Regional Health Centre for their very good care of Bill. The care, support and kind words of Dwaine, Lori, Kate, Rev. Harry Morgan, Bill Gliddon and all those who shared their memories with us will be cherished. Thank you!

Jane, Mark, Tamara and family.

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

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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
**Ronald "Ron"
Perrin Sr. aka
Chaz and Hawk**
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)
November 24, 2021

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital with his family by his side on Wednesday morning, November 24, 2021 in his 75th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Barbara Perrin (nee Winfield). Loving father of Ron Jr. (Venesa) and Shaun (Stacey). Loving Grumps of Shelby (Derek), Hailly (Morgan), Tyler (Samantha), Maria, Zach, Liam, Jacob and by his great grandchildren Nolan and Mya. Dear brother of Donna (Ron) and Jim (Barb). Also fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Ron worked for Ronald S. Sisson Builders for over 25 years. He was an excellent carpenter and builder. He will be sadly missed by many. Ron enjoyed hunting, fishing and horseshoes. Most of all, he enjoyed his family and would do anything for them.

Celebration Of Life

A Celebration of Life will take place Saturday January 8, 2022 at the Royal Canadian Legion, Haliburton Branch # 129 from 1-4 p.m.. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



In Loving Memory of
Donald Bruce Noble

It is with mixed emotions that the family of Donald Noble announces his passing on Friday, December 3rd, 2021 in Minden, ON. Don went to be with his Lord and Saviour whom he loved and served after a sudden decline in his health. Don is lovingly remembered by children Beth Cook (Ian), Les (Joyce) and Russ (Bonnie) as well as by grandchildren Adam, Luke, Peter, Daniel, Andrew, Katerina, Arthur, Chantal, George, Travis, William, James and Danielle. Don also leaves behind great-grandchildren Hudson, Koen, Griffin, Kai, Neve, Jordan, Calvin and Morley. He is predeceased by his wife Jean Noble.

Condolences can be sent by email to: ln1954@gmail.com

Being mindful of restrictions during COVID-19, there will be a short visitation time with family on Saturday, December 18th from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at Pioneer Baptist Church, Norland ON. A private family service and interment will take place in the afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Parkinson Canada (<https://www.parkinson.ca/>) or to Pioneer Baptist Church, Norland 705-928-8924.



In Loving Memory of
Kathryn Ruth Roberts

Passed away peacefully at Hospice Peterborough on Friday, December 10, 2021.

Survived by her brother Robert (Diane) Bell. Nephew John (Dawn) Bell. Will be missed by her friends and neighbours at the Stanworth Apartments in Minden.

Interment will take place at a later date at Minden Cemetery. 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., 123 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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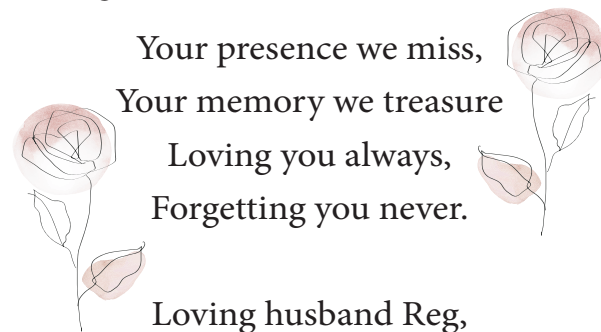
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Across

- 1 Canadian singer Dan
- 5 Beirut's country: Abbr.
- 8 ___ Fair (all-female music festival)
- 14 Nonmetric measuring system
- 16 South American cattle herder
- 17 Cowboy movie set at a hitching post?
- 19 2006 Olympics city, to its residents
- 20 The three Rs: Abbr.
- 21 "Stop! The wedding cake is high enough!"
- 26 Give-or-take suffix
- 27 Urban Dictionary forms of speech
- 28 In the same vein as
- 30 Illness with chills and fever
- 31 It covers a grey area
- 34 Statement from an eloper?
- 40 Arms of the military
- 41 Dinner attire for the highchair set
- 43 Big-nosed de Bergerac
- 46 Like a funeral, moodwise
- 49 "Ni ___!" ("Hello," in Mandarin)
- 50 Hiding place for a reluctant husband-to-be?
- 54 "Moby Dick" captain
- 56 Mesh hair holders
- 57 Not yet wearing one's wedding band, perhaps?
- 63 Beard akin to a Vandyke
- 64 "Could be worse"
- 65 Regard highly
- 66 Needing a drink
- 67 St. John's ___ (herbal remedy)

Down

- 1 Chugger's utterance
- 2 "I believe ...," in a tweet
- 3 Care home employee, perhaps: Abbr.
- 4 Not turned off, as lights

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			

- 5 Skinny milk cartons
- 6 "... your cake and ___."
- 7 Crepes at the Kremlin
- 8 L, on a shirt tag: Abbr.
- 9 ___ in "iodine"
- 10 Troubadour's instrument
- 11 Like many Montrealers in the storm of 1998
- 12 Rocket liftoff force
- 13 Head cheese
- 15 Corporate shake-up, for short
- 18 "Alas!"
- 21 Rubber cheque letters
- 22 Spanish crockpot
- 23 Hawaiian island hotspot
- 24 Punjabi prince
- 25 Hershey's bar whose name means "shoe" in Swedish
- 29 Son of, in Arab names
- 31 Two-base hit: Abbr.
- 32 "___-haw!" ("Whoo-hoo!")
- 33 Sheeran and Asner
- 35 Wedded woman of Spain: Abbr.
- 36 Cod fisher's catch
- 37 Get an ___ effort
- 38 Recedes, as the tide
- 39 Say in French?
- 42 Put money (on)
- 43 Loonies and dimes, e.g.
- 44 Irresponsible louts
- 45 Appreciate a real zinger
- 46 "Beam me up" addressee
- 47 "You're only as ___ you feel"
- 48 Red Square locale
- 51 Old U.S. spy agcy.
- 52 ___ off (intermittently)
- 53 ___-mouth (incessant talker)
- 55 Sink one's teeth into
- 58 Born in Québec?
- 59 Topaz or turquoise, e.g.
- 60 Series follower's network
- 61 Van Gogh had one
- 62 Banned insecticide

SUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

1	M	O	O		4	D	E	A	L	A		9	K	I	T	E					
13	I	N	F		14	I	E	L	D	E	R		15	I	N	K	S				
16	K	I	S	S	M	Y	F	A	C		17	E	B	O	O	K					
18	E	T	T	E						19	E	N	D	T	O						
					20	N	I	C	E	N	E	A	S	23	Y	24	O	25	F	26	F
27	L	28	29	D	A	S					30	S	H	A	V	E	R				
31	I	G	A			32	M	I	S	T	Y			36	D	E	L	I			
37	N	U	T	R	A	S	W	E	E	T	M	A	R	I	E						
41	G	A	T	O				42	M	E	T	O	O		43	I	N	N			
44	O	N	E	M	45	A	N				47	R	O	48	O	T	E	D			
49	S	A	R	A	L	E	E	50	51	52	E	A	N	S							
					53	A	R	M	O	R			54	K	I	T	H				
	58	59	60	P	E	T	R	O	C	A	N	61	A	62	D	A	D	R	Y		
	63			C	R	A	M			64	E	N	S	N	A	R	L	E	D		
	65			S	A	S	S			66	E	S	T	O	P		67	Y	E	E	



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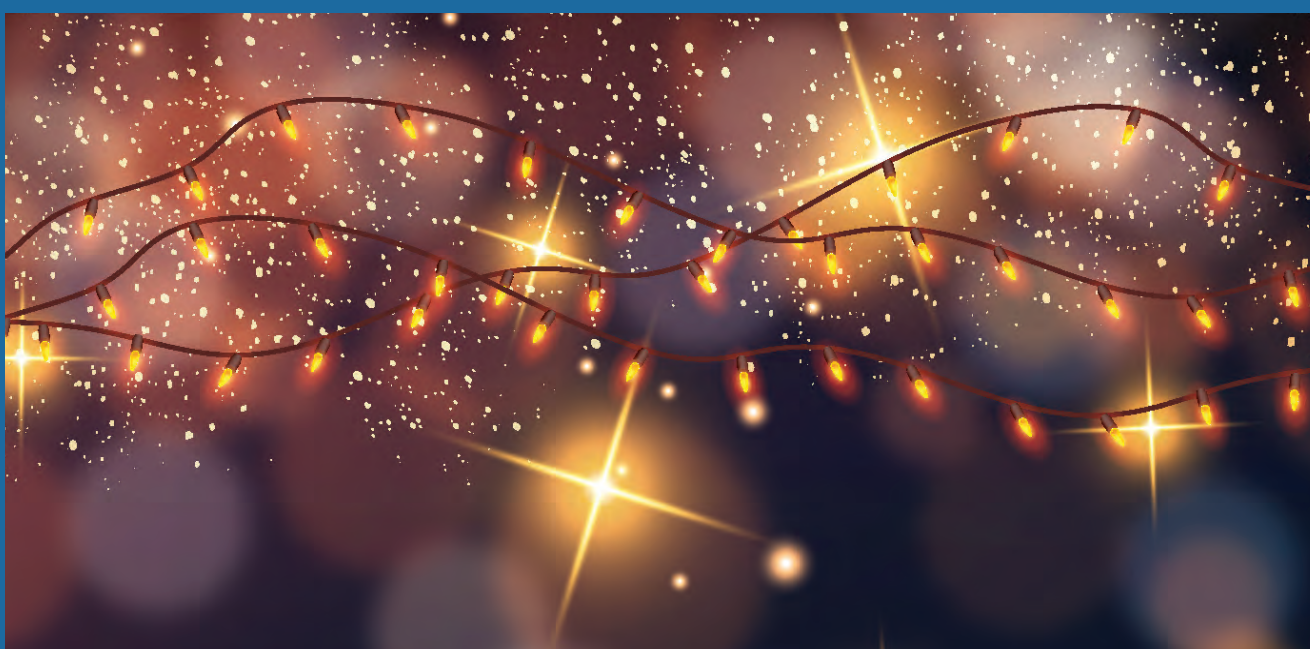


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