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HIGHLANDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The Highlander

Thursday **December 23 2021** | Issue 521

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION - NEXT HIGHLANDER ON JANUARY 6

FREE



A Nostalgic Christmas

Greg Sadlier and Darian Maddock play Christmas carols inside the museum during the Highlands Christmas Throwback in Haliburton Dec. 18-19.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Omicron gives present we want to send back

By Mike Baker

Sarah Anderson was excited to introduce her baby boy to family in Haliburton over the holidays, but recent COVID restrictions forced her to cancel travel plans.

Now living in Melbourne, Australia, Anderson was due to fly to Toronto Dec. 19 with her husband, Ben, and son, Jett, the first-time home in over two years.

"I am extremely close with my family. I've always been OK living abroad, because I always went home at least once or twice a year," Anderson said. "Australia was quick to shut its borders, and it has only just started reopening them in the last month or so ... When the borders opened up for my state, I was quick to purchase some tickets

to Canada."

In the weeks since, a fifth wave has run rampant across much of the world. Canada has been affected with Premier Doug Ford saying it's "unlike anything we have ever seen."

On Dec. 15, Australia issued a travel advisory warning of the risks of flying into Canada. Anderson was worried about not being able to get back home, her husband's travel visa, and travel insurance.

"Our bags were literally packed, we had just gotten our negative PCR test results and were ready to go.

"My family was heartbroken, but they definitely understand. They want to meet Jett so badly, but they want to do it when

it is safe to do so. I still have a pit in my stomach as I feel I've let everyone down. I'm trying to stay positive, and will just try to get there as soon as I can."

Restrictions

Social gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors; 50 per cent capacity limits are imposed on most businesses; a maximum of 10 people may be seated together at restaurants or bars; bars and restaurants are required to close by 11 p.m.; the sale of food and drink at recreational facilities has been temporarily outlawed.

Clay Glecoff, of Glecoff's Family Store

in Haliburton, says all businesses have been down this road before, so know what to expect. He hasn't seen a change in shopping habits, or numbers, since Omicron hit the news, or in the days since the new restrictions.

Glecoff said he's fortunate his store can hold 80 people, so capacity restrictions haven't had much of an impact.

"Fortunately, we've almost made it through December. If it [greater restrictions] happens in January or February, it won't hurt as much."

Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of health with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit, said Omicron is quickly becoming the dominant

Continued 'Health' on page 2

HOLIDAY HOURS:

DEC. 24 - DEC. 27 • CLOSED

DEC. 28 - DEC. 30 • 9AM-3 PM.

DEC. 31 - JAN. 2 • CLOSED

JAN. 3 • 7:30 - 5 PM.



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Highlander news

Health unit adding more vaccination clinics

Continued from page 1
strain in Ontario.

She said so far it appears much more highly infectious than the Delta variant. That makes prompt intervention important so hospital admissions and ICU occupancy don't reach unsustainable levels in early January, she added.

The health unit announced two new vaccination clinics in Haliburton, with 400 doses available Dec. 23 and 30. Bocking said more dates are being added.

With some criticism of family gatherings being curtailed while 9,000 people can be in Scotiabank Arena, Bocking said she understands, "however, people need to limit their contact with others regardless of the setting."

Dr. Norm Bottum, with the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, doesn't believe another lockdown is forthcoming.

"I am optimistic Omicron is not going to create as much serious illness as what we've seen with the other variants," he said. He said contagiousness is the concern.

That's why he's behind the provincial government's decision to implement certain restrictions over the next few weeks.

"Experts are predicting all of us are going to be exposed to Omicron. What we don't want is for there to be 10,000 positive cases every day, where even one per cent of those cases need to go to the hospital. It's that rush on the health care system that could cause real problems, and is what the



Sarah Anderson, son Jett, and husband Ben. Photo submitted.

province wants to avoid."

Booster shots are a good weapon, Bottum said.

"A lot of early evidence is suggesting this could be the last wave of COVID. It may turn out that this latest version of the disease is actually the cure for us. A big outbreak of Omicron, with less serious

illness, will lead to people developing immunity, and might be just what it takes to get through this, especially for third world countries who don't have access to vaccines," Bottum said.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services said there may be some reductions of non-emergency programs and redeployment of

staff, with new rules for visitors to acute care and emergency departments.

As of Dec. 21, only one essential visitor is being permitted at those sites, and all visitors must show proof of vaccination. Some exceptions will be made for palliative, critically ill and pediatric patients.



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**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE HIGHLANDER WILL BE
ON JAN. 6, 2022**

Highlander news

Flood maps to drive future development

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin asked experts with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Dec. 15 if the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) could be convinced to one day dredge part of the Gull River following the completion of the County's flood mapping project.

His comments came after a project update to County council's meeting last week. Cory Harris and Ian Jeffrey of the GRCA went through a technical 31-page slide presentation.

Dysart et al mayor Andrea Roberts started the post-presentation discussion when she asked, "how do we take this information and do something with it?"

The County is working on a four-year project to produce flood hazard mapping along central waterways and key lake areas within the Gull and Burnt River watersheds. County planner Steve Stone said the intent is to develop flood mapping and flood mitigation planning and regulatory tools.

The project has involved LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging data) and now bathymetric data, to determine flood lines on the two flood-prone systems.

In answering Roberts' question, Stone said the County would take its findings to the public, specifically the floodplain mapping and lines. He said the information could be rolled into the County's official plan and they could develop specific planning policies.

"It will drive community development for the future," he said.

For example, he said if someone wanted to renovate a property identified as being in the floodplain, they may have to incorporate flood proofing into their plans. He added institutions, such as retirement homes or nursing homes, would not be allowed in floodplains as the public could be at risk.

"Policies will be generated to direct those

users elsewhere to safer areas," he said.

He added, "it goes beyond that ... to help us better prepare for emergencies, make our infrastructure more resilient, and deal with operational plans put out by public works departments."

Roberts then asked about reservoirs and other diversion methods.

Harris said some options had been looked at historically, including diversions and increasing dam sizes.

Devolin commented he spent time in New Orleans after historic flooding in that state in 2016, looking at what measures were taken there in hopes of mitigating future flooding. He said they put in dykes and other barriers.

He asked if the bathymetric data might support the need for dredging to deepen and widen the channel in Minden from the Minden dam to Gull Lake. He wondered if a case could be made to the TSW.

Harris replied "I would say there may be." He added the GRCA and the Kawartha Conservation Authority, another partner on the project, are sharing their findings with the TSW.

He said the focus now is identifying the floodplain and lines, but it will lead to "options for looking at potential tweaks and localized solutions for the future."

"There's not a silver bullet. We may have to live with the floodplain as it is. There's certainly improvements we can make on how the system is operated," Harris said.

He added in the case of storms, such as one in Timmins that dumped six inches of rain in a 24-36-hour period on already soaked, saturated ground surface, "one of the best things we can do for the community is ... we're not creating the hazard here. The floodplain is there now. All we're doing is identifying the hazard for the benefit of the public and community so we can better prepare for when flooding



An aerial view of past flooding in Minden. *File.*

does occur. That's not to say we can't make tweaks and improvements. Some of the best value is mapping where those areas are going to flood and then getting into flood forecasts and warnings so we're better prepared for when those events do happen."

See thehighlander.ca/2021/10/14/science-helping-to-mitigate-future-flooding/ for an already-published story on the County's work.

Pre-approval for two new ambulances

Chief of emergency services, Tim Waite, received pre-budget approval to get moving on purchasing two new ambulances for the County.

In a report to the meeting, Waite said

every six years they purchase two ambulances.

He said the vehicles scheduled to be replaced next year are both 2016 with current odometer readings of close to 300,000 kilometers.

He said Crestline, their ambulance supplier, notified them earlier in the year that they can expect to see a seven to 15 per cent increase in costs this year with a delayed delivery of 12 to 18 months. A 30 per cent down payment is also now required.

"The earlier our commitment to purchase is intended to allow us to hold our spot on the assembly line to achieve delivery as early as possible in 2022," Waite said.

The expected cost is \$333,900 plus taxes with a down payment upon order of \$48,725.

Minden cow grate out of 'The Twilight Zone'

By Sam Gillett

Minden Hills councillors balked at a request to spend more than \$250,000 to reconstruct a cattle grate on Wessell Road.

"Presenting this report brings me no joy," said acting director of public works Tara Stephens.

Staff received a complaint over the cattle grate's poor condition. After planning to fill in the grate with gravel, staff uncovered a 1979 agreement between the township and landowners that bound Minden Hills to maintain the grate "in perpetuity."

The projected cost of replacing the grate is \$283,000.

Councillors unanimously agreed to defer the matter and search for a different solution in partnership with the nearby landowners.

Stephens said she's unaware of any

nearby cattle herds who would benefit from the exclusion grate.

Since a cattle grate, horizontal bars which cover culverts or ditches to deter cow crossings, is classified as a bridge, it must meet stringent building requirements. That includes a refurbished base for the structure, estimated to cost \$225,000.

Only one company staff approached was willing to take on the project.

Mayor Brent Devolin said the report was like something from *The Twilight Zone* and encouraged Stephens and staff to find an alternative to an "antiquated and out-of-date solution from the distant past."

Coun. Pam Sayne, who has spoken with the current landowners, said they hope to maintain the grates' ability to restrict bovine traffic.

"This is still farm territory, it is an active farm," she said.

Currently, the grate is a "disaster," said



Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin said a prior agreement about a cattle grate on Wessell road was like something from *The Twilight Zone*. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

Sayne, causing damage to cars and posing a risk to pedestrians.

Replacing the grate, explained Stephens, might call for a rented bridge to temporarily allow traffic through, or crews could temporarily reroute the road.

"There would need to be a pretty extensive road closure," she said.

Devolin said he supports maintaining the area's farming infrastructure but the idea of replacing the grate "would be like reading we need to replace Stanley Steamers."

Highlander news

Dysart identifies 2022 road projects

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al has extended its road resurfacing contract with Miller Paving Ltd. for another year, with public works director Rob Camelon saying the deal represents good value in 2022.

Miller committed to completing work next year for the same rate it charged in 2021. All in, the municipality has budgeted just over \$1.5 million for road resurfacing projects in 2022.

"I do think it's a good idea to extend on our side, just given what costs are doing as of late. If we do back out, I'm pretty confident we will see increased costs on this," Camelon told council.

He said there were some issues with work Miller completed last year, mostly surrounding how long the company took to resurface roads once they'd been pulverized. Part of the new agreement includes defined timelines outlining how long each specific road project should take to complete.

There are 40 roads set to be treated in 2022, with the most notable being a 2.4 kilometre stretch of Watts Road, which will be getting ditching and base improvements, pulverizing and double surface treatment; a 1.4 km piece of Boomerang Road and 1.1 km of Fred Jones Road, which will both receive the same scope of work. In terms of re-graveling, Moose Lake Road (2.4 km), Cranberry Lake Road (2.1 km), Precipice Road (1.5 km), Pine Point Road (1.4 km), and Klondike Road (1km) will all see attention in 2022. Paradise Cove (0.8 km), Packard Road (0.5 km), Ella Court (0.4 km) and Outlet Bay Road (0.3 km) will receive

double surface treatment overlay.

Camelon noted almost all of the projects included on this year's list were identified through the new DOT software the municipality started using in 2020.

"The only ones we had to identify ourselves were Boomerang, Winkler, and Eastview [roads]. Those projects were all postponed last year, so we brought them back," Camelon said. "The software came up with the rest. It's working quite well."

Municipal action

Ward 4 Coun. John Smith called on council to take action against a private landowner that has built a dirt bike track on public land near Kennisis Lake.

The land, referred to as the Soap Pond lands, is in the process of being transferred to the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association. Prior to that transfer, the group requested that Dysart investigate what they believe to be a violation of the municipality's encroachment bylaw.

"I have walked these lands myself. A bulldozer has been in there and created a trail that's probably eight feet wide and hundreds of metres long. This is a property that is still owned by Dysart. It seems like a violation," Smith said.

The land transfer has been on the table since February, with township staff seemingly eager to close the file. CAO Tamara Wilbee suggested council could sign off on the agreement and leave the lake association to deal with the trespassing.

Smith felt that would be a cop-out. "I don't think the municipality has a role when a dispute occurs between two private



Dysart has set aside \$1.5 million to complete road resurfacing on 40 municipal thoroughfares in 2022. *MetroCreative.*

landowners," he said. "Once the transfer takes place, it will be up to the lake association to police activities on the land ... Would it not be appropriate given our encroachment bylaw, to actually have a penalty or demand some restoration for the damage that has taken place?"

Mayor Andrea Roberts said she didn't see any harm in having the municipality's bylaw officer investigate in the new year.

Council signed off on the land transfer, with the proviso that township staff follow up on the file and take appropriate action against the offender.

INFORMATION PAGE

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A Message from the Fire Department

Avoiding Frostbite and Hypothermia

Cold weather can be dangerous for anyone who spends time outdoors for either work or pleasure. Be mindful of the risks. Excessive exposure to low temperatures, wind or moisture can cause two dangerous conditions: frostbite and hypothermia.

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During a snow storm, posted speed limits are usually too fast. Conditions can also be unpredictable and change rapidly. Adjust your speed accordingly and give yourself extra travel time.

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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

Holiday Hours at Waste Sites

All Minden Hills Waste Sites
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classified. One person's trash
is another's treasure!

(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
observe Council proceedings by joining a
live-stream link available on the township
website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/
or by using the direct link provided in the
notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed
during the meeting, please download by
visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for
each meeting will only be activated while
Council is in session.

Highlander news

Council defers retreat centre rezoning

By Sam Gillett

Minden Hills Council voted to defer approval for a corporate retreat centre on the shores of Lake Kashagawigamog.

At a Dec. 9 meeting, Mayor Brent Devolin said council had received “dozens” of community responses on the matter.

Haliburton Post House is a 16-room lakefront cottage complex that applicants Joel Baker and Heather Milstein said mainly caters to corporate retreats.

While they approached council for permission to rezone the property from shoreline residential to resort/tourist establishment, nearby residents raised concerns over how the retreat centre seems operational before being designated for its current use.

“The public consultation of this whole development appears to be the cart before the horse,” said Lake Kashagawigamog cottager Richard Guyatt.

Post House’s planning consultant said the renovations were needed “in order to advance the proposal and gain interest from prospective clients.”

In a Dec. 21 interview, Milstein said they began the rezoning process more than a year ago, and submitted the application to Minden Hills six months prior.

“This wasn’t something we just started recently,” she said.

Nearby resident Debbie Fitzsimmons told councillors she was worried that Post House may draw loud visitors who could disrupt

lake life.

Baker said he understood residents’ concerns. “We want to reassure them we’ll be responsible community members. It’s also a small venue, it’s not a hotel.”

There won’t be any motorized boats or other loud outdoor activities on-site for guests, and Baker said a welcome package will outline regulations about limiting outdoor noise after 10 p.m. and all guests and staff will be informed about noise bylaws, “not to disturb their neighbours.”

Baker and Milstein said the project reflects their appreciation for the area.

“We feel really passionate about the Highlands. We’re really passionate about this opportunity to bring folks there,” Milstein said, mentioning a focus on hiring local and buying local food.

Emily Stonehouse of Yours Outdoors and the Haliburton Tourism Action Committee said the “unique venue” is likely to “bring business to the area on a year-round basis.”

Nearby Cedar Grove Cottage rental owner Len Henderson said he supported the project. “I’ve seen what the new owners have done and I think it shows an incredible commitment on their part,” he said, mentioning approving the rezoning would mean “Haliburton and Minden are open for business.”

A scientific review from Hutchinson Environmental Ltd. concluded that the new use for the property is unlikely to increase any phosphorus loading on the lake, in part due to a recently-installed septic system



Joel Baker and Heather Milstein own and operate Post House, a retreat centre on Lake Kash. *Submitted.*

that is estimated to control 97 per cent of phosphorous from entering the lake.

While the property’s shoreline has been grass, the planner said the owners plan to renaturalize the shoreline with native vegetation.

“It was very important for us to maintain the natural characteristics of the property,” Baker told councillors.

Council voted to defer the application, and

have staff gather more information on the file and property.

“It’s somewhat precedent-setting,” Devolin said. “I’d like to know the process to this point with respect to what’s happened there has complied.”

Baker said “we’re going to keep working with council respectfully through the process, and answer any questions that may come up.”

Safety and well-being plan ‘incredible opportunity’

By Lisa Gervais

Strategy Corp.’s draft Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is headed to County council in the new year.

The steering committee made the decision during a Dec. 15 meeting in which the draft was presented by consultant Lauren Wyman.

Wyman said that in consultation with Highlands’ service providers, about 30 organizations, as well as a community survey of more than 100 respondents, they’d identified four priority areas and a number of goals under each.

“The success of this plan lives and dies by community engagement and making sure the solutions that are developed are done so with the beneficiary citizen in mind,” Wyman said.

Strategy Corp.’s John Matheson said they were mindful of presenting the committee with “a useful addition to what you already had, not a replication,” which would put demands on a system already overtaxed.

The priority areas have been identified as: housing and homelessness; poverty and employment; mental health, substance use and addiction; and healthcare system access. Each has specific goals, with a total of 12.

Wyman noted many of the areas are interconnected.

“Someone who is experiencing housing and homeless challenges may also, or likely is also, dealing with issues surrounding poverty and employment and some may also be trying to navigate the mental health or substance use supports in the community as well as [experiencing] medical conditions.” She said they kept in mind that one issue can be compounded by another and none exist in isolation.

For example, under housing and homelessness, goal two is to “develop wraparound support for community members struggling to access housing through greater service integration, communications, and outreach.”

Wyman said that could be achieved in part by developing a housing website that builds on existing platforms or sites to centralize information. She said it sounds somewhat basic but there was “overwhelmingly a sense that there’s all these different services and resources and it’s really hard to understand where to access them so a basic first step of centralized information was something that people were interested in seeing come out of this.”

The report also noted enablers and risks to the plan. Enablers include a lack of public transportation and internet connectivity issues. Risks are funding and capacity, geographic distribution,



Mental health, substance use and addiction is one of the targeted priorities in the new community safety and well-being plan. *File.*

population and demographic-based challenges, climate change and public health threats.

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said the elephant in the room was money. “Who’s going to pay?”

Steering committee chair Carol Moffatt said everybody at the table was aware of that. She thought the County creating a navigator position to help stitch the plan together will help.

Matheson said it might be about the County and lower-tier municipalities helping out where they can, but also finding efficiencies in what is already

being done, and ultimately lobbying the province for more money.

Warden Liz Danielsen said the other challenge is the County has “no real ability to make anybody do anything.”

However, Moffatt said the people around the table who helped craft the plan were “skeptically enthusiastic” and willing to collaborate.

“Build the data set that provides for going forward. Is it going to be easy? Not on your life. Is it an incredible opportunity? Absolutely.” She said the navigator is key. “We can be the little train that could but we have to believe in it.”

Highlander news

LIBRARY NEWS

Library lockers coming to Dorset

After nearly a year without service, Algonquin Highlands readers will soon have local library access.

Three lockers are being installed outside Robinson's General Store in Dorset where patrons can pick up reserved library items.

Library CEO Chris Stephenson said he's excited to have found an interim solution.

It's a fairly innovative service," he said. "It's an out-of-the-box solution to a challenge."

Once the lockers open, likely within weeks, patrons can reserve books and materials online, using combination padlocks to pick them up.

Stephenson said the library is rolling out an educational campaign, letting local users know when the lockers will be usable and how the system will work.

Despite a small population, Stephenson said there are many steady users of the library in the area, and there will likely be deliveries to the lockers twice weekly.

"The location couldn't be any better," he told the library board in a Dec. 8 meeting.

Mold has closed the Dorset community centre since spring and service at the Stanhope branch is still offline, as accessibility improvements have blocked off the front entrance.

Library staff must be vaccinated

HPL workers must soon be vaccinated or face employment termination.

The vaccination stance is "based heavily off the County draft policy," said Erin Kernohan-Berning, branch services librarian.

Patrons will not need to be vaccinated.

Warden Liz Danielsen asked how staff felt about serving unvaccinated patrons.

Kernohan-Berning said the library lacked human resources to check vaccination status, and the current policies follow suit with libraries across Ontario.

Stephenson said "we just maintain the same practices we supported through other stages of the pandemic but said the library is ready to pivot if things turn for the worse."

That includes plexiglass partitions at counters, sanitizer, mandatory masking and spaced seating areas.

Rebrand coming

The library board approved funding for a HPL rebranding initiative that will result in a new logo, as well as changes to the visual appearance of the library's literature, website, signs and more.

Kernohan-Berning said an "appropriate time to do a rebrand is when you're rolling out a new look."



Library CEO Chris Stephenson, right, with Robinson's owner Mike Hinbest (centre) and employee, Lee Ross. Submitted.

Mugo Web, a company hired to build the site, will also be contracted to complete the rebranding at an estimated cost of \$5,000. The company will provide the library

board a chance to approve designs, fonts and more throughout the rebranding process. (Library news compiled by Sam Gillett).



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Highlander news



Monica Bolton and Ben Scott hope to open for full-time winter hours in January. Photo by Sam Gillett.

A different kind of ice at River Cone

By Sam Gillett

This year, winterizing Minden's iconic River Cone didn't mean unplugging fridges, locking doors or shuttering windows.

Instead, new owners Monica Bolton and Ben Scott have been hard at work crafting the Cone into a winter destination for locals, snowmobilers and perhaps even skaters.

They aim to open five days a week in January, a first for the location they've been operating since May 2021.

That's in large part due to the heavy snowmobile traffic that runs right by their back door.

"We thought if we could somehow serve that community, it would be great for them, it would be great for us, but it meant we had to reinvent a lot of things in the process," Scott said.

With a background in construction, Scott has been ensuring the fibreglass cone, traditionally just a summer spot, is ready to

dish up quality meals in the cold.

Scott said they're excited to offer hearty meals like stews, soups or house-made mac and cheese, "things that really fill you up," he said.

Bolton presented a vision for a River Cone skating rink at Minden Hills council Dec. 9.

She said it could be a big draw for tourists who might hit the ice before grabbing a hot beverage at the River Cone or perusing downtown shops.

"Taking a public space like this and offering added features; it's quite a draw," said Bolton.

While the rink wouldn't be operational this year, the River Cone's received broad support on social media and councillors seemed receptive to the project.

"It sounds dreamy, frankly," said deputy mayor Lisa Schell.

Mayor Brent Devolin called the idea "novel" but cautioned there are "nuts and bolts" associated with constructing and operating a rink on the area, which is an

unused municipal road.

Bolton and Scott said they're excited to continue to explore how the project could proceed in future years.

"I think this idea has some legs," Bolton said and addressed the many who've voiced support for the project online "don't lose patience or faith that we can work with the municipality so we can do something cool with these unused spaces."

In the summer they strung up a pickleball net on the road, and local youth often play basketball there while hanging out around the eatery.

"We feel really strongly about the need for kids, and youth especially, to have someplace they can go," Scott said, "where they have freedom to be themselves but there are lots of eyes on them so they're accountable for their actions or behavior."

Skating rink or not, Bolton and Scott said creating a community hub is a central value.

"We enjoy that sort of vibe," Bolton said.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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OUR MISSION

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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Coping

When sitting down to write this week's editorial, I pondered an opinion piece on a number of the stories we were working on.

Unfortunately, there appeared no way to avoid COVID-19 and the fifth - sigh - yes, fifth wave of the pandemic starring the Omicron virus.

I'll leave you to read the news coverage.

Quite frankly, while as a newspaper we have to cover this continuing story, we, like most of you, are sick and tired of it.

Laying on the chiropractor's table this week, Jason asked me what I thought. I told him I didn't want to talk about it. I wondered if we'd erred badly collectively. Should we have allowed herd immunity to run its course and avoid the seemingly endless parade of vaccine boosters that may mark our futures. Flu shot? Check? Pneumonia shot? Check? Shingles vax? Check? Booster? Booster? Booster? Check. Check. Check.

And now, some of us are scrambling to figure out whether those Christmas plans are on. If they are, what do we have to do to ensure everyone is safe? Others are rethinking that winter getaway. Our physical and mental healths are taking a hit in a week when we saw the least bit of daylight for the entire year.

I lit an outside bonfire on the solstice, a sort of middle finger to winter. And, I think it's time we did the same with COVID. So, with this rawness, let's talk about our feelings and coping.

I'd like to present my personal list of 10 ways I am trying to stay positive during winter's icy grip and COVID's continuing presence.

1. Finding inspiration. I'm reading two books at the moment. The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri, which brings me back to my Indian soul home. I've also just cracked The Golden Spruce. I've learned more about trees in the first 26 pages than I have learned in my lifetime. Find a documentary. Find a podcast.

2. I'm practicing gratitude. Every day I am thankful for where I live; the cottage roads I walk down; and the peace and tranquility in front of my living-room fire. What are you grateful for?

3. Seek out the positive people in your life. If some family members or friends are spiralling into negativity, choose to not go down that road with them.

4. While you might not be able to physically escape, find things that tap into your inner child or provide joy. For me, it's colouring, playing in the snow, a hot bath.

5. Smile and say hello. Yup, I've got a mask on. But when you smile, people can see it in your eyes. Even while out walking, I'll smile at drivers. Nine times out of 10, they smile back.

6. Reach out. I chat with strangers and I am connecting more with loved ones via text, messenger, phone calls, emails and Zoom.

7. Exercise. That's a big one for me. My daily walks keep me sane.

8. Focusing on my four walls. I'm renovating. Again. This time, I'm in the laundry room. That fresh coat of paint makes me smile.

9. Take time to breathe. Maybe it's a cup of tea. Find that ritual that allows you to stop for five minute intervals.

10. This might sound ironic, since I am a newspaper editor, but set limits on how much news you're consuming or monitoring Facebook and other feeds so you don't go down that rabbit hole.

Do have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

Fire's burning - draw nearer - safely

Last Christmas our mantra was "alive and apart," choosing to keep in separate homes to reduce risk of transmission. This Christmas the sentiment is to be with family. People want to be with loved ones, seeking familiar rituals and warm hugs despite the more aggressive Omicron variant. This can be done, but only if we consistently and correctly use the tools we know are effective.

The CDC says it is a hard sell to convince people to "lockdown" this year. The headlines from Britain show government resistance to restricting indoor activities. Despite the case count increase of 64 per cent in one week, politicians threatened to quit or oust PM Boris Johnson if he imposes lockdown.

Japan had 193 new COVID cases on Dec. 16 and the UK had 92,503 the same day. Japan's population is nearly twice the UK's, with higher population density, but everyone reliably wears a mask, obliges strict border control, does testing pre-flight and on arrival, uses hotel and at-home quarantines plus mobile tracking and reporting, and 79 per cent are fully vaccinated.

The latest update from COVID-END Evidence Network on vaccine effectiveness is reassuring. A Dec. 15 review of 110 studies analyzed the vaccines in use globally. Pfizer is 92-100 per cent effective to prevent severe disease and 91-97 per

cent to prevent death from Alpha variant, 93-98 per cent to prevent severe disease and 90 per cent to prevent death from Delta. Data being collected for Omicron show promising protection against severe disease and death, given a third (booster) shot. UK data show 35 per cent effectiveness 14 weeks after two doses of Pfizer, increasing to 75 per cent within a month of third dose. Vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization from Omicron was 90 per cent (with two or three doses) as per modelling studies.

Vaccines reduce severe illness, hospitalizations and death. Everyone over five years should be fully vaccinated and everyone over 18 years should get a booster. All pregnant women should be vaccinated. Pregnancy increases risk of severe illness. COVID-19 increases risk of pre-term birth and stillbirth.

Omicron cases double every two to four days. Each case appears to infect 6.1 times more individuals than Delta (Ontario Modelling Science Table). Public health is calling for "circuit breakers" to buy time for boosters to take effect: high quality masks, physical distancing indoors, improved ventilation, increased access to rapid tests and 50 per cent fewer contacts.

Masks of two or three layers covering mouth and nose protect against all variants. CDC recommends masks in public indoor settings and areas of high community transmission, regardless of vaccination

status. If two people are face-to-face and one has COVID, the other person has a 90 per cent risk of being infected if neither person is wearing a mask. If the non infected person puts on a mask the risk drops to 30 per cent. If the infected person puts on a mask the risk drops to five per cent. If both are wearing a mask, the risk drops to 1.5 per cent.

Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated areas. Step back six feet or step outside and the risk drops even more. Distance, wind, open windows all allow ventilation to carry the aerosols away.

Test to prevent spread to others. Rapid test kits were sent home with every Ontario school child. If your self-test has a positive result, stay home or isolate for 10 days, wear a mask if you have contact with others. A recent study showed the rapid antigen tests detect almost 98 per cent of infected people within the first week of symptoms and those with a high viral load.

Omicron has a shorter incubation period than the other variants (two to seven days rather than four to eleven), replicates very quickly and produces a higher viral load than previous variants, which can make rapid tests more accurate.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION?

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

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Laurie Johnson, housing manager of Haliburton Community Housing Corporation, said tenants from Parklane Apartments, did a beautiful job with this forest of trees. *Submitted.*

LETTERS

Random acts of kindness

Dear editor,

Something happened last week that made my heart sing. It reminded me that random acts of kindness can make a difference, especially during a pandemic.

My laptop would not boot up. Like most of us, my life is on my computer. I run a small business from it and I was desperate. Actually, I was frantic.

I Googled “computer repair Haliburton” and The Source, at 160 Highland St. popped up. I hustled there as fast as my 70-year-old body could, in fact, hustle. A friendly young man took my laptop and checked the charger. No problem. Then he did a forced re-boot. Magic! The computer sprang to life. I asked how much I owed him and he replied, “nothing.” I argued that he had benefitted me greatly and I really wanted to pay something. He charged me \$5.

It reminded me of two other random acts of kindness I have experienced. Last fall, at the Independent Grocery Store in Haliburton I had a very full grocery cart filled with Thanksgiving food. I wheeled the cart out to my car, got in the car and

drove away. Yes, I left my groceries in the parking lot. Did I mention I was 70?

I got all the way home near West Guilford before I realized my mistake. A mad dash back to the store revealed no unattended grocery cart in the parking lot. I ran to the customer service office located at the front of the store. There was my grocery cart. An employee, whose job is to collect the empty shopping carts, had seen my abandoned groceries. He watched for a while then brought them to customer service for safe keeping. I shed tears of joy – literally. The employee had finished his shift so I could not personally thank him. The customer service manager told me he often buys lottery tickets. I bought some and left them for him. Darn! I forget his name. It’s an age thing.

Then there was my visit to Troy Optical in Minden. I dropped in to the store with four pairs of glasses that needed adjusting. I explained that I had not bought the glasses at the store and I was happy to pay. The man in the store cheerfully told me there was no charge for adjustments. He patiently fitted each pair of glasses to my face. A customer with an appointment came in half way through the process. Unlike me, she would be a source of revenue. She was happy to wait while my wonky frames got fixed. I insisted on paying for the service.

The man insisted it was free. I asked his name. “Troy,” he said. I registered surprise. “As in, Troy Optical?” I asked.

Random acts of kindness, together with patience, make life just a bit easier. And I know which stores have my loyalty. I do remember that.

Carolyn Dartnell
Algonquin Highlands

A true community effort

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Haliburton Sports Hall of Fame, I’d like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the incredible community support we’ve received.

The Hall is proud to be part of the Haliburton County Community Co-Operative and appreciates the support of chair Jim Blake.

We want to thank our media partners. Your coverage has helped put the Hall into the minds of our community. From the very beginning, you’ve been helpful and encouraging. We would not have been as successful without you.

We thank our founding sponsors Curry Chevrolet and Minden Subaru. It has made

our initial plans easier knowing we had funding to move forward and accomplish our goals.

We want our donors to know how much we appreciate your help. The committee has been thrilled to see the outpouring of financial support along with important donations of labour from local contractors.

We also want to recognize the support of Dysart et al. Not only have they allowed us to redecorate the stage as a display area in the auditorium of the A.J. LaRue Community Centre but also provided funding and labour. Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy is the council’s representative to our committee. Pat has been very supportive and the committee appreciates his outstanding advice and guidance along the way.

We are excited to welcome our initial class of inductees, including athletes, builders and teams to the newly-created Hall as soon as COVID will allow. We have June 18 on hold and hope to have our first induction ceremony then.

We have no doubt that our fantastic Highlands community support will help us welcome these amazing athletes, builders and teams as they join the Hall.

Roger Trull
Chair HSSHOF Committee

Highlander news

Minden Bible Church

Will be hosting a traditional Christmas Eve service from 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. on December 24th. The service will include Christmas Carols, Scripture Lessons, a candlelit service & the message, 'Amazing Grace & Amazing Love'. Covid precautions are in place with appropriate social distancing. Please bring and wear a mask. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you! 177 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden

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~ Rick and Diane Stamp



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The S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena will continue to offer ice skating at reduced capacity. *File.*

Townships respond to new Omicron business rules

Haliburton's four municipalities have announced new restrictions and safeguards as COVID-19 cases in the province rise.

Minden Hills' offices closed Dec. 21, with staff booking in-person meetings on an individual basis. Landfills will operate as usual, and building and planning applications will continue to be processed, as well as building inspections carried out on a case-by-case basis.

The Agnes Jamieson Art Gallery and Minden Hills Cultural Centre are closed until further notice, along with the gymnasium and walking track at the arena. Public skating and ice programs are limited to a maximum of 25 participants.

Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East have announced

similar restrictions. Anyone visiting municipal offices has to have an appointment.

Dysart et al encourages all visiting municipal offices to book an appointment, and will only be allowing one person in the township offices' lobby at a time. CAO Tamara Wilbee said the arena and Haliburton Highlands Museum will run at 50 percent capacity. There will be no new bookings at the arena auditorium.

The Head Lake welcome centre and public washrooms will remain open.

The rules come after the HKPR health unit asked businesses to re-instate work-from-home when possible and limit in-person contact. (*Sam Gillett*).

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Highlander news

Hunter Creek rezoning a ‘tearing apart’ issue

By Sam Gillett

Minden Hills council unanimously rejected a rezoning application for a multi-unit long-term residential development on Hunter Creek Road Dec. 9.

Contracted planning consultant Darryl Tighe said that long-term multiple-unit residential use does not conform to the township’s official plan, which directs that planning suit surrounding development and landscape.

While the property is currently zoned as a waterfront, neighbours who addressed council said the property is already occupied by multiple long-term tenants. The commonly accepted definition of waterfront zoning refers to single-occupant residences.

Tighe’s report also claims the property was part of a larger land parcel that was severed with an agreement declaring “that the ‘motel’ was not to be utilized for commercial purposes.” This means the current use seems to be in violation of the township’s zoning rules.

The applicant did not submit any technical reports.

Jeffrey Streisfield, a lawyer representing the property owners, said disallowing the rezoning would be “draconian.”

He said the plan to turn the building into residences geared to seniors means “long-term residential housing in a county and municipality that has not been able to address the housing crisis that exists.”

Melissa Markham, the applicant’s agent, said evaluations of environmental impact are noted as being the biggest factor in determining suitability. Since the property wouldn’t change if rezoning is allowed, Markham said the environmental impact would be negligible. She did not provide or refer to an environmental impact report.

Luigi Centurami, who said he owns the property, declined to comment.

Mayor Brent Devolin said he was “very comfortable” taking the planners’ recommendation to disallow the rezoning.

“It’s not housing under no conditions,” Devolin said.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said the applicant “asked for forgiveness rather than permission,” since there are “six units” currently being rented at the property.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she was “very angry” at the divisive situation and that the application represents a “tearing apart issue.” Sayne said “poor landlords can create situations that make the residents look bad.”

Nearby property owner Dan Martel said council approving the rezoning would “portray the wrong message” since a 2016 agreement seemed to block the landowner from using the property for multiple long-term units.

“I think it’s wrong, and I’m definitely against it,” Martel said.

Multiple other neighbours reported



Neighbours and Minden Hills councillors say a former motel violates Minden Hills’ zoning rules. Photo by Sam Gillett.

deteriorating road conditions, due to increased traffic on the private, unpaved cottage road. Others said they’ve seen trucks parked on septic beds and tenants trespassing on neighbouring properties.

Nearby resident John C. Law wrote in a letter to council he was concerned issues with people who appear to live at the property would only “escalate” if the rezoning was approved.

Coun. Sayne said the file points to a much larger issue.

“What we need to do here is address our housing concerns in a much larger way than we have,” she said.

Devolin said he couldn’t discuss specifics about how apparent zoning infractions at the property are being addressed but said “there are things going on, on multiple fronts.”



Merry Christmas to all.
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Highlander arts

Handing the mic to Highlands stars

By Sam Gillett

Penny Randall-Mowbray wants to play your music on her new show, Locally Sourced, which landed on CanoeFM airwaves the first week of December.

Airing each Wednesday from 7-9 p.m., Randall-Mowbray features local music and musicians who visit the studio to play live.

"If you look locally in every small town, in every hamlet, there are musicians; there has always been musicians," she said.

The show aims to illuminate Haliburton's talent which many may overlook.

"We just don't recognize it: we think we have to leave our community to find music and we do not: it's all right here if you just look around," she said.

Local up-and-coming songwriters like Cassidy Taylor belted out original tunes live and Annabelle Craig brought her cello into the studio for a show; their music played right alongside tracks from seasoned voices such as Carl Dixon. Randall-Mowbray said she opens each show with a song by an indigenous artist to honour the original stewards of the land.

"I think people really love it," Randall-Mowbray said.

She's been volunteering at the station for four years.

Throughout that time, she said she's come to appreciate the community of musicians in Haliburton who encourage each other to play no matter their skill level.

"If others in your circle have told you you're not good enough, you're not this, you're not that, you can reach out to other like-minded individuals."

She'll play just about any music locals send in, and always is on the hunt for performers who may want to strum a few tunes. Beginners are welcome.

"I couldn't play ukulele, I couldn't play anything: everyone starts out at zero but



Penny Randall-Mowbray hopes the show inspires locals to check out the area's talent and pick up an instrument. Photo by Sam Gillett.

there's no way to go but up," she said.

She hopes listeners might be encouraged to pick up an instrument themselves.

"I think whatever age we have playing: somebodies going to resonate with that," she said. "I'm an older musician and not

very good, but people might say 'hey, she just started playing a few years ago. If she can do it, I guess I can do it too.'"

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Highlander education

HHSS going back to regular semesters

By Mike Baker

Regular four-class semesters will be reinstated across all TLDSB secondary schools in February, says the board's director of education Wes Hahn.

The decision was announced Dec. 9, with Hahn providing additional details at a Dec. 14 organizational meeting of the board. He said strong vaccination rates of secondary school students was a key factor, with a significant number of the board's Grade 9-12 student body having received a first and/or second dose of the vaccine.

While students have been engaged in the quadmester system since September, Hahn noted co-horting at the secondary level has not been taking place. Students have been mixing, and participating in extracurricular activities – sometimes with students from other schools and boards. Despite this level of interaction, TLDSB has had only five cases of COVID-19 across its seven secondary schools and six alternative and adult education centres between Sept. 1 and Dec. 14.

Superintendent Kim Williams said principals and teachers have been engaging with students since the start of the year over the pros and cons of the quadmester system. "While many students enjoyed

quadesters, many others preferred the semester system where they could spend more time learning key concepts to help with the retention of material for future use. The benefit of having more time to learn and retain information was echoed by teachers and principals," Williams said. "Our principals work with students and staff every day in our schools. They believe the semester system is best for student learning."

A quadmester is a condensed schedule where students participate in two classes daily over a 44-day period. Regular semesters see students engaged in four classes over the course of several months.

Haliburton trustee Gary Brohman supported the decision.

"I think students in Grade 9 and 10 that have never felt semestering will love it. They will feel it's like a high school," Brohman said.

Williams noted lockers will be made available to secondary school students beginning Feb. 7.

Annual report

Despite challenges over the past 12 months, Hahn said TLDSB had made "great strides"

on several fronts in 2021.

Continued investment in technology ensured all students from Grade 7 to 12 had access to a device they could take home for virtual learning, while around \$17 million has been spent bringing school facilities up to new health and safety standards, with the installation of HEPA filters in classrooms and improvements to central ventilation systems taking centre stage.

TLDSB's four-year graduation rate increased by one per cent, while the graduation rate for students enrolled in "specialist majors" increased from 48 per cent in 2019/20 to 58 per cent in 2020/21.

Each department head provided updates, with Williams saying the board is expecting to see a decrease in credit accumulation rates for students from Grades 9 to 11.

"Despite a strong start, students struggled as the year ran on and COVID fatigue settled in," Williams said. "Although we have a number of credit shy Grade 9 and 10 students, we are confident we will be able to help them graduate on time through programs like School Them in a College, dual-credits, specialist high skills majors, Ontario Youth Apprenticeships and summer school co-op."

Director's update

Hahn said the board has yet to receive any information from the ministry regarding potential school closures in the wake of a fifth COVID-19 wave.

The provincial government announced new restrictions Dec. 17, with the number of daily cases exceeding 4,000 for the first time since April. The Omicron variant, considered to be a super spreader by health care professionals, is prevalent in many parts of the province, including the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district.

Should there be any changes to the school schedule, Hahn said TLDSB staff will be ready.

"If there are changes over the holidays, as we have done in the past, we will take a very measured approach to allowing people to come back into the building, get what they need to ensure we can start up in a different mode of learning," Hahn said. "There is no panic here. We are going to continue on in the way we're doing things right now, and hoping we will be back in-person after the holidays. But if there are changes, we are ready to go."



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Highlander environment

Woodlands healers weather COVID

By Sam Gillett

Don Ross' grandkids spotted the loon first, huddled on the sand of the family's Grass Lake cottage.

"They didn't want to leave it. It was not well, it was lethargic, it was in some distress," said Ross. "I've never seen a loon on a beach ... just sitting there."

Nora, seven, and her brother Lukas, nine, helped their parents put the loon in a box dotted with holes. Then they drove it to the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary in Minden.

The diagnosis? The loon was starving, said Monika Melichar, sanctuary founder and director.

After spending two weeks nursing the loon back to health, Melichar dropped the loon back off at the Ross' cottage, where the family was able to send the loon, healthy, on its way.

"It was quite a learning experience for the kids," said Ross, "teaching them about stewardship and conservation."

It's likely the teenage loon, about to fly south for the winter, would have died if not for the Ross family and Melichar's expert care nursing it back to life.

Don Ross said the situation "says something about the condition of our lakes or our environment."

For Melichar, rescuing loons and other animals is a 365-day career, with funding and food shortages meaning it's been difficult to keep up with the demand for her services.

She's seen 12 loons come through the

doors this year, compared with two or three on a usual year.

"It's been quite the year for loons," said Melichar.

At the sanctuary, she opens a cage where a loon, full-grown, sits on clean and thickly-padded blankets. It's severely malnourished as well.

It's difficult to tell why.

Melichar said high water levels might

mean loons have trouble finding fish to eat in deep waters.

Another explanation could be a depleted fish supply, with the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association

reporting a depleted walleye population in the Kash chain of lakes (which includes Grass Lake).

Haliburton's lakes are under increased stress due to increased nutrient loading. A 2015 lake health report showed 48 per cent of properties on Grass Lake have mowed lawns bordering the water, which is shown to allow sediment and other harmful chemicals to flow into the lake.

For Melichar and her volunteers, the reason why animals are being brought to the

sanctuary is secondary: they never refuse them. The important part is caring for them, a task made difficult by funding and food shortages.

For example, loons only eat full fish.

"We can manage that, but finding them is a challenge," Melichar said. She invited any generous anglers to get in touch. "Anybody who's out there fishing and they catch sunfish or something, absolutely; we don't

need them live, they can be dead or frozen."

And as the winter sets in, birds such as mergansers and grebes still have a dire need for food.

"This is just the situation

now. The situation gets worse later on in the year," Melichar said.

This year was also the first year in the sanctuary's history that money ran dry.

"Normally in the summertime, we'll have garage sales or people coming into our gift shop to purchase items, we weren't able to do that," Melichar said. She added infrastructure upgrades, such as bringing running water into the building and creating a cage for birds of prey, took up a lot of funds.

"Wildlife is really on their own. Generally speaking, it is through some sort of human action that wildlife gets injured or orphaned," she said. "We caused this to happen and we really need to fix it and make it better."

~ Monika Melichar, WWS

"I'd say with COVID-19 the last two years have been severely challenging," she said. Her and a greatly reduced team of volunteers had to put in even more work caring for the 150 birds, skunks, raccoons, porcupines, squirrels and others who come with car-inflicted injuries, diseases and any number of other maladies. This year, the sanctuary estimates they've saved more than 700 animals' lives.

"We have been overwhelmed with animals because we've been lacking volunteers," she said.

That means they sometimes work 24-hour days; tough cases take extra time, such as a skunk with neurological damage. Melichar and a volunteer massage and move his arms and legs to help get him used to walking again.

"It can take a volunteer a good hour to work with the skunk. And there are only so many hours in the day," Melichar said.

Despite difficulty sourcing affordable food for the animals, landing volunteers or even keeping lights on, Melichar said she's passionate about the work.

"Wildlife is really on their own. Generally speaking, it is through some sort of human action that wildlife gets injured or orphaned," she said. "We caused this to happen and we really need to fix it and make it better."

The sanctuary launched an online auction this fall, "Bid Wild 4 Wildlife" where local art, tickets and other gifts were up for auction.

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Birders flock to Christmas count

By Sam Gillett

Ed Poropat looks up at the frosty evergreens lining the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

With binoculars in one hand, he makes a “pish pish pish” sound that carries through the trees.

With any luck, the birds will answer.

An avid bird watcher, Poropat administers Haliburton’s portion of the 55th annual Christmas Bird Count.

On Dec. 18, birding experts and novices gathered south of Haliburton to record the bird population. The results aren’t tallied yet; but in some respects the year was already a success.

“We had more field counters than we’ve ever had,” Poropat said.

This year, there were 32 field participants, along with many others who recorded winged visitors to their bird feeders in the area.

He said there were quite a few new birders this year, paired up with one of the many experienced birders who have made the Christmas bird count a yearly tradition.

“We try to build confidence and familiarity with the protocols,” he said.

The Christmas bird count is Canada-wide, with Birds Canada tallying up the total results from each 24-kilometre-wide monitoring zone.

“Over time you get a picture of what’s going on, because of counts like this,” Poropat said.

For instance, he’s seen an increase in the count of birds of prey in recent years, however overall counts dipped last year to 3,724, down from the 20-year average of 4,280.

Some bird populations, he said, are more flighty: depending on the quality of food, such as pine cones, the populations of smaller birds can fluctuate year to year.

Where it gets tricky, said Poropat, is determining how to count birds only once. Depending on a birder’s location, on which side of the Gull River, for instance, they might accidentally count a bird that is in another counter’s section.

“There’s a lot of phone calls and emails,” he said, as he sorts through the results of the study. It’s a lengthy process and Poropat estimates he’ll be able to paint a clearer picture of the Highland’s count results in January.

He’s noticed an influx in birding interest over the past two years.

“Especially during COVID-19, people want to find ways to be outside,” said Poropat.

On the rail trail, he points ahead off the trail; a warbling call echoes from the thick bush. “We’ve got a raven there,” he said.

Poropat loves birding for “a whole bunch of reasons. I love being outside; the challenge of looking for stuff and finding things that are unusual,” he said. “I love the camaraderie, the guys that I go out with. And from the other perspective, it’s citizen



Ed Poropat looking for birds. Photo by Sam Gillett.

science, it contributes to science.”

Poropat also leads birding excursions through the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. It’s a way for people, Poropat said,

to “make a connection with the land around them, and what lives there. Once people develop that connection, they’re way more apt to connect with it.”

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July 29th | 7:30pm | location TBD

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July 30th | 7:30pm | location TBD

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Highlander sports

Pond hockey on thin ice with COVID

By Mike Baker

John Teljeur is hopeful he'll have the opportunity to bring "pondemonium" back to Haliburton in the new year.

The 2022 Canadian Pond Hockey Championships are slated to begin Jan. 28. The annual event has been held on and off in the community since 2013, with games taking place on the pond by Pinestone Resort.

The championships had to be postponed in 2021 due to provincial restrictions brought on by the pandemic, and Teljeur is keeping his fingers crossed that history doesn't repeat itself after a recent spike in COVID-19 cases saw Premier Doug Ford usher in new restraints Dec. 19.

"I don't know if it's just my luck, but nothing ever seems to go the way I plan it," Teljeur said. "With the whole virus

situation happening, that's been a thing we've always worried about. Now there's a different version coming along that seems to be spreading, we definitely have to keep an eye on that.

"Right now, we're still planning on holding the event. We have a Plan B and Plan C in place if we need them. If we have to defer, we will, but we're not going to do that until we know there's no chance of it happening safely or responsibly," he added.

Between 70 and 80 teams have registered to take part in the event, which draw as many as 500 tourists to Haliburton County over the two championship weekends. Games are scheduled to take place Jan. 28-29 and Feb. 4-5.

Visitors are welcome to watch the games on the ice, with 18 rinks of action on the go at any one time, but access to Pinestone

for any indoor event will be reserved for participants only.

The championships have been a great revenue generator for local businesses in the past, Teljeur said, with restaurants and hotels usually packed across both weekends. It's also helped to put the Highlands on the map.

"We did a survey in 2020 where we asked people 'do you come back up into the area after the games', most people have never been up in the area before coming for the pond hockey event, and about three quarters said they'd be interested in coming back up here again for something other than hockey," Teljeur said. "It's really been a great advertiser for the community, and it doesn't cost anyone a thing. In fact, the local economy thrives when these championships take place."



The 2022 Canadian Pond Hockey Championships are set to begin in Haliburton on Jan. 28. *File.*

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Notice of Refusal Concerning a Zoning By-Law Amendment 1613A Hunter Creek Road PLZBA2020075

TAKE NOTICE THAT on December 9th, 2021 the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden refused an application under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990 in respect of Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment File PLZBA2020075.

And Take Notice That the purpose and effect of the Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment PLZBA2020075 was to change the zone category on certain lands located in Part Lot 5, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Lutterworth and being Parts 5 and 6 of Plan 19R-9887 known as 1613A Hunter Creek Road; located on the Gull River.

The subject property is currently zoned 'Shoreline Residential Exception Fifty-Seven (SR-57). The application is requesting that the property be rezoned in order to allow for the conversion of the existing (former) motel units (6) into dwelling units for long term rental.

And Take Further Notice That prior to the refusal of the Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment for file PLZBA2020075, Council received oral and written submissions which were considered prior to the refusal of the application.

Lands Affected:

A key map showing the location of the lands to which the application applies is provided below.

Reasons for Refusal:

Council provided the following reasons for refusal of Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment # PLZBA2020075:

1. The application fails to conform to the Official Plan for the Township of Minden Hills.

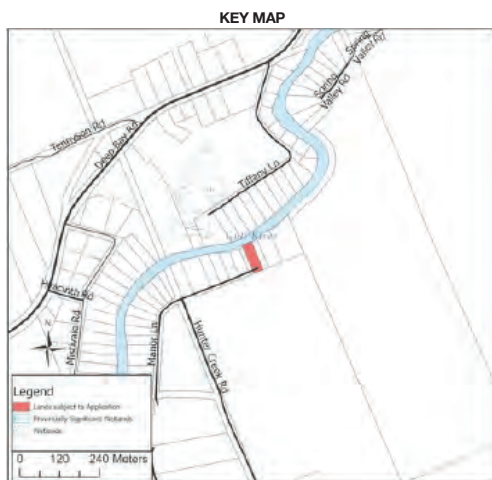
Appeals:

Take Notice That an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) in respect of Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment #PLZBA2020075 may be submitted by filing with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills a notice of appeal not later than **January 5th, 2022**. The notice of appeal must set out the objection to the decision and the reason in support of the objection, and be accompanied by a certified cheque or money order in Canadian Funds payable to the Minister of Finance in the amount of \$1,100.00 which represents the Tribunal's fee.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2021
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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM

Storm tie Wild in competitive game

The Haliburton Storm U11 AE Team squared off against the Brock Township Wild at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Dec. 18. The team was very excited as their last three contests had to be postponed.

It was a tough, competitive game. After a scoreless first period, Matthew Mueller buried a rebound from the side of the net giving the Storm a 1-0 advantage. The tough two-way battle continued but thanks to the awesome effort of netminder MacKay Windover, the Storm stayed ahead 1-0. The home team continued with a tremendous effort with many shots on the net and a few breakaways against a very tough Wild goalie. Linus Gervais managed to launch a beauty top corner goal on a breakaway to put the Storm ahead 2-0.

The competitive play continued into the third period when the Wild were able to score a goal on the powerplay. The Storm team fought hard with a strong effort from their defence - Benton Lloyd was a presence with several key stops. They protected their 2-1 lead until the Wild were able to bang a goal in during a front-of-net battle tying the game up with 30 seconds left. The clock ticked down and the teams finished the game in a 2-2 tie.

The Storm end their 2021 portion of the season at 3-3-1. Head coach Cory noticed the improving faceoff work and passing. The team is looking forward to taking their awesome work ethic into the new year to rack up some more W's. Go Storm! *(Submitted).*

SCOREBOARD	
DECEMBER 14	
U11 REP vs. Newcastle.....	8-5 W
DECEMBER 16	
U11 REP vs. Newcastle.....	6-2 W
DECEMBER 17	
U15 REP vs. Orono.....	7-2 L
U18 REP vs. Kawartha	8-2 L
DECEMBER 18	
U11AE vs. Brock.....	2-2 T
U11 REP vs. Sturgeon.....	6-2 L
U11 LL vs. Almaguin.....	7-2 L
U13 LL vs. Huntsville	5-1 W
U15 LL vs. Huntsville	2-2 T
U13 REP vs. Sturgeon.....	3-1 W
DECEMBER 19	
U11 LL vs. Huntsville.....	5-1 L
U13 LL vs. Huntsville	1-1 T
U18 REP vs. Kawartha	4-1 L
U15 REP vs. Sturgeon.....	4-3 L
U11 REP vs. Brock	6-3 W

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REP STARS

1



Matthew Mueller was a physical force throughout the game banging at pucks to knock them loose for breaks in the neutral zone. Matthew had a goal and many chances thanks to his determination.

2



Linus Gervais continued with his strong two-way play at center chasing down players and loose pucks. His improved awareness led to some breakaways and two-on-ones for the Storm. Linus had a goal and an assist in the 2-2 tie.

3



Benton Lloyd was a huge presence in front of the Storm net shutting down opposing forwards. His timely poke checks and positional awareness were key in keeping the game flowing for the Storm.



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CENTURY 21
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Left: Forward Cameron Kosurko tries to jam the puck in from a tight angle. Right: Head coach Ryan Ramsay tries to focus his team during a time out towards the end of the third period. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

'Never say die' Huskies rack up two wins

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies extended their winning run to six games this past weekend, with impressive home-ice performances against the Toronto Jr. Canadiens and Cobourg Cougars.

On Dec. 17, the Huskies welcomed OJHL South Division powerhouse Canadiens to the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The hometown team got off to the best possible start, with forward Lucas Stevenson opening the scoring just a minute in after being set up by line-mate Oliver Tarr. Payton Schaly bagged a second at 3:47 of the opening period, before Bryce Richardson added a third at 14:55.

The Canadiens hit back through Liam Fedak at 17:46, the one blot on an otherwise excellent first period for the Huskies.

Christian Stevens scored a fourth midway through the second, giving the dogs an ultimately unassailable lead. The Canadiens

rallied in the third, potting a couple of goals, including one in the final minute of play with their net empty, but Huskies goaltender Christian Cicigoi stood tall, making several key stops right at the death to seal a 4-3 victory.

It was a familiar sight the next night as the Huskies and Cougars went to battle for the eighth time this season. The dogs held a 4-2-1 record over their rivals heading into the game. The opening period went by without much action, with both teams a little slow growing into the game.

A hard-hitting opening to the second period played into the Huskies hands as they took control, but a sucker-punch by Cobourg's George Krotiris at 6:42 gave the Cougars a lead to hang on to.

The Huskies pushed, but found an immovable object in the Cougars' goal. Justin Easter made 38 saves across the opening two periods, to the frustration of 335 fans in attendance. The third period was following the same pattern, but then

forward Schaly sprang to life. He picked up the puck on the blue line, danced past a pair of Cougars defencemen and lifted a shot over Easter's reach to tie the game.

It was Schaly's fourth goal in as many games since opening his account for the Huskies Dec. 10 against the Lindsay Muskies.

That tally changed the mood inside the arena, and just a few minutes later the Huskies found themselves ahead. Tarr picked up a puck from Pat Saini and skated in one-on-one with the goaltender, beating him over the shoulder at 17:19 to give the Huskies the lead.

"I had a lot of opportunities tonight, and maybe could have capitalized a bit early, but at the end of the day when the game's on the line, I like my chances with the puck on my stick," Tarr said. "It was a great moment, the boys were excited, the fans too... a nice way for us to finish heading into the break."

Saini potted an empty-netter at 18:58 to

secure the win.

Head coach Ryan Ramsay was in good spirits after the game having watched his team, albeit temporarily, climb to the top of the league's East Division standings.

"That was playoff hockey tonight, and that's what we're good at," Ramsay said. "This group is special. They're resistant, relentless and just work non-stop each and every night. It doesn't matter if we're down by two or three, this group doesn't stop. They find ways to win."

More than 50 fans lined up outside the home dressing room following Saturday's game, as the Huskies held an autograph session. All players participated.

The team has a week off over the holidays, with their next game scheduled for Dec. 29 on the road in Mississauga. The Huskies will be back in action in Minden on Dec. 31, with a 2 p.m. tilt against the Caledon Admirals.



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CENTURY 21
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Tarr scores NCAA spot at Buffalo college

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies forward Oliver Tarr didn't have to think twice when asked to relocate to the Highlands last summer.

The 19-year-old forward spent a great deal of time in the area throughout his childhood, with his family having a cottage on Little Hawk Lake, north of Carnarvon. When he learned the Whitby Fury would be moving, he was excited by the prospect of representing a place he refers to as his home away from home.

Tarr is enjoying a career year in the blue and white, putting up a staggering 43 points in 28 OJHL games. He's one of the leaders on a Huskies outfit that look primed to challenge for championship honours come spring.

It's exactly the sort of situation Tarr imagined himself in when he was growing up. Always more of a smaller, skilled player, the Huskies' number nine got his start playing minor hockey for the Uxbridge Stars in the late 2000s. He honed his skills on a backyard rink his dad built every winter, spending countless hours trying to replicate plays thought up by former Detroit Red Wings centre Pavel Datsyuk and current Pittsburgh Penguin Sidney Crosby.

Tarr represented the Central Ontario Wolves and Whitby Wildcats in AAA before making the jump to junior.

He cracked the Fury as a 17-year-old in 2019-20, taking on a role in the team's top

six. Last year, with most players stuck on the sidelines, Tarr headed east to represent the Miramichi Timberwolves in the Maritimes Jr. A Hockey League, putting up 21 points in 24 games.

That Atlantic experience served as the springboard for this season's offensive explosion, he said.

"I feel like I took my game to a whole other level. I had an unbelievably fun time, grew into my body a little more and found myself more comfortable with the pressure of putting up points and being an offensive driver at junior level," Tarr said.

He worked hard over the summer getting into peak physical condition. Before committing to the Huskies, he took part in a Peterborough Petes training camp. He did enough to earn a contract with the OHL outfit, who saw potential in him as a mid-level scorer.

While he was appreciative of the offer, Tarr has always known what his next path was going to be.

"NCAA has been the dream for as long as I can remember," Tarr said. "When I was 12 or 13, my hockey team went on a trip to Michigan State. I was blown away by the facilities, and we're seeing more players excelling at college hockey and then turning pro."

He held talks with several Division 1 schools, making a commitment to Canisius College Dec. 21. He plans to begin at the Buffalo school in September.



Oliver Tarr is the OJHL's leading scorer. Photo by Mike Baker.

Now home over the holidays, Tarr said he's looking forward to the second half of the season, where he expects the Huskies to lay down a marker and show the rest of the league what they're capable of.

"We're finally healthy. We've struggled with injuries all season, and have had to play short lots of nights. Since having

guys back, we've won six straight and are playing some really good hockey," Tarr said. "I think we're going to have a really successful season. I don't see anybody getting in our way. When you look at the locker room and the guys we have, a championship has to be the end goal."




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Highlander community

Filling the cruiser for Highlands East

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police held a successful Fill-a-Cruiser event in support of local food banks in Wilberforce.

On Saturday, Dec. 18 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. members of the detachment and auxiliary held the annual event at the Foodland in Wilberforce.

"Members wish to thank the community for their amazing generosity that helped raise \$6,802 in monetary and food donations," the OPP said Dec. 21. The donations were delivered to the Wilberforce Foodbank to help support families and individuals, during this holiday season.

"The OPP would like to thank the public for their on-going support for this event, as well as the grocery store owners, managers and staff." (Lisa Gervais).



LaRue steps down as sports hall of fame chair

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame has announced a change in leadership.

Scotty LaRue has stepped aside as chair and Roger Trull is taking over.

In a press release, the board said it wanted to recognize LaRue's "tremendous contributions."

They said LaRue, after spending many years as a hockey player, coach, and team

manager, was determined to recognize local athletes who attained prominence in sport, as well as those who developed and advanced sport in Haliburton County.

With a group of volunteers, he launched the not-for-profit organization to recognize and honour individuals, teams and builders whose endeavours have brought distinction and honour to themselves and the community.

The committee identified 11 athletes, three builders and three teams for the inaugural induction. With help from community partners, donors and membership in the Haliburton County Cooperative Inc. they renovated a space in the A. J. LaRue Community Centre to display artifacts, memorabilia, pictures and plaques.

LaRue will remain a committee

member. Trull said he plans to continue with the committee's accomplishments, adding plans for the induction ceremony postponed due to COVID, will be announced in the spring of 2022.

Anyone who would like to learn more about the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame can contact his at trull@mcmaster.ca. (Lisa Gervais).

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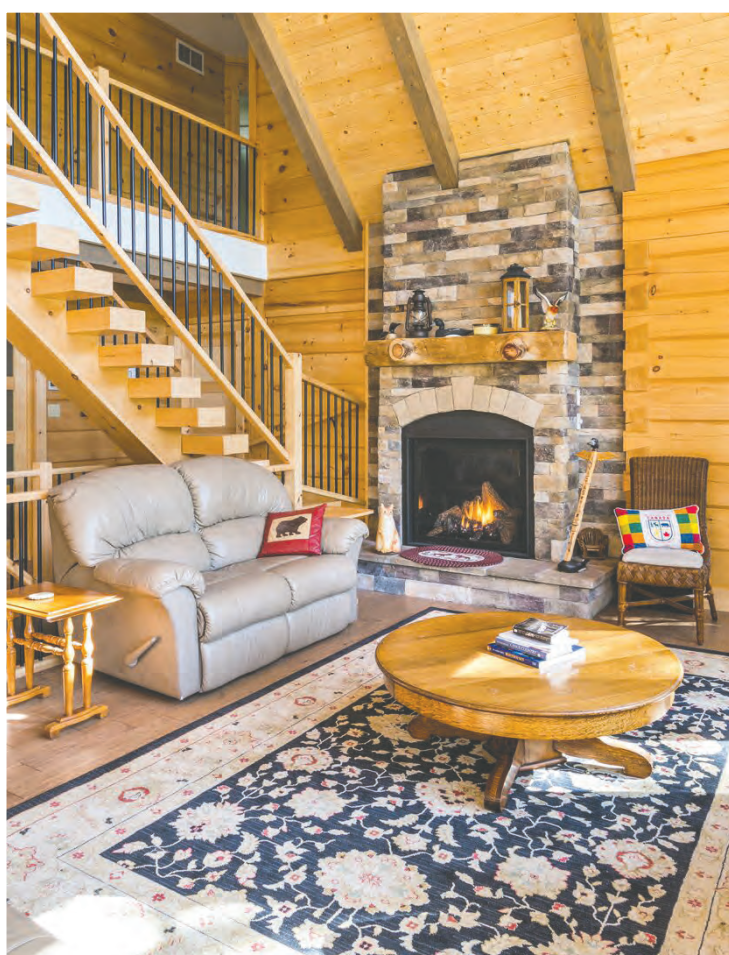
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Highlander community

Thrift store to complement second-hand

By Lisa Gervais

Bargain hunters now have two shops in Minden affiliated with The Anglican Parish of Minden, Kinmount and Maple Lake.

The thrift store at St. Paul's Anglican Church, at 19 Invergordon Ave., is slated to re-open on Monday, Jan. 3. It has been closed since Aug. 28 for renovations to double in size, said Reverend Canon Joan Cavanagh-Clark.

"There's such a huge need in the community that we had to expand," Rev. Joan said of the thrift shop. Deacon Martha Waind said they opened the thrift shop in 2014. It started upstairs in the church but they outgrew that space in a matter of months.

They stipulated it will remain as a thrift shop, with no items priced at more than \$8.

"The thrift shop is to meet a need in the community because you know the stats on poverty in this community," Rev. Joan said. "There's no public transportation. We try to shop locally but it's very limited so a second-hand shop was really needed.

"They have a lovely one in Haliburton but they don't have enough transportation to get there so the first year we were open at the thrift shop I was almost in tears because a mother said to me 'this is the first time my kids in Grade 3 and 1 have had indoor shoes for school because I can't afford both'. So, it's been a huge need in the community."

Rev. Joan added that other than their operating costs, every cent they make is given back to the community or some other non-profit they support. One of those is the Bishop McAllister Anglican Church School in Africa, an orphanage for kids who have lost their parents to AIDS. She said it costs \$450 a year per child. Closer to home, they support Places for People, the Minden Community Food Centre, have put braces on kids' teeth and paid emergency dental bills. They often provide thrift store items for free when there is need, such as clients of the women's shelter in the County.

Bountiful Blessings

The other shop is Bountiful Blessings, located at 105 Bobcaygeon Rd. in the downtown. It opened in September 2020 but has been disrupted by COVID-19. However, it's again operating Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The original plans have changed, according to Waind. She said that with the thrift shop closed, "this turned into something it wasn't intended to be. We just kept getting donations and donations and donations and we had no place else to put them so our purpose for this became a second-hand store, which wasn't the real reason for opening."

Rev. Joan said the original vision - and one they are still working towards - is a gathering place with classes.

"We can't do an awful lot about the



Rev. Canon Joan Cavanagh-Clark, Joe Bertin, Wendy Connelly and Deacon Martha Waind at Bountiful Blessings. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

homelessness but perhaps we can provide a place to come during the day because the homeless people I work with have nothing to do all day except walk and go to Tim Hortons if they have the money to do that."

She said the plan is for a community venture, since there is no seniors' centre for example. It will be free or by donation and involve the community identifying its needs and people stepping up to gift their time and expertise.

"So far, we have someone willing to do art classes, teach sign language, budgeting, Christians against poverty." They're also planning to bring in computers for those who experience internet connectivity issues and to help people fill out forms, such as CPP, EI, etc.

But for now, as a second-hand store, with perhaps better-quality goods than the thrift store, Waind said, "we've had really good reception."

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Highlander community

Lions equip little readers with life skills

The Canada-wide Blue Spruce program has landed in local schools thanks to Haliburton and District Lions Club fundraising.

Ten books are chosen for each grade level, with kids across the country voting to pick a winner.

"We know especially over the last couple of years kids have been missing out on reading opportunities," said Stuart Baker principal Karyn Linton Marra.

"We just think reading is so important for life skills."

The Lions purchased two sets of this year's books for Stuart Baker Elementary School and one set for Cardiff Elementary School. They also funded registration fees for the program.

"We are proud to be able to serve children and our community through our Reading Action Program," wrote the Lions in a press release.

The Blue Spruce program is a new fundraising direction for the Lions, however the group invests time throughout the year on reading initiatives such as the Stories in the Park Fun Fair, donating books to Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents and childhood cancer initiatives; maintaining little free libraries in West Guilford and Abbey Gardens; donating books for the women's shelter; and an annual donation to Dysart's library.

(Sam Gillett).



From right: Student Chloe Featherstone, Stuart Baker principal Karyn Linton Marra, Keagan King, Danika Kerkhof, Lion Gail Stelter, Gavin Suke, Ethan Shaw, Lions David Mills and Betty Mills.

Photo by Sam Gillett.



Feeding a dietician's education

The Gooderham Community Action Group awarded its third \$500 bursary to Natalie Hunter of Gooderham. Natalie is attending Guelph University, studying Applied Human Nutrition. In four years, she will graduate as a dietician and at that point, hopes to gain local hospital employment. Pictured, left to right, Marilyn Wooder, Denise White-Winder, Allison Hunter (mother), Natalie Hunter (bursary recipient), Tim Hunter (father), Debbie Rohr and Michele Mark. Submitted.

We are fully stocked for your holiday shopping and look forward to seeing you before Christmas.

We also want to wish all our friends and your families all the best for this holiday season.

Many thanks and have a Merry Christmas

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Highlander community



MBC supports the food bank

The Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners’ Association donated an additional \$1,000 to the Minden Community Food Centre on Nov. 23, matching funds that have been raised during the organization’s annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Pictured, association member Sally Howson, right, presents a cheque to Joanne Barnes, food bank manager. (Submitted).

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The Highlander is a Founding Media Partner of HHACF.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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

For more information or to register
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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your photos of Haliburton County to editor@thehighlander.ca

Highlander events



Sir Sam's starts the season off right

Sir Sam's ushered in the holiday season Dec. 18 with a tree lighting. Donations were being accepted for SIRCH Community Services. SIRCH was on-site collecting in hopes of raising \$1,000 to provide 100 holiday dinners for those in need. The organization announced Dec. 20 they more than doubled their goal and "our chefs and volunteers are hard at work preparing those dinners and we look forward to getting them to those who need it this holiday season."

Left: Pictured from SIRCH is Eric Wolfe, with his wife, Julie and sons Austin and Ethan. Right: Austin and Ethan Wolfe helped dad, Eric, and mom, Julie collect donations for SIRCH. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
Happy New Year
FROM THE TEAM AT
TheHighlander

Our office will be closed
from Dec. 24 until Jan. 3.

The next issue of
The Highlander will be
on Jan. 6, 2022

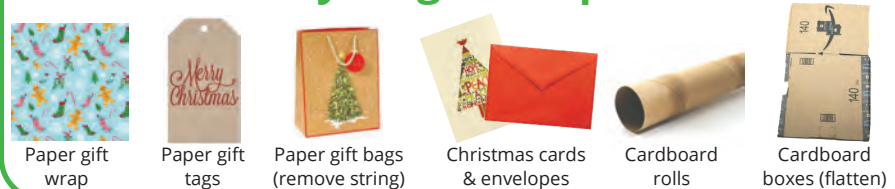
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Saturday, December 25, 2021 (Christmas Day)
All landfills closed

Sunday, December 26, 2021 (Boxing Day)
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Haliburton, Kennisis Lake,
West Bay, West Guilford
12 noon to 5 p.m.: Harcourt

Friday, December 31, 2021 (New Year's Eve)
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Haliburton, West Guilford

Saturday, January 1, 2022 (New Year's Day)
All landfills closed

Sunday, January 2, 2022
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Haliburton, Kennisis Lake,
West Bay, West Guilford
12 noon to 5 p.m.: Harcourt

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What's on



Darlene Phibbs Johnston helped start the Haliburton Holiday Market Facebook page.
Photo by Sam Gillett.

Holiday market hits social media site

By Sam Gillett

A group of local creators have taken craft markets online this year and Highlands shoppers have joined them.

The Haliburton Holiday Market Facebook page started in late November and now has more than 700 members. Monica Miles Keefer said she started the group after local markets she usually helps organize seemed too difficult to pull off under COVID-19 restrictions.

"I started it because I wanted to shop," she said. "I like to give gifts that aren't commercialized, whether I make it or someone else makes it."

After contacting about a dozen local artists, she created the page and it "took off."

Now, about two dozen artists post images of handmade jewelry, wooden decor, glass ornaments, knitting, pillows, locally-illustrated books and hand-spun rugs.

"Not everyone gets in the shopping spirit on the same weekend," Keefer said.

She's received some feedback too, from people with accessibility concerns who appreciated the chance to shop from home.

"It just showed up on my Facebook to join the group," said Nancy Lowes of Haliburton. She soon found exactly what she was looking for: customized height rulers for her grandkids from Sarah Corby-

Edwards. Lowes and Corby-Edwards communicated via Messenger through the design and creation process.

"She did so well with one I ordered two," Lowes said.

Lowes said it's been a good spot to discover artisanal talent, "definitely if you're looking for something locally-made."

Keefer points to artisans who seem to be thriving on the platform. "A lot of them are enjoying it, and are getting sales. If they're not getting sales they're getting exposure for future events," she said.

Darlene Phibbs Johnston, who helped start the group, said she's enjoyed selling her handmade wreathes to a new audience.

At her home in Carnarvon, she points to a cellphone photo of an intricate silver wreath.


"That one went up and in 30 seconds, boom, it was sold," she said.

Besides selling wreathes, she said it's been a way to get to know people in the community. "I love that," she said.

Keefer and Johnston said the page will likely keep going after the holidays.

"My plan was to get it going," Keefer said. "I hope that the artists will continue it year-round. It's not just Christmas-related products they create."





2022 Municipal Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members

The Corporations of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Township of Minden Hills, the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Municipality of Highlands East, are currently seeking interested applicants from professionals who are required to adhere to codes of standards of their profession, and other individuals with in depth knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 for appointment to a **Joint Compliance Audit Committee**.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee has full delegation of the authority in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to address applications requesting an audit of a candidate's election campaign finances. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Review applications and grant or reject audit requests
- Where an audit is granted, appoint an auditor and review the audit report
- Where indicated, decide whether legal proceedings shall be commenced.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee will consist of members appointed by each Council. Committee members must have the ability to understand and apply the election campaign finance provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and should be considered impartial with respect to their ability to fulfill their responsibilities. Preference shall be given to candidates that have applicable experience in accounting, law, law enforcement and academics from related fields.

Preferred Qualifications:

- (a) Accounting and audit – accountants or auditors with experience in preparing or auditing the financial statements of municipal candidates;
- (b) Academic – college or university professors with expertise in political science or local government administration;
- (c) Legal; and
- (d) Other individuals with knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

Members of the public interested in serving on this Committee are asked to submit a resume, and covering letter, marked "Confidential" no later than Noon on January 28, 2022 to:

Robyn Rogers, Clerk
Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road, P.O. Box 295, Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

For further information, please contact Robyn Rogers, Clerk by email at rogers@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for applying, but only the selected candidates will be contacted. Personal information and supporting material is collected and used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

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Highlander classifieds

NOTICE



County of Haliburton Holiday Office Hours

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON will close on Friday, December 24, 2021 at 12:00pm and will re-open for regular business on Monday, January 3, 2022.

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

**WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.**

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NOTICES

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by Friends of Grass Lake

SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 23

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14	E	N	U	R	E	S						15	O	C	A	S	E	Y	S						
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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Ross Alexander Walker

Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at the age of 86.

Beloved husband of Dorothy (nee Shepherd). Dear father of Peter and Paul, loving grandpa of Daniel. Dear brother of Doreen (Grenville-deceased) Harrison, and Shirley (deceased). Brother-in-law of George Shepherd (Valerie). Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Ross will be remembered for his community spirit whether volunteering with Minor Hockey, Farmers Association, Fair Board and working with his extended family at Horseshoe Lake. Ross' carpentry skills and farming will be remembered by many.

A celebration of Ross' life will take place at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highland Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



In Loving Memory of Robert "Rob" David Clark

Passed away suddenly as the result of a head-on collision with a dump truck on Highway 35 North of Lindsay on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Rob was 64 years old.

Rob was the best friend and loving husband of Mary Lou Clark (nee Austen) for over 13 years. Loving father of Adrienne Clark (Kristian Berry), Adam Clark (deceased 2012), Crystal Austen (Tyler), Jennifer (Jimmy) Abbott, Jeff Packard, and grandpa to Hannah, Adria, Chloe, Kalli, Brady, Valla and Rylee. Beloved son of Audrey and the late Scott Clark. Dear brother of Cindy (Lloyd) Adamson, Kim (Glen) Schnarr, and Ron (Lynn) Clark. Lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

A Memorial Gathering to celebrate Rob's Life will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Kawartha/ Haliburton Victim Services or to the Ontario Brain Injury Society 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.



IN MEMORIAM

ED LITWIN

Nov 17, 1960 - Dec. 25, 2019



Ed we miss you each and every day. We are still working on your dream project! You would be pleased with the progress and thrilled with all the help we are getting from fantastic family and friends. We truly appreciate the help.

When deciding on the siding the other day you were in my head saying "go with the grey". So many decisions yet to be made and grateful for the examples you started for us. Tim reminds me to be patient, he is learning so many carpentry skills and is a big help. Alexandra is pleased to see it coming together and always ready to help. The guys tell me to get out of their way. We continue to work to finish what you started.

You were taken from us before any of us were ready to lose you. You set a fantastic example of how to deal with terminal cancer with grace. We were so blessed to have you strong for two and a half years. I will always be thankful that you did not suffer long when things got bad.

Love you always, Lynda

NOTICES

HAS ALCOHOL TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE?

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Sunday 10:30 a.m. at St Anthony's, 27 Victoria St. Haliburton, ON

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 All are welcome.

FOR RENT

APT FOR RENT – 1 bdrm apt on main street. \$1,200. Plus Hydro, available January 1, 2022. Call 705-341-1710

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

TheHighlander
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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



KINARK CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

We are seeking a Part Time **FIRST COOK** to work at the Kinark Outdoor Centre in Minden, ON. KOC facilitates a range of outdoor education, therapeutic recreation and experiential adventure programs designed to meet the specific needs of its diverse client population including children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

Duties & Responsibilities (not limited to):

- Food Prep, Cooking, Serving, Dishwashing, Inventory
- Staff supervision and motivation
- Kitchen maintenance and cleaning

Qualifications:

- Safe Food Handler's Certificate (Advanced status preferred)
- Completion of High School Diploma or equivalent
- Chef experience and certification (college or other)
- Satisfactory Vulnerable Criminal Record Check, Pre-Employment Medical, Proof of Covid-Vaccination status or medical/creed based exemption.

Please apply today www.kinark.on.ca/careers. Contact ryan.mortell@kinark.on.ca or 705-320-0045 for more information.

Kinark values inclusivity and diversity in the workplace. We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds. If you require accommodation during any stage of the recruitment process, please notify Human Resources at hr@kinark.on.ca.



LAW CLERK

We're looking for an experienced real estate Law Clerk to join our office in Haliburton Village. You'll be an expert with PC Law, Teraview and Unity, with skills in Microsoft Word and Outlook. Attention to detail, excellent written and verbal communication skills and an interest in helping clients are also important. We offer a casual office environment, flexible work hours and benefits. This is a full time position but could be part-time for the right person.

Please send a resume and cover letter to
Cathy Smith at office@lebolaw.ca.

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- needed for
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is required. B,
C or F License
required for 11
passenger van
and bus. Call
705-457-9898**



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
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www.hhhs.ca

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 earns \$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
Fax: 705-457-4609



an unwavering belief in people and possibilities

Start 2022 off with a job you love that helps others too!

Join the amazing team at SIRCH Community Services in Haliburton County.

We are currently looking for:

- **Marketplace Coordinator** -- help local entrepreneurs and artists grow their businesses
- **Coordinator, Senior Wellbeing** -- help isolated seniors feel valued, connected, and less alone
- **Group Facilitator** -- help parents connect, learn and foster loving relationships with their children
- **Thrift Warehouse Associate** -- bring customer service to a whole new level

For more information or job description send an email to info@sirch.on.ca. If applying send a cover letter and resume to: info@sirch.on.ca

SOMETHING TO SELL?

With over 8,000 copies printed and distributed and almost 7,000 sent by email, The Highlander is the #1 place to get your message noticed.

Place a classified ad by emailing admin@thehighlander.ca or calling 705-457-2900. \$8 for 25 words.

**DEADLINE TUESDAYS
AT 5PM**

**\$8 PERSONAL
CLASSIFIEDS**

Highlander puzzles

Joe How?

by Barbara Olson

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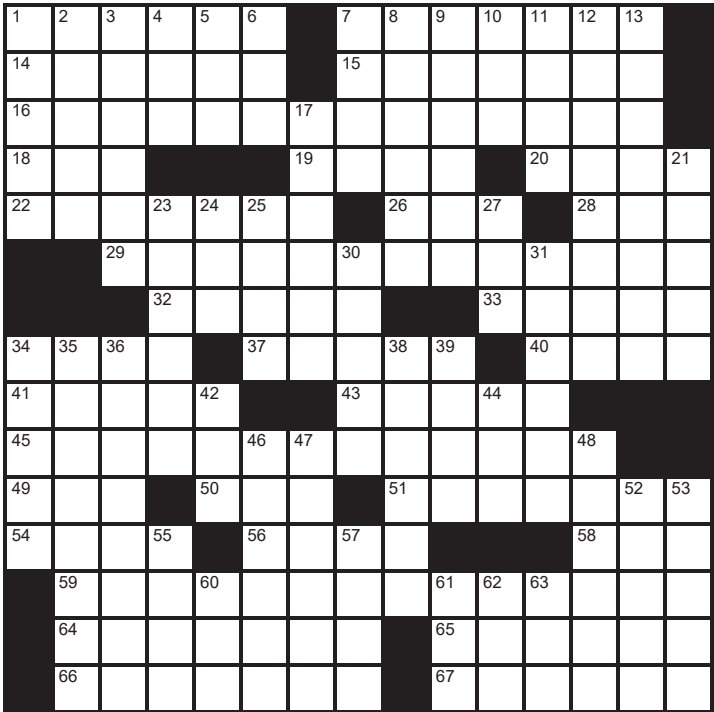
Across

- 1 Powdery resource in Saskatchewan
- 7 Typing test to distinguish humans from bots
- 14 Grows hardened to
- 15 Bailey's rival in Irish cream
- 16 Wrinkle-resistant clothing
- 18 Heavy weight?
- 19 Badlands plateau
- 20 Wall framer's 2x4
- 22 Japanese folding art form
- 26 "Will do," on the waves
- 28 Suffix with morph- and phon-
- 29 Sinusitis sufferer's trickle
- 32 Ply with rye, say
- 33 ___-and-shoot camera
- 34 Still water growth
- 37 So-called "Hub of Nova Scotia"
- 40 Some switchback turns
- 41 "Wide World of Sports" creator Arledge
- 43 Canadian writer Mazo de la ___
- 45 Search feature that shows results as you type
- 49 Signed off on
- 50 Singer's sixth notes
- 51 French island in the Mediterranean
- 54 Pronoun preceding "art"
- 56 Triangular chip in a bowl
- 58 Bleed in the washing machine
- 59 Company truck or paid family days, e.g.
- 64 Ring out loudly
- 65 Dirty up again
- 66 Parliamentary bill passer
- 67 Brew suggested by the ends of 16-, 29-, 45- and 59-Across

Down

- 1 ___-Bismol
- 2 "It's ___ the other, not both"
- 3 Root in a stew
- 4 Where to get a shot, maybe

- 5 "The Rock" rockers Great Big ___
- 6 TV channel for buyers
- 7 Dunce cap shape
- 8 Represents
- 9 Tropical smoothie fruit
- 10 Dungeons & Dragons co.
- 11 "Meh" marks, in school
- 12 Superfan's reaction at a rock concert, say
- 13 Taking as a given
- 17 Key of Neil Young's "Heart of Gold"
- 21 Eaton's store sects.
- 23 Make a gunshot sound, say
- 24 Suffix for an enzyme
- 25 ___ Elias (Yukon/Alaska peak)
- 27 Trio that sang "Lucky Man," for short
- 30 Take ___ for the worse
- 31 Bakers' ones have 13
- 34 On-the-job lingo, e.g.
- 35 "Now you listen to me!"
- 36 Finding a four-leaf clover, to some
- 38 "Dukes of Hazzard" sheriff
- 39 Eight: Pref.
- 42 Letter gestured to mean "loser"
- 44 "Hardy" follower
- 46 Have some reservations, maybe?
- 47 "Methinks not"
- 48 Become bored with
- 52 Marie who co-discovered radium
- 53 Lowdown joint?
- 55 "___ -daisy" ("On your feet")
- 57 Chris Hadfield's ISS title
- 60 Ad ___ (at the place, for short)
- 61 Gov't. innovation grp.
- 62 Fabi of Formula One fame
- 63 Meas. of pressure



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

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27	S	L	A	N	G	S						28	A	K		29	I	N	T	O
30	F	L	U						31	D	Y	E	J	O	B					
	34	A	I	35	S	36	L	E	B	E	D	A	R	N	38	E	39	D		



In the market to buy a home or cottage? Feel free to give me a call

705-457-0364 | lisa@lisamercer.ca





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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.

SOLD

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

Seasons Greetings from BAUMGARTNER REALTY GROUP.



To all of our Clients, Colleagues, Friends and Families
We wish you the very best as 2021 comes to an end,
and look forward to more health and prosperity in the
New Year!

Linda, Nicole, Karen, Rosemarie, Nicole, Connie & Kim