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The Highlander

Thursday **July 8 2021** | Issue 493

INSIDE: CELEBRATING OUR GRADS PAGE 10

FREE



Lezly-Ann Crosmaz-Brown escaped her burning West Guilford house along with her son and nephew. Now, the family temporarily lives at Camp Medeba. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

Community rallies after devastating house fire

By Sam Gillett

After an early morning fire destroyed their home June 22, a West Guilford family is grateful for an outpouring of community support.

Lezly-Ann Crosmaz-Brown and her son and nephew escaped their rental home as the roof was engulfed in flames. The fire caused an estimated \$300,000 in damage.

As soon as the family was out of the

house, neighbours and passerbys took action. Ryan Mitchell of Haliburton removed propane tanks and other accessible items from the porch and a neighbour, electrician Steve Churko, disconnected the house's electricity.

"Everybody's been so accommodating - I'm just so thankful," Crosmaz-Brown said. "I just got off the phone [with emergency services] and these two just swoop in; that

was very comforting."

After they heard the fire alarm, the family rushed out of the home. She heard her nephew, Walker Davis Brown, calling for her son Angus Gryphon Wowk. The eight-year-old took his cousin's hand and quickly led the five-year-old out of the house. The family has been celebrating the child's act of heroism.

"We're all making sure to tell him how

proud we are, because not everyone knows how to act in an emergency," Crosmaz-Brown said.


After that, neighbours looked after the kids. Crosmaz-Brown stayed in the driveway as firefighters arrived to fight the blaze and her partner, Nick Wowk, rushed back from work. Her sister, Natalie Crosmaz-Brown, was not at home.

Continued 'Family' on page 2

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Family looking for new home

Continued from page 1

While the house can't be salvaged, Crosmaz-Brown said the community of West Guilford and Haliburton County has been helping the family rebuild.

They are staying at Camp Medeba and a GoFundMe Campaign, started by Crosmaz-Brown's mother, has raised nearly \$7,000. A local church, the Haliburton Lions Club, Nesbitt Firewood and many other individuals have pitched in funds.

"This is going to help us clean the lot," Crosmaz-Brown said. The family had renters' insurance, but is responsible for removing their possessions.

Brandon Stamp, a friend and neighbour, held a fundraiser for the family through her business, Right Brained Mom. She raised more than \$700. Her partner looked after the family's kids while fire crews finished putting out the blaze.

"We were really happy to help them - it's already such a hard time," Stamp said, mentioning how resilient the family has been in the days following the fire.

For Stamp, helping out was the natural response: "We helped them because they're our neighbours and our friends," she said.

Jen Coates, of West Guilford Shopping Centre, set up a donation box after hearing about the fire.

"West Guilford is an awesome community - every time we have a tragedy like that we try and support it as much as we can," Coates said. So far, they've raised around \$300.

For the past weeks, Crosmaz-Brown said she's been researching the seven stages of grief as she and her family



An early morning fire June 22 completely destroyed this home. Lezly-Ann Crosmaz-Brown and her family are responsible for removing their belongings from the rental property. Photo submitted by Lezly-Ann Crosmaz-Brown.

try to adjust to a new reality.

"It's been a bit of a roller coaster - but I'm just in a safe place," she said.

Not everything was lost: Crosmaz-Brown smiles as she recounts how firefighters saved special heirlooms: her son's favourite stuffed animal, an old mural and jewelry boxes passed down from Crosmaz-Brown's grandfather.

"We are always trying to see the silver linings of things," Crosmaz-Brown said.

As summer arrives, she said the

children have recovered from the shock well, and the family plans to take advantage of outdoor activities while they search for new housing options. They want to stay in West Guilford.

"West Guilford is a small town where everybody knows everybody," Crosmaz-Brown said. "They're not afraid to help each other."

Donations to the family can be made through Gayle Ann Crosmaz's fundraiser on Facebook: "Help Gayle's personal emergency fundraiser."



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Highlander news

Fresh start for tourism stakeholder group

By Sam Gillett

The Haliburton Tourism Stakeholders Group is evolving, with a new name, mandate and leadership.

Emily Stonehouse and Randy Pielsticker are the new co-chairs of the Haliburton Tourism Action Committee (HaliTAC).

According to Stonehouse, HaliTAC will continue the work of the Tourism Stakeholders Group with a focus on providing insight and direction to County council and the County's tourism department.

"We can evolve this into something that will really benefit the community," Stonehouse said. "We always saw the benefits before - it always had this really great energy."

The previous group provided monthly reports to the County's Tourism Committee. Now, the independent committee is dissolved and tourism is discussed at the County's Committee of the Whole meetings. That means HaliTAC won't be officially connected to County council.

As the organization resumes meetings, HaliTAC will gather input from the County's tourism community and provide delegations during County of Haliburton council meetings.

Previous chairs Barrie Martin and Bruce Ballentine passed on their positions to Pielsticker and Stonehouse. A prolonged hiatus of the group's meetings due to COVID-19 gave them time to chart a path forward.

"It needed a refresh," Pielsticker said. "As much as those meetings before were great, there were a lot of stakeholders who never attended. So, one of our goals for revitalizing this committee is eliminating the barriers to participation."

Besides revising meeting schedules, annual leadership appointments and more, HaliTAC will tackle large initiatives, including the County's Destination Management plan. They hope to offer perspectives on the plan which orients Haliburton County as a place "where residents and visitors celebrate the essence of Canada's outdoor and creative spirit."

By gathering tourism stakeholders -- from restaurant owners, to fishing charters to watersports rentals -- Stonehouse said

they'll be well equipped to brainstorm ways to improve and strengthen the industry.

"When you have all these great minds in one room, great things are bound to happen," Stonehouse said. "We just wanted to continue to expand on that and support that."

Through delegations, Stonehouse said she's excited to be able to bring the concerns of the tourism community to County council.

"I want to take what they're saying, and go into a meeting, and speak on behalf of all these people whose voices haven't been heard in that space before," said Stonehouse. That involves distilling the thoughts and needs of the community which arise during HaliTAC meetings.

Plans are underway to launch a community survey and connect with tourism partners -- tour operators, rental agencies, restaurants and more ahead of preliminary meetings in the fall. They've started work planning a tourism summit to promote Haliburton as a destination.

"It is exciting to see discussions starting about getting the tourism stakeholders together again; the idea of a summit in Haliburton is quite exciting," Warden Liz Danielsen said, after Pielsticker and Stonehouse presented their plans to council on June 9.

Councillors wary of conduct

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt called previous member conduct "the elephant in the room."

She explained how past committee members behaved disrespectfully towards County councillors and County tourism officials.

"It's great that the tourism stakeholder group reconvened, and recalibrated," Moffatt said. "Amid the good work that previous group did, toward the end there was a tremendous amount of discord and bickering."

Stonehouse said that besides terms of reference and a code of conduct, HaliTAC's method of approaching council through delegations will decrease the discord or pressure on County staff.



Randy Pielsticker and Emily Stonehouse are the new co-chairs of HaliTAC, a group of tourism stakeholders in Haliburton County. Photo by Sam Gillett.

"In the form of us doing these delegations there's a middle ground, where Randy and I listen to people, we come and do the delegations, we talk to County council," Stonehouse said. "That's our attempt - to try and have this more formal presence at the County council as representatives of the tourism industry."

Pielsticker, co-chair of the Tourism Stakeholders Group during the time period Moffatt referred to, understood the concerns members expressed: the renewed HaliTAC, Pielsticker said, will play a role in ensuring those concerns are communicated respectfully.

Some issues included the use of the County's tourism budget, on items and services certain tourism stakeholders felt were unneeded.

"I am not going to justify how they addressed their concerns - that was certainly unprofessional and uncalled for - but it doesn't mean we shouldn't be listening to their concerns," he said.

Amanda Virtanen, Haliburton County's director of tourism, wrote in an email that "councillors look forward to the growth and evolution of HaliTAC and will be open to feedback that comes as a result of stakeholder discussions."

Immersed in tourism

The pair say they'll be an effective link between the tourism community and County council.

"We are up to our necks in tourism," Stonehouse said with a laugh.

Pielsticker, assistant general manager at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride, has more than 10 years of outdoor adventure experience leading cycling, mountaineering and paddling expeditions. He's also vice-president of Adventure Haliburton, a collection of adventure tourism experience providers.

Stonehouse, a long-time Haliburton County resident, works for the custom experiential tourism company Yours Outdoors where she's constantly in touch with many Haliburton County tourism operators. She also worked for the municipality of Minden Hills.

Stonehouse said it's the passion and excitement of the industry in Haliburton County which makes her excited to consult and represent tourism stakeholders through HaliTAC.

"The people that live here have their heart here," she said. "I really want them to be seen, heard, respected and listened to."

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Highlander news

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Amanda Virtanen has served as Haliburton County's director of tourism since 2013. *File.*

Virtanen leaves strong County tourism legacy

By Sam Gillett

The County of Haliburton will soon be on the hunt for a new director of tourism.

After eight years in the role, Amanda Virtanen is stepping down to pursue another opportunity.

County Warden Liz Danielsen said Virtanen will leave behind a strong legacy.

"Amanda has really made great strides in promoting tourism in Haliburton County in the time she's been with us," Danielsen said. "She's worked hard with all the stakeholders and I think she's done a lot to bring us all together in a single voice."

Virtanen played a key role in multiple large-scale tourism projects. Those include multi-year initiatives such as the Haliburton Destination Development Plan, which required extensive collaboration and consultation with the tourism community.

She also assumed the role while the

tourism and marketing landscapes were shifting.

"Amanda's resignation is a tremendous loss for us," wrote Haliburton County CAO Mike Rutter in an email. "She came to us at a time when industry trends in the way communities marketed themselves were changing dramatically, and Amanda has led us through that transition very effectively."

Rutter said that the County tracks the success of marketing tactics and initiatives. According to those metrics, Virtanen's work had a large impact on the desirability of Haliburton as a destination.

"Every sector of our community has benefited from that," Rutter wrote. "We will certainly miss her contributions to the County management team, and I know the stakeholders who have come to rely on her advice and support will miss her as well."

Virtanen declined comment.

New Foundation online 50/50 draw

The HHHS Foundation has announced a new monthly online 50/50 lottery draw, with 50 per cent of funds raised going to a monthly winner and 50 per cent to support local hospital and health care facility equipment needs.

Executive director, Lisa Tompkins, said that through a digital technology platform, tickets will be available for purchase online at the Foundation lottery site hhhsf5050.ca beginning June 30 at 11:30 a.m.

She said tickets can be purchased for \$20 for 100 ticket numbers, \$10 for 20 ticket numbers, or \$5 for five ticket numbers.

After buying their tickets, purchasers will receive a confirmation e-mailed with their 50/50 registered numbers from a random selection system. The amount of the 50/50 estimated take-home prize for the month will be displayed in real time on the site

and will continue to grow as more people participate.

"Following nine successful years of our Cash for Care Lottery, we look forward to engaging with the community in this electronic format to continue to raise much-needed funds for priority capital equipment for Haliburton Highlands Health Services," Tompkins said.

Purchasers must be in Ontario at the time of purchase, and must be 18 years of age or older to participate. For the first draw, tickets will be available for purchase until 11:59 p.m. July 29, and the first monthly draw will take place on July 30 at 9 a.m., with the winner information posted on the hhhsf5050.ca website, as well as the Foundation's social media platforms Facebook and Instagram. (Lisa Gervais)

Highlander news

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Major works at landfill

Manager of waste facilities, Tara Stephen, updated council and the public on major works at township landfills.

She said the construction of the new transfer station at Scotch Line is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Parks. She said staff are preparing construction tender specifications so a request for tenders can be issued as soon as it is approved.

She said, "Council will note that operating space at Scotch Line landfill is becoming limited. The site equipment operator and landfill attendants are doing their best to maintain a clean, navigable facility. Staff are appreciative of the public's patience, understanding, and largely positive feedback as the site undergoes significant and continual change."

She said staff are also continuing to repair slopes at the site; reconstructing the disposal platform and repairing the road to the platform at the Ingoldsby transfer station; working to complete the paperwork so Minden Hills residents affected by the Irondale landfill closure can use Highlands East's Glamorgan site; and preparing to fix a leachate outbreak at the Lochlin landfill.

MTO projects update

Stephen told council - and motorists wondering when the Miners Bay culvert work will finally be done - that the

projected end date is Sept. 15.

She said work began in 2020 with construction terminating in the late fall. The project is planned to recommence on July 14 and is estimated to be done mid-September.

She said the MTO wants to use a portion of the township road allowance for a larger staging area and Minden Hills will ask for an \$8,000 damage deposit.

She also gave early warning of a project in Carnarvon scheduled for 2022 that will necessitate a night time detour off of Highway 35 for six days. It's to allow for the replacement of two culverts. Work will include 10km of paving and four minor bridge repairs.

Staff have requested that a pre and post survey for roadway conditions be conducted, language be included in the contract to ensure any damage is repaired within 60 days of substantial completion of the project, and that the township be named as additionally insured and indemnified.

Solution for Scouts and Guides

It appears the township has found a solution to the homeless Scouts and Guides, and their storage requirements.

The township will use room 3 [the Hinden Room] with 1,600-square-feet in the community centre to accommodate the groups.

Director of community services, Craig Belfry, said staff had reviewed previous booking patterns to determine when all three rooms of the Community Centre were used simultaneously, and it was rare.

"Staff believe in consultation with both the Scouts and Guides, that there is an option to close off this room to the general public for the sole use by these groups on an annual basis, until the possibility of the Old Fire Hall refurbishment or another solution becomes available," he said.

He said it could also be used by other community groups. It will cost \$10,000 to put up a wall and there will be storage.

Belfry noted the space would not be available until early October as it is currently being used by the COVID vaccine clinic.

Sedgewick Road bridge delayed

The township will retender the Sedgewick Road bridge job in the fall, after receiving only one bid that came in 70 per cent over budget.

Director of public works, Travis Wilson, in a written report, said staff and Tulloch Engineering have reviewed the tender and find it to be "not competitive, fair, or reasonable" and recommend that council defer the project to 2022 and retender in the fall of 2021.

"Staff have reached out to our surrounding



Work continues at Scotch Line. *File.*

municipalities including the County to discuss the possibility of a bundled bridge tender for 2022 and utilizing a service such as Biddingo to advertise the tender," Wilson said.

The project was successful in getting ICIP funding, and all work must be completed no later than October 31, 2026 to ensure the \$951,758.19 is utilized. (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

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Highlander news

OPP NEWS

OPP welcome new recruits

Four new provincial constables have joined the Haliburton Highlands OPP.

The OPP said in a June 29 media release that the new members are: Matthew Taylor, John Lea-Stoddart, Kirsten Allanson and Sarah Alexander.

After three years with Ontario Provincial Parks, the release said Taylor, "enjoys the outdoors and looks forward to the new challenges he will face as he joins his platoon."

Lea-Stoddart served with the Canadian Armed Forces before starting his new career with the OPP. "John is looking forward to the opportunity to become engaged with his new community," the release said.

Allanson has served with the OPP for two years in the auxiliary program. She previously worked as an educational assistant and enjoys playing sports, such as hockey. "She is happy to have the opportunity to work in a team environment on her new platoon," OPP said.

Alexander graduated from Fleming College with a diploma in Conservation and Environmental Law Enforcement. She is an avid hunter and is excited to start her new career in the Haliburton Highlands, the release stated.

The OPP actively recruits and interviews potential candidates throughout the year. Upon successful completion, each provincial constable recruit must

successfully complete the required training programs at both the Provincial Police Academy and the Ontario Police College. For more information on the OPP hiring process, visit opp.ca/careers.

Woman charged with theft

On June 28, 2021 at 8:36 p.m., the Kawartha Lakes Police responded to a Durham Street East address in Lindsay after a female was reportedly stealing items from a backyard.

Officers located a female who was in the process of removing items. A 31-year-old Minden woman is charged with theft under \$5,000, possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and fail to comply with probation order.

The accused will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice, located at 440 Kent Street West in Lindsay on August 12, 2021

Impaired charge laid

Haliburton Highlands OPP have charged a driver with operation while impaired as a result of a single motor vehicle collision.

Police said that on July 1, 2021, at 4:33 p.m., they responded to Billings Lake Road in Highlands East.

As a result of the investigation, a 19-year-old London driver was charged with: operation while impaired-alcohol;

operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus); and careless driving.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden, on Sept. 1, 2021. Their driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days and the vehicle impounded for seven days.

Officers would like to remind the public that if you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. Instead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi or public transit, or come up with another plan that takes impaired driving out of the picture.

Three arrested for property offences

Haliburton Highlands OPP have charged three people with several offences after recovering multiple stolen vehicles.

They said that on June 27, 2021, at 11:16 a.m., they attended an address in Dysart et al in response to a reported assault. On arrival, police said they located three stolen vehicles on the property.

As a result of the investigation, three people have been charged; one from Dysart, one from Toronto and one from Newmarket.

A 35-year-old Toronto man is charged with: assault with a weapon - two counts; assault - three counts; forcible confinement; possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose; uttering threats - four counts;



possession of a controlled substance; possession of property obtained by crime - three counts; mischief under \$5,000 and failure to comply with a release order - two counts.

A 34-year-old Dysart man is charged with possession of property obtained by crime - three counts and failure to comply with a release order.

And, a 34-year-old Newmarket woman is charged with: possession of property obtained by crime - three counts and failure to comply with a release order.

The accused are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden, on Aug. 4, 2021.

If you have information about this incident or any suspected unlawful activity, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or contact Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). (OPP news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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*David Wolf, H. Allen Klaiber, Bloom and bust: Toxic algae's impact on nearby property values, Ecological Economics, 2017

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Congratulations grads!

When I went to high school, students had the option of graduating Gr. 12 or going on to do another year of secondary school. So, I got to graduate both Gr. 13 and Gr. 12. Looking back, it was a memorable time in my life. There was something special about donning that cap and gown, having that tassel shifted to the other side of my mortar board to mark the accomplishment. I walked taller as I crossed that stage, heard my name read out, and accepted my rolled-up parchment, proof that I was a high school graduate.

But, most of all, I remember celebrating the day with my family and friends. After all, most of us remember our high school days not so much for the academics or athletics but for the bonds we forged with our peers. They were the days when we learned about who we were. Together, we tried new things, both good and bad; pushed and learned our limits; made mistakes but also shared successes. Like many of you, I still have a handful of friends from those days.

The graduates of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School have been robbed of some of those experiences during their last year of high school. They have been able to attend in-person learning only sporadically

with some of their peers. They haven't been able to hang out in the cafeteria at lunch or outside during breaks. They have not been able to play sports or engage in other school clubs or activities. Much time has been spent learning from home on a laptop.

One day a couple of weeks back, I had to cover a council meeting followed by a hospital board meeting. I spent about six solid hours on Zoom. At the end, I was brain dead. It gave me some insight into what our children have had to do for extended periods of time throughout this pandemic.

So, it was nice that they were able to attend a virtual graduation ceremony in late June. As school principal Chris Boulay and valedictorian Bence Suranyi expressed, the students must be commended for their resiliency.

They've faced challenges but have grown through those experiences, learning about social injustice, equity, inclusion and diversity, particularly through the JEDI program.

While not as widely recognized, the Haliburton Adult and Alternate Education Centre also held its graduation in late June. While more modest, with just 12 students, the accomplishment is perhaps even greater

than that of the HHSS students.

These students had not completed high school for a variety of reasons but had chosen to go back to get their diplomas. In some cases, they were working as well as going to school. Some have children of their own. To continue on their learning path with these challenges in the midst of a global pandemic is admirable.

At *The Highlander*, we have always made a big deal about graduations because we know the importance of them in small towns. That's why we have covered all of the virtual ceremonies. We started with Wilberforce ES back on June 24; Archie Stouffer ES and J. Douglas Hodgson ES on June 30 and the high school and adult ed in today's (July 8) edition. This week, we begin running elementary school yearbook-style pages with photos of all of the graduates who have given us permission. We'll publish the high school and adult ed ones in the July 15 paper.

Congratulations to all of you.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER Vaccines to the rescue

Humans have been living with coronaviruses for thousands of years. In fact, research shows from modern day DNA of people in China, Japan and Vietnam, there was a coronavirus epidemic that lasted several hundred years, about 20,000 years ago.

Scientists have detected 42 genes that share a dominant version, suggesting many similar mutations developed rapidly over a few hundred years. They conclude that people in East Asia had adapted to an ancient coronavirus. This genetic information is not detected in other existing populations. No surprise. Our ancestors didn't get around much, living as small bands of hunters and gatherers.

While this genetic information is useful to potentially guide treatments for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, what concerns the scientists is the duration of that epidemic. Of course, they didn't have vaccines.

Vaccine update: Currently, 40.9 per cent of Canadians have two doses and 77 per cent have one dose; globally 24.2 per cent have one dose and 11.4 per cent have two doses (July 6); Africa 1.2 per cent have two doses.

Hospital statistics reveal COVID patients who are in the ICU or dying are unvaccinated. Vaccinated people are rarely presenting to hospital.

We are seeing the effect now on populations where vaccines are low. In the American states with 0-30 per cent of

people fully vaccinated there are nearly six to 16 cases per 100,000. In US states with greater than 60 per cent fully vaccinated, the virus spread is two per 100,000 citizens. Looking within a state, the pattern shows new COVID cases are concentrated in rural areas with low vaccination rates. In the parts of the state with high vaccination rates, the number of new cases remains low.

Vaccination is clearly how this pandemic ends. And the Delta variant seems to be highlighting the human cost for those who are vaccine hesitant. Or for whom the vaccine is not available.

In Africa, COVID cases are doubling every three weeks, lead by the Delta variant. They report 66 per cent of infections are in people younger than 45 years, attributed to the Delta variant. Oxygen requirements are reportedly 50 per cent higher than for the first wave (original strain) a year ago. With only 1.2 per cent of Africa's population fully vaccinated, the risk of new mutations emerging is high.

In countries and communities with low vaccination rates, the technique to control spread is to focus on the cluster, zoom in and test, treat and vaccinate. This highly effective "Ring Containment" technique was used to stop Smallpox and Ebola.

Epidemiologists are watching closely for effects of the mutations. Variant of interest, the Lambda (C.37 originated in Peru, now in 27 countries) appears to

have risk of being more contagious than Delta, with potential to have the highest mortality rate in the world.

And we are seeing increasing numbers of Gamma (origin Brazil) in the Northwest Territories now.

New Israel Health Ministry data show that two doses of Pfizer vaccine is 64 per cent effective against Delta, whereas it was 94 per cent effective in preventing infection prior to the predominance of the Delta strain (now 90 per cent of infections). They have reinstated the indoor face mask rule after infections recently quadrupled. The government is urging all children 12-15 years to be vaccinated.

Each new variant that succeeds does so because it is more contagious, faster at transmitting, than its "competing" mutations. That makes it more dangerous to humans, its hosts and victims.

Getting vaccinations to parts of the world at highest risk (Peru, Brazil, Africa, India) is essential to global protection.

More good news about vaccines. Now that we have longer term data on many hundreds of millions of people, it appears the mRNA vaccines Pfizer and Moderna may provide longer protection so we may not need boosters as soon as we thought.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION? Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

World leaders in truth, peace, reconciliation?

Dear editor,

I always read your editorials and so here I am on Canada Day reading your thoughts on our current situation.

I feel like an idiot to admit it, but I didn't know. I didn't realize how truly awful our Indigenous communities have been treated by our colonization of this country and that we've been killing them ever since we first arrived, including today.

Our image is shattered and it was hard to read when you wrote that we were no better than the US.

The only saving grace is the outpouring of love for our Indigenous communities that I am seeing nationally and personally from Canadians across this country. My hope is that we will all unite for this cause and be the people we thought we were or say we are.

Can we be world leaders of truth, peace and reconciliation? That's what I wish for our country on this Canada Day.

Krista Baker
Irondale

Well said

Dear editor,

Kudos to you for writing the most educational, succinct, and thoughtful editorial re: Happy Racist Canada Day.

It is a difficult and heart-wrenching subject to write about and you did it well.

Sherry Shrives
Dorset

Policy regarding lake associations

Dear editor,

In response to Brian J. Atkins' comments regarding lake associations, (*The Highlander*, June 24, 2021) and the "high" level of priority given to their opinions in the process of policy formation, I'd like to say a few words, that being "thank you."

Thank you for highlighting the fact that lake associations' opinions are taking priority over actual property owners' opinions, whose interests are only noted as holding "medium" priority in policy planning.

You are absolutely correct in identifying that left unchecked, this will lead to the issue of the County being run by special interest groups.

It's concerning, given that the lake associations do not speak for the entire membership, let alone the lake residents that do not belong to the association.

Equally concerning is that lake associations that once focused on organizing regattas and rock bass derbys have evolved into overly influential lobbyist groups that have been enabled

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tammy Nash sent in this photo of a cute chipmunk in her daughter's shoe.

to disproportionately contribute input on public policy formation.

Marty Andrews
Dysart et al

How about a charter of responsibilities

Dear editor,

Over the past 16 months I have read, with interest, the several letters addressed to you regarding the COVID pandemic.

The subjects cover a broad range of topics including border closures, business shutdowns, social distancing, remote learning for our children, vaccines, mask wearing, etc. You name it, someone has an opinion.

In many of these discussions the writer often brings up the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom to support their point of view.

Our charter is based, in part, on an historic speech given in 1941 by the US President, Franklin Delanore Roosevelt. In his remarks he identified four basic freedoms. They were, the freedom of speech, the freedom of belief, freedom of fear and freedom from want.

On April 17, 1982 as part of the new Canadian constitution, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was brought into being. It guarantees all Canadians the right to freedom of expression, religion, thought belief, peaceful assembly and association.

Indeed, this was and is an historic document. These are rights that we all enjoy and are guaranteed under the constitution. There is however, a flaw that has been exploited routinely by those individuals and groups who would deny these basic

rights. The flaw? Nowhere does the charter mention responsibility.

You can indeed belong to an association whose beliefs are totally opposite to mine. You have the right to express those points of view however abhorrent I find them. But you have a responsibility to guarantee my rights, my opinions, my belief and my safety.

You cannot spew incorrect information and outright falsehoods that foster and promote physically dangerous responses by your audience. You have a responsibility to protect those people whose beliefs and lifestyles you disagree with. You have a responsibility to protect both the person and his/her property.

The recent unprovoked attack on the Muslim family in London, Ontario is a perfect example of someone acting on his right to his beliefs without regard to the rights of those innocent individuals who happened to practice a different faith. He failed to act responsibly.

So, in conclusion, The Charter needs to be adjusted to include not only rights and freedoms but also responsibility. It's the right thing to do and the time is now.

Dr. Peter Markle
Spruce Lake

Less talk, more action

Dear editor,

As the owner of a seasonal business that has been around 42 years, and has now been shuttered for two years, at a cost of over \$150,000, I know firsthand the cost of lockdowns.

Having said that, I agree with them. These are exceptional times, and it is typical of the All About Me Society to not answer a few

nagging questions.

1 – What is the value of a human life and do we have the right to consider others expendable for our own convenience?

2 – Uncontrolled spread of the virus would overwhelm our already inadequate health care system, so are scenes like India, or Brazil with people dying on the sidewalk, ok?

3 – Uncontrolled spread can lead to mutations, which may be more lethal or in the worse case scenario not controlled by the vaccine.

4 – Are the 650,000 people on hold for cancer, heart, and other life-saving operations while the hospitals are cluttered up with COVID patients, expendable?

There are a lot of opinions and false information out there. I think it is time our politicians, for once, did something realistic. Put the people who ignore rules on a computer list and if they need emergency care for COVID-19 they go on the 650,000-waiting list until we deal with more important matters.

Give vaccinated people a Green Card and freedom. People who refuse vaccinations get a Red Card which restricts movement. Earlier compliance would have required less stringent lockdowns. Our ancestor's lives were disrupted by war and endured more hardships than mere inconvenience.

This mess was forecast to happen after SARS if the wet markets weren't closed, most scientists believe this is just the test run for the big one. These viruses all come from mishandling interactions between animals and humans. It is not more talk we need right now but concrete action to make sure this never, ever happens again.

Keith W. Stata
Kinmount

Highlander grads

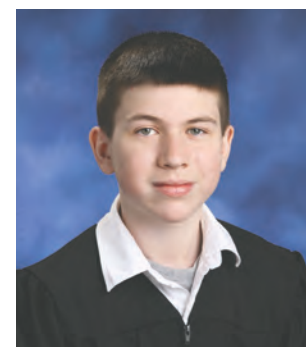
J. DOUGLAS HODGSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATES 2021



Anabel Acero



Lauren Ackerblade



Braiden Bailey



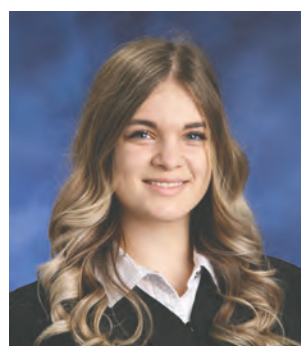
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Cohen Nimigon



Parker Pietryszyn



Beckam Reynolds



Cayden Russell



Hannah Sharp



Luke Smolarz



Jaylynn Snider



Addison St.Cyr



Daniel Stephen



Ethan Thomas



Jackson Titus



Logan Verstege



Sirena Weatherbee-McMullen



Tea Yates

Graduating, but not pictured, are:

- Logan Keller
- Grace Micallef
- Senaia Stewart
- Taliah Dumas-Stephenson



Congrats JDH GRADS

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HIGH SCHOOL GRADS**

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Dalton Fairey



Emily Fitzell



Kennedy Gill



Cole Hamilton



Chloe Hartwig



Quinn Higgins



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Tinkerbelle Maes



Alissa Mantel



Mackenzie McMartin-Lawr



Devon Michael-Lyddiatt

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Aaron Neave



Nicholas Neville



Dinah Ogley



Mak Prentice



Wyatt Raposo



Trista Robinson



Jayde Rowden



Bailey Shanks



Dominic Smith



Jazmin Smith



Clair Stewart



Jocelyn Thompson



Hayden Thorn



Spencer Upton



William Volochkov

Congrats to the Wilberforce grads!

Unfortunately the photos provided were too small for publication.

If you have a good quality photo of your grad, send it to editor@thehighlander.ca



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Highlander grads



Notice of a Public Meeting Concerning a Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment

Take Notice that pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a public meeting, which has general application to all lands within the Township of Minden Hills; and therefore a key map has not been provided.

Purpose and Effect: The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment would serve to amend certain definitions, as well as introduce new regulations, intended to permit temporary habitation of a recreational vehicle on private property during the period of construction of a new dwelling.

And Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendments. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendments during the Public Meeting.

Date and Location of Public Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting

Members of the Public Wishing to Watch the Meeting can do so by joining the live-stream link, available on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/L9yCZ-rBt-w>

Members of the Public Wishing to Participate and Make Comment/Speak at the Meeting regarding the proposed amendments are encouraged to pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca before 4:00 PM on Wednesday, July 28th. You may also attend the meeting and register the morning of July 29th, before 8:30am.

Participants registering after 8:30am will not be permitted into the public meeting.

Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair.

To attend the Zoom virtual meeting via Web, type www.zoom.us/join in to your browser or attend by dialing the number below to access the meeting:

Telephone: 1-647-374-4685 or 1-647- 558-0588
Meeting ID: 945 6036 9425
Passcode: 092369

PLEASE NOTE: We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the township 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or at such time as the Township offices re-open and is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at admin@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 ext. 505.

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at admin@mindenhills.ca.

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 7th day of July, 2021
Trisha McKibbin, Clerk
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0

If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.



Andrew Mansfield pipes in grads at a past in-person convocation. *File.*

Grads encouraged to be 'difference makers'

By Kirk Winter

Red Hawk graduates and their families gathered in front of their computer screens to take part in Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's 2020-2021 virtual graduation June 29.

While students and staff would have preferred an in-person grad, the planning committee pulled out all the stops to make it a night to remember for students who have seen their final two years impacted by a global pandemic.

Principal Chris Boulay told the graduates, "Tonight you will accept one of the most important documents you may ever receive: your high school diploma. We celebrate your achievement and are witnesses to you being honoured. I know I speak on behalf of this entire school community when I say that I am very proud of this graduating class. Today is a moment that you will remember forever, with you and loved ones all likely watching with pride celebrating the close of a chapter of over 13 years of school and the start of new opportunities, challenges and adventures."

Boulay thanked donors who made prizes and awards available to graduates, "despite experiencing the harsh economic circumstances of the last two years."

Boulay spoke of issues overcome by the class. "I want to reflect on the challenges you've faced, whether it be with friendships, relationships, loss, shortened sports seasons, a pandemic. I want you to reflect on how you have grown in many ways through these experiences, learning about social injustice and the looming importance of justice, equity, inclusion and diversity. I ask you to reflect on what you learned through these experiences – an appreciation of freedom and democracy, where we live and work, connected with each other in person ... be grateful for human connections, for those who mean so much to you."

Valedictorian Bence Suranyi, who will be attending University of Toronto next year

to study computer engineering, told his 112 fellow graduates that when he first entered Grade 9 the school seemed so huge and alien, not knowing any of the teachers and very few of the other students and getting lost in "the maze that is HHSS."

Suranyi continued, "We are going down very different paths. Whether you are going to post-secondary, doing an apprenticeship or going straight into the workforce we will all be parting ways to some degree after this graduation and that is sad to think about. But, going through four years of high school together cannot be discounted that simply because all the experiences that we have together are truly binding."

The valedictorian reminded his friends "once a Hawk, always a Hawk. Remember that! We will soar!"

The honours and awards section of the program reflected the depth and breadth of programming offered at HHSS with dozens of students receiving recognition for winning individual subject awards, school letters, certifications in Specialist High Skills Major, extended French certificates, certificates in technological education or being a member of the honour society and achieving an 80 per cent average in their graduating year.

Megan Klose led the way with six individual awards plus the Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Community Service. Daniella Meraw followed a close second with five awards and the Governor General's Academic Medal for the student graduating with the highest overall average. Emma James was recognized with five subject related awards, followed by Desi Davies with four, April Kovacs with three and Suranyi with three.

Boulay issued a challenge at the conclusion of his remarks.

"We wish you productive and happy futures. Celebrate your accomplishments. In the world of Instagram and something called TikTok ... leave your mark on the world. Do good, be strong, be a difference maker."

Highlander grads



Trustee Gary Brohman at a past AAEC grad. *File photo.*

Adults' turn for the cap and gown

By Kirk Winter

Twelve very proud graduates were feted virtually by the staff of the Adult Alternate Education Centre (AAEC) in Haliburton on June 25 with heartfelt speeches and awards recognizing a lot of hard work and perseverance during a worldwide pandemic.

Haydee Billings, Dukota Davidson, Emily Davis, Autumn Duff, Marshall Eady, Amber Goodrich, Nicholas Klochkoff, Dylan Main, Jaime Moore, Stacey Robertson, Destiny Thomsen and Holly Young received their secondary school diplomas and now begin the transition to work, an apprenticeship or post-secondary studies.

Principal Lisa Uldricks told the students, "I am very sorry that I cannot be presenting this message to you in person. High school graduation is such an amazing time in your life. You have overcome so many challenges, with the pandemic adding so many missed opportunities."

Uldricks reminded the students of a line from the Wizard of Oz that says, "No thief, however skillful, can rob

one of their knowledge."

Uldricks told the graduates they had been robbed of many things by the pandemic like social gatherings, haircuts, eating in restaurants and even a proper high school graduation, "but no one can rob you of the knowledge you have gained by walking through the doors of our school."

AAEC staff told graduates, "It is with heartfelt tears, smiles and good wishes that we send our graduates on their way to their futures."

The tradition of selecting a valedictorian by staff was suspended this year with teachers wanting to recognize the resilience and effort put in by the entire class in very trying times.

"Lockdowns, isolation, layoffs, illness and loss dominated our County and our country," staff shared, "and much of this year we met from afar, commiserating together and learning together. We thank you for staying in touch, always having a smile for us, showing your dedication and giving us the gift of your gratitude."

Graduates were told that, "Family, friends and your classmates are in

awe of what you have accomplished during the most difficult times in recent history in our country. Look in front and you will see the best coming towards you; look behind you and you will see all of us supporting you and wishing you well."

Awards

- **Haydee Billings**
Winner of the Joshua Rewa Award of Distinction
- **Emily Davis**
Winner of the OSSTF Academic Award
- **Autumn Duff**
Winner of the OSSTF Academic Award
Winner of the Principal's Award
Nominated for the Joshua Rewa Memorial Post-Secondary Bursary
- **Nicholas Klochkoff**
Winner of the Post Secondary/Apprenticeship Award
Nominated for the Joshua Rewa Memorial Post Secondary Bursary
- **Destiny Thomsen**
Winner of the CUPE Achievement Award

The Teachings of Baha'u'llah (Bahai Faith) are offered to the world in a quest for unity. The Baha'is in our County invite your questions and queries.

"Unity in diversity. No man has all truth, all have some truth. We are the flowers of one garden. Our differences can also be our beauty."

To speak with a Bahai in our area please call: Haliburton, Helen, 705-457-1999, Minden, George and Kathie 705-286-3378, West Guilford/ Kennisis, Pat and Peter 1-416-606-9657, Eagle Lake / Fort Irwin Gord and Kathryn 705-754-0939 or contact www.bahai.org.

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Finding chaos and calm in the circus

By Sam Gillett

An upcoming circus performance will explore the emotional toll of COVID-19 through fire dancing, high-flying acrobatics and electric violins.

NorthFIRE circus, an Ontario-based group of performers, is displaying “Theatre on Fire: from chaos to calm” at Abbey Gardens July 16-18.

Isabella Hoops, a performer and the show’s producer, said the upcoming act was created to move viewers through the seven stages of grief.

“I started thinking about how much this pandemic has effected all of us – we’ve all gone through these stages of grief,” Hoops said.

From shock to denial to acceptance and hope, Hoops and her fellow fire dancers and musicians will showcase their skills in choreographed sets that correspond to feelings and emotions they’ve dealt with during COVID-19.

Aerial acrobats will perform on 22-foot-high silks – using the fabric to perform spins and flips and electric violinist Dr. Draw will accompany the show’s exploration of processing a post-COVID world.

“With each stage [of grief] – we spent many hours just finding different movements that reflected how we feel during that stage,” Hoops said.

That’s not to say the performance is all COVID-induced gloom – acceptance and



Performers dance, juggle torches and perform acrobatic feats in NorthFIRE circus productions. Photo submitted by NorthFIRE Circus.

hope are prominent themes in the stages of grief and the Circus act.

“It’s joyful,” Hoops said. “It’s letting go of what we’ve been through, enjoying and rejoicing in what we have to look forward to.”

Hoops said the name of the show is also a nod to how the pandemic impacted

performing arts. “So many of us artists just really went from chaos to calm,” she said.

Audience members will sit in physically-distanced circles, and are encouraged to bring their own pillows, blankets and lawn chairs.

For tickets, visit northfirecircus.com

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- Tourism & Hospitality Award
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- Highlander of the Year Award
- Not-for-Profit of the Year
- Business Achievement Award

Find all the details at haliburtonchamber.com/awards

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Sports hall of fame

Joe Iles' love of people fuelled involvement

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Joe Iles, was a people person, his wife Jean said.

Jean said her late husband, who passed away in 2011, "loved their friendship and he loved teasing them a little bit at the garage. He enjoyed the community and he took part in much of it, in sports, and at the fire hall for years and the fellowship there."

Iles was chosen by the committee for more than six decades of active involvement in sports in Haliburton County.

At just 15, he was the youngest player on the Senior Huskies, but dominated play. At 17, he earned legendary status during the final game of the 1945 Porter Cup.

According to the committee, "in front of the largest crowd to ever watch a hockey game in Haliburton County, Joe broke a 6-6 tie, scoring the winning overtime goal with a dazzling end-to-end rush. The resounding cheers of the crowd echo through time and remind us why the arena was central to Haliburton's culture in that golden era."

Another highlight of his hockey career was the chance to play at Maple Leaf Gardens as a member of the 1947 OHA Junior All-Star team.

Iles was also a top flight baseball player, a local golf champion and a celebrated skip at the Haliburton Curling Club. In

1961, he skipped his team to victory, winning both the Carling and Gilliam trophies.

Iles was also influential in the community, holding many leadership positions. He was a founding member of the Glen Dart Hockey Tournament, president of the Haliburton Minor Hockey Association, president of the Haliburton Curling Club and president of the Rotary Club. His most prominent public service was as a 40-year member of the Dysart Volunteer Fire Department, and for many years as its chief.

The hall said Iles' athletic career taught him courage, teamwork, and tenacity, characteristics he used to serve his community. His lifetime accomplishments were recognized when he was presented with the 125th anniversary Medal of the Confederation of Canada.

Jean said Iles might have been a little surprised by his induction but would be "very, very thrilled and honoured to be included."

She said she thinks he was driven by his love of friendship, camaraderie and community.

Her daughter, Pam, agreed.

"He was active in Rotary, which was certainly a community committee. He coached hockey for years and years. At the garage he ran, he loved when customers came in. He had a secret stash of candy when they came in with young children. He loved the little ones."



Joe Iles. Photo submitted.

INFORMATION PAGE

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development. Please see below and visit our website at www.minden hills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information and application deadlines.

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Oversees the day-to-day financial functions and provides assistance to the Director of Finance/Treasurer in the development and implementation of financial goals and objectives relative to the processing and payment of accounts receivables, utility billing and general accounting requirements. This is a permanent, full time, union position. Hours are 35/week, Monday to Friday. Rate of Pay is \$24.60/hour, subject to union dues. Submission deadline is July 15, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

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A Message from the Fire Department

Babysitting Safety Tips

Parents need to know who their child is sitting for; make it a rule that the sitter must always have permission before a babysitting job is accepted.

Meet with the family before you or your child babysits and get the following information:

- Parents' names
- Children's names and ages
- Address of the house
- Emergency services number (usually 911)
- Nationwide poison control hotline: 1-800-222-1222
- Location of fire extinguisher, flashlights
- Cell phone or pager number for parents

General [safety reminders](#) for sitters:

- Turn on outside lights in the evening
- Keep doors and windows locked; lock the door after the parent leaves
- If the kids are asleep, check on them every 15 minutes
- Never identify yourself as the sitter on the phone, instead, say the parent can't come to the phone and take a message
- Don't tie up the phone, in case the parents are trying to call

Potentially dangerous items or situations in the home:

- Small children in bathtubs - never leave a child alone in the bathtub, not even for a second.
- In case of a fire know all the ways out of the house. Get kids out immediately, stay close to the floor, and do not open a door if it is hot. Only when you are out of the house, call for help from a neighbor's, and do not go back in for any reason.

For more babysitting safety information please visit <https://kidsit.com/stay-safe-babysitting>

Waste Reduction Tip

You can drop off textiles (in good and poor condition) in the donation bin at Scotch Line Landfill. Good textiles are re-used and poor quality textiles are recycled.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/TENDERS

Please see below and visit our website at www.minden hills.ca/tenders/ for more information and submission deadlines.

RFT #RDS 21-08 Moore Lake Drainage Improvements

The Township is seeking qualified bids to undertake drainage improvements at Moore Lake Estates Road and Shetland Drive. The deadline for submissions is July 14, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

RFP #CSD 21-01 Fitness Equipment (Supply & Installation)

The Township is seeking proposals from interested and qualified Respondents for the provision and installation of exercise equipment in the new Minden Hills Community Centre and SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The deadline for submissions is July 28, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

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

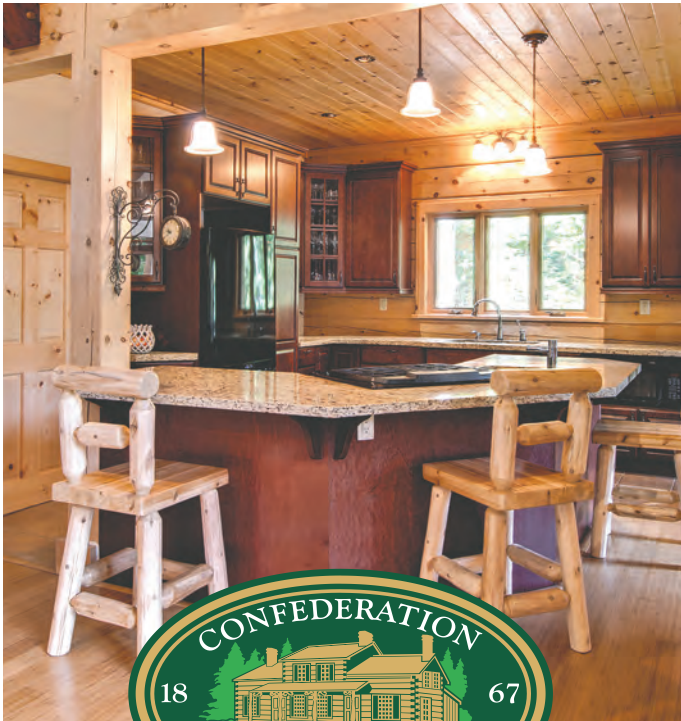
July 29
Regular Council Meeting

August 26
Regular Council Meeting

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

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/. Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

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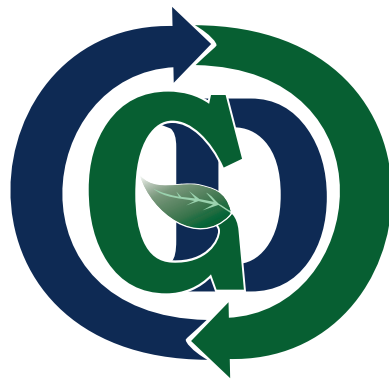
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BUILDING & Renos

Patience a necessity in construction market

By Lisa Harrison

Delays caused by pandemic restrictions have combined with increased demand for customized rural dwellings to create a hot local construction market with large projects booked well into next year.

"These are trying times for everyone, please be patient," advised Aggie Tose, executive officer for the Haliburton County Home Builders Association.

"Coming into the County in June and July and expecting the contractors to come see your project right now is just unrealistic. It most certainly isn't because we don't want the work. We do."

However, contractors are trying to balance pandemic management requirements, material shortages, and delays on the projects they've already committed to, explained Tose.

Also, "[the] safety of our staff is a priority before we consider allowing them to work in your home or cottage ... [and the] contractors also have families they haven't seen since the pandemic began."

"The other problem for contractors in our area is that we only have so many staff and we can't take on more than we can handle. There is so much work, most contractors are booked for big jobs into the summer of 2022."

Costs for materials have risen by more than 150 per cent in some cases, said Tose, and while the size of most projects remains the same, the number of project requests has more than doubled.

"In the beginning we were very concerned about the lumber mills closing due to COVID, but they seem to be up and running well now. The [initial] lag in production slowed lumber arriving. There seems to be a big problem right now getting other



A hot local construction market continues in Haliburton County. Flickr.

materials in a timely manner. Doors and windows are nine to 12 weeks on order and ICF [insulated concrete forms] blocks for foundations seem to be very difficult to get.

"I think the biggest change is that the contractors are having to plan material purchases much earlier than they might have in the past."

Despite the delays, contractors may have room to tackle some smaller projects, but that will also depend on the supply of materials, said Tose.

"The Canadian Home Builders' Association has been active with lumber industry counterparts, the federal government and the U.S. National Association of Home

Builders to pursue all avenues to bring more supply online and bring prices down.

"With strong housing demand expected to continue, and lumber supply having a hard time catching up, it is expected lumber prices will stay high for some time, certainly through the first half of 2021. Lumber futures show a descent of lumber prices as the year continues, but this will be slow through 2021 and 2022. Even at the end of 2022, lumber prices are not expected to be all the way back to near pre-pandemic levels."

So it appears a little patience will have to go a long way.

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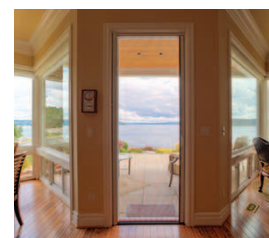
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BUILDING & Renos

Ruler of all you survey

By Lisa Harrison

Whether you're building or renovating, you want to be sure you can keep what you've paid for. A survey will ensure you've drawn accurate boundary lines in the plan before you begin.

"A licensed Ontario Land Surveyor [OLS] is the only professional in the province of Ontario who is able to determine the legal limits of a property," said Rodney Geyer, OLS.

"Without knowing your limits you cannot ensure that your new building is located within the bylaw setbacks, or even guarantee that it is on your property."

Such guidance is so important that providing it most effectively has led Rodney, his son Adam Geyer and Haliburton's Chris Bishop to become partners to better support clients through their combined expertise, experience and historical records.

Launched in June, Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. in Haliburton incorporates the Bancroft arm of Geyer Surveys (Rodney Geyer Ontario Land Surveyor Inc.) and Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd. Greg Bishop, Chris's father, operated from the 1970s until his retirement in 2020, except for a term with the Ontario Municipal Board until 2004. Rodney has served as the firm's OLS since Greg's retirement.

Geyer historical records include those of earlier firms M.J. McAlpine Surveying and R.H. Geyer Surveying starting in 1988. Bishop's historical records include those of Chris's grandfather, Curry, who began surveying in the late 1950s, and of several companies as far back as The Canadian Land & Emigration Co. (1862).

Surveys are required whenever the legal limit or boundary of a property must be determined. This can include commercial building projects, severances, infrastructure development, subdivisions, condominiums and road allowance closings.

"The scope of a project is the ultimate driver of time and complexity," noted Rodney.

"The survey process begins always with an estimate and determination of what is necessary. A survey is not one size fits all, and the scope of each project will be focused on a specific goal. That is not to say that it won't change based on what we find, but it has to start somewhere."

The surveyors then research the property's history, including current and past deeds for the client's property and for neighbouring properties. From there, field work locates existing monuments (survey markers) and checks their mathematical relationship



Surveys are important when building and renovating. *Unsplash.*

to existing monuments on the neighbouring properties. Depending on the age of the previous survey, this step can take some time to complete. A report is then prepared, or a plan is produced if required.

Survey duration can range from a few hours for a water boundary setback to months or years for final plans to be approved and registered with the province, especially if property monuments have been destroyed over the years.

Ultimately, surveyors ensure that every party to a plan gets the real deal.

"As surveyors we are an independent and impartial third party when it comes to boundaries," said Rodney.

"As much as we advocate for our client, we advocate equally for the neighbouring parties ... Surveyors cannot move or bend limits in the field to suit a situation."

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HARP ON THE TRAIL

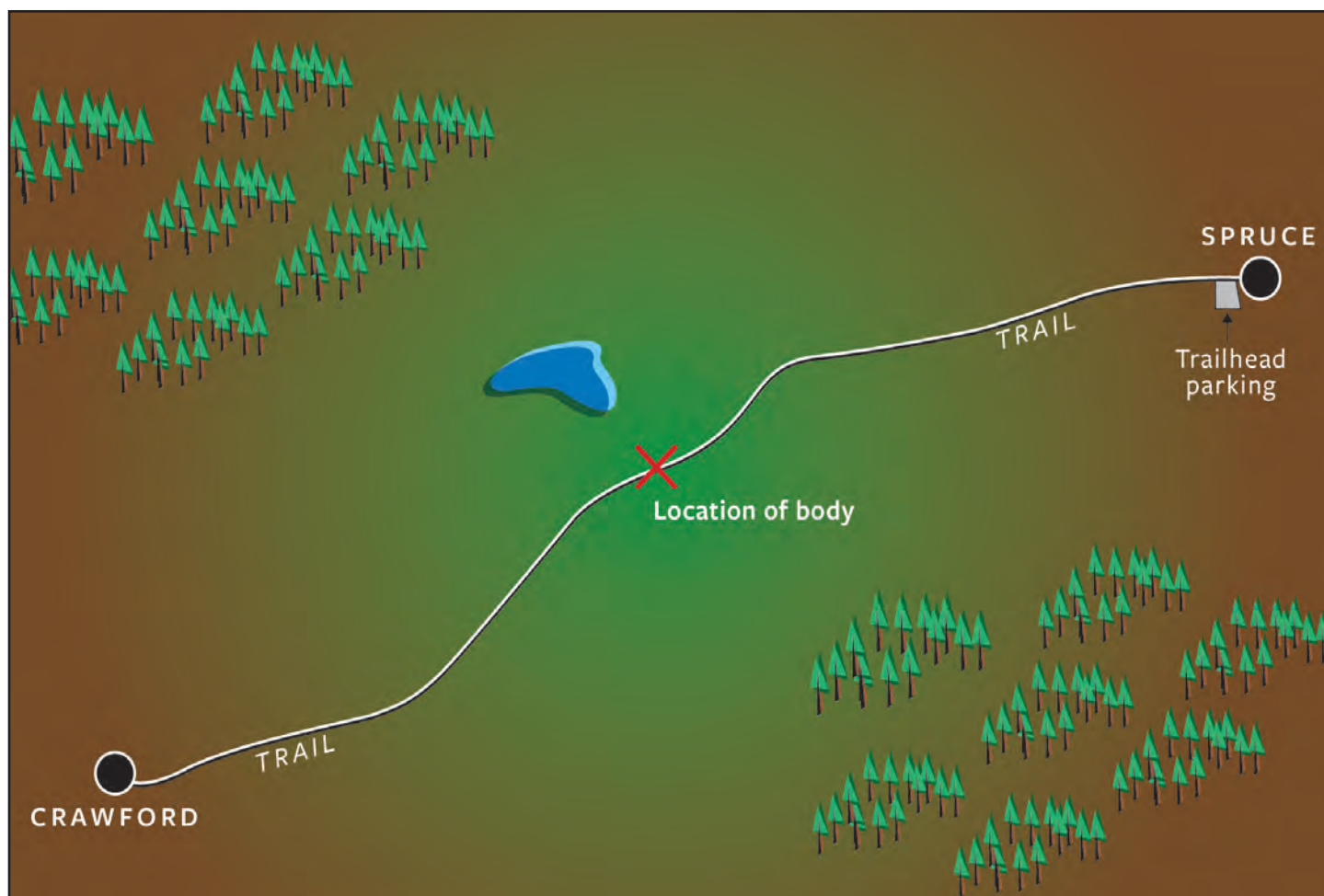
Editor's note: This is the second instalment of a fictional series entitled Harp on the Trail. It's written by Hope Thompson, who lives in Algonquin Highlands.

Chapter 2: Sandwich and apple

"Detective Harp, can you comment on the conflict between motorized and pedestrian use of the trail, and do you believe this murder is a result of that conflict?" The question came from a young man with curly red hair and freckles. A reporter from The Branch, Spruce County's weekly newspaper, the man stood at the front of a small group of people that included reporters from other regional news outlets, some curious citizens—a white-haired woman carrying bags of groceries, a man wearing a camo-print T-shirt and another in a business suit, and a few teens on their bikes. Even some members of a nearby road crew on their morning break had sauntered over. They were gathered in the trailhead parking area and in front of yellow police tape that sealed off the trail entrance. Harry Harp stood in front of the flapping tape and addressed the ragtag audience.

"I can't comment on the specifics of the investigation, but I can say that the police are exploring all leads—and that our first concern is, of course, identifying the victim," Harp said.

The grocery-bag-carrying woman waved at Harp. "Hey, mister? Your first concern ought to be finding the murderer! I live just off the trail—and I live alone. How do you think that makes me feel knowing there's a killer on the loose?"



After the press conference, Detective Harp and Constable Becker drove through the town. It was just after nine in the morning and a layer of cloud had slipped over the sky and turned it bone gray, but the air was still hot and thick with humidity.

Harp stared out the car window at a group of tourists eyeing a clothing store's offerings.

"What was he doing on the trail?" he said.

Becker stopped the car at a red light. "Meeting someone?"

"Maybe," Harp said as he watched the tourists wandered off to the next window.

The light turned green, and Becker pressed on the gas.

"Does anyone use the trail as a way to get from Spruce to Crawford?" Harp asked.

"A twenty-minute drive versus five hours of walking? No way," Becker shook his head.

Back at the station, Harp got comfortable with a cup of coffee while Becker pinned a close-up map of the trail to the office wall and marked the point where the body was found.

After a few gulps of coffee, Harp stood up and studied the map, his finger tracing the line between the two towns. He sat down again, and his eyes glazed over.

"There was something from today," Harp murmured. "A detail..."

Becker looked up from his notes. "Pardon?"

Just then, his phone buzzed. He picked it up and listened, then ended the call.

"We have a visitor," Becker announced.

The detective muttered to himself, still lost

in thought.

Becker waved his hands. "Sir? The president of the Spruce County ATV Association is here."

Harp looked up. "Sometimes it feels like there's an association for everything."

In a beige-painted interview room, Harp and Becker sat across from Archie Lowell. Lowell had a thin but muscular body, an aquiline nose, and stylishly coiffed black hair. Harp noted that there was something dashing about the man.

Would anyone ever describe me that way again, Harp thought. Not likely.

"Gentlemen," Lowell began. "I don't want to waste your time, but I do want to make clear the concerns of my association." Lowell tented his long white fingers and rested his elbows on the table. "Just like snowmobilers, all ATV riders must pass their safety training to ride on the trail. We are law-abiding people who only seek to enjoy our machines, and nature, in a safe manner."

Becker said, "But Archie, the dog that was run over last summer? And that's just one incident of many."

"Please, it's one of several, not many. In fact, just a few," Lowell cleared his throat. "We promote enjoyment of the trail for everyone, not just our riders. We want all users to get along."

Harp recalled Didi Shipton's anger from a few hours earlier. She had called ATVs a scourge. If Lowell's association was promoting peaceful coexistence, it wasn't working for Didi.

The room fell silent. Becker shot Harp a glance. Again, the detective had that

faraway look in his eyes and Becker felt intense embarrassment. He was about to make small talk when Harp finally spoke up.

"When was the last time you used the trail?"

Lowell looked surprised. "Oh—yesterday afternoon? My wife and I went for a ride."

"Did you notice a young man? Black hoodie and jeans?" Harp said.

Lowell's forehead creased, then he shook his head. "Not that I can remember. But a black hoodie and jeans is hardly attire that stands out in these parts, is it, detective?" Lowell's mouth edged into a sly smile.

Becker asked Lowell to provide them with the names and numbers of any association members who had used the trail in the last week. The man agreed to provide the list, then bid them farewell.

Through his office window, Harp watched Archie Lowell climb onto a gleaming ATV and drive out of the station parking lot.

"Not your typical ATV rider," Harp said.

"No? I ride. What's typical?" Becker said, pulling his lunch out of an insulated carrying bag.

Harp frowned. "Okay, you're right. That was a stereotype on my part."

"Apology accepted," Becker said as he unwrapped a sandwich thick with cheese, lettuce, and tomato.

Harp felt his mouth water.

His phone buzzed and he answered it. "Harp," he said, welcoming the distraction from Becker's lunch.

Spruce County Coroner Anna Lau's voice came down the line.

Harp said, "I'm here with Terry. Can I put

you on speaker?" Lau agreed and a moment later, her cheerful voice filled the room.

"Hi, Terry," Lau said.

"Hey, Anna," Becker said as he arranged his sandwich and apple for consumption.

"I wanted to give you some highlights ahead of my full report," she said. "Your victim was about sixteen years old, and time of death was between 10 and 11 o'clock last night. And the death was a single bullet wound, and a direct hit, to the victim's heart. Now," Lau continued. "The contents of the victim's stomach."

Becker picked up his sandwich and guided it towards his mouth.

"We found bread, lettuce, tomato—likely a sandwich—inside him, and consumed about two hours before death."

Like a spaceship waiting for an airlock chamber to open, Becker's sandwich hovered in front of his mouth. Then he set it down.

Lau continued, "And an apple. He also ate an apple."

Becker looked from his sandwich to his apple—and sighed.

"But that's not all."

Harp quickly downed the last of his coffee.

"We found traces of pine needles and ivy on the back of his hoodie and jeans."

Harp frowned. "Pine needles—and ivy?" "English ivy?" Becker asked.

"Like I said, you'll get my full report later today. But in my professional opinion," Lau said. "Your victim wasn't killed in the ditch. He was shot somewhere else, and his body was placed there."

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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Georgina Louise Teresa Deeks (nee Leonard)

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Sunday, June 27, 2021. At the age of 94.

Beloved wife of the late Angus Edward "Ed" Deeks (2016). Fondly remembered by Carol Moffatt-Hill, Diane and Dave Dollo, Maria Tschida, and Marianne and Caesar Corvinelli.

A special thanks from Georgina's friend's to the staff at Hyland Crest for all the loving care and support provided to Georgina during her stay.

Memorial Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #636 Poppy Fund would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0



In Loving Memory of Reginald (Reg) Gerald Shaw

Passed away peacefully at home in Kinmount on Sunday, July 4, 2021, at the age of 75.

Beloved husband of Wendy Lynn Shaw (nee Thompson) (married November 12, 1988). Dear father of Jo-Anna Shaw (Clark), Marjorie Shaw, Wendy Sleep (Gord), Debbie Shaw (Larry). Loving grandfather of Damian, Rilee, Morgan, Amber, Dustin, Mandy, Jamie and great grandfather of Violet, Daisy, Prestin, Reese, Avery and Amelia. Predeceased by his parents Joseph and Lylia Shaw (nee Hughes). Brother of Glen and fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

It was Reg's wish to be cremated. A Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Reg's Life will be held at a later date.

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



Harina Lynn

(Resident of Minden, Ontario)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Mother and Nana at Hyland Crest in Minden in her 99th year. Beloved wife of the late Clayton Lynn (2011). Loving mother to Arlene (Jim). Predeceased by her daughter Marilyn (2017), her brother Harold. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren, Greg, Lianne, Teresa, Donna, Joanna and great grandchildren Crystal, Derrick, Daphne, Liam, Lily, Jack, Henry, Joshua, Matthew, Peyton, Monica, Chase and by her great great grandson Dutch. Dear sister of Janice. Also lovingly remembered by her son-in-law Del and by her many nieces and nephews. Mom was a strong, hard-working and determined lady her whole life. Mom and Dad (Clayton) were owners of Silver Valley Camp. They began this in 1945 when they moved to West Guilford. They built a General Store and six housekeeping cottages followed shortly afterwards. They ran this business for 23 years. Mom would help Dad run a Saw Mill to provide lumber to build this business and their own home. She was a cook for 11 years at a Black Lake Hunt Camp - Haliburton Forest & Wildlife. She loved to knit, crochet and sew for her family. She was also an avid fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Blue Jays. Mom was a dedicated and proud Nana. She maintained her independence living the last 10 years in her own apartment at Echo Hills in Haliburton. Her body may have failed her, but her sense of humour and quick wit remained intact until the end. She lived her life with strength, courage and dignity and will be dearly missed.

Private Visitation & Funeral Service

A Private Visitation and Funeral Service will take place. Interment later St. Peters Anglican Church Cemetery, Maple Lake. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209.



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In loving memory of Robert McConnell



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Robert McConnell at the age of 67. Rob passed away peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital on June 27, 2021.

Beloved husband of Charlene and loving father of Marleigh (Tony) and Braedin (Maxeen). Predeceased by parents William and Marjorie, sisters Barbara and Brenda and brother Jay. Survived by brother Ron (Mary). Fondly remembered by in-laws, nephews, nieces, friends and colleagues.

A proud member of Beta Theta Pi, Rob loved the outdoors - being on the water, boating and fishing, looking at the starry night sky - especially in Harcourt Park. He had a passion for tinkering with things, finding innovative solutions, meeting new people and finding a connection with others. He adored his wife and children and spending time with family. Rob was always so positive and saw the silver-lining in every situation.

Charlene requests friends and family share a favourite memory or story of Rob that will be put together in a book as a tribute to his life and the energy that he shared with others. Please send your thoughts to purpledoorpotterystudio@gmail.com. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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NOTICES



Notice of Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their July 27th, 2021 meeting, will be considering changes to the A.J. LaRue Arena fees and charges as outlined in Schedule B of By-Law 2021-30. A 3% increase to arena winter ice and auditorium fees is being proposed to take effect September 7, 2021.

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

Andrea Mueller, Manager of Programs and Events

Editorial opinion

Reader doesn't think we're 'overrun' by tourists

By Alan C. Smith

April 11 is a day when many of us in the Highlands region will be looking forward to the arrival of the summer season. It's a time when the weather is warm and the sun is shining, and the tourists are coming.

Disappointed in coverage

By Alan C. Smith

After reading the front page article in the July 1st issue of The Highlander, I was disappointed in the coverage of the Highlands region.

Health care and the Internet

By Alan C. Smith

Much has been reported about high speed Internet in the Highlands region. It's a topic that is of great interest to many of us in the region.

Cold comfort from fashion faux pas

By Alan C. Smith

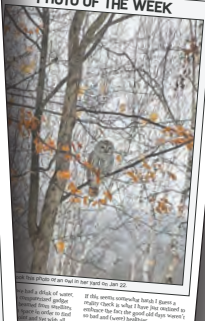
It's a cold, cold day in the Highlands region. The weather is just what we need to get us out of the summer doldrums.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A unique view of the Highlands region. Photo by Alan C. Smith.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A unique view of the Highlands region. Photo by Alan C. Smith.

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Thondale River



First time being offered for sale! This beautiful 3-bdrm 1 bath year-round home or cottage. With over 200 feet of frontage and 3.24 acres, this level property provides ample privacy. Sand riverfront shoreline is perfect for swimming. This home was built in 2015 and offers a spacious kitchen finished with wood cabinetry, soft close drawers, ceramic flooring, and a large island. The formal dining room is the perfect size for your family's harvest table. Sunken living room with walkout to the large front deck. The unfinished lower-level waits your finishing touch to create more space for your family. **\$795,000**

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Glamor Lake



This cute 3 season cottage is situated on the water's edge in a quiet bay on Glamor Lake. Bright open concept kitchen, dining and living room finished with pine walls. This property offers 3 spacious bdrms and a 4pc bath. Plenty of room for the whole family to come and enjoy the beauty of Haliburton County. Many recent upgrades completed, including plumbing, windows, shingles, flooring, appliances and more. Beautiful sand beach with deep waters. Swim out and enjoy your very own small island. Bonus – 6.6 acres of your own land to explore. **\$598,500**

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NEW LISTING

Gelert Road



Fantastic 3 bdrm, 2 bath family home located in the heart of Haliburton. Perfect for the outdoor enthusiast. Tranquil wooded backyard backs onto the Haliburton Rail Trail. Enjoy walking, four-wheeling, and snowmobiling for year-round enjoyment – head out your back door, just hop on and go! Convenient low-maintenance home. Kitchen features a generous sized island, inside entry to the attached garage, and a walkout to the back deck. Sunroom off the front is a bright and breezy space. Walking distance to schools, shopping, hospital, recreation and Head Lake Park, this is the perfect spot to settle in. **\$499,000**

NEW LISTING

Trapper Lake



Escape to your cabin in the woods! Traditional 3-bdrm seasonal cottage nestled amongst the trees. The open concept kitchen and living room have tranquil lake views. Cute little bunkie provides extra sleeping space. 100 feet of water frontage with ample privacy. Natural shoreline with deep water off the dock. **\$349,000**

NEW LISTING

Contau Lake Road



The perfect starter home or weekend retreat! This beautiful park-like setting offers 1.51 acres and a level, open yard. 2-bdrms & 2 baths. Open concept, pine kitchen and living area creates a welcoming space. The main floor also features a 2-pc powder room while the second floor offers two spacious bedrooms and a 4pc bath. Recent upgrades include a new propane furnace, steel roof, and hot water tank. Drilled well and septic. The log building is well built and awaits your finishing touches (flooring needed in living room and bedrooms). **\$329,000**

East Road

COMMERCIAL



It's all about the location! This commercial lot is ideally located in the heart of Carnarvon and situated on the corner of Highway 118 and East Road. The property features a charming seasonal building that dates back to the 1800's. There is hydro servicing the building but no water or septic. Tons of storage space in the attached oversized single garage with poured concrete floor. Commercial zoning and great exposure provide endless possibilities for your business. **\$135,000**

Vacant Lots

LITTLE GULL LAKE	LOUISE LANE	STILLS ROAD	BASSHAUNT LAKE ROAD	NORTH DRIVE 2.08AC
0.78AC \$355,000	35+ AC \$275,000	1.2AC \$152,000	1.88AC \$147,500	\$135,000 SOLD



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

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