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The Highlander

Thursday **August 5 2021** | Issue 497

INSIDE: BUILDING & RENO SPECIAL FEATURE

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At a Turtle Guardians booth outside the Haliburton Public Library, Sydney Shepherd holds Otis, a Red-eared slider turtle on Aug. 3. The group works to protect turtles and their habitats across the Highlands through education, roadway monitoring and scientific research. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

Residents speak out on shoreline bylaw

By Sam Gillett

People shared concerns, ideas and visions for lake protection at the first of two shoreline bylaw open houses July 29.

The Zoom meeting was the first time members of the public, as opposed to private and public stakeholder organizations, had an opportunity to speak

to County of Haliburton-hired planners Hutchinson Environmental and J.L. Richards.

The two companies have been contracted to review a draft bylaw and submit recommendations to council for a final policy document in October.

For more than a year, it's proved a

divisive topic: some consider its rules too far reaching and restrictive, while others say it's only a first step in protecting lake health.

"Council has heard many of these comments loud and clear, as well as some confusion about the original guidelines that were proposed," Warden Liz Danielsen

said, as the meeting kicked off.

All who spoke said healthy lakes were important. However, views diverged on whether a proposed 30-metre no development zone was the most efficient or realistic way to protect water quality.

Speakers such as Susan Hay, who

Continued **'Some'** on page 2

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Some want stricter septic rules

Continued from page 1

represented Environment Haliburton!, said 30 metres is a must. Hay said her home was made uninhabitable after blue-green algae, often caused by septic systems and stormwater runoff, polluted her water supply. It cost \$30,000 to switch to a well system.

Hay said strict development rules such as the draft bylaw “reduce erosion and protect our lakes and the fish, birds and wildlife that inhabit them, and the people who enjoy the lakes.”

Others argued the County should target issues that are equally, and more, important than restricting the space between a development and lakes.

“In terms of water quality, the single greatest threat is improperly functioning septic tanks,” said Tayce Wakefield, a Kennis Lake property owner who’s coordinated with 20 nearby residents to navigate development rules. She reports a recent inspection program on Kennis Lake showed over one quarter of all septic systems failed.

“Clearly this shows that a full pump-out septic inspection program should be the first priority to protect our water.”

Many said the proposed bylaw is

inappropriately restrictive and general.

“Owners feel like they’re totally losing control of their properties, particularly if it’s 30 metres,” said Bill Missen, a director of the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners’ Association.

Missen said he doubted the County has the capacity to enforce the bylaw. Current regulations - such as the tree preservation bylaw - are often bypassed with no repercussions, he alleged.

“I think it’s unfortunately going to go back to neighbours policing neighbours.”

He explained how reporting lake residents for building infractions decreases the sense of “comaraderie” the lake community enjoys.

Carson MacDonald, owner of the Dock Shop in Minden Hills, said the proposed rules are too general to put into practice.

“It’s a one size fits all bylaw. But it can’t address the countless variables we address daily,” he said, mentioning how property size, landscaping and more determine suitable development.

“Every shoreline is different - every customer’s needs are different.”

Similarly, Wakefield of Kennis Lake said the proposed approach doesn’t account for specific lakes

and their unique environmental characteristics.

“For the large proportion of lakes that are near or above the objectives of the bylaw such as Kennis, establishing a 30 metre ‘no-go zone’ represents an unwarranted reduction in property rights where there is no acute problem to address,” said Wakefield.

She recommended rules which make accommodations for different sized lots and the needs of individual lakes.

Deb Wratschko, president of the Kennis Lake Cottage Owners’ Association, said the existing draft needs to be explained clearly.

“The draft bylaw is written in bylaw language, which most people don’t take the time to read or fully understand,” Wratschko said.

“In order for our members to provide thoughtful feedback they need to know and understand what the bylaw is, why it’s necessary, what is in it, and how it will affect them. We need a “Coles Notes” version directly from the people drafting the bylaw to support meaningful discussion and feedback.”

More than 500 people had viewed the town hall as of July 30. It’s now available to watch on the County’s YouTube channel.

A second town hall will take place at a yet undetermined date.



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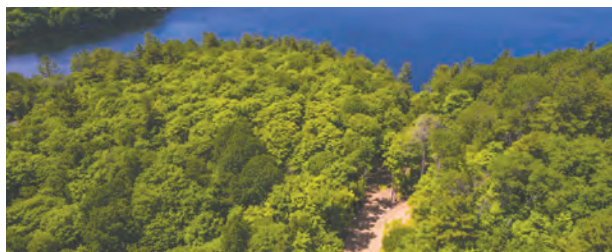
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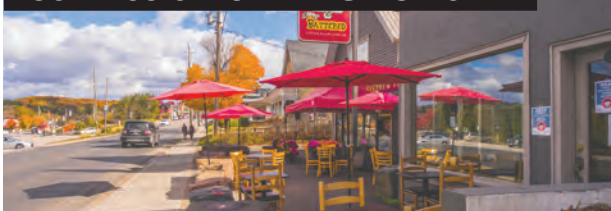
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 MINDEN · HALIBURTON
HEARING SERVICE

Minden wrestles with lake access issues

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills is proceeding with plans to clamp down on people behaving badly while using unopened shore road allowances to access lakes.

CAO Trisha McKibbin brought a report to the July 29 council meeting in hopes of addressing complaints that include noise, parking, environmental concerns and trespassing on neighbouring private property.

She is calling for a use of unopened road allowance bylaw or policy.

The report came about after Mayor Brent Devolin, at a June 10 council meeting, highlighted an issue at the end of Murdoch Road.

An unopened road allowance is land dedicated as a road right of way that has not been fully developed or required for vehicle traffic. The public has the right to use them but not, without township permission, to modify them so people and vehicles can access the lake.

McKibbin said Minden Hills was getting more seasonal and year-round residents prior to 2020 but “the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the number of individuals residing and visiting the area.”

She said that population influx has put pressure on access to waterways and lakes, often through unopened road allowances.

“There has been a corresponding increase in the number of complaints,” she said and the municipality does not have enough bylaw officers to respond to the number and frequency of those complaints.

She noted fire chief Nelson Johnson has identified those areas delay or make rescue or fire calls difficult.

Further McKibbin said there have been recent instances where real estate property listings include reference to lake access for non-lakefront properties through unopened shore road allowances.

She had a look at what other townships are doing, including Highlands East, North Stormont, and the townships of Faraday, South Stormont and Georgian Bluffs.

She said a policy or bylaw establishing and outlining the use would protect the township from liability, control township



Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin has been pushing for action on unopened shore road allowances. *File.*

expenses for maintaining and improving unopened shore road allowances; manage public access; protect the environment and manage future transportation needs.

She said a bylaw could have provisions such as: no person shall erect a dock or any kind of structure on an allowance leading to water; can't store a vehicle, boat, trailer etc.; or do any work such as removing trees or soil.

Council has numerous other considerations, she noted, such as whether to restrict vehicles and what to do about adequate parking.

She also touched on a possible application process for use to be considered on a case-by-case basis and what would be required for that.

Task force recommended

Coun. Bob Carter said, “Yes, definitely we need to do something. And I think that we have to recognize that we're not going to be able to do this quickly. There's going to be lots of exceptions. We have situations where people's domiciles are sitting on some of these road allowances. There's going to be a lot of these weird and wacky things.”

He added there is a difference between road allowances that run along the water's edge and those that go towards the water and they may have to be handled in a totally different manner.

He suggested the municipality might need to establish a separate committee or task force to help develop a bylaw or policy due

to the complexity of the issue.

Coun. Pam Sayne argued a committee could slow the process down and stall momentum on the portfolio. She was also opposed to hiring a consultant.

Devolin agreed with Carter it may have to go out of house. He thinks it is similar to the County's shoreline preservation bylaw which is now in the hands of consultants.

“It is fraught with no less levels of complexities ... and will be no less politically charged.” He added it may take until the end of this term of council to complete.

The report was received as information only. McKibbin is expected to bring a follow-up item to the August 26 council meeting on next steps. She emphasized there would be public input.

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The County may soon hire a consultant to help brainstorm rules and regulations for short-term rentals. *Photo via Flickr*

County looks for help with rentals

By Sam Gillett

Haliburton County could soon hire external help to assist it in drafting short-term rental rules.

Staff will develop a request for proposals (RFP) to be circulated among municipal CAOs and Warden Liz Danielsen before being made public. The County could begin receiving bids as soon as late August.

"We can be going before the end of the year for sure," CAO Mike Rutter said at a July 28 meeting of council.

He suggested the process of establishing short-term rental rules could be similar to the path the County took regarding a review of its contentious shoreline bylaw.

In that case, a consultant is currently conducting best practices analysis, engaging residents and stakeholders with surveys and open houses and developing a draft bylaw to submit to council.

Currently, there are few zoning or regulatory bylaws governing short-term rentals in the County.

Conduct of hosts and guests at these informal rental locations have sparked dismay across the County. These stays are often at private residences rented through online services such as Airbnb or VRBO. That makes regulation and enforcement difficult.

"I don't think there's any other way than

to hire a consultant," said Dysart et al mayor Andrea Roberts.

Across Canada, various municipalities are trying to tackle the issue. Northern Ontario's Sault Ste. Marie is considering restricting Airbnb owners from renting out properties not attached to their primary residence, and capping rental stays at 180 nights a year.

In a May meeting of Haliburton County Council, the municipalities voted to discuss possible regulation and zoning requirements at a County level.

"We have to acknowledge as a community that we have to govern for the bad apples," Algonquin Highlands mayor Carol Moffatt said. "There are good people who rent well to good people and that's never a problem."

However, enforcing bylaws regarding short-term rentals would be challenging for County staff already stretched thin, acknowledged Danielsen.

"I'm not suggesting we don't do it because of that, but it's one of the elephants in the room," she said.

Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin said the need for guidance on short-term rentals is urgent, as the County sees increased traffic and tourism.

"This can't happen fast enough," Devolin said. "We're beginning to be who we don't want to be."

Highlander news

Work moves forward on new Red Pine dam

By Lisa Gervais

Work is expected to begin this month on the Red Pine Lake Dam, downstream of Kennisis Lake.

Parks Canada said July 29 it is advancing on-site work to replace the dam. The dam was originally built prior to 1878, and has seen many changes and improvements over the years.

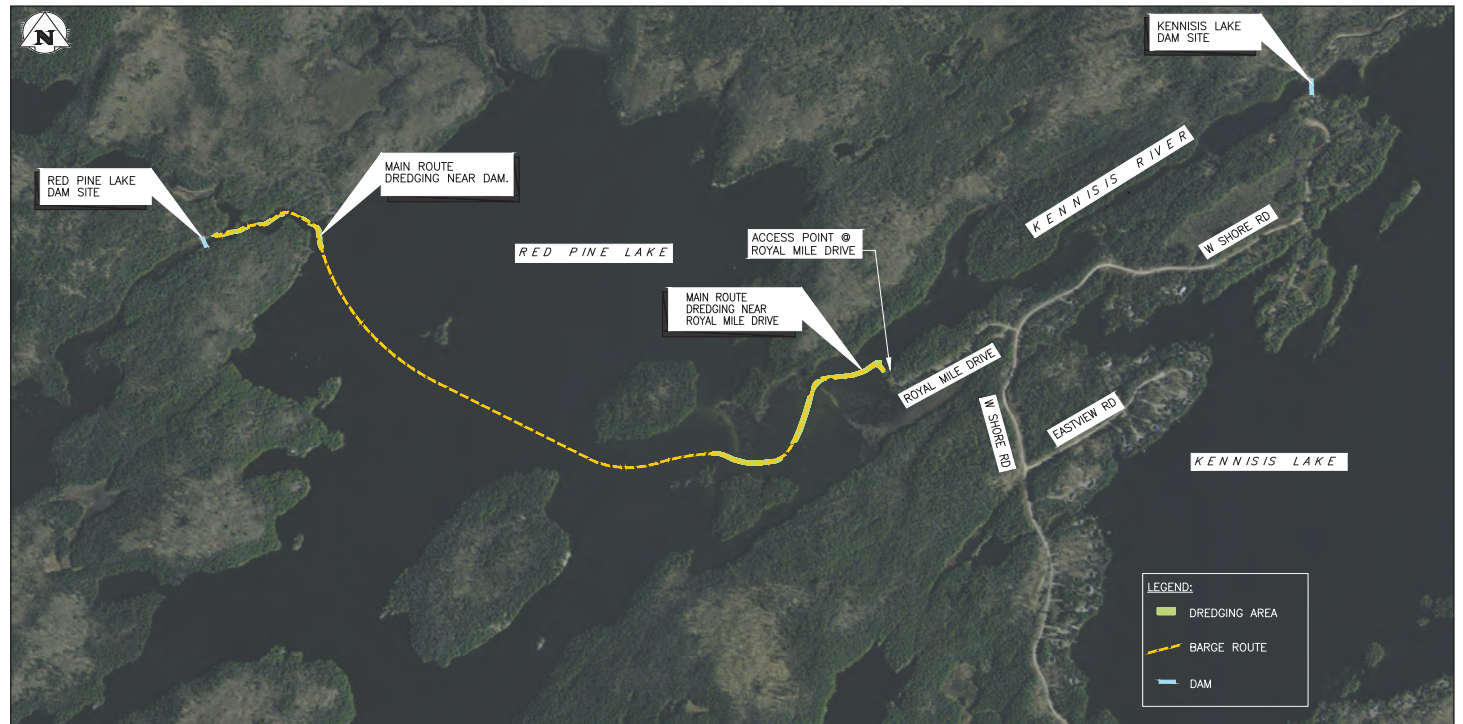
The current timber crib dam, constructed downstream of Kennisis Lake, has a wooden deck with one sluice measuring 5.2m wide.

“Engineering inspections in recent years have identified the declining condition of the Red Pine Lake Dam. The wood structure has outlived its normal expected service life and will be replaced,” Parks Canada said.

The new dam has been designed with two sluices spanning the same width, and its longevity will be increased by utilizing concrete construction with a metal deck. The new dam’s location will be 14m upstream of the current dam as a result of more favorable bedrock conditions in that location.

Access to the dam is by water only.

“This adds a challenging element to modern construction. To facilitate reliable construction, sections of the upstream river will be dredged to allow access for a construction barge to and from the site. In an effort to minimize costs, environmental



A map of the dredging that will take place. Photo submitted by Parks Canada.

impact and public interruptions, the project will be accessed via West Shore Road,” Parks Canada said.

It said contractors are expected to start in August and the work will span three calendar years. There will be little to no work over the winter due to the reduced accessibility of the site. The expected

timeline is as follows:

- 2021: construction will be mainly ancillary to the dam which will consist of dredging, cofferdam and bypass channel installation, the transportation of material and site setup.
- 2022: construction of the dam at the site.
- 2023: continued construction followed by

full restoration and demobilization.

For questions or concerns, or to receive email updates regarding this project, contact pc.trentsevern.pc@canada.ca and include “Red Pine Lake Dam” in the subject heading. For more information about this infrastructure project, as well as questions and answers, visit pc.gc.ca/tswhaliburton.

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Minden locks in arena debenture

At a special meeting Aug. 4, Minden Hills council locked in the loan for town's arena renewal project.

Director of finance and treasurer, Lorrie Blanchard tabled a comprehensive report.

For ratepayers, it means the township is borrowing \$11,415,000 over 25 years at an interest rate of 2.68 per cent.

Blanchard said the first payment will be made on Feb. 16, 2022 and the final payment on Aug. 16, 2046.

Payments will be made via pre-authorized debit twice a year for a total of \$629,456.70 annually.

Blanchard said there was good news in that her department had been budgeting for \$650,000 a year.

Mayor Brent Devolin commented, "I'm happy to see us do this. It's a great day."

Coun. Bob Carter added he was very impressed with how straightforward the process was.

"Hopefully it doesn't become a habit. We've done a great job in getting it to this point."

Rec complex to open Aug. 16

Meanwhile, the public will be able to use the newly-refurbished arena and community centre beginning Aug. 16.

Director of public works, Craig Belfry, told a July 29 meeting the reopening would have to follow the rules of the province's step three of roadmap to reopen, which means people will have to book appointments to use the gymnasium, walking track or play pickleball; supply contact details for tracing; and the facility will be limited to 50 per cent capacity.

"We're ready, we're excited and we're looking forward to this," Belfry said.

He noted the first day of ice at the arena

will be Aug. 27, when the Haliburton County Huskies junior A hockey team hold their rookie tryout camp.

Belfry said it is anticipated the vaccine clinic will be operational for at least another month.

Further, the RFP for fitness equipment closed July 27 so a follow-up report will be coming to council.

Council also passed a number of policies related to the new facility.

Belfry noted the cultural centre is also reopened as are the newly-refurbished tennis courts with timed lights.

State of emergency lifted

The township terminated the declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic at 9 a.m. Aug. 3.

In a press release, it said Ontario remains under the orders of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, and all requirements under the Provincial Reopening Ontario Act are in effect.

The township will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and encourages residents to follow all regulations and guidelines of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRHU) and the Provincial Roadmap to Reopen. Step three of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen can be found at ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario

The public is asked to visit the township website for details on the restrictions and safety measures that are in place for municipal buildings and services (mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information), Facebook page (facebook.com/Township.Minden.Hills) and Twitter account (twitter.com/twpmindenhills).

Questions about the township's re-opening plans can be directed to the general mailbox at admin@mindenhills.ca or by calling 705-286-1260. (Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Highlander news



HHSS principal Chris Boulay will be welcoming back students in the fall. *File photo.*

Parents get some answers on return to school

By Lisa Gervais

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has written to families about the Ministry of Education's guide to reopening schools, announced earlier this week.

It said, "staff are reviewing the detailed document, which focuses on health, safety, and operational guidance for schools, to update plans for a safe return to school in September."

It highlighted some of the information released by the ministry and added that many of the strategies and protocols in

place in the past school year will continue in the upcoming school year.

Students will return to in-person learning daily for the full school day. Elementary school students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will remain in one cohort for the full day and secondary school students will follow the quadmester system, at least for the full first semester of the school year.

All staff and students will be required to self-screen every day before attending school and wear masks while indoors and on student transportation. Masks will not be required outdoors.

Students do not need to stay within their

cohort during recess and breaks outdoors, but distancing is to be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible. Physical distancing measures are to be layered with other public health measures, such as screening, hand hygiene, cohorting, enhanced cleaning, and masking.

The province said extra-curricular and inter-school sport activities will be permitted with some modifications.

Other measures included that ventilation systems in all schools are to be inspected and in good working order prior to the start of the school year. School boards are to work with local public health units to

promote vaccination prior to school starting in September. Shared homerooms, libraries (for group and individual use, for example, drop-in study time, etc.) and computer/technology labs, are permitted and use of lockers/cubbies is permitted.

Prior to the school year, all TLDSB families will receive a link to an updated Return to School 2021-2022 Plan, providing further details about a healthy and safe return to school for students in September.

All COVID-19 information and updates can be found at tldsbc.ca/covid19/.

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— Vermont Resident Survey, 2013

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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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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Lessons learned

We applaud the County of Haliburton and its consultants, Hutchinson Environmental and J.L. Richards, for holding last week's virtual open house on the proposed shoreline preservation bylaw.

Up to now, we have largely heard from stakeholders, such as BeShore, the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations, the Haliburton County Home Builders Association and landscapers on the issue.

The public meeting, and another to be scheduled for September, allowed others to speak out. In fact, 21 people made submissions. Another 185 people watched live. To ensure even more public input, a public survey is being crafted for distribution.

While hindsight is always 20:20, County councillors and staff have learned that in matters such as this, it is best to go to an independent third party since the original attempt cost the County staff a great deal of angst.

Some of the interesting points that came out of the meeting included the need to do a better job of letting the public know when contentious changes are coming and to explain it in a manner that people can understand.

Sure, the County can argue that the issue was discussed umpteen times at meetings, however, they need to realize that the vast majority of the public does not scan council agendas ahead of time, nor attend council meetings.

Further, they need to make the language of changes accessible to all. I had a hard time making sense of the drafts of the bylaw leading up to the hiring of consultants, and I am one of the few people in the County who is well versed in finding, reading and deciphering council agenda items, including complex planning documents.

One resident's call for a Coles Notes version was a good idea. While complex, a chart comparing the tree preservation bylaw to the draft shoreline preservation bylaw would have been helpful to folks as would have been a breakdown of the major new proposals.

Hypocrisy was also pointed out. The County's four lower-tier governments have all opted for less onerous septic inspection bylaws, yet are preaching the need for stricter rules about shoreline preservation to ensure future lake health.

The other, recurring, theme is enforcement or lack thereof.

Name a bylaw at the County or lower-

tier level and we can guarantee you there are not enough bylaw staff to enforce it.

We see it every weekend in the County, whether it is people ignoring the fireworks bylaw or a fire ban. Calling and leaving a message for a possible though doubtful call back on a Monday morning isn't going to catch anybody in the act and those flouting the rules know it. They need to be found in contravention of bylaws and heavily fined on the spot. If the County and the four townships are serious about bylaws, they have to find the money to hire enough people to enforce them. Period.

What we are seeing now with the shoreline bylaw preservation public consultation is a good dry run for a possible short-term rental bylaw.

The County is expected to go hunting for a consultant on that portfolio next. It has learned some valuable lessons that should make drafting a rental bylaw easier. It is likely to be no less contentious and will require similar public input.



By Lisa Gervais

Roll up your sleeves and care

Selfishness is not a characteristic that I would normally attribute to my fellow Canadians.

We're quick to respond to local disasters as evidenced by the outpouring of financial support for the Minden flood recovery effort a number of years ago. Response from individual citizens to a crisis experienced by neighbours, people on the other side of the County or indeed, the other side of the country, is something we have all witnessed. People generously give when the need arises, without expectation of anything in return.

So I am perplexed. How do I react to my fellow citizens who refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine? I hear some say they don't have enough information about what is in the shots, while others spin conspiracy tales that seem to have little connection to reality and quite frankly boggle my mind.

To the first group I ask: do you know what is in the bread you eat or the soda you drink? Other than some general ideas I would think likely not, and yet we consume these and hundreds of other products trusting the government inspections to ensure we are not being poisoned.

We are well into the current campaign here in Canada and throughout much

of the world and we have yet to hear about a pandemic of vaccine reactions sweeping across the globe. In fact, there is little to suggest that for people without compromising health issues, the grand experiment 70 per cent of us have been a part of should be proof enough that there is little chance of vaccine-induced problems.

However, there is a big problem when a significant portion of the country refuses to get the jabs. The current reports show the majority of those presenting at hospital emergency wards with COVID-like symptoms are now the unvaccinated. It is folly for them to claim that they are bearing the consequences of their own anti-vax stand when a simple set of shots could have saved them a medical emergency. Not only are they putting their own lives at risk, they are clogging up the health care system that should be tending to patients who have conditions that are not self-inflicted. By serving as host and spreader for the virus, they are putting roadblocks in the way of a return to full and open society and the re-ignition of the economy.

While those who personally said no to COVID vaccinations claim they have some moral high ground, they have little to stand on. They flaunt their status but rail against

rules that would help marginalize the impact their stand would have on others. One has to wonder where we would be today if there were no

vaccines for polio and small pox. I for one would like to see a vaccine passport issued to anyone who followed the recommended course of protective shots.

I would also like to see regulations that would allow public venues and businesses to deny entry to anyone who cannot produce one. Anyone who has travelled overseas is aware that other countries require proof of vaccination for a variety of diseases to protect the people in the country the traveller is visiting. It is the least that should be happening here at home.

Not only would a vaccine certificate provide some degree of protection for those of us who already have our shots, but it could provide the encouragement the unvaccinated need to protect themselves, their family members and the people with whom they share the broader community.

I think it is the Canadian and unselfish thing to do.



By Jack Brezina

GOING AWAY?

GET THE PAPER BY EMAIL EACH WEEK. SIGN UP AT THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Time for shooting ranges?

Dear editor,

My concern involves people driving any motorized vehicle while intoxicated and late at night unfamiliar with the landscape whether on Crown, municipal, County roadways and or private property.

Death or serious injury could be imminent in error in judgement. It is impossible to patrol all these individuals all the time who tend to ignore the law and don't care for others.

As for the shooting issue, perhaps clarity is required. When one wants to relax with family and friends on a peaceful Sunday afternoon and have their tranquility interrupted with constant shooting over the majority of the day, this causes frustration and is in the excess of target shooting.

Perhaps a shooting range would be more appropriate, investigating into the availability of such an organization in the area. Perhaps gun clubs could be of assistance to gun owners. There is the stigma surrounding guns and anyone who has had an altercation with such has a very negative outlook.

Yes, there are many things that create noise. There has to be a balance as to the extent of the noise being caused, length thereof and risk factors. Being tolerant, kind and understanding is a two-way street so excessive use of firearms has to be addressed if it gets out of control.

I am not saying every gun owner uses a firearm in excess however it is that group who should educate those who take advantage of use.

As for garbage being disposed of on Crown land, all one has to do is look along the sides of our roadways. Debris is everywhere. It makes me wonder what we are becoming.

Beverly MacDuff
Gooderham

Non-physical coercion

Dear editor,

Constitutionally, Canada is a carrot-no-stick nation on the issue of medical compliance.

By law, Canadians cannot be compelled to submit to a medical procedure against their will. The authorities must therefore try to cajole us into accepting vaccination through positive messaging.

A few days ago, an unsolicited card from the Government of Canada turned up in my post box titled "We can all help," telling the recipient, "Here's what you should know," followed by a bullet point stating, "The vaccines are safe. The COVID-19 vaccines have been studied for over a year now and hundreds of millions of people have already been vaccinated."

What on earth does the number of vaccinees have to do with the question of safety? And do our medical commissars really think the citizenry should remain in the dark concerning the recent VAERS data

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A Great Blue Heron walking Fred Pyziak's dock in Minden.

(courtesy of the Center for Disease Control) which records "a total of 463,457 reports of adverse events from all age groups following COVID vaccines, including 10,991 deaths and 48,385 serious injuries between Dec. 14, 2020 and July 9, 2021."

VAERS also acknowledges that less than one per cent of vaccine adverse events are reported indicating that the true number of injuries and deaths may be 100X these numbers.

The next bullet point, "The vaccines are effective," is simply preposterous in light of the mounting number of so-called "breakthrough" cases. Nor can it be known at this early stage just how long the vaccines will confer immunity as they are still in the experimental testing stage.

Although our Constitution does not forbid outright deceit on the part of federal officials, perhaps it could be argued before the Court that the intention to mislead the public on health issues itself constitutes an act of non-physical coercion.

Douglas Smith
Minden Hills

It's complicated

Dear editor,

re: "Bridging a divided County" *The Highlander*, July 29.

There has always been conflict in the Highlands over land use. Presenting local people as "those who get it" - as "the ones who consider the collective over the wants and needs of others," and outsiders as the main ones who don't, is just wrong.

Yes, there are new owners who do whatever they want, and it's distressing to many of us - but they are not alone. The rule-breakers also include locals who don't like a particular bylaw, or renters who pay big bucks for a week on the lake. Let's not forget that the giant new 'cottages' and Oakville-style landscapes are built by local tradespeople, and the expensive motorized toys are bought at local businesses.

So, it's complicated.

Where does the conflict originate? In my opinion, it's usually over land use, noise, safe boating, and preserving the environment. Some people want canoes, cross-country skiing, quiet, and a natural

environment. Others want big boats, sea-doo's, snowmobiles, and ATVs. But we have to live together. Conflict comes when respect and compromise are lacking.

Lately, the conflict is over the issue of target practice on public lands, clear-cutting shorelines, and even whether to get a COVID shot. These divisions do not necessarily fall along insider/outsider lines.

There's no easy way to deal with competing interests which are only going to get worse with population pressure and obscene land values. Talking helps. Changing bylaws to meet changing needs, and enforcing those that exist would help even more. But stating that "only people who respect our values are welcome" is incredibly divisive. And it's not at all clear what those values are.

Maybe locals are feeling the way natives felt in the 19th century when Europeans arrived to take up the "Crown land," land that had been theirs.

It's not great to be displaced.

Carol Town
Minden Hills
(a summer visitor since 1963 and cottage owner since 2010)

Highlander business

Saucey chef brings the bacon to Kennisis

By Lisa Harrison

The owner of a little-known Highlands dining establishment is quietly working to serve up great food and perhaps change the way we see fine dining.

Parked at the Kennisis Lake Marina in Haliburton is a hot pink food truck, home to the Saucey Pig. From there Wade Stamp – self-styled “owner, operator, CEO and head chef” – prepares primarily pork-based takeout meals with a secret barbeque sauce and a side of humour.

Diners can dive into dishes ranging from smoked pulled pork sandwiches, chicken Caesar wraps and the Saucey Caesar salad to a full roast pork dinner. Poutine lovers can enjoy the aptly renamed “Pigtine” and “Bacontine,” the latter topped with a perky ‘pig snout’ garnish.

Stamp’s sense of fun is also evident in his approach to marketing: “Nosing around, looking for the best meal ...?”, “Feeling a bit pigheaded this week ...?” and “Dig the Pig.”

But while Stamp may play with quirky quips and piggy puns, when it comes to cooking, he’s serious. In fact, he refers to the Saucey Pig experience as fine dining.

“I’ve had a passion for cooking all my life and I take great pride in providing delicious food experiences for my friends, family, and customers,” said Stamp.

He pointed out that Saucey Pig dishes are made in-house with the “freshest and finest” ingredients and prepared only when ordered. The root-beer-basted, fennel-seasoned, spice-encrusted pulled pork, smoked with Stamp’s own mix of wood pellets, and the special barbeque sauce, cheese buns, baked beans and more are all based on Stamp’s unique recipes developed through years of experience.

“This distinguishes the Saucey Pig from other food trucks, and the only difference between this fine dining experience and an expensive fine dining restaurant is the delivery method,” said Stamp.

“Not everyone can afford to go to an expensive restaurant, but the Saucey Pig has excellent food that is reasonably priced and accessible to everyone.”

A former Highlands resident, Stamp started the Saucey Pig in Wasaga Beach in 2010 and had the opportunity to relocate to Kennisis Lake last year.

“I have had a lifelong friendship with one



Wade Stamp cooks inside the Saucey Pig. Photo submitted.

of the owners of the marina,” said Stamp. “[Moving here] meant being a business owner in my home town and sharing my food with great friends, which has always been my dream ... I am very pleased and thankful to bring my business home and begin a new and exciting chapter.”

The Saucey Pig is located at Kennisis

Lake Marina, 1076 Wilkinson Rd., Haliburton. It’s open through the summer season on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays from noon to 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

More information is available at facebook.com/the-Saucey-Pig and on Instagram @sauceypig.

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Highlander arts



Paints and pots in the forest

Top: Barbara Hart's acrylic, oil and watercolour paintings explore everyday scenes, peaceful landscapes and portraits, some based on sketches of people observed at cafes and out in public. Her home, surrounded by forest, was filled with her art for the Tour de Forest studio tour from July 30 - August 1. Bottom: On her front porch, Renée Woltz displayed intricate pottery creations such as bowls, mugs and vases. Using a special method of shaping, she can pierce shapes from the clay while it is still piping hot. *Photo by Sam Gillett*

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Highlander arts

Live opera returns to the Highlands

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) will do four live performances in Haliburton County between Aug. 12 and 20.

In an Aug. 2 press release, Valerie Kuinka and Richard Margison said performances will take place under the big tent at Abbey Gardens with a bonus concert on Mountain Lake.

'Opera to Broadway' will be presented Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. under the Abbey Gardens' tent.

"Enjoy an evening of vocal favourites from opera and musical theatre sung by some of the best and brightest young Canadian professional singers, participants of HOS 2021, accompanied by HOS music director, Stephane Mayer, and Haliburton's own, Melissa Stephens," Kuinka and Margison said. The cost is \$25 with an approximate running time of 90 minutes including one 15-minute intermission.

The bonus concert, 'Music on the Beach,' at Fairfield Bay on Mountain Lake, is scheduled for Aug. 14, at 5 p.m.

"Launch your boat on Mountain Lake and anchor in Fairfield Bay, to enjoy favourite pop, folk, and musical theatre music featuring Lauren Margison and River Guard on vocals, and Stephane Mayer on keyboard," organizers said. The concert is free and will run about 60 minutes. Online donations would be appreciated.

An opera 'The Leporello Diaries: an Unsolved Mystery', will be presented Aug.

19 and 20, at Abbey Gardens at 7 p.m.

"After discovering the long-lost diary of his great-great-great Uncle Leporello (the man servant of the mysterious philanderer, Baron Giovanni), join Charles (spoken role played by Richard Margison) as he searches for inspiration for his new book in the pages of his relative's diary. Was the mysterious disappearance of Baron Giovanni all folklore? Or was this supernatural legend from the previous century anchored in truth?" the press release asks.

The opera is based on, and features music from Mozart's opera, 'Don Giovanni'. The English text was written by Lauren Margison. The cost is \$25. For information on the cast and creative team, go to highlandsoperastudio.com. This will be presented in English and Italian. The approximate running time is two hours with one, 15-minute intermission.

"After two successful summers of offering online professional training to our talented young professionals, as well as presenting our online 13-concert series, 'Reflections & Expressions' we are overjoyed to be bringing the beauty of the unamplified human voice back to Haliburton County with a shortened live season," Kuinka and Margison said.

See more at highlandsoperastudio.com

To purchase tickets and for more information, please visit: highlandsoperastudio.com



Richard Margison during a past season of the HOS. *File.*

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MONDAY, AUGUST 23

Flag Raising

Time: 11:00am Location: Minden Municipal Office parking lot or online at our Facebook page.

**MONDAY-FRIDAY,
AUGUST 23-27**

**NEW ALL WEEKLONG EVENT!
The Rainbow Scavenger Hunt**

Visit www.mindenpride.ca for instructions.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

Movie Night featuring Papi Chulo

Time: 8:00pm (gates open at 7:00)

Location: Abbey Gardens Little Pit Drive In. Please register at www.abbeygardens.ca/littlepitdrivein

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

Drag Storytime

Time: 10:00am Location: Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Details at www.eventbrite.ca/e/storytime-with-drag-queen-aunty-plum-tickets-164339388535

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

Minden Pride Trivia Night

Time: 7:00- 9:30pm Location: The Dominion Boat House. Please preregister by noon that day at trivianight@mindenpride.ca

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

Pride Bench Dedication

Time: 12:00pm Location: Minden River Walk. Check out our video tribute to Sinclair Russell at www.mindenpride.ca

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

Parade Your PRIDE Colours

(Rain date: Aug 29th). Time: 12:00 - 6:00pm and Float Down the Gull with PRIDE! Time: 1:00- 3:00pm

Visit www.mindenpride.ca for more information about these events!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

Multi-Faith Service

Time: 1:00pm Location: this is an online event. Register at multifaith@mindenpride.ca for this online event

Minden Pride is generously supported by:



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Highlander community

Arcadia Lodge marks a milestone

By Lisa Harrison

Arcadia Masonic Lodge in Minden has reached the grand old age of 125 and members are hoping to celebrate the anniversary this fall.

Arcadia historian Gareth Kellett, a Past Master and Past District Deputy Grand Master, has written a short history of the Lodge. He notes that many of the men who settled in the area in the 1800s were Masons. The closest lodge was Spry Lodge in Fenelon Falls and it was difficult to attend the meetings due to the lack of roads.

"In 1896, eight brethren from The Spry Lodge approached Grand Lodge with a petition to institute a lodge in Minden," wrote Kellett.

"The request was granted and in August 1896, a new lodge was instituted in Minden as the Algonquin Lodge U.D. [under dispensation]. Very shortly it became Arcadia Lodge."

Meetings were held over Donald Hartles' general store at the corner of today's Water and Main streets. Most men in Minden and the surrounding area were Masons and by 1928 Arcadia had outgrown its space. The lodge built a two-storey building beside the Rockcliffe Hotel. By 1947 it was time to expand again, this time to the old parish hall for St. Paul's Anglican Church.

In 2005 it was becoming apparent that the lodge foundation needed work and Arcadia learned the Minden Food Bank was looking



Wally Reed and Gareth Kellett outside the Masonic Lodge in Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

for more space. The lodge and the food bank agreed to join forces.

"The end result is the building that we have today which houses the Masonic Lodge, the Minden Food Bank and Community Kitchen" on Newcastle Street. Community Kitchen is a food bank initiative that makes prepared foods available for those in need.

Along the way Arcadia was responsible

for starting a new Masonic Lodge in Haliburton in 1903 and another in Kinmount in 1905.

In an interview with *The Highlander*, Kellett spoke of the Lodge's community contributions beyond support for the food bank, such as bursaries and awards for students at the elementary school level.

As for marking the anniversary, "we've been holding off, waiting until we were able

to have meetings again, but we are planning to have a celebration towards the end of September as far as we're aware of at the moment," said Kellett.

"I would expect in the very near future that they [Grand Lodge] will be sending out word that we're going to be able to meet in person again."

INFORMATION PAGE

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A Message from the Fire Department

Back to School Safety Tips

With summer ending and the start of school just around the corner, drivers need to do their part to keep kids safe as they walk and bike to school. Whether you are taking your kids to school or just driving through a school zone, you can do your part to keep kids safe.

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

Reminders for your kids:

- Cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within multiple departments. Many opportunities with the Township include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, access to an Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, enrollment in the 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.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information and application deadlines.

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The Building Inspector is responsible for the application and enforcement of the Ontario Building Code, provincial legislation, all Municipal by-laws and other applicable laws in order to ensure compliance. Candidates will be certified in General Legal/Process and House or Small Buildings, as set out by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and as per the Ontario Building Code. This is a permanent, full time union position. Hours are 35/week. Rate of Pay is \$26.60/hour, subject to union dues. Refer to the job posting and description located on our website for a complete list of requirements and how to apply.

(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:

August 26
Regular Council Meeting
September 9
Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in 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.mindenhills.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.mindenhills.ca/council/.

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



Did You Know?

When the summer heat is too much to bear, there are 5 public beaches within the TWP that are a great place to cool off with a quick dip.

Fireworks Disposal

Place used fireworks in the garbage. Please do not recycle them. To dispose of unused fireworks, soak in a bucket of water for one week before placing in your garbage. Fireworks are not accepted at household hazardous waste events.

Community Centre Fundraising Initiative

Interested in donating toward the new arena? For information about the Take A Seat Donation program, please contact Jennifer Hughey at 705-854-1205 or jhughey@mindenhills.ca.

Highlander sports

County connection to '72 Canada-USSR series

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton's Helen Parker is helping to bring a feature film and documentary series about the 50th anniversary of the Canada-Soviet hockey series to screens in 2022.

Parker, who is a filmmaker and journalist, had extraordinary access to the 45th anniversary celebration of the series in Moscow in 2017. She spent five days and five nights in the Russian capital interviewing former Soviet and Canadian hockey players who had been invited to the commemoration, which included an audience with President Vladimir Putin. Some of that footage will feature in *Ice Breaker*.

Pat Stapleton, Phil Esposito, Wayne Cashman, Dennis Hull, Frank and Peter Mahovlich, Brad Park, Red Berenson and Yvon Cournoyer were some of the Canadians reunited with the likes of Vladislav Tretiak, Alexander Gusev, Alexander Maltsev, Alexander Yakushev, Vladimir Shadrin, Vyacheslav Anisin, Yevgeny Zimmin and Yuri Blinov at the three-day Summit Series commemoration sponsored by the Russian Sports Federation.

Parker did not get to meet Putin in person but said the most memorable part of the trip was when she was told she could get on a bus and do interviews with some of the Russian legends. They were en route to meet up with the Canadian veterans before boarding a plane to a function being hosted by Putin.

"Very poignant, very interesting, they were very excited to meet the Canadian players," Parker recalled in an interview with *The Highlander*.

At one point, she had to leave her camera behind as she was given a tour of Moscow Dynamo's VTB Arena. The Dynamo are equivalent to the Toronto Maple Leafs in Canada.

Parker said the project only recently got the green light from the broadcasters. Principal production begins in a couple of weeks.

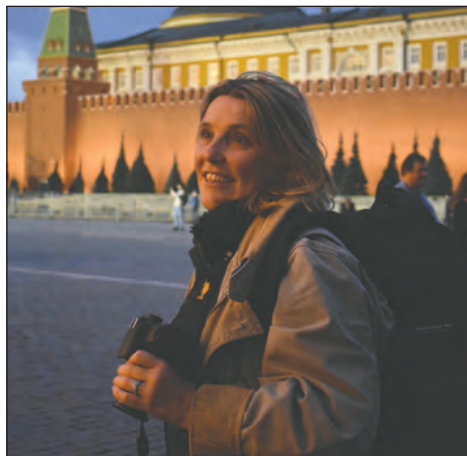
She said the summit has been a subject of many stories over the years so *Ice Breaker* will be "more a look at Canada, who we are and how we've evolved and where people were at those iconic moments."

As an additional director, she will be steering the post production crew through all of the footage that she took and how it will be woven into the story.

"Nobody else has interviewed those Russian players - so that was amazing," she said.

She recalled taking a crash course in Russian two weeks leading up to going. A few players spoke a bit of English, equivalent to her Russian. For the remainder, they had to use a translator.

Upon landing, the former Canadian ambassador to Russia, Gary Smith, pushed her first through customs, saying if the Aussie could get through, then they should be alright. Parker was born in Australia. Then she and her small crew of one other person, a sound recordist, waited in their



Helen Parker in Russia in 2017. Photo by C. Hixenbaugh.

hotel room for a call. She said she was in the hotel gym when that call came. She quickly cleaned herself up, grabbed her equipment and jumped on that bus.

Other highlights included the affection between the players with Park mentioned most by the Russians.

A touching moment saw Stapleton apologising at the sports museum for not shaking hands on the ice after game one and Yakushev shaking hands with him.

She said the players revisited Luzhniki stadium and for many it was their first time back.

"Blinov mentioned the Canadian fan blowing the trumpet. The Canadian fans were nothing like the Soviets had ever seen. Walking through the stadium corridors it was emotional for the Canadian players recounting the scene of 30,000 fan telegrams from Canada that lined the walls. That lifted their spirits in the last game in '72. I asked Pat Stapleton if he felt proud to be back. He said, 'I carry pride wherever I go. I don't have to be here to feel it.'"

Parker said Stapleton, who has since passed away, wanted the documentary to be shown in schools and around the nation.

"Now that's what will happen."

Feature film, doco series in fall 2022

White Pine Pictures and Adobe Productions International announced July 12 that the Department of Canadian Heritage is participating in the funding of *Ice Breaker*. In a joint press release, they said the film and series will be available at high profile community screenings, in schools and on television and streaming services.

Minister of Canadian Heritage, Steven Guilbeault, said, "The Summit Series of 1972 was eight games between Canadian professionals and Soviet elite players that not only changed hockey but also became a defining moment in Canadian culture."

White Point Pictures' president, Peter Raymont, added, "Sport can be an extraordinary catalyst for national unity and offers an important sense of belonging for new Canadians."



Thursday August 19 at 8:30pm

Thursday August 26 at 8:30pm

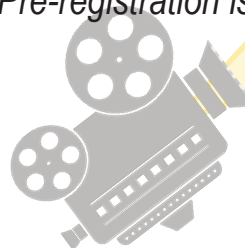
Thursday September 2 at 8:00pm

At the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (on the grass)

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Sports hall of fame



A.J. LaRue fought for a Haliburton arena for years, leading the fundraising efforts and touting its potential benefits to local politicians. His son, Scott LaRue, pictured, said his dad was fiercely dedicated to athletes in Haliburton. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

A.J. LaRue helped build hockey culture

By Sam Gillett

It's difficult to drive through Haliburton without seeing Albert (A.J.) LaRue's legacy in action.

The hockey teams he was instrumental in building play on – to great success. The stadium he fought for is a landmark in the County and besides hosting thousands of events and games, was instrumental in our County's recent vaccine rollout.

A.J. LaRue will be honoured with a spot in the new sports hall of fame – in his namesake stadium. According to the Hall committee, LaRue has been inducted as a builder because he “promoted sports and sporting values that directly impacted thousands of Haliburton County youth.”

After working in Toronto during the 1940s, LaRue moved back to the County and started coaching the senior Haliburton Huskies team. He was widely known as a Scout leader and member of the school board.

Throughout the following decade, “Ab” acted as bus driver too, transporting players between softball and hockey practices. His son Scott LaRue, chair of the Hall committee, said that it became clear the existing natural ice rink wouldn't cut it if players wanted to progress.

“I couldn't advance much without the proper facilities,” said LaRue. LaRue said his father worked hard to convince local politicians and community members that the new stadium would be an investment in the community.

“He finally got people convinced it was time to do so – he needed the community's support,” LaRue said.

His father's hard work paid off: after managing both the fundraising and building of the project, in 1965, the Dysart community centre opened. Then he got to work finding a way to bring a new branch of competitive hockey to the County.

His efforts were instrumental in landing the Junior D Haliburton Huskies Hockey team.

It was thanks to the family business – a successful bus company – that LaRue, team manager and Scott, the coach, were able to hit the ground running with their new team.

“We couldn't have afforded that junior team if we hadn't had our own buses,” said LaRue.

After he came back to the Highlands after a stint playing professional hockey in France, Scott LaRue took over the coaching of the team. With his father as manager, they proved to be an effective duo.

“My dad and I always got along,” LaRue said. “But he wouldn't let anyone push him around.”

After one game, LaRue stormed up to the referee: “I'm not paying you unless you smarten up and ref a decent game,” his son remembers him saying. “We got a lot of people here – and you just ruined the game.”

The referee demanded payment, but LaRue wouldn't budge.

He turned to Scott. “Here's the money,

Scotty, you pay him!”

In 1971, the Huskies captured the Ontario Hockey Association Junior D cup. With a line-up of eager fans stretching down the street, the stadium was stuffed to capacity.

After a nail-biting game, the final whistle saw the Huskies finish on top. The crowd erupted.

“My dad wasn't a very exuberant type of person – but he and my mother were very proud. They went on the ice, and they were shaking hands with everybody,” LaRue said. He even saw tears in his father's eyes.

“I think it was just a culmination of everything that happened – right up through to win an Ontario championship in the OHA.”

With the new stadium, a successful OHA team and new crop of talent learning the game at nearby Hockey Haven camp, LaRue had the chance to meet the greats: Bobby Orr and Ken Dryden both coached at the camp, and LaRue bussed them and the trainees around.

“I was really happy for him to get to experience getting to know those NHL hockey players,” said Scott LaRue. “He was always interested in hockey, loved to coach the minor kids too.”

Without Albert LaRue, Haliburton's sporting history would look much different. The athletic community builder not only helped erect Haliburton's arena: over 40 years, his commitment to the County's athletes laid a cornerstone for generations to come.

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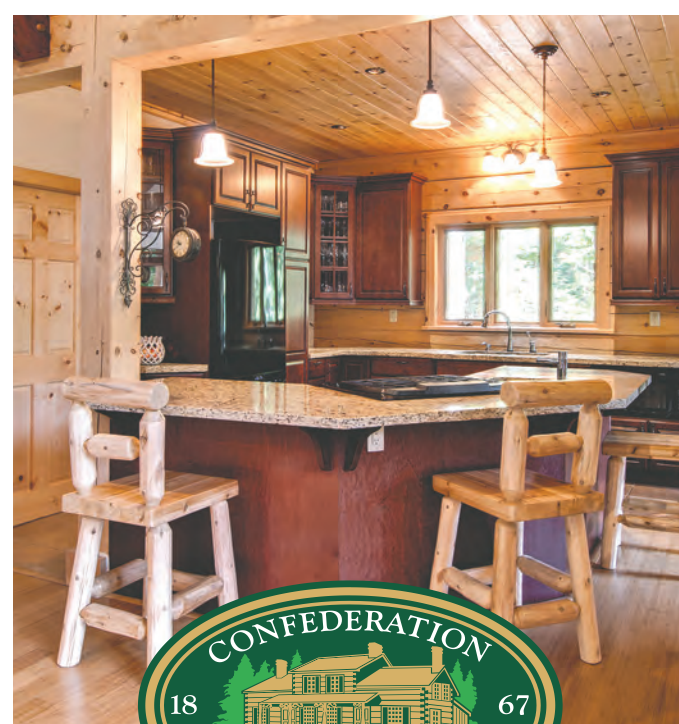
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Building & reno

Construction ends with a clean sweep

By Lisa Harrison

Proper disposal of construction waste is a critical part of completing a renovation or new build and preserving the health of the environment.

"The importance of a professional construction waste removal company is that we can work closely with the customer to develop a construction and demolition program that focuses on recycling," said Dan Garbutt, general manager of Garbutt Enterprises in Minden.

"As part of this initiative, materials that would normally be landfilled get recycled and sorted. Long gone are the days of just taking demolition waste or any waste for that matter to a pit to be burned under the midnight sun."

Garbutt Enterprises was formed by Dan's father in 1970.

"He started with a pickup truck then purchased a single-axle straight truck and things have just steadily grown from there," said Garbutt. "Garbage is in my name and in my blood I guess."

Waste disposal businesses can be called on for something as simple as hauling away a toilet and as complex as full demolition. For example, Garbutt will bring waste bins to a construction site to be filled by the customer or bring bins and perform the cleanup for house and garage cleanouts and partial or full home demolitions.

Service assessments can usually be done over the phone but for some jobs, disposal



Waste disposal businesses can be called on for something as simple as hauling away a toilet and as complex as full demolition. Flickr.

contractors will require photos and possibly a site visit.

Demolition projects require permits and preparation, said Garbutt.

"Safety protocols and proper disposal methods [must] be utilized, you have to check everything to make sure you're not dealing with asbestos or other hazardous materials. We remove all windows before demolition jobs and do a full cleanup right down to the last nail. If a structure isn't being rebuilt, we will generally put grass seed down and you would never know there

was anything there."

Keep in mind that certain materials cannot be placed in the waste bins. These include hazardous waste (paint, oil jugs, batteries etc.), tires, concrete, propane tanks, dirt and tree stumps.

Disposal services may be quoted in various ways. Garbutt bins are priced for rental plus disposal fees, or a flat-rate charge if the clients know they're going to have a full bin. Cleanup services are priced in the same way with labour costs added. Demolition services are quoted based on

the amount of waste, heavy equipment rates and labour. Service quotes include any municipal recycling and waste disposal tipping fees.

Whatever your plans, consider booking disposal services as soon as possible since service capacity has been seriously stretched during the pandemic.

"The demand for bins has been almost overwhelming at times with all of the renovations, new builds and everyone just having spare time to clean up around the house," said Garbutt.

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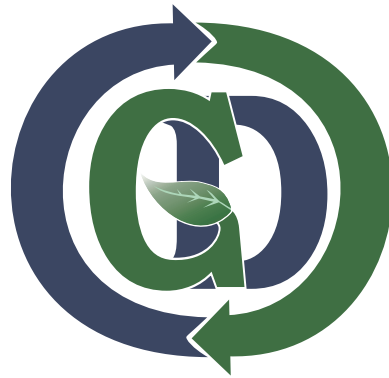
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The Haliburton and District Lions' first Stories in the Park Fun Fair ran in 2020 as a way to bring books to kids that complied with COVID-19 guidelines. Photo submitted by Haliburton and District Lions Club.

Lakeside storytime with the Lions

By Sam Gillett

Snacks, games, and a whole bunch of books await young readers at the Haliburton Lions' Stories in the Park Fun Fair.

On Friday, Aug. 27 from noon to 2 p.m., the Haliburton and District Lions Club is inviting kids to celebrate the joy of reading at Head Lake Park.

"You cannot really underestimate the value of literacy, and early literacy for children," said Lion Gail Stelter.

Every kid will get to choose a free book to take home. They'll also be invited to listen to a story read aloud at the "story tree."

Hotdogs, popcorn and juice boxes will be free to munch and sip on while playing games such as bean bag toss, fish pond and more.

"It's a fun, low-key, delightful event," Stelter said.

It's the second year of the event, first prompted by COVID-19 safety concerns. By inviting kids to the park, they can have safety protocols in place in a physically-distanced setting.

"It was a huge success," Stelter said. "Having had such a wonderful event for the kids, we decided, why not make this an annual event? Not knowing COVID would be lasting into this year!"

And providing a safe way to connect kids with books fits right in with the Haliburton Lions' passion for connecting kids with great books. "Every now and then it's nice for a child to say 'this is my book and I own it completely,'" Stelter said.

Apart from Stories in the Park,

Stelter said the Lions want to help kids dive into reading all year.

They have a reading action committee which visits schools to distribute books across the County in schools and mini outdoor libraries. They also plan to join up with the Blue Spruce program, a reading challenge prompting kids to read books and vote on which should receive the Blue Spruce award.

"Our goal is to put books in the hands of children," she said.

She also mentioned how this event is made possible with volunteers and community sponsors.

The Lions are looking for volunteers for the afternoon too. To volunteer, contact Stelter at gatesstelter@gmail.com.

NIGHTSHINE

by Scott Sawtell

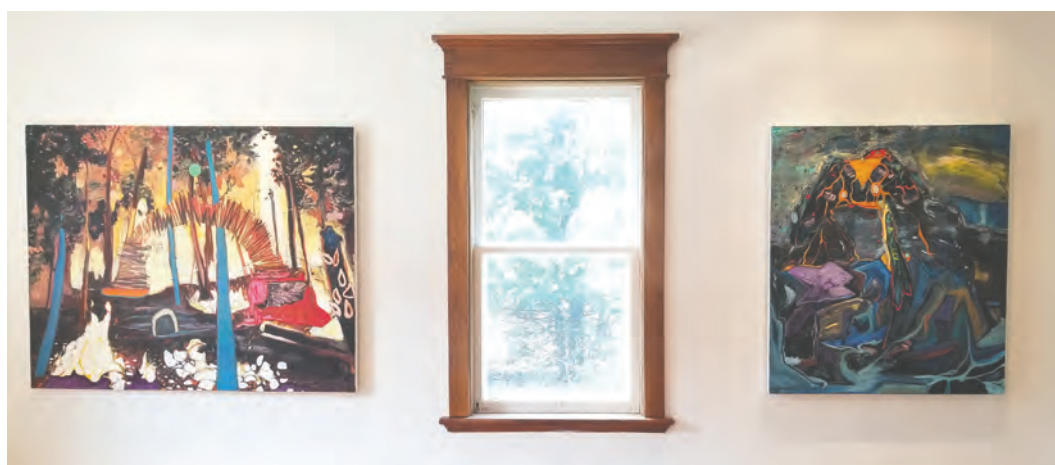
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HARP ON THE TRAIL

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

Chapter 6: Skunk

After receiving the panicked summons from Chelsey Gall, Harp texted Becker then jumped in his car and pointed it in the direction of the village of Crawford. By the time he was on the highway, it was just after 8 p.m. and the sun hung low against a darkening sky. Harp pressed on the accelerator and pushed the needle past 120, then slowed down to 90; it was twilight, and he knew that the deer would be out. Hitting one was on his list of events he hoped to avoid while living in Spruce County.

Chelsey Gall’s house came into view and Harp pulled into the driveway. Constable Terry Becker’s car was already there, and Harp caught up with him at the front door. “Hope I didn’t ruin your night, Terry,” Harp said.

Becker smiled. “If this is a break in the case, it’ll make my night.”

“Good attitude,” Harp said as he knocked on the door. But he knew there was a price to pay for having a job where you were on-call 24-7. And he’d paid the price in failed relationships.

A moment later, Chelsey appeared, and the two detectives followed her upstairs to Holden’s room.

“I was sitting in here,” she said wiping tears from her eyes as they entered the room. “Blabbing to my boy up in heaven and I asked him, ‘Why did you leave me?’ And then this piece of paper falls on the floor.” She blew her nose. “It was stuck to the back of his corkboard.”

She pointed at Holden’s desk. “Look!”

The corkboard was flipped on its back. Harp remembered the papers pinned to it—assignment due dates, team schedules, pennants. But now those were hidden on the reverse side. Harp and Becker peered at the other, secret side. Across the top, Holden had cut out letters that spelled: Investigation into the disappearance of Ben Gall. Under the title, were pinned notes: the date and time of Ben’s disappearance, the last people who saw him, his last known location, a photo of Ben. A calendar was tacked to the bottom left of the board and on every Friday’s box, the word, “Skunk” was written—and most of the “Skunk” boxes, including yesterday’s, had an X through them.

The detective thought about the stuffed animal he’d seen earlier that evening.

“Sir, remember we saw that word carved into the picnic table?” Becker said.

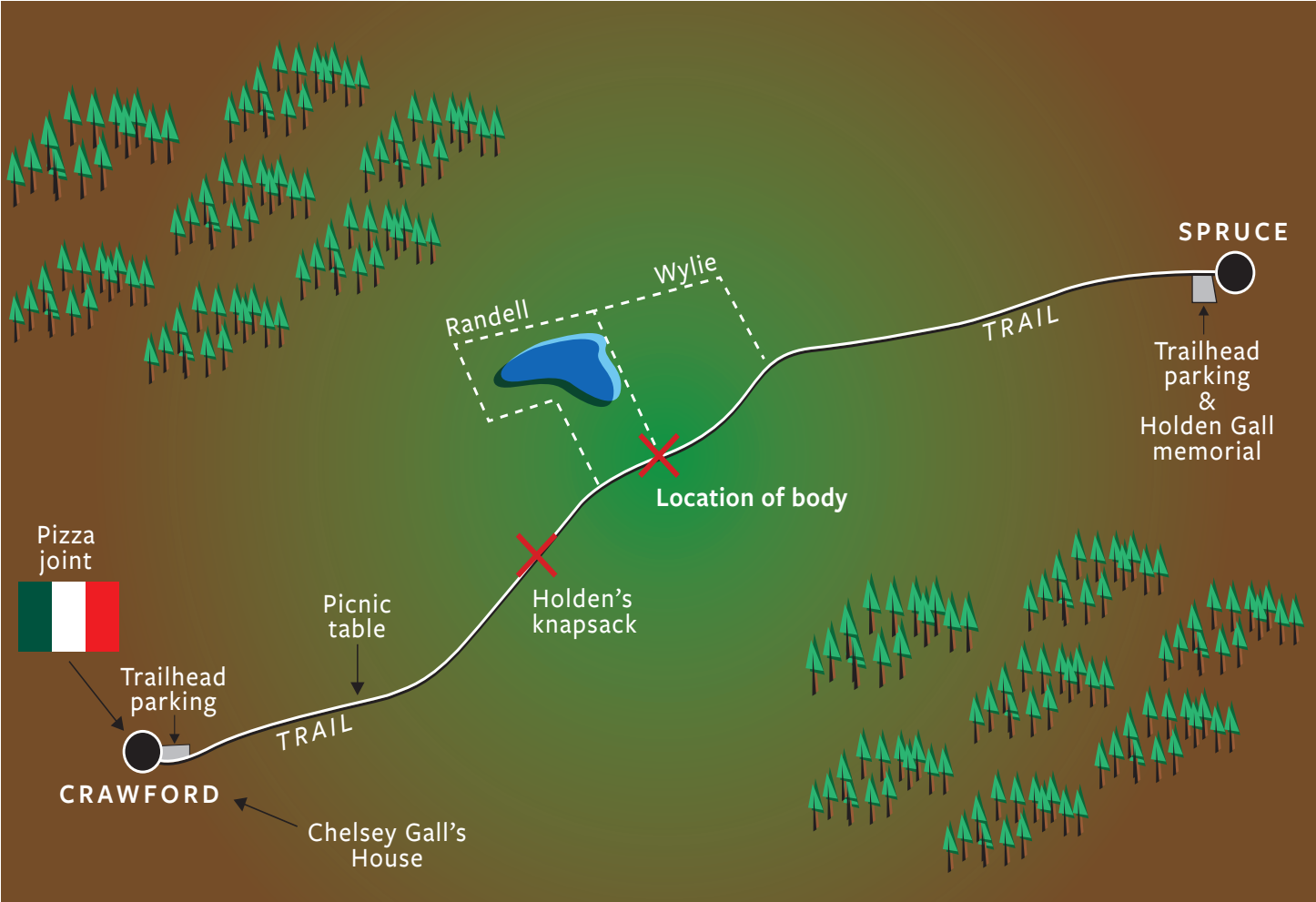
Chelsey walked over to them. “Skunk’s Jenny Weller’s boy. His real name’s Carson.” She stood in front of them, her arms crossed over her chest.

“But don’t you tell me Holden had anything to do with him,” Chelsey said.

Harp turned to her. “Why not?”

“That kid’s a druggie. Holden had no part in any of that business and don’t you go making up stories now.” She blinked back tears. “Now that he’s gone and can’t defend himself.”

Harp acknowledged Chelsey’s concern, but he knew he had to keep an open mind.



In his experience, secrets came out after death—and they weren’t always good.

The detective flipped through pages of notes tacked to the board, his eyes roving over Holden’s obsessive investigation. In the bottom right, was a rough sketch of a man’s face. Underneath the drawing was the word, “Coach.”

He pointed at the drawing. “Who’s this?”

Chelsey shook her head. “No idea.” She sniffled. “Holden was on the hockey team. Maybe it’s his coach?”

“But why include it here?” Becker said.

Harp nodded. “It’s someone he doesn’t know. Not the hockey coach. Some other coach.”

Under the drawing was another sheet of paper which listed locations and dates—small towns in southern Ontario and date ranges of a week to a month.

Chelsey blurted out, “I had no idea Holden was doing this—for Ben.” Then she dissolved in a fresh round of tears.

“Ms. Gall?” Becker said after her tears had subsided. “Can you tell us where we can find Skunk, er—Carson Weller?”

Chelsey pulled a pink smartphone from her back pocket. “It’s nine. He’s probably hanging out at the pizza place,” she said. “But I’ll call Jenny and get his number for you.”

The detectives thanked her, then asked if they could take the corkboard with them and she agreed.

Outside the house, Harp loaded the board into his car, then the two men set off on foot to Crawford’s only pizza joint.

Becker said, “I wish she’d reported Ben’s disappearance. Maybe Holden’s death could have been prevented.”

Harp nodded, thinking the same thing.

They walked in silence along a street that ran beside a creek. Water lapped against the grassy shore a few feet below the sidewalk. Turning onto Crawford’s main street, the pizza place was hard to miss. The storefront was painted in three vertical bands of colour: green, white and red. Inside, the shop was lit up and a lone employee sat at a table inside, thumbing a phone. Outside, three youths in black hoodies loafed around a battered bench. One of them had black hair with a shock of white down the centre. As the detectives drew nearer, the young men stopped loafing and stared, warily, at the strangers.

Harp eyed the boy with the hair and said, loudly, “You Carson Weller? AKA Skunk?”

The two men flashed their badges.

The boy signalled to the others to buzz off, then he sat down on the bench, folded his arms across his chest and plastered a scowl on his face.

“Yeah, I’m Carson. What do you want?”

“We’re investigating Holden Gall’s murder. We know that he contacted you every Friday. What were those meetings about?”

At the mention of Holden Gall, the bravado seemed to drain out of Carson. He leaned forward and stared at the ground for a moment before he spoke.

“He was looking for the coach.”

An empty pop can lay at his feet, and he

kicked it under the bench. “He thought his brother was running with him.”

Becker said, “Like—a running coach?”

Carson gave Becker a withering look.

“Tell us what you know about the coach,” Harp said, trying to remain calm.

Carson chewed on a wad of gum and snapped a bubble.

“He’s a guy that gets kids to work for him. Selling. Stealing. Whatever.” He looked up at the detectives. “You know Fagan?”

“From Oliver Twist?” Harp said, surprised.

Carson nodded. “The Coach is kind of like Fagan—only meaner.”

The detectives exchanged a glance.

“Meaner how?” Becker said.

Carson’s face lit up in anger. “You saw what happened to Holden!”

He pushed his bangs off his forehead revealing acne sores—and a jagged scar.

“Every week he’d ask me if I heard any rumour about where the coach was at. He wouldn’t let up, you know? Anything to find his brother.” He drove his hands into his pockets and again his face lit up in anger. “I’m the kind of kid who ends up dead! Not someone like Holden.”

Harp said quietly, “Did you talk to Holden yesterday?”

“Yeah. Before class.”

Carson looked away but not before Harp saw tears gathering in the young man’s eyes.

“I told him—the coach is in town.”

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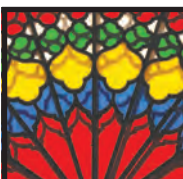
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Highlander classifieds

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Donald James Maulson

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 in his 78th year with his forever loving wife of over 48 years, Patricia Ann by his side.

His beautiful smile and joy for life will always be cherished by Frank (Kathryn) Maulson, David Maulson (deceased), Penelope O'Brien, Barbara Ham, Rachelle (Bear) Ottreyes as well as many in-laws. Many nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews will remember Uncle Don for his never ending sense of humour and his gentle and modest ways. Those who were fortunate enough to call him a friend will hold dear a man who through his deep friendships will leave a huge imprint in their hearts.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 on Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 from 11:00 am to 1pm. The Funeral Service to celebrate Donald's life will follow at 1:30 pm. Interment at the Minden Cemetery.

Please Note # Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, a limited amount of visitors will be allowed in the Funeral Home for the visitation and service with social distancing, face coverings, lists for the names and phone numbers of attendees are required for contact tracing.

In Lieu of flowers and as an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the Kinmount District Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of Joan Victoria Levesque

Joan passed away peacefully in the Peterborough Hospital on July 31st, 2021

A cherished Mom and friend to Bobby (Pat), Denise Leblanc (Al), Bruce (Kathy) and Michele Coneybeare (Chris) and baby sister

to her brother Doug (Oliver, BC). Loving and fun-to-hang-out with Nan to 10 grandchildren - Kristina, Nicole, Kevin, Danielle, Laurie, Sam, Jessie, Mike, Lily and McKay and great-Nan to 6 great grandchildren. Joan is predeceased by her husband Bob, and her brothers, Roy Waterfield, Buck Waterfield and her endeared twin sister, Joyce Lescard. Auntie Joan had an extra special bond with her twin sister's sons Dougie, Jeff (deceased 2020) and Dale.

In accordance with Joan's wishes, cremation has taken place. A campfire and card game to celebrate Joan's Life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made to either the Minden Community Food Bank, Haliburton Highlands Land Trust or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

Joan has moved on "to win money at the poker table in the sky" with her best pal and twin sister, Joyce. Her witty sense of humour, spunk and openness to new adventures will live on in all of us that have had the privilege of being a part of her life.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of John Henry Hutson (1938-2021)

It is with great sadness that we announce his passing on May 22, 2021 at the age of 82. He was recently diagnosed with cancer this month.

He passed away peacefully at home at Eagle Lake, Ontario with his loving wife Maureen of 58 years. John was the proud father of Deborah (Domingos), Janet (predeceased 2015)(Andrew), and Catharine. He was loved by his grandchildren Daryl (Amanda), Eric (Brittany), Daniel, Nicholas (predeceased 2019), Kasandra (Mark), Lucas (Keisha), Brandon, Caitlyn and Genevieve (Joe). John was a proud Great Poppa to Josh, Evan, William, Wyatt, Charlie, Liam and Aida.

John enjoyed life. He loved to go fishing, curling, bowling and playing darts. He always loved when all the family got together for dinners. He will be deeply missed by many but we are so thankful that he is no longer suffering. We will love you forever.

A Memorial Gathering to Celebrate John's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 12:00 o'clock noon until 2:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Please Note # Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, a limited amount of visitors will be allowed in the Funeral Home for the visitation with social distancing, face coverings, lists for the names and phone numbers of attendees are required for contact tracing.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.



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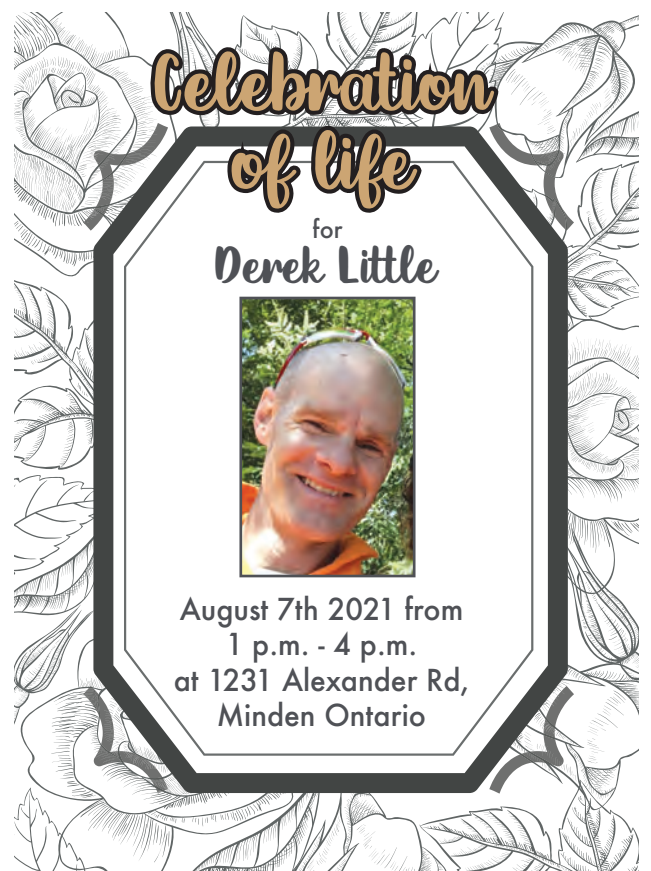
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Highlander classifieds

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Highlander puzzles

Painting the Human Body

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Bee Gees' surname
- 5 Stick in a birdcage?
- 10 Decorative bit on a moccasin
- 14 Jazz diva Fitzgerald
- 15 ___ Carr University of Art and Design
- 16 Prefix meaning "within"
- 17 Cause of warts, in folklore
- 18 "Rise and shine!"
- 19 Jacob's twin in the Bible
- 20 Env. extras
- 21 Gardener's asset
- 23 Sassy retort to an order
- 25 Most promising
- 26 Gain strength from, as applause
- 29 "Mazel ___!"
- 30 Hobbit with Precious cargo?
- 32 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
- 34 Cyber shopper's site
- 38 Winning combination in tic-tac-toe
- 39 Backwoods bigot
- 42 Liverpool lav
- 43 ___'acte (intermission)
- 45 Born leaders, astrologically
- 46 Parts of speech like "parts" and "speech"
- 48 PC plug-in port
- 50 Made an effort
- 52 Windy winter warmer in Alberta
- 56 City in England and town in Ontario
- 59 Name for Highway 16 cutting across central Alberta
- 62 Retired Tory Ambrose
- 63 Swahili word for lioness
- 64 ___ Québécois
- 65 Eighth "mois"
- 66 Tap annoyance
- 67 Fit for ___
- 68 Commercial hubs: Abbr.
- 69 Newsman Hanomansing, and others
- 70 Brontosaurus, for short

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59						60	61			62				
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66					67					68				
69					70					71				

71 Prefix meaning "god"

Down

- 1 "Go ___, tiger!"
- 2 Massey of old movies
- 3 Prairie tribe named for their dark moccasins
- 4 Child who's wicked from day one
- 5 Identified
- 6 9-1-1 call: Abbr.
- 7 ___ of passage (initiation)
- 8 Crossword constructor, at times
- 9 Like a swinging pocketwatch
- 10 Place with drones and combs
- 11 Come next
- 12 Kingston-born rocker Bryan
- 13 Say "Yeah, right," say
- 22 Classical grp. in Ontario
- 24 "Is it just ___...?"
- 27 Shoppe descriptor, after "ye"
- 28 Tot's taboos
- 30 Us's "them"
- 31 Don's former Coach's Corner mate
- 33 Chicks' digs
- 35 Wireless technology named for a Danish king
- 36 Get an ___ (ace, as a test)
- 37 Calls in the 'hood
- 40 One of a pair in a hockey bag
- 41 Reformist John for whom a Toronto college is named
- 44 Practice for a track relay
- 47 Be a ham in "Hamlet"
- 49 Nickname of Sault Ste. Marie with "the"
- 51 Makes the trench deeper
- 52 Pop's Lauper
- 53 ___ pin drop
- 54 Crazy, in rap slang
- 55 Fatigues colour
- 57 Become hardened to
- 58 Dustin Hoffman in "Midnight Cowboy"
- 60 Conservative leader O'Toole
- 61 O's is 8, to a chemist: Abbr.

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			9		5		6	8

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

1	B	E	D		4	W	5	H	I	G		8	S	9	I	10	M	11	B	A	13
14	A	X	E		15	I	O	T	A			16	H	E	A	R	S	T			
17	S	T	R		18	S	C	O	R		19	N	E	D	B	E	E	F			
20	E	R	N	21	I	E				22	N	O	R				23	W	A	X	
24	H	A	I	R	S	25	C	R	I	M	P	27	E	R							
29	I	D	E	A	T	E	S			30	S	A	L	O		31	O	N			
33	T	O	R			34	D	V	D			36	L	E	V	O					
37	S	C	A	R	E	P	A	40	C	K	A	G	E	S							
42	E	R	S	E				43	S	A	E				44	R	E	45	G		
46	S	I	E	S	47	T	A		49	F	R	A	51	L	T	Y					
			52	C	H	I	C	53	K	E	N	S	C	O	O	P					
54	T	B	A			57	T	E	A			58	L	I	O	N	S				
59	S	C	R	60	W	L	S	P	62	A	63	C	E		64	K	O	I			
65	P	I	N	K	I	E			66	O	N	C	E		67	E	S	E			
68	S	T	O	A	T	S			69	W	I	M	P		70	D	E	S			



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NEW LISTING!

Haliburton Lake



Fantastic opportunity! This yr-rd cottage/waterfront home is situated on beautiful Haliburton Lake. Solid quality construction and built in 2010 - just awaiting your finishing touches. Exceptional view of the lake from most rooms, the screened-in porch, and the full-length deck which spans across the front of the cottage. Large open concept kitchen, living room and dining room, 2 spacious bdms and 2 baths, and 9ft ceilings throughout. The primary bdrm has an ensuite bath, walk-in closet, and walk-out to the deck. Downstairs there are 9ft ceilings, a large rec room, third bdrm, 4 pc bath, laundry, and utility. 118.31 feet of clean rock and sand shoreline, large dock, sitting area on shore and big lake views! **\$789,000**

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Main Street Rez



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Vacant Lots

LITTLE GULL LAKE | 0.78 AC | **\$355,000** | **SOLD**

LOUISE LANE | 35+ AC | **\$275,000**

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SOUTH DRIVE | 2.34 AC | **\$65,000** | **NEW LISTING**

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Kashagawigamog Lake **\$1,499,000**



SOLD!

Percy Lake **\$889,000**



SOLD!

Kennisis Lake **\$699,000**



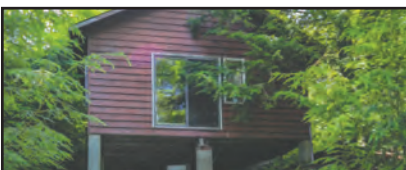
SOLD!

Inondale River **\$465,000**



SOLD!

Trooper Lake **\$349,000**



SOLD!

Contau Lake Road **\$329,000**



SOLD!

Buckside Road **\$225,000**



SOLD!

Providence Drive **\$199,000**



If you want your property **SOLD** call Linda and the Haliburton Real Estate Team and get results. Call our team today for a **FREE** property evaluation. **705-457-6508**