





TheHighlander

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INSIDE: TALKING TO YOUR KIDS AND TEENS ABOUT COVID PAGE 19



Council looks for 'hammer' to stop bad actors

By Lisa Gervais

Coun. Carol Moffatt said the most important part of any shoreline preservation bylaw is enforcement.

Speaking during a five-hour, line-byline review of the draft during a Jan. 17 meeting, Moffatt said council can do anything it wants but "if we don't have a bigger and clearly outlined penalty policy and process we will never stop what we want to stop."

The current draft stipulates that a first offence could attract a part 1 provincial offences act (POA) ticket of \$925.

On a second and subsequent offences, a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$100,000 is recommended.

In addition, the court may order the person to correct the contravention by: rehabilitating the land; removing the fill dumped or placed contrary to the bylaw or permit; restoring the grade of the land to its original condition; removing the topsoil stored on the land; planting or replacing of trees or prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the contravention.

But Moffatt said, "at a \$925 fine, that's a trifling which many consider just the cost of getting what they want."

She said it is fine to encourage landowners to regenerate and plant "but what's happening right now, which we have lamented over the past year, is the number of people who are racing. They're panic projects to get things done before they won't be allowed to do them.

"So, even if we can't come to some final answer on what this entire process looks like, we should at the very least find a way to be able to go after those bad actors with a hammer so that those panic projects can't happen."

The bylaw will be coming back to council after the review raised more questions than answers during Monday's meeting.

Moffatt went on to say, "if we want to stop people now, I want someone to tell me ... where our hammer is to stop the people who are willingly and knowingly out there clear cutting and hardscaping. It's happening around us all the time."

Continued 'County' on page 3





BOOST UP.

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People at Minden's vaccination clinic wait for a shot. Photo by Sam Gillett.

Health unit encourages people to get Moderna

By Sam Gillett

Nearly 10 per cent of vaccine clinic attendees decline COVID-19 shots due to the manufacturers, Dr. Natalie Bocking said.

"I have to admit I don't fully understand all the hesitations on the Moderna vaccine," she said during a media information session Jan. 12.

She added there's "very good" data indicating Moderna works. It boosts immunity and has similar side effects to a Pfizer shot.

"It's certainly equivalent to a Pfizer booster dose if not better," she said. "Both are equally effective."

Those under 30 will get Pfizer shots at HKPR vaccination locations, due to a provincial shortage of the Moderna vaccine. Moderna has been associated with infrequent instances of heart inflammation in the age group.

Earlier in the pandemic, there were reports of countries not recognizing vaccination matching, for instance receiving an AstraZeneca shot and then a Moderna shot.

Now, Bocking said there is widespread agreement that mixing shots is effective, and travelers need not be concerned.

A booster shot, she said, is vital in decreasing the risk of "both symptomatic illness as well as severe illness."

In the 70-plus age group, 70.4 per cent of people have received a booster dose, as well as 43 per cent of people 18 and older.

"We've made incremental increases in the coverage among five-11," she said. An initial strong uptake amongst families has "leveled off" in the age group. It's recommended to wait eight weeks between doses for kids.

She encouraged parents to research the vaccine's safety record: no serious side effects have been recorded in the vaccine's testing and rollout.

There are numerous resources such as kidshealthfirst.ca that answer questions and offer ways to speak one-on-one with clinicians about the vaccine's effectiveness for kids.

While early studies show Omicron to be a milder variant than previous strains, exponential case growth in the beginning of January caused multiple hospitals in Ontario to sound the alarm over staffing shortages and rising hospitalizations.

Walk-ins available

As of Jan. 18, immuno-compromised people and those over the age of 50 can get a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine without a prior appointment.

Walk-ins are now welcome between 1-4:30 p.m. any day the clinic is operating at the Minden arena.

Dr. Bocking urged those 70 and older to get a shot as soon as possible.

"Older adults have a greater risk of getting sick from COVID-19, and that's why we encourage anyone age 70 and older who still needs a booster dose to get one," she said in a press release. "Book an appointment or walk into any of our clinics in the afternoon, and we will be happy to provide you one."

The health unit will be at the Minden arena Jan. 20, 21, 24, 27, 28 and Feb. 3, 4 with more dates announced regularly.

GO-VAXX bus returns

The GO-VAXX bus will be returning to Haliburton County next week.

The retrofitted bus that serves as a mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be available to provide first, second and booster doses to eligible individuals, including children aged five to 11. It will be at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton on Jan. 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Appointments can be booked starting at 8 a.m. Jan. 28 through the provincial booking system, or by calling 1-833-943-3900.

Individuals wishing to receive a vaccine should bring their Ontario health card. If you do not have a health card, or your health card is expired, bring another form of government ID such as a driver's license, passport, status card or birth certificate.

The GO-VAXX bus will also be at Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce Feb. 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will be back at A.J. LaRue Arena Feb. 12, also from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you are unable to book an appointment with the GO-VAXX bus, the health unit has appointments available at various COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the region. A list of dates and times is available at www.hkpr.on.ca. Some pharmacies are also providing vaccines.



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Lack of skilled labour, housing hurting County

By Lisa Gervais

County councillors discussed a skilled labour shortage and a lack of housing when they approved staff going forward with finding a consultant to create a county-wide economic development strategy during a Jan. 12 meeting.

Director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, said "it is essentially a road map for economic transformation, growth, and yields long-term prosperity for a community.'

He said the final report will have action steps involving the public, businesses and institutions that can be initially implemented over a five-year period.

"While the County has had tremendous success developing and marketing tourism, the challenging realities of today's economy call for new directions, ideas and approaches to enhance economic growth, attract investment and ensure that opportunity continues to be a significant part of the County's quality of life," Ovell said.

In debating the recommendation, Coun. Cec Ryall said for five years now, and exacerbated by the pandemic and explosive growth, a lack of skilled workers has been identified.

"We're finding we just don't have enough skilled people. Are there other line items in this strategy, a way to start working with the skill providers, be it the colleges or apprentice board or whoever?" he asked.

"Also, with a high unemployment rate

in Haliburton County to put some of our people back to work for businesses that are currently growing and thriving. I just didn't see that in the report as a line item."

Ryall noted that businesses said with sufficient staff they could increase sales 15 to 20 per cent.

"And I think that is going to be something that we need to deal with."

Ovell said the RFP will be designed to be "fairly broad" however "if that is a priority, we can definitely drill down and include that in there."

Coun. Brent Devolin said one strategy might be encouraging colleges that teach things such as construction and hospitality to come to the Highlands. Coun. Carol Moffatt said "semi-facetiously" it may be a matter of bussing apprentices to Peterborough. But Ryall said what's needed is qualified instructors, not bricks and mortar to come to the County.

Coun. Andrea Roberts raised the housing

"How does housing equate into something like this because to me that's one of the biggest obstacles," she said. "People can't move here because there is no place to live. So how does housing tie into an economic development strategy?

Ovell said the lack of housing for potential workers will no doubt be identified in the final strategy but he wants a document that is within the County's power to take action.

"I don't want a document that says we need to expand broadband or housing. I want a document that has tactics or



Coun. Cec Ryall wants a skilled labour shortage addressed in an economic development strategy. File.

objectives that utilize what tools are at the County's skillset or the townships' skillset so something in our toolbox so we can actually make a difference."

Moffatt said, "I wonder what happens if or when we come across something that is beyond our current toolbox. Hopefully there'd be something built-in that would allow for us as a community to go and get or somehow acquire something that we're missing to move us to the next level to feed the growing needs as opposed to saying we don't have those skills or skillset or toolbox so we can't go there. Sort of looking for the biggest blue sky possible. Here are our problems. How are we going to build back to get there so hopefully that would be part of it as well? We don't have this so we have to go and get it."

County sends shoreline bylaw back with questions

Continued from page 1

County planning director Steve Stone said if a person, director or officer of a corporation continues there can be a part 3 court summons to pursue much larger fines. He said the existing bylaw reads \$100,000 but if a person were to continue to cut from Monday to Friday, for example, they could be fined an additional

However, County Warden Liz Danielsen

said, "but we need to be prepared to do that, to follow through with that. That's a direction that has to come from council. If we're going to go ahead and try to protect our waterbodies we can't lay fines unless we have a document in place that lays out what the rules are."

Moffatt added, "have we ever done it, are we going to do it, and how swiftly is council going to have a discussion about entertaining that? You can give someone a \$925 fine and they pay it. But they've

got all their trees cut down for their view and then you make them replant trees. Well, they've got 30 years of a good view because they got what they wanted. It's great to have part one and part three. I get it. It's not working. People are still doing

Coun. Pat Kennedy said he agreed, and would prefer to see the first fine taken out and replaced with a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$100,000.

Coun. Brent Devolin added, "I'm on the

record as wanting to have as big a fine for contravention of the existing bylaw that we have and I wouldn't have spent the last two years of my time if I wasn't looking for steel-toe boots to deal with these issues."

Danielsen asked if council was "looking for a hammer when needed" and said during the Zoom meeting she received "nods all around."



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'Long road back' says MP Jamie Schmale

By Mike Baker

MP Jamie Schmale has hope life will return to some semblance of normality in 2022, though he warned Canada's post-COVID-19 recovery will be a difficult one.

During an interview, Schmale said as we move into a third calendar year of the pandemic, the long-term impacts of provincial lockdowns, "lavish" federal spending, and burnout of thousands of health care and education workers would be felt for years to come.

"This pandemic has certainly been challenging, and there are many obstacles we will have to overcome," Schmale said. "We need to get our inflation crisis, our labour crisis, our housing crisis under control. We need to bring a sense of fiscal sanity back to Ottawa."

Late last year, inflation hit a three-decade high – up to 4.7 per cent in November – with many industries looking to recoup money lost during the early stages of the pandemic. Schmale feels the Liberal government has exacerbated the issue through its spending habits, forcing the Bank of Canada to print money at a recordbreaking rate.

Since February 2020, the government's printing press has created north of \$370 billion.

"This is a problem," Schmale said. "The longer we keep printing, the more the dollar becomes worth less, the more the savings accounts of our working class becomes worth less. It's a dangerous cycle, and the fear is that once this starts happening, businesses might have to close, we might see more dependence on government. Life is going to become more difficult for everyday Canadians."

While he agreed with the rollout of programs such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and several businessrelated supports during the early stages of the pandemic, Schmale feels the Liberals are taking advantage of the current situation to push through several self-serving initiatives he says will be deficit financed.

In its 2021 budget, the federal government promised to spend \$30 billion over the next five years and \$8.3 billion per year after that to create and sustain a national child care program, while \$17.6 billion was set aside to aid Canada's "green recovery", with a target to cut the nation's emissions to 36 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The calling of an early election still rankles with Schmale too, a \$610 million expense he feels nobody wanted and changed very little.

That money would have been better spent addressing issues such as housing, Schmale said. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, house prices in Ontario increased by more than 15 per cent in 2021, pricing many out of the market.

Schmale said it's an issue he's all too familiar with.

"Housing is not affordable now for many Canadians. I think those trying to get into the market are feeling like they're never going to be able to do it," he said. "They just don't see an opening."

The feds have promised to build, preserve or repair 1.4 million homes over the next four years, but even that may not be enough to keep up with current demand, Schmale

It's not all bad though, Schmale said, as there have been some positives over the past 12 months.

"We're one of the world leaders in terms of vaccinations, and we didn't tip our hospital capacity at any point during the pandemic. There have been a lot of successes," Schmale said.

"Looking ahead, we have much to do. We need to look after our tourism and hospitality sectors, which have probably



Haliburton MP Jamie Schmale. File.

been the hardest hit over the past two years. We need to get more people back into the workforce, and really kickstart our economy," he added. "We have to

rebuild our health care sector, address the affordability crisis. There's a lot of work to do for us to get back on track, it's going to be a long road back."

INFORMATION PAGE

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A Message from the Fire Department When to use Fire Extinguishers

It's important to remember that fire extinguishers are only one element of a complete fire survival plan. Only use your extinguisher after making sure:

- · All residents of the home have been evacuated to safety
 - The fire department has been notified
- There is a clear exit behind the person using the extinguisher

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

The average four-person household uses 2 rolls of paper towel per week. At \$1.50 per roll, that's \$156 per year! Try switching to cloth whenever possible to reduce

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

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 visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/ employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for a list of available jobs 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 uncoming meetings are:

January 27 - Regular Council Meeting

February 10 - Regular Council Meeting

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

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



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Roberts want staff savings to help budget

By Lisa Gervais

Coun. Andrea Roberts would like a projected 3.24 per cent tax rate increase at the County whittled down using 2021 savings from payroll that went unused due to staff changeovers.

During a committee of the whole meeting Jan. 12, director of corporate services, Andrea Bull, presented a third draft of the 2022 budget.

The second draft was brought to the December committee of the whole meeting and included a total levy of \$20,825,738, which equalled a 3.21 per cent tax rate increase.

Changes since then have included \$40,000 for a new library website, which would be funded by Safe Restart money so have no impact on the budget. There has been an increase in OCIF-formula based funding from \$284,000 to \$630,334. Bull said that could cover the potential costs of a traffic light project on County Road 21. She had no details but said a report would come to a future council meeting. Other changes included a decrease of \$11,967 in social services and housing and an added \$2,500 for website licensing.

During a verbal presentation, she added she would like an extra \$15,000 to cover anticipated insurance increases this year. Warden Liz Danielsen noted the library board looks to be trimming \$15,000 from its projected budget so that timing was good on the insurance ask.

Roberts then said they'd have more information when they knew how expenses shook out in December - to have a better handle on where the 2021 budget came in

"We did have quite a staff changeover at the director's level so sometimes in my mind, savings in that area, they don't necessarily need to be carried over," she said. "I would like to see a more fulsome report of where we're at.

"I know we don't have to make a decision right now but there are opportunities for savings from the 2021 budget. Generally, we get this big, long report 'and this amount goes to this reserve and this amount goes to that reserve' but why would you put savings from staff in a reserve?

"I know it was a difficult year but I would like to see if there's an opportunity to even bring the levy lower than what it is if there are savings in that regard."

Warden Liz Danielsen agreed it would be good information to have before finalizing the budget. Bull said she could provide a report.

Coun. Carol Moffatt added, "I don't think there's any rush. I think if we can just continue to cross some T's and dot some I's then I think we have a little bit of time to make sure that those things are done. It's fine by me."



Coun. Andrea Roberts would like to see the draft budget levy lowered. File.

Big-ticket budget items:

- · Replacing two data center servers used by County and local municipalities; the County administration core switch; the public works administration copier; upgrading five staff laptops; one-third cost of a new IT technician emergency services.
- Purchase of two ambulances; replacing eight public access defibrillators; ambulance laptop and server contribution; upstaffing the Tory Hill base to 24/7 yearround and development of a master plan for paramedic

services planning.

- Addition of funding for two bylaw officers and one plan examiner (six months) to enforce the shoreline preservation bylaw if approved.
- · Continuation of the enhanced flood plain mapping project (LiDAR); implementation of climate change mitigation and adaption projects.
 - New director of economic development and tourism
- Public works: 33.6km of road projects; six structure projects; purchase of 1/2 ton pick-up, a tandem plow and grad-all; salt storage shed at Highland Grove; roof repair

and storage bin at Ingoldsby; garage windows for Eagle Lake buildings; renovations and roof replacement at the registry office.

• Increase in affordable housing target program funding; contribution for the Hwy. 35 development; addition of a procurement coordinator, community safety and wellbeing position (nine months); waste management study; implementation of electronic records management system; finishing implementation of new financial software for the library and the addition of 1.5 FTE staff and sick benefits for part-time staff.

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Downtown rink moves ahead

Councillors voted to continue the process of relocating an outdoor skating rink to the downtown core.

The Minden River Cone's new owners suggested the move.

After they made a delegation to council in December, community services director Craig Belfry met with co-owner Monica Bolton to evaluate the proposed rink location beside the take-out restaurant.

"There were a lot of questions that came out of it and a lot of positives," Belfry said at a Jan. 13 meeting of council. "We just had some concerns looking at the site that was proposed."

Belfry said the rink would cover a storm drain on the unused portion of the road where it was proposed and block an adjacent fire hydrant.

Belfry said vacant land beside the former Minden fire hall could fit the bill, and multiple councillors voiced support of the plan.

"There's parking, it's land we own and control, it's right in the centre of town." Coun. Bob Carter said.

Councillor joins climate committee

Coun. Pam Sayne will represent Minden Hills on the County's new Community

Climate Action Plan Advisory Group.

The group will be made up of different stakeholders around the County, aiming to advise staff and offer feedback as they develop a plan to reduce community emissions.

Continued call spike for Minden fire

Minden Hills fire department reported a 31.7 per cent increase in call volume in 2021

The service responded to 365 calls to the end of November, up from 277 the year prior.

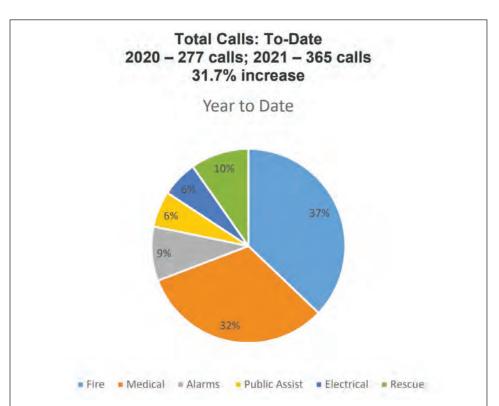
Thirty-two per cent of calls were medical emergencies, 37 per cent were fire-related, 10 per cent were rescues, nine per cent were alarm-related and 12 per cent were public assistance and alarm help.

An increase in service calls meant a 37 per cent jump in overtime hours.

Overall, fires caused an estimated \$1.64 million in damages in the township. Fire chief Nelson Johnson said he estimates crews saved more than \$33 million in estimated property value.

Pandemic won't end work from home

Minden Hills staff will have the option of working from home on an occasional or emergency basis even after pandemic restrictions lift.



The Minden Hills Fire Department reported a 31.7 per cent increase in calls in 2021. *Graph created by Minden Hills Fire Department.*

Council accepted a revised policy outlining requirements for at-home work.

'When we are out of this pandemic there will be long-lasting changes to how we do business," said CAO Trisha McKibbin.

"This will ensure we have options for staff."
To work from home, the tasks staff are
completing must be measurable, such as

typing a report.

The policy also requires confidentiality measures such as using an encrypted laptop and requiring access to locked storage for confidential documents.

Staff must also have internet and telephone service. (Minden Hills news compiled by Sam Gillett).



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Insurance costs hit Highlands East draft operating budget

By Sam Gillett

Rising insurance and capital costs may raise Highlands East's municipal tax levy by 3.8 per cent in 2022.

If there are no further reductions in the budget, the increase would equate to an additional \$19.30 per \$100,000 of property value assessment for Highlands East taxpayers.

Council received draft operating budget reports from municipal departments at a Jan. 18 special meeting.

"The operations have not changed very much," said CAO Shannon Hunter.

However, among most departments, a spike in insurance costs has driven up operating expenses.

For example, the roads department is budgeting \$144,000 for insurance in 2022, up \$59,000 from last year. Insurance for the Cardiff sewage lagoon has more than doubled, and will cost \$10,000 in 2022. Fire chief Chris Baughman explained how insurance rates have risen \$12,150 for his department.

Aside from insurance-related costs, departmental operating budgets stayed close to 2021 numbers.

Overall, the township's net taxation requirement as outlined in the draft operating budget is \$6,903,526, as opposed to \$6,602,782 in 2021.

Hunter explained how the planning department in particular had a busy year, forecasting \$75,000 in 2022, due to exceptionally high building activity in 2021.

'COVID-19 has put a lot of extra workload on this department," Hunter said. Council will discuss the 2022 budget at a meeting scheduled for Feb. 8.



Highlands East council will meet Feb. 8 on Zoom to discuss a 2022 budget. File

Hazardous waste tender awarded

Buckham Transportation will handle household hazardous waste days in Highlands East.

Hazardous waste includes items such as car batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, gasoline, paint, pesticides and oil.

Buckham handles the hazardous waste disposal of Minden Hills, Algonquin

The first hazardous waste day of the year

Asset management plan runs high

Highlands East will spend \$87,010 to develop an asset management plan. It's mandated that Ontario municipalities have a management plan for buildings, cars, parks, roads and other assets.

Fifty-thousand dollars was budgeted for the plan in 2021, and council accepted a recommendation to use \$37,010 of provincial funding for the balance.

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Editorial opinion

The**Highlander**

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Tender or in-house?

bylaw meeting Jan. 17 somehow reminded me of that story of a Toronto man who spent \$550 building a set of stairs in his community park.

The city said he should have waited for a \$65,000-\$150,000 city project to handle the problem. The city subsequently tore down the stairs saying they were not built to regulation standards.

Retired mechanic Adi Astl took it upon himself to build the stairs after several neighbours fell down the steep path to a community garden in Tom Riley Park in Etobicoke. His neighbours chipped in on

Astl said at the city price, he thought they were talking about putting in an escalator. So, he hired a homeless person and they built the eight steps in a matter of hours.

At the time, Mayor John Tory said his staff had been asked to revisit the project and come up with a more realistic estimate, as the last one was based on projects in

It's about common sense.

In the case of the shoreline preservation bylaw, one thing that became abundantly clear is County director of planning, Steve Stone, seemed to know as much or more than the expensive consultants on the project during the meeting this past Monday.

Stone is the former director of planning for the Township of Seguin. He told

Watching a five-hour shoreline preservation council that while there, his department was responsible for three bylaws dealing with shorelines: blasting, tree removal and

> He then went on to provide numerous examples of how the township handled the bylaws. In one instance, it became very clear how someone attempting to do minor landscaping would be separated from someone doing hardscaping.

> Some councillors commented they had no idea that Stone used to be with the planning department in Seguin or that he had such a good working knowledge of its shoreline bylaws. They should have.

It was pointed out by the consultants that they had reviewed the Township of Seguin but with the volume of paperwork on the portfolio, it's easy to see how it could have been overlooked by councillors.

It left me wondering why County councillors didn't first have a chat with Stone about the draft, and then bring in the consultants at a later date. Perhaps Stone could have answered a lot of their questions and saved a day of consultants' fees.

In general, I think County council and the lower-tier municipalities are often too quick to go to consultants. In this case, one of the missing pieces of the puzzle was that the consultants were unable to get community comparatives. Stone was the only one to provide that type of context during the

I'm not anti-consultant. In this case,

County councillors felt it prudent to hire an independent, third party since the process was turning downright ugly. In addition, the directors of various departments at small



By Lisa Gervais

municipalities are very busy.

However, I sometimes wonder if the expertise these directors have - not to mention local knowledge - is being missed.

In the same vein, I'm pondering a County committee of the whole decision last week to proceed with a request for proposals to hire a consultant to create an economic development strategy. Bits and pieces of this work have already been done. Why hire a new director of economic development and tourism only to have that person field out what some would argue is his first job to an expensive consultant?

It might be argued the new director doesn't have the local knowledge, and has enough on his plate. It could be counterargued a consultant won't have the local knowledge, either.

I urge County and lower-tier councils to be a bit more stingy in future when going out to consultants and to turn a bit more to in-house expertise. Not only will it save us money, it might help to keep good staff around a little bit longer.

COVID CORNER

The need for speed

trump health care. Until the Omicron variant, self-isolation for COVID-positive individuals was 10 days. Given the volume of people now infected, the balance has tipped to prioritize a faster return to work so systems can function. This means in the UK the government initially changed the self-isolation period to seven days after Omicron became the dominant variant. Now that is reduced to five-day isolation with two negative swabs taken 24 hours apart after day five, to allow a faster return

The CDC announced the self isolation was decreased from 10 to five days for the US, and in Canada we are mostly following suit.

Many medical specialists are questioning the message the public has received about why this change has been made. Since there is little scientific evidence to justify the safety of these reduced measures, scientists say our public health agencies should be more honest with people. If decisions are made because of the degree of absenteeism in many essential services, then this should be clear; it is critical to inform people that the new five day isolation is not chosen because the virus is no longer infectious after five-days.

In fact, data show that Omicron's viral load can be at its highest on day five. It

It seems the economy and social obligations appears economic factors have replaced scientific rationale for COVID management plans - so say the medical science community members who are concerned about the implications of these motivations.

A review of 79 papers from around the world and analyzed by UK scientists examined the viral shedding of 5,340 infected people. It evaluated the viral load measured on PCR testing (which we know can remain positive a long time after recovery from illness and after a person is no longer contagious), as well as the ability of the virus to continue to replicate and cause new infections. This systemic review showed a low viral load in the first couple of days, with a peak around days three to six, decreasing at days seven to nine until no live virus could be recovered by day 10. Therefore, the data supported a 10-day isolation period.

A few studies have suggested a slightly shorter period of viral shedding in people with no symptoms, but decisions for public health policy should ideally be made based on all infections, not a sub-set.

A study from Japan (not yet published in a peer reviewed journal) that examined viral shedding from Omicron, showed shedding is highest at three to six days after the start of symptoms. A small study done at the University of Exeter Medical School

in England found that 30 per cent of people still have clinically significant levels of potentially active virus at day five of illness.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

The Public Health Agency of Canada is still recommending people infected with COVID-19 isolate for at least 10 days after they test positive or symptoms begin, whichever came first. But the provinces and territories set their own policies, and none is following the advice of the PHAC. Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon and Nunavut reduced their isolation period from 10 days to seven for vaccinated people. All other provinces and the Northwest Territories say five days.

Reducing the isolation period to five days risks infected people returning to the community at their peak time of infectiousness, making us more reliant on high grade masks, hand washing, distancing, vaccinating.

A sobering thought. Even after a 10-day quarantine, one in 10 people might still be infectious, one study reported in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases. Some people for up to 68 days, researchers

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Shoreline bylaw a done deal

Dear editor,

We just finished reading the Jan.13, 2022 issue of *The Highlander*. Thank you for keeping everyone informed regarding [the proposed shoreline preservation] bylaw. We all know it is going to be passed, regardless of what the voting taxpayers feel.

We live in the lovely hamlet of Gooderham. We are quite disgusted and dismayed that the owners of [a nearby property] have destroyed nearly every single tree along the riverbank and have now dumped copious loads of rocks, fill, etc.

Not only is the removal of these trees already against the current [tree] preservation bylaw, for some reason, they're allowed to fill wetlands with all this stuff. Why is it nothing has been done?

We have danger trees on our property that we needed to have an arborist deem danger trees to allow us to remove them. Maybe everyone should just do whatever they want on their property. Seems that some continually get away with it.

We have to wonder what our tax dollars are doing if decisions are made that make normal waterfront living regulated and punitive. Why are we paying premium taxes if our land usage will be decreased? Will our taxes go down to reflect this? That would never happen.

Have to wonder at local government. They may have asked for surveys, etc., but they already decided to pass this bylaw. To make everyone think they're still "working on it," they spend our tax dollars hiring another consulting team. It had already been done. If that's the case, it should pertain to everyone along all waterfront or wetlands.

Chris and Barry Kaye Gooderham

Editor's note: The draft of the shoreline preservation bylaw is still before County council.

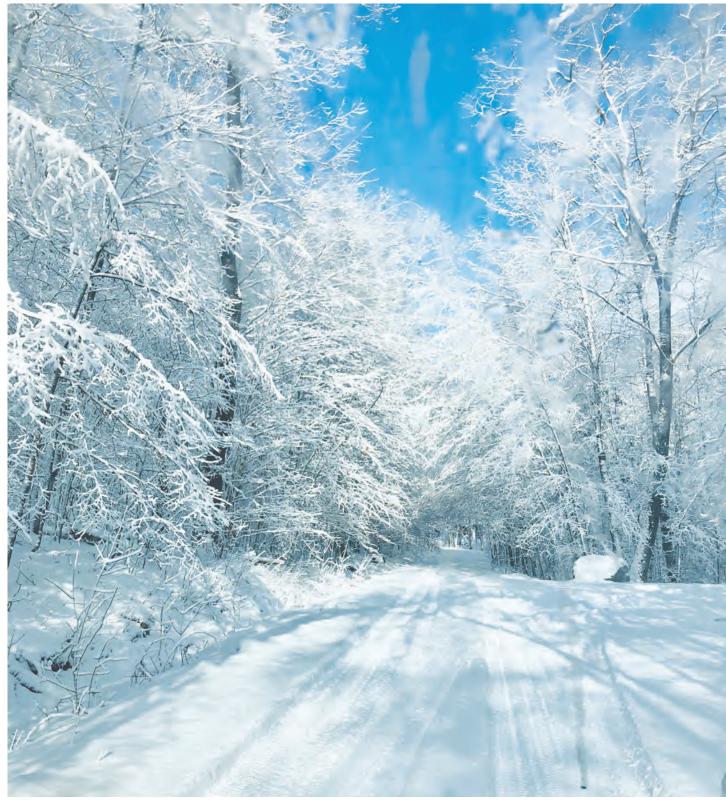
Fare thee well Miss Vicki

Dear editor,

Did you ever have a special place where you felt welcome, known, shared a love of reading and exploring and saw a "lights going on" look on someone's face? Everyone needs to have someone whose face lights up when they see them and smiles.

The library has been that place for me ever since childhood and I was so lucky to have a magical librarian to spark my interest and then many years later when Brian and I moved to Haliburton. I still remember going into the rustic local library to get our first handwritten library cards and there at the centre of it all was this small, strong voice connecting with young and old about favourite reads, free paperbacks to share and "oh, you might like this one." On a busy corner of Hwy. 118 in town, Vicki Fraser, worked in her "window of the

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Mike Parker of Haliburton sent in this photo of Minnicock Lake Road, south of Haliburton.

world," connecting with keen interest and caring for her community.

Together we worked through growth, advocacy for the library and were so very proud of the new builds and expansion of services. Today, we have a fireplace, view of the lake, computers, children's nook, meeting rooms and a vast repertoire online.

And through it all "Miss Vicki" and company laughed and cried with us and discussed everything from recipes to politics and weather. We have shared our thinking "out loud" as Vicki always said it's our library ... no "shushing" here.

She has helped the lights go on for many including my husband and I who share a passion for murder mysteries with her. "Oh, you'll like this one" and "what a stack of books are here for you." Like two conspirators sharing a secret.

Everything changes, that's life and I felt

something was missing on the past few visits to the library. Heaven knows that COVID has pulled us away from many gathering places. So, we sadly discovered that our special one, Vicki Fraser, has moved into "rewirement," a difficult, lonely choice these days.

We two elves decided that the truffles and best wishes needed to be delivered and decided to do a "masked" porch visit. Merry Christmas and thank you from the bottoms of our hearts for the gift of love and dedication to "your people" for so many years.

Sadly, there will be no big party (she's kind of private anyway) so please in your own way "remember and thank Miss Vicki."

Sandre Daoust Haliburton

Thanks, snowplowers

Dear editor,

They're coming. I can hear them. I run to the window and see the lights and I feel a sense of calm.

I'm going to be 68 years old and yes, I still run to the window to see those beautiful lights in the dark on Hwy. 35.

They are taking care of us, making sure we are safe to drive to the grocery store, to work etc. in the morning.

Yes, it is a sense of calm and I say quietly, thank you, I do not take you for granted and yes, you are keeping us safe.

In case you are not told, I thank you.

Jeri-Lyn Cuda Minden

2021 year in review

SEPTEMBER

Back to school

Schools across Haliburton County reopened their doors Sept. 7, marking a return to in-person learning for students for the first time in over a year. Trillium Lakelands District School Board director of education Wes Hahn promised staples such as recess, music and choir and extracurriculars would be back, while cafeterias and libraries would be open. Cohorting remained in place for elementary students, with high schoolers following a quadmester study model.



Back to school. File.

Hart pleads guilty

A Haliburton man was found guilty of manslaughter in the June 17, 2019 death of his housemate in the village. Norman Hart, 33 at the time of his arrest, pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Robert James Brown, 49, but guilty to manslaughter during a court appearance Sept. 7.

Snails gotta go

A group of almost 300 local volunteers teamed up with specialists from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to remove more than 450,000 invasive snails from dozens of area lakes. The project, lauded as the first of its kind in Ontario, wrapped up in the fall after representatives from the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations identified the Chinese Mystery Snail and Banded Mystery Snail as being overly prevalent in Mountain, South and Grass lakes.

Grass Lake development

Haliburton could have 88 new residential units off of Peninsula Road if the owner of a vacant 14.9 ha parcel of land gets planning approvals from Dysart and the County. Paul Wilson owns the land on the west side of Grass Lake. It is bordered by Peninsula Road to the west and Haliburton County Road 21 to the north. The turn-off would be just west of the Lakeview Motel. In addition to what would be condos, there is a plan to have a commercial component along the highway. Environmental, hydrogeological and archeological assessments are currently being peer-reviewed by the township.

Federal election results

Conservative Jamie Schmale secured a third term as Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Sept. 20 on a night that brought very little in the way of change both locally and across the nation. Schmale received 33,826 votes — good enough for 52.6 per cent of the local vote.

OCTOBER

HHHS vaccine policy

Haliburton Highlands Health Services implemented a new vaccination policy Oct. 4, noting that any staff member not having received a first dose by mid-November would be put on unpaid leave until they are immunized. This policy contradicted an earlier statement from HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer, who told her board Sept. 23 that the health provider would not be making vaccines mandatory for staff. The new direction came after the Ontario government introduced mandatory vaccines for workers in long-term care homes. Given that hospitals in Haliburton and Minden are attached to long-term care homes, Plummer said she had no choice but to update the policy.

Huskies debut

It was a weekend of mixed emotions for the Haliburton County Huskies as they kicked off their inaugural OJHL season, recording an opening night 3-2 victory over the Lindsay Muskies on the road Oct. 1, before a sobering 4-0 shutout defeat against the same opponents on home ice the very next night.

A whole new look

When Baked and Battered reopens in the spring, it will have rebranding to go along with its new owners. The mother and son team of Veronic VanLeeuwen and Taylor Pridham are taking over the popular Haliburton eatery from Craig Gordon and Colby Marcellus. Pridham says the pair will be maintaining a lot of menu items, while introducing some of their own "tastier dishes." Van Leeuwen said they will be letting go of the bakery, hence the rebranding.



A whole new look. File

LTC funding

Hyland Crest, Highland Wood and Extendicare Haliburton received a combined \$484,451 from the provincial government to increase staffing, MPP Laurie Scott announced Oct. 15. The money will be used to increase hours of daily direct care for residents. The facilities will receive an additional \$3 million over the next four years to fund the service enhancement.

Thinking outside the box

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit supported a new campaign that aims to decriminalize the personal possession of illicit drugs Oct. 21. The move would assist the health unit in its attempts to manage an ever-escalating drug overdose crisis, said Catherine MacDonald, HKPR substances and harm reduction coordinator. Between April 2020 and March

2021, there were 41 opioid-related deaths in HKPR, up from 21 the year before.

NOVEMBER

Stepping aside

Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin said he won't be seeking a third term in office. In an interview Nov. 2, Devolin confirmed he would be watching the 2022 Minden Hills election from the sidelines. He cited COVID-19 fatigue as one of his primary reasons for stepping down.

Rural homeowners in 'desperate need'

With insurance rates skyrocketing for snow plow operators this year, many small-time businesses have been forced to shut down, leaving dozens of rural homeowners in limbo. Without anyone to clear their driveways or private roads, some local residents have been forced to leave the community. Others have had to stock up on supplies out of fear of being snowed in.

A true Canadian hero

In recognition of Remembrance Day, local veteran Harold 'Rowdy' Rowden shared his story with *The Highlander*. Serving with the 3rd Division of the 13th Field Regiment during the Second World War, Rowden was there the day members of the Canadian military went where no Allied soldiers had gone before, pushing the Nazis out of their beach-front strongholds and sending them into retreat. He spent several weeks fighting in Europe, before being injured in an explosion during the Battle for Caen and subsequently discharged.



A true Canadian hero. File.

Rescuing a refugee

Minden Pride announced in November that it had succeeded in its goal of raising \$10,000 to help bring an LGBTQI refugee into Canada. The local group collected money on behalf of Rainbow Railroad, a Canadian-based non-profit that assists individuals facing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics to escape dangerous, sometimes fatal situations. In 2021, the organization brought more than 150 LGBTQI refugees into Canada.

Pledges into action

The County of Haliburton released its roadmap for creating a community climate change action plan. The initiative has three stages. The first is to develop a plan to reduce corporate emissions; then to adapt County and municipal operations for a warming world; and finally develop a community-wide strategy to complete a set of environmentally friendly goals.

DECEMBER

Councillors cleared

Dysart's top two elected officials were given the green light to participate in talks over the proposed Places for People affordable housing development slated for Wallings Road. Mayor Andrea Roberts and deputy mayor Pat Kennedy were each accused of having a conflict, with Roberts residing on nearby Halbiem Crescent and being a member of the Haliburton By the Lake Property Owners' Association, which has voiced its collective opposition to the project, and Kennedy having family who live in the neighbourhood. The project is currently on hold, with Dysart and the County in a dispute over the ability of the Wallings/County Road 21 intersection to handle extra traffic the new development would create.

Warden returns

Liz Danielsen will serve for a fourth team as County warden. She was acclaimed into the position during a virtual swearing-in ceremony Dec. 14.

Church in trouble

Maple Lake United Church has put out an SOS to the community, with Rev. Max Ward saying the parish could be weeks away from closing. He said a small and mostly elderly congregation have struggled to keep up with the physical and financial demands of running a church. For many years, they have relied on fundraising to fill the gap between what the congregation offers in donations and the actual cost to operate the church, but that money dried up when COVID-19 came along. A meeting will be held Jan. 30 to discuss the future viability of the church.



Church in trouble. File.

Housing demand

A new provincial report estimates about 1,200 new homes will have to be built in the County over the next decade to keep up with projected population changes, but officials from the Haliburton County Home Builders Association say they're not sure the target is realistic. Aggie Tose said a lack of buildable space, convoluted municipal planning and application processes, and resistance from existing property owners means the target will likely be difficult to reach

Hospital reports deficit

HHHS is in a precarious financial position according to board chair David O'Brien, who said the organization is waiting on nearly \$3 million of COVID-19 related funding from the provincial government. The organization is reporting a budget deficit of \$613,000 as of Sept. 30, although O'Brien indicated that number was likely significantly higher as of year end.

Highlander business

Grants connect shops with locals online

By Sam Gillett

You can buy nearly everything online with a couple of clicks. But buying local? That's often trickier.

Thanks to funding from the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), Local Initiative Project (LIP) grants might make it easier for local shops to get online.

The money partners Haliburton County sellers with free access to ShopCloseBuy. ca, an online local vendor platform.

It's an online store with an interface similar to Amazon where local sellers can flaunt their wares.

"I love the local part of things," said Kyla Grexton, who owns knit and crochet company Keep Me In Stitchez. "I'm a firm believer in shopping local, I try to be conscious of where I spend my money."

Grexton received a grant that helped launch her products on ShopCloseBuy.ca. Funding includes coaching from SIRCH, as well as a spot at their Haliburton Village storefront.

"Businesses that apply and are selected will receive a multitude of benefits," HCDC said, "including social media coaching and promotion, enhanced online marketing and much more." Christine Hewitt of ShopeCloseBuy.ca said the grant "is really going to allow new and emerging businesses to have a leg up," in efforts to share products. "This platform is a unified one-stop community hub for consumers anywhere."

Grexton said applying was "fairly easy. The tech support with ShopCloseBuy.ca is amazing."

Eric Wolfe, marketing and sales coordinator for SIRCH, said he'll work with businesses who receive the grant on their marketing and produce a video they can use online.

"We're also here to provide answers for any questions asked," he said.

Grexton said she's "really excited" about the future of the online platform. "I really hope the word gets out and we get more vendors."

Ten out of 20 grants are available. To qualify, businesses must have been operating for a year or less and have earned less than \$35,000 in the year prior to applying.

Applications close at the end of February. To apply or find out more visit shopclosebuy.ca or email info@ shopclosebuy.ca or call 705-457-9977.



Kyla Grexton, who runs Keep Me In Stitchez, said she's excited about opportunities ShopCloseBuy.ca and the LIP grant affords. *Photo by Sam Gillett*.

Ontario opens business rebate applications

By Sam Gillett

Highlands businesses required to close or limit capacity due to COVID-19 rules can apply for financial assistance.

The Ontario Business Costs Rebate program opened for applications Jan. 18.

Restaurants, gyms and bars can receive 100 per cent rebates for property taxes and energy costs. Indoor businesses currently limited to 50 per cent capacity can get up to 50 per cent of energy costs and property taxes covered if eligible.

"We recognize that these necessary public health measures are impacting businesses, and as we have been since the beginning of the pandemic, we are there to support them," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, minister of finance, in a Jan. 18 press release.

Highlands restaurants have been forced to offer outdoor and takeout-only service at

four different periods during the pandemic.

Shannon Brown, of Till Death BBQ in Fort Irwin, said his restaurant doesn't qualify for the rebate. He likely won't need it. He has developed a thriving takeout business serving signature smoked meat dishes. "We were so busy that first weekend I could barely even keep up," he said.

His partner Joy said the success has also been a community effort. "In the few weeks we have been open we did build some really strong relationships with some of the people up there," she said. "They are really pushing for friends and family to come and support us because we have built those relationships. We consider them friends and family now."

For more information visit: app.grants. gov.on.ca/obcrp/#/



Shannon Brown said the Fort Irwin community has been key in a successful pivot to takeout service for Till Death BBQ. *File*.



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The Huskies



Gourgouvelis taking game to the next level

By Mike Baker

The evolution of hockey over the past 15 years has really opened up doors for players such as Will Gourgouvelis.

A silky, skilled offensive defenceman, Gourgouvelis has taken the OJHL by storm in his debut season with the Haliburton County Huskies, suiting up in 29 games and logging big minutes on one of the strongest bluelines in the league.

Despite his slender frame, 5'10" and 154 pounds, Gourgouvelis has forged a reputation as one of the most aggressive defenders on the team, never afraid to throw himself into a big hit. While that willingness to embrace the physical side of the game has endeared himself to fans and coaching staff, it's when the puck is on his stick that the Huskies' number 21 excels.

He showcased his skills during a big 2-1 road win over the Lindsay Muskies back in November. Deep into the second period, with the Huskies behind, Gourgouvelis picked up the puck deep, carried it into the zone, danced past three defenders and flicked it backhand over the goalie's glove to tie the game, capping off a fine individual play.

His biggest inspirations growing up have been Morgan Rielly, the longest tenured Toronto Maple Leaf, and inaugural Seattle Kraken captain Mark Giordano.

"I like to say that I'm a 200-foot defenceman prioritizing my puck moving skills. I'm good in the D zone, and always trying to work on my offensive game. I'm probably best when I'm getting the puck up ice quickly, just turning the game around and going towards offence," Gourgouvelis said.

Growing up in Whitby, he developed through the Wildcats system, eventually playing AAA midget. When he was 16, he moved on to play with the Ajax-Pickering Raiders U18 team, racking up 34 points in 35 games. That put him on the radar of several OHL teams and, in April 2020, he was drafted by the Sarnia Sting in the second round of that's year priority draft.

Due to the pandemic, Gourgouvelis missed out on playing any hockey last year. That stunted his development and killed any hopes he had of cracking the Sting's roster. So, when the opportunity came for him to head to the Highlands this past summer, he jumped at it.

"I had committed to the Whitby Fury last season, and played in eight exhibition games, but then COVID-19 set in and everything was cancelled. I was surprised when I found out the team was moving, but it was exciting too. Coming up and living in the north is something I've always wanted to do, and I knew we would have a good team," Gourgouvelis said. "This is a pretty great place for me to play hockey."

He is billeting with Jim and Cheryl Waddell in Haliburton village.

Still eligible for two further OJHL



Huskies defenceman Will Gourgouvelis is focused on playing hockey at the highest level. Submitted.

seasons beyond this, Gourgouvelis said he's focusing on improving his game and learning all that he can from his teammates and coaching staff.

"Already my development has gone up quite a bit since getting here to Haliburton. Up here, we get to focus on hockey and

hockey alone, there's no distractions. We're at the rink the majority of the day and working on all aspects of our game," Gourgouvelis said. "Long-term, I just want to be able to play at the next level, wherever that is. That's my ultimate goal right now, being able to do this past just junior."





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The Huskies



Huskies' newest fans based in South Korea

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies have gone international thanks to a local grandmother.

Davis Lake resident Dorothy McIntyre was on the hunt for Christmas gift for her grandchildren just before the holidays.

As they live in Busan, South Korea she always has a hard time finding things small and light enough to ship.

With two boys, five-year-old Owen and nine-year-old Liam, to buy for, she wanted to get them something that would remind them of home.

Exhausting options, McIntyre was at her wit's end when, while buying groceries at Dollo's Foodland in Minden, she saw the answer staring her in the face.

"Haliburton County Huskies sweaters!" McIntyre exclaimed. "We had to think of something that wasn't too heavy and could be easily packaged, and I just thought a gift from home, of a new hometown team would be perfect. Something that helps us keep a connection with them" she said.

McIntyre has become a huge Huskies' fan since they relocated to the Highlands ahead of this season.

While she hasn't been able to attend a game in-person due to health concerns, she has kept up with their progress online and through *The Highlander's* coverage.

"I think it's great that we have a hockey team in the community again. The players all seem like great kids, and the team is doing well too," McIntyre said. "They've been a wonderful addition."

She explained as much in a letter accompanying the sweaters, telling Owen and Liam about the team.

The gift, she said, provided the pair with three links to Canada.

"First, there is the link to Haliburton

County, the part of Canada they know best. "The second is hockey, our national game.

"And the third is the dog, the Husky. Huskies were dogs raised to pull sleds for the Inuit, people who live in Canada's far north," McIntyre said.

"I wrote all of that in my note, giving them a bit of history and my thoughts behind the gift."

Hockey isn't popular in South Korea, McIntyre noted. Her grandsons are more interested in baseball, but were happy when they opened their gifts Christmas morning. They immediately put on their new sweaters and took photos to send to grandma.

"They were happy and smiling. I think it's actually the first bit of hockey merchandise they've ever gotten," McIntyre said. "This gives them the chance to spread the word about hockey. I'm sure their friends will ask about the sweaters, now they'll know what to tell them."

McIntyre hopes the boys will make it back to Canada this year.

They usually visit every other summer with dad, Colin, but had to cancel last year due to the pandemic.

With the Huskies' pre-season typically kicking off in August, she hopes to take Owen and Liam to their first ever hockey

"That really would be quite something. For the boys to get out and see the Huskies play, and maybe meet some of the players. That would be an amazing experience for them," she said.



Youngsters Owen (left) and Liam (right), received Haliburton County Huskies sweaters from their grandmother, Dorothy McIntyre, for Christmas. Submitted.

Huskies add OHL vet for championship run

The Haliburton County Huskies bolstered their blueline over the weekend with the addition of five-year OHL veteran Simon

Drafted by the North Bay Battalion in 2017, Rose dressed in 185 games at the OHL level. That experience, and quality, will be invaluable to the Huskies down the stretch, says head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay, who has his eyes firmly set on a franchise-first league championship.

"Simon is going to be one of, if not the

best defenceman in the league. He's an exceptional talent who has great pedigree having played so long in the OHL," Ramsay said. "I'm sure he had his pick of pretty well every team in the OJHL, so for us to land him is huge."

Huskies forward Christian Stevens played a pivotal role in getting the deal over the line. Having played with Rose for several years during his time with the Battalion, Stevens sold the blueliner about what life is like in the Highlands.

That piqued Rose's interest, and once he

got on the phone with Ramsay, the coach was able to seal the deal.

"We just told him what we are hoping to achieve as a team this season, and our philosophies on hockey," Ramsay said. "It seemed a pretty good match.'

Already boasting defensive talent such as Nathan Porter, Jonah Cochrane, Ryan Hall, Will Gourgouvelis, Jack Staniland and Isaac Sooklal, Ramsay feels his team now possesses the best D core in the league.

The team is expected to welcome Payton Schaly back into the fold over the coming

days. Now into his final year of junior hockey, and hoping to secure an athletic scholarship stateside, Schaly moved down to Long Island, New York after Ontario's lockdown shut down OJHL play. He recorded two assists in five games with the Islanders Hockey Club.

The Huskies are scheduled to host the North York Rangers Jan. 28, two days after Ontario's lockdown is expected to end. Puck drop at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena is set for 7:30 p.m. (Mike Baker).







Highlander outdoors









2022 Municipal Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members

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

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

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

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

Preferred Qualifications:

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

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

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

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

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





A group of snowshoers joined Rick Whitteker in February 2020 for the Hike Haliburton Winter Edition. *File*.

Hike Haliburton winter edition cancelled again

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton is cancelling its Hike Haliburton Winter Edition for the second year in a row.

Director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, cited COVID-19 protocols and regulations in forcing his department, and the County's, hand.

The decision was made at a Jan. 12 committee of the whole meeting.

The first-ever edition made its debut on Feb. 8-9, 2020 across the County but has not been back as a result of the pandemic.

Ovell said, "the unknowns related to when restrictions will be lifted has impacted planning for the event and staff do not feel it is prudent to market or promote the festival given the current circumstances."

Instead, he said in February and March, pending COVID-19 safety protocols, staff will promote the County's snowshoe page along with content regarding self-guided hikes to help augment the cancellation of the event.

"Staff still plan to proceed with the Hike Haliburton Festival in the fall of 2022 and will begin planning the program this Spring," he added. "Should government protocols change again, a report will be brought back to committee (of the whole)

from staff to identify alternative options." He said his department plans to include

the Hike Haliburton Winter Edition in the 2023 operational budget. With plans to spend \$10,000 this year, he asked that the money be placed in a reserve for an enhanced winter festival next year.

Ovell said the inaugural version was comprised of 20 guided snowshoe hikes. Three-hundred people participated for an average of 15 participants per hike. The hikes were spread around the County, with each municipality included and varied in length from 1.5 to 10 kilometres. Five hikes took place on private land. The full hike program and registration occurred entirely online, which saved printing costs.

A few event highlights included: 97 per cent of participants rated the festival as 'excellent' or 'very good'; all indicated they would participate again in future years; 83 per cent (249) of participants were seasonal or permanent residents; 17 per cent (51) were visitors; 58 per cent said they spent money at restaurants during the festival; 26 per cent at retailers and 16 per cent at restaurant and retailers.

Warden Liz Danielsen said, "sadly, it seems to be a bit of a no-brainer. You hate to have to make this kind of decision but it's definitely in order."

HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STOR





Storm on

With the Highland Storm taking a COVID-induced break, *The Highlander* is running team photos. This week we are featuring the U9 rep team (top) and U9 local league team. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.



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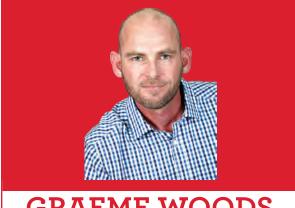
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COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIANCE THIS MEETING WILL BE HEARD AS AN ELECTRONIC HEARING BY WAY OF A VIRTUAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

DATE: MONDAY, January 31, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Due to the physical distancing requirements imposed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held as an

electronic hearing by way of a virtual meeting.

To participate:

Join the meeting by telephone by dialing either: 1-647-374-4685 OR 1-647-558-0588 Enter Meeting ID 857 9538 9205 and Passcode: 565968

Join the meeting using a computer or smart phone at: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85795389205?pwd=bzFwdERwZit4aHplbnBmQWJla3dDQT09

Members of the public are welcome to watch the Committee of Adjustment meeting by joining YouTube at: https://youtu.be/-ca7xt3BKB0

Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Hearing must pre-register by emailing dsisson@mindenhills.ca by Friday January 28th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 10:00 AM. Participants registering after 10:00 AM will not be permitted into the public hearing.

Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the hearing as permitted by the Chair. Please note the live-stream link provided for each hearing will only be activated while Committee of Adjustment is in session.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider minor variance applications **PLMV2021086**, **PLMV2021087** and **PLMV2021089** and the proposed Minor Variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act. The minor variance applications for Public Hearing are listed below:

PLMV2021086 – Part Lot 8, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as <u>1534 Twelve Mile Lake Road</u>; and located on Twelve Mile Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the replacement of a 864 square foot dwelling having a height of 14 feet and setback from the high water mark 41.2 feet (12.6 metres) with a new 1,088 square foot dwelling having a height of 22.5 feet, together with constructing a new 70 square foot porch and expanding an existing deck from 389 square feet to 432 square feet; whereas an increase in size or height of a building or structure within 50 feet (15 metres) of the high water mark is otherwise not permitted.



PLMV2021087 – Part Lot 11, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as <u>1065 Hendersons Road</u> (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit construction of an approximately 800 square foot dwelling, with an attached approximately 290 square foot deck, exclusive of stairs, on an existing undersized lot with a setback of 6 metres (20 feet) to the southwesterly rear lot line, where a setback of 15 metres (50 feet) is otherwise required.



PLMV2021089 – Part Lot 13, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as <u>1287 Duck Lake Road</u> (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit construction of a 192 square foot attached screen room, on an existing undersized lot with a setback of 8.5 metres (28 feet) to the rear lot line, where the existing setback from the rear lot line to the dwelling is 11.2 metres (37 feet).



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding these applications are available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. Copies of the complete applications will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. If you do not attend the public meeting, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in The Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@ mindenhills.ca.

ANY PERSON OR AGENCY WHO IS OF THE OPINION THAT HOLDING THE HEARING AS AN ELECTRONIC HEARING IS LIKELY TO CAUSE THEM SIGNIFICANT PREJUDICE, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing.

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.

For more information about this matter contact adougherty@mindenhills.ca. Amanda Dougherty
Township Planning Consultant
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON, K0M 2K0

Highlander education

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

New screening measures

Students across Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) are having to adhere to more stringent COVID-19 screening measures since returning to school.

Director of education Wes Hahn told a Jan. 11 board meeting new testing was necessary as health units are no longer collecting or reporting COVID data and cases as of Jan. 17.

"The message we have for families, staff and students is, if you have any symptoms do not attend school," Hahn said.

He said it could lead to problems if significant staff absences force classrooms, or entire schools, to revert back to virtual learning temporarily.

Paul Goldring, superintendent of learning, said the new tool is more detailed than previous questionnaires. New regulations indicate all members of a household are required to isolate if another member is experiencing COVID symptoms, regardless of vaccination status.

"In the past, there was some leeway in terms of people being vaccinated, now that leeway is gone," Goldring said. The screener is available at tldsb.ca/board/covid19. It contains seven questions, and should be completed daily before a student leaves for school.

Extracurricular activities are also paused.

Goldring noted teachers are required to wear N95 masks, while "high quality" three-ply cloth masks are being made available to students. Additional HEPA filters have been distributed to schools to help improve air quality inside classrooms.

Regular semesters

Secondary students will return to regular semesters Feb. 7, Hahn said.

"We are completing the current quadmester, then aiming to revert back to our regular semestered system for high school students. Lockers will be made available when regular semesters resume," Hahn said.

Trustee John Byrne questioned the decision saying the Omicron variant, considered more contagious than previous variants of concern, is an airborne virus and would spread much easier among students, especially if they're moving around the school more frequently for additional classes. He also pointed to concerning data suggesting infants are more susceptible to sickness from Omicron.

"As of [Jan. 10], 61 children between the ages of zero and four were hospitalized. They represent the second largest age group, the other being people over 60. My concern is, unbeknownst to them, a student or a member of staff could take this home and infect an unvaccinated young person," Byrne said.

Hahn said all data staff have studied

suggest moving back to regular semesters. He added students weren't cohorting and were gathering in large groups before the holidays, when Omicron was first starting, and it didn't bring any major concerns.

"It's a balancing between the safety and wellbeing versus what's right for students and their learning," Hahn said. "We know that, from a learning perspective [regular semesters], is the best situation for kids ... we're confident at this point we can move forward safely."

Some numbers

Superintendent of human resources, Traci Hubbert said 92 per cent of staff are fully vaccinated.

"We have had a very positive uptick with staff vaccinations in recent weeks," Hubbert told the board. A staff-only booster clinic in Lindsay Jan. 8 was well attended, she added.

Hubbert said TLDSB wasn't running into issues finding supply teachers but there are contingency plans in the event new screening and isolation requirements leave the board shorthanded.

Jennifer Johnston, special education services with TLDSB, said 186 students whose needs could not be met virtually returned to in-person learning Jan. 10. This equated to approximately one per cent of TLDSB's student body. (TLDSB news complied by Mike Baker).



Students returned to in-person learning Jan. 18. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*



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MINDEN · HALIBURTON HEARING SERVICE

Parenting in pandemic times

By Sam Gillett

Learning on Zoom, canceled trips and sports tournaments, and not seeing friends for months. For many kids and teens, COVID-19 has been tough.

Some studies show worrying mental health trends among younger Canadians.

SickKids published a study in 2021 showing more than half of 758 kids aged eight to 12 years old and 70 per cent of 520 adolescents reported depression symptoms during COVID-19's third wave in Canada.

"For kids already experiencing pre-COVID mental health challenges, we know the pandemic has in some cases ratcheted up anxiety for kids, and made it more impactful," said Marg Cox, executive director of the Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents.

"It seems like there's an increase in stress related to meeting practical needs, emotional needs," added child youth and family therapist Rachelle Stephens. "I would say a lot of things coming up for people and causing stress is lack of predictability. No one knows what things might look like, which causes a lot of stress for parents and youth and children."

Cox and Stephens dove into some ways parents and caregivers can help their kids and teens navigate the stress and uncertainty of the continuing pandemic.

Viewing things differently

Stephens said kids often view issues such as the pandemic in black and white. It can seem like it will go on forever. "It's hard for them to understand the nuances and complexities," she said.

Cox added that "right across all development stages, including youth, kids take their cues from parents." Cox said teens lacking peer-to-peer "sounding boards" in classmates and friends can mean they process the events of the pandemic differently than other crises.

Since social activities can be so central to a kid's development, cancellations of hockey or dance class can have an outsized impact on mood and mental health.

Cox said teens are left "without the same space they would normally have, in trying to be safe and not seeing many people. [It's] the reverse of what should be happening at that stage of life developmentally."

Tough talks

"How do you say 'I don't have all the answers'?" Cox asked. "You say 'I don't have all the answers' and you make sure as you're describing things it's developmentally appropriate," she

Parents might consider creating a time to check in on their kids and teens, suggested Stephens, "to say how are you doing today, how are you feeling right now'?" She encourages parents to ask specific questions about what feelings a kid might have, as opposed to broader questions such as 'how was school'?"

She said being "non-judgmental" in responding to a kid and teen is important. "Validating the feeling regardless of what that feeling might be for them," she said.

Safe spots

Without many extracurriculars and with snowy weather, family living can feel a bit cramped.

Stephens said it's important for families to respect each other's "need for alone time." That also means trying to get outdoors each day for a bit of extra space.

Cox mentioned headsets can be a way for teens to find privacy, or trying a schedule for alone time when bedrooms are shared.

"People do better when they have regular meals, when they have enough sleep and regular exercise."

She encouraged families to talk about "what the structure of a day can be."

Caring for the carers

'We're all doing the best we can," Stephens said. "By caring for ourselves we're also caring for others."

By regulating a parent's own emotions and mental health, that can help support kids too.

"As adults getting our own support is an important piece of that," she said. Cox added that ensuring parents have the time and space to treat themselves, even for half an hour, to something restful. "Netflix, reading, giving yourself a bath, whatever it is," she

Warning signs

A child or teen's mental health sometimes calls for expert help. Stephens said parents should keep an eye out for a change in a child's "baseline. When you're noticing a change in their behaviour in their social functioning in their emotional functioning.'

Cox added that changed sleeping and eating habits can be a sign there are more serious mental health issues at play, as can more anger, or having trouble playing with friends like they once did.

"I would add that there's never a wrong time to reach out for help," Stephens said.

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Highlander community

'Righting a wrong' - murals to go up in June

By Mike Baker

Two new murals depicting esteemed local athletes Taly Williams and Lesley Tashlin will soon be added to Haliburton's sports wall of fame.

The siblings, who grew up in the area and excelled in sports at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School before going on to make a name for themselves professionally, will be recognized after a group of Grade 7/8 students at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School lobbied for their inclusion to the mural wall.

Last spring, the students, flanked by teacher Marina Thomazo, approached Dysart council to ask why the pair of Black athletes hadn't been acknowledged in the same way as hockey stars Bernie Nicholls, Ron Stackhouse, Cody Hodgson and Matt Duchene, and footballer Mike Bradley, who all have images emblazoned on the side of A.J. LaRue Arena.

Tashlin represented Canada at the 1996 Summer Olympics, participating in the women's 4x100 metre relay, while Williams played two seasons in the CFL during the mid 1990s.

"It just goes to show the power of children," said Jim Blake, chair of Dysart's cultural resources committee and one of the figureheads behind the mural movement.

The murals will be installed in June, Blake said. Montreal-based artist Annie Hamel has been commissioned to complete the works. She visited Haliburton in early December,

and has met with Tashlin and Williams virtually to find inspiration for the pieces.

The athletes will play a pivotal role in the process, Blake said, with Hamel set to complete three concepts that the pair will choose from.

"Annie's work is absolutely extraordinary. She was one of two artists we were considering for the project, and it was Lesley and Taly that made the final choice," Blake said. "All artists that applied had to create a concept, and Annie's work really exemplified what they were looking for."

The trio will meet again virtually over the coming weeks to narrow down a final version of the murals. Hamel will need several months to complete the finished works, which will measure 12 foot high and 18.5 foot wide and be done on aluminum panels. The pieces will then be transported to Haliburton and placed on frames on the side of the arena.

Blake said it was important that the murals be mobile in the event that they need to be moved.

All in, the project is expected to cost \$35,000 and will be fully funded through donations. Blake said around 90 people had contributed, most of them local.

An unveiling ceremony is being planned, with Blake aiming to have it take place the same weekend as the grand opening of the new Haliburton Sports Hall of Fame. He hopes to have Williams and Tashlin in attendance.

Thomazo, and many of her students, will



Murals depicting athletes Taly Williams and Lesley Tashlin will be added at A.J. LaRue Arena this summer. *File*.

be there too.

"This has demonstrated what young people are capable of doing when they want to push for actions and changes that reflect the world they live in," Thomazo said. "I look up to this young generation. Their voices make sense and they matter. This journey has taken us on a much grander

path than we anticipated ... now these beautiful murals are only a few months away from being unveiled.

"This heartwarming, feel-good journey has made us all question ourselves on what our present and future world should look like ... I couldn't be any prouder of my students," Thomazo added.





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FOR RENT

APT FOR RENT – 1 Bdrm \$1,000/month, Self-contained bachelor apt. Single person only. Private entrance & deck. Maple Lake area. Heat & Hydro included. No pets, no smoking. References & Credit Check required. Call 705-854-3758

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SERVICES

DRIVEWAY SNOW BLOWING / roof and deck shoveling. Contact by calling or texting 705-457-8784.

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

FOR SALE

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

4 BRIDGESTONE TIRES – 235/45R18 - \$500. Low profile, like new – 1 month old. Call 705-457-9549

WANTED

SCRAP VEHICLES – Cars, trucks, farm equipment. Site cleanup. Contact DW text 705-457-0710

SERVICES

HAS ALCOHOL TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE?

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

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

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

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Gwendolyn Barbara Mae (nee Harrison) Graham

November 30, 1926 – January 8, 2022 Passed away peacefully at West Park Long Term Care, Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 95.

Beloved wife of the late Lavergne Graham. Dear mother of Rhonda Pelshea, Jan Scott-Wood (Ron

Stackhouse) and Leslie Haller (Robert). Loving grandmother of Graham Pelshea (Sarah), Caleb Pelshea, Brenda Mellailieu (Mark), Russell Scott-Wood (Gabby Montenegro), Amelia Haller, Stephanie Haller (John Molloy) and great grandmother of Mya, Taylor Ryleigh, Miles and Easton.

Gwen Graham passed away leaving behind family and friends who loved and admired her wholeheartedly. She taught us all to be kind and put the needs of others before our own, and touched many lives as a result. Gwen's childhood was spent on Boshkung Lake, "growing rocks" on her parents' farm with her big sister Loretta. She moved to Toronto to attend Shaw's Business College, and later worked at Massey Harris, where she met her husband, Lavergne Graham. She became a stay at home mom and raised three daughters (Rhonda, Jan, and Leslie) of whom she was fiercely proud. She was an active participant at Patterson Presbyterian Church in the W.A. and later as an elder. Gwen loved nothing more than her time spent at the cottage, surrounded by family and friends. She was a devoted grandmother — Grannie to all her grandchildren — and she attended more piano and dance recitals, sporting events, and school fundraisers than seems humanly possible. Never one to shy away from hard work, she enjoyed working alongside her sister at Misty River Farm and at the Haliburton County Fair for many years. Gwen was a generous friend and a strong woman; her kind and gentle spirit will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

A Celebration of Gwen's Life was held at St. Anne's Anglican Church, 270 Gladstone Ave., Toronto on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 1:00 pm., a link was available for friends to view the service on the website. A Graveside Interment Service will be held at the Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery, Minden in the spring.

Donations in memory of Gwen can be made to the WAES (Weston Area Emergency Support) https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/weston-area-emergency-support/ or to the Twelve Mile Lake Historical Church (cheques only).

Gwen was a food bank volunteer for many years; Rhonda and Leslie now volunteer at WAES, the food bank in Weston, where they both live.



Montano, Karen Arlene (nee Ferguson)

Devoted grandmother, mother, partner, sister and friend, Karen passed away peacefully on January 5, 2022 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto, at the age of 79.

Karen was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan on November 23, 1942 to Ida and Hugh Ferguson.

Growing up on the Ferguson family farm in Rocanville, she enjoyed telling stories of life before electricity and sleigh rides to school in the dead of winter. An excellent student, she graduated at the top of her class, earning a scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan where she received her Bachelor of Commerce degree. Before returning to the university to teach, she would become a Chartered Accountant, one of the first women in Canada to do so.

Raising her two boys in Toronto, Karen enjoyed travelling, theatre, staying organized and keeping up on current events. She loved a house full of family but also enjoyed time alone, often speaking fondly of the solitude of long days picking raspberries on the farm. She loved to laugh but saved her biggest smiles for stories from her grandchildren.

Despite her interests and professional success, Karen gave much of her energy in support of friends and family. There was always a bed for visiting family, a meal for her children's friends, and a shoulder for anyone having a bad day. She was a source of comfort to all, in good times and bad. Karen was the rock on which many lives were built.

Predeceased by her husband Michael, Karen will be dearly missed by her partner and loving friend David; her sons Matthew and Stephen (Anita); grandchildren Michael, Kennedy, Bobby and Mika; as well as her brothers Stewart (Diana) and Allan

Due to the present restrictions, a Private Family Service will be held. For those who wish to make a donation in her memory, please consider Evangel Hall (www.evangelhall.ca) or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (www.hhhs.ca/foundation or 705-457-1580) Online condolences may be made through www.turnerporter.ca

TheHighlander

It's what everyone's reading

Highlander puzzles

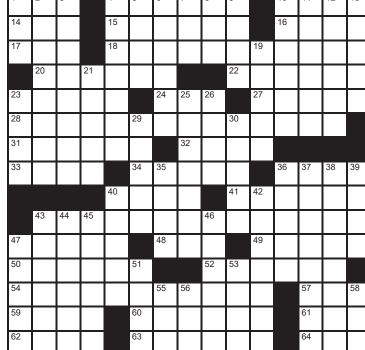


Put Me In, Coach

Across

- 1 Tit-tat connector
- 4 Back on land
- **10** TV guide uncertainties
- **14** Dec. 24 vis-à-vis Dec. 25
- **15** Many a seafaring Newfoundlander, once
- **16** A pop
- **17** Zamboni starter?
- **18** Car model inspired by an olive part?
- **20** Stop for gas
- 22 Guitar string material
- 23 "The Island of the Blue Dolphins" author Scott
- 24 Language suffix, often
- 27 Bartók and Lugosi
- 28 Ugly Atlantic fish?
- **31** Something covered in a vision
- 32 Russian river or range
- 33 Towel word
- 34 Still snoozing
- **36** Forgo sunscreen, perhaps
- **40** To be, in Trois-Rivières
- **41** Early web newsgroup service
- 43 Reaction to the worst comedian?
- "... rock and place"
- 48 Summer hrs. in Ottawa
- 49 Bear, to Caesar
- **50** Harness ring through which the reins pass
- 52 Star of David country
- **54** BMW designed for the Arctic?
- **57** Apply paint with a sponge
- 59 "Auth. unknown"
- **60** Throughout, in music
- **61** Prefix with -cep or -ceratops
- 62 On the CPP, say
- **63** Got in on the game
- 64 Hamburger's "east"

by Barbara Olson © ClassiCanadian Crosswords



- 1 Tasseled topper
- 2 Barbecued too long
- 3 Air Miles user, say
- 4 To a great extent
- 5 It touches your sole
- 6 Globetrotters' home
- 7 Long in the tooth, so to speak
- 8 Ad agent, e.g.
- **9** Peterson of "Corner Gas"
- **10** Wobble on the edge
- **11** Ring for the wrist
- 12 Bona fide
- "Down the hatch" drinks
- **19** Girl asked to "get your elbows off the table," in a rhyme
- 21 Makes a run for it
- 23 "I know! Pick me, teacher!"
- 25 Lightly fried
- 26 Pantyhose shade
- 29 Busybody at a bar mitzvah
- **30** Seriously on the fritz

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35 "Either you ___" ("one of us")

- **36** ___ resemblance (look alike)
- **37** Not familiar with
- **38** They may have their own bar stools
- **39** Extreme degrees
- 40 Indigenous figure of respect
- 42 Talked drunk talk?
- 43 Mr. or Ms. Right
- 44 Red light district lady
- 45 Gofer's task
- 46 Ren's cartoon pal
- 47 "Canadian dollar ___" (U.S.
- **51** Recipe meas.
- 53 Drought-ravaged
- **55** " ... as charming as an ____, Mr. Grinch"
- 56 Dylan's "I ___ Lonesome Hobo"
- **58** Bridle attachment

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Thank You Haliburton.

This year's campaign was the most successful yet!

We had such an outpouring of kindness this year as so many of you made donations, both large and small; right until end of December.

Your generosity ensures that we can continue to provide free meals and much more to those in need going forward.

Thank You.

Gifts from Sirch Heart