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The Highlander

Thursday **February 10 2022** | Issue 527

INSIDE: BELOVED LIBRARIANS START NEW CHAPTERS PAGE 11

FREE



Ice ice baby

Craig Willis powers his car around the oval at the Minden fairgrounds Feb. 5 as ice racing made a return. See the story on page 18. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Highlands East morphing into Muskoka: CBO

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East chief building official Laurie Devolin said what happened in Muskoka a decade ago now appears to be happening in Highlands East when it comes to building activity.

She made the comment when presenting a 10-year building activity report to a Feb. 8 council meeting.

Her annual comparisons and statistics indicated that while there were not substantial jumps in the number of permits

issued from 2012-2021, the construction values increased considerably.

For example, 174 permits were issued in 2012, worth a little over \$10.4 million. In 2021, there were 216 permits, with a construction value of just under \$43 million. Coun. Cec Ryall noticed the nuance.

"The actual number of permits that are being issued, although it's higher, it's not that much higher so I'm going to assume for the sake of argument that the value of the properties is what's driving the numbers," he asked Devolin.

She said there were a lot more dwellings, including permanent dwellings and cottages, as well as some significant additions.

"It seems that what happened in Muskoka a decade ago, everything is moving in this direction," she said.

"So, there's a lot of planning for people taking down old cottages and building new ones, people wanting to move here for retirement, making cottages into their permanent dwellings, so lots of work required to do that."

She noted COVID-19 had driven up material costs but it was also a case of higher-end construction.

"The little 700 sq. ft. house and 400 sq. ft. cottage just isn't the norm anymore. We have significantly increased the value of what's being constructed in Highlands East, so that drives the construction value up."

Ryall then asked Devolin if she foresaw any challenges with service delivery.

She said in 2021, her department was

Continued **'Record-breaking'** on page 2

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Highlander news

Dysart waste study results 'encouraging'

By Mike Baker

The first of a four-part waste composition study in Dysart et al found that each municipal household averages 641 kilograms of garbage and recycling per year, and that 29.16 per cent of all waste is successfully diverted from landfills and recycled.

Environmental manager John Watson provided his report to council Feb. 8. The municipality contracted AET Group to carry out the study, with the first stage taking place at the Haliburton landfill Jan. 12 to 14. There, staff collected garbage and recycling from 65 residences, representing 609 waste generation days.

Looking at the data, Watson said 69.36 per cent of all plastic recycling collected was considered acceptable, with 25.98 per cent classified as garbage, 9.75 per cent being non-acceptable plastics such as film and large pails, and 5.16 per cent deemed to be "other waste," namely clothes hangers, wood and meat pads.

More encouraging, 85.42 per cent of all paper recycling collected was deemed acceptable. "Most people are recycling their papers correctly," Watson noted. Around 9.35 per cent of items placed in paper recycling was classed as garbage and 5.22 per cent as recycling that should have been placed in with plastics.

Watson said that 90 per cent of all garbage collected ended up in the right place,

with 5.85 per cent of items belonging in plastic recycling and 4.13 per cent in paper recycling.

Misplaced garbage and recycling costs Dysart thousands of dollars annually, Watson said. While he was encouraged by the numbers reported through this first event, he told council it was important the township continues to promote proper recycling and sorting habits.

"When you look at this report, I think we're doing a heck of a good job," said deputy mayor Pat Kennedy.

Ministry investigating

Jeff Iles, Dysart's director of planning and land information, said several provincial and federal ministries are actively investigating wetlands along Gelert Road after a local property owner's desire to develop the land caused uproar in the community last month.

Several environmental activists sounded the alarm, as reported in the Jan. 27 edition of *The Highlander*, after a piece of the wetland was filled early in the new year. The issue came to council Jan. 25, with officials directing staff to get further information on what was going on at the site.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada reported they intend to assess the site in the spring, when water levels are high, to determine if there has been any evidence of loss of fish habitat due to the filling. Ontario's Ministry



AET Group staffers William Vega and Tomi Ladele. *Submitted.*

of Environment, Conservation and Parks say they have consulted with the landowner, who has voluntarily agreed to stop filling at the site until a habitat assessment is completed and reviewed.

While the township does not currently have any bylaws in place preventing this kind of thing from happening again in the

future, Iles said it's always a good idea to first reach out to municipal officials to receive a second opinion before proceeding with any significant project on your property.

"We are a good starting point and can provide direction to the appropriate approval authority," Iles said.

Record-breaking building activity around County

Continued from page 1

taxed around the volume of work that came in, but they have good systems in place.

"I don't foresee there being any issues with service delivery at this point, we'll see how it goes along, as it gets busier in summer," she said.

In the report, Devolin also indicated that building inspections were fairly even over the 10-year period. It was about the same for zoning compliance letters and total building infractions and files resolved.

When it comes to septic permits, between 2014-2021, there was a marked increase. In 2014, there were 68 permits issued, while in 2021 it was 123. The number of inspections climbed to 255 last year, from 71 in 2015.

So far in 2022, she said there's been lots of permit applications for building and septic. They've already issued two building permits and "have a few in the wings."

She noted the construction value is also considerably higher, already at just under

\$2 million for the new year, compared to just over \$27,000 this time last year.

"It looks like it's going to be another busy year for us."

A bit of a boom

Meanwhile, Dysart's chief building official also provided an update to his council at a Feb. 8 meeting.

Karl Korpela said 2021 was a record-breaking year for development in the township, with 607 building permits being issued throughout the year and new

construction values soaring to more than \$98 million.

Korpela said those numbers had much to do with the number of new seasonal residences being built on area lakes in the past 12 months.

"People are building substantially larger cottages. Before, we would usually see one or two monster cottages go up in a year, this year there's been a lot of them," Korpela said. "People are spending money here in Dysart, and that's not a bad thing." (with files from Mike Baker).



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Highlander news

Legion and rinks get provincial money

By Mike Baker

MPP Laurie Scott was in Haliburton Feb. 3 to announce more than \$260,000 in provincial funding for two local organizations.

The Haliburton Legion will be receiving \$104,100 to help cover several facility upgrades, while Dysart et al township is getting \$162,000 to renovate two outdoor rinks into multi-purpose courts for hockey, pickleball and basketball.

The money is being filtered into Haliburton through Ontario's Community Building Fund. In total, the program is supporting 186 municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit tourism, culture, sport and recreation organizations experiencing significant pressures due to COVID-19. Scott noted around \$105 million is to be invested through the fund this year.

"This funding will help address much-needed upgrades and repairs so community members can continue to enjoy outdoor sports facilities and the services our local Legion offers," Scott said.

Legion president Don Pitman said the money would be used to replace windows (\$17,000), purchase a new outdoor digital sign (\$17,000), upgrade the building's water filtration system (\$2,000) and its heating and air conditioning system (\$65,000).

The big-ticket heating and A/C item was "an absolute must" according to Pitman, who received a \$6,000 hydro bill in

December due to the current system failing and the back-up, electric powered system kicking in.

Dysart CAO Tamara Wilbee said the money Dysart is receiving will be used at the Harcourt and West Guilford outdoor rinks to upgrade the surface, fencing, and lighting at the pads.

Minden, County receive money too

Scott said two projects brought forward by the County of Haliburton and Minden Hills township would receive approximately \$180,000 in funding through the Municipal Modernization Program.

The County will receive \$101,760 for its paramedic service master plan, while Minden Hills is getting \$81,357 for HR information system modernization.

"For some time now, Haliburton has been experiencing substantially increased call volumes, pressures associated with transfers for diagnostics, as well as managing the new community paramedicine program. Given the changing atmosphere we have found the need to carefully study our management structure, assess our existing bases and determine where additional resources will be required," said County warden Liz Danielsen. "Haliburton has seen considerable growth, and we need to carve out the best path to move forward and continue to offer exemplary service to our residents."



Past president Paul Sisson and Laurie Scott. Photo by Mike Baker.

The Ontario government is distributing \$28 million to 322 small and rural municipalities through the first batch of 2022 MMP funding.

Funding for agriculture

Around \$1 million will be made available to various agricultural and horticultural societies across Ontario in the coming weeks, as the province looks to assist organizations still impacted by the pandemic.

Base support funding of \$1,000 will be issued to all eligible societies to support

their continued incorporation and upcoming activities, with new "hardship funding" available to those that have been most impacted. Applications will be assessed based on gate revenues for 2019. Successful applicants will be able to use the money to offset operating losses, liabilities and fixed overhead costs related to land and buildings.

Money will be distributed to eligible societies before March 31, according to Lisa Thompson, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs.

OPP NEWS

Charges after stolen vehicle crashes

Two Dysart residents are charged with multiple offences after crashing a stolen vehicle in Highlands East Feb. 1.

OPP officers and paramedics responded to a single-vehicle collision on Essonville Line shortly after 8 a.m. The car involved in the accident had been reported stolen in the GTA. Police report that both occupants fled the scene before they arrived.

A police emergency response team and K9 unit located both people, who were sent to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

A 31-year-old from Dysart was charged with operation while impaired, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, driving while under suspension, failure to remain at the scene and failure to report an accident. They're scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden April 6.

A 44-year-old from Dysart et al was charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, possession of break-in instruments, failure to comply with release order and possession of ammunition contrary to a prohibition order.

Man killed in snowmobile accident

OPP say the man killed in a Feb. 2 snowmobile accident in Dysart et al was Robert Hubers, 58, of Leaskdale.

Police responded about 12:30 p.m. after being contacted by Haliburton County Paramedic Services (EMS) to the single snowmobile collision on OFSC trail E109. The Highlands East fire department also attended.

OPP technical collision investigators and collision reconstructionists were on scene to assist as was The Office of the Chief

Coroner for Ontario.

The investigation is continuing and Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705 286-1431.

"Snowmobilers are reminded to use caution at all times," OPP said in a news release. "Snowmobiling is an off-road activity that occurs in an unpredictable and uncontrollable natural environment. The OPP is committed to saving lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through the reduction of preventable injury and death." (OPP news compiled by Lisa Gervais and Sam Gillett).

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Highlander news



Algonquin Highlands fire chief Mike French asked that council increase firefighter pay this year. *Submitted.*

Council defers decision on firefighter pay

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands fire chief Mike French proposed new firefighter remuneration rates to council Feb. 3, calling for an increase in pay for experienced members and a decrease for new recruits.

Currently, all volunteer firefighters in Algonquin Highlands make \$20.51 per hour. This is the highest rate in Haliburton County, French noted. In his report to council, he proposed increases to members holding down the positions of acting captain (up to \$22.01), captain (\$23.51) and

district chief (\$25.01), while recommending untrained new recruits be bumped down to \$16 per hour.

French also asked that firefighters be paid a minimum of two hours' pay for each callout.

The changes would represent an increase of \$9,294.50 in the fire department's budget in 2022.

Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen wasn't a fan of the proposal. She said she wouldn't support a pay decrease for new recruits, and called on Algonquin Highlands to be

"local leaders" in establishing fair pay for volunteer firefighters.

"I've suffered two house fires in my life and have firsthand experience of how much our firefighters do for us. At risk of upsetting the budget appletart, I have an issue with a reduction here," Danielsen said. "In the city, firefighters get paid almost \$50 per hour. I understand all firefighters have to maintain the same level of training, that's a big spread for me.

"I'd like to see us be leaders and do more beyond what is being recommended here,"

she added.

CAO Angie Bird noted firefighters have typically received a cost-of-living increase from the municipality, after being asked by Danielsen. French's proposal would see that annual review maintained.

Given the request to change the minimum callout pay, Bird asked that council defer making a final decision until she's able to calculate how much that would cost, and how big of an implication it would have on the 2022 budget. The issue will be coming back later next month.

INFORMATION PAGE

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Notice of Public Meeting

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding two Public Meetings at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2022 during its Meeting of Council via web conference regarding its Fees and Charges By-law; and the 2022 fees for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails. More information will be provided at a later date.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

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

February 10 – Regular Council Meeting

February 24 – Regular Council Meeting

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

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

Highlander news

Maple Lake United Church slated for closure

By Lisa Gervais

Maple Lake United Church (MLUC) will be closing after members voted on Jan. 30 to disband the congregation effective Feb. 28.

Rev. Max Ward and the church's trustees, in a letter to members, adherents and friends, dated Feb. 7, shared the news "with regret."

Ward said all church matters after Feb. 28 would be administered by the trustees with the support of the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

He added there would be a final closing church service "perhaps in July 2022 as COVID-19 restrictions permit, and will be held indoors and/or outdoors on the church lawn."

Ward said Highland Hills United Church (HHUC) has invited anyone to be part of their worshipping community and welcomes all to transfer their membership. A new members and adherents service will be held Sunday, Feb. 27 via Zoom. Memberships will be transferred automatically unless people advise otherwise by Feb. 20. "Many other area churches would welcome your presence in addition to HHUC," he said.

Items in the church are being catalogued and a new home, or homes are being considered.

Ward said they also need to decide what to do with the land and building at the corner of Hwy. 118 and Stanhope Airport Road.



Rev. Max Ward at Maple Lake United Church. *File.*

"The MLUC Trustees are currently exploring options and working with the East Central Ontario Regional Council to finalize matters," he said.

The closure comes after the church put out an SOS in November.

At that time, Rev. Ward said they were

hopeful that with a bit of awareness, the church might be able to continue for many years to come "but the current outlook isn't good without an infusion of more people to help with the volunteer work and financial support needed to operate the church."

A few years ago, Zion United Church,

Minden United Church and MLUC were in talks to amalgamate. Maple Lake opted out at that time but Minden and Zion did amalgamate. The Zion church and property were sold. The Maple Lake United Church was erected in 1901.

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Highlander news

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HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Break-ins to landfills

Public works operations supervisor Brett Charboneau said he would like the township to look into possibly getting security cameras for its landfills.

He said it was looked at before and council had a quote from a few years ago. He said they now have solar panel cameras with battery backups. He said they would have to ensure compliance with privacy requirements.

His calls come after break-ins at the landfills.

"We are having problems with people breaking into the landfills, entering after hours. We've had some damages to gates and some damages to the shacks and that type of thing," he told council.

Water conservation urged in Cardiff

Highlands East had to issue a boil water advisory in Cardiff from Feb. 3-5.

Environmental supervisor Megan Lockwood said it was due to a loss of power at the Cardiff drinking water system, due to an unknown fault on the generator. She said they lost power and pressure to distribution systems.

She added a diesel mechanic was brought in to look at the generator and they fixed a suspected fuel problem.

"So, we've been running the generator more frequently since then and will be

implementing more frequent testing," she told council at its Feb. 8 meeting.

She noted they are experiencing high flows on the system, equivalent to high summertime flows and their treatment system is getting to the point of having a hard time keeping up with that.

She said staff are looking for possible leaks but also putting together an awareness campaign for residents about water use and conservation practices as well as identifying leaks on their own systems.

For example, she said some people might be running taps to keep pipes from freezing but they only need a very small velocity of water, about the diameter of a pencil, for that.

Council passes 2022 budget

Highlands East council passed the township's 2022 budget.

The budget calls for an additional \$146,232 from 2021. That equates to a 1.48 per cent municipal tax rate increase. It means about a \$7.50 hike for every \$100,000 of assessment.

Mayor Dave Burton said he was hopeful the township would come in under two per cent so the end result was "very pleasing for me." He added it was a "fair and workable" budget. Coun. Cam McKenzie and Cecil Ryall agreed.

"It's hard to believe we're holding it at 1.4 but that's awesome," Ryall said.



Highlands East chief administrative officer and treasurer Shannon Hunter guided council through the 2022 budget during a Feb. 8 meeting. *File.*

Company chosen for election

Highlands East is the fourth local council to award the RFP for its internet and telephone voting for the 2022 municipal and school board election to ScytL.

Council awarded the RFP in the

approximate amount of \$2.75 plus HST per voter.

Hunter said a kickoff meeting will be held in the near future with the clerks and ScytL representatives in order to define objectives, review election details and training needs and to coordinate integration with Datafix. (*Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais.*)

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Highlander news

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Top: Organizer Scott Danilko speaks to the convoy in Minden Feb. 5. Bottom: Trucks lead the convoy in Minden Feb. 5.
Photos by Lisa Gervais.

County convoy about 'hope'

By Lisa Gervais

The leader of a Haliburton County convoy said his decision to start an online group that attracted 125 vehicles to a rally Feb. 5 was more about hope than science.

Scott Danilko and his wife Penny went to Ottawa Jan. 29 to see for themselves what was going on with the convoy there. They took their children, aged nine and 11, and a four-year-old grandchild, and Danilko said "I felt as safe as anywhere."

Walking through the crowd gathered around Parliament Hill, he added, "it gave me reassurance that there's hope. It was exhilarating."

That prompted him to start a local Facebook page to see if anyone was interested in a convoy from Minden to Haliburton.

It attracted more than 125 vehicles and they are planning to do it again this Saturday, Feb. 12.

"To show support for the convoys in Ottawa and Toronto and other cities around Canada," Danilko said of his motivation in an interview.

Asked about his beliefs, he added, "I believe everybody should have freedom of choice and not be mandated to be vaccinated."

It was pointed out that people can choose whether or not to be vaccinated but that choice comes with consequences such as vaccine passports.

"I'm against that," he responded.

He was then asked about agencies such as Health Canada and the Centre for Disease Control in the U.S. saying vaccines, masks and other COVID-19 regulations are working.

He said it was "bull crap ... because the numbers went higher this winter than they were even at the start of the pandemic. We were into the thousands and thousands and people were vaccinated and wearing masks."

The Highlander asked what science he had to the contrary of Health Canada and the CDC. He did not have any.

He then went on to say he did not support children having to be masked, saying he did not have to wear a mask when he was

in school. He added it is counterproductive since they remove their masks to eat their lunches. He doesn't agree with children having to be vaccinated against COVID-19 either. When Danilko was in school there was not a pandemic. Asked whether his children were vaccinated against other childhood illnesses, such as chicken pox, he said they were. However, Penny noted it was one vaccine, not two and a booster with the possibility of more to come.

Danilko said while he did not have scientific facts, he simply was able to get a group going online, a group that could probably be labelled "a fringe minority," he conceded.

"It makes some people feel good about everything that has gone on in the last two years. It's been all doom and gloom. It gives them some hope. It brings a small fringe of people a little bit of happiness. I feel good about it. And it is to support the ones in Ottawa and at Queen's Park, to just let them know they are not the only ones being a part of this."



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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

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Covering the fringe

Half-a-dozen readers complained about our Feb. 3 edition - in particular, a story about two local truckers who attended the 'Freedom Convoy' in Ottawa, and a small group of protestors rallying against a mask mandate at a local elementary school.

"While I am a firm believer in freedom of speech and the freedom of the press, two articles this week went too far," one wrote.

She wanted to know how in good conscious we could give a platform to the man, whose co-truckers, she said, were carrying Nazi and Confederate flags?

As for the school, she conjectured some of the protestors were vehement anti-vaxxers without science-based information. She wanted to know if we'd interviewed them and asked the right questions.

Another wrote, "how disappointing to see a whole-page spread for an anti-vaccine protester and also an article with a picture of the four anti-mask people protesting at one of our local schools. It seems you are having trouble coming up with some real news stories."

We appreciate feedback and it gives us pause to ask the same questions of ourselves.

At *The Highlander*, we believe it is important to present as many sides to a story as we can, and hopefully enough information so that the reader can make up

his or her own mind about anything.

In doing so, we also feel it holds up a mirror to our community, to reflect what is going on. We know there is a divide over COVID-19 and its handling. The majority back public health measures. A fringe does not. Does that mean we simply ignore the fringe? Pretend it's not going on?

We don't think it's an option. It would be like not covering a People's Party of Canada local candidate because the majority has discounted this candidate's views. Censoring that person, or the 'Freedom Convoy'-types in our community only opens the door to us being accused of suppressing the news, being part of the conspiracy, fuelling more fire for their social media platforms. We feel it is best to have it out in the open, rather than tiptoe around it.

Another reader told us it was "refreshing" to see another side presented. Another applauded the truckers for taking part in the Ottawa protests. Yet another said while it was unfortunate we had to cover these things, at least we'd done it well.

Is it uncomfortable covering so-called fringe groups? It sure is. I attended the local 'Freedom Convoy' gathering outside Kawartha Dairy Saturday morning because, like it or not, it was news. There was a large crowd gathered. I was the only one wearing

a mask. Did I agree with them? No. Was I doing my job? Yes.

And if you read these stories, for example the protesters outside the elementary school last week, you'll note we quoted them and then followed each quote with contradictory information from reputable sources. We did the same with today's page 7 story. In our opinion, that is good journalism. We are not simply offering a platform to the fringe, but challenging their beliefs. Could we do a better job. Of course.

And, let's not forget, nearly every week we provide a platform to Dr. Nell Thomas via her COVID corner.

We know how divisive this issue has become. It has separated some of us from family, friends, acquaintances and co-workers. We don't agree on COVID-19 rules. We don't have to. But we have to respect our rights to have different opinions. And it wouldn't be prudent for local media to allow their personal biases to stop them from covering viewpoints that they don't necessarily agree with.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

All hail vaccines!

History repeats itself. Which is helpful if you pay attention. After two years and three waves of the "Spanish (1918) Flu," in early January 1920 many were relaxing masks, quarantine, and travel, and feeling optimistic. Mistake. By the end of that month New York City, Chicago and many other cities that let their guard down experienced a devastating fourth wave. Assuming the people infected in previous waves would be immune and that this variant's surge would be milder was a grave error.

And the battle to be "released" from safety measures responsible for infection control was in full swing, too. One San Francisco city health inspector shot a blacksmith in a fight to enforce the city's mask mandate. "The Mask Ordinance" signed by San Francisco's mayor made it the first American city requiring face coverings, four layers thick. A few days later, a blacksmith stood in front of a drugstore urging a crowd to throw away their masks. When the city health inspector tried to lead the man into the pharmacy to buy a mask he was struck with a sack of silver dollars, knocked down and "pummeled," at which point he fired four times with a revolver.

But the mask ordinance held. Penalties for

violators were fines of \$5, \$10, or up to 10 days' imprisonment. Newspapers reported that city prisons were standing room only.

Political battles over COVID-19 appear to be no different, with some insisting that the enemies doing them harm are other humans not the virus itself.

The 1918 flu is still with us; pieces of its genome exist in modern influenza outbreaks, making it another "forever virus" like SARS-COV-2, say the virologists. Our annual flu vaccines protect us from the mass death toll seen from 1918-1920.

Look at the vaccine data hot off the press. Americans with booster shots are 97 times less likely to die from coronavirus than the unvaccinated, reports the CDC. People with up to two doses - but no booster - are 14 times less likely to die from COVID-19 than unvaccinated. The number of average weekly deaths for unvaccinated was 9.7 per 100,000 people, compared with 0.7 of vaccinated, and 0.1 of those with a booster.

Vaccination for pregnant - and planning to get pregnant - women is especially important. Two recent studies show zero risk of infertility in either males or females from vaccines. Fertility did fall temporarily in men with coronavirus, however, and couples were 18 per cent less likely to

conceive if the male contracted coronavirus before his partner's menstrual cycle.

Complications of COVID in pregnancy can be serious, and vaccines are shown to reduce risk significantly. Pregnant women have a higher incidence of requiring intubation or supplemental oxygen or requiring premature delivery. According to the CDC, pregnant women with COVID-19 are more likely to deliver babies before 37 weeks or experience a stillbirth. A peer-reviewed study in Scotland published last month (journal Nature Medicine) found unvaccinated pregnant women who contract COVID-19 are more likely to be hospitalized, and their newborns have increased risk of dying within the first month after birth. The risk of stillbirth or neonatal death among babies born to unvaccinated women infected with COVID-19 was more than four times higher than those for babies born among the general population.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION?

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

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Mike Young sent this photo of a Barred Owl feeding near Carnarvon.

LETTERS

Short-term rental horse already bolted

Dear editor,

Once again, I extend my sincere gratitude to *The Highlander* staff and its commitment to informing our community on issues that matter to us all.

In response to Mayor Moffat's comments concerning the short-term rental situation, I would start by saying that the metaphor "cash cow" is defined as a business investment or product that provides a steady income or profit with very low maintenance. Anyone who has ever managed a short-term rental property would tell you they are anything but low maintenance.

Notwithstanding that, starting this process now when it's clear that the local short-term rental market is well-established and strong is likely to prove as futile as a shoreline bylaw after everyone has completed their modifications and charging development fees after all the lakefront property in the County has been developed. Our local governments have failed to take timely action on all these issues they should have seen coming many years ago.

I understand that the horse has also already left the barn on the issue of the community policing advisory committee

as well. As reported by the editor of *The Highlander*, despite comments by Minden Hills councillor Pam Sayne, they voted to load the committee with politicians; four mayors or reps, warden, and one provincial rep and only one rep appointed by the County. What I take particular offense to are Mayor Moffat's inferences that community members may not be able to make fiscally responsible decisions or that they may not understand the complexity of the job. She also implied they may not be able to understand privacy concerns! Really? Does she think that little of the mental capacities of her constituents or the County's abilities to choose qualified candidates? I wonder if she's forgotten that she was once a mere well-meaning member of the community as well?

Cindy Thistle
Minden Hills

Convoy not a 'fairy tale'

Dear editor,

I was quite dismayed when I read Mike Baker's story about McColl Logging and Jason's misadventure in Ottawa.

The mandate of the Freedom Convoy is the "dissolution of Canadian Parliament!"

Really? Canada is a democracy. If one chooses to not be vaccinated or wear a mask, Canadian taxpayers will pay for your

hospital stay, when you become ill and perhaps die.

I ask you, why should my tax dollars fund your hospital stay? Your death will be considered preventable.

Most Canadians have had the common sense to wear a mask and get vaccinated.

This story supports the "fairy tale" that Wellington Street is a fun place to be.

No, it is not. Illegal buildings being built along with fires in barrels? Hygiene is obviously lacking.

Watch CBC and listen to Ottawa Mayor Watson and consider those who cannot sleep or go to work. This is unacceptable.

I ask that you look at the other side, not the rainbow that Mike Baker portrayed.

Marilyn Hewitt
West Guilford

Listen to the experts

Dear editor,

The juxtaposition of two of the articles in last week's *Highlander* with a third is glaring.

The first was the trucker, extolling his diesel fumed, horn blaring "kumbaya" experience in Ottawa during last week's ongoing occupation of parts of the downtown coupled with the anti-mask demonstration in front of Minden's elementary school (really?), then starkly

contrasted by the ongoing efforts of the HKPR District Health Unit to encourage everyone over the age of five to complete their course of COVID vaccinations at any one of many clinics over the next few weeks.

So much time, effort and money has been expended to bridge this remarkable, incomprehensible divide. One-hundred-and-seventy-one Canadians died from COVID on Thursday, Feb. 3. The equivalent of an Airbus A320 crashing. The day before it was 175. If planes were falling out of the sky at this rate, would you be going to the airport?

Please, listen to the experts and consider the rest of us ... wear a mask and get your shots.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

Extremely disappointed

Dear editor,

Wow. I was utterly shocked that you provided a platform for people supporting the Freedom/Trucker Convoy, and anti-maskers in your paper last week.

I am a long-time *Highlander* reader and can't believe you would support and provide space for this.

Where are the articles talking about how

Continued on page 10

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Continued from page 9

successful vaccines are, how masking is a preventative measure, like a seat belt or sunscreen? You know, things proven and based on research and science.

Instead, you publish about a trucker supporting a rally where people marched with Nazi flags? If the far-right Nazi movement can attach themselves to your "cause" or "movement" guess what .. it's not a good one!

At this point, two years into a pandemic everyone should be a part of the solution, not angry because of the minor inconvenience of a mask or having to get a vaccine. You don't want the vaccine that is being provided to protect and provide public safety ... fine, but mandates are by employers and the provincial government. Get another job where you don't need to be vaccinated or better yet, stay home. To participate in society, you have to be willing to help and protect the most vulnerable in that society. When did Canada become a society of me and not, we?

Articles showcasing people's personal opinions, with absolutely zero science-based fact is just dangerous and irresponsible of your publication. I'd like articles showing what the death rate would be without masking and without vaccines.

Jennifer Strype
Algonquin Highlands

Convoy not bringing normalcy back to Ottawa

Dear editor,

Regarding article "Haliburton trucker makes trip to Ottawa."

I think it is safe to say that we are all tired of the lockdowns, masks, and anti-social consequences that we have all lived through due to COVID over the past two years. We all want it to come to an end.

But, I find it both sad and misguided when Mr. McColl participates in the current "Freedom Convoy" and then states "people just want to get back to some sort of normal".

Tell that to the thousands of innocent Ottawa citizens that have been held captive for the past week due to protest activity in their back yard. Some businesses downtown had to close temporarily - not due to COVID - but due to the protesters.

The mind-blowing horn honking. The clogged streets. Not to mention the extremely unforgivable bad behavior by a

"fringe" element of the protest group.

Just pretend for a minute that all of this was happening in front of your own home and perhaps these protesters might consider a more civilized way of expressing their displeasure.

I respect the fact that everyone has a right to an opinion and the right to protest peacefully. But this protest is breaking a number of laws and is creating more of a problem than a solution. It is just making a bad situation worse for many innocent people in the line of sight of the "Freedom Convoy".

John Bucholski

Refreshing

Dear editor,

How refreshing to hear the other side of the story. A hearty thank you goes out to all involved in reporting the "overwhelmingly positive" experiences shared by Kevin McColl and John McNeil following their attendance at the 'Freedom Convoy'.

Marilyn Whittaker
Haliburton

Time for other health strategies

Dear editor,

In Response to Dr. Nell's article dated Feb. 3, 2022.

Yes, an endemic upper respiratory virus with flu-like symptoms is far from harmless, but the public health strategy to combat the virus can clearly be seen is not working.

There are more cases than ever, two years into the pandemic. The science shows that the present boosters do not protect against the Omicron BA-1, BA-2 variants of SARS-CoV-2. The virus is dodging the mRNA gene-therapy treatments for the original viral infection.

There is research to show that vaccination may in fact fuel viral mutations. Mass vaccination for this virus, SARS-CoV-2, has proven to be unsustainable, unrealistic and plain not working.

Early treatment and preventive strategies that the public can use at home are essential now.

Children have next to zero mortality rates for the virus. What is the rush to inject children with shots for Omicron by June

when the virus may have already mutated to another strain?

Vulnerable populations are known and can be given extra care.

Teaching people how to treat the virus at home will keep people out of the hospitals.

It is time for other health strategies to be rolled out including a public health campaign on how to develop a strong healthy immune system.

Darlene Buckingham
Tory Hill

Not protesters but occupiers

Dear editor,

In response to Don Outram's question "why now?" on protesting the infilling of the wetland on Gelert Road, it was because of the extremely high likelihood of one or more hibernating turtles being buried alive.

In response to Beverly MacDuff's letter, in her opening sentence she states the federal government "rejected the idea [of an equity tax] altogether" but then proceeds to complain about it as if they hadn't. She says it would cost the average homeowner "\$1,000/year" which is completely false - only 13 per cent of Ontario homes would be affected by such a tax, hardly the average person. But it's all moot cause they're not doing it so why print this rubbish? (canadianmortgagetrends.com/2022/01/cmhc-backed-report-calls-for-annual-surtax-on-homes-valued-at-1m/)

In response to Mike Baker's article on Kevin McColl and John McNeil going to occupy Ottawa, I hope this week Mike's article will cover the illegality of this occupation, the white supremacists and anti-democracy figures behind it, and interview an Ottawa resident or two about what their life is like under this occupation. The occupiers are blocking emergency vehicles and public transport. Workplaces are shut down. BIPOC people are afraid to walk the streets. The occupiers are building some kind of house across the street from city hall, including a huge cache of propane and gasoline (petitpetitgamin.com/en/2022/02/03/protesters-in-ottawa-are-building-a-house-in-front-of-city-hall/0). They drink on the streets and smoke indoors, and obviously none of them are wearing a mask. These people are not protesters, they are occupiers, and what they are doing is completely against the law.

Please make sure to state that in any further coverage.

Keli Schmidt
Donald

Higher education of common sense?

Dear editor,

The subject article on the County's new community safety and well-being plan apparently describes the people of Haliburton as, among other things, "not quite as educated" as the provincial average.

I have been a seasonal resident in Haliburton for over 40 years now, and have met so many wonderful people over the years who may not have had the opportunity for a college or university education, but who are the wisest and friendliest people you will ever meet.

From the local store merchants, their staff, the guys in the lumber yard, the contractors who have done wonderful work for us on our cottage, restaurant staff and so many others, to the other people you meet on the streets of town, education is irrelevant and should stop being included when describing a community.

I know - and you do too - many, many, people who are "highly educated" but in truth have absolutely zero common sense. They don't have a clue. Some, in fact are much worse than that.

They are the WKB's (We Know Best), the so-called educated elites who comprise our current federal government and far too many other political positions at all levels across this country. The ones who are in it for themselves, for the pensions and for the prestige (and let's not forget all those photo ops).

What we need instead are grassroots people who will talk to others and make informed decisions in the best interest of the community/province/country as a whole, not based solely on polling and their chances of re-election.

(And I congratulate Kevin McColl and John McNeil for participating in the Freedom Convoy to Ottawa.)

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

The Highlander welcomes all contributions, however we wish to remind readers of the following:

Letters to the editor policy

- Letters should be exclusive to *The Highlander*. We do not publish letters also addressed to other media outlets, open letters, letters to third parties, or cc'd letters.
- Letters must be signed with first and last name and home town. We also need an address and phone number for verification. The address and phone number won't be published. We do not run anonymous letters.
- Letters must be a maximum of 300 words. If submitted at greater length, they will be returned for editing.
- *The Highlander* may still edit for length and clarity. • *The Highlander* has the right not to publish letters.

Social media policy

The Highlander expects respectful debate in Facebook and Twitter comments. We reserve the right to hide or delete posts, and to block commenters, if necessary.

Highlander news

Retiring librarians will miss the patrons

By Sam Gillett

The Gooderham and Dysart branches of the Haliburton County Public Library will look a bit different in 2022.

That's because two of the longest-serving staff members have moved on to new adventures.

Vicki Fraser and Marilyn Billings have retired; Fraser after 22 years with the Dysart branch and Billings after 41 years in Gooderham.

Billings started at what was then called the Glamorgan Library in 1980.

"I never thought of it as a career," she said, "it was just something I loved doing."

Starting at two hours a week, Billings enjoyed developing a vibrant calendar of monthly events.

She recalled everything from pumpkin carving night, pumpkin seeds found in books days later, to multiple craft nights and coordinating a heritage display showcasing old-fashioned devices such as ice-cream makers, laundry tubs and even a butter churner.

Billings said she was especially proud of the annual Authors' Day which began in 2001 after she began noticing how many great authors called the Highlands home. "That was a personal interest of mine: I wanted to know who our local authors were," she said.

Once, a cottager suggested they host a ukulele club.

"Let's give it a try and see what happens," Billings said. The club went on to gather multiple enthusiastic members who play the ukulele to this day.

She said customer service was her favourite part of library work. Mingling with the patrons or "leading them to a real good book you've read yourself. That really makes a difference," Billings said.

Fraser said the people that visit the library made her job rewarding.

"I hope I have encouraged a lifelong love of reading and learning for patrons both young and old in our community," she said.

"All of my patrons from the old branch to my new branch have been so kind, generous and made each day a joy for me. Libraries are all about the people, and Dysart branch has the best people ever. It is the people I will miss the most and I am forever grateful for our time together." Fraser thanked Sandre and Brian Daoust for a note in *The Highlander* recognizing her service and CEO Chris Stephenson who she said went "an extra mile to make me feel valued and missed as I begin my new journey."

Fraser said library work suited her from the start. "The first day I started I fell in love with the whole thing: you can have a ton and a half of books but it's about the people," she said.

"People are generous, they're thoughtful, if you're stuck on the side of the road, five people will stop to help you."

Fraser was known for her book



Left: Vicki Fraser. Right: Marilyn Billings. Submitted.

recommendations. One co-worker suggested she might be the "Oprah of the Library."

"I would promote a book, and they'd have to run out and buy five more, six more copies," Fraser said.

Those around the community noticed Fraser's dedication to library patrons. She was awarded a customer-first employee award from the Haliburton Chamber of Commerce in 2015. "That was fabulous," she said.

While both women worked with books,

magazines, newspapers and later e-books, audiobooks and computers, it was the people who walked through the door who defined their careers.

"It's about the people: the people who run the businesses in town, it's one of those things where I loved what I was doing, the people and the patrons," Fraser said.

Billings said the community expanded beyond year-round residents too. "The people who came back to their cottages for the summer were just as part of our family as the year-round community."



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Haliburton County Huskies forward Christian Stevens tips the puck narrowly wide during the second period of Friday's 3-2 road victory over the Lindsay Muskies. The game was the blue and white's first in over a month after the OJHL went on pause throughout January. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Huskies win in big return, drop next two

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies returned to winning ways Feb. 4, recording a late 3-2 victory over the Lindsay Muskies as the OJHL returned to action.

Making the trip down Hwy. 35, the Huskies looked like a team with something to prove during the opening period, running a high-pace, physical game that the Muskies struggled to match.

The team's top line of Oliver Tarr, Patrick Saini and Christian Stevens saw lots of minutes as they kept the Muskies penned in their own end. Jack Staniland went close to giving the Huskies a deserved lead at the mid-point of the first, with a drive from the point striking the post.

As the period drew to a close, Muskies defenceman Logan Maunder threw a hit on Huskies forward Nicholas Athanasakos. The pair exchanged words and dropped the gloves, with Maunder getting the better of the exchange. With Athanasakos prone on the ice, his helmet having come off, Maunder threw another haymaker to the back of his head. Rushing to the aid of his

downed teammate, Sam Solarino received a game misconduct for third man in, a rule designed to prevent other players from interfering in a fight. All three players were ejected from the game, while Solarino was handed an additional three-game suspension.

Feeling aggrieved, the Huskies roared out of the gate in the second. Bryce Richardson gave the team the lead at 4:55, a scruffy powerplay marker after a scramble around the Muskies net. Oliver Tarr doubled the blue and white's advantage at 16:37, tipping a Payton Schaly shot five-hole past the impressive Ethan Fraser.

A moment of madness from Christian Stevens to start the third, blatantly slashing Muskies forward Jack Falkner gave the home team a path back into the game. Boyd Stahlbaum scored on the powerplay just three minutes into the period, bringing the Muskies back within one.

Two minutes later and Stevens found himself back in the box, this time for tripping. Almost a carbon copy of his first goal, Stahlbaum fired the game-tying tally

past a helpless Christian Cicigoi at 6:36 of the period.

The Huskies looked tired as the home side took control. Stahlbaum went close to completing his hat-trick before dogs' defenceman Jonah Cochrane took centre stage. With less than three minutes on the clock, he picked up a puck from fellow blueliner Isaac Sooklal, steadied himself and fired past an unsighted Fraser, giving the Huskies an important two points.

"It's a pretty big moment. Being a new organization this year, I think most people thought we were going to be a bottom end team, but we're shocking a lot of people with the way we're coming out and playing. We have skill, and we're getting results," Cochrane said. "I think we showed again tonight that we're a team that can't be taken easily."

Dogs drop pair of games

The Huskies suffered a 3-0 defeat to the Wellington Dukes on their return to S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Feb. 5, despite outshooting their opponents 36 to 15.

Goals from Graham Dickerson, who scored twice, and Corbin Roach were enough to give the third-place Dukes a win over their East Division rivals.

Travelling to Toronto Feb. 7 for a tilt with the Jr. Canadiens, the Huskies found themselves on the wrong side of a 4-2 score line.

After falling behind to a pair of quickfire goals at the beginning of the second period, recent acquisition Simon Rose and Stevens dug the Huskies out of a hole with goals six minutes apart across the second and third frame.

While the dogs threatened to bite again, it was the Canadiens that got the all-important third goal, four minutes from the end of the game, before adding an empty-netter late on.

The team remains in second place in the East Division, with 40 points in 32 games. They welcome the Toronto Patriots to town Feb. 11, with puck drop in Minden at 7:30 p.m.



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Saini lighting up OJHL, sets sights on NCAA

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies forward Patrick Saini is focused and keeping his skates firmly on the ground after impressive play this season put him on the radar of several top-tier NCAA hockey programs.

The 18-year-old Toronto native is enjoying a breakout season in the OJHL, putting up 24 points in 20 games for the blue and white. He's earned a spot on the Huskies' top line, and is often rolled out in powerplay and penalty kill situations.

He has been referred to as "Mr. Dependable" by coach Ryan Ramsay, who said he can always rely on Saini to make a difference.

Saini admitted he's come a long way since playing AA in the city. After developing with the Ted Reeve Thunder during his early years, he made the jump to AAA with the North York Rangers as a 15-year-old, suiting up in 33 games in 2018/19 and registering 33 points. His play earned him a spot with the Rangers at that year's OHL Cup.

Heading into that competition, he was excited to share the ice with top NHL prospects Shane Wright, Brandt Clarke and Zachary Dean. He was named as one of '50 Players to Watch' at the tournament by Prospect Pipeline.

"That was definitely an eye-opener to what hockey is like at the highest level. It was really cool to be a part of that. It was a big deal. There were lots of fans there, and

scouts. I really enjoyed it," Saini said.

Shortly after, following the 2019 OHL Priority Draft, Saini received a surprise call from Barclay Branch, then general manager of the Flint Firebirds.

"They selected me in the ninth round, which was pretty cool. I had never been drafted into anything before that, so there was definitely some emotion there. A proud moment, for sure," Saini said.

While the prospect of playing at the OHL level was tantalizing, Saini has always dreamed of playing NCAA hockey. With his father, a university professor, instilling in him from a young age the importance of education, Saini has his sights set on achieving his goal. He has talked to several schools, but is yet to make a firm commitment. Saini said he plans to study law wherever he ends up.

There's much he hopes to accomplish before then, though. With the Huskies currently sitting second in the East Division, Saini said the team is focused on making the playoffs and being competitive once there.

"Rest of the season, I just want to lead by example. I always try to be the hardest working kid on the ice ... and it really resonates when you see a guy giving everything he has. We have a great team, but we just need to take things one game at a time and keep our focus," Saini said. "If we do all the little things right, I think it can be a really good year for us."



Patrick Saini has 24 points in 20 games for the Huskies this season. Photo by Tim Bates.

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Top: Koen Kerkhof skates behind the opponents' net. Bottom: Callum Merritt shoots and scores on this play as the U11 LL Highland Storm defeated the visiting Parry Sound Shamrocks 5-2 Feb. 5. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Storm return to action with win

In their first meeting this year, the visiting team from Parry Sound and our own Highland Storm played a fast and furious game in Haliburton Saturday afternoon, Feb. 5.

The rafters were shaking and the game started out fairly even. Midway through the first period though Callum Merritt dangled a few slick moves and lit the light, completing a beautiful individual effort to make it 1-0 Highland Storm.

He did it again a few minutes later for a two-goal lead.

The solid defence of Katie Lavalle, Jordyn Braun and Koen Kerkhof, including our all-star Goalie Moss Davis, kept Parry Sound at bay for the entire first period.

The second period was more of the same. Some solid play up front by Evelyn Mardus, Bently Bull and Olivia

Rickard resulted in a well-earned goal by Rickard to make it 3-0 Storm. It could have been 4-0 as Bull went bar down only to have the puck deflect on top of the net.

Parry Sound began to push the play into the Storm's end more often. Several great saves by Davis kept the score at 3-0.

Our team was fortunate to have a new spark-plug suit up. He didn't disappoint. Wyatt Braun potted two third period goals and it was 5-0 Storm.

To their credit, Parry Sound never gave up and scored two in the third period to make the game closer.

Credit to the Haliburton Storm. The team was short-handed and only had eight skaters. This was a well-deserved win, and the first of the year. *Submitted.*

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Left: Bently Bull battles for the puck after a faceoff during the U11 Highland Storm's match-up with the Parry Sound Shamrock Feb. 5. Right: Callum Merritt enters the Shamrocks' zone along the boards. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5	
U9 REP vs Millbrook	5-1 L
U9 LL vs. Almaguin	4-1 L
U11 LL vs. Parry Sound	5-2 W
U11 REP vs. Millbrook	6-0 W
U13 REP vs. Durham	8-3 W

REP STARS



1

Callum Merritt scored two goals and skated hard for the whole game.



2

Wyatt Braun tallied a pair of goals and was fearless all game long.



3

Olivia Rickard notched one goal and was solid down the middle all game.



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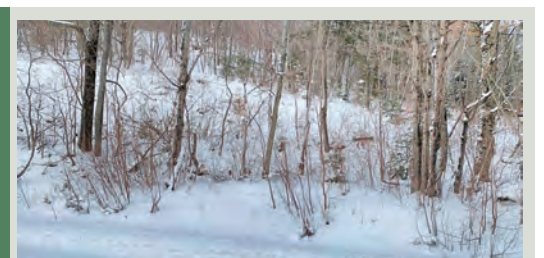
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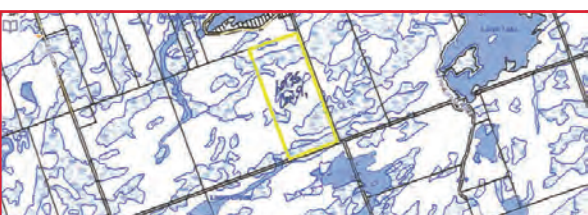


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Highlander people



Patrick Monaghan poses with a cake his mother baked to celebrate his 300th show. Photo by Sam Gillett.

Blues keep Pat going

By Sam Gillett

Three hundred shows. That's a milestone Patrick Monaghan thought he might not achieve before he slipped on the headphones Jan. 25 to start another edition of the Buckslide Blues Cruise.

Monaghan was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2019. Difficult months of cancer treatment, surgery, and recovery meant many past hobbies were out of reach. His weekly two-hour deep dive into the world of blues kept him going.

"It's really been a blessing. I can distract myself and get buried into the next blues show I'm working on. It's given me a reason to go forward."

Monaghan was spotted by CanoeFM volunteers at the Haliburton farmers market five years ago. They said his voice was perfect for radio.

Monaghan agreed to the gig, and Blues was the genre that fit him best. As a teen, Monaghan didn't know his favourite rockers could trace their musical lineage to the Blues.

The Buckslide Blues Cruise sails from "Lead Belly to Led Zeppelin," Monaghan said. "And there's a lot of music in between."

He's a bit of a perfectionist: pouring over his CD collection, cross-referencing notes on artists and songs and ensuring he adds some trivia to the

mix: ask him how Led Zeppelin got its name.

"I enjoy teaching [listeners] something they didn't know," he said.

Since Monaghan took over the Blues slot at Canoe he's dived into the Blues community.

He won a National Campus Radio Award for the Best Jazz or Blues Music Show in 2020. In producing the show he's developed a network of listeners and friends who love the soulful songs and bassy rhythms of the Blues too.

It's meant he's been able to work directly with Blues bands across Ontario, lining up shows at festivals and clubs, as well as developing relationships with studios that will send music for Monaghan to check out, and hopefully play, on his show.

"They've come to trust me. I have a few bands that will give me a call and ask questions. I never thought my opinion mattered, but obviously it does and I'm rather proud of that."

Friends in the Blues put on a benefit concert for Monaghan in 2019, raising money to fund the expensive burden that is cancer treatment.

"One of the most difficult things was to get up on stage and keep my emotions together," he said. "I thought I was just ... bugging these people. I became part of that community and I became very grateful. That's

something I've loved all my life and I never imagined being on the inside."

In 2020, Monaghan went to Memphis, Tennessee for the International Blues Challenge. Photos from the time show him flashing his signature thumbs-up beside up-and-coming blues talents from Canada and the U.S. nearly always dressed in CanoeFM hats and shirts.

"I try to colour-coordinate," he said with a chuckle.

He recorded nearly 200 "stingers," with musicians lending their voice to segments played on the CanoeFM show regularly.

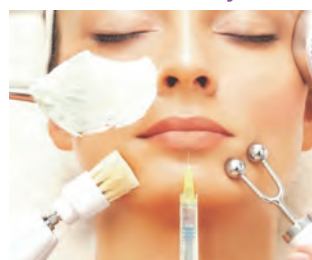
"I kind of think with what I'm dealing with, when I'm well enough to go to these events, that's my reward for dealing with the disease," Monaghan said.

As he hit show 300, Monaghan said he wanted to extend "gratitude to all the people involved" in his Blues journey. "Whether it be the people at the station, the listeners, the promoter."

Every Tuesday he's able, Monaghan will slip on the headphones and thumb through his notes, bringing listeners far and wide on a journey of rhythm and soul.

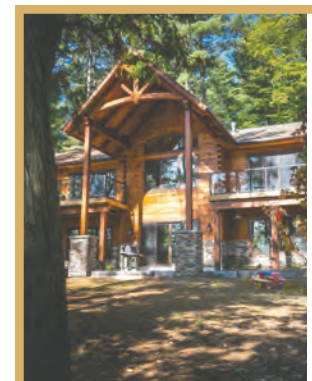
"My job is to go out there and keep the blues alive," he said. "For the past while, the Blues has been keeping me alive."

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Notice of Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their February 22, 2022 meeting, will be considering changes to Fee By-Law 2021-83 to incorporate a fee structure for use of the Haliburton Welcome Centre Washrooms during events in the park.

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

Andrea Mueller, Manager of Programs and Events

HAVE AN OPINION?

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

Highlander outdoors



Top left: Cars 59 driven by Al Hogan, and 196, piloted by Alex Drummond, battle for position on a corner. Top right: Drummond, a rookie, checks his tires. Bottom left: The green flag drops to indicate the start of another race. Middle: A frozen Tom Prentice truck. Right: This plate, 'Icedad' shows the passion. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Ice racing returns to Minden fairgrounds

By Lisa Gervais

The Minden fairgrounds was the place to be Feb. 5-6 as Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs Ontario Region ice racing returned to the frozen oval. The Minden Kinsmen Club had the track in perfect condition for two days of racing. Fans lined the snowbanks.

Ice racing director, Brad Elkins said, "the racers are extremely happy to be back at

the fairgrounds ice racing. It's a fun and exciting activity that helps break up the long winter months. There was a good turn out of competitors throughout all 12 classes of rubber to ice and street stud cars. It was encouraging to see a large number of rookies willing to give ice racing a try. It was good to see our local fans returning to watch."

He thanked The Minden Kin Club, The

Township of Minden Hills, the staff in the food booth and all the Peterborough Motor Sports Club volunteers that help make the event happen.

Each weekend is run by a different member club of the Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs Ontario Region.

PMSC hosted the Feb 5-6 weekend and will also host the CASC CO-OP Feb 12-13. The British Automobile Racing Club takes

its turn Feb 19-20; the Twin Lakes Motor Club Feb 26-27 and the Toronto Auto Club Mar 5-6.

"We continue to run for the next four weekends subject to suitable weather conditions. Hoping our friendly groundhog was right," he said about a projected later start to spring.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
Send your photos of Haliburton County to editor@thehighlander.ca

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What's on

Falling in love at Abbey Gardens all over again

By Lisa Gervais

When Abbey Gardens hosted a Christmas market Dec. 4, 2021, they expected 100 to 150 people. They ended up with more than 650.

Director of operations Ashley McAllister said they were “completely blown away” with how many people came out.

“It just became really clear that there was a need for people to get outdoors, have a little bit of fun, hang out with their friends, safely-distanced, and just celebrate something,” she said.

After that, she and her staff began brainstorming the next big thing. They’ll be hosting Cupid’s Carnival Feb. 12 from 2-8 p.m. outside at Abbey Gardens, Haliburton Highlands Brewery and in the Food Hub as well as all over the extensive grounds.

“We are lucky we have a whole property that is accessible,” McAllister said.

“People can really choose to stay as long as they want. There’s snowshoes for rent if they want to go out on the trails; the disc golf course is accessible all winter long. There’s a tobogganing hill in the little pit.

“But in the actual carnival space, which is happening in the brewery parking lot, we have a few vendor booths, we have a skating rink, we are extending the brewery patio so there will be fire pits

and places to sit as well as live music.”

With Valentine’s Day in mind, she added there’ll be a love potion cabin, with hot chocolate and “cute little pink drinks” that people can enjoy while walking around. Beaver Tails is coming with its food truck.

Admission to those events is by donation.

There are also paid add-ons, which include: a Valentine’s charcuterie board for two; self-guided beer and truffle tasting; pony-powered date night; and self-guided beer tasting and charcuterie board.

McAllister said the intent is “to amplify their experience a little bit ... so they can have an experience while they’re there, not just sitting on the patio, there’s something active to do.”

The other add-ons include a reading from a psychic medium for people or their pets as well as cooking and craft workshops.

The workshops will be staged on the verandah at the food hub and include: farmhouse Valentine crafts; cooking decorating with Butter Love Baking and Valentine’s Day craft and story time for children.

People must book and pay for the add-on experiences through the Abbey Gardens website at abbeygardens.ca

“Other than that, it’s just come and wander,” McAllister said.



Irene Heaven and Cara Steele preparing for Cupid’s Carnival. Submitted.

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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Madeline Marion Peacock


1931 - 2022

Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on Monday, January 31, 2022 .

She is predeceased by her husband Bill (2014). Mother of Marilyn Wagg (Doug) and Murray (Diane-deceased). Grandmother of Steven Wagg (Patricia), Ron Wagg (Kelly), Michael Peacock (Natalie), Aaron Peacock, Jordan Peacock (Madeline) and great grandmother of Kaela, Lucas, Bronwyn, Adele, Melissa Wagg and Garrett, Eli, Brayden, Callie and Thomas Peacock. Predeceased by her siblings Scott, Emmy, Iva, Andy, Mildred, Ira and Margarite.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Graveside Committal Service and Interment will be held at the Glamorgan Cemetery, Gooderham in the Spring.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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In Loving Memory of

James Henry Hunt

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

June 8, 1934 - February 6, 2022

Beloved husband of Ruth, loving father of Brad (Lorrie), Lori, Greg (Christine), Gary, Rob (Susan), and Ed (Leigh). Grandfather to Madeline (Brian), Melissa (Paul), Mitchell (Cassie), Lauren - predeceased, Colin, Emma, Tom (Kristina), Ben (Jennifer), Harry - predeceased, and Travis. Great grandfather of Leo, Riley, Hannah, and Harper. James is predeceased by his brothers, sisters, and Delores Hunt. Jim was a Markham boy, successful salesman, hunter with Springer Spaniels, fisherman, hockey coach, Lions Club & Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association member.


Family Graveside Service

Spring interment at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Guide Dogs Canada, Extendicare Proud Pioneers, or Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family.



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IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of

Robert J. Colwell

August 17, 1928 to February 10, 2021

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The Colwell Family

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The Royal Canadian Legion Minden Branch has a 2 bedroom self-contained second floor apartment available from March 1st. Private entrance with deck, Heat, A/C, Hydro, water, parking and Wi-Fi included. Rental rate \$1,400.00 per month. No smoking, pets or children and references with credit check required. Applications available a the Legion Monday to Friday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

FOR SALE

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

CENTRAL BOILER Classic Edge 750 Titanium Series outdoor furnace. Purchased in 2019 and in service for 3 years. Can be seen in operation. Call 705-754-2639

2011 NISSAN JUKE SL AWD Xtronic CVT. 223,000 kms. Asking \$4,000. or best offer. Call 705-286-0204

2014 ARCADIA - Carfax report available. 7 seater, 195,000 kms, asking \$11,999. Call or text 416-579-5901

WANTED

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

MOVING SALE

MOVING SALE – Everything must go! Wood stoves, tools, furniture, vehicles, bldg. materials, appliances, etc. If you need it, we probably have it! Call Joe 705-306-0979

HELP WANTED

MARK’S RESTAURANT – Waitress required. No experience necessary. \$15 / hour plus gratuities. Call 705-286-1818 ask for Wilson or drop resume off at Mark’s Restaurant, Minden

MAPLE AVENUE TAP & GRILL – 2 Line Cooks, experienced in Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Prep person required for morning shift. Dishwasher required. Call Andy at 705-306-0964

GOING AWAY?

Read the complete paper online each week. Sign up at TheHighlander.ca

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



Township of Algonquin Highlands Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are seeking to fulfill the following seasonal positions;

- Five (5) Dorset Tower Attendants
- Two (2) Seasonal Student Trail Technicians
- Four (4) Stewardship Youth Rangers
- One (1) Stewardship Youth Ranger Team Lead

For the complete job descriptions, please visit our website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume and cover letter by
3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a **By-Law Enforcement Officer**

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified persons for the position of By-Law Enforcement Officer.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the full job description.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by
3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

RENTALS

Hall for Rent

Nice clean, bright space available for training, meetings, and family gatherings.

Tables, chairs, and kitchen available.

1/2 day-\$75, full day-\$125,
licensed event-\$200.

All events are subject to Covid protocols.

Call 705-457-9664, or email hhoa@bellnet.ca
Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association,
6712 Gelert Rd., Haliburton

HELP WANTED



SIRCH is hiring
2 full time servers / cashiers to help in the Bistro and Marketplace. Experience as a server, barista, or in retail preferred.
Email info@sirch.on.ca

HELP WANTED



Full-Charge Bookkeeper (Contract)

RPM Marinas is looking for a full-charge bookkeeper to join our fun, friendly team.

This is a great opportunity for a team-player who wants to get their teeth into the books of two companies - one of which has multiple locations.

You'll be an experienced self-starter who is happy multitasking, and you'll have first-class communication, organizational and customer service skills. You'll also be good at software such as Microsoft Excel, the Google platforms, and QuickBooks. Experience with CDK LightSpeed is an asset.

This is a 12-month contract to cover a maternity leave, with potential to extend.

Typical Duties include:

- Managing the full-cycle accounting functions, working closely with the team to prioritize deadlines and business needs
- Processing accounts payable and accounts receivable
- Managing bank/credit card and general ledger reconciliations, as well as payroll processing
- Analyzing balance sheet accounts on a regular basis
- Preparing government remittances for payroll, HST, EHT, WSIB, and subsidy.
- Payroll processing bi-weekly, including all remittances and reporting
- Preparing month and year-end working documentation
- Researching and reconciling discrepancies and ensuring that the accounting is in good order.
- Support team members with other duties and task as required such as answering phones etc.
- Occasional weekend, evenings are required, plus travel to other locations.

Job Type: Full-time 44 hours/week (contract with potential for extension)

Salary: based on experience

TO APPLY, EMAIL CHERYL@HALIBURTONRPM.COM



THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF HALIBURTON Requires

One (1) Permanent Truck Driver/Equipment Operators

Successful applicant will possess an AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. Hourly rate is \$25.78.

Two (2) Seasonal 1 Operators

Successful applicant will possess a DZ licence and have road maintenance and repair experience. Hourly rate is \$24.24.

Two (2) Seasonal Flagperson/Labourers

Successful applicant will possess a G licence and have experience in manual labour positions. Hourly rate is \$17.96.

These are unionized CUPE positions. Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than Friday February 25th, 2022 at 12:00pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Highlander puzzles

Put It Down

by Barbara Olson

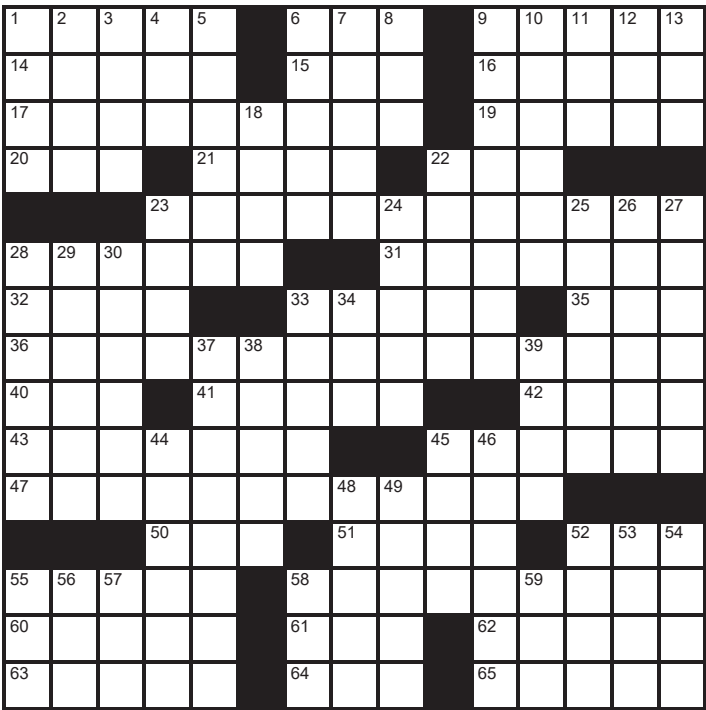
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Backup strategy
- 6 Crunch targets
- 9 With 63-Across, advance payment ... or a hint to the theme answers
- 14 Vowel quintet
- 15 Wintry crispness
- 16 Blew someone's cover
- 17 Former Duke of York's tabloid name
- 19 Woodwinds without mouthpieces
- 20 "Dynamite" hit for AC/DC
- 21 Swing around an axis
- 22 Shift + 2 symbols
- 23 It spans Venice's Grand Canal
- 28 Chant to New England's NFLers
- 31 Dog food?
- 32 Have ___ with (benefit by knowing)
- 33 Tender pork cuts
- 35 S.P.C.A. part: Abbr.
- 36 Music of a film in which Streisand dressed as a man
- 40 ___ one-eighty
- 41 Dismantle, as sailing gear
- 42 ___ fixe (obsession)
- 43 Tums or Alka-Seltzer
- 45 Luxurious garb
- 47 "Wake up and smell the coffee" moment
- 50 Where desk cops work: Abbr.
- 51 "Take this"
- 52 Spay or neuter, casually
- 55 Futuristic conflict, briefly
- 58 It gets exercised by voters
- 60 Indicate rudely, in a way
- 61 Ullmann or Taylor
- 62 Young Yokum
- 63 See 9-Across
- 64 Purpose
- 65 Finger jabs

Down

- 1 Hair line?
- 2 Ground beef specification
- 3 "I ___ Mad at Cha" (2Pac song)
- 4 Non-verbal agreement
- 5 Falls for the line
- 6 Render void
- 7 French toilet that perplexes some tourists
- 8 He might be wired at work
- 9 Recliner part for high heels?
- 10 Won't let forget, as a defeat
- 11 "Ear" prefix with -laryngologist
- 12 Born, in "la belle province"
- 13 CFL 6-pointers
- 18 "___, poor Yorick!"
- 22 In ___ (strapped)
- 23 Tirade
- 24 Coming up shy
- 25 Marquis of erotic literature
- 26 Meat and potatoes merchant
- 27 PC user's panic button
- 28 Sense of orientation
- 29 Two-thirds of a distress call
- 30 It gets smashed at parties
- 33 "...___, look who's forty!"
- 34 Positive word from Pierre
- 37 Clearness of thought
- 38 Pique performances?
- 39 Zamboni's venue
- 44 Not Nordic, skiing-wise
- 45 "Charlotte's Web" girl
- 46 Frozen polar "lid"
- 48 Astronaut Hadfield
- 49 Frost ___ (road uplift)
- 52 Be a tattletale
- 53 Words of understanding
- 54 Boomers' successors
- 55 Typist's C.V. stat
- 56 Play Romeo with
- 57 "There's no ___ team"
- 58 Aches-and-fever woe
- 59 SHO alternative



Can you eat with your dentures? ~ The answer should be yes, call us!



- Complete Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- House Calls

143 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON
stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

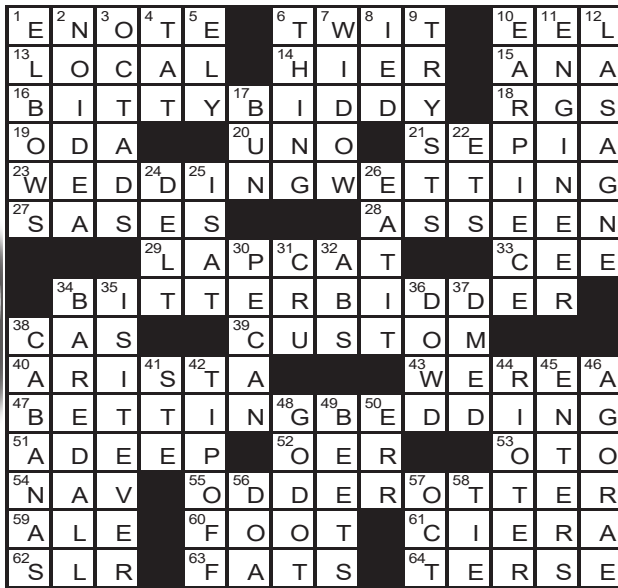
CALL NOW TO BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION! 705.286.4888

SUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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



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

705-457-0364 | lisa@lisamercer.ca





RE/MAX

**PROFESSIONALS NORTH BAUMGARTNER REALTY
BROKERAGE**

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

OFFICE (705)457.3461 CONTACT@HALIBURTONREALESTATE.ON.CA HALIBURTONREALESTATE.ON.CA

SOLD

TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD



A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake & Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private & takes in multiple exposures & has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present & has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County. **\$1,995,000.** Price is plus HST.

KAWAGAMA LAKE



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter. **\$279,000**

SOLD

WENONA LAKE ROAD



Looking for privacy in a large, spacious home on a year-round road, close to Haliburton Village? Stop looking! This amazing 4+bed/3 bath home on 50+ acres has everything you need. Warm wood finishes welcome you into a large eat-in kitchen, highlighted with the character and charm of an antique wood cookstove. Pantry for added storage. Two living rooms provide space for the whole family. A large garage with commercial size door offers amazing opportunities for the mechanically inclined. Hardwood forest with pretty trails for outdoor adventures. Enjoy more of the outdoors with Wenona Lake boat launch minutes away. **\$799,000.**

SOLD

UNICORN ROAD



Your opportunity for a secluded, peaceful off grid Haliburton retreat is here! This 237 acres is the perfect destination to enjoy nature's natural beauty. Fantastic trails throughout the property. Nestled amongst the trees with a tranquil view of one of the many ponds is a cute 22 x 22 cabin. The wood finishings throughout creates a warm and cozy feeling. Settle in and warm up in front of the wood burning stove. 24 x 24 detached garage is the ideal building to store all of your year round toys. Quick access to amenities in Haliburton Village and cell service throughout the property keeps you in the loop while enjoying your escape from the hustle and bustle. **\$549,000**

IRONDALE RIVER



Indulge in peace and serenity with this stunning extensively renovated, open concept four season riverfront dream home or cottage getaway. Vaulted ceilings, windows with a view and white-washed pine walls, this welcoming space is filled with natural sunlight. Incredible sunset views lead to cozy evenings entertaining in the new gourmet kitchen or unwinding with a view in the soaker tub. There is plenty of room to accommodate guests with the den in use as a 3rd bedroom. Walkout to the deck and multiple seating areas will greet you with plenty of privacy and beautiful landscaping on this well treed lot. Make this cottage your own and spend summer days swimming and kayaking down the river, and the winters exploring this natural wonderland. **\$695,000.**