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# The Highlander

Thursday **September 29 2022** | Issue 558

**INSIDE: STUDIO TOUR MAP PAGES 16-17**

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## Hal High runs for Terry

Students set off on the 25th annual Terry Fox run Sept. 27. Teacher Paul Longo estimates the school has raised more than \$100,000 for cancer research in that time. This year, the goal was \$4,000. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

## Chamber wants 'crisis response' to housing

**By Lisa Gervais**

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is calling on federal, provincial and municipal governments to provide "a crisis response" to an ongoing housing shortage in the Highlands.

The chamber issued a media release Sept. 23, saying, "delaying, denying, or

not utilizing all available resources to address this issue should now come with an acknowledgement that these negative impacts continue to worsen."

Chamber executive director Robert Gaudette acknowledged in an interview with *The Highlander* the crisis is not new, however, a myriad of factors warranted the

chamber's urgent call to action. He added it has to be a municipal election issue with voters going to the polls Oct. 24.

Gaudette said businesses impacted by COVID-19 were hopeful of rebounding this summer. However, many had a hard time finding employees due to a lack of housing. He said owners had to work extra hours or

reduce their businesses' hours of operation. So, while many businesses rely on their summer earnings to get them through leaner seasons, that isn't the case this year.

"It's a different world that requires a willingness to change the way and the speed at which things are done. This is

Continued 'Chamber' on page 14



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# Schmale speaks to boundary commission

By Sam Gillett

Jamie Schmale asked Ontario’s federal electoral boundaries commission Sept. 26 to keep the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock (HKLB) riding whole.

An independent commission has been tasked with re-drawing the electoral map of Ontario since a new member of Parliament is set to be added to keep up with population growth.

If changes proceed as proposed, a chunk of Highlands East would no longer be part of the HKLB riding. Instead, it would become part of the Hastings-Lennox and Addington-Tyendinaga riding.

Appearing virtually, Schmale encouraged the commission to, “maintain the status quo”.

“For a number of reasons, including the fact that right now a major municipal election issue in Haliburton County is the amalgamation of

all the municipalities into one kind of upper-tier municipality...by carving off a very small population in the northwestern Highlands East would be problematic and confusing to a lot of people.”

Highlands East unanimously voted to send a letter to the commission outlining similar concerns.

Schmale also lobbied for other areas in the riding outside Haliburton County that would be split up, such as Cavan-Monaghan near Peterborough, which is home to Peterborough’s airport.

“If it does go into Peterborough, the city will get the priority rather than the residents in the rural areas,” he said.

More than 40 people spoke from ridings in central and eastern Ontario as well as the northern GTA. Multiple other hearings are scheduled before the commission brings forward a final proposal for new electoral boundaries in December.



MP Jamie Schmale spoke to the commission charged with re-drawing Ontario’s election boundaries Sept. 27. *File.*

## Dysart defers delegating authority on shoreline preservation bylaw

By Mike Baker

Dysart council has deferred a decision over whether to delegate authority to the County to enforce the recently passed shoreline preservation bylaw in the community to the township’s next set of elected officials.

After a short presentation Sept. 27 by Steve Stone, the County’s director of planning, on the regulations included in the bylaw, many councillors said they felt uncomfortable making a decision given they still have

questions over the final document.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said she’d received several emails calling on her to vote against delegating authority, but wasn’t sure what legal implications, if any, that may have.

“I think we should seek our own legal counsel to find out what it means if we do opt out. Can we even do that?” Roberts said. The outgoing mayor was one of two County officials to vote against the bylaw last month, alongside Dysart deputy Pat Kennedy.

Coun. John Smith said there were a few inconsistencies within the bylaw that concerned him.

“Schedule A outlines a shortlist of common shoreline alteration activities that are exempt from requiring a permit, but these do not apply to municipally-owned shore road allowances,” Smith said. “Am I right in thinking if I don’t own my shore road allowance, I won’t be allowed to do something as simple as weed my walkway in the future? That would be problematic.”

Stone said despite the wording in the bylaw, Smith would be permitted to weed his walkway.

Coun. Walt McKechnie said he wasn’t a fan of the bylaw, calling it confusing. “We’re just creating something here that’s bigger government and we don’t need it.”

Council directed staff to seek a legal opinion and bring the issue back once the community’s next council is in place.



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Left: More than 100 people made their presence felt on the shores of Head Lake Sept. 24 as the Turtle Guardians held a commemorative event for Grace, the 125-year-old turtle. Right: Grace Wiley, education coordinator with Turtle Guardians, introduces the crowd to Timothy, a large snapping turtle. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

# Saving Grace event a ‘funeral’ for turtle

**By Mike Baker**

It was a sombre morning on the playing fields at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Sept. 24 as more than 100 people commemorated the life of Grace, a 125-year-old Snapping turtle who hasn’t been seen in almost a year.

Organized by The Land Between and Turtle Guardians charities, the Saving Grace event was designed to shine a light on perceived shortfalls in municipal policy in Dysart et al, which, according to Leora Berman, last year led to the filling of wetlands near the school where she believes several turtles, including Grace, were hibernating, likely burying them alive.

Berman has spent months calling on council to strengthen protections for wetlands designated as environmentally protected (EP)

zones. While Dysart does have a policy in place recognizing EP zones, there is currently no enforcement.

“They just seem to ignore us,” Berman said. “The Grace story has gotten over 100,000 signatures [on a petition], but this municipality still has not passed the correct provisions under their EP zones... There is no protection.”

At a meeting in May, council indicated they see this as a County-wide issue and could even fall under the parameters of the new shoreline preservation bylaw. Director of planning and land information, Jeff Iles, was directed to review the bylaw and report back on how it could protect Dysart wetlands and EP areas.

In a follow-up email with *The Highlander*, Iles said “I think every[one] agrees that council, along with all councils in the

County, have recognized the need for legislation and are currently working on a County-wide site alteration bylaw to address these issues.”

Berman doesn’t believe piggybacking off the shoreline preservation bylaw is the answer. “It does protect shorelines of wetlands, but it doesn’t cover EP zone sites,” she said.

Amy Semple made the trip from Peterborough to attend. A volunteer with the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, she said Grace’s story struck a chord with her when she learned about her disappearance earlier this year.

“I think it’s important that people come out and show their support for causes like this. There are a lot of people here today. This isn’t just about one turtle, it’s about the whole environment that we’re

bulldozing through and changing forever,” Semple said. “Grace is a symbol of what’s happening everywhere. We need to have better regulations to ensure our wetlands, our animals, are better protected.”

Representatives from the Turtle Island Conservation program at the Toronto Zoo were also on hand to show their support.

For Berman, the fight continues. She vowed to continue lobbying for better protection of EP zones and announced plans for a commemorative statue of Grace, which she hopes will one day be installed on the shores of Head Lake, “so that people always remember what we’ve lost.”

“Today’s ceremony, some people have called it a funeral, and it could be. If Grace is lost, and we really fear she is... we don’t ever want to see this happen ever again,” Berman said.



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# Inflation to challenge library budget

By Sam Gillett

Just like gas and groceries, the cost of books is rising. That's causing the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) to carefully consider how its draft 2023 budget can enhance its collection.

HCPL CEO Christopher Stephenson said at a Sept. 21 HCPL board meeting that an increase in book costs has put pressure on their budget.

"We've tightened our belts in a few areas. What does matter to us is the collection... we've been able to divert more money towards the collections' budget in 2023."

He referenced a letter to the service from Library Bound, a book wholesaler, that predicts a 10 per cent rise in book costs next year.

"The cost of shipping has absolutely skyrocketed, and there have been steady increases and shortages of all the myriad physical components that are part of producing a book and getting it to market, including paper, glue, ink, cardboard and packing tape," a Library Bound representative wrote to Stephenson. "There is still a critical shortage of printers available to the industry, with labour costs soaring."

Despite rising book costs, Stephenson presented a draft budget to the HCPL board Sept. 21 that includes a seven per cent increase in the service's collections budget, boosting it to \$118,068.

"We are our collection and it matters. That's

why we did spend a fair bit of time finding money to divert," he said.

That budget will fund the service's growing digital library as well. Since 2018, circulation of digital items such as e-books and audiobooks has more than doubled, now making up 38 per cent of the library's use.

There are more than 90,000 titles HCPL patrons can access via the Overdrive app.

To finance collection expansion, the library plans to decrease spending on automation, bibliographic services, postage and mileage.

The library board must approve the budget before it is presented to Haliburton County council later in the year.

## Supply delays keeping Stanhope closed

An accessible door is the final piece in the puzzle for the long-awaited reopening of the Stanhope HCPL branch.

The County of Haliburton has finished maintenance and renovations inside the building, but the contractor hired to complete the exterior accessibility work hasn't been able to secure a door suitable for the building, which is accessible.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said, "what we all want to say is 'just go and get a new door'. The issue is the door needs to be accessible. That's the whole point of the project."



Inflation is challenging HCPL staff to be creative in its search to add new books to the collection. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

## Strategic plan

The HCPL board is set to meet in October to continue work on a service-wide strategic plan.

An early-stage draft of the plan was presented to the board Sept. 21.

"The focus of our new plan may best be summarized by the word 'modernization,'" wrote board chair Sally Howson in an introduction. "Each area of the library is being reassessed for how we can make progress and improvements along five areas of direction. These relate to: communicating our value, honouring our relationships, advocacy and community connection,

investing in staff, and creating consistency across the library system."

The board and library staff will develop the 2022-27 strategic plan based on the work by a strategic plan committee that conducted stakeholder interviews and hired consultants to direct the process.

The plan contains "strategic objectives" for the service, such as communicating the library's value as a community hub and safe gathering space, building "bridges to new and existing partners and patrons," advocating for the library and connecting with the community in a strategic way and developing staff, "to strengthen the library internally".

## INFORMATION PAGE

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Practice safety in the Hunting Camp. Remember to pack spare batteries, smoke and C/O alarms. Check and clean all heating appliances, such as, woodstoves, propane and kerosene heaters and lanterns. Chimneys should be cleaned before they are used. Be safe and responsible, respect private lands and watch out for others in the bush bird watching, fishing or hiking.

### CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!

Are you interested in advertising your business this year? Do you have a creative side and have an idea for a float for the upcoming Santa Claus parade? If so email [kmcalpine@mindenhills.ca](mailto:kmcalpine@mindenhills.ca) for an application. The Santa Claus parade is scheduled for November 19.

### UPCOMING CLOSURES

On October 10 all parks, beaches, and boat launches will be closed, and no longer maintained. Thanks for a great summer.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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### CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Vendors wanted for the Christmas in the Village outdoor Artisan's Market at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Saturday November 19 from 11 am – 3 pm.  
Call 705-286-1260 x 542 or [culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca](mailto:culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca) for details.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, October 15th 7:30AM to 11:30AM, bring your hazardous waste items to the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside Street). Paints, aerosols, batteries, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs and more will be accepted. Please visit [mindenhills.ca/landfill](http://mindenhills.ca/landfill) for a full list of items.

### NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Minden Hills Council & Staff wish to mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation for Canada. This day honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Administration Offices and services will be CLOSED on September 30th.

### WINTER HOURS AT WASTE SITES

Winter Hours commence October 1st at all Minden Hills Waste Sites. Please visit [mindenhills.ca/landfill](http://mindenhills.ca/landfill) or ask a waste site attendant for details.

### ON-ICE SKATING PROGRAMS!

Back by popular demand, our on-ice programs are starting **September 25**. We have lots of programs to choose from. Check out our virtual recreation guide online at [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) or email [kmcalpine@mindenhills.ca](mailto:kmcalpine@mindenhills.ca) for more information!

### (Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**September 29** – Regular Council Meeting  
**October 13** – 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/](http://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/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/). Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

### CHECK OUT OUR NEW RECREATION PROGRAMS!

The Township of Minden Hills is offering a variety of different programs for children, youth, and adults. From dodgeball to a babysitter's course. We have lots to offer! Check out our virtual recreation guide online at [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) or email [kmcalpine@mindenhills.ca](mailto:kmcalpine@mindenhills.ca) for more information!

### 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Do you have questions about the upcoming election? Looking for voter information or the list of candidates? Visit [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) for answers.



# Health services foundation passing the torch

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) introduced its new executive director at its annual general meeting Sept. 20.

Melanie Klodt Wong will be taking over from a retiring Lisa Tompkins.

She told the board she was grateful and excited to be at the 26th AGM, and in the Highlands.

"I'm truly honoured to have the opportunity to serve the community and support the health and well-being of Highlanders and visitors alike through leading the work of the HHHSF," she said.

She added she is looking forward to maintaining and building upon the "great" work that Tompkins, admin assistant Carol Simmons and the board had accomplished over the past few years.

"I'm inspired by the dedication of this team and the team that runs a whole host of services in our community. I look forward to learning more from them and you, and I already feel very supported and welcomed as a relatively new member of the community and ready to jump in and roll up my sleeves soon." She starts Oct. 15.

Klodt Wong said HHHSF plays an important role in educating and inspiring the community. She touched on one of the many challenges facing the County when she included, "those who struggle to stay housed here. There's always more work that can be done to find essential and critical services to ensure good quality of life for all and I'm excited to be part of that through the foundation."

She said Tompkins had done "an exceptional job, and I'm grateful she's passing the torch with such a stable foundation. I don't take this responsibility lightly and I want to do her proud and maintain the fiscally-sound foundation and eventually take it to the next level, thoughtfully, intentionally and in anticipation of the needs of the community and the constantly changing world around us."

She said she was looking forward to working with Tompkins, Simmons, the board and HHHS CAO and president Carolyn Plummer on a smooth and seamless transition.

The board said Klodt Wong brings over 15 years of experience leading strategic



Lisa Tompkins, left, is retiring and Melanie Klodt Wong taking over as HHHSF executive director. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

partnerships and projects in the not-for-profit industry, including the Toronto International Film Festival.

"Melanie's experience in not-for-profit management, fund development, and her tactical approach to cause-based initiatives will be a tremendous asset to the foundation as it continues to grow and serve the health care fundraising needs of the HHHS corporation," the board said.

## Business meeting

During the meeting, Tompkins said the foundation had transferred more than \$413,000 to HHHS in the fiscal year. More than \$363,000 went into equipment, such as vital signs monitors, the workstations on wheels, half of a nurse call system campaign, bariatric bed, accessible bath tubs and equipment for hospital kitchens. She added they provided \$50,000 for the

gift a meal, meals on wheels program, and medically-required transportation. They also contributed more than \$6,300 to employee education assistance, including a secondary school bursary. She said that component will increase to about \$20,000 in the next fiscal year.

Tompkins said funds came through individual and business donations, corporations and service clubs, bequests, special gifts and planned giving, as well as core events, such as the Radiothon, which raised more than \$33,000.

Tompkins said the 'believe in the magic of giving' campaign earned nearly \$244,000. A decision to replace the ticketed cash for care lottery with a primarily online 50/50 lottery garnered about \$100,000 in revenue. They added a new element to the Family of Bears fundraiser, releasing a "class photo" puzzle in June. Tompkins thanked "a generous and caring community" for continuing to support

local health services, despite challenges, and also applauded volunteers, including the board of directors.

Speaking at her 20th AGM, and her fifth and last as executive director, Tompkins acknowledged "the quality of care and delivery of health services that our professionals and staff at HHHS give day-in and day-out." She also paid tribute to donors. "I continue to be humbled and in awe of that generosity."

Jane Adams said she was in "awe" of what Tompkins and the foundation had been able to do and Plummer thanked Tompkins, the HHHSF board and donors.

Eric Recalla is back as board chair, and Troy Austen, Ron Brown and Wade Woodward have joined. Returning board members are: David Blodgett, David Coulson, Jaklin Johnston, Greta Lariviere, Susannah Moylan, Carol Patrick, Steve Todd and David Zilstra.

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# Danielsen sees mayoral run as 'next logical step'

By Mike Baker

## Qualifications

Liz Danielsen said she was a councillor in Norman Wells in the Northwest Territories for 12 years. She then spent several years as a reporter with the old *County Voice* newspaper. She was elected to Algonquin Highlands in 2010 and has done three terms as deputy mayor. Danielsen has also served four straight terms as warden of Haliburton County.

## Amalgamation

"It's easy to say, 'you all need to amalgamate, and we need to get rid of all these high paid personalities that you've got working for us', but it's much more complicated than that. I'm concerned about communities being able to keep their identities. That sense of local identity and history is so steeped in so many small communities here and I want us to be able to protect that to move forward, streamline things and make services better. I'm wondering if there isn't a midway point where we can see all those things happen with services, without necessarily taking that last step of amalgamation." Danielsen said she feels many of those service efficiencies will be identified during the service delivery review process the County is currently leading.

## Health

Danielsen would not commit one way or the other when asked if Haliburton County should consider amalgamating its two hospital sites. She said the upper-tier was doing what it could to attract more health care professionals to the community, including hiring a physician recruiter and renting accommodation for workers to live in.

## Poverty

"We are taking steps to try and reduce it. There have been housing studies, poverty reduction groups established, so I have some hope for some results coming out of that work. But really, at the local level, it's difficult. If you ask me what the base root cause of poverty in Haliburton County is, I really couldn't say. I could just say that we're much more aware of it now and are taking steps to look at every aspect of poverty here and trying to seek solutions."

## Housing

"It breaks my heart to hear that people are being forced to leave our community. Our housing difficulties are also making it impossible for people to join us here, to move into our community and fill much-needed jobs. It's going to be a challenge for municipalities [alone to address this], we are reliant on upper levels of government assisting us." She added the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus is developing a housing strategy for eastern Ontario that could bear potential



Liz Danielsen is looking to trade in her position as deputy mayor for the big seat on council. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

solutions. She expressed an interest, too, in Algonquin Highlands investigating tiny homes and secondary units. And, while the County currently works with the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation, she believes it might be time for the upper-tier government to establish its own housing corporation in the Highlands.

## Transportation

"It's a problem ... Haliburton County is such a huge geographic area, and, because of that, we haven't landed on anything so far that has been financially viable or workable." She referenced recent pilot projects launched by Point in Time, Fleming Crew and SIRCH Community Services, partially funded by the County, as success stories. "We are continuing to work on this file."

## Shoreline preservation bylaw

"Am I 100 per cent happy with the final draft we came up with? No. I think there is still some work to be done. Bylaws are living documents and sometimes you have to put something in place to see how they're going to work. We've heard from hundreds of people... I truly believe the bulk of them wanted us to do something."

## Short-term rentals

"They definitely have a place in our community. The short-term rental business does support our economy. They do bring people here, and I want that to continue... But I do believe they need to be regulated. We've heard some horror stories over the past few years how some short-term rentals have impacted their neighbours... so we have to do something viable and reasonable, while also protecting the lifestyles of our current residents."

## Vision for the future

Danielsen said she's committed to keeping taxes low in Algonquin Highlands, while continuing to maintain municipal assets and meeting the growing needs of the community. "Algonquin Highlands is a beautiful place to live. We are exceeding other municipalities. I want to continue that. I'd like to have a stronger committee structure, which would allow more people to be involved in our decision-making process."

## Algonquin Highlands

"There are a number of really serious and huge issues. Housing has been identified at all levels of government as being a number one priority. We have a labour

shortage. Everybody is having difficulties hiring people, so we have to try and address that. The service delivery work that the County has been doing is also really key."

## Liz Danielsen the candidate

"I love municipal politics. I like to be able to help solve problems, to help people when I can. This seems like the perfect transition for me, a perfect next step after 12 years as deputy mayor. I've got the experience and yet I can bring a new voice to the mayor's chair, a little bit of a different perspective. I have a lot of knowledge about this community, what the people want, what they're concerned about. And that goes for the County too. I think I have a lot to offer."



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# Lang considers himself a man of the people

By Mike Baker

## Qualifications

"I've been a public servant with the federal government for 33 years. I started out with the Department of Communications, which morphed into Industry Canada... In the last 20 years, I've been involved in quite a few major projects: World Youth Day when the Pope came to Canada, the G8 Summit in Huntsville, the Pan Am games in 2015." Lang said he is familiar with government policies and procedures, which would help him adapt to a mayoral position. "I deal with the public quite regularly. It's a matter of listening to the people, finding out what's the issue and offering solutions for them."

## Amalgamation

"I am against amalgamation. I have suffered through it once already in Toronto and nothing worked. On paper, it looks great. You think 'we're going to save money, we're going to reduce costs, everything's going to fall into place and be wonderful', yet the exact opposite happens. You end up with the worst of the worst," Lang said.

## Health

Lang said he would be in favour of Haliburton County maintaining its two hospital sites. "If you're having a heart attack, you want to be as close as possible to a hospital. And with the senior community we have, where the average age is 55, that's an issue. You want to have something close." Addressing staffing shortages at the sites, Lang believes the Ontario government's recent decision to make it easier for overseas-trained nurses to get licensed here would help. He said he would lobby the Ontario Medical Association to up its intake of would-be physicians to medical school. "You have 105,000 applicants for 100 spots for med school. Why can't we have 200 slots? Why not more. Let's start [pushing] more doctors through the system."

## Housing

"You have to look at the bigger picture. I did a deep dive on the 2021 Census. In 2011, there was a high of 3,800 dwellings [in Haliburton County]. In 2021, that had dropped to 3,300. We lost 500 dwellings in 10 years. Why are people destroying homes instead of keeping them, and using them for things like affordable housing?" Lang likes the idea of developing vacant land along Hwy. 35. He thinks tiny homes could be an option for couples and single people. "You've got to look at every idea. Everything is a possibility."

## Poverty

Lang said all levels of government in Haliburton County need to do a better job of bringing more businesses to



Mike Lang wants to bring a new voice to Algonquin Highlands council. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

the community. "There are minimal opportunities in Algonquin Highlands. Once you start bringing in good, quality jobs, that'll start digging into the poverty levels."

## Shoreline preservation bylaw

"It wasn't necessary and was a bad idea... There was no transparency in the process, councillors didn't listen to the people who were bringing up ideas. The shoreline bylaw is a very bureaucratic exercise." Lang said if elected, he will look to reopen discussions on the file at the County. "That's what people want from me. Hopefully we have enough people... and we can repeal the [legislation] so that it wouldn't be in effect in Algonquin Highlands."

## Short-term rentals

"It's a complex issue... For people who buy a property and maybe need a little help with it, that's fine. But when you start turning it into a business, it's competing with resorts and becomes a problem." He would like the township to implement a licensing program for short-term rentals that are operating like a business, charging fees so enforcement is self-funded. He believes this issue should be tackled by

each lower-tier municipality, rather than at the County level.

## Transportation

Lang doesn't believe a public transportation system is feasible in Algonquin Highlands or Haliburton County. For people experiencing problems getting about the community, he suggested there were alternatives. "I got through university because of ride shares. That would be a far more effective, far less expensive way to solve the problem. And, it's community-oriented."

## Vision for the future

"We have a blank slate right now in Algonquin Highlands. We can take the community in whatever direction we want. We just have to have the vision and willpower to do it," Lang said. One of his priorities would be installing fibre-optic internet in high-volume residential areas, something he believes would attract more working professionals to the community. He also wants to address land around Stanhope Municipal Airport, saying council should be thinking outside the box when it comes to attracting new businesses or operations. "Why don't we build a retirement community there? We have 100 acres. The province is looking

for long-term care. Seniors need a place to retire... That's an option."

## Algonquin Highlands

"Municipal government is the first line of government people see that affects your everyday life. You look for the core services, that's basically infrastructure, roads, parks and rec, garbage removal. Make sure those are covered, because those are quality of life issues. As long as they're good, you can start moving on secondary issues. The government is elected by the people, so focus on the people and then you can start moving onto the bigger items. When the people are satisfied and content, that's the first primary goal."

## Mike Lang the candidate

"I've been a property owner in Algonquin Highlands since 2011. I'm part in Toronto right now, part here. I plan on retiring in November and then will be able to spend a lot more time in the community. If I'm elected, I will be a full-time mayor. When you step back and watch over 10 years, you wonder 'why are they doing this, why are they doing that?' I decided to run for council because I think I can step up and do a good job."



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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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# Walk the walk on housing



By Lisa Gervais

Can we all agree that housing – or lack thereof – is the most pressing issue in Haliburton County at the moment?

And, is there consensus that it's time to stop talking about it, but rather finding solutions?

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce issued a call to action to all levels of government late last week.

There's nothing new here, folks. However, the business community had hoped this summer would offer a return to normal. They banked on making good money to help recover from COVID-19. They didn't plan to have the staffing shortages that forced them to work double-time, and in some cases, cut back days and hours of operation. Traditionally, they make enough money in the summer to pay off those lines of credit they needed to dip into in the late fall, winter and early spring. They don't have that luxury now. As they stare down the seasonal change, they are facing some unprecedented financial stress, which is causing a very real mental health crisis. The fall-out could affect this community for decades.

It's a complex topic but there are recurring themes. The federal and provincial governments could always do more. We hear all kinds of housing announcements. MPP Laurie Scott is always happy to tick off the amounts of money pledged for housing.

However, we have yet to see that translate into shovels into ground in Haliburton County.

And MP Jamie Schmale is always quick to point out the shortcomings of the federal Liberals on this portfolio, but he hasn't managed to get shovels in the ground either.

Our municipal politicians are grinding their hands. However, they are at the helm of the very places where change is desperately needed. Our current system of a County and four lower-tier governments is not helping. Five sets of different official plans and zoning bylaws, for example, provide hurdles, not solutions.

Candidates are talking about the need for tiny homes, for example, but are short on mentioning that no township would allow them under current rules and regulations.

So, the County and its townships have to figure out the barriers and eliminate them. That is not going to happen overnight. At the same time, they have to look at shorter-term solutions for that "crisis response" the chamber is clamouring for.

A few years ago, there was a housing forum in the County. It is time for a second one. All players must come back to the table. There have to be hard questions asked, and difficult topics raised. For example, what needs to be changed locally to allow for trailers to

house workers? What has to be altered for smaller homes to be allowed. How can we pave the way so there can be more than one dwelling on a residential lot?

Let's take it one step further. Where could we find land within serviced areas of townships such as Dysart et al and Minden Hills to build? In an area blessed with so much greenspace, could a portion of Head Lake Park be used for housing? In a changing world, where agriculture is not the local industry it once was, is it time to ask whether part of the Minden fairgrounds, for example, could be converted to housing space?

As residents of this County, we also have to ask ourselves some difficult questions. Do we live on hundred-acre farms near town that we are no longer farming? Are we planning to sell for millions upon millions of dollars or could we take a fair market price for the sake of our community? Are we living alone in a large house on a large parcel of land and refusing to sell even though it could be to the betterment of our community?

Clearly, it's time for all of us to walk the walk, and no longer talk the talk.

# What are we doing about shorelines?



By Sam Gillett

According to the 2021 Census, Haliburton's population has grown nearly 14 per cent since 2016.

Many lakefront property owners have noticed the bump: our County's lakes are growing busier and busier and property values and building activity have skyrocketed since the early 2000s.

A lake assessment, completed in partnership with the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations, showed only 46-47 per cent of shorelines surveyed in Haliburton County are still natural. Experts say 75 per cent should be "naturalized" to help a lake stay clean.

In 2020 the County of Haliburton first circulated a draft shoreline preservation bylaw. Nearly immediately, landscapers, construction companies and many residents took issue with the way the matter was being handled, or whether the public had enough time to weigh in.

Over the next few months, Council heard waves of criticism over the draft bylaw, specifically its lengthy application process and restriction of development within 30 metres of the water.

In January 2021, they decided to get help. They hired Hutchinson Environmental and J.L Richards to lead a review of the bylaw, get the public's opinion and draft a new one. The consultants began work that spring.

More than 18 months later, in August of this year, council passed a new shoreline preservation bylaw.

This paper has written more than a dozen

articles on the bylaw, the reasons behind it, and the criticism it stirred up, but here are the basics: the province of Ontario recommends limiting development near water bodies within the Precambrian Shield (which includes Haliburton County). Multiple environmental scientists I and my colleagues spoke with echoed a need for stronger protections against overdevelopment on Highlands' lakes, to preserve wildlife habitat and prevent pollutants from entering our waterbodies.

However, many Highlanders said they felt they weren't listened to during the consultation period before the bylaw was passed.

A petition signed by more than 200 landowners claimed that J.L Richards' method of interviewing lake associations may give the wrong impression of landowner sentiments, especially when some lake associations don't count all lake residents as members. Nearly all lake associations are members of the CHA, which publicly supported the creation of a shoreline preservation bylaw. Others claimed the bylaw might halt the development of new builds while not addressing the many lake-front lots that are mowed or developed in contradiction to the bylaw.

Still, more claimed that septic systems aren't taken into account. Faulty septic systems can lead to pollutants leaching into soil and, eventually, water bodies.

However, many seem to be misinformed about key aspects of the final document and

current events.

For instance, routine tree maintenance and trimming is allowed, and several stipulations about tree cutting were already enshrined in the County's 2018 tree preservation bylaw, which this new document adds too. You can still build a sizeable path to the waterfront.

As well, municipalities have already completed hundreds of septic inspections, most completed by contracted student staff, this summer alone.

Before the final council vote, Dysart et al mayor Andrea Roberts mentioned a new council could vote to overturn the bylaw. She's right. Councillors can change the bylaw too, which has been described by many as a "living document".

Some candidates in this year's election have campaigned on promises to change or overhaul the bylaw.

The shoreline preservation bylaw is the most significant and controversial decision this County council has made. But the bylaw will affect homeowners from Gooderham to Dorset, with municipal councillors playing a role in handling complaints or criticism too. We're asking each candidate how they feel about the final document. We hope they've read it.



EYE ON THE STREET: We asked Bookapalooza attendees to share some of their favourite literary works. by Mike Baker



**Sheridan Rondeau**  
It has to be *Olive Kitteridge*. Elizabeth Strout is the author – it’s something that will appeal to everyone. Each chapter is a new story. It’s a really unique book.



**Heather Kennedy**  
I’m going to say *The Decomposition of Words* by Annabelle Craig. She’s a local author, and the book tells the real story of her relationship with poetry.



**Irene Davidson Fisher**  
Anything Tom Taylor writes. He produces historical fiction; my favourites are his *Brock* series. It’s the kind of writing you can relate to.



**Dave Skinner**  
*White Wolf* by David Gemmell. I keep going back to it over and over again. He is the best fantasy writer I’ve ever come across.



**Beverley Neilson**  
It changes depending on what I’m reading. I try to intersperse reading between local and famous authors. I like Lisa Jackson – she writes great murder mysteries.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tammy Nash of Algonquin Highlands sent in this photo she took of a fisher.

Summer has been a blast

Is it finally safe to say yet, out in the open, that things seem to be back to normal after two-plus years of COVID kookiness? I’ve held off on writing this column for several weeks out of fear that, by prematurely putting this out there, I would spark some crazy re-emergence of the virus. I’d even come up with a name – ‘Revenge of the ‘Rona’. Flashbacks to my childhood, where I was routinely referred to as ‘Murph’ due to my uncanny ability to find myself in situations where anything that could go wrong usually did, were real. And I’m glad I waited. Because even if the worst does happen and we’re forced to involuntarily ride another wave, I have somebody else I can blame. The federal government announced this week that all remaining COVID restrictions would be lifted. That means unvaccinated international visitors will now be allowed entry into Canada without having to undergo any testing or screening. No travellers will have to prove their vaccination status before leaving or entering the country, either. And no more masks on airplanes. As someone who had to endure a seven-hour flight to the UK earlier this year, that’s a biggie. So, yeah... thanks, Justin Trudeau. In reality, life as we knew it pre-pandemic has been in full flow in Haliburton County since the beginning of spring. We’ve seen it in the uptick of community events, councils meeting again in-person (albeit without yet opening to the public), and most mask mandates being lifted. Despite working in this community for the better part of two years, I’m finding that I’m only now getting a true glimpse of what’s it’s actually like. I look back over my summer

and the long list of events I’ve attended, and I must say, it feels good to be a regular reporter again, as opposed to the... whatever you want to call someone who sits inside on the phone, and attending Zoom meetings all day. There’s been 100th birthday celebrations, tours of new and expanding businesses, the Haliburton Home and Cottage show, Minden Rotary’s 75th anniversary, HHSS’ graduation, and I even managed to get out to my first-ever corn roast on Soyers Lake. We’ve also seen the return of the ever-popular Eye on the Street feature, where myself, Sam and Lisa have taken turns approaching people out in the community to ask them about the most pressing or topical issue of the week. I’ve had a lot of fun with that, so much so that I’ve volunteered to take it on permanently. So, if you see me out and about, bobbing my head side to side, trying to make eye contact and frantically approaching anyone who even so much as gazes in my direction, you now know what’s going on. It’s hard to believe that summer is now over, but with that comes the return of several other things we can sink our teeth into. The Haliburton County Huskies are back in action, the snowmobile club is already starting to ramp up for another season, and dare I say it... Halloween is right around the corner. The countdown is well and truly on. Thanks for a great summer, Haliburton County.



By Mike Baker

CORRECTION: *The Highlander* neglected to add Angela Lewis’ response to questions about vision for the future in last week’s edition: Lewis said “I would love to see our community with all the same amenities we have and more. I’d like the next generation to have the same opportunities that we did. At one time, we had mills, we had industry, people could walk from Wilberforce to go to work and go home and didn’t even need a vehicle.... it would be nice to see those things come back.” She said a first step to achieving this could be hosting town hall meetings where residents can chat about their hopes for the community.” *The Highlander* mistakenly wrote Angela Lewis is a maintenance manager at a Haliburton hospital. That is incorrect. In fact, Lewis previously was a maintenance manager, not at a HHHS location. *The Highlander* regrets the error.



# Bailey wants to bring new community centre to town

By Mike Baker

## Qualifications

Tom Bailey graduated with a degree in business and communications from the University of Ottawa. After working in sales for several years, he opened his own construction and carpentry business in Haliburton County in 2021. “After living here for a year, and getting to know a lot of local people and talking about the big local issues and concerns, it made sense to run. A lot of people expressed to me that having some young blood in office would be really nice... I figured this would be a good way to get involved and help ensure Haliburton remains an awesome place to raise a young family.”

## Amalgamation

“I’m indifferent. I think it has its pros and cons. Each township has its own quirks. But I do think there are a lot of ways that things can be systemized and efficiencies can be created.”

## Health

“I’ve had no bad experiences. I’ve been to the ER twice over the past year or so and was treated very well,” Bailey said. “If you live here and you’re going to have children, you pretty much have to go to Peterborough to deliver a baby. It would be nice for young families to have that comfort level, knowing if they’re going to be delivering a baby, they don’t have to drive an hour and a half, as you don’t know what could happen in that time.”

## Housing

Bailey said addressing the lack of available and affordable housing in Dysart et al was one of his main priorities. “If you’re looking for a short-term rental in the area, your options are extremely limited, and those that are available are very expensive. That makes it very difficult to attract someone to come work here, because the cost of living is so high. An obvious solution is eliminating a lot of the red tape [for] getting building permits for multi-unit dwellings or basement apartments.” Bailey said the township needed to take an active role in identifying areas where condos and apartment buildings could be built, and work to bring developers to the community. He said he was “generally in favour” of Harburn Holdings’ proposed development on Grass Lake.

## Poverty

“The most logical fix, to me, is creating more jobs in the area... There’s a lot of factors that would prevent people from opening a new business or staying in business in this region. The municipality needs to [address that]. Property taxes are substantially higher here than in other locations. Maybe by providing an incentive to have a reduction on that for



Tom Bailey says he wants to bring a fresh, young voice to Dysart council next term. *Submitted.*

the first X number of years in business would help get the ball rolling, and help the business set their feet firmly on the ground.”

## Shoreline preservation bylaw

“I think the bylaw is a little bit extreme. As a cottager before, I am 100 per cent in support of maintaining lake health and ensuring properties are not being clear cut. With that being said... it seems like it was rushed to approval. I think it should be revisited to find a balance between people having autonomy over their property, but also within reason where they’re not doing something completely crazy.”

## Short-term rentals

Bailey said he’s in favour of maintaining short-term rentals in Haliburton County. “They represent a huge opportunity for the local economy. I think it would be a really bad decision to eliminate short-term rentals. I don’t think implementing regulations and bylaws is feasible or a good use of municipal time.”

## Transportation

“I think something could be done with specific routes and some solid planning. I’d say the whole township needs kind of an overview plan, for transportation, housing, all of its issues. If you have a bus that runs from Haliburton to Minden, and you have plans for housing along the side of County Road 21, then that would make complete sense. If you’re going to put housing 20 minutes off one of the main roads, then [a bus route] is not going to make much sense.”

## Vision for the future

“I think just attracting more young families and creating opportunities for young families, while also maintaining a quality place to live in retirement. Circling back here, but a community centre would be huge – the construction would bring a lot of jobs, and then the opportunities a new building would provide. I’m a big hockey fan and seeing the Huskies have a great first year was great. Their games became a real social event. I’d love to see more of that, just local attractions for people to get involved with.”

## Dysart et al

“Sustainable growth and development are my top priorities. I think Haliburton has a lot to offer, but there are some areas where there’s a lot of room for improvement,” Bailey said. “Providing a lot of programs and opportunities for kids is a major factor for me too. My wife takes our little boy to Bracebridge for swimming lessons. It’s about an hour and a half drive each way, so that’s not ideal. It would be great to see something like a community centre, with a pool, here in the township. That would be great for young families, but also the older population too.”

## Tom Bailey the candidate

“I grew up cottaging on Little Boshkung Lake, so I’ve spent pretty much every summer of my life in the area. Haliburton County became like a second home to me. My main priority is to ensure Haliburton remains a beautiful place, that people want to come, visit and live in.”



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# Housing front and centre on Brohm's list of priorities

By Mike Baker

## Qualifications

"Haliburton County has been my home since I was six months old. I was raised in the area, went to Haliburton High and since then have owned a business on Highland Street, worked in Toronto and moved back here permanently just about a year ago," Brohm said. "I am quite involved in the community, I feel I have my finger on the pulse and have an idea about some of the main issues we have."

## Amalgamation

"You have to be looking at the dollars and cents. Perhaps [amalgamating] brings more buying power for supplies and equipment that municipalities need to run. Consolidating some facilities rather than having each township individually running their own roads department," Brohm said. "I'm a small-town girl, so I like the idea of Dysart being my municipality. If the townships were to amalgamate, that would mean you wouldn't have that connection to your community, to the governing body... I feel that contact and connection is important."

## Health

"If you had one larger facility [as opposed to two hospitals] ... you could possibly have more equipment available. One of the things we need desperately in this community is a CT scanner. If we had one here, that would save our EMS a great deal of time from transporting patients to Lindsay or Peterborough," Brohm said. "Nobody wants to lose their community hospital, but we're growing at such a rate with a population requiring medical care... I would really have to look at what the ramifications would be, how a site would be chosen and how it would all be funded."

## Poverty

"SIRCH has made a good start, offering training to younger people to give them options they wouldn't have had otherwise. The Youth Hub is also another good operation. We need to show younger people there are other ways to live, and that they can do things for themselves," Brohm said. "Many people are living in poverty, or just on the edge, in Ontario right now. The cost of food and gas makes it even more difficult, so this is a hard thing to address... If we grew and had a few more businesses that would employ some people, that might be helpful."



Pamela Brohm said she would be a "champion of Haliburton" if elected. Photo by Mike Baker.

## Housing

"Modular homes are a lot less money to build, for people to buy. I heard about a project that was done in Calgary, a young couple who were renting for \$2,000 got into a modular home and it just changed their lives. They could afford to pay their bills, got out of debt and could plan for the future. It got me thinking, that could be a really good idea [for Haliburton County]," Brohm said. She noted she's also seen people transform storage containers into livable units and spoke favourably about tiny homes. "We need to be open to new visions, because the same old, same old is not working anymore. Especially not for your average working family," Brohm said she's skeptical about the proposed Harburn Holdings development on Grass Lake. "It's very important that we protect the environment... and we need to make sure [the proposal] provides to the community what the community needs, and that's affordable housing."

## Transportation

"If we had public transportation, it would be easier for people who don't have resources to get around. Some people might want to work but might not be able to get there right now," Brohm said. "I believe it can be done. We need to look at the whole situation, what the needs would be and how we can do this." Brohm said her ideal system would feature a weekly

bus system with pre-determined routes that could help move people across the County.

## Shoreline preservation bylaw

"Things had been going on so long that a decision had to be made. We know our environment is critical and we have to protect it... A bylaw was voted in Aug. 24 and will come into effect April 1, 2023. In my mind, that's it. The issue is done," Brohm said.

## Short-term rentals

"I believe they most definitely should be regulated. It is the commodification of shelter. It's buying something strictly to make money from it, not to live in it or have it as your own family cottage – that is a business, which puts pressure on our resources, whether it's emergency services, roads. It also allows a lot of people to come in who really haven't got a clue about rural life, they don't know what a septic system is and how you have to be careful with them," Brohm said. "To share a cottage with family and friends is one thing, but to have it up on Kijiji, Craigslist or Airbnb for the whole world to see? I just don't agree with that."

## Vision for the future

"The main issue we have right now is housing, that has to be our priority. People that were born and raised here now can't afford to live here. In my mind, that's not how we want to see things. I would like to see sustainable housing projects that are meaningful for Dysart and complements the lifestyle we want to have here," Brohm said. "That has to be the focus. Without more housing, we cannot get the professionals that we need."

## Dysart et al

"There are many big issues to work on and to look at... I've taken a look at our reserve funds and think [we can do] better, so that, in the event your playground equipment is beat, you can go to your reserve fund and use some money to replace it."

## Pamela Brohm the candidate

"I am passionate about Dysart. I want to see it be the best place it can be. As a councillor, I would be accessible. I am always available, and no call or email will go unanswered. I have no personal agendas here; my sole focus is on making things better for the people who live here."



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# Casey wants Dysart to steer clear of amalgamation

By Mike Baker

## Qualifications

"My grandson will be the eighth generation on our property. The Caseys have been in Haliburton County since 1867... We have a long history, centuries of looking out for and being in Haliburton," Casey said. "I own Total Site Services, Casey's Water Well and Geothermal and Green Haven Estates and Developments – being in business a long time, dealing with people, challenging personalities and complex issues, I feel has set me up well so that I can be an effective councillor."

## Amalgamation

"I'd stay away from it for now. We've seen amalgamations in different townships and communities, like the City of Kawartha Lakes, and it was a trainwreck. That community is still scarred over the whole thing," Casey said.

## Health

Casey believes a lot of people, especially healthcare workers, are still burnt out from the pandemic, which is feeding into the staffing issues at HHHS. Regarding the potential amalgamation of the two hospital sites in Haliburton County, Casey said he was on the fence. "If we were to go to a single facility, how would that work? Where would it go? Would the province give us more [funds] to operate? I think this deserves a few more questions and definitely more answers before I can say yes or no on either side."

## Housing

"There are different levels – yes, we need housing for families... we also need housing for our retired people. Townhomes and condos would work. If we could get people set up, especially entry-level or mid-range, then they can focus on moving up. When our seniors move into a retirement-type spot, that opens a house for the kids looking to start out. It's all a cycle." He also believes tiny homes are a "great idea". Casey says he is pro-development "when it makes sense" and indicated he would be in favour of Harburn Holdings' proposed development on Grass Lake.



Ward 1 candidate Pat Casey hopes to inspire change in Dysart et al. Photo by Mike Baker.

## Poverty

"In terms of a County-wide solution, I don't believe in handouts." He believes more needs to be done to prepare youth for the realities of life, and to make sure they're aware of the opportunities that currently exist in the working world. "If we're able to facilitate partnerships between the high school and Fleming, to get training programs in place, that helps get them into the system and started on the path of life. I think that's a grassroots approach we can take to try and ease the problems we're seeing around poverty."

## Shoreline preservation bylaw

"I struggle with the shoreline bylaw, because there's already measures in place [to protect lake health]. We already have a tree cutting bylaw, and it's already policed," Casey said. "There seems to be a steady erosion of civil liberties. If I buy a piece of property, as long as I'm not starting a meth lab, or making chemicals on it, clear cutting or pouring concrete from one end to the other on the lake, I don't see the problem if I want to trim [my shoreline] out so that it looks awesome. I want to see a bit of the lake. If I want to put a fire pit down there, that's

great. Maybe hire some landscapers to help bring the value of the property up. When you've got to start going through a permitting process for all of that... that's a problem for me."

## Short-term rentals

"You've heard the story a hundred times where somebody comes up into an Airbnb and the place has turned into a rodeo, where there's lots of noise and drinking and partying... Nobody wants that," Casey said. He owns a seasonal property in Trent Lakes, a municipality that has recently started regulating short-term rentals. "They have a three-strike rule and give you an outline of what you're allowed to do and what you're not allowed to do," he said, noting that would be his preferred route should short-term rentals be regulated in Haliburton County.

## Transportation

"A County-wide, or even a municipality-wide transportation system is a tall order. In Dysart, we have the Dymo bus and that's definitely a necessity that has to be maintained, but in terms of transportation for the general public, it'll be a stretch to make that work with all the other overhead problems the town has," Casey

said. "If a private enterprise came along and found a way to do it, then hats off to them. I would support that."

## Vision for the future

Casey said he wants to make sure Dysart takes a well-rounded approach to programming moving forward, with options for all age levels. "Activities for our retirees and our kids are important," he said. Casey would also like to see some investment in downtown Haliburton.

## Pat Casey the candidate

"We've done a lot in the community, in terms of business and such. There's an opportunity to have a fresh set of eyes with some good ideas... I have a little more time on my hands now, the kids are starting to do their own thing and the businesses are stabilized, so I have the time," Casey said. He noted there are several issues he wants to focus on, chief among them eliminating red tape and finding efficiencies where the four lower-tier governments in Haliburton County can work on certain files and issues together.

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# McCaig wants to be on council for the long haul

By Mike Baker

## Qualifications

McCaig worked in advertising and marketing before retiring in 2020. “I was in charge of marketing for SoftMoc in Canada. I did strategic planning, tactical planning, budgeting. I used to take care of a budget of \$35 million, so I’ve got pretty good experience when it comes to numbers,” he said. McCaig is an active volunteer with CanoeFM.

## Amalgamation

“You don’t just amalgamate to save money, you amalgamate to improve quality of service. I do think there’s efficiencies to be had, but if you do save in upper management jobs, we need to make sure the savings are reinvested back on to the front lines,” McCaig said. “Amalgamation in theory is good, but we would have to sit down and really plan it out. It works in some municipalities and doesn’t work in others.” McCaig said he’d like to see Wards 1 and 2 in Dysart amalgamated.

## Health

When it comes to amalgamating one site over the other, that’s difficult. I sure as hell don’t want to close the hospital in Minden and have someone in Dorset having to come to Haliburton. In health situations, minutes matter, so it’s a very delicate issue. Bottom line, I don’t think we should be closing any hospitals.”

## Housing

“We need to lobby the federal and provincial governments. They tend to overlook Haliburton,” McCaig said. With Fleming College recently receiving the go-ahead from Dysart et al council to construct student housing on municipal land in Glebe Park, McCaig believes there’s an opportunity for further development. “Down the road, there’s some potential to do some affordable housing, more in the way of co-op housing and offered up specifically to those from Haliburton first, those in cottage country first,” he said. “If you run sewer lines up Industrial Park Road and attach to College Road, that could be a good area [for some housing].” McCaig said he was against the Harburn Holdings development proposal for Grass Lake.



Ward 1 hopeful Rob McCaig says he’s running in this election for the community. Photo by Mike Baker.

## Poverty

“Food prices are going up 20 per cent. People are having to make a decision – do you heat your house, or do you eat? Gas prices are going up... We need to lobby the other two governments to get their act together and help our community, because nobody should go hungry, and nobody should grow up poor.” He said one of his priorities would be establishing more community gardens across Dysart et al.

## Shoreline preservation bylaw

“In theory it’s a good document, but it still needs work. They didn’t address septic tanks, which, if they’re failing, can lead to leaching into our lakes. They didn’t address Airbnbs and how they affect lake populations and people that live around the lakes... I also think we need more policing on our lakes,” McCaig said.

## Short-term rentals

McCaig believes short-term rentals do have a place in Dysart et al, “but they should be regulated, no question. We’ve got some pretty good cottage rental companies up here, and they do a good

job. But as far as Airbnbs, they’re not for Haliburton, in my opinion.”

## Transportation

“The municipality should partner up with some of the legacy families in this community to put together a bus that comes into town four times a day, and maybe goes to Minden twice, maybe Bancroft twice. That way everybody can get around town,” McCaig said. He believes such a system could be self-sufficient, if handled properly. “We should sell and put advertising on the bus. When I worked in radio, we used to have a promotional vehicle, and we sold advertising, so we didn’t have to pay [for it]. So those buses could and should be paid for by advertisers.”

## Vision for the future

“In five to 10 years, hopefully there’s a little less of a pile of splinter groups in the community. Hopefully everybody is working together as a team. We need to get everyone working for the betterment of Haliburton County, and for Dysart,” McCaig said. “We need to think long-term. We need to do strategic plans. We need to look to our community and do more focus groups, and really pull people

together. We’ve got some environmental issues that we need to address as soon as possible, but we also need to look at some social economic situations... There’s a lot of work to be done.”

## Dysart et al

“I’d like to keep cottage country, cottage country. I didn’t come up here to live in Pickering, Richmond Hill or Barrie,” McCaig said. “There are some inefficiencies here that need to be looked at. We have crumbling streets... We have to make sure people can get around town as much as possible.”

## Rob McCaig the candidate

After coming to Haliburton County as a seasonal resident since the 1980s, McCaig moved to the community permanently in 2020. “This is going to be a full-time gig for me. You have to be accountable to residents. If there’s an issue, you need to act quickly,” McCaig said. “I really want to become deputy mayor, or mayor down the road... I’m not a quiet person. I tend to break through the clutter and I stick up for my rights, and the rights of others. I’m not in politics for me, I’m in it for the community.”



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# Chamber: ‘throw everything we can at it’

Continued from page 1

about neighbours and friends who are under incredible stress that need to be prioritized in the decision-making and planning processes,” Gaudette said.

Mark Bell, president of the board of directors, added, “there are long-term implications ... including the collateral effects of a reduction in the availability of products and services, a reduced capacity to serve the tourism needs of visitors, stress-related physical and mental health impacts, strategic reduction in the reliance on staff in investment and business modelling, and a reduction in the ability to attract new business and investment into the community.”

Asked for examples of what can be done, the chamber said incentivization and reducing red tape. Gaudette added in the interview the business community wants concrete plans that will see shovels in the ground.

“We need to see some movement in terms of planning, or using exceptional measures, or temporary solutions, and throwing everything we can at it,” Gaudette said. He added the chamber isn’t seeing anything, for example, that would allow for a tiny home program. “Let’s identify what are the barriers to us being able to go out and build,” he said.

As for the chamber, he said they are investigating options, such as temporary housing for workers and prefabricated housing.

## Municipal role

Christine Sharp is a real estate agent frustrated by “outdated” municipal rules she feels are barriers to housing.

“Why can’t land be severed more than two to three times from an original 100-acre parcel? If your lot size is one acre, why can’t you have more than one principal residence for your son or daughter or mother or father to have their own home? Why can’t we grant a licence to have a trailer on a lot that someone can live in for a period of time until they get their feet on the ground?” she asked.

“These are not decisions for politicians to make. These are our decisions ... the communities’ decisions. We have an opportunity here and unless we address them with our elected officials and speak up with solutions, decisions will be made and

rules will be put in place that may not be beneficial to the human beings that make up and grow our communities.”

Township of Algonquin Highlands planner Sean O’Callaghan said their recently-adopted zoning bylaw reduced the minimum square footage for a principal dwelling from 796.5 square feet to 592 in hamlet and rural residential zones. For shoreline residential one and two, it remains 796.5 square feet.

He noted their bylaw also allows for an accessory dwelling unit within a principal dwelling and an accessory single detached dwelling within the rural, hamlet residential and rural residential zones subject to provisions.

“Mobile tiny homes would be defined as a trailer under our zoning bylaw and would not be permitted,” he said. Further, “a traditional home constructed on a permanent foundation with a proposed lesser footprint than what is permitted within the zoning bylaw would require a minor variance”.

“A tiny community would most likely require an official plan amendment and zoning bylaw amendment for the specific proposal to address matters of access, servicing, lot size requirements, frontage on a publicly maintained road,” he said.

Since Algonquin Highlands does not have a municipal water or sewer system, any future development there must be serviced by private septic and well.

Meanwhile, Dysart et al planner, Jeff Iles, said the minimum dwelling unit area there is approximately 600 square feet for all zones. “Anything less would require planning approval.” Highlands East and Minden Hills did not respond to emails.

## Fundamental questions

Minden Hills councillor, and soon-to-be mayor, Bob Carter has been on the township’s housing task force, and the boards of the KLH Housing Corp. and Habitat for Humanity.

He agrees municipalities can do more to promote housing development. For example, four sets of regulations among four municipalities, “is always going to cause difficulties.” He said it is one of the first things the County’s service delivery review has to change. However, he said policy changes do not build more houses.

Carter said the province has to alter its own planning act to help townships. But he said



Chamber executive director Robert Gaudette speaks with MPP Laurie Scott during an April chamber gathering. *File.*

municipalities can look at things such as reducing minimum lot frontages, “to allow three homes where maybe in the past only two were permitted. The important thing is rewriting the strategic plan that’s going to determine your growth and so on and so forth.”

Carter said historic planning documents are not always well thought out. “We’re living with, to a certain extent, the sins of our grandfathers ... things that were done in a certain way without any real regard for the future.”

He added other barriers to housing now include the cost of land, sewer and water, materials and labour. In public housing, he said it can cost \$375,000 to \$400,000 to build a unit, so they are not building as much as, “it’s almost impossible to build something that is in that definition of affordable”.

“So, to a certain extent, the things that are happening at the government level, municipal, and County governments, are not the roadblocks,” he said.

As for a solution to the labour shortage caused by a lack of affordable housing, Carter said he worked in the mining industry

for years and the first thing they did in building remote mines was creating a camp for workers. He said it’s “doable” here.

As for more longer-term solutions, Carter cited continued incentives for things such as secondary suites. He said the days of organizations such as Habitat for Humanity or Places for People building single dwellings are also over, with the need for multiple-unit condos to better meet the demand.

The other big barrier is finding affordable, serviced land close to the County’s hamlets. Carter said he’d like to see more models such as the Hunter Creek Estates south of Minden.

Carter acknowledged there are no easy answers, but it is important for the community to talk about possible solutions, including municipalities getting into the housing game more seriously.

“These are some fundamental questions that we have to answer as a community. What is it we can do to allow us to have that future growth? How much does government get involved? It is definitely time to have that discussion. I don’t disagree that we need to be coming up with some answers right now.”

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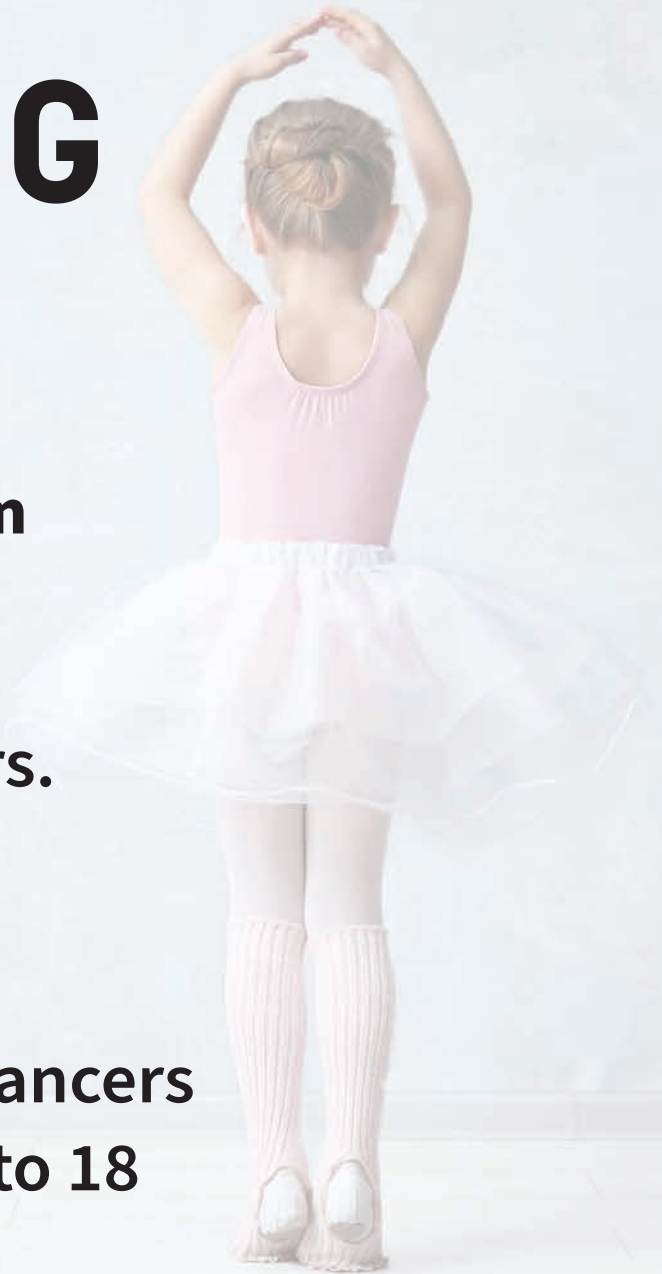
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Artists Annette Blady Van Mil and Al Van Mil are one stop on the 2022 roster. *Photo by Sam Gillett.*

## Art in the changing seasons

By Sam Gillett

Forests turning gold, orange and red mean fall has arrived in Haliburton County. The Studio Tour Haliburton Highlands is another marker of the changing seasons. Forty-four artists will be exhibiting in 26 studios from Minden to Tory Hill during the first two weekends of October.

According to co-directors Peter Emmink and Joyce Pruyssers-Emmink, visitors flock to the tour to learn about the artists, as well as their art.

"I think a big part of it is the education piece. They want to know how things are done," said Joyce. "They like to see what's new and exciting; they're also excited to see new artists on the tour."

The tour is celebrating 35 years and despite two years of COVID restrictions

is, "the biggest it's ever been," Peter said.

"We're adding more interest to the tour by adding more diversity," he added. There are a range of new artists working in fibre arts, epoxy, metal and more."

Many, such as Peter and Joyce, who run Ivy Cottage Fusion Arts, develop new work for studio tours each year.

The co-directors have begun crafting lanterns completely from scratch and developing three-dimensional sculptures that incorporate fused glass.

To land a spot on the tour, artists' work is juried by a committee.

"We feel it's a very high-quality tour," Joyce said. "I think that's what's given us our longevity."

It's a lot of art to see in two weekends. Peter recommended visitors check

out the studio tour brochure online, or available locally, to see which artists they are interested in, or visit the tour in quadrants, one-quarter of the County each day.

"That's one way of doing it if you want to see everything," he said.

As an artist, Joyce said a good conversation or spark of creativity can be just as satisfying as a sale.

"Whether they purchase or not doesn't matter, it's just to see that reaction and that interest in the process," she said. "The studio tour in general always has an educational component to it. And that just excites a lot of people to get into their own crafts and hobbies."

The Studio Tour Haliburton Highlands runs Oct. 1-2 and 8-9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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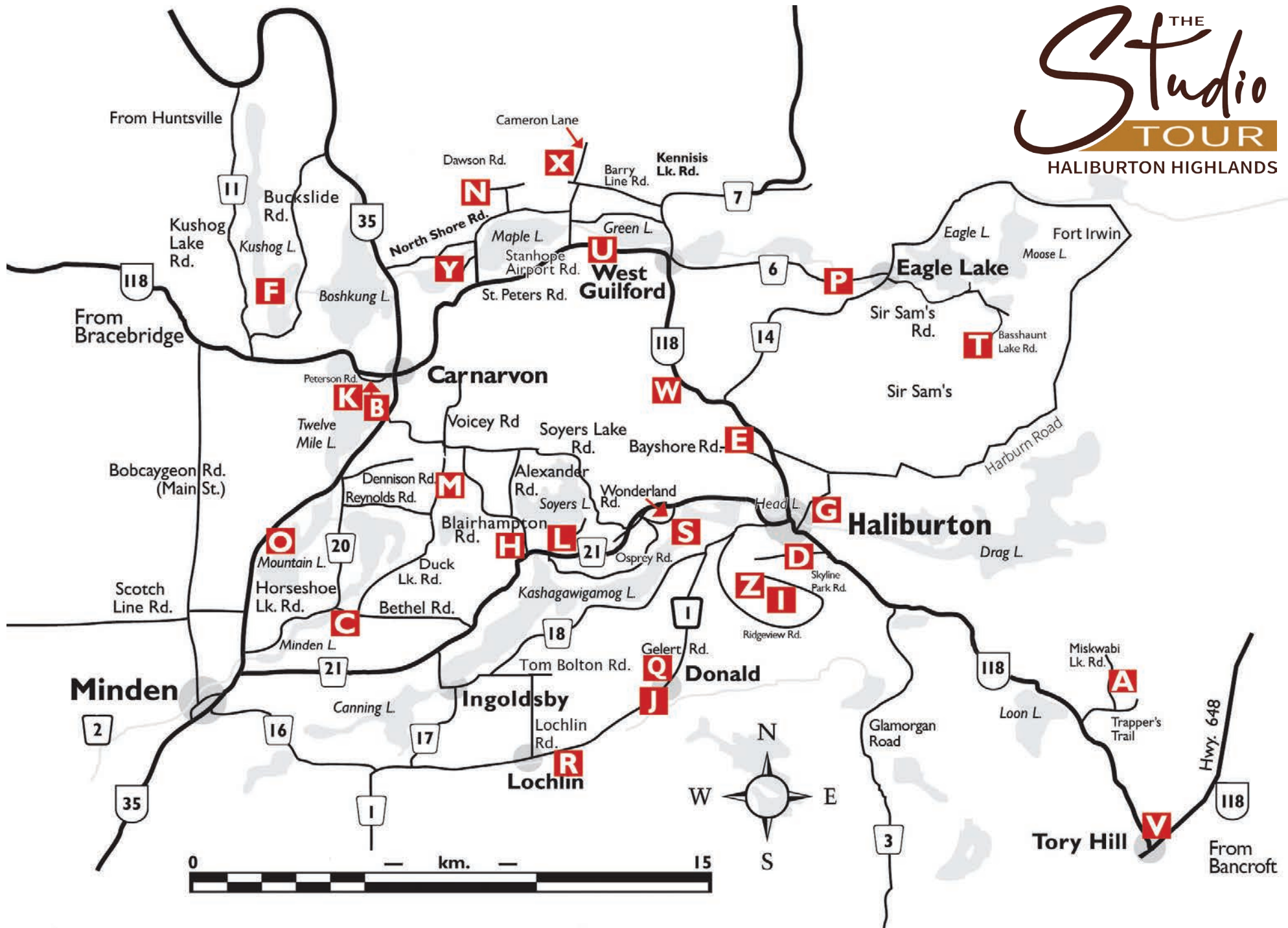
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# Steering the ARC towards connections

By Mike Baker

The Abbey Retreat Centre (ARC) in Dysart is living proof that if you build it, people will come.

Since opening its doors in 2017, ARC has assisted hundreds of cancer patients and their caregivers through their cancer journeys, offering free programming to support people on their path to healing, recovery and acceptance.

This year, the organization has expanded its offerings. The number of in-person retreats has doubled, now being offered monthly. Online programming has become a key feature, with executive director Barb Smith-Morrison saying it has allowed the retreat's expansive list of facilitators to help more people, in Haliburton County and beyond.

She shared several success stories at a celebration Sept. 18, honouring those who participated in ARC's summertime Highlands Health Challenge fundraiser. Running until the end of this month, the drive has raised \$56,000.

"Fundraising is critical to everything we do at ARC. To be able to offer more programs, we need more money since we don't charge people for our services," Smith-Morrison said. "We think it's important that we run our programs barrier-free... People with a cancer diagnosis are already going through so much without also having to worry about paying for supports that can really benefit them."

The cost for one person to attend a four-day retreat is approximately \$1,700. Due to the pandemic, ARC decided to limit the number of attendees to eight people per retreat, down from 12. Smith-Morrison expects those limits, as well as mandates requiring attendees to wear masks, will remain in place for some time.

That decision, coupled with a "significant increase" in demand over the past year, necessitated the move to monthly retreats, Smith-Morrison said.

"Our waitlist is pretty significant, over 100 people," she said. "We prioritize local and seasonal residents, and then those who are living with an advanced cancer diagnosis, but because we're so unique we have people coming to us from all over the country. We have applications from people from Halifax, Quebec and Alberta."

County resident Bob Stiles can attest to the quality of programming offered through ARC. He attended an in-person retreat in 2019 after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, and said the



Greg Roe and Bob Stiles raised \$7,000 during this year's Highlands Health Challenge, paddling a canoe across five lakes. *Submitted.*

experience was "life changing" for he and wife, Arlene. He has volunteered with ARC ever since.

Over the summer, he and friend, Greg Roe, canoed five lakes in the County, raising more than \$7,000 for the challenge. Stiles had hoped to attend the celebration but had a prior engagement.

Max Ward was there. A cancer survivor, Ward participated in one of ARC's online retreats in the spring.

"I experienced first-hand the wonderful work ARC does. I felt supported, cared for and valued for my contributions. I made connections with people on their cancer journey, and I felt the other participants somehow understood me in a way not even my own family could," Ward said. "I'm motivated for others to share that caring and

supportive experience I did."

While programs through the remainder of 2022 are largely booked, Smith-Morrison said there are plans to run both four-week and seven-week virtual sessions in the new year, as well as monthly healing circles.

"We've overseen a bit of an expansion heading into this new year, and I think it's important that ARC continues to grow. Our retreats, online and in-person, are making a real difference for people who have kind of hit a brick wall and don't know where to turn. We want to continue being there for them and building our services and programs even more," Smith-Morrison said.

For more information, visit [abbeyretreatcentre.ca](http://abbeyretreatcentre.ca).  
(With files by Sam Gillett).

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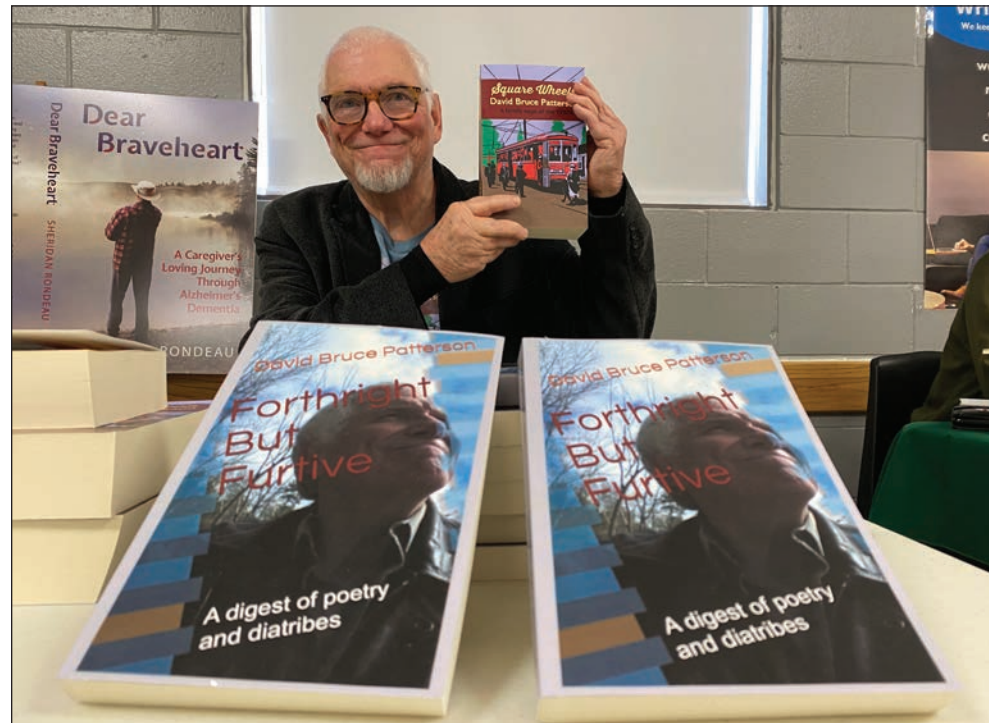
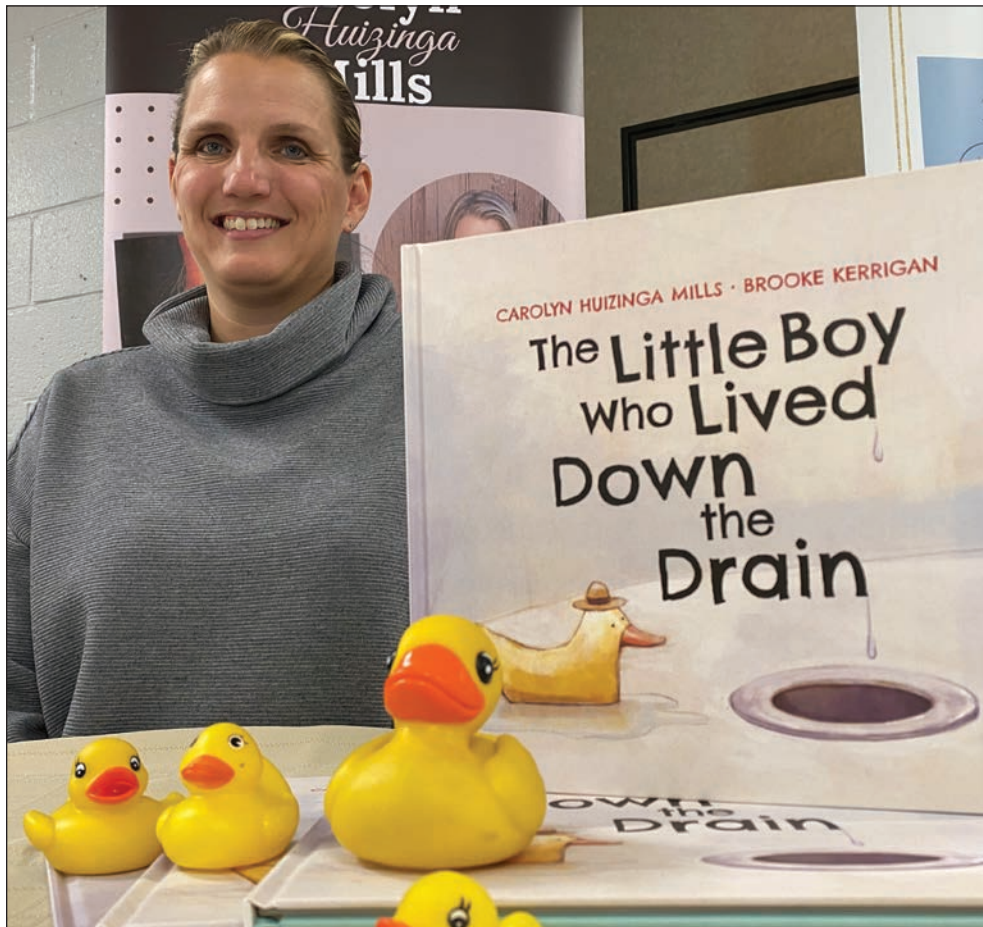
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## Hundreds party with books at palooza

There were smiles all around at Haliburton County's first ever Bookapalooza, Sept. 24 at the Minden Community Centre. Organized by the Haliburton Highlands Literary Arts Round Table, a division of the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, the event featured dozens of authors and guest speakers, who showcased a wide array of literary works. It was well-attended, with hundreds of people stopping by to chat with writers and take in performances by the Rural Rogues theatre troupe. Haliburton County Public Library CEO Christopher Stephenson held a special Q&A with renowned author Terry Fallis in the evening, where the pair discussed Fallis' career and his new novel, *Operation Angus*.

Top left: Carolyn Huizinga Mills was promoting her latest children's book, *The Little Boy Who Lived Down the Drain*. Top right: David Bruce Patterson showcased two of his published pieces – *Forthright and Furtive*, a collection of poetry and diatribes, and *Square Wheels*, an historical fiction novel. Bottom: The Haliburton County Public Library was well represented at Bookapalooza. Hillary Montgomery, program and outreach coordinator, and Andrea Brown, deputy CEO, were on hand to promote the library's services and programs. The pair were joined by library mascot, Waffles. *Photos by Mike Baker.*



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**Steppin' out for Hike Haliburton**

Canada's largest hiking festival returned to the Highlands last weekend as the County celebrated the 19th anniversary of Hike Haliburton. With more than 20 hikes across the community from Sept. 22 to 25, there were plenty of options for hikers looking to get outdoors and explore. Most hikes were fully booked, with a maximum of 30 participants permitted to attend each offering. *(Mike Baker).*

Left: The 'King Beaver Dam' hike was led by Sarah Bell and had participants trekking about the lands at YMCA Camp Wanakita. Right: Hike leader Michael Mardus talks to people about the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association fish hatchery during the 'Fish n Trees' event. *Photos courtesy of Thom Lambert.*

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## Muddying things up in Gooderham

Hundreds of dirt biking enthusiasts flocked to Gooderham this past weekend as the British Empire Motor Club hosted the 68th annual Promotion Corduroy Enduro. Races were held across the community Sept. 22 to 25. Considered by some to be Canada's toughest national enduro race, the event attracted 492 registered riders from across North America. Licensed participants had an opportunity to test out the latest 2023 manufacturer models during several demo events, with racing categories for eMountain bikes and electric motorcycles. Russell Bobbitt, of Atlanta, Georgia, was the winner of this year's Enduro on the men's circuit, taking home a large slice of the \$11,500 prize purse after finishing with a combined time of 258 minutes and 54 seconds. Canadians Philippe Chaine and Ryder Heacock rounded out the podium. Canadians rounded out the top three on the women's side, with Calgary's Lexi Pechout first, Melissa Harten, also from Calgary, second and Veronique Pellerin-Chaine, of Waterloo, Quebec, third.

Top left: Emily Roberts flies through the air after completing the first jump on the 'Butt Test' circuit. Top right: Riders John Sharrard and Marty Miller enjoy some airtime after running the 'Butt Test' course on Salmon Lake Road Sept. 24. Bottom: Josiah Humphries navigates a turn. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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**NOTICE - SPECIAL MEETING of COUNCIL**

**TAKE NOTICE** that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on **Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 9:00 am** in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Proceed into closed session in accordance with Sec. 239 2(f) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 to discuss advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose regarding the maintenance of Crown Land (Bear Lake Road)
2. Open Session Discussion regarding maintenance of Crown Land (Bear Lake Road).

**Please Note:** Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, public participation in meetings of Council, remains virtual at this time. Members of the Public are invited to observe the Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link which can be found on the published Council Meeting Agenda on the Township's website at [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca)

Dated this 28th day of September, 2022.

Dawn Newhook  
Municipal Clerk  
Township of Algonquin Highlands 1123 North Shore Rd.  
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1  
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333  
E: [dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca)





Left: Huskies captain Christian Stevens is happy with the way the team is playing during these early weeks of the season. Right: Forward Ty Collins has meshed well with his new team, putting up seven points in seven games with the Dogs. *Photos courtesy of OJHL images.*

# Late Trenton flurry muzzles Huskies

By Mike Baker

It was a tough night for the Haliburton County Huskies Sept. 23 as the hometown team dropped a 3-2 decision on the road to the Trenton Golden Hawks, despite dominating for much of the game.

It was an old rivalry renewed last week as the Huskies went toe-to-toe with the Golden Hawks for the first time since eliminating them in the opening round of the OJHL playoffs last spring. Heading into the game on the back of a shock defeat to the Toronto Patriots at the Governor's Showcase, the Huskies started strong in the early goings of the first, testing Golden Hawks goaltender Ethan Fraser on several occasions.

The home team opened the scoring, against the run of play. Mitch LaFay got the better of Huskies netminder Christian Linton at 10:19

of the first period, assisted by Jack Natyshak and Matthew Cato.

The Huskies quickly hit back, Ty Collins notching his fifth goal of the season after smart play by Isaac Sooklal and Nathan Duplessis.

With the timer ticking down at the end of the opening period, defenceman Will Gourgouvelis got into some penalty trouble, taking a two-minute minor for holding. Forward Sam Solarino joined him in the box to start the second period, being handed a roughing minor after the first period buzzer following an incident with LaFay.

Expecting to be on the backfoot, the Huskies took a surprising lead just 17 seconds into the second frame – Patrick Saini scoring short-handed on the breakaway after a smart defensive read.

LaFay would tie things up once again in the closing stages of the period, tallying a powerplay marker at 19:32. Then, just when it looked like the game would be going to overtime, Cato sniped in a last-minute winner at 19:14 of the final frame, also on the powerplay.

“Some mental breakdowns at the end of the period kind of hurt us, but I thought we had played well. We moved the puck and created some good openings,” said captain Christian Stevens. “We’ve watched the tapes now and know what we need to do to improve... I think we do need to be a little more disciplined too and stay out of the box. We just need to make sure we’re working hard, fighting for every puck and not getting lazy when we’re out there.”

It's noticeable how much quicker the

Huskies are playing this season, something Stevens credits to the younger guys on the roster.

“We’ve got some real fireballs on the team this year who can really skate the puck. I think as a team we have gotten a lot faster; we’ve been working on that in practice, making sure we make the right decisions,” Stevens said. “I think that’s just the new age of hockey – fast and skilled play. I think that’s definitely our identity and something we’re focusing on.”

The Huskies took on the Mississauga Chargers Sept. 28. Results were not available as of press time. The team will be back on home ice this weekend for a double-header, welcoming the Wellington Dukes on Saturday and the North York Rangers on Sunday. Puck drop for both games is 3 p.m.

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Left: Goaltender Christian Linton posted 21 saves in last week's loss to the Trenton Golden Hawks. Right: Blue liner Josh Sordo has adapted to his new surroundings quickly in his first season with the Huskies. Photos courtesy of OJHL images.

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Bishop and Rogers has provided exceptional service in the Village of Haliburton for over 40 years. With DSF and Bishop and Rogers working together, we will continue to offer Haliburton, Minden, and surrounding areas with the same service that you have enjoyed from Bishop and Rogers.



DSF is a full service law firm with multiple locations across GTA and Ontario and has administered the highest standards of legal services to its clients for over 50 years. Our esteemed group of lawyers at DSF practice in areas including real estate, wills, estates, corporate/ commercial and business law, employment, family, and personal injury to name only a few.

DSF opened an office in Haliburton in 2019, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have kept a relatively low profile. With the joining of the two practices DSF is looking forward to the community getting to know and trust us with their legal needs.

Bishop and Rogers and DSF will remain at the same location at 238 Highland Street in Haliburton and their clients will continue to receive the same personal attention that they have been accustomed to in the past. Fraser Rogers, as well as his dedicated staff, will continue to maintain excellent service to his clients and is excited to welcome DSF to the Bishop and Rogers practice.

Together DSF and Bishop and Rogers plan to build on this new relationship and we are committed to offering our legal expertise in Haliburton, Minden, and surrounding areas.

Stay tuned for a further announcement for our Open House to be planned in the Fall of 2022.

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A file photo from a past Rural Rogues Production. Pictured are Kate Butler, Phyllis Johnson and Victoria Bingham. *File.*

## Playwriting workshops 'silence inner critic'

By Sam Gillett

A renowned playwright is coming to town to help bring local stories to life.

Dan Needles is set to teach a six-session playwriting workshop in Haliburton and over Zoom, organized by the local Rural Rogues theatre troupe.

"I explain my approach: it's scene writing, rather than play writing. A play is made up of scenes," Needles said. "A scene is a moment when something changes. If you can learn to write in scenes, that approach works in any kind of writing for the stage, a novel or film."

Needles has developed a reputation for his plays, which depict life in small town Ontario.

Sharing local culture and stories on stage is exactly what Rural Rogues wants to do, said Jennifer Rieger, a board member.

"For people who don't live in Haliburton, it's a wonderful way of learning Haliburton's stories and history," she said. "The theatre is a fantastic venue for telling stories, and we want our plays to be based on fact, but it doesn't have to be dry fact. It's engaging... it's a story."

The workshop will cost \$90 and is available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

During the six workshops, three online and three in Haliburton, participants will be able to brainstorm their writing and learn from Needles how to effectively craft scenes.

"I find in these groups, the writing is

never the problem, it's how [the scene] is presented, it's how it's revealed," Needles said.

He said his workshops aren't a place for criticism.

"I don't believe in critiques. We don't need a drama critic at the table," Needles said.

"We'll get a drama critic at some part in the process. What we need is a cheerleader, someone who'll silence your inner critic."

Needles began writing scenes about local rural life to process his grief at the way Ontario's small town farming traditions were disappearing.

"Part of the mourning was writing down the things I remembered so they wouldn't be lost," he said.

When he staged his first play, "it wasn't lost on me that quite a few of the people on stage were in the audience," he said.

What followed were the most "nerve-racking" two hours of his life.

At the end, a cattle farmer approached him and said, "that was good Danny, but a bit long."

Needles said that's the point in the process critics can play a role, far after playwrights workshop their ideas in a group setting.

"You're going to get the cattle farmer at the end saying it's a bit long... but you don't need that voice at the beginning or you'd never put a pen to paper."

Needles' workshops begin Oct. 29. For more information contact Kate Butler at [kbutler@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com](mailto:kbutler@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com).

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# Award-winning duo brings the roar to Haliburton

By Sam Gillett

When they're on stage, Paul Otten and Helen Austin stay busy. Otten handles the drums, keyboard and bass simultaneously while Austin plays guitar and taps beats with a drum. Not to mention they both sing at the same time.

"I was told once we're like two one-man bands in one band," said Austin. "It's like a tightrope act."

Together they're the Big Little Lions, a duo who first collaborated in 2014, winning a JUNO award, before going on to make six records filled to the brim with folk pop harmonies.

Soon, they'll bring the show to Haliburton, playing the Legion Oct. 7.

The show has been a long time coming. The band was originally slated to play in 2020, but world events had other ideas.

"At first it was like background noise," Otten said of COVID-19 during the weeks prior to shutdowns in March. "We didn't know how it was going to be. We played right up until the shut down."

While shows were cancelled, the Big Little Lions stayed busy: they wrote and released an album, *Happy Accident*, released by Fallen Tree Records.

It's pandemic-era collaboration at its best: Otten in the U.S. and Austin

in Canada writing from hundreds of kilometres apart.

But that was nothing new for them, "we found we couldn't be productive in the same room in a writing capacity," Austin said.

The album frames the band itself as that happy accident that gave rise to close friendships between Otten and his partner and Austin and hers, as well as the experiences and memories that come with being on the road and creating sound together. Both successful songwriters and composers separately, Big Little Lions seems to fit nicely into their creative journeys.

Austin describes it as "serendipity." The pair have also become close friends, spending road trips lip-syncing to TV shows and goofing off.

"Now we've got this sibling thing going," Austin said. "Paul's never had a sister."

Throughout the band's history, they've been awarded the Canadian Folk Music Associations' ensemble of the year, won the John Lennon songwriting competition and were awarded the Independent Music Awards' Americana song of the year.

Big Little Lions will kick off their set at the Haliburton Legion Friday Oct. 7 at 7:30. Tickets are \$25 or \$20 for Haliburton County Folk Society members and students or \$30 at the door.



Paul Otten and Helen Austin make up Big Little Lions. *Photo submitted.*



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sept. 29

Join a group of supportive writers to develop a joyful writing practice, share craft tips, give and receive feedback, and commit to putting your pen to the page. Teen session will be from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Adult session will be from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Minden branch.

### Sept. 30

This PD Day have fun exploring circuitry and electricity with Snap Circuits at the Haliburton County Public Library. Learn how they work and test your skills with hundreds of different projects. Ages 8+. Drop-in from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Minden Hills branch, or 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dysart branch.

### Oct. 1, 1 to 3 p.m.

Meet painter and installation artist Lisa Cristinzo, a recent resident at Halls Island Artist Residency. We will explore Lisa's painting and walking practice and what it means to be a painter that uses the environment as a source material while we experience a climate in crisis. The indoor presentation will be followed by a walk through the Haliburton Sculpture Forest (weather permitting). This is a free event. Donations to support the work of the Halls Island Artist Residency are always welcome. Pre-registration required at [hallsisland.ca](http://hallsisland.ca) Halls Island Artist Residency is part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative.

### Oct. 2, 2 to 4 p.m.

Meet the new physiotherapist at the Kinmount and District Health Centre. Drop-in at 5100 Haliburton County Rd 503, Kinmount.

### Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Writer Lori Twining, a recent resident at Halls Island Artist Residency, presents An Introduction to Creative Nonfiction: Uncovering the secrets of the four subgenres at the Minden branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Unlock your creativity and go beyond limitations at this fun and informative workshop. Participants will learn how to recognize markets and discover new opportunities to stretch their imaginations. Suitable for all levels. Brunch will be available after the session for between \$10 and \$14.

### Oct. 27, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Local fabric artist Jane Selbie will be at the Red Umbrella Inn to share photos and highlights of her experience as a participant in the Halls Island Artist Residency program over the summer. She will offer insight into topics such as at what point in an artist's career a residency is appropriate; how to find the right residency; tips on how to apply; how to prepare your work plan; and tips for taking art supplies.

**Have a non-profit event you want included?**  
email [mike@thehighlander.ca](mailto:mike@thehighlander.ca).

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

### HALIBURTON BRANCH

**Mon:** Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. • **Tues:** League darts starting at 7 p.m. **Wed:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall & bingo, doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 7 p.m. \$1000 Jackpot last Wednesday of the month. • **Thurs:** General meeting third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. • **Fri:** Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. • **Sat:** 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each available in the Clubroom. • Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m. *Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call the Legion at 705-457-2571, email [rcl129@outlook.com](mailto:rcl129@outlook.com) or visit [haliburtonlegion.com](http://haliburtonlegion.com). Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129. Everyone is welcome.*

### MINDEN BRANCH

**Monday - Thursday:** Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday. • **Friday:** Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m. • **Saturday:** All day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11:30 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.

### Weekly events

**Mon:** Rug Hookers every second week. • **Tues:** Euchre 1-3 p.m. • **Thurs:** Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m. • **Fri:** Karaoke every second Friday.

### COBOCONK BRANCH

**Tues:** Euchre 1 p.m. • **Wed:** First of the month Big Buck Bid Euchre 11 a.m. • **Tues & Thurs:** Sea cadets (12-18 yrs) 6:30 p.m. • **Sat:** Music and Meat Roll, music starts at 2 p.m., meat roll at 3 p.m.

### Upcoming events

Loonie auction, Saturday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 28: lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. BBQ chicken or liver and onions. \$13. Followed by country music jam 1-4; open mic and local talent. Food Bank donations would be appreciated. For more information contact the Legion 705-454-8127.

### WILBERFORCE BRANCH

**Tues:** Executive meeting 7 p.m. • **Wed:** Darts 2-6 p.m. • **Thurs:** Open 2-6 p.m. • **Friday:** Open: 2-9 p.m. Fish and chips, chicken fingers and fries (sometimes wing night and jam session). • **Sat:** Open 2-6 p.m. Meat draw 3-6 p.m. *If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/conditions are met please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.*

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Please call or text 705-457-6190 or e-mail Bob at  
[rgv@sympatico.ca](mailto:rgv@sympatico.ca)

## YARD SALE

YARD SALE - 1942 Twelve Mile Lake,  
705-489-3201 Saturday, Oct 1st & Sunday Oct  
2nd, all day. New wheel chair \$15. Walker \$15.  
Const. chain 34ft \$25. Metal Steel Poles, B/O,  
15 Fence Poles, Free. 2 section TV Tower \$10.  
Wooden pole 24ft \$20. 2 antique wooden windows  
w/mirrors, B/O. Flag pole w/flag \$20. 4 end tables,  
B/O. Antique baseball book 1930's \$10. Plus many  
more items

## OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Howe, David  
Hopkins**

We are heartbroken to  
announce the passing of  
Dave on Tuesday, September  
20, 2022 at the Hamilton  
General Hospital. Dave,  
beloved husband of Shirley. Loving father of Andrea  
Howe, Robert Howe (Izabela), and Heather Judge  
(Darryl). He will be forever cherished in the hearts of  
his grandchildren Owen and Ryder Schweg, Justin  
and John Howe, Nolan and Wade Judge. Brother of  
Cynthia Howe. Visitation will be held at the Jones  
Funeral Home, 11582 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown,  
On Saturday, October 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., followed  
by a Funeral Service and Reception at 3:00 p.m.  
Memorial contributions in Dave's memory may be  
directed to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada. To send  
expressions of sympathy, and to livestream the funeral  
service, please visit [www.jonesfuneralhome.com](http://www.jonesfuneralhome.com)



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Steven Lee "Steve" Crowe**  
*(Part of the Kawartha Dairy Family)*

Passed away at the Ross Memorial Hospital,  
Lindsay on Sunday, September 25, 2022 with his  
loving family by his side, at the age of 61.

Beloved husband of the late Sharon Lynn (nee  
Bain) (2020). Loving father of Abby (Judd) and  
J.D. (Abby). Loving pappy of Hudson, Isla, Kain and Wila. Dear  
brother of Terry (Heather) the late Darryl (Gail), Rob (Sue), Craig  
(Stephanie). Beloved son of the late Don and Opal Crowe. Lovingly  
remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

The family has chosen to celebrate the lives of Steve and Sharon  
together with a memorial visitation at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral  
Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden on Friday, October 7, 2022  
from 4:00 pm until 7:00pm., followed by a celebration of life at the  
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636, 12847 Hwy 35 Minden on  
Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Cremation has  
taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services  
Foundation (HHHSF) or the Charity of your choice 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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Area Sales Representative

Dwaine Lloyd

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(705) 454 3913

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Kawartha  
Monuments

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KITCHEN AID MIXER - The Holiday season  
is fast approaching - time to think about getting  
your Kitchen Aid Stand Alone Mixer serviced and  
ready for your holiday baking. We have New and  
Refurbished Kitchen Aid Mixers for sale (warranted)  
- they make a great Gift. Call Cliff Harding  
705-286-3351

## HALL FOR RENT

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](mailto:hhoa@bellnet.ca) Haliburton  
Highlands Outdoors Association, 6712 Gelert Rd,  
Haliburton.

## FOR SALE

HIGHLAND GARLIC - 1434 Kashagawigamog  
Lake Road, (2.2 km off County Rd 21) Call  
705-286-1617 Ontario garlic, garlic powders, scapes,  
seed garlic, cheese spreads, pestos, Lebanese garlic  
sauce, jams, jellies & pickles.

CANOE FOR SALE - New 16 ft Sports Pal  
aluminum canoe with transom. Coboconk area.  
Call 416-705-6569

BRUNSWICK 4 X 8 SLATE POOL TABLE - New  
condition. \$2,700. Call 705-457-0725

2015 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5I LIMITED - 156K  
km, certified. Bluetooth, heated seats, reverse camera,  
navigation system, power sunroof, power tailgate.  
One owner, no accidents. \$15,000. 705-854-9468

## LOOKING TO RENT

WANTED APT TO RENT - Clean, quiet  
bachelor, construction worker, looking for shared  
accommodation. Bachelor Suite or Basement Suite.  
No pets, non-smoker. Please call Shannon at  
306-317-7073

## WANTED

SCRAP CARS - Will pay cash for any scrap cars.  
Call or text 705-457-8476

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay  
top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing  
services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

## SERVICES



**HAPPY TRAILS SENIOR TRANSPORTATION**  
Rides to medical appointments or shopping trips to  
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- Benefits
- Positive working environment
- Year round positions

Please apply by email at [jobs@gardensofhaliburton.ca](mailto:jobs@gardensofhaliburton.ca) or by calling 705.457.4848 for more information.



**Haliburton County Council**  
is seeking members of the public for  
**Citizen Appointments to County Advisory Committees and Boards**

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the Library programs and services provided to our citizens. Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County

**Haliburton County Library Board**

As a Board Member you will be an advocate of the library's impact on the community and be prepared to take an active and responsible role in the governance and policymaking of the Board.

**Joint Accessibility Committee**

The County of Haliburton benefits from the inclusion of perspectives of those who live with, or who support those who live with, accessibility requirements in its program and service delivery decision-making.

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at [www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers](http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers)

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Sarah Hume, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 x 224 or at [shume@haliburtoncounty.ca](mailto:shume@haliburtoncounty.ca)

The application process will close on November 4, 2022.

INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED to run a Wood Splitter. Call 705-935-0950

**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

**LOOKING FOR WORK**

CONSTRUCTION WORKER looking for work. Familiar with all aspects of construction. Mason by trade. Available 7 days a week. Call Shannon 306-317-7073



## WE ARE HIRING!

**PERMANENT FULL-TIME ELECTRICIAN**

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Starting immediately – leading to full time Spring 2023

**PERMANENT PART-TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

2 - 3 days/week

Please submit resume to: [info@haliburtonsolarandwind.com](mailto:info@haliburtonsolarandwind.com)

## COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

**PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE**

**HALCO PLAZA**

**FRONT MAIN LEVEL**

250 sf w/ windows \$650 +HST  
250 sf w/ windows \$650 +HST  
(Connected and can be rented as one)

150 sf w/window & door  
\$550 +HST (Prime space - double space available)

1000 sf w/window & door  
\$1800 +HST (Prime space)

**BACK LOWER LEVEL**

650 sf - \$950 +HST  
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**Great Location in the heart of Haliburton**

- Ample Parking
- Fibre Optic Internet Available
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- Air Conditioned
- Utilities Included
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Lots of Options Available!

**BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH SKYE**

**705-457-7746**

## SOLUTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 29

1	H	A	I	F	A	6	M	E	L	B	A	11	B	A	13	A
14	A	M	N	O	T	15	P	L	E	I	N	16	E	S	C	
17	F	I	C	U	S	18	P	E	T	T	Y	19	C	A	S	H
20	T	E	R	R	I	21	F	22	N	E	E	23	D	U	T	Y
24	S	L	E	D	G	E	25	H	A	M	M	26	E	R		
			27	M	A	N	I	A				28	E	V	O	K
32	33	G	R	E	Y		34	G	L	O	M		37	A	M	N
38		R	O	N		39	A	N	T	H	I	40	L	L		41
42		A	T	T		43	I	C		44	S	O	M	A		45
46		D	I	S	N	E	47	Y				48	I	T	49	S
					50	C	R	O		51	S	S	C	H	E	C
55	56	T	U	B	A		58	W	H	A		59	S	T	A	N
60		Y	O	U	N		61	G	L	O	V	E		63	T	I
64		P	F	C			65	T	E	N	E	T		66	O	N
67		O	A	K			68	A	D	E	A	D		69	S	E

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	A	P	L	E	A	6	R	A	B	I	D	11	W	B	13	A
14	C	R	E	A	M	15	A	L	L	O	R	16	O	O	P	
17	T	U	T	S	I	18	S	P	U	N	Y	19	A	R	N	S
20	E	D	U		21	22	U	P	E	E		23	W	I	L	D
24	D	E	S		25	T	I	N	Y	S	C	26	H	I	L	D
			27	P	E	G	O				28	H	O	T	S	
29	30	T	O	R	A	H		31	G	O	I	N		33	A	L
36		H	E	A	R	T	37	Y	A	P	P	E	38	39	T	I
40		C	R	Y			41	O	S	A	S		42	H	A	H
					43	A	R	U	M			45	M	E	G	A
				46	A	C	A	D	E	47	M	48	I	C	R	O
51	52	S	H	R	U	G		53	T	E	N	A	M		54	A
55		T	W	E	E	T	56	S	E	A	T		57	A	58	S
59		L	Y	S			60	A	I	R	T	O		61	L	Y
62		O	S	T			63	G	E	S	S	O		64	S	M

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Two for the Show

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across
- 1 Seaport north of Tel Aviv
  - 6 Type of crisp toast
  - 11 Talk of the flock
  - 14 "I \_\_\_ Okay With This" (2020 Netflix series)
  - 15 \_\_\_-air (outdoor painting style)
  - 16 Key out?
  - 17 Fig-like houseplant
  - 18 Rock/country duo Tom & Johnny?
  - 20 "Marvyl"
  - 22 Born, in Beauce
  - 23 Charge avoided by smugglers
  - 24 R&B/rap duo Percy & MC?
  - 27 Crazy state
  - 28 Conjures
  - 32 Governor General's name on a football cup
  - 34 Latch (onto)
  - 37 Quick prenatal test?
  - 38 Hockey Central's Maclean
  - 39 New wave/country duo Adam & Faith?
  - 41 The Magic NBA team, on scoreboards
  - 42 Room seldom shown to guests
  - 44 Drug in "Brave New World"
  - 45 Given the same email
  - 46 Goofy company?
  - 48 Welcome reply to an apology
  - 50 Pop/rockabilly duo Christopher & Chubby?
  - 55 Instrument in A&W ads
  - 58 "Huh???"
  - 59 Poetic "paragraph"
  - 60 Folk/grunge duo Neil & Courtney?
  - 63 Link to the main body
  - 64 National grant-giving org.
  - 65 Palindromic film title of 2020
  - 66 Like hair when rubbed with a balloon
  - 67 "Mighty" tree
  - 68 Flogging \_\_\_ horse
  - 69 Passover feast

- Down
- 1 Blade handles
  - 2 Baroness Barbara, wife of Conrad Black
  - 3 Growth portions
  - 4 Type of workweek touted of late
  - 5 Part of a Twitter handle
  - 6 Ont. rep at Queen's Park
  - 7 "The Vampire Diaries" protagonist
  - 8 "They can, f'rall I care"
  - 9 "Kiss it!" kin
  - 10 No matter which
  - 11 Joe Biden's late son
  - 12 Igor, to Dr. Frankenstein
  - 13 Craving a hot soak, say
  - 19 Burnable storage unit
  - 21 Put on an act
  - 25 Proceeds no further
  - 26 Assessment: Abbr.
  - 29 Opposite of bow-legged
  - 30 Ireland, to Yeats
  - 31 Word said with a gavel slam

- 32 Spring greeting card recipient, maybe
- 33 \_\_\_ de boeuf
- 35 "We-he-he-ell!"
- 36 Make fun of, in a way
- 39 Gateway owner since 2017
- 40 They get plastered on construction jobs
- 43 Like ancient Peruvian art
- 45 White line on a mirror, maybe
- 47 Cried out in pain
- 49 Minor melees
- 51 Was very bright
- 52 "\_\_\_ Horse (Ride a Cowboy)" (Big & Rich hit)
- 53 Paperless publication
- 54 Chill time, for short
- 55 Wrong entry, possibly
- 56 Gretzky's alma mater, for short
- 57 "Uncle \_\_\_" (John Candy film)
- 61 Ontario's cap. city region
- 62 Gate guesstimate: Abbr.



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SUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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



# ROYAL LEPAGE

## Top 10 Questions Boomers Should Be Asking.

Contact me to receive your copy.

Margie@haliburtonliving.ca

Call or text  
705-306-0491



**MARGIE PRESTWICH\***  
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## \$2,500,000 GULL LAKE

- Custom built 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home/cottage
- 157 ft of shoreline, hard packed sand beach
- Finished walkout basement, 24' x 28' garage with oversized doors
- Granite stone landscaping, extensive Houston docking system
- Solar panels, sauna, generator, security system



## \$499,900 PARK STREET

- 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1200 sq ft in town home
- Extensive renovations and upgrades
- Wrap around decking, park like setting, municipal sewer
- Partial unfinished basement, treed lot offering lots of privacy
- Large lot, firepit area, storage shed



## \$1,500,000 DAVIS LAKE

- Custom built 4 season, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home/cottage
- 180 ft fr with shelf rock and sandy entry
- Hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances
- Walkout basement, patio, lakeside firepit
- 32' x 25' garage, storage shed, extensive deck and dock



## \$474,900 MAPLE LAKE

- 3 bedroom, 4 season, home/cottage
- Sand beach on 3 lake chain, drilled well
- Full walkout basement, stone gardens, ample parking
- Year round road, year round living
- Great starter cottage on "park like" setting



## \$839,900 NORTH PIGEON LAKE

- 2 bedroom, 4 season, 1154 sq ft home/cottage
- 26.7 acres and over 1100 feet shoreline
- Full partially finished walkout basement
- Stone fireplace, screen porch, main floor laundry
- Landscaped, concrete walkway, year round private road



## \$229,500 BLAIRHAMPTON ROAD

- 11 acre building lot on year round road
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- Hydro running along south end of lot
- Seasonal creek, wildlife, mature Maple trees for tapping
- Close to many lakes and amenities



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