



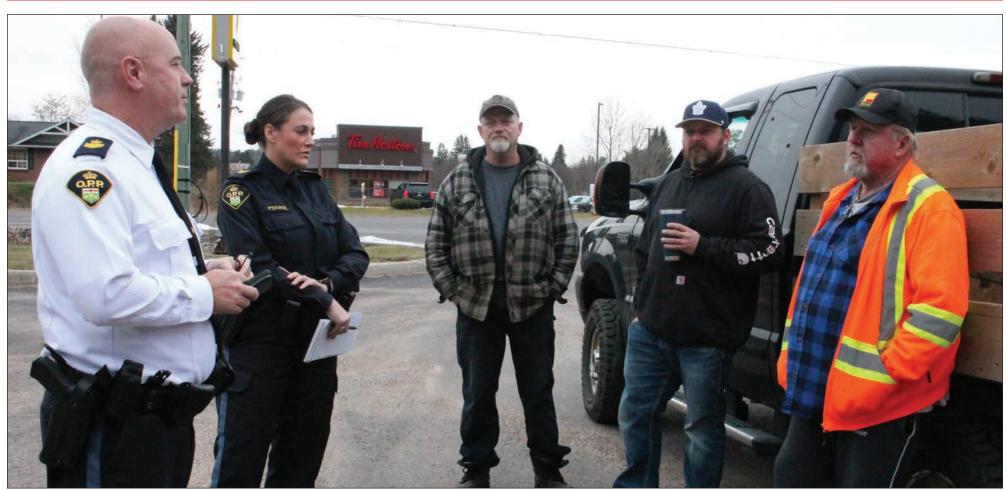


# The Highlander

hursday **December 8 2022** | Issue 568

**INSIDE: CURRY BISHOP REMEMBERED PAGE 7** 

FREE



Acting detachment commander, Rob Flindell, left, speaks to volunteer searchers, including John McNeil, far right, Dec. 6 in Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

# Search continuing for missing Minden Hills man

# By Lisa Gervais

Residents joined OPP to search for a missing Minden Hills man Tuesday morning (Dec. 6). Joseph McGee, 89, was last seen driving a 2015 dark green Subaru Outback on Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Minden area. John McNeil of Cottage County, All Ontario Road & Weather Watch on Facebook

put out the call for volunteers.

They assembled at the Minden OPP detachment at 10 a.m. Dec. 6

"Just trying to locate him ... making sure he's safe," McNeil said as helpers pulled into the parking lot.

McNeil said he thought about doing something Dec. 5 but on the morning of the 6th, "when I saw that this was the third day,

it's getting vulnerable, right?"

None of the search party knows McGee but recall seeing him around town. McNeil said he was told McGee was last seen on Rice Road Sunday night. "He pulled into a driveway so they called their neighbour, by the time they got out, he had backed out and was gone. They searched the property around that area Monday and no sign of him."

OPP acting detachment commander Rob Flindell thanked the searchers for coming out. He noted they were not acting under OPP jurisdiction and advised them to not overstep boundaries.

"This is solely on your own accord. If you're wishing to go out and drive down area roads that would be great."

Continued 'Let's' on page 2





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# 2 Highlander news

# Granddaughter: 'Let's get him home safe to his family'

Continued from page 1

Flindell said McGee was last seen heading south on Hwy. 121 from Rice Road.

"Right now, Mr. McGee is mobile. He has his car. He could literally be anywhere. At this stage of the game, he could be in Quebec for all we know."

He is in the OPP system, so if police interact with him or his car, an alert will pop up. On Monday, they used an OPP helicopter for the majority of the day "checking some of the trails, checking some of the hydro lines ... checking all of the area roads."

Flindell said it is a vast area, from Haliburton County south to Kinmount, the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough County. "There are a lot of offshoots, a lot of trails, a lot of roads and you could be turned around in any one of those and potentially stuck."

He said OPP are concentrating their search by air and vehicle.

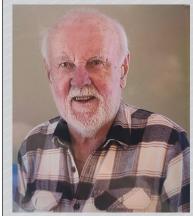
McGee is described as 5'10" tall, balding with short grey hair, grey beard and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing black boots with no laces, blue jeans, a white sweatshirt with the word "cutty" on the chest and a blue collared shirt underneath, a blue fleece jacket with a gold band across the chest, and an Ottawa Senators ball cap. The license plate of the car is BTSY 146.

"Hopefully, we can come to a positive resolution for the family on this," Flindell said

In a subsequent media release, police asked



# **MISSING**







### Joseph McGEE

- Age 89
- 5'10", 180lbs
- Balding with short grey hair, grey beard, and blue eyes
- Last seen wearing black boots with no laces, blue jeans, a white sweatshirt with the word "cutty" on the chest and a blue collared shirt underneath, a blue fleece jacket with a gold band across the chest, and an Ottawa Senators ball cap

**LAST SEEN:** Driving a 2015 dark green Subaru Outback (BTSY 146) on Saturday, December 3, 2022, in the Minden area

If you have had any contact with **Joseph McGEE** or have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact the **Ontario Provincial Police 1-888-310-1122** 

The OPP poster for the missing James McGee of Minden. Submitted.

community members, especially those who own rural and seasonal properties, to check them for McGee or his car.

McGee's granddaughter, Courtney Beaudry, posted to Facebook Dec. 6 to say, "if people can search their properties. Even little dirt

trails that they think a car wouldn't go. My grandpa would go there. He has numerous properties that he would drive his car down, little trails that are meant for four-wheelers." She added, "he was driving in and out of people's driveways down around behind their houses and into trails. He was trying to find

his own property. Any help is appreciated. Let's get him home safe to his family."

If you have had any contact with Joseph McGee, or have any information regarding his whereabouts, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Follow thehighlander.ca for updates.







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# Population growth twice the projected rate

### By Lisa Gervais

The Judson family had just finished a threemonth trip across Canada, returning to city life in Windsor, when they realized they needed a change.

Kathy Judson said the big smoke was no longer a good fit for their adventurous lifestyle.

They wanted access to the outdoors more often and to do the sports they loved in

"Haliburton is the perfect place for our family as it offers access to raw and beautiful nature. Yet, despite the guaranteed ruggedness that this land provides, the Haliburton area is also heavily woven with culture and a tightly-knit community. I couldn't be happier with our choice. I feel like we have it all here," Kathy says.

The Judsons are just some of the estimated 2,500 newcomers who have descended on the Highlands in recent years, blowing out projected population figures.

Briefing the new County council at a Nov. 23 meeting, director of planning, Steve Stone, said the Highlands had exceeded its growth rate by 10 years.

The province last approved an official plan for Haliburton County in 2015. At that time, the finance ministry predicted the population would grow by more than 4,300 people between 2014 and 2036, bringing it to approximately 21,420 residents.

But as of the 2021 Census, it's estimated the Highlands population has ballooned by 2,500 people in five years, nearly a 14 per

cent jump since the last Census, and bringing the overall number of inhabitants to 20,571. In other words, we need only an additional 849 newcomers to put us at 2036 projections.

"We are growing at probably twice the rate that we expected to grow," Stone told *The* Highlander in a follow-up interview after the council meeting. He attributed that in part to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

# Impact on housing

That 2015 official plan also indicated the projected growth would require building 1,910 additional housing units, mostly medium and high density. It also said it would necessitate creating 1,770 new jobs by 2036. Stone was asked if that meant the County needed 3,820 new units and 3,540 additional jobs, but he said it isn't that simple.

The firm they hired to do a development charges study - Watson and Associates has identified that the County needs its population growth projections to be updated. Staff will be presenting early in the new year to the new council on the status of this project in order to get their direction on whether to proceed with the update. So far, all the County has is the 2021 Census data. It does not yet know how that will translate into numbers of units and jobs that will be needed to meet the growth.

If council so directs, Stone said the consultant will be asked to look at, "over the next 10 years, how many people are we expecting to come in ... and how many units will that translate into based on the average family size?"

He said the risk of doubling projected population growth is running out of available land for development, particularly draftapproved and shovel-ready land.

"For example, let's say you're anticipating needing 100 units over the next 10 years, and you plan accordingly ... bring in an area of land that will help you get those 100 units, subdivide, draft approve, zone, service, and, voila, you have 100 units and they all go over that 10-year period.

"But, if you're growing at 1,000 units, you can see how you're not going to have enough draft-approved, serviced, shovel-ready, land in the system. Now you've got 1,000 families who are wanting to come and invest in your community and you just can't accommodate

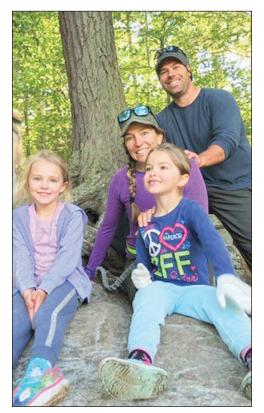
# Bill 23 becomes law

Stone said the unprecedented growth and shortage of shovel-ready land is why a development charges study and a growth projection model are so important.

"(To) make sure our growth projections are accurate enough that we can actually bring land in, get it ready for development and, ultimately, have it so that those houses are built in a timely manner."

He said the challenge for planning departments is to make approvals as efficient as possible.

Asked about the More Homes Built Faster Act, which was passed Nov. 28, Stone said



The Judson family. Submitted.

it is needed to meet some of the housing challenges in southern Ontario.

"We should be looking at whether the intent of the Bill, which is more affordable housing built quicker, can be facilitated in this community? If so, let's find a way of getting more housing opportunities approved now.

# 2023 PERFORMANCES

# **VALERIE KUINKA**

General & Co-Artistic Director

' Mishaabooz's Realm | The Elixir of Love' Feel the PASSION! Get involved! **REDUCED** Holiday Pricing

# RICHARD MARGISON

**Artistic Director** 















**REDUCED** Holiday Pricing until VIP SEASON PASS \$180 | SEASON PASS \$75 YOUTH PASS \$15 MASTERCLASS \$10 | CONCERTS \$25 | OPERAS \$30

# **RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASSES** July 27th - 29th | 7:30-9:00pm St. George's Anglican Church

Hear the 2023 HOS professional singers sing for our Artistic Director & Master Voice Teacher, Richard Margison, O.C. and listen in on what makes great singing even better!

### MISHAABOOZ'S REALM

August 17th & 19th | 7:30-9:30pm | NLPAP, Haliburton Experience this powerful & moving work COMMISSIONED by HOS in 2017 and WRITTEN in HALIBURTON COUNTY! (Running time includes 1 pause and post-performance chat with creators/ performers) Supported in its original creation by



# 'L'ELISIR D'AMORE' (THE ELIXIR OF LOVE) BY GAETANO DONIZETTI

August 24th, 26th-28th | various times | NLPAP, Haliburton One of the best loved - and most-regularly performed - of all Donizetti's operas, this two-act romantic comedy follows the fortunes of poor villager Nemorino who is in love with wealthy. beautiful heiress Adina. A hilarious sit-com for all ages! (Running time includes one intermission)

# COMMUNITY PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENT

# **WHY CHOOSE OPERA?**

July 31st | 7:30-8:45pm | **Abbey Gardens Performance Tent** 2023 participants perform their personal favourite music

# MUSIC ON THE WATER

August 12th | 6:00-7:00pm | Location TBA Launch your boat on a lake TBD in Haliburton County for a beach concert of opera, musical theatre, and pop music! WANT IT TO BE YOUR LAKE? CONTACT US! info@highlandsoperastudio.com

# **CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE**

August 14th | 7:30-8:45pm | St. George's Anglican

# CONCERTS

# FROM OPERA TO BROADWAY

August 3rd | 7:30-9:30pm | St. George's Anglican Favourite solos and ensembles from opera and musical

# **CELEBRATIONS!**

August 5th | 7:30-9:30pm | St. George's Anglican Celebrate important musical anniversaries and achievements, past and present.

### POP GOES THE OPERA

August 9th | 7:30-9:30pm | St. George's Anglican Great operatic selections, including music of Giuseppe Verdi on the 210th anniversary of his birth.

# **HOMECOMING: HOS ALUMNI**

August 21th | 7:30-9:00pm | St. George's Anglican Join us for an evening of reminiscence and great singing by guest HOS Alumni!

Dec. 8

2022

# 4 Highlander news

# I-41 Maple Avenue | Haliburton D: 705-457-5199 | C: 705-306-0730

# HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

# **Highlands East** rejects OPP changes

Highlands East has joined Haliburton County in calling for the OPP to continue to have a detachment commander in the Highlands. The service recently discussed the possibility of replacing the detachment commander with a manager.

"This has been an active conversation throughout the County," CAO Shannon Hunter said at a Nov. 22 meeting of council. "If council supports this, it puts our feelings forward to the required agencies," she said. Mayor Dave Burton said he opposed the consolidation.

"I would like us to have a say on police services and I feel that could be lost if they have to go the other way," he said.

Burton also said that while initially told the consolidation wouldn't happen if not supported, he has heard the OPP won't make a decision until a local police services board is established.

Coun. Cam McKenzie said he also had doubts about the idea.

"The public is supposed to have greater input than we had in the past... it doesn't sound like this is going that way."

# Election cheaper than 2018 vote

Clerk Robyn Rogers said preliminary tallies put the 2022 election at \$42,000, more than \$10,000 cheaper than 2018's \$54,000

"It was a new experience for staff, for voters, but I think we can build off this moving forward," she told council.

Alongside Haliburton County's three other municipalities, the township used Spanish voting company Scytl to conduct online and telephone voting.

She said complications included a language barrier, and time zone issues preventing speedy communication with the Scytl team.

We still received the results much quicker than previous elections," Rogers said. She told council having a Haliburton County IT specialist on hand helped too.

"I can say we did not have any IT issues on the day of election," she said.

Despite the technical success, the election was the lowest voter turnout recorded since before 2000. A staff report stated 1,934 votes were cast. The average number of votes cast in elections since 2000 stands at 2,819.

Rogers said while staff received many comments over the ease of voting, there were some complaints. "Some of the calls [claimed] that the municipality was taking away their right to vote," she said. "Of course, my response was 'we're still here, you can still vote, it's just a different way'."

# Staff challenges reduce welcome centre visitors

Economic development coordinator Joanne Vanier said less-than-usual attendance at the township's visitor centre is largely due to issues with finding staff.

"Due to the lack of support staff, we were unable to open the full six days per week



Highlands East hosted its first in-person regular meeting of council since March 2020 on Nov. 22. Most staff attended virtually. Photo by Sam Gillett.

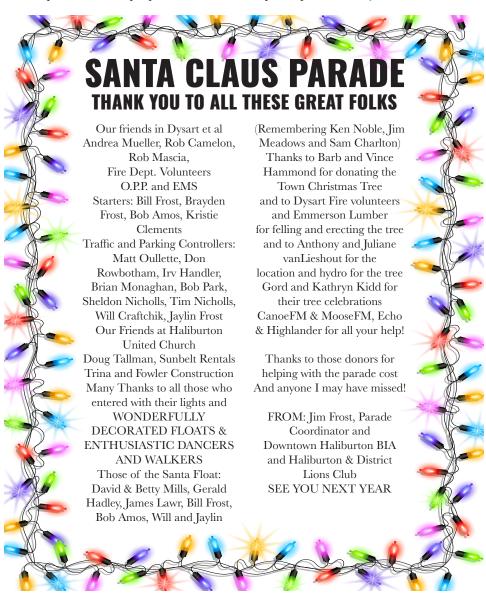
as in previous years. As younger students require a second staff member present, it will be proposed next year an adult be hired as support staff in place of a student, allowing us to be open more days," Vanier wrote in a staff report.

Vanier reported that 700 people have visited

so far in 2022, compared to 506 this time last year and 1,800 in 2019, 1,419 in 2018 and 1,165 in 2017.

"I believe the information centre is still a very valuable asset to the community," she told councillors. (Highlands East news compiled by Sam Gillett).







# Animal rescues struggle to meet demand

### By Sam Gillett

Don Kerr hoists an orange cooler onto the table inside a building at Minden Cat Angels, a volunteer-run shelter outside the village.

It won't keep drinks cool anymore but it will help stray cats stay warm this winter, with a hole cut out of the side and a dry bed of straw inside.

It's a strategy Kerr will use throughout the season to help Minden cats once his location is at capacity.

"I can't take them all," he said. "But I can offer [people] at no charge a shelter box as long as they're willing to supply cats with food and some warm water during the winter."

Kerr operates one of the only shelters for cats in Haliburton County and is expecting to have to turn cats away this fall as the weather gets colder.

"I limit at 18 in here," he said. "And that's pushing it because I only have, right now, maybe two volunteers coming every week."

Cats such as George and Oreo lounge in Kerr's heated shelter, or take strolls along elevated catwalks. It takes hours of work a week to keep up with their needs.

One way Highlanders can help, Kerr said, is to donate coolers. Kerr will turn them into single-home dwellings, that residents can put outside to help keep stray cats alive during the deep freeze. There's always a need for

Kerr expects an influx of cats due to one of the only other shelters in the Highlands being forced to shut its doors to new cats. Cats of Paint Lake's property is likely to be sold. Operator Heather Deveaux said the non-profit is in a "holding pattern." The organization's board will decide what the future could look like at an upcoming board meeting.

"I kind of feel guilty because I've had to sort of step back when I know the need is so great," Deveaux said. "But on the other hand, on a personal level, it's gruelling. It's exhausting. It's heartbreaking." She said running a shelter, especially a small volunteer effort like Cats of Paint Lake, means no days off and lots of late-night animal hospital visits, long drives and sad moments with sick animals.

While she can't accept new cats, her phone is still ringing.

"I still get phone calls whether it's from other rescues or from people who've seen animals in the community or people who need to surrender their animals," she said. "What we are doing still is networking because we spent a lot of time connecting with other rescues."

Deveaux urged Highlanders to consider getting stray cats spayed or neutered, a service many veterinarians will conduct on stray cats for lower rates. She said Cats of Paint Lake was in the process of writing grants that might have funded low-cost spay and neuter pop-up services in the Highlands.

"That's one of the big reasons that people don't spay and neuter is that it's extremely expensive," she said.

While feral cats are more likely to multiply on their own, they aren't the only animals seeing an increased need for shelter.

Kristyn Elyse, who operates Snowflake Meadows, a dog boarding, rescue and re-homing centre, told The Highlander in the summer that the need for dog foster families and adoptees has remained high.

While she isn't accepting new dogs at the time, this summer and spring she said she was experiencing unprecedented demand for her services.

"Kennels are full, shelters are full, we are experiencing a severe foster shortage because fosters are volunteers: people. The same people that also want to travel and see their friends and family now that restrictions are lifted," she said in an email.

She said she noticed a halt to the number of



Don Kerr will provide free makeshift cat shelters. Photo by Sam Gillett.

folks willing to act as foster homes for dogs, meaning she was at her limit with dogs at Snowflake Meadows.

"I don't think any rescue was prepared for the abrupt halt that occurred in March and came to a complete standstill in April. Ask any rescue and they will tell you they have never seen it like this," she said.

Both Kerr and Deveaux said they have numerous stories of Highlanders finding close friends in their new adoptions. Deveaux added that while she currently isn't accepting cats, the Highlands' support "blew her

away." Once, she found out a cat's surgery was crowdfunded while the veterinarian was operating.

"People care about these animals, and it's not their fault that they're out there," Deveaux said.

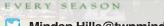
"It's irresponsible pet owners or sometimes [the animals] escape. Of course, if they escaped before they've been fixed, that's a problem."

To donate to Minden Cat Angels or find out more about their cats, visit Minden Cat Angels on Facebook.

# INFORMATION PAGE

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden ON K0M 2K0 Phone: 705-286-1260 Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 Fax: 705-286-4917 · www.mindenhills.ca

@Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills



# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247

# LOW WASTE HOLIDAY SEASON

Try giving experiences instead of gifts this year. Why not gift an Ontario Parks Day Use Permit or a membership to the Minden Fitness Centre? If you aren't sure what experience they may like, consider making a donation to a charitable organization in their name.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Decorate Safely
  If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled "fire resistant"
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
   Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them
   Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the
- right ladder for the task when hanging lights
   Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wire: or loose connections
- Follow the package directions on the number of lights sets that can be plugged into one socket
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the
- ground away from puddles and snow

  Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house

# **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Come join our team! We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Building Inspector
   Community Services Operator
- Director of Planning, Building and Bylaw
- Roads Equipment Operator (temporary full-time) Student Arena Attendants
  - Student Recreation Attendants

Stay informed of current job postings by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/ mployment-opportunities/ for a list of available employment opportunities.

# MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

The Muse, Under the Thin Blue Line, an exhibit by Bob Tunnoch will be on display November 1 - December 20 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Meet the artist in person on December 10 and 17 from 11 am – 3 pm. Admission is by donation. For more information call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

# (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

> December 8 - Regular Council Meeting January 12 - Regular Council Meeting

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

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at 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 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.

# TLDSB students testing below provincial average

### By Mike Baker

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) director of education, Wes Hahn, believes student learning is "moving in the right direction" board-wide after the Ontario Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) reported an increase in local student achievement in the 2021/22 school year, though still down in many areas when compared to the provincial average.

EQAO tests assess students' literacy and math skills during Grades 3, 6, 9 and 10. Testing resumed virtually in the spring following a two-year COVID-19 enforced absence.

Seventy per cent of Grade 3 students across TLDSB are reading at the provincial standard, up from 67 per cent in 2018/19; 57 per cent are meeting the provincial standards for writing, the same as in 2018/19; and 56 per cent are meeting the minimum expectations in math, up from 53 per cent three years ago. Despite these improvements, TLDSB students come in under the provincial average in each category. Seventy-three per cent of students province-wide met the minimum standards for reading, 65 per cent for writing and 59 per cent for math literacy.

There were some improvements at the Grade 6 level too. Seventy-eight per cent of TLDSB students can read at a grade equity level, up from 76 per cent in 2018/19; 75 per cent are writing to the provincial standard, up from 73 per cent in 2018/19. Meanwhile, just 40 per cent of students are hitting provincial

targets for math, down from 42 per cent in 2018/19. These were all down from the provincial average for reading (85 per cent), writing (84 per cent) and math (47 per cent).

At the high school level, 45 per cent of Grade 9s met provincial standards during math testing, down from the provincial average of 52 per cent. Hahn noted it was difficult to compare these results from prior years since new de-streamed math courses, introduced by the province in September 2021, replaced the old applied and academic teaching practices. In 2018/19, 57 per cent of TLDSB students enrolled in applied met provincial standards, up from the provincial average of 44 per cent, while 86 per cent of those taking academic courses met the minimum expectations, up from 84 per cent province wide.

Grade 10 students who took the literacy test in TLDSB fared better than the provincial average. At the applied level, 57 per cent were found to meet provincial expectations, up from 50 per cent Ontario wide; 92 per cent of those enrolled in academic classes passed the test, up from the provincial average of 91 per cent.

Hahn noted an in-depth report on EQAO testing would be delivered at a Dec. 6 board meeting.

"This is a good indicator of our baseline, where we're starting. We have a lot of work to do, but in the elementary [level] we've seen four of our six areas improve, which is a testament to the staff and their commitment to learning through a very difficult time



Student progress is up across TLDSB according to 2021/22 EQAO testing results. File.

period," Hahn said. "We have a lot of work to do in our math area, across the board. We will continue to make this a focus moving forward."

# New board

There were four new faces inside the boardroom at the Lindsay Education Centre Nov. 22 as the new TLDSB board of trustees met for its inaugural meeting.

Heather Bradley, Tim McAlpine, Esther Childs and Deb McInerney were each

welcomed by returning board member Bruce Reain, who is back as board chair for a third successive term. He will be joined by familiar faces Louise Clodd, who will serve as vice chair, Haliburton County trustee Gary Brohman, Judy Saunders and Colleen Wilcox.

"I look forward to working with everyone. It's been a couple of tough years and I'm pleased with the job we did as a board, the strategic plan we developed and how we're focusing on that. It's our job now [to guide that work forward]," Reain said.



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Curry Bishop pictured with his great grandsons Matthew and Jackson. Submitted.

# Curry Bishop remembered as pillar of Haliburton County community

# By Mike Baker

As one of the most influential people in the Highlands over the past 60 years, Curry Bishop's fingerprints can be found across all four corners of Haliburton County.

Whether through his work as a land surveyor, his passion for developing property or his half century-plus commitment to various public causes, Bishop played a pivotal role in shaping the County.

On Nov. 21, Bishop passed away at the age of 91. Hundreds attended a celebration of his life at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride Nov. 30.

"Dad was one of a kind," son, Greg Bishop, told The Highlander. "He got involved in so many things around town. His legacy is one that is shared by many from his generation - they were doers, who made a difference. They helped build and develop this whole

Born in Niagara-on-the-Lake in September 1931, Bishop was a boy when his family relocated to Haliburton in 1940. They moved in with his grandfather, W.R. Curry, after his dad, Harry Bishop, enlisted in the war effort. Curry had a huge influence on Bishop's life, passing down a ferocious work ethic that Greg said was unmatched.

In his 20s, he earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Toronto, taught math at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, worked for consulting firm Marshall Macklin Monaghan in northern Quebec, and eventually settled in Haliburton, purchasing FT Webster's surveying business. He married Aldyth Sisson, and had his first daughter, Deb. He later had daughter, Shirley.

"My favourite thing about my dad was his sense of adventure. We enjoyed a lot of them (adventures) over the years," Deb Bishop

He loved being outdoors, with hunting his favourite pastime. Deb would accompany her dad on hunts, appreciating the time they got to spend together. Owning property on North Lake, the family would hike regularly, and enjoyed snowmobiling and ice fishing.

Remembering one of her dad's quirks, Deb recalled being regularly dragged out in the family vehicle on cold winter nights for what they thought was an exciting reason.

"He'd say 'we're going to see a man about a dog'. We'd head out, drive for a while and then, after he parked, he'd pull out his survey equipment. A lot of times he'd be out there for an hour, and we'd lose sight of him. When he came back, he'd say 'oh, the man doesn't have any dogs today," she said.

Some of the best memories involve family trips south of the border, to properties the Bishops owned in Florida and Arizona.

Later in life, Deb would bond with her dad over their shared love for dancing.

Mayor Murray Fearrey knew Curry well, working with him on Dysart et al council in the 1990s. Elected as deputy reeve in 1992,

Bishop served a single term in office, taking over as reeve after incumbent Chris Hodgson became the riding's MPP in 1994.

"He was thrifty, certainly very concerned about municipal finances and taxpayers' dollars," Fearrey said.

To his Rotary family, Curry was always seen as "Mr. Reliable."

"He was kind of like the elder statesman of Rotary," said club president Ursula Devolin. "He had 56 years of perfect attendance and was our longest serving member... it's going to be strange going back for regular meetings and knowing Curry won't be there for a visit."

He maintained an active role in various initiatives, such as the annual car draw. Curry would sell upwards of 1,000 tickets alone, with Devolin saying many area residents refused to buy tickets from anyone else.

Almost all of Greg's favourite memories with his dad came while they were out in the bush, chasing down a kill.

"We had our best days together while out hunting... we had one special moment a few vears ago, when he was 85. He wanted to score himself a big buck, and so we all came together to try and get him set up and sure enough, he got himself an eight-point buck," Greg said. "I still remember that because he said 'I'll never shoot anything again. I'll never hunt again.' It was nice that I got to share that with him.'



# Join the Chamber

- Connect with colleagues and community
- provide a unified voice of business to our political leaders
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# The **Highlander**

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

# OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

# **STAFF**

### PUBLISHER

Simon Payn | simon@thehighlander.ca

### **EDITORIAL**

Lisa Gervais

Editor | editor@thehighlander.ca

Sam Gillett

Reporter | sam@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker

Reporter | mike@thehighlander.ca

Dawn Poissant Sales | dawn@thehighlander.ca

Laurie Johnson

Sales | laurie@thehighlander.ca

### **BUSINESS MANAGER**

Glenda Mumford | admin@thehighlander.ca

# **PRODUCTION**

Tania Moher

Design manager | production@thehighlander.ca

# **DISTRIBUTION**

Walt Griffin

# **CONTACT**

705-457-2900 123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

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# Make this a local Christmas

The Bank of Canada increased interest rates, again, Dec. 7, this time by 50 basis points, to 4.25 per cent.

In other words, if you've got a variable rate mortgage, the 'ouch' continues. The rate started the year at 0.25 per cent and was 3.75 per cent prior to Wednesday.

Some say there are signs the economy and inflation is slowing, however, the labour market remains stubbornly strong.

We've also been told that Canadians should brace for further ballooning of their grocery bills next year. The most recent edition of Canada's Food Price Report predicts another five to seven per cent price jump. That means a family of four can expect to pay \$16,222.80 in 2023 for groceries - an increase of \$1,065.60 from 2022 prices according to the report. Energy prices are also expected to soar.

The federal government is unlikely to dole out much of a helping hand. The Canadian Taxpavers Federation claims Canada's federal debt is growing by \$878 per second, which is \$52,701 per minute, \$3.1 million per hour, or \$75.9 million every single day. The debt clock is currently over \$713 billion and Canada's federal debt continues to grow

daily. At the provincial level, the Government of Ontario's debt is \$348.9 billion and growing.

As Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said during his council's inaugural council meeting, no white knight, no Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and no Marvel Comics character is going to bail out Haliburton County residents. We have to do it ourselves.

Let's start with Christmas.

Statista, a retail and trade website, states the average Canadian household spends about \$2,375 on Christmas. That includes \$451 on food, \$616 on decorations and \$1,308 on presents.

Faced with rising interest rates, inflation, government and personal debt, why in the world would we do that again this year?

The Globe and Mail reported this week that consumer debt in Canada topped \$2.36 trillion in the third quarter, up 7.3 per cent from last year

It's time we collectively lowered our holiday expectations. It may seem trite but why not buy fewer, less expensive, gifts? There have been plenty of Christmas craft markets featuring locally-made items at reasonable prices, where you can eyeball the very person you are giving your money to.

As always this time of year, we also implore you to shop at local businesses, and not online.

When you purchase at locally-owned businesses rather

than nationally-owned, more money is kept in the community because local businesses often purchase from other area businesses, and service providers. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses, as well as the local tax base.

While out for my daily walk, I ran into a chap who has had a good financial year. He told me he practices the ancient art of tithing. In olden days, people would give one tenth of their crops to the landlord. Others have given to their churches. Today, tithes are voluntary and often paid out to charities. If you can pay it forward, we urge you to do so. Many in our community cannot give onetenth of their net earnings.



By Lisa Gervais

# LETTERS

# Remembering **Marion Hare**

Dear editor,

My mother, Marion Hare, passed away Nov. 16 at 89. My wife, daughter and I live in the home she and husband Bill designed and built in Haliburton in 1995. She and Bill met on a blind date as teenagers and were together for 66 years.

Born in Peterborough, she was a descendent of the earliest European settlers there. As a child, she spent summers at a cottage in the Haliburton area, and never lost her love for

She was a trail blazer. An intellectual force, she was the top student in her high school class, editor of the school yearbook, captain of the debating team and valedictorian. Yet, her parents would not pay for university for a daughter, so while raising four children, she attended night school at York University, and then full-time at Stanford University, at a time when "mature" students were men. She completed a double degree in English and Journalism, then a masters and Ph.D. – at 51 – from Stanford in Art History. As a result of her thesis work, including research at the Musée Rodin in Paris, she was considered the world's leading authority on the portraiture of Auguste Rodin. She loved

opera, cats, dogs and horses. She passed on to her children and grandchildren her love of the outdoors, especially water.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, she lived in post-war Holland while her husband pursued postdoctoral research in physics. They travelled throughout Europe in a small Volkswagen with a toddler. They lived in New Jersey, Toronto and California before retiring to Haliburton. Here she continued her support for the arts, both visual and performing, particularly supporting Canadian artists as a founding member of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest and as a passionate member of the Haliburton Concert Series committee. She wrote a weekly column for the Haliburton Echo.

Dementia robbed her of her memory and ability to take care of herself, but she kept her sense of humour until the very end. She will be missed.

Dave Hare Haliburton

# Blue Spruce cut down

Dear editor,

To the person that cut down the clearlymarked memorial Blue Spruce tree on the roadside of the hydro cut at the Allsaw Flats on County Road 21.

The tree was planted by Chad Smith's family after he passed away in May 2009 at age 27. I spoke with his mother and she said they are very sad but she hopes whoever took it enjoys it this Christmas because it was a perfect tree. It was! We hope you will plant another Blue Spruce in its place in the Spring out of respect. The friends of the Smith family are devastated for a second time.

Dale and John Rider Haliburton

# **Optimum points** and food banks

Dear editor,

As the holiday season approaches, there are a lot of local families in need.

Our family is using our PC Optimum points to donate much-needed food to our local community food bank.

It's easy .... just fill up your cart with food donations, pay using your Optimum points and then leave the food in the bin that's provided at the grocery store entrance. Please join us and everyone wins.

Barb and Dave Rodgerson Haliburton

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

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

# Social media policy

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

# A breath of fresh air for Haliburton Life

### By Lisa Gervais

The Carnarvon-based Voima Group has purchased social community platform Haliburton Life.

Owners Amanda Virtanen, a former County of Haliburton director of tourism, and her partner, Geoff Schultz, announced the acquisition Nov. 14.

Jen and Pasi Posti launched Haliburton Life in 2014. Virtanen and Schultz said it was originally created for the Postis to share their love of Haliburton.

"The social community quickly grew with user-generated content from across the Haliburton Highlands. The social platform showcases a true taste of the Haliburton life," Voima's co-owners said.

In 2020, the Postis sold to Jessica Lawrence, owner of Haliburton Lake Wear. Jessica has managed the community since, however, Virtanen said she is busy with her own work so decided to pass it on to the Voima Group.

"It seemed a natural progression for us to take on Haliburton Life, as it's an incredible community of people who share the same

passion for Haliburton as we do," Schultz said. "Our love for the Haliburton Highlands is at the core to everything we do, at work and in life."

Virtanen added, "when the opportunity to acquire Haliburton Life came up, it seemed a natural fit for us personally, professionally and with my past experience as Haliburton County's tourism director."

Lawrence said she was also pleased with how things turned out.

"I'm excited that Haliburton Life will carry on and I know it's in good hands with Geoff and Amanda. I look forward to working with them on some projects in 2023."

The Voima Group said Haliburton Life will remain community-driven and, "continue to showcase all that the Haliburton Highlands region has to offer to the audience of nearly 10,000 followers."

They said it is early days and did not want to elaborate on some of their ideas going forward, other than to say they have some, "exciting plans to expand the lifestyle brand into 2023.

The platform can be found on Instagram @ HaliburtonLife.



Amanda Virtanen and Geoff Schultz pull up the Haliburton Life site. Photo by Lisa Gervais.



# Winners are grinners

The Reynolds family received a \$250 cheque from Sir Sam's Ski/Ride Nov. 16. They won the money in a fall photo contest. Pictured are owner Doug Wilkinson and Brooke Reynolds. Also pictured is the winning photo. Submitted.

# **HAVE AN OPINION?**

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

# 10 Highlander arts

# Curtain rises on Highlands Opera Club

### By Sam Gillett

Many teens and young adults might not realize how their passions intersect with the world of opera.

The Highlands Opera Studio's new Opera Club is aimed at helping youth explore music, performance arts, set design, wardrobe creation, makeup and more, all through the lens of the operatic arts.

"It's a really great way for youth and young adults in the community to experience opera and see it's allowing us more access to different types of music and theatre," said club director Corina Mansfield. "It all kind of goes together for opera."

Any young adult older than 13 is invited to attend, "even if it's not the opera that they love," Mansfield said.

"Maybe they've discovered something in the musical arts that they want to aspire to, or even just have opera as a wonderful hobby. We don't have to be great at things to love them."

While the group kicked off meetings with a meet-and-greet Oct. 24 and a trip to Toronto to watch *Carmen*, regular events and activities will depend on the interests of group members.

"It's not going to be like every week or anything like that because I know that youth in the community are busy," Mansfield said.

She and Highlands Opera Studio hope to show how the skills picked up in learning about opera can be transferred to other artistic practices, whether painting set backdrops or composing music.

s Summer Festival

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Maeve Palmer and Stéphane Mayer performed a variety of opera tunes and other songs, including Irish ballads. Photo by Sam Gillett.

Mansfield gave the example of sitting directly behind the conductor during a performance and being able to see how the music on the page translates onto the stage. "The dork in me just goes insane," she said. If a teen is interested in cosmetics, for

instance, they could spend their time in the club picking up how different methods help tell stories about characters or accent how they appear to the audience.

"All these different interests, all these different professions, all these different

careers and they come together to seamlessly make this amazing thing that you don't think about it when you're watching it."

For more information on future meetings, contact Mansfield at info@highlandsoperastudio.com



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# 'Forgotten' exhibit showcases emerging talent

### By Sam Gillett

The Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre is serving up 11 moments of creative introspection, courtesy of the creative minds roaming the halls of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

'Forgotten' is a group art show planned, produced and presented by the school's graduating class of artists, on display at the Haliburton gallery until Dec. 17.

The class decided on the theme together, after compiling images they found inspiring.

"There were a lot of broken, abandoned objects, structures... and I was thinking we could broaden the idea, expand a bit," said Riley Boermans. He suggested 'Forgotten' as a unifying theme and it stuck.

Each student has crafted an original piece of art speaking to the idea. Boermans painted his grandfather's rusted truck, lost amidst towering trees and grass.

Other students, such as Colleen Petric, found inspiration in the way memories are made and fade.

"Present experiences influence our views on past memories, and past memories influence our present experiences," she wrote in an accompanying artist statement.

Petric told *The Highlander* she found her final piece looked slightly different than she expected as she navigated colour and acrylic painting techniques.

"I thought it might look a lot gloomier but I like the outcome, too," she said.

Boermans, as well, chose a medium he wasn't completely used to. He said painting, unlike drawing, was confusing. "Going from being able to put something on, and being able to [erase it] to once you put it on, it's on, and you have to work around it," he said.

The Rosetta Thing, by Lucas Wingell, is a three-dimensional piece inspired by the Rosetta Stone.

"I was sort of 'think of forgotten cultures.' So, I thought of forgotten languages,' Wingell said. He incorporated carved letters



Rosetta Thing by Lucas Wingell between Without Individuality by Hunter Barry (left) and work by Lucas Graham. Photo by Sam Gillett.

from medieval Latin, Elder Futhark and the now-extinct Tocharian languages.

"These three scripts represent not only the ancient languages but also the forgotten people and cultures of the past," Wingell wrote in his statement. He questions what other languages might disappear as English becomes ever-more dominant throughout the

For teacher Karen Gervais, the show is a chance to see her students' work through a creative process collectively.

"It's neat to see it from the start, right from concept to development of the final work," she said. "It's definitely a bit of pressure we're under, since it's a pretty short timeframe, a semester."

Students also had the chance to develop

their own artists' statements and present their work to friends, family and the public at a reception Nov. 25.

"I think it provides good learning with reallife deadlines and sometimes having to burn the midnight oil. It always comes together in the end," Gervais said.

The Rails End Gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday.







# 12 Highlander people

# CanoeFM host named Blues Booster of the Year

### **Bv Sam Gillet**

CanoeFM radio host Patrick Monaghan has been named Blues Booster of the Year by the Toronto Blues Society.

Host of The Buckslide Blues Cruise Tuesday nights, Monaghan is "well known as one of the biggest supporters of Canadian blues musicians," said the society in a Nov. 29 media release.

"A champion enthusiast like a few others, Patrick Monaghan is a classic Blues Booster," said Derek Andrews, president of the Toronto Blues Society. "CanoeFM is lucky to have Patrick as an advocate, as are all blues musicians who benefit from his passion."

Monaghan's 40-year love affair with the genre has seen him travel across Canada and the United States to festivals and concerts, as well as developing an international radio audience and the Haliburton-based Buckslide Blues Society.

Monaghan has also been awarded multiple honours for his radio show through the National Campus Radio Association, hitting 300 shows in Jan. 2022. Achieving the milestone was a goal Monaghan had in mind during a stretch of difficult months receiving treatment for cancer.

"I would like to thank the Toronto Blues Society for choosing me for this prestigious award," Monaghan said. "I am honoured and thrilled to receive the Blues Booster of the Year Award.

"I would also like to thank my peers, colleagues and the blues community for their



Patrick Monaghan said he plays anything "from Lead Belly to Led Zeppelin" on the Buckslide Blues Cruise. File.

support. Many kind and helpful people have helped me along the way. About four years ago, I was diagnosed with a serious illness, again many members of the blues community stepped up to the plate ready to help in any way that they could. I am very grateful for their efforts. I consider my job as 'keeping the blues alive' but the last few years, the blues have been keeping me alive."

The Buckslide Blues Cruise sets off each

Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.

Monaghan will be formally presented the award at the 26th annual Maple Blues Awards gala on Jan. 30 in Toronto.



Time to darn those Christmas knits, tease up your tinsel tassels, and pillage Value Village for the Ugly Holiday Sweater Party at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre!

Have a cup of Christmas cheer while you gawk at the ugliest sweaters that you have ever laid your eyes on, all the while rocking out to the amazing Harry Peterson Band. There will be some light holiday appetizers, signature cocktails and other beverages for purchase, along with late night food for purchase and we will be awarding prizes for the ugliest sweaters of them all.

Tis the season to be tacky and we can't wait for you to bring your ho-ho-horrendous sweater and your holiday spirit!

# LOCATION

Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre, 4252 County Rd 21 Haliburton ON KOM 1SO

### **DATE & TIME**

December 17, 2022, 7:30 PM - 12:30 AM

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# Highlander events 13



Dec. 8 2022





# Shindig raises \$33,703 for Fuel for Warmth

The 9th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig raised \$33,703 for Fuel for Warmth Dec. 3. Hosted by Marple Syrup and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm and Victoria Bingham), the variety show featured music, a skit, and ballet. Fuel for Warmth has helped those at risk of going without heat every winter since 2009. For more information, go to fuelforwarmth.com.

Top: Tom Regina was accompanied by Melissa Stephens for delights on piano and flute. Middle: Marple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) hosted the Shindig. Bottom: The event raised \$33,703. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



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# 14 Highlander community







# Rotarians ring in the festive season

The North Pole arrived at the Haliburton Legion and A.J. LaRue Arena Dec. 2 thanks to the Haliburton Rotary Club. The service club welcomed the community to its annual Christmas party, complete with skating at the arena, a kids play area, free food and treats, face painting and more. At 7 p.m., Mr. Claus and an elf sidekick took to the stage to hear Christmas wishes, and Rotarian Heather Phillips handed each kid a gift bag after they met Santa. It was the first Christmas party the club has hosted indoors since 2019 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Top left: Ursula Devolin served up a massive bundle of cotton candy to MacKay Windover. Top middle: Pockets the face painter created a dolphin scene on Emery Horsely. Top right: Ryerson Jones was best buds with Saint Nick. Bottom: Fenton Taylor and his grandfather Dave Taylor skated some laps. *Photos by Sam Gillett*.





# Home of the Highland Storm









# U15 Storm teams shine at Minden Silver Stick

With the U15 Silver Stick tournament kicking off this past weekend for the Highland Storm LL U15 Sharp Electric and Peppermill Steak and Pasta House, both teams were ready to battle.

For our first game of the day, Sharp Electric faced off against the Muskies. As both teams battled back-and-forth with determination for the win, Nate Guild opened the scoring with a beautiful wrist shot from the blue line, assisted by Eric Bird.

Thirty seconds later, with a big battle in front of the net, Braxton Cooper slipped in the second goal, assisted by Logan Reid and Jordanna Jennings.

During the second period, the Muskies showed they wanted to come back but the Storm proved this was our house and shut them down. Halfway through the second, Ethan Rowe snagged the puck from the Muskies and turned up the pace, showed his skills and nailed a wicked snipe from the top of the hash marks assisted with a beauty saucer pass from Reid.

During the third period, the Muskies still put on the pressure but once again the Storm shone. With a big battle along the boards, Haiden Bird brought the puck into the offensive zone and nailed a beautiful top shelf goal, unassisted.

Norwood Hornets. This game started off with sheer determination from both teams with big plays, serious speed, and massive saves from both sides. But Norwood found the back of the net first.

The second was another big period, just as good as the first, but Rowe found the puck and let go a bullet wrister for an unassisted goal.

During the third, Norwood took the lead again but the Storm never let up. Jacob Mantle caught a beauty pass from our zone and put his head down and turned on his awesome speed and scored a beauty, assisted

Our second game of the day was against the by Rowe and Olivia Gruppe. Two minutes later, Rowe showed determination and scored the game-winning goal assisted by Mantle.

We lost the third game against the Shelburne Wolves 5-0

A special thanks to all Storm families for all donations and raffle items, especially for all the help from both teams. And a huge shout out to Craig and Tammy Smith for directing this tournament and absolutely everything you had to put up with... we salute you. (Submitted).

U11 rep Curry Chevrolet Vs Millbrook 6-3 W

U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling Vs Brock 13-2 W

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons Vs Mariposa 4-5 L

Nov. 30

U15 Haliburton Timber Mart Vs Millbrook 3-2 W

U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling Vs Woodville 2-2 T

U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX Vs Parry Sound 4-3 W



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# Saini out to prove himself at World Jr. A Challenge

# By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies forward Patrick Saini has been rubbing shoulders with some of the best up-and-coming players in the country this week after being invited to attend the Canada East team camp ahead of the World Jr. A Challenge.

Taking place in Cornwall, ON from Dec. 11 to 18, the showcase - returning for the first time since 2019 - will feature two Canadian teams as well as invitees from Latvia, Sweden and the U.S.

Speaking to *The Highlander* before heading south, Saini said it would be "a dream come true" to make the Canada East roster. Thirty-three players from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes were invited to a three-day camp, beginning Dec. 5, with a 22-man roster to be announced Dec. 8.

"As a young hockey fan, you grow up watching Team Canada all the time. To be a part of that, and to wear the jersey would be such an honour," Saini said. "It's an exciting opportunity. I just have to enjoy it, not get too focused on making the team and see what happens... I know what kind of player I am, so if I do my thing and work hard, then I've got a good chance."

The World Jr. A Challenge has been running since 2006, providing a platform for junior hockey players under the age of 20 to show their skills on a national level. Future NHLers such as David Pastrnak, Kyle Turris, Cale Makar, Andrei Svechnikov and Nikolaj Ehlers have competed in past tournaments.

While rosters for the visiting nations have yet to be announced, there will likely be some big-hitters competing again this year. Latvia, Sweden and the U.S. will each compete in the 2023 IIHF World Junior Championship, being held in Halifax, NS



Patrick Saini has been flying the Haliburton County Huskies flag at the Canada East team camp this week. Photo by OJHL Images.

and Moncton, NB from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5. In years past, teams have used the Jr. A Challenge as a tune-up for that event when it's held in Canada.

No matter the opponent, Saini is confident he'll be able to hold his own. The 19-year-old centre has been in fine form for the Huskies this season, putting up a team-high 50 points in 27 games in the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL).

While recognizing linemates Ty Collins and Christian Stevens, Saini also heaped special praise on Huskies' trainer Owen Flood for helping him to take his game to a new level this year. Haliburton's Matt Duchene also played a role, Saini said.

"I worked so hard during the summer with Owen. He was able to take the best parts of my game and elevate them even further, and then helping me in areas that could use some work. I wouldn't be where I am today without him," Saini said. "I also skated with Matt Duchene in the summer, and I learned a lot from him."

Should Saini crack the Canada East roster, he will miss four games with the Huskies, returning after the holidays for a Dec. 30 tilt on home ice with the Mississauga Chargers.









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# Taking it to the streets

The Haliburton County Huskies squared off against student players from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Dec. 4 in an all-day ball hockey tournament. They played a total of 24 games during the afternoon.

Top left: Evelyn Mardus battles Luca Rea for the ball. Top right: Coach Ryan Ramsay's son, Lawson, plays with the big boys. Bottom: Husky Leo Serlin takes on the Jaguars.



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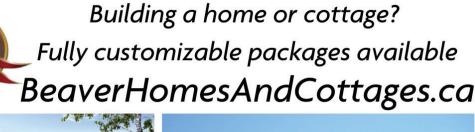
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# Curling sweeps back to normal in Highlands

### By Mike Baker

Curling is alive and well in the Highlands, with all three clubs across Haliburton County reporting substantial increases in membership for the new winter season.

With back-to-back seasons impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, clubs in Haliburton, Minden and Wilberforce are operating without restrictions this year, though are maintaining enhanced cleaning practices and encourage members to wear a mask when not on the ice. John Sexton, a member of the Minden executive, said it's been an emotional couple of months as he's seen many long-time players return to the rink.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be back. Curling is such a social sport. We missed out on so much the past couple of years. It's wonderful to have curling as we know it, and as we love it, running again," he said.

With the first of two 10-week sessions underway, the Minden club has 190 curlers registered for the year. That's up from 120 last season. Sexton said there are nine active leagues, including competitive options for men and women, co-ed recreational and a new 'BS' league, which is run in partnership with Boshkung Social.

"That's more about getting out, having fun and meeting new people. We have a lot of younger players involved in that."

Sexton said the Minden club has welcomed around 40 new, first-time curlers this season. It's a similar story in Haliburton. Of the 235

registered curlers playing across 10 leagues, there are 43 new members. Club president Wanda Ruddy said this put the club's membership back to pre-pandemic levels, after having around 120 players last year.

Haliburton runs three, eight-week sessions in order to accommodate snowbirds who travel south before the holidays. The first session wrapped up Nov. 30, with session two running until Jan. 31. The final session will run in February and March.



Haliburton Curling Club president Wanda Ruddy said it's been nice getting back to regular curling action this season. Photo by Sam Gillett.

Planning is underway for a series of big, session-ending bonspiels – the first in Haliburton since 2019. The Skyline men's competitive bonspiel is happening Jan. 21, with a mixed competitive competition taking place the first weekend in February. That tournament will feature 24 out-of-town teams, Ruddy said. The ladies' Highland Lassie bonspiel is scheduled for March.

Operations at the Wilberforce Curling Club are better than ever according to president, Darrell McQuigge. The organization has seen a 70 per cent increase in its membership from pre-pandemic levels, now boasting 71

active members.

"That's brought lots of new energy and fresh volunteers to help us keep things going. Now we're looking at how we can make things even better," McQuigge said.

The club held an in-house glow in the dark bonspiel Nov. 26 and has several other events, some involving out-of-town teams, lined up for early next year.

Also returning this year are complementary 'Learn to Curl' sessions, where seasoned curlers will spend a day teaching novices about the ins and outs of the game. A similar initiative is also offered in Haliburton.

"We have free sample curling on Wednesdays where people can come out to see what we're about... a bunch of our members have been trained to be instructors through the Ontario Curling Association," McQuigge said. "It's a great sport to get into — it doesn't cost a lot to play, and the social engagement is huge. There's always plenty of smiling faces on curling night."

To learn more about each club, visit haliburtoncurlingclub. com, mindencurlingclub.com, or wilberforcecurling.com.













Students from Skyline Dance Studio performed an excerpt from The Nutcracker ballet Dec. 3 at the Shindig. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

# Dancers to crack open the iconic Christmas tale

### By Lisa Gervais

In many ways, Heritage Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is synonymous with the Christmas season in Haliburton County.

After a two-year pandemic hiatus, the iconic ballet returns to the stage of the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion for the 18h time this weekend,

Julie Barban said Heritage Ballet is producing The Nutcracker this year but has worked with Skyline Dance Studio and utilized its dancers and space.

Rehearsals began around the Thanksgiving Day weekend. Meanwhile, the team dug out the costumes and props. Barban said they have made some updates to costumes "because it's been a couple of years." She said Dani Smolen is making two new tutus, one for Sugar Plum and one for Dewdrop.

There will be a lot of new dancers this year due to the roster at Skyline, who all want to do The Nutcracker, she said.

This year's main character, Marie, is played

by two dancers, students Chloe Morissette and Alexis Dacey. Alyssa Morissette is the Sugar Plum Fairy. Sophie Longo is the Snow Queen. Michaela McCready-DeBruin is Marzipan and Avery Bullock leads the Chinese tea dance.

Barban said she's excited "and the kids are super excited" to bring the ballet back to a Haliburton County audience.

"Especially because we have so many new kids who are doing it this year, too.'

She said they have 50 children and teens. In

2019, they had 83. "But this is better, 83 is a lot and we have 14 adults."

She and the dancers can't wait to, "be at it again and be in public, whether it's in the audience or up on stage. It's just so nice to be out there dancing again.

"A big thank you to Skyline for their support and using their studio for rehearsal space and promoting us as well."

For dates and times and tickets, go to onstagedirect.com

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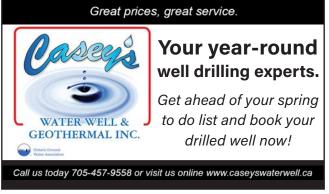
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meets Wednesday nights 7:00 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden – rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

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# **SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 8**

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# LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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- Minimum of 3 years recent managerial experience in accounting, preferably in the healthcare environment.
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SUBMIT RESUME TO: Human Resources Haliburton Highlands Health Services Box 115, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0 E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca • Fax: 705-457-4609 PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER: 2022-98

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# **Crossing Paths**

### **Across**

- 1 TV co. that produced "Lou Grant"
- **4** Outspoken Mair of '80s talk radio
- 8 Marked a bingo card, in a way
- **14** XXX alternative
- **15** April's creepy "Parks and Recreation" friend
- **16** Former Conservative leader Erin
- 17 Had a growth spurt
- **19** Become focused (on)
- 20 Take to lambasting
- 22 Itching for action
- 23 Fairy tale beginning
- **24** One during REM stage
- 26 Eur. dominion until 1806
- **28** Old French penny
- 29 Japan's Shinzo \_\_
- 32 Speedy Gonzales cry
- **35** Innards
- 38 Like a warty croaker
- **40** Thoroughly thump
- **41** Bread bag closer
- 43 Praiseful poets
- 44 Inits. in French fashion
- 45 IHOP drinks
- **46** Record time?
- **47** Simulate, as a crime
- **51** Sign-off word in a letter from Mom
- **54** \_\_\_ jump (field event)
- **56** Make a simple breakfast, say
- 59 Intro
- **61** Metaphor for a time of need
- **62** Curious thing
- 63 Leaves' home
- **64** Top naval off.
- **64** TOP flavar off.
- 65 Most Solomonic66 "Milk" director Gus Van
- **67** Steam kettle sound

by Barbara Olson © ClassiCanadian Crosswords

# 14 15 16 17 18 19 10 <td

### Down

- 1 Rolling stone's lack, it is said
- **2** \_\_\_ bottom (entirely)
- **3** Baio's "Joanie Loves Chachi" costar
- **4** Carpentry insert that gets in the groove
- 5 Drawing dabbler's course
- 6 Crazed superfan
- **7** Get behind in a race?
- **8** No-\_\_ caffeine pills
- 9 "It was \_\_\_ effort" ("We did it together")
- **10** Carried, as by wind
- 11 Saloon patrons' foot rests
- 12 Wallace and Whitney
- **13** Say "Not I!," say
- **18** Common corsage flowers
- 21 Bold highlighter hues
- 25 Giller Prize nominee, say
- 27 Scottish singer Sheena
- **30** Newbie trumpeter's sound,
- maybe
- 31 Keys for getting out

- **32** Wigged worker, once: Abbr.
- **33** Garden divisions
- **34** Convicts hastily and unfairly
- 36 Mars, as it's called, with "the"
- **37** Support from an ex
- 39 Islamic headscarf
- **42** Ushers
- **48** Title lady in an Ethel Merman tune
- **49** Takes out the trash at a newsroom?
- **50** Half crown
- **52** Hindu scriptures
- **53** "Zounds!"
- **54** Totally flub
- 55 "Insta" kin in brands
- **57** Security for a debt
- **58** School assembly spots
- **60** "All the News That's Fit to Print" sloganeer, for short

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# LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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