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The Highlander

Thursday **January 26 2023** | Issue 574

INSIDE: CANOE FM CO-FOUNDER REMEMBERED PAGE 13

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Greased Lightnin'

'The Pink Ladies' stole the show during the HHSS production of Grease Jan. 16-19. See more photos on page 11. Submitted.

Council finds short-term fix for Koshlong bridge

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al has purchased a new 60-foot temporary overpass to be installed over the Koshlong Lake Road bridge, which will remove weight limitations imposed in December – although mayor Murray Fearrey has warned it could take the municipality around a month to install it.

The issue was debated during a Jan. 24 council meeting, where Frances Hill and her husband, Ken, spoke of the difficulties they and many neighbours have had navigating the township's new bylaw in recent weeks.

On Dec. 13, Dysart's director of public works, Rob Camelon, asked that council approve new legislation limiting the weight of vehicles crossing the bridge. Engineering firm Tulloch completed a study of the 60-year-old bridge last fall that found it was not up to modern safety standards and needed replacing.

"The year of construction of the structure was 1960, therefore Tulloch has assumed it was not originally designed for current truck loadings and therefore [recommends] a [new] load posting for the bridge, given its age and conditions," the study reads.

As a temporary measure, the township decided to lower the allowable weight limit to 16 tons for single-unit vehicles, 29 tons for two-unit vehicles and 42 tons for three-unit vehicles for the next five years.

This has caused a major problem for the Hills, who were overseeing construction of a new home on Koshlong Lake.

"The new load limits have put our project in some jeopardy... the bridge is the only access point to our property, and now our contractors are unable to get there," Frances told *The Highlander*. "We're out thousands of dollars and don't know when we'll be able to finish our home."

She told council that, after surveying other properties

Continued 'Koshlong' on page 2

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Dysart pre-approves Harburn sewage hook-ups

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council has agreed to reserve around a fifth of the township’s available sewage capacity for a proposed 88-unit development overlooking Grass Lake.

Paul Wilson, owner of Harburn Holdings, has been working with the township for more than two years as he seeks to develop 2.5 hectares along Peninsula Road. His proposal is calling on the municipality to rezone the lands, which he wants to split into four lots that would each house multi-storey apartment and condo buildings.

Dysart’s previous council supported the project in principle last September. It will be discussed at the upper-tier County of Haliburton next month and, if an amendment to the County’s official plan is ratified, will come back to Dysart for final approval.

Speaking to Dysart council Jan. 24, Wilson said he was nervous about the potential for delays, with outside entities able to lodge a complaint with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), even if both municipalities approve the project.

“Your consultants have advised me that my project will require 70 ERUs (Equivalent Residential Units) of sewer capacity... the problem I’m having is that I’m already two years into this and could be another two years away [from getting shovels in the ground]. At some point, I need to have some assurance from the township that I will get these ERUs,” Wilson said. “I’m told they

are available right now, but not necessarily assigned to me.”

He said he doesn’t want to run into a situation where other potential developments leapfrog his and take up the township’s available sewage capacity.

In Dysart, a single ERU connection is valued at \$4,700. Costs to tap into municipal sewer lines are typically paid by a developer once a project has been officially approved. Wilson said he is prepared to pay for 35 connections up front to secure the 70 ERUs his development requires, reserving them for up to two years at a cost of \$164,500.

Mayor Murray Fearrey doubted whether any developments would progress enough over the next two years to get to the ERU application phase. After Coun. Barry Boice asked how many ERUs were available now, Fearrey said “around 400, I think.”

The mayor told the rest of council that he believed they were “safe” accepting Wilson’s offer. There is an out clause included, with Dysart to return Wilson’s money should his proposal be denied, or if he decides to walk away. There’s also a clause stating Wilson and Dysart could negotiate an extension should this issue not be resolved in the next two years.

Following the meeting, the Friends of Grass Lake community group, which is opposing the project, put out a press release expressing their concern over this latest development.

“We believe as a publicly-funded utility,



Harburn Holdings owner Paul Wilson has struck a deal with Dysart et al to reserve the necessary sewage capacity for his proposed development for two years. *File.*

this type of decision requires more thorough consideration than the time it was given,” said Carolyn Langdon. Wilson’s presentation and subsequent discussion ran just over eight minutes.

“There are too many unknowns about this

proposal for an extraordinary decision to be taken... we believe Dysart council should not be tied up with business that has yet to make its way through the relevant approval authorities,” Langdon added.

Koshlong Lake Association wants long-term solution

Continued from page 1

in the area, these new restrictions were impacting at least 147 residences in Dysart and Highlands East.

“It’s more than just construction – I’m worried about things like power outages, house fires, and ice storms... because of these new weight limits, many fire and utility trucks won’t be able to cross the bridge. Many people may not be able to get propane needed to heat their buildings, or have their holding and septic tanks pumped,” Ken said.

Rob Camelon, Dysart’s public works director, said the township had approved an exemption that would allow the township’s fire department to cross the bridge with pumper trucks in the event of an emergency. He also said he’s working on a proposal to replace the bridge in 2024.

The Hills say they were not informed of the change by the township, instead learning via their contractor who said he would have to cease work on their property.

Bridge closure ‘unacceptable’

Laurie Bruce said this issue was a major concern for many members of the Koshlong Lake Association. She called on council to find a solution, noting it was unacceptable to simply limit

the weight of vehicles crossing the bridge for the next several years. She proposed several short-term solutions, including having the bridge redesignated as a one-lane thoroughfare.

“Could the permitted weight be raised then? If yes, there is a solution that could provide immediate relief [to residents] with minimal cost to Dysart township,” Bruce said.

Fearrey told both Bruce and Hill that council was “taking this issue seriously,” but noted there was no quick fix. He said the township is obliged to follow the recommendations outlined by Tulloch for liability purposes.

“I think they’re taking the safe route, but we can’t go against the engineer’s report,” Fearrey said. “Bear with us here, we will get you an answer and will work as fast as we can to bring a solution.”

Later in the meeting, CAO Tamara Wilbee read a motion coming out of closed session stating the township would be purchasing a temporary bridge for \$188,533 plus HST. While no information was given relating to the bridge, where it was coming from, or when it would be installed, Fearrey told *The Highlander* he expected it would be a month before it arrived and is set up.

Dysart et al has come up with a temporary solution to remove weight limitations on the Koshlong Lake Road bridge. *Dysart et al.*



Feeding ‘not doing deer any favours’

By Lisa Gervais

Tracy Gualberto and husband John Sexton were heading home from the Minden Curling Club about 10 p.m. on a recent winter’s night.

Driving north on Hwy. 35 towards their home on Boshkung Lake, Gualberto said they were surprised to see a deer on the road in front of them at the Ransley Road intersection. Travelling at 80 km/h, it was impossible for them to brake in time to avoid a collision.

While the two were unhurt, and their 2013 Toyota Camry’s air bags did not deploy, the deer and the front end of the car did not fare as well. The deer was killed and the car suffered extensive damage and is now at Minden Collision awaiting repairs.

“At 10 p.m., we didn’t expect to have a deer in the middle of the road,” Gualberto said. She said they usually slow down in Haliburton village because they know people feed deer there and the animals are on, and near, roads.

Gualberto and Sexton called OPP and said the officer who responded told them it was the sixth such callout for a vehicle-deer collision in the same area over the past month or so.

The couple called friends who were still at the club, and live nearby on Kushog Lake, to see if they could pick them up since their car was being towed.

Gualberto said that couple then had a buck cross the road right in front of them and a second crash ensued in the same area. Again, the occupants of the vehicle were not injured but the vehicle and the animal were not so lucky.

Gualberto said she thinks the collisions were due to people feeding deer, which attract them to the area and cause them to cross the highway.

“Everyone wants to feed deer,” she said, “but they are actually killing them. They think they’re doing a kind thing, but they are not doing these deer any favours.”

The Highlander asked Haliburton Highlands OPP about vehicle-deer collisions in the area. They did a three-year review of Hwy. 35, between Horseshoe Lake Road closest to Minden and Judge Jordan Road. Between Jan. 1, 2020 and Jan. 18, 2023, there were 34



Tracy Gualberto and her car at Minden Collision. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

deer-vehicle collisions. Nine were within 300m of the Ransley Road intersection. Forty-one per cent were between 5 and 7 p.m. They were primarily in December and January. There were no injuries but vehicles were damaged.

The Wolf Centre at Haliburton Forest is sometimes the recipient of deer killed in these collisions. The carcasses are used to feed the wolves.

“We do get a fair bit in the way of deer roadkill,” co-ordinator Marena Wigmore said. She added, “typically spring and fall are the peak times for it, but we have been getting some this winter as well with the minimal snow banks along the highways. Our local OPP and roads departments, as well as locals, are great about calling us when there has been a collision and some even bring the animal

right to us.”

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) said one of the consequences of feeding animals near roads is it increases the risk of motor vehicle accidents, resulting in property damage, injury or death.

The MNRF adds that feeding deer can make them dependent on artificial food sources; they can lose their natural fear of humans and pets, and become more prone to conflict; artificial feed is not healthy for them; animals concentrating to feed can spread parasites and diseases, and destroy natural habitat. They further say it puts people at risk as feeding can attract unwanted animals, animals can learn to associate humans with food and become problematic, and at times aggressive.

Household dos and don'ts:

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 - keep household waste, compost and pet food out-of-reach from wild animals.
 - attract wildlife to your property by improving natural habitat.
 - work together with your neighbours to help keep wild animals wild.
- Don't**
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 - try to approach or touch wild animals.
 - feed pets outdoors or allow pets to roam free.
 - put garbage out until the morning of collection.

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ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Stanhope tennis courts to get refresh

Tennis players across Algonquin Highlands will soon have a brand-new facility to showcase their skills.

During a Jan. 19 meeting, Algonquin Highlands council signed off on the \$206,400 redevelopment of the Stanhope tennis courts. Chris Card, the township’s parks, recreation, and trails manager, said he wanted to see the project proceed this year, after a tender put out last spring to resurface the space received no bids.

“Some of the companies I reached out to explained they felt it was beyond a resurfacing at this point. It needed to be reconstructed,” Card said.

Mayor Liz Danielsen felt the total cost was quite high, particularly since council had originally earmarked \$50,000 for the project, but said delaying would only cost the township more money down the road.

Mississauga-based Court Surface Specialists will complete the work, which will see the existing court ripped up and a more durable asphalt and high-strength fibreglass membrane overlay mix installed. Card said the new courts would have a 20-year lifespan.

He expects work to begin in June or July and take five weeks to complete. The tennis courts will be closed for the duration of the project.

Delegates, come on down

Individuals looking to make a pitch to council will be able to do so face-to-face starting next month after Algonquin Highlands’ elected officials decided to reopen council chambers to in-person delegations.

Danielsen felt it was “past time” the municipality started to open up following almost three years of meetings held virtually and behind closed doors. Delegates will still have the option to present virtually if they wish.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux wanted to take things one step further and reopen council chambers to the public, but Danielsen recommended taking a more gradual approach.

“I’m not sure we’re ready for full-on yet. Let’s do things one step at a time,” Danielsen said.

‘Housing need is great’

Council is attempting to put pressure on a developer to proceed with construction of a new 17-unit subdivision along Kennisis River that has been in a state of delay for more than 10 years.

Planner Sean O’Callaghan said the township had received a request from Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting to grant a two-year extension to the draft approval process for the subdivision. Council has granted annual extensions to the developer since 2016.

The land has been earmarked for development for more than three decades.



Victoria Fenninger returns a serve at the Stanhope tennis courts. *File.*

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs granted draft approval for the site in December 1992. In November 2012, the County approved a request to revise the configuration of the draft plan from 21 residential lots down to 17.

O’Callaghan said the developer is seeking an extension as they are awaiting installation of fibre optic internet lines, and approval on “some minor conditions” from the Ministry of Environment.

“Two years I can’t live with... This has been extended again and again, and I have a problem with that given the absolute urgent need for housing in our community,” Danielsen said. “This is the one subdivision in Algonquin Highlands that I know of that is pretty much ready to go.”

She suggested council grant a six-month extension. The issue will now go to the County for final approval. *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker).*

INFORMATION PAGE

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 - Building Inspector
 - Parks Summer Students
- Cultural Centre Summer Students

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

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION
According to a waste audit conducted in the summer of 2022, 57% of Minden Hills garbage is food waste. And over 50% of that food waste is avoidable (leftovers, loaves of bread, expired meat, etc.). To help us improve, focus on meal planning, preparing only what you need and doing all you can to ensure foods that could be eaten are not wasted.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries. Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.

CULTURAL CENTRE UP COMING EVENTS
Valentine's Candle-Making Workshop in partnership with Snuff Candle Co. at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Saturday, February 11 from 1-3 pm. All supplies included. Price is \$45 per person; pre-registration is required.

Visit the Agnes Jamieson Gallery this winter to view a selection of artwork from our permanent collection featuring renowned artist André Lapine. The Gallery is currently open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

Attention all crafters! Join the UnFinished Objects Craft Group (UFOs) at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre the third Friday of every month from 1-3 pm to work on your neglected projects. Bring a snack and your project. First meeting of 2023 takes place this Friday, January 20.

For more information or to register please call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden.

NOTICE – 2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence its 2023 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting scheduled on February 2, 2023. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT 2023 BUDGET
TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023, during its Special Council Meeting regarding the Draft 2023 Budget. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer • 705-286-1260 ext. 504 • gbedard@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 are:

January 26 – Regular Council Meeting
February 2 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget
February 9 – Regular Council Meeting
February 16 – Special Council Meeting/Public Meeting – 2023 Budget

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.

NOTICE OF (VIRTUAL) REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2023, 9:00 AM
TAKE NOTICE that the Thursday, January 26, 2023, Closed Session meeting has been moved forward on the agenda and will commence after Delegations. For more information or to view the agenda please visit mindenhills.ca/council/.

Dysart proposing to up landfill fees

By Mike Baker

Discussions surrounding future investments at the Haliburton landfill site dominated second draft budget deliberations of Dysart et al council Jan. 13.

After John Watson, the township’s manager of environmental services, informed council his department was looking at a \$400,000 year-end shortfall in 2022, due to a substantial increase in construction and demolition waste costs, some elected officials sought further clarity on what Watson called “a tough situation.”

Through 2022, Dysart saw a 38 per cent increase over the prior year in the amount of construction and demolition waste dropped off at its three landfill sites, a 41 per cent increase in the number of hauls completed, and a 112 per cent increase in the cost of hauling. All municipal waste collected in Dysart is shipped out of town.

“This dramatic increase is reflective of our local economy – people are renovating their homes extensively, so the amount of material we’re managing has increased dramatically and the price to haul and process construction and demolition waste has increased dramatically,” Watson said.

To offset this increase, Watson is proposing the township up its waste collection fees. Furniture drop-offs are doubling, up to \$20; the cost per cubic yard of construction and demolition waste is going from \$60 to \$100; while a mixture of garbage, recycling, construction, and demolition waste is going from \$120 per cubic metre to \$200.

Watson said the main issue is the township charges for waste per cubic metre, while its hauling contractor bills per metric ton. Since Dysart doesn’t have a scale at any of its landfill sites, it’s not capable of charging per metric ton.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie suggested council approve the purchase of a scale, estimated to cost around \$150,000. The township has \$120,000 in reserves earmarked for the project. Coun. Pat Casey also suggested the township explore building a shelter to store all construction and demolition waste, so the municipality isn’t incurring extra costs in water weight if materials get wet.

CAO Tamara Wilbee said staff would work on bringing proposals back for each project later this year.



Dysart et al staff will look into purchasing a scale for the Haliburton landfill. *File.*

Tax increase sitting at 2.34 per cent

Treasurer Barbara Swannell said the township’s second draft of the 2023 budget called for a 2.34 per cent increase to the municipal portion of resident’s tax bills, down from the 8.9 per cent that was included in the first draft.

This increase would equate to an additional \$7.22 per \$100,000 worth of assessment for residential properties, \$10.71 per \$100,000 for commercial properties, and \$12.41 per \$100,000 for industrial properties.

Total expenditures across the municipality

are just north of \$21 million, with \$11 million to be covered by the tax base, \$6.7 million from other non-tax revenue and \$3.5 million from provincial and federal grants. Individual department expenses are as follows: general governance \$1,659,148; protective services, including police, fire and EMS, \$3,791,443; transportation services \$7,587,495; environmental services \$4,404,970; recreation and culture \$2,908,304; planning and development \$697,644; health services \$190,250; and social and family services \$20,501.

Capital expenditures for the year will top out at just over \$5.2 million, up from around \$3 million in 2022. Over \$2.1 million will

be spent on roads construction, with \$1.1 million earmarked for new vehicle and equipment purchases. There’s also \$300,000 included to purchase new playground equipment for Head Lake Park.

Municipal reserves are expected to take a hit in 2023, down to \$4,056,972 from \$5,601,472 in 2022.

“When we first started out, our [tax rate increase] was over 20 per cent, so we’ve done a pretty good job of tearing it down,” said mayor Murray Fearrey.

“I think this is a great budget,” remarked Coun. Barry Boice.

Council will reconvene for further budget talks Feb. 10.

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

**New landfill
hours discussed**

Manager of waste facilities, Nikki Payne, requested changes in landfill hours over the summer in a report to council Jan. 12. She said it was for effective service delivery and safety reasons. The changes would come into effect May 1.

She said the Scotch Line landfill, for example, saw almost 56,000 vehicles last summer, but less than one per cent between 6 and 8 p.m. She suggested the site only be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on days it's open. It's not open on Wednesdays.

The Ingoldsby site hours will be adjusted to earlier in the day, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and the weekend.

Iron Mine will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Friday.

Little Gull will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday.

Check your landfill for holiday Monday hours.

"These modified hours will better accommodate the times in which the majority of residents are visiting the waste disposal sites. This will also ensure safe operations at the sites during the month of September," Payne said. With no lights, she said the sites get darker earlier at night in September.

No financial impact is expected from these changes.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said, "I can't

support reducing hours and paying the same amount of money," to the contractor.

Coun. Ivan Ingram asked if it would be easier to leave the hours as are until the contract comes up for renewal. He also suggested consistent hours at individual landfills. Council received the report for information.

Call to ban rodenticides

Minden Hills resident Allison Hansen made an impassioned plea to council to ban the sale and use of rodenticides after she said her dog died from ingesting the poison after hunting mice.

Hansen also asked for the enforcement of prevention measures and educating the public.

Saying she had a 1,700-name petition calling for the ban, Hansen added the rodenticides were ineffective at controlling rodents, dangerous to humans, inhumanely killing wildlife and companion animals, and destroying the ecosystem and its important functions.

Coun. Pam Sayne thanked the presenter for bringing the issue to their attention. She said there were a minimal number of things municipalities can do, with it being a federal and provincial issue. However, she asked for a staff report, with information such as what the township is doing to deter mice. She, along with Coun. Ivan Ingram, also called for public information on the township website.

Mayor Bob Carter suggested a preliminary staff report coming back in April.



Staff are suggesting new landfill hours. *File.*

**Blue box haulage
contract extended**

Council approved extending the agreement with Mid Ontario Disposal for blue box haulage and processing for an additional one-year period, from Feb. 1, 2023 to Jan. 31, 2024.

Payne told council the contract is for hauling paper, containers and cardboard from residences and businesses. They are collected at landfills but sent to a processing facility

for further sorting and then marketed to a buyer, who recycles the material into new products. They have had an agreement with Mid Ontario since Feb. 1, 2020.

The cost is going up 11 per cent to haul one bin, 14 per cent for two, and three per cent per tonne for processing containers and fibres due to fuel costs. It's about \$20,000 more a year. Staff had budgeted for the increase.

Ingram asked if they could try to send two bins at a time and that the contract be retendered for 2024. (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais.*)

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The site of a former public boat launch on the lake. Its closure has resulted in seven years of residents coming before council. *File.*

Bob Lake Association back with another boat launch pitch

By Lisa Gervais

Seven years after a public boat launch was closed on Bob Lake in Minden Hills, Bob Lake Association (BLA) members Robert Roszell and Dave Roberts made yet another plea to council Jan. 12.

Their pitch is to lease a township-owned unopened road allowance on Claude Brown Road to build a launch at no cost to taxpayers.

Roszell said long-standing members of their association had been unable to launch their boats since 2016, unless they've built private launches at their own homes and cottages.

"We hope with this delegation we can move forward to re-establish a Bob Lake community boat launch," he added.

In an overview, Roszell said, "the Bob Lake Association will pay for all construction, continued maintenance, and insurance."

He said they had used the township's latest survey and worked with EcoVue Consulting Services Ltd. and Tatham Engineering on design and planning. He noted they had shared the cost of a legal opinion with the township.

He said it would be a simple concrete slab with no parking. He further added it would be on township property, in the area of an old launch site. He said the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have indicated there will be no impact on fish spawning beds.

Roberts added it will be better for the lake's shoreline to stop people putting in private

launches. He said it would also provide access to the lake for emergency services, such as OPP, fire, and medical; the MNRF, Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, as well as island inspections for septs and building inspections.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said closing off an original shoreline road allowance to water in this way contravenes planning policy. Another concern is erosion and the road ending up in the lake, she said. McKelvey further asked how the association would ensure it did not become a public launch.

"While I really want to see a public boat launch on Bob Lake, I definitely don't think this location's ideal," McKelvey said.

Roberts replied that, in the past, they'd submitted "exhaustive" assessments and, "while it might not be the ideal location, it certainly meets all the criteria." He reminded McKelvey it was a public boat launch until about the mid-70s. The BLA's said they have also been assured there'll be no natural erosion.

Roberts said their first priority was a lease agreement and they would work out details later. However, he suggested they could have a combination locked gate and signage.

Mayor Bob Carter said the issue had been before council for a number of years, and the township has spent a considerable amount of money, time and effort on it. He wanted the delegation received for information with a staff report to follow.

"We've also received some comments from

the public ... some are for, and many against, so we have to do all those considerations."

Roszell followed up by saying they surveyed lake owners in 2021. He said 65 per cent responded, with 99 per cent supporting restoration of a public boat launch. He added only 48 per cent had been able to make arrangements with existing private launches, 36 per cent had sold or dry docked their boats and 16 per cent did not have a boat.

Coun. Pam Sayne said, "this has been going on way too long." She felt the safety aspect of having emergency services accessing the lake was important. She thought it was the "only reasonable" location.

"I think we need to look at this new approach because some of the opposition was the cost. We have so many boat launches that we need maintenance for. And the BLA, with others in the community, have found ways to get around that situation and not make it a financial burden to the municipality. I think that's a very important point."

She's also concerned that it has become a private lake for those with boat launches as opposed to a public lake.

She concurred with staff looking at the proposal and coming back to council "with hopefully some more information and finally get this thing on the road."

Roszell said they had the support of 14 local businesses. He further estimated property values had decreased with a loss of \$70,000 to \$105,000 to the township.



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TheHighlander

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- To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.
- To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.
- To report on issues, people and events important to the community.
- To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.
- To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

STAFF

- PUBLISHER**
Heather Kennedy
heather@thehighlander.ca
- EDITORIAL**
Lisa Gervais
Editor | editor@thehighlander.ca
- Mike Baker
Asst. Editor | mike@thehighlander.ca
- Simon Payn
Special Projects | simon@thehighlander.ca

- SALES**
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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A bridge to nowhere... for some

While constructing their new home on Koshlong Lake, Frances and Ken Hill figured if there were any problems, they'd cross that bridge when they came to it.

Unfortunately for them, it turns out the bridge is the problem.

As reported in today's front-page story, many residents surrounding Koshlong Lake have been left stranded, quite literally, after a recent Dysart et al bylaw change implemented weight limits on the Koshlong Lake Road bridge. This comes after an engineering firm carried out a bi-annual study of the site in October, finding it's not up to par with modern safety standards.

The bridge was built in 1960 and wasn't designed to carry the kind of weight loads it was seeing, according to Rob Camelon, the township's public works director. He went on to tell council at a Dec. 13 meeting that he believes this is more an issue of liability than safety.

Since then, the bridge has seen new posted weight limits of 16 tons for single-unit vehicles, 29 tons for two-unit vehicles, and 42 tons for three-unit vehicles. These limits are in place for the next five years.

This restricts the type of vehicles that can now cross the bridge. Think the kind of heavy-duty trucks used by the likes of Hydro One, propane suppliers, contractors, and moving companies. Camelon said the township had secured an exemption that would allow the local fire department's pumper trucks to cross the bridge in the event of an emergency.

That's all well and good, but what about people such as the Hills, who have seen construction on their new home come to a grinding halt? What of the people who rely on propane to heat their home? What are they to do right now if they run out?

Likely more of a coincidence than a concerted, two-hour effort, but Dysart council was quick to offer a solution. By the end of Tuesday's meeting, they had arranged to purchase a new temporary bridge that they plan to install over the existing structure. The caveat – mayor Murray Fearrey thinks it will take about a month to install.

Considering Dysart has known about this for at least a couple of months, there should have been a better plan in place. This new temporary bridge should have been secured

prior to reducing the weight limits, so that people such as the Hills weren't affected.

One of the main gripes the Hills and Laurie Bruce, speaking on behalf of the Koshlong Lake Association, had, though, was they only learned about these changes through third parties. They claim there was zero communication from the township. This is an oddity considering the impact this was always going to have.

Camelon told council in December that he would be seeking to replace the bridge in 2024. He also warned that this kind of situation is likely to come up again, since the township has several 60-plus-year-old bridges within its borders.

We encourage council to start planning for these now to avoid further complications down the road.



By Mike Baker

CLIMATE CORNER
Oceans – and global warming

In 2022, oceans were the hottest ever recorded. More than 90 per cent of the heat that greenhouse gases trap ends up absorbed in the oceans. Because sea surface temperatures significantly influence global weather, the warming of the oceans is “supercharging” extreme weather. More moisture in the air from hurricanes and typhoons causes intense rains and flooding, but also larger and more rapid intensification of hurricanes. Until recently, colder water from deeper ocean layers would have tempered a hurricane's escalation.

Research released by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration this month show that the extreme weather events of 2022 were intensified by global warming and climate change. This international team of scientists said, “The Earth's energy and water cycles have been profoundly altered due to the emission of greenhouse gases by human activities, driving pervasive changes in Earth's climate system.” They added, “Measuring the oceans is the most accurate way of determining how out of balance our planet is.”

And they conclude that this warming of oceans, with its effects on weather and ocean life, will continue to increase unless we manage to reach net zero emissions.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Keep waste out of the water system. All water on Earth is connected. Water down the drain or run-off from the yard ends up in rivers and eventually into the ocean.
- Pesticides, fertilizers, cleaning products and other chemicals reduce oxygen in the oceans, killing sea life. Even manure in the garden contributes to algae blooms in water systems that disrupt the natural balance.
- Reduce pollutants by choosing non-toxic chemicals and disposing of chemicals properly.
- Use as little fertilizer as possible.
- Reduce waste by cutting down on packaging and what is thrown away. What ends up in the landfill contributes to global warming and leaches into groundwater. Garbage is also a hazard for marine animals that try to eat or become entangled in it.
- Be informed about seafood options. Choose from sustainable seafood guides and eco-friendly fisheries.
- Boat responsibly, adhering to speed limits and “no wake” zones. Anchor away from animal habitat and endangered vegetation.
- Strictly follow catch limits when fishing. Practice catch and release.
- Choose low-phosphate detergents and non-toxic cleaning products. See Consumer Reports' Greener Choices. Baking soda and vinegar are options.
- Avoid souvenirs and jewellery made from marine animals or animal parts, including shells and especially coral.
- If you have a salt-water aquarium, ask where and how the animals you buy were collected. Look for evidence of aquatic stewardship in pet stores and ask for animals that were carefully harvested and well cared

for. And never release an unwanted pet into the ocean or any waterway. Organisms that don't belong can crowd out the locals and disrupt the ecosystem.

- Reduce your carbon footprint. All fossil fuels burned (oil, gas, coal) add carbon dioxide to the air and contribute to warming oceans, also increasing acidification that makes it hard for corals and clams to build skeletons and shells.
- Power down. Try drying laundry on a clothesline or rack. Walk, bike, carpool to work or school. Replace light bulbs and older appliances with newer, more efficient models.
- Switch sources from burning fossil fuels, whenever possible. There are subsidized alternative energy programs that may work for you.
- Teach your children about climate change. A fun, informative and interactive resource is found at: climatekids.nasa.gov
- Preparation for climate change includes readying for heavy rains and potential floods. What are some things you can do to reduce property damage from high winds and heavy rains? What about planting trees to support soil and reduce mudslides?



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION?
Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca
(300 words max)

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Left: Marci Mandel sent this photo of “a great weekend here on Stinky Rink. Our grandson, Nathan Algate, is shooting on Alan Clark while granddaughter, Lottie Clark, watches. Shots on Pops in the great, snowy outdoors.” Right: Yale Brick sent this photo of a backyard rink off of Cranberry Lake Road.



LETTERS

Government forcing healthcare workers to private sector

Dear editor,

Why do we not have nurses joining our healthcare systems supported by the provincial Ministry of Health? I have been researching what nurses and healthcare workers earn from agencies. The answer is easy to understand; they pay more money, more flexible hours and options. Opportunity to explore new areas of their profession and other benefits. Why are so many hours being covered by expensive agency nurses? We could save money by hiring fairly paid professionals without the middle-man.

Now, these numbers are purely for examples. Let’s say, you can work for the provincial healthcare syndicate for \$20 per hour, minimal benefits, constantly working in an understaffed environment and putting in many overtime hours. What if you were aware of an agency that offers you \$35 per hour-plus? What would you do?

We have been warned by the media and concerned non-profit organizations about privatization of our healthcare for some time now. But how can that happen? You do not have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that workers are going to take what is most beneficial to them. So, if the government refuses to pay these trained and professional people a fair wage, what would you do? I would look for better opportunities for myself and family.

It is clear to see that the provincial government is forcing these critical workers into the private sector. Interesting to consider

who are the controlling interests in these private companies sucking off our vital service providers. Enough is enough, the government should be paying our healthcare providers fair wages and benefits along with our educators instead of creating money funnels, straight to the one per cent.

It is up to us, the voters, to act and see that what is being done by a government with minimal voter support. I know this is not easy, but we all have heard “use it or lose it.” We are close to losing it.

P. J. Brohm
Haliburton

Be reasonable about winter sand

Dear editor,

Regarding the article about Minden possibly cutting winter sand for the public, *The Highlander*, Jan. 19.

As a rural resident of Minden Hills and a senior, living on a private road, I have always felt that I did not get a lot for my tax dollar, but being able to get a five-gallon bucket of winter sand was always a comfort.

I think the idea of cutting this little benefit is short-sighted, and when you look at the cost, it’s a drop in the bucket.

When one of the reasons given is liability, what about the liability of someone falling on my walkway? Have lawyers and insurance companies got everyone so scared that we can’t even function like reasonable people any more?

Another reason given was that some people, or contractors, are abusing the benefit and taking large quantities of sand.

If that’s the case, deal with that, but don’t punish everyone that benefits from the sand properly.

In the article last week, it was mentioned that it ties up trucks when there is a snow event or ice and to that I would respond, that in that case, filling the sand pile would have to wait. I found that it was better to get a bucket of sand in early December so it was available to me when needed.

Let’s be reasonable.

George Porter
Minden

Freedom from tyranny

Dear editor,

In a democracy, everyone has the right to protest. No one has the right to infringe upon the freedom of others. In our country, everyone has the right to wave the flag, but no one has the right to appropriate it in support of their cause exclusively (and at the expense of others). The flag belongs to all of us – equally.

In addition, degrading the integrity of our flag by defiling it with foul language and misguided personal insults is most un-Canadian.

The right to freedom from masks and mandates infringes upon the right to freedom of disease and death, and vice versa. We should ideally all be more thoughtfully conscious of this, and the preservation of a just and moral balance for all.

In some parts of the world, people have used face masks for generations, typically as a sign of respect and decency to help not spread their cold, flu or infection to others.

Furthermore, a number of people are immunocompromised and must wear a

face covering when near others, in order to minimize their chances of exposure to pathogens. As for some, even exposure to otherwise commonplace pathogens can be the difference between life and serious illness, or worse.

Possibly the most important freedom is freedom from tyranny. Perhaps at this troubling time we should be flying the Ukrainian flag in support of their life and death struggles: because in fighting for their actual freedom, they’re also fighting for ours – just as my parents and ancestors did.

Fred Phipps
Haliburton

Admires cat rescues

Dear editor,

Over the centuries, there have been a lot of ridiculous superstitions about cats and it seems there are a lot of people who haven’t been able to get past the fear of a black cat crossing his or her path.

Bless the person who rescued the cats and Paulmac’s for taking on the job of finding homes for them.

Cats were revered pets of the Egyptian royals. I have great admiration for the feral cat rescue charities in Minden, Dorset and Paint Lake, who only sell spayed and neutered cats, and strongly recommend they be kept indoors.

Cats are one of the biggest dangers to birds, who are already diminishing in numbers as the forests are being denuded by large lumber concerns.

Anne-Marie Borthwick
Haliburton

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HKPR medical officer of health, Dr. Natalie Bocking, said statistically 2022 was the region's worst year of the pandemic. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

COVID 'here to stay'

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County's highest ranking medical official says COVID-19 remains a "very real threat" moving into the new year.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) district health unit, told a Jan. 19 meeting of her board that, despite seeing provincial and federal authorities abandon most COVID-19 safety measures last year, the virus was still present and likely would be for some time.

"Despite our best wishes, this thing is not over," Bocking said. "It's fair to expect continued emergence of new Omicron subvariants. Since January 2022, we have seen waves of new subvariants every three months or so. Omicron transmits so easily and so quickly, and has so many opportunities for mutation."

The dominant strain emerging in North America is XBB1.5, accounting for around 70 per cent of reported cases across the northeastern U.S. over the holidays. Bocking said she expects to see an increase in infections locally come February, but that symptoms are mostly mild.

One concern, she said, is that these new variants are starting to adapt to some vaccines and medications. Recent tests found that Evusheld, a medication used to protect people with compromised immune systems from COVID, was not effective in combating XBB1.5.

"There continues to be new twists in the road. As each new subvariant arises, there may be something slightly different about it. Vaccines might not work as well, medications might not work as well, so people need to make sure they're using other layers of protection," Bocking said, encouraging people to wear masks when in

crowded settings, and stay home when sick.

Reflecting on 2022, Bocking said that, statistically, it was the worst year of the pandemic for HKPR. There were 162 outbreaks across the region, with 340 hospital admissions and 120 deaths.

"In 2022, we saw 74 per cent of our total hospital admissions throughout the pandemic, and 77 per cent of all deaths, locally, that have been attributed to the virus," Bocking said. "This is why I don't think we can say COVID-19 is gone, is not influencing the health of our communities, or influencing the burden on our healthcare system."

Looking at 2023, Bocking said the health unit will focus on four key priorities – adopting a new strategic plan to kick in in 2024; maintaining its COVID-19 response; addressing ongoing concerns, such as the increase in mental health issues and substance abuse; and chipping away at public health program backlogs, with the immediate focus on the region's youth.

"It will take us years to catch up with our school-based immunization program. We also went multiple years without any oral health screenings in schools, so that needs to be a big focus," Bocking said.

She also plans to consult with provincial officials to advocate for increased long-term funding.

"While we appreciate and need one-time funding for our COVID response, the fact it continues to be one-time, without any increase to our base, significantly impacts our ability to recruit employees to [manage our pandemic response]," Bocking said. "Knowing that COVID-19 is here to stay, we need to integrate it as part of our routine programs. We need to work towards funding this appropriately in the months and years ahead."



The one they wanted

Students from the Grade 11/12 drama class performed their rendition of the hit 1978 musical, *Grease*, at the high school last week. Songs, such as *Sandy*, *Summer Nights* and *Greased Lightnin'* filled the air at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Teacher Melissa Stephens praised her class for putting on a great show. The cast spent months learning their lines and perfecting several dance routines during class time. All three shows were well attended, Stephens said. (Mike Baker).

Top left: The entire cast came out at the end of the show to perform the title track *Grease*. Top right: The T-Birds belt out *Greased Lightnin'* while surrounding a cutout resembling the 1948 Ford Convertible Deluxe showcased in the movie. Bottom right: Students re-create the famous scene inside Burger Palace depicting Frankie Avalon singing *Beauty School Dropout*. Submitted.



Winter camp to hone skills

Grade 6, 7 and 8 students from Wilberforce Elementary School participated in an overnight class trip to Camp Muskoka Jan. 16 and 17. Led by teacher Jake Findeis, the trip promoted outdoor education and saw students participate in various themed activities related to science and history. It was the school's first overnight trip since the onset of the pandemic, with 29 students taking part. Findeis said one of the highlights was a game the students played called *Coureur des bois*, which touched on the fur trade industry in the 1800s and early 1900s. (Mike Baker).

Top left: Most students tried their hand at archery while out at Camp Muskoka. Top right: Adrian McCauley, Tyson Plumley and Anthony Belmonte enjoying themselves in the great outdoors. Bottom right: Students learning about the realities of the early fur trade industry in Canada. Submitted.





Michael Schiedel-Webb strums a ukulele behind the bar at Haliburton Highlands Brewery. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Brewer brings world of ukuleles to Canada

By Lisa Gervais

What started as a beer and ukulele night a few years ago has grown into a robust side hustle for Haliburton Highlands Brewery (HHB).

“We had a sold-out beer and ukulele night with Nick Russell. We ended up with a couple of extra ukuleles. We hung them up. The two little hooks on the corner were the first two ever,” owner Michael Schiedel-Webb says as he stands behind the bar in front of a wall of the instruments.

Back then, pre-COVID, people used to perch on bar stools. Inevitably, they would ask about the ukuleles and the brewery started selling some.

Fast forward to the beginning of 2023, and HaliUkes is a going concern.

“We knew what we had to do,” their website reads. “Purchasing well-priced ukuleles and marketing them on our wall has led to relationships with several ukulele manufacturers, and a few firsts. HaliUkes is the premier Canadian location for Flight Ukuleles, Outdoor Ukuleles and Worth strings. We’re dedicated to introducing the world of ukulele to Canada.”

Schiedel-Webb said when they sold their first ukuleles, they bought better ones, and on and on it has gone. He estimates he represents 15-20 brands, including some that established music stores cannot source. They are a specialty shop, with probably the broadest range of available instruments in Canada. Other providers have websites, and people can order online, but the upstairs of HHB contains a room where stock is kept. Schiedel-Webb comes alive as he wanders the space, selecting different ukuleles to show off. It’s also where he does minor adjustments and restringing for customers.

HaliUkes ships across Canada, mostly

Ontario and Quebec, but have sent some to the U.S., including Hawaii, and Europe. Naturally, they are the go-to locally, for full-time and seasonal residents as well as visitors.

“We get calls from all across the country. In particular from company websites and brand manufacturers looking for who carries them. We’re the ones that get pointed to in Canada for a lot of brands.”

Naturally, COVID has thrown up supply chain challenges, but there are an estimated 150-200 ukeleles in the room. “Instruments ranging from your beginner all the way to the most expensive ukulele we’ve sold, which is about \$3,500,” the brewer says.

There is a ukelele made from Utah license plates, one from tin cans, many wooden models and even some electric. Some have steel strings. One is triangular. There are soprano, concert, tenor, baritone, UBass and guitaletes.

Schiedel-Webb goes on to school his visitor in the history of ukuleles. The triangle models were used in schools because they didn’t need stands. And Canadian musicians taught Hawaiians formal ukulele because it was in our music curriculums.

He said tourists “pick up the less expensive ones because they’re looking for something for their kids to poke around with or they’re looking for something to do. They play guitar but use the smaller ukulele on vacation.” People who have been playing for awhile come for their “next step” ukuleles. Some buy them as gifts.

There are plenty of local ukulele fans and groups, such as the Ukeladies. HHB is also starting up its ukulele night on Mondays. There is a shared love of the instrument. In summer, people bring their ukuleles for a strum on the patio.



What does Schiedel-Webb get out of it? “I get to spend time researching ukuleles and watching reviews and playing with them. Every one of them that comes in and I get to decide which ones I want.”

He tells a story he has heard about George Harrison. Apparently, the former Beatle used to drive around with ukuleles in the trunk of his car and visit other musicians, to teach them to play and to jam.

“He’d say, ‘how can you not be happy when you pick this thing up and play it and poke around’? Even if you’re not a virtuoso, so it’s been an interesting experiment.”



Top: A license plate ukulele. Bottom: It’s all in the details. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



Don Cameron, (right) and Jack Lowe, at CanoeFM's satellite site on Eagle Lake. Submitted.

CanoeFM co-founder lives on through radio station airwaves

By Mike Baker

As one of the three founding fathers of CanoeFM, Don Cameron's legacy will live on through the airwaves of Haliburton County's non-profit radio station.

Cameron passed away Jan. 17 following a three-year battle with bowel cancer. He was 88.

His association with the Highlands stretches back more than 50 years. He and wife, Joan, relocated to Ontario from Alberta in 1969, settling in Whitby. Looking for a weekend escape from the city, they purchased a cottage on Redstone Lake in 1971. It was love at first sight for the Camerons, who relocated to the community permanently in 1988, purchasing a property on Sunnyside Street in Haliburton.

While living in Whitby, Cameron spent a lot of time on the road travelling for his job as a corporate executive. This is where his passion for radio really took hold, according to Dave Allen, a close family friend.

"Don was a big citizen band radio guy. He just loved it. He would get on the line and talk to truckers about the traffic going back and forth and plan his daily routes that way," Allen said. "When he moved up here, he found there wasn't much frequency, not many people on the lines, so that kind of started something within him."

He struck up a conversation with Dave Sovereign, whom he met at the Haliburton Curling Club. The two spent years discussing the possibility of bringing a radio station to the County. In 2001, they brought another Highlands resident, Jack Hewitt, onboard and the trio got to work on turning their dream into a reality.

CanoeFM was incorporated in 2001. Cameron and company then spent more than two years fundraising, creating a long-term vision, and figuring out logistics. The first official broadcast came July 8, 2003, with Cameron getting his way in having *The Impossible Dream* by Andy Williams broadcast as the station's very first song.

"I think that was a nice little nod to himself, Dave and Jack, who, really, brought this impossible dream of starting a community radio station in Haliburton County to life," Allen said.

Greg Roe was one of the first people through the door when Canoe opened its office on Mountain Street. He had seen an ad stating a new community radio station was coming and was looking for volunteers to run regular shows. He helped to launch 'It's only Rock & Roll', which remains on air today.

Roe said there would be no CanoeFM if not for Cameron. "Donnie really was the 'in the trenches' guy that first year. He was in there seven days a week and was always the first person you called if there was a problem," Roe said. "At one point or another, he held every job title at Canoe. He was the defacto operations manager when things started, but he also helped with sales, and with the shows. I even saw him cleaning the washroom a few times."

Allen was one of Canoe's first paid employees, joining the station as a sales rep in 2003. By then, Cameron had taken a step back, though his commitment to the station never waned. Whenever there was a problem with the frequency tower at Eagle Lake, for example, Cameron was the first to respond, often with Allen in tow.

Allen recalls one time, in 2005, when the pair were returning from a fix. Their vehicle was struck by a drunk driver. While OK, the shock of that shared experience brought the two closer together. After a tornado leveled his Lake Kashagawigamog cottage in 2006, Allen moved into the Camerons' basement apartment. He eventually bought the property in 2017 after Don and Joan moved to a condo overlooking Head Lake.

"Don and I developed such a great friendship over the years. I've said it before, but I wouldn't have the life I have today without Don and Joan," said Allen, who will be one of the speakers at Cameron's funeral.

CanoeFM manager Roxanne Casey only worked with Cameron for a short time before he retired from his 'second job', but noted his presence still reverberated around the station up until his passing.

"Every time we made a decision, I would think, 'I wonder what Don thinks about this'. I'd quickly find out because he was always texting or emailing about different things," Casey said. "This is a sad day for the radio station, and a sad day for Haliburton County. To lose another of our founding members (Sovereign passed away in 2007) is tough. These guys built a radio station from the ground up, and did it so well that we haven't had to make too many changes these past 20 years."

"Don's legacy will live on with every song, every show, every broadcast," Casey added.

A private in-person gathering will be held for family and close friends Jan. 28. People can attend virtually on Skype at 2 p.m. a link can be found at the Haliburton Community Funeral Home website. Donations can be made to Haliburton Highlands Health Services in Cameron's honour.

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STARS OF THE WEEK



Leighton Nesbitt had the hot stick for the hometown Storm, filling the net for six goals against the Parry Sound Shamrocks.



Jaxen Casey was a force on both ends of the ice on Saturday, making the first pass out of the Storm's end every time.



Campbell McCracken played a solid two-way game, controlling play whenever he was on the ice. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.



Campbell McCracken battles for the puck against the boards. Photo by Mike Baker.

Storm U13 rack up big win

The Highland Storm U13 Minden Pharmasave squad ran out comfortable 9-0 winners over the visiting Parry Sound Shamrocks at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton Jan. 21.

Right from puck drop, the Storm dominated the play at both ends of the ice. The wing pairings of Duncan Evans-Fockler and Brayden Alton, Erynn Card and Jacob Manning, and Lucas Upton and Moss Davis worked hard throughout the game, contributing defensively before springing up the ice and causing all kinds of problems for the Shamrocks.

Zach Prentice and Benton Lloyd were phenomenal on

the back end, playing great shutdown defence to limit the Shamrocks scoring opportunities.

Goaltender Carter Shaw wasn't overly busy but made a few big saves to maintain his shutout.

Leighton Nesbitt ended the game with six goals, Evans-Fockler tallied two, with Jaxen Casey also getting in on the action, scoring one goal. Lloyd finished with two assists, with Casey, Evans-Fockler and Nesbitt also credited with helpers. Submitted.



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Top: Jaxen Casey goes for the wraparound. Bottom: Leighton Nesbitt dekes out a defenseman. Photos by Mike Baker.

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Huskies rally to fend off rival Muskies

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies clinched a spot in the OJHL playoffs after a pulsating, come-from-behind 4-2 win over the Lindsay Muskies Jan. 21.

It was a full house at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, with 564 fans cheering on the hometown team in the ‘Battle of Hwy. 35’. The Huskies started well, pressuring the visitors all over the ice in the early stages and creating some good openings in the offensive zone. That work paid off when Ty Collins blasted home the puck just three minutes in after a nice give-and-go with Luca Rea.

A Rea roughing penalty 10 seconds after the restart presented the Muskies with an immediate opportunity to get back into the game. They peppered Tyler Hodges in the home net and, despite falling short on the powerplay, found an equalizing goal a few minutes later through Nicholas Sova.

Former Muskie Boyd Stahlbaum rung the iron with a ripper from the point during some four-on-four action midway through the period, with Patrick Saini and Collins also going close, but Yacine Chemrouk in the Lindsay goal stood tall. He made 15 saves during a frenetic opening period.

After being pinned in their own zone for the first five minutes of the second, the Muskies broke down the ice and scored on their first shot of the period. Braydon McCallum lifted the puck over Hodges’ glove to give the visiting side a 2-1 lead.

The Huskies responded well; Saini, Stahlbaum and Alex Cunningham all had great chances to bring the home team level but couldn’t find a way past Chemrouk. Veteran forward Sam Solarino eventually found an equalizer, jamming the puck in at 17:25 after a scramble in front of the net.

The Huskies kept pushing forward. They were awarded a powerplay late in the period and Collins took advantage, grabbing his second goal of the game to give the home side a 3-2 lead.

A busy end to the period saw rookie forward Leo Serlin drop the gloves after Lindsay’s Tyler Barnett slashed at Hodges, who had frozen the puck after making a save. Both players received 10-minute offsetting penalties.

The Huskies got into some penalty trouble in the third, but the PK stood tall. Captain Christian Stevens secured the win with his 18th goal of the season midway through the period, assisted by Saini.

“I think we started the game much better today than the last couple of games. Lindsay likes to play hard, so we had to match their energy and I think we did that really well,”



said head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay. “I was impressed with the way the guys kept going – we probably could have scored four or five more goals across the first two periods. So, yeah, happy with the win, and more so happy with the performance.”

Defeat in Toronto

A table-topping clash with the Toronto Junior Canadiens Jan. 22 saw the Huskies fall 5-2.

Josh Currie gave the Dogs an early lead, scoring 6:50 into the first after being teed up by Collins, but the Canadiens came back strong, tallying three unanswered goals to give them a 3-1 lead heading into the third. Currie made it a one-goal game three minutes into the final frame, but that was as good as it got for the Huskies, who gave up two more goals later in the period.

The Mississauga Steelers took a battering at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Jan. 24, with the Huskies romping to a 10-0 win. Collins helped himself to four goals, with Stahlbaum, Cunningham, Saini, Declan Bowmaster, John McKinney and affiliate player Kyle Butt also getting on the scoresheet.

The Huskies have a home double-header this weekend, hosting the Wellington Dukes on Saturday (4 p.m.) and the Burlington Cougars on Sunday (3 p.m.).



Top: Luca Rea tries to sneak the puck in on a wraparound attempt. Bottom: The Huskies celebrate Ty Collins’ opening goal in Saturday’s 4-2 win over the Lindsay Muskies. Photos by Mike Baker.

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Spooner recognized for stellar goaltending

Prior to their home tilt Jan. 21 against the Lindsay Muskies, the Haliburton County Huskies held a pre-game presentation in honour of goaltender Aidan Spooner. The 20-year-old was named OJHL Warrior Goaltender of the Month for December after leading his team to a perfect 5-0 winning run. He posted a 0.80 goals against average, .971 save percentage and two shutouts in wins over the Cobourg Cougars, Toronto Patriots, St. Michael's Buzzers, Mississauga Steelers and Aurora Tigers. Statistically, he ranks as the third best goaltender in the league this season, behind James Norton (Toronto Jr. Canadiens) and Reece Proulx (Pickering Panthers).

Chris Vanstone, OJHL director of operations, shakes hands with Aidan Spooner as Huskies head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay watches on. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Huskies donate \$4,154 to food bank

Representatives from the Minden Community Food Centre were invited onto the ice before Saturday's 4-2 win over the Lindsay Muskies, with Huskies head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay presenting the organization with a cheque for \$4,154. That money was raised during a 50/50 and toy/food drive held on Dec. 11, during the home team's 5-1 win over the Cobourg Cougars. Food bank volunteer Brandi Hewson said the money supported the organization's 2022 Christmas food hamper program, which helped more than 100 local families over the holidays.

Minden Community Food Centre volunteers Gary Stoner, Don Veno, Steve Upshall and Brandi Hewson accept a cheque from Huskies head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay. OJHL director of operations Chris Vanstone also pictured. *Photo by Mike Baker.*



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Men's Skyline Bonspiel turns 62 amid high spirits

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton Curling Club was a hive of activity this past weekend as the popular Men's Skyline Bonspiel returned after a three-year hiatus.

Featuring 24 teams, including three from Haliburton, the event is a long-standing tradition of the local curling club, with this marking its 62nd year. Organizer Kent Milford said it was a successful return, with all players in high spirits throughout the weekend.

"The Skyline has always been a special event. Sure, it's about curling, but there's so much more that we put into it to try and make it a memorable experience. We try and give everyone a special weekend," Milford said. "Our mantra has been to put on an event that appeals to everyone – so we'll feed people, we schedule entertainment... it's a lot more than just turning up, playing your games and then leaving."

That has proven to be a recipe for success for the Haliburton club. Milford said many curling associations have struggled to relaunch bonspiels post-pandemic, but noted the Skyline was quick to fill.

"Teams love coming to Haliburton," Milford said.

All teams played two games on Friday before being split into A, B and C brackets. Play continued Saturday, with 10 teams qualifying for Sunday's championship series.

Haliburton's Steve Culliver has been involved with the Skyline for over five decades. He worked the event as a kid,



Darrell O'Neill, Fred Jansma, Steve Belanger and Hugh Nichol show off the seven-ender they secured on Saturday. Photo by Mike Baker.

helping to clear the ice in between sessions. His dad, Bob, was the long-time ice maker at the curling club.

This year, Steve played on a team with his brother-in-law, Brent, son Jess, and nephew Chris. They finished as runner-up in the A bracket.

"It's just nice to be back," Steve told *The Highlander*.

Team O'Neill, consisting of Darrell O'Neill,

Fred Jansma, Steve Belanger and Hugh Nichol, were also representing Haliburton. All eyes were on the team Saturday as they put up a seven-ender in an eventual 11-1 win over a team from Toronto.

"A seven-ender is very rare. You might see one in the club one or two times a year," Milford said.

Team O'Neill finished as runners-up in the second chance bracket, made up of

teams who performed well on the Friday and Saturday but didn't qualify for the championship series.

Team Nelson from Unionville took home the win in the A bracket, with Team Betts from Oakville and Peterborough winning the B event. A Minden team consisting of Jeff Cook, Doug Hall, John Sexton and Rick Wood won out in the C bracket.

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A detailed map of Haliburton Highlands, Ontario. The map includes various geographical features, roads, and towns. It is surrounded by numerous small advertisements and informational boxes. Key sections include 'WELCOME', 'Map Design', 'Driving Routes', 'Trail Heads', and 'SHOP'. The map is designed to be a comprehensive resource for tourists and residents alike.

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SIRCH bringing back its popular repair cafes

By Lisa Gervais

Your trash can be your treasure again as SIRCH brings back its repair café Feb. 12.

The first repair cafés, where volunteers attempted to fix broken items, were held in January and March of 2020.

The January event attracted 24 volunteer fixers, 33 owners who brought 48 items to be fixed (only eight were not repaired) and 68 general visitors. The March numbers were 24 volunteers, 89 visitors, 53 items brought in and only three stumping the fixer-uppers.

SIRCH training co-ordinator, Dianne Woodcock, said the feedback from the events was that they were “an outstanding initiative on many levels.

“They had the opportunity to learn about the resources in our community, the powerful and positive impact on the landfills, and in some cases, how to fix their own items.

“The general consensus was the hope that the repair cafe events would continue. It was also a chance to socialize on a very unique level and for the visitors that came to see what it was about. It was a chance to learn about what items could be fixed that they did not think of before.”

With COVID-19, the repair cafés had to be shelved but are being revised. Woodcock said it's important to get them up-and-running again.

She said SIRCH repair café, “wants to help reduce the mountains of waste that our landfills experience. We throw away piles of stuff every day. This includes items which



Carrie Pearce and Bob Hudspith examine a lamp that Pearce brought for repairs to the Jan. 25, 2020 SIRCH repair café. *File.*

practically have nothing wrong with them, and could be easily repaired and used.

“Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten that so many things can be repaired and SIRCH repair café wants to change that.”

She added repair café is also meant to put neighbours in touch with each other in a new way - also, to discover that a lot of know-how and practical skills can be found close to home.

“If you repair a bike, a CD player or a pair

of trousers and can share that expertise with an unfamiliar neighbour, it creates a whole new community outlook. Repairs can save money and resources. Repair cafés can show how much fun repairing things can be, and often easier than they thought.

“Repair café is a win-win,” Woodcock added.

She further said the volunteer fixers “provide such an amazing contribution to our community and our environment and visitors

learn and connect.”

SIRCH is looking for volunteer fixers of things such as computers, electronics, small appliances and furniture, clothes, jewellery, books, bikes and more.

The event is being held Sunday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SIRCH, 49 Maple Ave., Haliburton.

See more at sirch.on.ca/repaircafe/repair-cafe-volunteer or contact 705-457-1742.

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of Donald Cameron
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

With heavy hearts, we wish to share the sad news that Don Cameron passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January - 17 2023 in the Haliburton Hospital. Loved and cherished by his wife Joan, daughter Cheryl (Vaughan Rowan), sons Sandy (Kim Ireland) & Scott (Susan), sister-in-law Debora Cameron, grandchildren, Kate Cameron, Carolyn Cameron (Frank Gallo), Kristin Cameron (Drake Fenton), Ben & Nicole Rowan, Bianca & Colin Axenfeld, great-grandchildren Adelyn Rowan & Jensen Rowan. Loved by many nieces and nephews who will miss him greatly. Don played a key role in the founding of a community radio station Canoe FM 100.9 in Haliburton. Don loved Haliburton and spent many happy hours and years at the Haliburton Curling Club (both as a curler, and as a trained volunteer bartender), at the cottage on Redstone lake, fishing, swimming, skiing, snowmobiling, making maple syrup, playing his keyboard, and working in his woodshop. Don and Joan have been members and volunteers at Haliburton's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 for over 30 years., and they volunteered their services there when they were able.

A Private Family Remembrance Gathering

A Private Family Remembrance Gathering will be held. For those friends wishing to join the family virtually, please join us on Saturday afternoon, January 28th, 2023 at 2 o'clock by following the enclosed link. <https://join.skype.com/dtdJTlcAiwnL> As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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In Loving Memory of JOYCE HEAYN

Peacefully, on Monday, January 16, 2023 at the I.O.O.F. Seniors Home in Barrie, at age 100. Joyce (nee Tetlow), dearly loved wife of the late Alvin Heayn of Port Perry. Loved mother of Linda (Andy Hachinski) of Barrie, Larry (deceased 1956), Betty Heayn (Karl Neumayer) of Napanee, and Julie (Steve Carnochan) of Haliburton. Loving grandmother of Kyle and Robert Carnochan (Jessica Miscio). Dear sister of Phyllis (Adrian Haines - deceased) of Tyrone and Gordon Tetlow (deceased). Joyce will also be missed by her many nieces and nephews.

The Family of Joyce Heayn will receive friends at the **WAGG FUNERAL HOME**, 216 Queen Street in Port Perry (905-985-2171) on Saturday, January 28th from 10 - 11 a.m. A Service to celebrate her life will be held in the Chapel at 11 a.m. Interment Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the I.O.O.F. Seniors Homes, 10 Brooks Street in Barrie or a charity of your choosing. Memories, photos and condolences may be left at www.waggfuneralhome.com

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1	M	I	C	A	S			6	D	R	U	B			10	C	A	M	P
14	E	N	U	R	E			15	E	U	R	O			16	O	M	I	T
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49	P	O	W	E	R	C	O		50	U	P	L	E		52	A	J	S	
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56	M	A	D	D			57	D	58	O	U	B	L	59	E	T	A	K	E
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1	A	C	R	E	S		6	S	T	A	N		10	W	R	I	T						
14	M	O	O	C	H		15	P	E	S	O		16	H	O	T	E						
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50	T	H	E	T	H	R	E	E	W							54	F	E	M	E	N		
57	G	E	T	A	S	E	N	S	E							58	E	C	O	L	E		
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IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of
TOM RIVERS

AUGUST 8, 1962 - JANUARY 29, 2016

I've read so many quotes and rewrote your memorial many times, to find the right words. There're not enough words in any dictionary that would suffice describing the emotions in losing my best friend so abruptly and to remind all what a hilarious, incredible, big-hearted man you were.

This is only printed once a year, but your legacy forever lives on. You're loved by many, respected, admired, and looked up to my friend. Tears are always a Lil more frequent around this time. As grief doesn't lesson, we just cope.

*My favorite hello, and as always, my hardest goodbye Tom Tom ❤️
Frickin miss you every damn day.*

P.S. Say hi to my brothers, they're new, and thanks for the beer. Much Love.



In Loving Memory of
Carolyn Margaret Emmerson

You left us on January 26, 2022
A year has gone by without you by our sides,
but you are forever in our hearts.
Sunshine passes and shadows fall,
our memories of happy times outlasts all.
Forever missed and always remembered

Ed, Jason & Crystal, Dorian & Maude, Donna,
Jesse, Aryane

SERVICES

KITCHEN AID STAND ALONE MIXERS - We service and repair with warranty. We also sell New and Refurbished Mixers with warranty.
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SCRAP CARS – Will pay cash for any scrap cars.
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HELP WANTED

**HALIBURTON
BUS LINES**



**CURRENTLY HIRING
SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS IN YOUR AREA.**

School bus drivers earn a steady and rewarding part-time income. We provide friendly, professional training. This is a perfect opportunity for retirees, at-home parents and for persons with flexible hours who are looking to supplement their income. All school bus drivers must be available from Monday to Friday between approximately 7:00AM to 9:00AM and 3:00PM to 5:00PM, (September to June) on school days only. Year Round Work is available! We have local and long distance charter work during July and August.



Applicants must have a clean driving record (abstract) and be willing to complete a Vulnerable Sector Search (during application). Signing bonus for drivers with a Class B licence.

*If you are interested in becoming a school bus driver
please email dfreeman@haliburtonbuslines.ca
or call our office 705-457-8882.*

HELP WANTED

Are you a reporter and photographer - not just somebody who likes to write and got A's in English class for years?

The Highlander is always looking for people who are trained, and have experience in, journalism. That means writing and photographing for newspapers, perhaps some radio journalism experience or even TV.

Ideally, we'd like to find someone who lives in the Highlands and knows a little bit about it. We have a pretty good team already but we know things can change. We like the security of knowing there are some helpers out there if we ever need them.

If that sounds like something you could do, drop a line to publisher Heather Kennedy at
heather@thehighlander.ca.

Maybe share a published article and a photo, not your favourite high school English paper.

TheHighlander

CLEANER WANTED to clean 1 bedroom apt for senior. No pets. Call 705-457-6844

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including Minden Subaru and
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We are grateful for your continued
support.**



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Position can be remote, hybrid or in-office.

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jwebster@patientnews.com.

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Two Bits

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Thinly-layered minerals
 - 6 Beat bigtime
 - 10 Stay in a Boler, perhaps
 - 14 Harden with use
 - 15 Walloon's wallet item
 - 16 Leave off
 - 17 "Hair" and "Hairspray"?
 - 19 Title of Leonardo's Lisa
 - 20 Will-___-wisp (spooky glow)
 - 21 Jost cohost on SNL's "Weekend Update"
 - 22 Done like dinner
 - 24 "The bright red mud" prov., of song
 - 25 Huff and puff?
 - 28 Guesstimotor's word
 - 30 Target of Polonius's advice
 - 31 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
 - 32 ___-sci
 - 34 "___ that!" ("Caught ya!")
 - 35 Rice and potatoes?
 - 38 Word in all Perry Mason titles
 - 41 Vintner's vessels
 - 42 Neither Doric nor Corinthian
 - 46 What some are said to have in the grave
 - 48 Bad boy of weather
 - 49 Wind and solar?
 - 52 Canadian actors Cook and Buckley
 - 53 You'd be smart to join this club
 - 54 T, to Theseus
 - 55 Self centres
 - 56 Org. with a sobering message
 - 57 Snatch and grab?
 - 60 Pivot around a pole
 - 61 Hockey's Bobby and Colton (no relation)
 - 62 Editor's upside-down v
 - 63 TV's "___ Blue"
 - 64 On its way
 - 65 Mirror, in Manchester

- Down**
- 1 Spot to jot a thought
 - 2 Awaiting delivery
 - 3 Make less jarring
 - 4 "I Am Not My Hair" singer India. ___
 - 5 Jiff
 - 6 Home of Indira Gandhi Airport
 - 7 Harsher, as awakenings go
 - 8 Where Montevideo is: Abbr.
 - 9 Vancouver's Word on the Street, for one
 - 10 Blind taste test act
 - 11 Adds up (to)
 - 12 Headache-relieving hot brew
 - 13 "Harper Valley ___"
 - 18 Mil. school
 - 23 Hulking galoot
 - 25 Tire on "une voiture"
 - 26 Spanish saucepans
 - 27 Prince Albert-to-Saskatoon dir.
 - 29 With "longest," word often used to describe the Canada/U.S. border
 - 32 Ancient thinker who dabbled in wrestling
 - 33 Mo. shared by Libras and Scorpios
 - 36 Appliance hues big in the '70s
 - 37 Cause of spite, in early medicine
 - 38 Fuzz component?
 - 39 Outlier
 - 40 Clinched, as a deal
 - 43 Falls for a newly-married man?
 - 44 "You had to be there" humour
 - 45 Fussess over like a baby
 - 47 People can be found under here?
 - 48 Twelfth Jewish month
 - 50 Motorist's flip-flop
 - 51 "Blue Ribbon" brewer
 - 55 Brief catch-all
 - 56 '90s ISP with a butterfly logo
 - 58 Underground product
 - 59 Lines from the heart?

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	53						54				55			
56						57	58				59			
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

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stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

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SUDOKU								
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	7			6		1		3
		1			5			8

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS								
5	8	4	3	7	6	1	2	9
1	6	7	2	8	9	4	5	3
2	9	3	5	1	4	6	7	8
8	3	2	6	4	7	9	1	5
9	4	1	8	5	2	3	6	7
7	5	6	1	9	3	8	4	2
3	2	9	4	6	5	7	8	1
6	7	8	9	2	1	5	3	4
4	1	5	7	3	8	2	9	6

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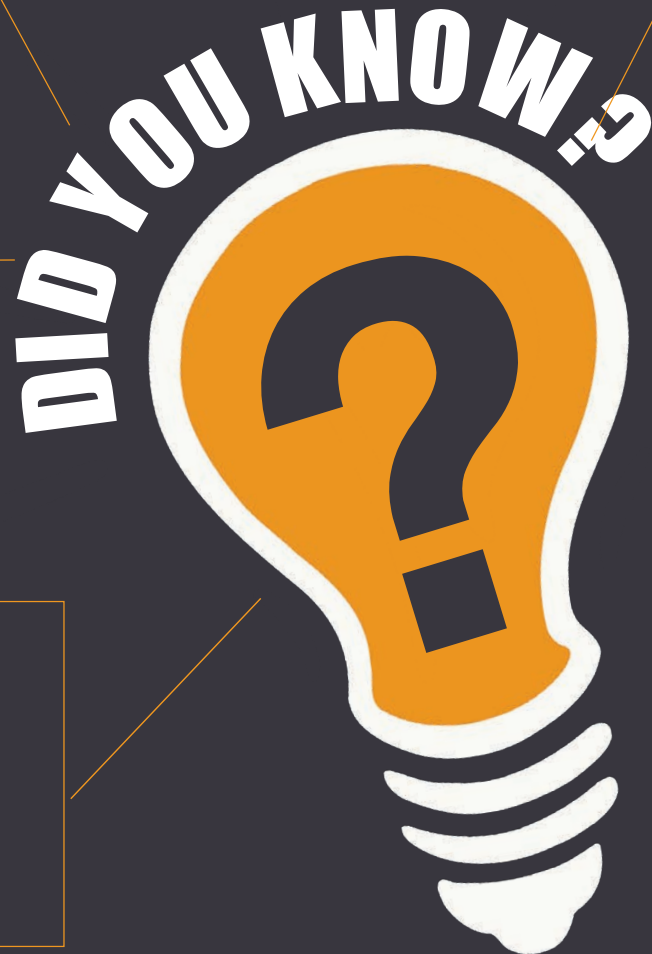
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