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The Highlander

Thursday **February 9 2023** | Issue 576

INSIDE: DRIVERS AND HIKERS BRAVE THE COLD PAGE 18

FREE



Sister act

Francoise and Josette Lepine, the Kif-Kif Sisters, were in fine form at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion Feb. 4 during the latest Razzamataz Kids' Shows event. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

County parks public transport once again

By Lisa Gervais

County councillors were unwilling to board a bus Feb. 8 that would have allowed staff to prepare and put out a tender for a possible rural transit system for the Highlands.

Director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, and director of planning, Steve Stone, wanted a green

light to develop and put out a request for proposals. Ovell said it could result in a detailed operational budget, implementation schedule and service delivery map, "that would clearly lay out how the transit service would operate, and how much it would cost to initiate and subsequently operate."

He added they weren't asking council to say 'yes' to a service now, but possibly at a

later date.

In June 2018, a consultant, the IBI Group, did a public transportation implementation plan. They used a business case created by the Haliburton Transportation Task Force to come up with an outline for a countywide system. A recommendation was made at a Jan. 23, 2019 meeting but council did not proceed. However, \$50,000 has been put

aside in subsequent years.

In the meantime, the County has taken part in two pilot transit projects. In the spring of 2022, they gave \$20,000 to an initiative involving SIRCH, Fleming Crew and the City of Kawartha Lakes Human Services. In addition, council funded a project with Point in Time Centre for Children,

Continued 'New' on page 2

Minden Home hardware building centre



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New staffers wanted to put it out to tender

Continued from page 1

Youth and Parents.

Ovell and Stone said it's well-noted the County has some unique transport challenges, including its geography, population density and demographics. However, they said the need has been expressed for years and now might be the time to finally proceed.

They added, "the need for a public transit service has only been magnified by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant increase in the County's population."

The two said they had been contacted by transit service providers over the last year, asking to meet and present options. They said they were given "valuable information on the numerous options if we were to pursue a public transit service."

"With the advancements in technology and proliferation of ride sharing or on-demand services since 2019, more rural municipalities have been able to successfully implement transit services within their communities."

They thought multiple companies would potentially bid on the project, with multiple transit solutions, "whether it be a fixed route, on-demand, or ride share service, or a combination."

The IBI document recommended \$294,000 a year for a service. At the end of 2022, there was \$152,754.16 in a transit reserve. While gas tax funding is not available in the first

year of operation, in the second year, the County could get an estimated \$68,523. In the third year and beyond, the funding could go up to \$126,020.

Councillors say 'no'

Coun. Murray Fearrey said, "I think it's something that everybody desires, but it's not practical in Haliburton County the way we're located." For example, he said waterfront property owners likely wouldn't use a service but would have to subsidize it. He suggested council, "park it for the time being because I just don't think it's practical. I know it's hard to say that, but it's just reality. It's distance and it's sparse population."

Coun. Cec Ryall was part of the task force six years ago and said the challenges have not changed. However, if free, he did not have a problem with a tender to get more information. However, he wanted council to revisit its past work before spending any money. "I do not want to start from zero."

Coun. Bob Carter said while it would be wonderful to have a service, the budget estimates appeared "pretty optimistic." He was also fearful of giving somebody a contract, only to have them say in 18 months' time, they cannot make it work. "We can't just be half-committing." He didn't feel he would know what he would be committing to financially either, so agreed with parking it.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux wanted the County to get a better handle on demand. She said there are assumptions but, "who are the people who would say 'yes' to this sort

of service...on what terms, where they're located." She wondered about a community interaction platform.

Coun. Lisa Schell said there was no harm in an RFP that would only cost staff time. "Otherwise, we won't have any of those answers which people are asking around the table right now. There may be something that we never thought of."

CAO Mike Rutter said they could spend time gathering data to demonstrate need, such as via the pilot projects, as well as see what other communities are doing. Warden Liz Danielsen said they could also examine what subsidies might be available from other sources.

Council deferred the report, with Danielsen saying they could revisit the file in the future.

That decision was disappointing to Tina Jackson, who has lobbied for public transit. "In an area as large as Haliburton County, the ability to access health care, food, education, social, recreation, employment opportunities and more is intrinsically tied to one's ability to get there. With development of the Community Safety and Well Being Plan underway, the need for transportation to accomplish other community goals will be highlighted once again. On the positive side, our population growth has the potential to feed a larger ridership base.

"We are continuing to leave provincial dollars on the table for every year we go without public transportation of some form - dollars that really could be improving the quality of life for Haliburtonians."



Tina Jackson was disappointed at council's decision. *File.*




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McCallion 'a force to be reckoned with'

By Lisa Gervais

As the province prepares to bid farewell to long-time Mississauga mayor, Hazel McCallion, the Highlands' David O'Brien is reminiscing on his 30-year friendship with the woman dubbed 'Hurricane Hazel'.

The two met when O'Brien was city manager in Ottawa and McCallion on various Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Federation of Canadian Municipalities committees.

When the city manager job came up in Mississauga, McCallion asked O'Brien to apply and he got it. They worked together for 10 years, and became close friends.

"We clicked. We did our business of running a city together, and that worked well, and the friendship just evolved out of that," O'Brien said.

The two stayed in touch after both retired. O'Brien would go to McCallion's home every couple of weeks with coffee and cinnamon rolls. When he moved to Wilberforce, they chatted on the phone every couple of weeks for an hour or so.

"Whatever was happening federally or provincially, she liked to get together and chow down on that and have a little fun," he said.

Their last phone call was a few days before McCallion passed away on Jan. 31. It was a shorter call, as she was weak and failing, but the two had a few chuckles. "It was definitely a goodbye call," O'Brien said. He has been working behind the scenes on McCallion's funeral plans. She will lie in repose at Mississauga City Hall Feb. 12 and 13. Premier Doug Ford has also announced a state funeral at 11 a.m. Feb. 14.

O'Brien said McCallion's favourite line was "do your homework" and it was well-known at city hall "you better come prepared because if you were mumbling along, she'd say 'the meeting is over, go and do your homework, and come back when you're ready'."

He described her as straightforward, however, if a problem cropped up, she would have all the time in the world to sit with her senior leadership team to brainstorm solutions.

"She was tough, which was good and why the city became what it did ... a no-nonsense mayor but always willing to help you out."

He added she supported female staff



Hazel McCallion surprised David O'Brien on his 65th birthday. *Submitted.*

in getting ahead in the organization and brokered on behalf of youth.

Another long-time mayor

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey said he met McCallion on many occasions, most often at municipal conferences and provincial events. A few times, he sat next to her at strategy sessions, "and her comments on most, if not all, issues were clear, focused and definite."

He added, "fiscal responsibility and common sense were her guides for managing Mississauga. Every municipal politician I know had the utmost respect for her as a lady and her leadership skills, the special dedication and commitment she demonstrated for 38 years. She was and

will be a role model for years to come in municipal politics."

O'Brien believes her legacy is the forward-thinking that made the City of Mississauga what it is today. He recalled how they had development charges before they were supported by the province to help the city get the infrastructure needed to keep up with growth.

Another example was her mayor's gala, which led to the creation of the Hazel McCallion Foundation for Arts, Culture and Heritage. O'Brien remains chair of the board.

O'Brien brought McCallion to Wilberforce for a fishing weekend five or six years ago. Growing up in the Gaspé, she loved to fish. She got skunked and told O'Brien she didn't think there were any fish in his lake. During the weekend, as the two sat on the dock, or

stopped into Agnew's General Store, he said people were in awe of her.

O'Brien worked with eight or nine mayors in his municipal career and said, "she will always be the standout. I travelled the world with her and met some very interesting people."

He is out of the country, and while he will be back for the state funeral, he plans to watch it virtually. That said, he will make a trip to her gravesite in Stittsville in the not-too-distant future, "and just sit there quietly and we'll have a chat."

"She was a force to be reckoned with, both politically and from a business point of view. She loved her community. I will remember her with great pride, great joy, as a good friend and a mentor and somebody that I had so much respect for."



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COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

County endorses FoodCycler program

Councillors endorsed a County-wide FoodCycler program at their Jan. 26 meeting.

It means 500 residents will get units at a subsidized cost, with help from a federal government grant and \$90,000 from the County.

Following the success of pilot projects in Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al and Minden Hills, climate change coordinator Korey McKay said, “this program would result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions, which would achieve our climate change goals, as well as significant cost savings” at landfills.

She added the program could pay for itself over time.

Referencing the successful pilot projects, and the fact Dysart’s was showcased during the recent ROMA conference, McKay added, “we have an opportunity to build on that momentum and continue to showcase the County as an environmental leader.”

Coun. Lisa Schell recommended slightly increasing the cost of subsidized units by \$50 from what was initially proposed, bringing the County portion of the spend down to \$90,000. She said the investment would result in landfill cost savings for all municipalities.

Coun. Bob Carter felt, “this is tax dollars at work.” He said the federal government was offering “a huge chunk of money” and the program would benefit constituents, who will get units at a fraction of retail price.

Coun. Walt McKechnie was the only one to vote against, saying, “I’m not in favour of it at all. If you want to buy it, please go out and buy it yourself.” He said he represented all of his constituents, not just “the chosen ones.” He said people on middle-class incomes would not be buying them. He went on to say the County are not salespeople and felt this was setting a precedent.

However, Schell urged councillors not to lose sight of the fact the investment would equate to a “wash-out” in costs, with the money spent returned in savings by diverting waste from landfills and extending their lives.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux agreed, saying the price tag of a new landfill would result in a budget, “beyond our reckoning.” She said this was a low-hanging fruit in a sector where there are not many.

Carter said, “the big thing is reducing the impact on our waste management and the cost of that. To me, that’s the biggest win for us in all of this, and a win for our constituents.” (*County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais*).



The County will make 500 FoodCyclers available to the public. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

INFORMATION PAGE

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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.

2023 DOG TAGS

2023 Dog Tags are available \$10 each from January 1 to March 31 and \$15 each from April 1 to December 31

PARKS & RECREATION UP-COMING EVENTS

Join us on February 20th for some Family Day Fun! Parent & Tot: 8am, Jr. Shinny (7-9Y): 9am, Public Skating: 10am, 6 & under Stick n' Puck: 11am. Each program is 50 minutes, except Stick n' Puck which is 30 minutes. We also have parent/child floor hockey (4-6Y) 9am, and parent/child basketball (11-14Y): 10am.

March Break is just around the corner. The Township of Minden Hills is running a March Break Camp for kids. Choose single day or full week registration. Different themes each day.

For more information, please call 705-286-1936 ext. 554.

SHARE THE LOVE, NOT THE WASTE

Valentine's Day is around the corner and instead of purchasing disposal gifts, consider making items from scratch or gifting an experience. Hold the plastic wrapping on flowers and consider giving a houseplant that can last for years.

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.

For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@minden hills.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 continue its 1st round of the 2023 Budget deliberations during its Regular Council Meeting scheduled for February 9, 2023. 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@minden hills.ca

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ensure all entry/exits in your home are cleared from snow to ensure you can get out in case of a fire. Make sure all windows are not frozen in case you need to use these as an escape mechanism. If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

SNOW REMOVAL

Pushing snow across roads and streets is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. The Ontario Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

(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:

February 9 – Regular Council 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 minden hills.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 minden hills.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.

WASTE DISPOSAL TIP

If you do indulge in some chocolates and candies, remember that the packaging is not recyclable and should be disposed of in your household garbage.

Business case tabled for new HE office

By Lisa Gervais

With three aging buildings housing staff in Highlands East, CAO Shannon Hunter and deputy CAO and treasurer Brittany McCaw presented a business case for a single office, by either renovating an existing space or building a new one.

Hunter and McCaw made their pitch during a Highlands East budget meeting Jan. 31.

“The municipality of Highlands East is considering building a municipal office and council chambers due to inefficiencies, cost of maintenance, and managers working out of three buildings,” McCaw said.

She added benefits would be saving money on utilities, energy efficiencies, longevity for future replacement, reducing maintenance costs and assets to cut back on future contributions to reserves for replacement of multiple buildings. The two added that having all senior staff under one roof would be beneficial to properly manage and supervise, cross train and share resources. Another crunch, she said, is the inability to meet future growth, including human resource requirements.

The public would benefit as well, having all services in one place and a proper council chamber. Council now meets on stage at the Lloyd Watson Centre.

As for excess buildings, McCaw said council could consider making them available for housing, “which would provide some relief to the current housing shortage in Highlands East and Haliburton County.”

The municipality has been putting funds

away for seven years, now totalling \$938,469, not including previous years’ surpluses, which could also be used towards a new build. An estimated price from seven years ago was \$1.5 million, it’s expected to cost much more in today’s market.

McCaw said they could possibly reduce the office footprint, since, through COVID-19, they realized office space could be maximized by plans for shared spaces, work from home, compressed work weeks and scheduling alternate shifts.

The township has the Lloyd Watson Centre at 2249 Loop Rd., built in 1975. It’s home to the municipal office, memorial centre and food hub. Average annual maintenance is projected to be about \$35,000 to \$107,000. It’s recommended a new roof top furnace, windows, doors, roof, and interior water leak repairs be considered. It costs \$8,622 a year for heat, hydro and insurance.

There’s another building at 2778 Monck Rd., for the environment and bylaw departments and the library. Also built in 1975, maintenance costs are projected at \$8,604 to \$72,300-a-year. Exterior doors, interior painted drywall and baseboard, and upgraded electrical panel are needed. Approximate hydro, building and insurance is \$9,175.

The third building is at 1032 Gooderham St. Built in 1987, it’s home to the building department and a library. Maintenance there is put at \$9,261 to \$60,000 annually. It’s recommended interior and exterior work be done to fix water and moisture issues, costing



Township operations are currently housed in three buildings with council having an inadequate meeting area. *File.*

about \$100,000. Utility and insurance are \$6,959.

“Due to the age of these buildings, major maintenance will be required in the upcoming years,” McCaw and Hunter said.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall said, “how you accomplish what you do in this space you have is beyond my understanding. You’ve got people standing on top of other people or sitting on top of them ... the long and the short of it is there is absolutely no argument we need space.

“The question is ‘how do we determine how much space we need and are we getting it in the right place at the right time’?”

He was not in favour of budgeting \$100,000 for an architect. A former industrial engineer,

he said they first need an expert to assess their needs now as well as look at future growth. He wondered if they could work with Trent University or Fleming College on that for a fraction of what an architect would charge. He was seeking a more detailed report leading to a shovel-ready plan in the event of federal or provincial grants becoming available.

But Hunter said they were only at the stage of seeking council approval to proceed with the project. She said it was too early to hammer out details.

The discussion, as well as one about what to do about two aging public works garages, will continue.

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Dr. Lesslie Ponraja will join the Kinmount and District Health Centre March 1. *Submitted.*

Kinmount welcomes new family doctor to community

By Lisa Gervais

The Kinmount District Health Services Foundation (KDHSF) has announced Dr. Lesslie Ponraja will be joining the healthcare team at the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHC). Susan Forrester of the communication committee said Dr. Ponraja is from England, where he has practised medicine for 20 years, 15 as a family doctor, and five in a hospital. “The KDHSF appreciates the assistance of the Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative (KLHCI) during the recruitment process,” she said. KLHCI recruitment and retention coordinator, Cindy Snider, added, “I wish to congratulate the KDHSF for all their hard work on the recruitment of Dr.

Ponraja. It has been a pleasure to assist them through the process.” Dr. Mihi, a family doctor at the KDHC since 1999, said she was “extremely pleased” to welcome Dr. Ponraja, especially with his “vast experience and friendly, supportive manner.” Dr. Ponraja plans to join Dr. Mihi in seeing patients from Monday to Thursday, starting March 1. Forrester said, “it is important to note that new patients are not being accepted at this time. Dr. Mihi has been caring for a large number of patients for several years, so initially, she will be sharing her existing practice with Dr. Ponraja while preparing for her retirement and the transfer of her entire patient roster to Dr. Ponraja over the next few months.”

The KDHSF expressed gratitude to Dr. Mihi for dedicating almost 25 years of care to her patients. “Dr. Mihi’s retirement is a loss for our community, but a well-deserved respite for her. We wish her the very best in the coming years,” Forrester said. The KDHSF thanked the community for its support, which they said makes physician recruitment possible. “The KDHSF is continuing its efforts to increase the healthcare team at the KDHC in order to meet the needs of our growing community.” The foundation is a registered charity comprised of community volunteers who work to support and expand the healthcare team at the centre. See kdhc.ca for more information.

HHHS calls ‘Code Grey’

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has enacted emergency protocols after an external cybersecurity issue was detected at a partner hospital Feb. 5. Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay put out a notice to its staff Sunday evening that multiple services, such as WiFi, email, and the Epic electronic medical records system, were offline due to a suspected cyber-attack. Those systems remain offline as of press time. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, ambulances were rerouted to other nearby hospitals. Some staff reported having difficulty accessing the facility’s pneumatic tube system (PTS), which connects all wards, surgical rooms and departments with the hospital’s laboratory and central pharmacy. Those issues were resolved as of Feb. 7. The source of the attack is unknown at this time. Lauren Hunter, HHHS spokesperson, told *The Highlander* that both hospital sites in the County had declared a Code Grey, used whenever there is infrastructure loss or failure, due to HHHS sharing an integrated information technology system with Ross Memorial Hospital. She did not provide an answer when asked if there was any concern over patient or staff personal information being leaked, or internal systems being compromised, instead saying “we understand the Ross Memorial Hospital is working to investigate and will share more information when we are able.” She said some HHHS email accounts are not functioning properly due to the attack, and some of the hospitals’ services are experiencing delays, though confirmed WiFi remained online. When asked if other systems, such as Epic, were operational, she said, “currently HHHS is operating based on our established protocols to continue delivering services.” She also said two ambulances that would have gone to Ross Memorial Hospital were redirected to Minden. Updates, when available, will be provided at hhhs.ca, and on the organization’s social media channels.



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One of Minden Hills' newer subdivisions. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Minden's first crack at budget north of 7.5 per cent hike

By Lisa Gervais

The first draft of the Minden Hills budget has a 7.54 per cent tax-supported increase from 2022.

Tabled Feb. 2, CAO Trisha McKibbin said the big hits were wages and benefits (35 per cent), materials, supplies and other operating costs (34 per cent), policing (12 per cent), contributions to cemetery and capital funds of seven per cent, contributions to reserves six per cent and serving debt six per cent.

"The effect of changing global markets, supply chain issues and inflation have created financial pressures on Minden Hills' operating and capital budgets," McKibbin added. "Maintaining current service levels, while balancing these pressures and increases, were at top of mind when building the first draft of the 2023 budget."

The budget includes money to improve roads, public safety, comply with regulations, and for accessibility. There is also cash for studies to help the township, with a strategic plan and asset management plan.

Director of finance, Greg Bedard, noted property assessments in Ontario are still based on 2016 MPAC valuations, resulting in a growing disparity between the assessed

value of a property and its market value.

Minden Hills raises about 70 per cent of the money it needs from property taxation. It gets upper-level grants, this year totalling about \$2.25 million. It also raises money from user fees.

Bedard said wages and benefits were heading north, with annualization of four new positions, pro-rated in last year's budget, a 1.75 per cent cost of living increase, people moving up the township's pay scale and increased volunteer firefighter hours.

They're budgeting a 22 per cent increase for fuel, and more for maintaining fleet. Insurance is up 7.6 per cent. A little over \$957,000 would go to reserves, with almost half for roads.

As far as where money will go, public works and roads will eat up 64 per cent of the spend, followed by 20 per cent for community services, 14 per cent of public works and environmental and two per cent for the CAO's office to develop a strategic plan.

Community services wants money for accessibility improvements, to fix the boardwalk and Village Green walkway.

Public works is seeking more than

\$2 million for roads, guardrails and an asset management plan. Landfills are set to cost the township \$575,000.

Planning continues to experience operating costs associated with the need for external planning consultants. This has resulted in the budget for consultants to increase from \$60,000 in 2022 to \$125,000 in 2023. Many municipalities are dealing with similar issues, with an apparent lack of qualified or available planning professionals provincially. There's a proposal to up fees at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and community centre by three per cent and contract out grass-cutting.

Mayor Bob Carter noted 78 per cent of the budget was for public works and infrastructure.

"We have probably underspent on infrastructure over the past number of years. At some point, it comes back to haunt you. We really have to emphasize and focus on our roads, bridges, culverts and buildings."

Carter also told viewers of the meeting, it is a first draft. "We will go through this in a number of iterations. We need to get the budget right for ourselves and all of our constituents in Minden Hills."



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TheHighlander

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OUR MISSION

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

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It's time to work together

It's not often I find myself at a loss for words during an interview.

A couple of weeks back, I had a Zoom call with Tom Regehr to discuss the work he is doing in the County through his new movement Voice Haliburton. Launched in tandem with a small working group committed to addressing issues surrounding homelessness, mental health and substance abuse in the Highlands, Voice is designed to show some of the community's most disassociated and disenfranchised people there is a way back from a life of despair and addiction.

I sat for an hour as Regehr outlined his vision, explained his working methods, and went into detail on the circumstances and situations that led him down this path. He spent years in the late 80s and early 90s living on the streets in Brampton and Toronto, addicted to alcohol and a myriad of other substances (see last week's edition for the full story).

While his story wasn't unlike others I've heard before, I was impressed by the way he was able to not only bring himself back from the brink but launch a successful career advocating for people just like him.

He's made a difference in just about every community he's worked in. He got things started here this week, holding an inaugural Voice meeting in Haliburton Feb. 8. Another is scheduled for tonight in Minden. A third will be held via Zoom Feb. 13. He plans to run sessions every two weeks for the foreseeable future, bringing people together in a non-judgement, supportive setting to help them collectively work through their issues.

The more I thought about Tom, Voice and the working group, which features representatives from Point in Time, SIRCH, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and the Haliburton County Public Library, the more I realized the current system we have in place to deal with these concerns is broken.

Most supports and programs today are funded by the province. Maybe it's time that we saw our lower-tier governments take more of an interest in this kind of work.

I was chatting with a local the other day about a recent story I wrote on Dysart's 2023 budget. He queried why I hadn't broken down and provided further analysis on some of the key numbers included. He focused

on the \$20,501 the township is planning to spend on social and family services this year, saying that was shamefully low when compared to the \$2.9 million earmarked for recreation and culture.

And to be honest, he's right.

While it's not in a municipality's mandate to provide the kind of mental health and addiction supports Regehr is focusing on, all our lower-tier councils should be concerned with, and trying to find solutions, for this kind of thing.

It's not easy work, and there's no quick fix. It takes time and care to help someone turn their life around.

Credit to Regehr and the Haliburton Mental Health and Substance Use Working Group for recognizing this and guiding people on those first steps towards possible redemption.

It's hoped our municipal leaders follow suit and get involved too.



By Mike Baker

CLIMATE CORNER

From oil to green renewable energies

PROBLEM

Fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – account for over 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions. Made of decomposed carbon-based organisms that died millions of years ago, fossil fuels are extracted from deposits deep in the earth. The processes of extracting them, transporting them, burning them for energy, and using them to manufacture plastic or steel - and a myriad of other goods - all contribute to global warming. Fossil fuels are non-renewable and currently supply around 80 per cent of the world's energy.

To keep global warming below catastrophic levels (there are current estimates of 4-7 degrees Celsius warming with continued extraction and burning of fossil fuels), the IPCC advises carbon dioxide emissions must be reduced to zero by 2050.

Despite repeated global promises to reduce carbon emissions (e.g., Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, COP26), analysis of oil and gas companies suggests we are currently on track to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas than is recommended for us to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Profit from oil and gas companies goes to the stock exchange and makes executives rich. A handful of the world's biggest oil firms are projected to report profits of US\$200 billion from 2022. This money goes

to the shareholders rather than to the public that pays for the fuel, in a blatant transfer of public money to private fortunes.

Oil and gas companies are known to falsify their public image. In 2019, BP spent millions on an advertising campaign about its low-carbon energy and cleaner natural gas. In fact, more than 96 per cent of BP's annual expenses remain on oil and gas.

Oil spills in recent years have been devastating to our oceans' ecosystem. And while natural gas is often promoted as a cleaner energy source than coal and oil, it accounts for a fifth of the world's total carbon emissions.

Gas pipelines contribute to deforestation and loss of habitat. Hailed as one of the largest private sector projects in Canadian history, a \$6.6 billion pipeline in northeastern B.C. will carry natural gas, obtained by hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") to a \$40-billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal for export to Asia. Construction of the 670-kilometre pipeline will cross about 625 waterways, including vital habitat for salmon.

Poorer countries desperate for revenue often get trapped in debt, entering agreements that sacrifice their own resources and environment. Ecuador gets 19 per cent of its revenue from heavy crude oil sales. As drilling and sales increased, global markets allowed Ecuador to borrow against this

perceived asset.

Yet citizens of the country have no safe or running water, endure contaminated rivers, no sanitation, despite many living next to profitable drilling sites. After 30 years of oil extraction and devastation to the rainforest ecosystem, the human inhabitants are reported to suffer social, physical, and psychological damage.

For 10 years, Ecuador sought international help to prevent oil drilling in what may be the most biologically diverse place on the planet, Yasuni National Park, a 9,800-square-kilometre area containing more than 380 known species of fish and 590 identified bird species. This UNESCO Biosphere Reserve has, in one single hectare, more than 100,000 different insect species (more than all of North America), and in 2.5 acres it contains more tree species than the U.S. and Canada combined. The park is also home to two Waorani clans, whose traditional isolated lifestyle is threatened. But the promises of international relief didn't materialize, and in May 2022, Ecuador's president announced plans to double Ecuador's oil production to one million barrels per day by 2025.

Next week: "solutions and what you can do"



By Dr. Nell Thomas

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

LETTERS

Commends Fearrey and McKechnie

Dear editor,

Regarding the editorial in the Feb. 2 *Highlander*, regretfully, the editor did not find the time or space to do a factual reporting of the Haliburton County special meeting on the shoreline bylaw on Jan. 30 but did spend half a page airing her opinions on the topic.

This left readers with no facts to gauge the merits of her views. The media has a responsibility to provide factual reporting, not just proselytize their own views.

Democracy also depends on the free exchange of informed views during the public-policy making process and expects elected representatives to take into consideration the input of all their constituents, not merely pursue their own agendas.

Over the past several years, groups such as Haliburton Waterfront Owners have provided many thoughtful, researched submissions to County council and their consultants on this issue. We regret that the warden chose to denigrate those who do not share her views, calling them the “nasty underbelly of the County.”

I commend councillors Fearrey and McKechnie for representing the views expressed to them by their constituents, and for their efforts to propose a more effective, less expensive program.

We learned in the meeting that the full budget impact of (at least) \$250,000 per year will not be felt in 2023 because the County will use reserves from prior years to pay for it. Even if the County reduces the program costs to offset the 40 per cent that Dysart normally pays, this will still add more than one per cent to tax bills in the other lower tier municipalities in future years.

Yet, several councillors acknowledged that this bylaw does not address what the Love Your Lake program identified as priority number one – renaturalizing the shorelines that have been most compromised.

We regret that the editor did not see fit to report these facts or decry this waste of taxpayers’ money.

Tayce Wakefield
Dysart et al

How would
bylaw be enforced?

Dear editor,

I can understand the reluctance of Fearrey and McKechnie to approve the new shoreline preservation bylaw.

There has been a shoreline protection bylaw in effect for 50 years. It was part of the building bylaws but was never enforced. Some years ago, there was another tree cutting bylaw brought in, and again it was to protect the shoreline and never enforced.

How will we enforce this new bylaw? Will the townships hire people and boats to patrol the lakes on a regular basis? What will the cost be?

How will we inform people about this new bylaw, when they don’t even seem to know

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Fred Pyziak captured this image of an incoming male Mallard on the Drag River near Gelert.

about fire regulations?

Over the years, the Trent Valley Authority has done more damage to the shorelines than anyone. I have seen 50’ long by 5’ to 6’ wide sections of bank collapse into the lake taking trees and everything else with it.

Some years ago, a surveyor attended a Dysart council meeting to explain to the councillors the problems they had establishing the original high-water mark because of the land being washed away, and that in many cases the road allowance was under water.

I believe it is very unfair to criticize Messrs. Fearrey and McKechnie about wanting to hold off on a bylaw that they don’t think is acceptable nor enforceable.

William Beatty
Drag Lake

Decries Dysart
leadership

Dear editor,

Thank you for outing the elephant in the room once again in today’s editorial (*The Highlander*, Feb. 2).

Can’t wait until him and his sidekick let us in on some of their suggestions to combat the degradation of our lakes and wetlands.

Your editorials and exemplary reporting are worthy of the *Toronto Star*. No one should have the excuse that they are unaware of what has gone on in municipal politics in the past and in the now with all the various media and accessibility to council meetings.

Sadly, maybe people do get the government they deserve.

Maura Archer
Dysart et al

Not the same
boat launch pitch

Dear editor,

The Bob Lake Association’s (BLA) delegation to council on Jan. 12 resolves Bob Lake’s long-standing boat launch issue... and it does this at no cost or liability to the township.

The location isn’t perfect, but it’s the only practical site and meets all the essential criteria (public land with public road access and suitable topography).

It has also been declared a viable boat launch location through independent planning, engineering, and legal assessments. It was the location of the original public boat launch used up until the 1970s. While some are challenging this historical claim, the supporting evidence presented as part of the delegation is pretty compelling – an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources map published in 1970 and a letter published in *The Highlander* (Dec. 21, 2017) from a very well-respected past township staff member.

The mayor’s statement that there are “many” opposed to this proposal needs to be qualified. The BLA has conducted a survey of Bob Lake property owners that shows overwhelming support for restoring a public boat launch on the lake. While not “public”, the BLA’s latest proposal for a “community” launch is the best we can do without a stronger initiative from council themselves... which has been a seven-year struggle for the BLA. There is no relevance to the “many” who were opposed when council assumed it was being funded by tax dollars – the proposal before council now is absent of any cost or liability to the township.

Granted there are some opposed to the location itself – namely the few local cottagers in that area and abutting the road allowance. There will always be some level of opposition and NIMBYism, but council

needs to make decisions that benefit the many, and not cater to the few – something that is echoed in recently-published quotes by this very council.

Dave Roberts
Bob Lake

Bob Lake boat
launch needs resolving

Dear editor,

The Bob Lake boat launch has been in the news for seven years. Finally, there has been a viable solution presented by the Bob Lake Association to the Minden Hills council. A no-cost solution.

The BLA will pay for all the construction, continued maintenance and insurance of a community boat launch for Bob Lake. The proposal rests on the leasing of the township property where the original launch existed off of Claude Brown Road on the unopened road allowance.

This site has been surveyed by the township. EcoVue Consulting Services has drawn up the plans. Tatham Engineering has produced a detailed site drawing. A joint lawyer’s report has been received. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry determined there will not be an impact on fish spawning beds. All of these efforts support the viability of this site.

The Bob Lake community boat launch will restore access to the lake for property owners, OPP, emergency services and delivery of items, such as pre-made docks.

This situation needs to be finally resolved. It requires the council to vote in favour of a lease to the Bob Lake Association. This will allow the municipality to maintain ownership of the property while incurring no cost.

Lisa Raine
Minden Hills

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

**Township of Algonquin Highlands
NOTICE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS
2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

TAKE NOTICE that Council will begin its 2023 budget deliberations during a **Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023** commencing at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

Council will continue its 2023 Budget Deliberations during its Regular Council Meeting being held on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

If required, Council will continue its 2023 budget deliberations during a **Special Meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023** commencing at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

Please Note: Public participation in meetings of Council, remains virtual at this time. Members of the Public are invited to observe the Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link which can be found on the published Council Meeting Agenda on the Township's website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 1st day of February, 2023.

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Trevor Chaulk led guests on a tour of his workshop just outside Minden Jan. 26. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Chaulk outlines aggressive growth plan after rebranding

By Mike Baker

Minden's Trevor Chaulk believes he has found a way to take his cabinet-making business to the next level, outlining a multi-year vision to become an industry leader nationwide.

Having recently wrapped up a months-long rebranding process, evolving from a general localized woodworking operation to one centred around e-commerce, Chaulk invited members of the community for a tour of his facility Jan. 26. Located just outside Minden on Hwy. 35, the 5,000 sq. ft. shop is churning out around 100 custom-made kitchens annually, though Chaulk hopes to triple that number by 2026.

"We're trying to change the narrative on what people think when they need cabinets. They think [big box stores], but what most people don't realize is we're more cost-effective in many cases than those companies," Chaulk said. "We're faster, we offer a higher quality, and we deliver a better service. The three things that everyone says you can only choose two, we've found ways to incorporate all three."

It's a long way from the single-man operation Chaulk launched in his garage 14 years ago. Now, the company has grown to 10 employees and is shipping products all over North America.

By streamlining the business to focus solely on cabinet making, Chaulk has been able to work on his processes in-house. After taking in a cross-country tour with his partner, Angela, to visit other successful woodwork operations, he figured out where his business was lacking and how they could improve.

One of the biggest changes, he said, was going from working on multiple orders at a time to now seeing a single project through to completion before starting another. Productivity in

the shop has doubled, even after implementing a new four-day work week.

The development of a new website, recently released but still requiring some tweaks, will be a game-changer long-term, Chaulk says. Customers will be able to place orders online at any time of the day, while any designs requiring a quote will be returned within a couple of hours. He hopes to have it online by the end of the year.

"You're not going to find that anywhere else," Chaulk said. "We are ready to take that next step in becoming one of the first in the industry to start offering fully customizable, online e-commerce. If you just need a single cabinet, we can do that. If you need a full kitchen, we can do that."

And he plans to do it all in a new record turnaround time. "We're going to try and get certain product lines out within a 24-to-48-hour delivery window. Nobody else in this industry can touch that," Chaulk said.

He's also added a new segment to his business by working more closely with contractors, offering wholesale pricing on all Chaulk cabinetry products. This benefits both sides – the contractor saves money, and he gets further exposure for the Chaulk brand. Since launching three months ago, he's signed agreements with six local contractors.

Chaulk is excited for the future. He expects he'll need to expand his current workspace and has plans to add a two-storey extension on the back to extend the shop floor and install a fully automated artificial intelligence material storage system above.

"We have lofty goals. We want to become an industry leader in Canada," Chaulk said. "That would be pretty cool for a small company in Haliburton County."

A passion project years in the making

By Mike Baker

Over the past six months, childhood friends Sarah Comer and Shay-Lynn Hutchings have been hard at work establishing a new health and fitness community in Haliburton County.

The pair, both raised in the Highlands, came together last July to form Wellness Hub. Located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton, the new venture is a passion project years in the making according to Hutchings, who said the space is helping to empower several local entrepreneurs looking to kickstart their business, while offering a slew of unique programs and services to area residents. It officially opened Nov. 1.

“We dared to dream, and Wellness Hub is a direct product of that,” Hutchings told *The Highlander*. “We feel there’s a real gap in Haliburton County when it comes to specialized services in the health, wellness, and fitness fields. We want to bridge that gap.”

Hutchings offers massage therapy sessions, while Comer hosts popular Pilates classes. Several partners have come on board in recent months, including Chelsea Adamson and her Sweat Social health and fitness gym. The space also boasts a naturopathic doctor, holistic nutritionist, psychotherapist, and Reiki master.

Sticking true to the building’s earlier days, when it served as home to the Haliburton Dance Academy, there are also dance class options for youth and adults.

“The hub is kind of like the umbrella brand, but we have 13 different businesses operating out of here, and we’re always looking for more,” Comer said. “We will take on literally anybody if your values align with ours, which is being open minded, quality over quantity and collaboration over competition.”

The latest addition to the team is Mia Quigley, an RPN who specializes in offering IV vitamin drips.

“We’re excited to partner with Mia, because this is something that Haliburton County has never had access to before. People would have to drive to Peterborough and take a day off work to do something like this before,” Comer said.

Next, the pair are hoping to find a physiotherapist with training in pre-and post-natal services.

Reflecting on their recent opening, Hutchings said there were lots of sleepless



Sarah Comer and Shay-Lynn Hutchings formed the Wellness Hub in Haliburton last summer. *Submitted.*

nights, noting many things had to fall in place to make this new business feasible.

“I used to be an instructor at HDA, so I know Chyna Schell, who owned the building, very well. She really helped us get things lined up, and then agreed to do a private sale to us, almost as a way to continue the traditions of this space,” Hutchings said. “We also partnered with the Haliburton

County Development Corporation, which has been a tremendous help to us as we’ve navigated these first few months. They’ve really mentored us as we took the leap into entrepreneurship.”

They’re in this for the long haul, Comer said, and are already coming up with plans for the future.

“We have a lot of dreams and goals. We’d

like to eventually extend the deck and put in a juice or coffee bar, and have the hub become a spot people can gather and hang out,” Comer said. “We just want this to be a busy, happening spot.”

To learn more, visit Wellness Hub on Facebook and Instagram, or contact wellnesshubhali@gmail.com.

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Putting the Finn-ishing touch on your art

Artist Carole Finn is back in the Highlands this winter and offering classes at the Eagle Lake Community Church. Finn, who is well connected to Eagle Lake, reached out to the church when she decided to come back for the first time since 2020. She has been living in B.C. She recalled when they began the Haliburton School of Art + Design, it was common to hold art classes in community churches, since the college only ran classes for the public for two months every summer. She said the Eagle Lake Community Church was a critical location back then. “There was a history and a connection between myself and this church,” Finn said as she worked on her own painting Feb. 7. The classes will be held every Tuesday until March 28. Students can register for individual classes, or a package of four classes back-to-back. Finn will offer Zoom support between sessions. All experience levels are welcome. “I just want to connect with the people. The space is lovely. I want to teach again.” To register, email finn@halhinet.on.ca or check out carolefinnartist.com.

Artist Carole Finn is painting and teaching in Eagle Lake. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



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PHOTO CONTEST

The Highlander is looking for your best photos for inclusion in this year's The Highlander Handbook.

We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submissions will be printed on this year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi).

Please limit 3 entries per person.
Deadline April 10, 2023 by 5 p.m.
Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email.
Send entries to editor@thehighlander.ca

Exhibit considers intersections of life

By Mike Baker

Life is a combination of crossroads intertwined to make us who we are, and Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre in Haliburton is holding a new exhibit showcasing the stories that helped mould some of the community's most accomplished and up-and-coming artists.

Running until April 1, 'Intersection' is the latest offering in Rails End's annual members' salon exhibition series. It features works pieced together by some of the Highlands' most creative minds in painting, sculpture, fabric, and jewelry.

Curator Laurie Jones welcomed invited guests to the show's kick-off Feb. 4, saying she was pleased to see the arts are "alive and well" in Haliburton County. She noted there were 63 entries to the exhibit.

"We had a lot more three-dimensional works and fibre pieces than usual, which I think speaks to the different ways people interpreted the theme," Jones said. "It was a challenging theme this year, one that made people really think. It brought us probably our most diverse selection of submissions in years."

Speaking to her own entry, which she called *Witness Tree*, Jones said she drew inspiration from a forest in upper New York state that was long used as a landmark, or navigation tool, for settlers in the area. When sharing her story, Jones said the conversation pivoted to focus on how a place can remain the same, untouched through time.

"That got me thinking into how time is

this three-dimensional thing that intersects everything – our passions, our lives... and the more we talked, the more people took it in different directions. So, that painting (*Witness Tree*) really became the source of the name of the show," Jones added.

Harvey Walker talked about his piece *Patterns Repeating*, an oil painting on canvas. He said it depicts the "ultimate intersection" of two lives he saw come together on a park bench while he was attending a competition at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Vaughan last year. Inspired, he finished his piece in a couple of hours.

A long-time supporter of the gallery, Christine Mino, said she found out about the exhibit during a dinner party at her Halls Lake home earlier this winter.

"I knew I wanted to submit something, but I had no inspiration," Mino told *The Highlander*. After some reflection, she drew from some of her favourite places and people from across the County to create *Where, When, Why We Met*. The piece is made up of 16 small paintings that intersect – one of undisturbed water on Boshkung Lake, another of her husband walking on the ice at Halls Lake. There are also sections dedicated to skiing, the environment and one of her favourite sculptures, a dinosaur left behind by the owners of the old Camp Kawabi in Algonquin Highlands.

The exhibit can be seen in-person Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is also available online through railsendgallery.com.



Christine Mino shows off her painting *When, Where, How We Met*. Photo by Mike Baker.

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 **Laurie Scott**
MPP
Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock



STARS OF THE WEEK



Mason Bishop was a brick wall this weekend, making timely saves and shutting down pressure situations.



Everett Bjelis had a fantastic tournament, contributing numerous tallies throughout the preliminary rounds. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*



Ethan Draker was a persistent goal scorer and defensive stalwart throughout our tournament. He notched the tying goal, as well as the game winner.



Wyatt Braun and Beau Gilmour celebrate the Storm's fifth goal against the Otters. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Silver medal for Storm

The U9LL Bernie Nicholls Tournament was a great success for the Highland Storm.

After losing the first game of the tournament on Saturday morning, the Storm buckled down and won the next two in dominating fashion to secure its position in the semi-finals on Sunday.

The morning game was a tight matched, nerve-wracking affair against the Kawartha Coyotes. Great goaltending on both ends of the ice yielded a 2-2 tie late into the third

period, until Ethan Draker and Chase Casey put the Storm ahead with two minutes left, sealing the deal.

The A championship game was a well-fought affair. After dropping three goals in the first, the home team rallied to tie the game in the second.

A see-saw of chances in the third was unfortunately capped off with a late marker that the Storm couldn't erase.

The coaching staff is very proud of the kids on their silver medal. Great job Storm. *(Submitted).*



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Top: Mason Bishop made several big saves to backstop the Storm to victory. Bottom: Everett Bjelis keeps his balance long enough to slide the puck into an empty net for the Storm's second goal of the game. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Jan. 31 U11 Curry Chevrolet Vs Mariposa 0-10 L	U13 Minden Pharmasave Vs South Muskoka 3-0 W
U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling Vs Mariposa 3-1 W	U15 Haliburton Timbermart Vs Kawartha 7-0 W
U15 Peppermill Steak House Vs U15 Sharp Electric 3-3 T	Feb. 5 U15 LL Sharp Electric Vs Huntsville 5-1 W
Feb. 3 U15 Haliburton TimberMart Vs Sturgeon 7-3 W	U9 Cottage Country Building Supplies competed in the local Bernie Nicholls tournament and were awarded 'A' finalists.
U18 Tom Prentice & Sons Vs Kawartha 5-4 W	
Feb. 4 U11 Curry Chevrolet Vs Ennismore 2-9 L	
U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX Vs Almaguin 7-1 W	
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Left: Huskies captain Christian Stevens fist bumps a young fan. Right: Forward Patrick Saini controls the puck in a 10-4 win over the Caledon Admirals. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Huskies hit double digits in win over Caledon

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies put on a show for fans inside S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Feb. 4, dismantling the Caledon Admirals 10-4 in a ruthless display of attacking dominance.

Fresh off a disappointing 6-1 loss to the Wellington Dukes Feb. 3, where the Huskies collapsed in the final frame, giving up five unanswered goals, the team came out with something to prove on home ice Saturday. Flanked by members of the U13 LL Cheryl Smith RE/MAX Highland Storm for warm-up and pre-game ceremonies, the players were like caged animals, just waiting to sink their teeth into a Caledon team that have won just six games this season.

Declan Bowmaster got things rolling with a smart finish 1:44 in after being found in the slot by Alex Cunningham. Captain Christian Stevens added a second at 4:25, finishing off his own rebound attempt after a Will Gourgouvelis shot from the point had been saved. Luca Rea potted a powerplay marker at 8:26, assisted by Cunningham and Marco Iozzo.

The Admirals responded with a goal of their own at 8:51, Daniil Kononov netting on the road team's first foray forward.

Patrick Saini then struck the base of the post with a wrister after skating in from the boards, a sign that the hometown team were far from done. Ty Collins registered a quickfire double, scoring at 12:47 and 14:13, before Nicholas Dowling, Leo Serlin and Sam Solarino added further markers late in the period, giving the Huskies an unassailable 8-1 lead after the first buzzer.

Head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay said it was a great response after poor showings in back-to-back losses against the Dukes and Burlington Cougars.

"We always tend to come out swinging after a bad result, and we did exactly that in the first period. I had been driving home the message that there's no room for complacency in this league, and the boys really took that to heart," he said.

Ramsay reserved special praise for 16-year-old debutant Graeme Armstrong, a Highlands local, who grabbed a secondary assist on Collins' first goal. He's an AP with the team, regularly playing for the Central Ontario

Wolves U16 AAA outfit and was drafted into the lineup due to the absence of regulars Lucas Stevenson and Boyd Stahlbaum.

There was also a first OJHL start for youngster Cameron Yorke, who got the second half of the Huskies' back-to-back, with regular starter Aidan Spooner finishing up a four-game suspension. He recorded 20 saves in the win.

Josh Currie tallied a ninth for the Huskies 51 seconds into the second frame, but the goals dried up after that – though not for the want of trying. The home team peppered Nicholas Von Kaufmann – iced in relief of regular starter Antonino Rizzo during the opening period – but the six-foot-six-inch goaltender stood up to the task, making several impressive stops as the Huskies kept pushing.

The game got a little chippy as the minutes trickled away, boiling over in the final moments of the second. After some verbal back and forth, Lucas Marshall dropped the gloves with the Admirals' Andrew Tsotsos, getting the better of the exchange much to the delight of the home fans.

Serlin added a solitary marker midway

through the third, assisted by Josh Sordo and Currie, to give the Huskies their second double-digit score of the season.

"You're never looking to embarrass a team, but at the same time this is junior hockey. You still have to play hard," Ramsay said. "We don't want any bad tendencies or habits to creep in, so my message is always to play our game for the whole 60 minutes and see where that takes us."

It was another high-scoring affair Feb. 8 when the Huskies entertained the Markham Royals in Minden. The home team ran out comfortable 8-3 winners.

Cunningham had a six-point night, scoring a hat-trick and putting up three assists, with blueliner Gourgouvelis contributing two goals and three helpers. Bowmaster, Currie, and Rea also got on the scoresheet.

Aidan Spooner marked his return from a four-game suspension, making 22 saves in the win.

The Huskies have a home double-header this coming weekend, hosting the Stouffville Spirit at 4 p.m. Feb. 11, and the Collingwood Blues at 3 p.m. Feb. 12.

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Players help unveil Harcourt outdoor rink

By Mike Baker

Dozens of Highlands youth had an opportunity to skate with some of their local hockey heroes Feb. 5 as several Haliburton County Huskies attended the grand opening of the new Harcourt outdoor rink.

The likes of Marco Iozzo, Alex Cunningham, Leo Serlin and Josh Sordo, among others, led a series of skill sessions for youth in the afternoon before participating in an open skate.

Head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay said the players had a great time at the event. He noted it was important that the organization, and its players, give back to the community when it can.

"While one of our main focuses is hockey, another is building character and making sure our players get involved in different events, because this community has been extremely welcoming and supportive of us," Ramsay told *The Highlander* last fall.

"I think it's good for our players to have a presence, and be positive role models for our youth," he added.

The new rink, located beside the Harcourt Community Centre on Midway Road, is open daily, weather permitting. According to Andrea Mueller, Dysart et al recreational coordinator, there is a timer located on the light post at the rink that can be turned on to provide lighting in the evening.

In the warmer months, the space will be used for pickleball, basketball and ball hockey.



MP Jamie Schmale and MPP Laurie Scott were on hand for the opening. Photo courtesy of Andrew Hodson.

MP Jamie Schmale, MPP Laurie Scott and Dysart deputy mayor Walt McKechnie were in attendance for a ribbon cutting ceremony, while volunteers from the Harcourt Ladies

Committee were on hand to serve hot chocolate, tea, coffee, and chili.

Mueller said the rink was funded by a \$162,000 provincial grant, with half going

towards construction of the Harcourt facility, and half paying for the installation of a similar outdoor rink in West Guilford. She noted that project will begin this spring.

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Ice, race, baby

The 2023 Canadian Automobile Sport Club Ice Racing season made its first stop at the Minden Fairgrounds Feb. 4-5. More than 100 racers participated. Racing director Brad Elkins said it was a good opening weekend, after being delayed two weeks due to warm weather. One of the highlights was the return of passengers, which drivers permitted to have someone ride shotgun with them. The races continue each weekend until March 4-5. Results from this weekend's races were unavailable as of press time.

Toronto's Victor DelCol maintains control around a corner, with Robin Doiron and Haliburton's Steve Robson breathing down his neck. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Braving the cold

Around 150 Highlanders braved brutal sub-zero conditions this past weekend as the Hike Haliburton Winter Edition celebrated its second year. Most of the 10 guided tours Feb. 4 and 5 were fully-booked, with hikers journeying around popular trails surrounding Crane Lake, the Gull River and Barnum Creek. Organizers promoted self-guided hikes on the Ridge Trail and Frost Centre networks, as well as at Algonquin Park, Silent Lake Provincial Park, and Glebe Park. Peter Dahl led a two-hour tour of the Dahl Forest. The 500-acre forest, which boasts a five-kilometre trail network, was in the Dahl family for 65 years before being handed over to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust in 2009.

Peter Dahl was joined by wife, Janet, on the snowshoe hike, which he said covered most of the key features of the site that is bisected by the Burnt River. *Photo by Mike Baker.*



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FEBRUARY EVENTS

Feb. 10

Get crafty at the Wilberforce branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Adults and seniors are invited to attend a drop-in craft event at 11 a.m., with after-school crafts for children scheduled between 3 and 4 p.m.

Feb. 11

Haliburton Forest Poker Run - the 32nd annual event. Participants will ride the trails via snowmobile or ATV, visiting five shelter cabins to collect five tokens and have refreshments. By 4:30, tokens are turned in to draw a poker hand. Proceeds to the Haliburton Firefighters Association. First prize is a new snowmobile. 1-800-631-2198 or reservations@haliburtonforest.com

Feb. 11, noon to 3 p.m.

Cupid's Carnival at Abbey Gardens. A time to celebrate all of the things we love about winter. Skating, tobogganing, treats and drinks, fire pits, live entertainment, winter games, meet and greet the ponies and more. Register at abbeygardens.ca under the events tab. Admission by donation.

Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a Valentine's Day candle making workshop in partnership with Snuff Candle Co. The workshop is open to all ages. Anyone 15 and under must be accompanied by an

adult. Participants are encouraged to wear old clothes, avoid loose sleeves and tie back long hair. Registration is \$45 plus HST per person. For more information, call 705-286-3763 ext. 542, or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

Feb. 11

Children are invited to drop by their local library branch to create a heart frog craft in celebration of Valentine's Day. Dysart event is scheduled for noon to 4 p.m.; Highland Grove from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Minden Hills from 10 a.m. to noon; and Wilberforce from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SIRCH repair cafe at SIRCH.

Feb. 14, 2 to 3 p.m.

Do you have questions about internet safety? Join Mona Lam-Deslippe at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a tech help session focusing on passwords. Bring your own device to get help tailored to you.

Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

Michael Mesure from Fatal Light Awareness Plan (FLAP) will speak at the Environment Haliburton! Enviro-Cafe about reducing bird mortality from window collisions and other hazards. Register at environmenthaliburton.org.

Have a non-profit event you want included? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

HALIBURTON BRANCH

Mon: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. **Tues:** League darts starting at 7 p.m. • **Wed:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall & bingo, doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 7 p.m. \$1,000 Jackpot last Wednesday of the month. **Thurs:** General meeting third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. **Fri:** Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. **Sat:** 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each available in the Clubroom. • Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

MINDEN BRANCH

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

Weekly events

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

COBOCONK BRANCH

Tues: Euchre 1 p.m. Open darts 7 p.m. • **Wed:** First of the month Big Buck Bid Euchre 10 a.m. \$15.00 p.p. • **Sat:** Music and Meat Roll, music starts at 2 p.m., meat roll at 3 p.m. **Lunch & Music** - Friday, February 27th Shepherd's Pie or Liver & Onions \$13.00 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Followed by Country Music Jam 1-4 p.m. Open Mic & Local talent. Food Bank donations would be appreciated.

John Coulton Memorial Ice Fishing Derby, Sat. March 4th Gull Lake, Deep Bay Rd. \$25.00 p.p. Register at the Coby Legion For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

WILBERFORCE BRANCH

Feb. 10: open 2 to 9 p.m. Diners club at noon, contact Denise Butler at 705-448-8865 to book. Cost is \$15 per person. Pool at 2 p.m. Wing night and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m. **Feb. 11:** open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m. **Feb. 12:** LA breakfast 9 to 11 a.m. **Feb. 13:** closed **Feb. 14:** open 4 p.m. General meeting at 7 p.m. **Feb. 15:** open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m. **Feb. 16:** open 1 to 6 p.m.

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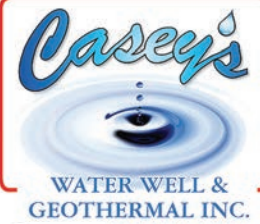
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Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
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Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



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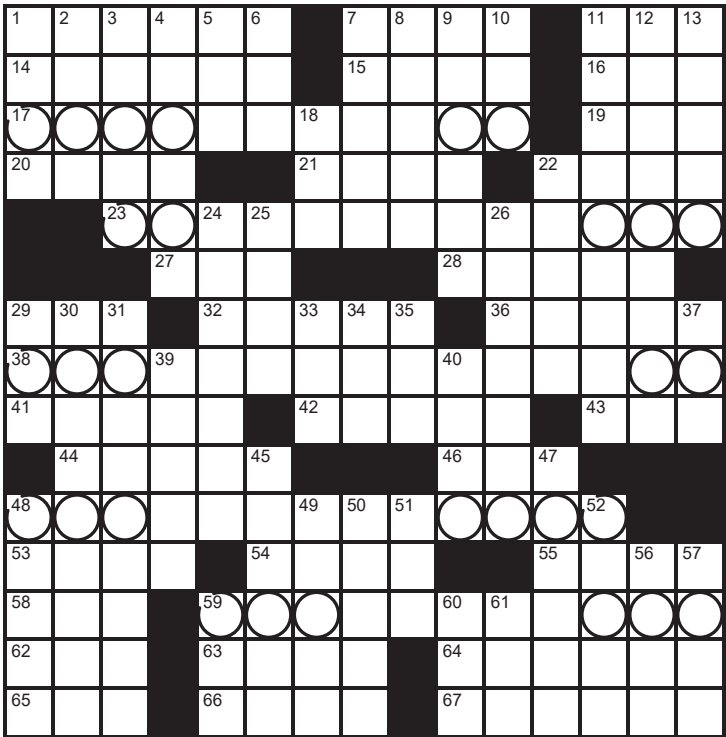
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by Barbara Olson
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- Across**
- 1 Go-to computer fix
 - 7 Letter writer's third afterthought
 - 11 Fourth musical tones
 - 14 Delphi know-it-all
 - 15 What 1-Down are not
 - 16 Mandela's org.
 - 17 Shop talk terms such as "joke map" and "gag hag"
 - 19 Corp. computer exec.
 - 20 Udon's flatter cousin
 - 21 Company name formed from Standard Oil's initials
 - 22 "Have ___!" ("Go right ahead!")
 - 23 Given the scoop on
 - 27 Toothed tool
 - 28 Take ___ for the worse
 - 29 "The ___" (Sault Ste. Marie, to locals)
 - 32 Hamilton CFLer, for short
 - 36 Nail polish rival of Opi
 - 38 Work cubicle divider, e.g.
 - 41 Baron Cohen costumed in a mankini
 - 42 Silklike synthetic
 - 43 180 degrees from SSW
 - 44 Alligator-filled barriers
 - 46 Figure skating phenom Midori ___
 - 48 Nears completion
 - 53 Quechua speaker of Peru
 - 54 Like a lot of cars, maybe?
 - 55 Women's undergarment with a slit
 - 58 Palindromic Dutch city
 - 59 Desktop image, such as Adobe's looped A
 - 62 Printer tray abbr.
 - 63 Cicero's 451
 - 64 Whale-watching town on Vancouver Island
 - 65 Toronto river or valley
 - 66 Departure lounge words
 - 67 World of bugs and moles



- Down**
- 1 Giant birds in Arabian lore
 - 2 Ending for smack or buck
 - 3 Godzilla victim in a classic cartoon
 - 4 Cousteau's areas of interest
 - 5 Like one of four good luck items for a bride
 - 6 Scottish mystery writer Josephine
 - 7 "Dark Side of the Moon" album cover object
 - 8 "Je ___, donc je suis": Descartes
 - 9 Tiered temple of Asia
 - 10 It may come pre-pitch?
 - 11 Considers, as when calculating
 - 12 Against paying dues and picketing
 - 13 Hockey sportscaster Oake
 - 18 The Once-___ (Dr. Seuss baddie)
 - 22 "Well, that was ___" (post-flop comment)
 - 24 Wealthy political backers
 - 25 Cause for a Mickey Mouse Band-Aid
 - 26 Chewed away at
 - 29 Abba's shortest song title
 - 30 Seriously considering (doing)
 - 31 Somewhat worrisome
 - 33 Subj. of Berton's "The Last Spike"
 - 34 Skinny Energizer
 - 35 Juno-winning Blue Rodeo hit, 1987
 - 37 Suffix with ethyl- or benz-
 - 39 "If ___ dime for every ..."
 - 40 "Macbeth" witches' chanted word
 - 45 Skookum
 - 47 Turn to bone
 - 48 Brandish, as a sword
 - 49 Opera words before "mio"
 - 50 Shield, or today, sponsorship
 - 51 "In-chief" rank: Abbr.
 - 52 Spanish hero played by Heston
 - 56 Prefix with -sphere and -phore
 - 57 ___-Penh, Cambodia
 - 59 Toxic pollutant, for short
 - 60 @@@
 - 61 Stick in a cleaning closet?

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

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

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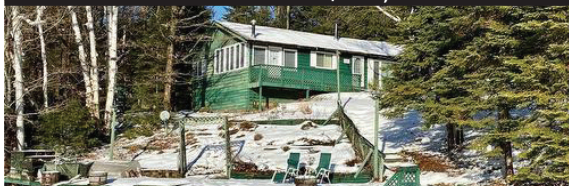
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Top 10 Questions Boomers Should Be Asking.

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