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The Highlander

Thursday **February 23 2023** | Issue 578

INSIDE: CELEBRATING LIFE OF LISA KERR PAGE 9

FREE



Hear ye! Hear ye!

Town crier Bruce Kruger and wife Lynn lead the Dorset snowball parade Feb. 18. It was just one of many Family Day weekend festivities in the Highlands. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Minden man leads quake response

By Lisa Gervais

Minden's Jacques Larroude was on the fourth floor of an apartment building in Gaziantep, Turkey when a major earthquake struck on Feb. 6.

Working with CARE International, the wake up was "violent and unprecedented.

"It was terrifying, especially as it lasted between 60 and 80 seconds, but felt like an eternity," Larroude told *The Highlander*.

He was "wobbly" as he got up and stood under his bedroom door frame to avoid ceiling debris, something he had been taught 13 years earlier when responding to the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

"It felt like the end of the world and I was expecting the building to collapse at any moment, but it held, and turns out, with little to no damage."

Last September, Larroude was hired as a change management consultant by CARE Turkey to design and implement a transition plan for CARE's area office in Syria. He was based in Gaziantep, with frequent trips to northwestern Syria.

His contract finished Feb. 4, and he was booked to fly out Feb. 5. But as fate would have it, a snowstorm cancelled his flight. He was rebooked for Feb. 7. He didn't mind, as he planned to use the extra days for sightseeing and shopping for souvenirs. "And then, Feb. 6, 4:17 a.m. came," he said.

Larroude is no stranger to disaster. He's made a career as a humanitarian aid worker. More recently, in 2016 until the end of 2017, he was the emergency response coordinator (region of the Americas) for a German INGO, deployed regularly to the U.S.A., Haiti, Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador, responding to disasters there. From December 2017 until July 2022, he was managing

Continued 'Twenty-three' on page 2

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Twenty-three years experience in hardship response

Continued from page 1

CARE International’s humanitarian rapid response team.

Although his contract with CARE ended Feb 4, he contacted his ex-manager on the day of the earthquake and offered to extend his services for a month. She accepted and put him in charge of the CARE response as Turkey earthquake response coordinator.

He’s been working 18 hour days ever since the quake that has claimed nearly 50,000 lives in Turkey and Syria, and caused large aftershocks Feb. 20.

While leading logistics, he noted about 90 per cent of staff were unable to work the first day as they were caring for their families and seeking safety.

Some of the things he has been doing include drawing up a scale up plan and calling for external assistance to the CARE regional office and headquarters; writing proposals and concept notes and submitting them to institutional donors for funding to be released for immediate response; using the emergency funds allocated; starting the local procurement process of relief items and services to distribute in response to the disaster according to needs; coordinating with the authorities and other agencies there (INGOs, U.N., Red Cross) to avoid confusion, overlaps and gaps; reporting daily through situation reports; “and much much more.”

Larroude said he is coping well as he was not located in the worst of the destruction.

“Also, I have 23 years of experience in hardship responses both for man-made and natural disasters,” he said. This has included the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2000 and 2003, the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in 2001-2002, the Iraqi invasion in 2003, Myanmar in 2004, the North Sumatra tsunami in 2005, the Haiti earthquake in 2010, Mali in 2014, and the Ecuador earthquake in 2016, among others.

“My colleagues on the other hand have had a hard time because this is their home and where family and friends live, so they don’t have that luxury of emotional detachment that I benefit from, and am trained for like any first responder, so I avoid psychological damage.”

“They are torn between their instinct to respond and their priorities to their families. Many have lost family members, friends, property or the ability to go back to their homes as they are either damaged or the utilities have been cut. Their children are badly shaken and scared to go back home, and so are the adults. The psychological trauma is very real and palpable.”

He is currently in Hatay on an assessment mission.

If all goes according to plan, he will finish March 3 and fly to Amsterdam to meet up with his wife, Wil Andrea, for the rest of the month. “And recuperate. I’ll need it.” He will also visit his mom in France for a few days and then fly back to Canada April 1.

A photo of Jacques Larroude (left) in Haiti. Submitted.






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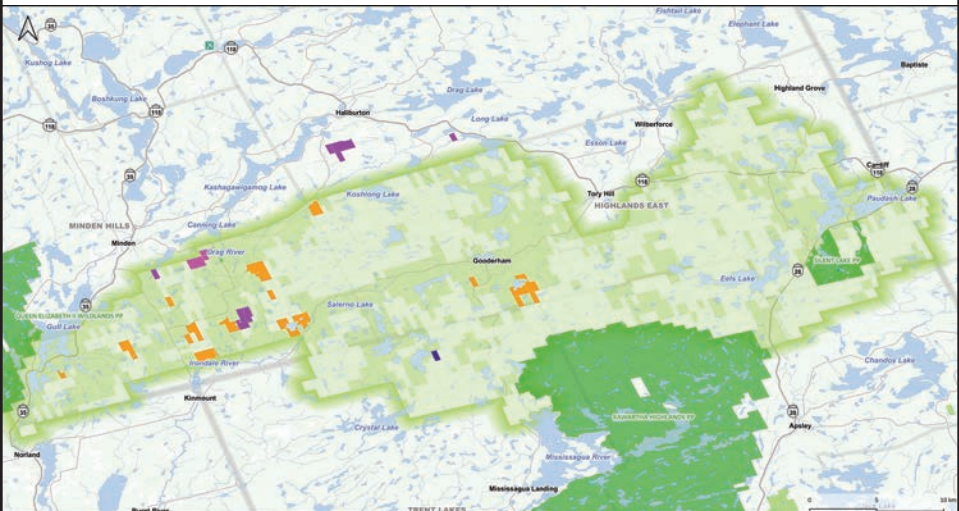


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County delays decision on Grass Lake condos

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County council was unanimous Feb. 22 in wanting more information before deciding on an official plan amendment for a proposed 88-unit housing development near Grass Lake in Dysart et al.

The project, fronted by developer Paul Wilson and his company, Harburn Holdings, would repurpose 2.5 hectares of land along Peninsula Road into four lots that would each house multi-storey apartment and condo buildings, with one unit also featuring a commercial component.

Dysart et al's previous council expressed support for the build last September, but yesterday was the first time it had been discussed inside County council chambers. In his report, planner Steve Stone recommended council approve the application, feeling it conforms to the upper-tier's official plan and policies. Some council members, though, had doubts.

Coun. Bob Carter felt he hadn't had enough time to properly digest the 400-plus page dossier Stone distributed on Friday, with Coun. Cec Ryall saying he too wanted to do some more research before landing on a decision.

Council heard from multiple speakers. Advocacy group, The Friends of Grass Lake, represented by Carolyn Langdon and Catherine Swift, called on the County to turn down the proposal, saying it would change the landscape of Grass Lake and the surrounding area forever.

Swift noted a petition launched last year to protest the project had garnered more than 900 signatures, although it's not known how many are local.

Councillors were informed of an ongoing dispute between Wilson and a neighbouring property owner, Dr. Aimee Filion – who owns and operates Haliburton Veterinary Services. Her lawyer, Raj Kehar, said there was concern over the long-term impacts the development would have on her well water quality and quantity. After crews carried out a hydrogeological study on the site last spring, Filion reported seeing water, "coming out of the tap with the consistency of mud" at her business.

Kehar noted Filion had retained Kitchener-based hydrogeology group MTE to carry out further testing at the site. He asked council to consider deferring the proposal until



Harburn Holdings owner Paul Wilson is seeking County approval for his 88-unit housing development in Haliburton. *File.*

after MTE has completed its work. Kehar further noted that, during their preliminary investigation, MTE had found nine potential issues with the Grass Lake proposal – though most surrounded a lack of technical analysis that Anthony Usher, Wilson's lawyer, previously told *The Highlander* would be completed after the official plan amendment has been granted.

Kehar noted Filion wasn't against the project, but wanted to make sure it wouldn't negatively impact her business.

Coun. Murray Fearrey suggested deferring for a month, until March 22, to give Wilson

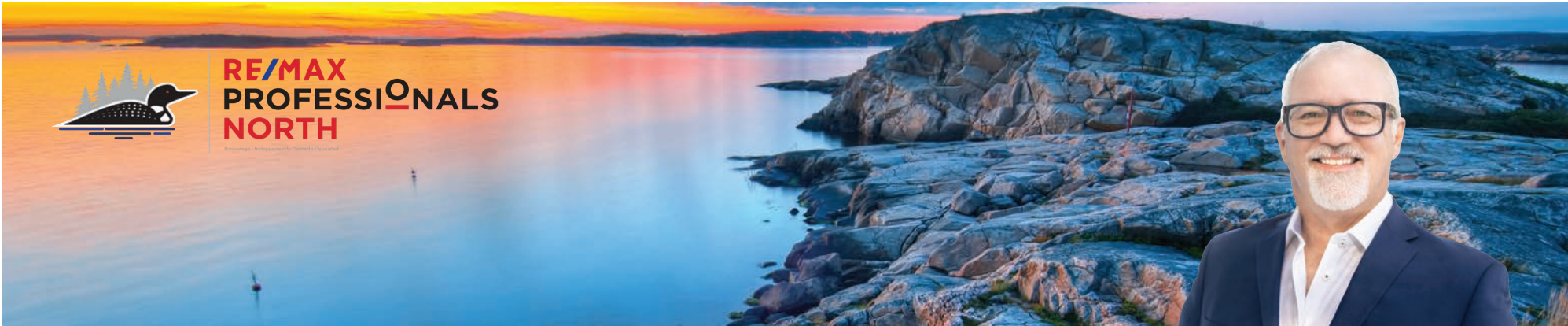

and Filion time to work out their issues, and his fellow councillors a chance to properly review the proposal.


Waiting until last to offer her thoughts, warden Liz Danielsen said she had some "serious concerns" about the impact the project could have on the surrounding wetlands, though was conflicted as it would bring much-needed new housing inventory to the Highlands.

Usher was confident of striking a deal with Filion, while maintaining the issues brought forth by the Friends group and some councillors regarding impacts to wetlands

and water quality of Grass Lake had already been addressed through months-long correspondence with Dysart et al staffers.

"I'm not going to speak to some of the things... brought forward today, as that information is included [in Harburn Holdings' application package]... if we are able to have some direct dialogue between [Wilson and Filion], we should be able to make progress quickly. I think both sides seem to be committed to trying to resolve this and go down a path that, if it isn't the same yet, it's at least parallel," Usher said.





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HKPR: 10.9 per cent face food insecurity

By Mike Baker

The cost of maintaining a balanced, healthy diet was about \$1,103 a month for most area households in 2022, according to a new report on food insecurity and poverty published by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) district health unit.

Sarah Tsang, a registered dietitian and health equity coordinator with HKPR, told a Feb. 16 meeting of the health board the study found food insecurity was rife across Haliburton County, Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County. It draws from Ontario’s ‘Nutritious Food Basket’, which consists of more than 60 commonly purchased, healthy food items. It doesn’t include non-edible essentials such as soap, toilet paper, toothpaste and other personal care items.

The report highlights the cost of healthy eating when compared to different household income scenarios.

“When families don’t make enough money, food is often the first thing they cut, so they can pay for other basic necessities such as rent, utilities, transportation and childcare,” Tsang said.

The report estimates 10.9 per cent of households across the region were food insecure in 2022. Tsang said food insecurity is defined as, “worrying about food running out, not getting the variety of foods needed to create a balanced diet, and going hungry by eating less, or skipping meals altogether.”

She said a surge in rental prices throughout the region was one of the main contributors. Running through the scenarios in the report, she said a family of four in Haliburton County with one adult earning minimum wage would bring in \$3,973 per month. With rent coming in at \$2,500 a month – covering 63 per cent of their monthly budget – and food costing \$1,103, that leaves only \$370 left for other basic needs.

The situation was bleaker for those living



An HKPR food insecurity and poverty report estimates 10.7 per cent of households across the region were food insecure in 2022. *File.*

on OW and ODSP. Single adults on OW receive \$863 a month. With rent for a one-bedroom apartment averaging \$950 in the County, and food costs pegged at \$397, this leaves people \$484 in the hole without accounting for other essentials.

Those on ODSP receive a maximum of \$1,309 a month. With similar rental and food costs, that leaves them with a negative monthly balance of \$38.

“From this, it’s clear to see that food cost is not the issue. We see how big a difference one’s income makes to their living situation... the lower the income a

household makes, the more vulnerable they are to suffer food insecurity,” Tsang said. “Research shows that children living in food insecure households are more likely to have poor health. Adults are also more likely to report poor mental health, higher stress, and anxiety, and have higher risk for chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease.”

Tsang said 25.9 per cent of households living in rental housing are food insecure – also true for 63.1 per cent of Canadians relying on social assistance.

While food bank usage is up in all communities across the HKPR region, Tsang

noted those facilities and other operations, such as soup kitchens, do nothing to address the primary cause of food insecurity.

The HKPR board approved her request to write a letter to Premier Doug Ford, urging the provincial government to adopt income-based policy solutions to effectively reduce food insecurity. She noted it has been more than 20 years since Ontario has made major changes to its social assistance programs, while pegging the living wage across HKPR as \$19.05 an hour.

INFORMATION PAGE

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- Be alert. Do not smoke after taking medicine that makes you tired. You may not be able to prevent or escape from a fire if you are sleepy or have taken medicine that makes you tired.
- Never smoke around medical oxygen. Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is nearby. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.
- Never smoke in bed. Mattresses and bedding can catch on fire easily. Do not smoke in bed because you might fall asleep with a lit cigarette.
- Put your cigarette out in an ashtray or bucket with sand. Use ashtrays with a wide base so they won't tip over and start a fire.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2023 Interim tax bills will be mailed by March 1, 2023. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office. The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments: March 24th and May 19th, 2023. This bill has been calculated using the 2022 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2022 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 20th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for February and March. Please contact our office for a current balance.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

NOTICE – 2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence its 2nd round of the 2023 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting scheduled for March 2, 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
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(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 23 – Regular Council Meeting
March 2 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget Deliberations
March 9 – Regular Council Meeting

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

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Take the “pantry challenge”! Find creative recipes on the internet to use up staples in the cupboard before you go shopping.

Buy hand soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies in bulk to save money and reduce plastic waste in your home. If you need to transfer the bulk product into a smaller container, rinse out and re-use the last container you bought.

Affordable housing projects in limbo

By Mike Baker

At least three affordable housing developments in Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes are at a standstill after local service provider, KLH Housing Corporation, said a combination of rising interest rates, increased construction costs, and a lack of financial support from federal and provincial partners has made it “impossible” for new build projects to proceed.

Kirstin Maxwell, CEO of KLH, told *The Highlander* Feb. 21 that projects in Minden, Lindsay and Fenelon Falls would not be completed until the organization has found a way to make them more affordable.

“When interest rates started to climb, we redid our financials, and the numbers just weren’t working out anymore,” Maxwell said. “The financial realities of today are quite different than when we originally planned these projects.”

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter, who also sits on the KLH board, said the formula traditionally used by entities like KLH to determine the final bill of a project, and subsequent cost recovery, has been thrown off by inflation.

Explaining the process, he said KLH will add up all expenditures involved with a project, including purchasing land, servicing it, and building on it, and then go about sourcing a mortgage. Once all operating costs have been accounted for, rents are determined on a cost-recovery basis.

“Our problem right now is that the cost of building is so high, and the cost of borrowing is so high, that the total operating cost to run the building is far greater than the income the building would generate,” Carter said, noting these types of operations cannot run at a deficit. “You must charge rents that will keep the building from going into debt. But, in this situation, the rents would be way higher than anyone could reasonably afford.”

Maxwell noted KLH receives “very little” funding from the federal and provincial governments. Referencing the build in Lindsay, Maxwell said the cost, pre-pandemic, was pegged at just under \$16 million, with 24 per cent covered by KLH, 22 per cent by the City of Kawartha Lakes, eight per cent by the province, and six per cent by the feds. Around \$6 million, or 40 per cent, is unfunded, meaning KLH will have to source a mortgage.

She has called on the two upper-level governments to increase their financial contributions to affordable housing projects, noting municipalities cannot afford to take on the burden alone.

When approached for comment, MPP Laurie Scott said the province will provide the City of Kawartha Lakes – the local service manager – with \$4.4 million to support various housing and homelessness prevention programs this fiscal year, with a further \$9.15 million paid out in social services relief funds.

“Service managers... have the flexibility to choose how to best use provincial funding

for programs and services that address and prevent homelessness in their communities, such as rent supplements, homeless shelters, and supportive housing,” Scott wrote in an email.

MP Jamie Schmale did not respond as of press time.

Carter said one possible solution could be for government agencies that back these mortgages, such as Infrastructure Ontario, to extend their amortization period by more than the current 30-year limit to allow service providers to spread their repayments over a longer period.

‘We’ll do what we can’

Maxwell said KLH will continue with pre-development work for the Minden project, which is slated to bring 35 units to the corner of Hwy. 35 and County Road 21, in the hopes that more government funding comes down the pipeline. She noted the organization is still listening on future development proposals, too.

“Our plan now is to get the permits we need, figure out exactly how much a project will cost, and then assess the situation from there. If we’re able to move forward with a project, we will. If the province or feds springs a surprise and opens a new funding stream, then great, we’ll be first in line,” she said.

Demand for services and supports through KLH is greater than ever, Maxwell said, with 2,198 households on the waiting list



Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said the upper-tier governments need to do more to support affordable housing developments. *File.*

for community housing, including 438 in the County. The average wait time for new applicants is 10 to 14 years.

“It’s a sad situation... but the reality is things need to change [before we can bring any new units online]. Everybody at the municipal level here in the City and County are doing whatever they can to make it happen. This is purely a financial matter, it’s not a matter of political will,” she said.

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New Abbey Retreat Centre program offers guiding hand through end-of-life care

By Mike Baker

Terminal illness can be an extremely lonely and isolating experience, but Abbey Retreat Centre (ARC) is trying to flip the script on that and show there can be a positive path forward for people dealing with an end-of-life diagnosis.

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

After adding online programming to its portfolio during the pandemic, the facility is bolstering its in-person options this month through a new pilot, Death: Charting Unknown Territories Together. The initiative is more than two years in the making, says ARC executive director Barb Smith-Morrison.

“Some of the comments we were hearing from people attending our retreats was ‘this has been phenomenal, but I’m at a place in my cancer experience where I am... facing end of life. Some of the other people at the retreat might not want to talk about that, but I need to,’” Smith-Morrison said. “That really hit hard and made us think about the types of things we were providing.”

The program, she says, will provide a safe space for people and their caregivers to discuss a variety of difficult topics surrounding death. There will be four facilitators on hand, working on issues surrounding grief and gratitude, love, and legacy. There will be opportunities for people to share their stories, with further programming designed to “reduce stress and anxiety, and deeply nourish the body, mind and spirit.” The pilot will feature eight people



Arlene Stiles is the new program coordinator at Abbey Retreat Centre. Photo by Mike Baker.

and is running Feb. 24 to 26.

Arlene Stiles recently joined ARC as a program coordinator. She knows firsthand how impactful these services can be, having attended a retreat with husband, Bob, in 2019. She said that experience helped change the pair’s perspective, helping Bob on his eventual road to recovery. It was a massive eye-opener for her, too.

“This was the first place that cared for me the same way Bob was cared for. It’s natural that the cancer patient is the focus, but the support person is going through the same thing. They have their own journey,” Stiles said.

A big year ahead

Smith-Morrison said ARC is returning to pre-COVID retreat sizes this year. There are six offerings planned, each including 10 people. The organization is continuing with its online supports too, with its two main programs to each run five times in 2023.

To sustain this growth, the organization is ramping up its fundraising efforts. Smith-Morrison said she hopes to bring in \$250,000 this year, up from just over \$100,000 in 2022.

“Our in-person retreat applications have increased 500 per cent from January 2020,

so we’re trying to do what we can to make sure those that need our services get them,” she said.

It costs approximately \$1,700 a day for someone to attend an ARC retreat. Services have always been offered to people free of charge, and that won’t be changing, Smith-Morrison said.

“When someone is dealing with a serious illness, usually they have to stop working. Their finances are stretched to the max,” she said. “We hear from people that having the opportunity to experience something like this and not have to worry about the cost is such a restart, it’s a reboot. It’s a piece of hope.”

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Algonquin Highlands council landed on a 4.38 per cent increase to the municipal tax levy in 2023. Treasurer Jean Hughes pictured. *File.*

AH happy with 'reasonable' 3.7 per cent tax increase

By Mike Baker

Ratepayers in Algonquin Highlands are looking at a 3.7 per cent hike to the municipal portion of their tax bill in 2023 – an increase of \$12.63 per \$100,000 of MPAC assessment.

Council ran through its budget deliberations Feb. 15 and 16, with discussions on the Dorset Recreation Centre, Stanhope Municipal Airport, the township's docks and landing sites, and parking taking centre stage.

Treasurer Jean Hughes said the township is projecting to spend around \$6.26 million this year – a 4.38 per cent increase to the levy. The total dollar increase from last year's budget is, so far, \$262,885.

Breaking down expenditures by department, transportation costs are the biggest line item coming in at just under \$2.5 million – approximately 40 per cent of the budget. Protective services, including the Algonquin Highlands Fire Department and contributions to the Haliburton Highlands OPP, are pegged at \$2 million (32 per cent). Administration costs come in at just over \$1.3 million (21 per cent), parks and recreation are projecting to spend \$1.14 million (18 per cent), waste management around \$853,000 (13 per cent), planning and development \$116,000 (two per cent) and health services \$53,000 (one per cent).

Council costs are estimated at \$181,000

(three per cent) for the year.

Waste management costs are up 16 per cent from last year, with health services up 14 per cent, parks and recreation up 12 per cent, transportation up three per cent, and planning up two per cent. Spending on general government, including administration and council, is down almost eight per cent, with protective services costs down by approximately four per cent.

The municipality's operating and capital reserves are expected to drop to \$6.9 million this year, down from \$8.5 million – with the bulk of that money funding several big-ticket items in 2023.

Top of the list is the rehabilitation of the Dorset Recreation Centre. The facility has been closed since March 2020 after staff found extensive mold and moisture damage in a downstairs bathroom. Further investigation showed the issue was prevalent throughout the building. The township has set aside just over \$366,000 this year for repairs, which public works manager, Adam Thorn, has pegged at north of \$1 million.

Road resurfacing and reconstruction is coming in at \$2.1 million, with repairs to McPhail Road a key focus this year. Money has also been set aside for a new design plan for North Shore Road.

A new design plan for the terminal building at Stanhope Municipal Airport is in the works, with council allocating \$147,000 to

future upgrades at the site. Fifty thousand dollars has also been set aside in a new reserve fund that council says will be used to address parking issues across the municipality.

Other projects supported this year include: the development of a new strategic plan; commissioning of a fire master plan and community risk assessment; new uniforms and equipment for firefighters; upgrades to the library, community centre and museum in Stanhope; the purchase of a new tandem truck with plow and sanding equipment; the installation of a weigh scale at the Maple Lake landfill; completion of the Skin Lake landing project, with property surveys commissioned for sites at Fletcher Lake and Russell Landings; and the installation of a lightning strike protection system at Dorset Tower.

After a first draft of the budget called for a 14 per cent increase to the levy, mayor Liz Danielsen commended staff and council for delivering a budget she believes is "more than reasonable."

"We should be pretty darn happy with where we've landed. Given how much everything is costing, the cost of living increase [we've given to staff], money added to everything we have to buy, I think this budget is in a good place," she said.

A bylaw to approve the budget will be brought back to council in March.



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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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Dropping the ball again

A lot sure can change in 14 years.

If we were to rewind the clock to February 2009, we'd find Barack Obama settling into his new digs in the Oval Office; Beyonce topping the charts with her hit song *Single Ladies*; and Liam Neeson enjoying something of a career renaissance following the surprising success of his indie film, *Taken*.

Apple's iPhone had yet to really take off, lagging behind the Blackberry in both proficiency and popularity. We were six years away from McDonald's announcing all-day breakfast. Blockbuster was still a thing. Sidney Crosby had yet to score that goal.

It's enough to make me sit down and take stock of our current situation and wonder where we'll be in February 2037... For one lucky family added to the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton (KLH) Housing Corporation waitlist for community housing this winter, they'll finally be getting the keys to their brand-new place.

Yep – the lineup for subsidized housing in Haliburton County is 2,198 households deep. New additions are told it will likely take between 10 and 14 years before they're given a home.

In short, we have a bit of a problem. The blame doesn't land at the feet of KLH. It can't even be attributed to Premier Doug Ford's woeful lack of long-term planning, or Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's

frivolous spending. No, this is an issue stretching back decades – to 1984 and the federal Conservative government led by Brian Mulroney. During his 10 years in office, Mulroney slashed national affordable housing spending to the tune of \$2 billion. His successor, Kim Campbell, went one better in 1993, cancelling any new funding streams for affordable housing altogether.

If ever that was a decision to look back on and criticize, this is it. Talk about dropping the ball.

According to a recent Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) report, we need to build almost six million affordable units nationwide by 2030 to replenish the country's housing stock and restore affordability for those on moderate to low incomes.

Is it possible? Sure. Is it likely? Probably not. I'd like to be more optimistic - really, I would. But our governments' track record is shoddy at best. For all his chest thumping over the past six months, lauding himself as the saviour to all our housing headaches, Ford's plan to build 1.5 million new homes in Ontario over the next 10 years still falls short of what's needed. Mostly because there's nothing in his plan that addresses the demand for more affordable housing.

In Haliburton County, KLH has pegged that need at somewhere north of 750 units. As much as Kirstin Maxwell and her team

would like to follow through on the organization's 10-year strategic plan to bring those units online, their hands are tied.

Record inflation and eight consecutive interest rate hikes will do that to you.

It wasn't nice listening to local leaders like Maxwell, and Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter practically beg the provincial and federal governments to act. We already know where Ford stands, but for MPP Laurie Scott to say, basically, that KLH receives enough money from the province and should prioritize which projects are most important to them, is discouraging.

Watching the feds shell out \$19 billion to purchase a new fleet of F-whatever fighter jets, while its people, real people, struggle to find, or maintain a roof over their head is, frankly, sickening.

They might not have caused this problem, but it's on them to fix it. That's what real leadership is all about. Enough of the lip service, the unnecessary vanity projects. It's time our money is invested where it's needed.



By Mike Baker

CLIMATE CORNER

From oil to renewable energies

Editor's note: This is the second in a series. The first ran on Feb.9

SOLUTIONS

Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy could save the world as much as \$12 trillion by 2050 (Joule, Sept. 2022). The Institute for New Economic Thinking advises full speed ahead with green energy transition, citing the falling cost of solar and wind, and increasing costs of fossil fuels.

Wind and solar farms with battery backup are cheaper to build than natural gas power plants in Ontario and Alberta. The price of these renewables is expected to fall 40 per cent by 2035 (Clean Energy Canada).

In 2021, 88 per cent of the world's new power capacity was wind and solar, while hydropower has the largest global total renewable generation capacity (IRENA).

The Netherlands' national football stadium is 100 per cent solar powered. It is Europe's largest commercial energy storage system using EV batteries (148 repurposed car batteries).

Reborn Electric Motor transforms 200 diesel buses in Chile to electric each year, estimating 70,000 fewer tons of carbon reach the atmosphere.

A riverside photovoltaic power plant in China combines solar with tidal - moon gravity generating tides after sunset. Using drones and AI systems for maintenance, this plant generates over 100 million kWh annually. China's National Energy Administration reports its total renewable energy capacity exceeds 1,200GW. China banned coal-based mining in Inner Mongolia.

South Korea's bike lanes are covered with solar panels, protecting cyclists from sun while producing clean energy.

In 2006, 100 per cent of Southern Australia's energy was from fossil fuels. Government initiatives led it to become one of the world's greenest energy grids, fast-tracking wind farms and putting solar panels on 40 per cent of homes. Closing their largest coal-fired power station, they funded a solar-powered greenhouse employing 220 people, and built the world's largest grid-scale battery storage. By 2020, South Australia obtained 60 per cent of its energy from renewables.

A school in Switzerland, made from sustainable materials and running entirely on solar, produces enough energy to power itself and 50 surrounding homes.

The Scottish island, Yell, uses tidal power to charge electric vehicles. The underwater turbines (Shetland Tidal Array) have been powering Shetland homes for five years. Scotland has banned the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030.

The plan to cover U.S. supermarket roofs with solar panels could power eight million homes, saving 51 million tonnes of CO2 annually.

The world's first 100 per cent wind-powered trains in the Netherlands provide over 600,000 passengers carbon free travel (5,500 trips) daily.

Dutch renewable architecture specialist Ibis Power developed a rooftop system combining solar and wind turbines for medium-sized and high-rise buildings (PowerNEST), producing six to 10 times

more energy than solar alone.

Solar panels in Kenya placed above crops create low-cost electricity and shield crops from heat stress and water loss, boosting yields and collecting rainwater. Agrivoltaic farms generate low-cost renewable electricity while sacrificing no arable land.

The Canadian Climate Institute said three of the five government climate policies required to meet Canada's 2030 emissions targets could be finalized in 2023. Their independent analysis of Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan finds the plan credible, establishing Canada's path toward 2026 (and 2030 and 2050) emission-reduction targets. The cap on oil and gas emissions is anticipated to make a 33-megatonne reduction by 2030 (18 per cent of the reduction needed to meet target).

By 2026, 20 per cent of passenger vehicles sold in Canada must be electric (60 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2050).

In Ecuador there is a move to establish a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that, "for the world's collective good," would provide financial support to countries and relieve them from imposed fossil fuel extraction. This treaty recognizes the international responsibility for controlling fossil fuel harms.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

Next: what you can do.

Family and friends celebrate life of Lisa Kerr

By Lisa Gervais

“She was just so good at life,” Lisa Kerr’s daughter, Loretta, told a packed Pinestone Resort room Feb. 18 as family and friends gathered to say farewell to the Minden woman who touched so many Highlands lives since 1998.

Kerr died Feb. 15 after an eight-month battle with brain cancer.

Looking around the Pinestone ballroom, her husband, Bill Kerr, said, “Lisa would have loved this. She would be having the best afternoon with all you people.”

He recalled how he first laid eyes on Lisa at a University of Toronto lecture theatre in Scarborough in 1982 and almost immediately fell in love with her. They married in their last year of university. He said Lisa was a bright and gifted lawyer but sacrificed “and became a great mom” to their four children.

When he wanted to move from Scarborough to the family cottage in Minden Hills, Lisa thought it would be best for the children and agreed to the shift. Bill said she always had his back. “She’d take a bullet for me, basically.”

When he had the dream of starting Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County, despite Lisa already being extremely busy, her response was, ‘let’s do this.’ He said she did “everything” along with the VDO’s board members. It was the same way she handled the dental trips to Honduras.

After her diagnosis, Bill said, “she was just peaceful and calm. We were all a mess and she was just the strength of our family. And her faith kind of flourished at that point.”

Bill said his wife felt people of all religions were praying for her. She thought God might be using the disease to bring religions together. He added she had an inner peace, was never afraid, and remained optimistic. “She was just amazing. She was fearless through this battle. She just wanted to live.”

After brain surgery, they went to the *Sound of Music* in Haliburton. She went to see Elton John in concert and attended TIFF with her girlfriends. The family made a trip to Turks and Caicos. She wanted to make a magical Christmas for the family in case it was her last. Bill said she was always thinking about other people. “She was just so selfless.

“She was the most amazing thing that ever happened to me. I only got 40 years but I wouldn’t trade them for anything. I will



Lisa Kerr at a Volunteer Dental Outreach golf tournament. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

always love her...”

Kerr was also remembered for being part of the Those Other Movies, Doc(k) Day and HIFF family, and playing in the Highlands Chamber Orchestra.

Daughter Loretta recalled introducing the term yolo (you only live once) to her mom – and Lisa saying ‘Oh, I definitely have a yolo

“*She was just amazing. She was fearless through this battle. She just wanted to live.*

Bill Kerr

”

attitude’.

She had a contagious zest for life and really did live to the fullest...”

Loretta said even after the diagnosis, her mother said she had no regrets and just wanted to live, radiating joy and kindness, and having fun.

Lisa’s brother, Michael, said growing up

she was his go-to person, his accountability, a natural born leader, who was reliable and trustworthy.

He said she was hopeful and optimistic in her journey. He spoke of her faith in the last months of her life, realizing God was in control and she was drawing closer to him. She believed there was a purpose to her illness, to bring others closer to God. He said reading devotionals to her drew him closer to the Lord, fulfilling her purpose.

“We know she’s at peace. There’s no more tears. There’s no more sorrow.”

See the full celebration of life at livestream.funeralscreen.com/gordon-a-monk-funeral-home/lisa-marie-kerr.



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 mike@thehighlander.ca

New storefront focuses on healthy homes

By Mike Baker

A chance meeting between two entrepreneurs has led to a new collaboration that has taken Haliburton County by storm.

Deborah Lyons and Avril Copestick have combined their two businesses, Organic Times Emporium and Rowan & Oak Bath & Body, under one roof, setting up shop in the building previously frequented by ACM Designs on the corner of County Road 21 and Industrial Park Road in Haliburton.

The new space is jam-packed with products that adhere to the pair's environmentally-focused, community-minded mantra – from handcrafted soaps and candles, to mineral-based paints, homemade jewellery and reclaimed art.

"There's a little bit of everything here," Lyons told *The Highlander*. "After I sold my previous business in Minden, I decided to open a store in Haliburton that would take care of the home, with a focus on creating a healthy home. There's a lot of eco-friendly products in here, most of them using upcycled and reused materials."

Lyons has been operating a storefront in the community for around 18 months, previously located on Industrial Park Road. She felt limited in that space, though, and started to look for a new home last summer. It was around that time she was introduced to Copestick. Having just moved to the Highlands from Nova Scotia in December 2021, Copestick was looking for a retailer that would sell her soap and candle products.

The pair immediately hit it off.

After a successful soft launch at Organic Times, and the continued popularity of her stall at the Haliburton Farmers Market, Copestick pondered branching out and opening a retail operation of her own. In the end, a partnership with Lyons made more sense.

"We complement each other so nicely. We have the same approach to business, and the same sense of community... we are trying to build this space and support local as much as we possibly can. All the materials I use for my soaps, candles and other products are sourced locally, or at least within the province," Copestick said.

"We are all about Canadian, Canadian, Canadian. If there's anything inside this store that says it was made elsewhere, that's because it's a reclaimed piece created by a Canadian artist or designer," Lyons added.

After a busy first few weeks, the pair are preparing themselves for a hectic summer. Lyons said she hopes to grow her product line in the coming months, while Copestick said she plans to maintain a presence at the Haliburton Farmers Market once it reopens.

Lyons said she hopes to use the space to inspire the community's next generation of entrepreneurs.

"I'm not sure if I can see myself here still doing this 10 years from now," she said. "In Minden, I had someone young, energetic, and enthusiastic who wanted to take the business on... that's what I'd like to see happen here one day. We need more younger



Deborah Lyons and Avril Copestick have opened a new business collaborative on the corner of County Road 21 and Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. Photo by Mike Baker.

entrepreneurs to step forward and keep the spirit of business alive in Haliburton County long after people like me have fully retired."

Organic Times Emporium and Rowan & Oak Bath & Body is open six days a week,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday. For more information, visit rowanandoakco.ca, or search 'Organic Times Emporium' on Facebook.



BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

SIRCH Community Services is a charitable organization in Haliburton County with a focus on poverty reduction, food security and community connection. Known for innovation and the ability to pivot, SIRCH has a variety of programs and social enterprises that contribute to community health.

We are looking for a new board member to join our team.
Here's what the current board members have to say:

"As someone who genuinely believes in empowering others to take care of themselves, I joined the SIRCH board in order to do just that. Serving this organisation, which works relentlessly to better the social and economic reality of our community, is a privilege."
(Petra Hamann)

"I am blessed to be a part of an organization that cares so deeply about the needs of our community and 'SIRCHes' for ways to alleviate hunger and unemployment, alternatives for waste management, and so much more." (Barb Fawcett)

"After retiring, I volunteered with SIRCH in the School's Cool, CAPC/CPNP and Community Kitchen programs. When I saw the opportunity to become a SIRCH Board member, I knew I was ready to become more involved in all that SIRCH does. I now have a greater understanding of how SIRCH continually pivots to meet the needs of our community and I am grateful that I have a voice in helping so many." (Lynn McGillivray)

"People helping people is the hallmark of a compassionate and caring community. As a member of the Board of Directors, I feel privileged to be a part of an organization which lives out this mandate through *creating resilience, reducing poverty, encouraging connection.*" (Marc Beisheim)

Join our Board team. For more information contact
Barbara Fawcett at fawcett.barbara@gmail.com or
Gena Robertson at info@sirch.on.ca
or call 705-457-1742
Check out our website: www.sirch.on.ca



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Gillian Taylor is the woman behind Snaffle+Mane plant + floral design. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Growing business to bring flowers into people's lives

By Lisa Gervais

The business name is unconventional - Snaffle+Mane plant + floral design - and the proprietor admits to being a bit "quirky" as the latest offering at 83 Maple Ave., Haliburton springs into life.

Gillian Taylor is likely a familiar face to many. She ran the Cookhouse at the Haliburton Forest for a spell. She was at Boshkung Brewing and Castle Antiques for a short time. She's done carpentry and a lot of marketing for other businesses. She's a horse aficionado.

While potting succulents at her shop overlooking the corner of Maple Avenue and York Street, Taylor said her own postcard marketing illustrates the fact, "I'm a pretty quirky human, so I was like, 'I'm just going to do whatever I think. I want it to be ridiculous'." The advertising postcard depicts a horse and rabbit along with some plants.

Taylor has had the business for almost seven years, operating out of markets in Toronto. She now lives on Stormy Lake with her mother.

When Heidi Hudspeth was moving her Mixtape Vintage business, she asked Taylor if she would be interested in taking over the space. She recalled saying, "don't be crazy."

However, "I mulled it over for a weekend and then I made the decision that it was time to take my business to the next level." She took over the storefront Feb. 2, renovated "solidly" and opened Feb. 11.

Asked about her trade, she said she started out concentrating on succulents. She grows them. She was doing arrangements in upcycled, repurposed antiques.

"I've always loved plants. In my condo in Toronto, I had huge windows and exposed ceilings. I just literally jammed plants into every single nook and cranny. Then, I started becoming more interested in different varieties and different

species. It just kind of took off from there.

"I've just always loved flowers," she added. "I started doing events and little pop-ups. It really brought me a lot of joy."

However, the logistics of not having a physical location, and a proper storage fridge, were challenging, especially if doing weddings or other events. She said her home became "coo coo."

Asked to elaborate on her love of plants, Taylor retorted with a laugh, "well, plants don't talk back."

"I'll pick up a plant, I'll be 'oh, hi!' Watching things grow, I don't have children, so I don't really have that element of watching something be cultivated by hand. My horse obviously is sort of that for me."

She said she's also always been customer service oriented. Her core business values include consistent hours, a friendly face that says hello when someone comes through the door, accommodating as much as she possibly can, taking the time to have chats with people and get to know them, not just view them as a dollar sign.

She hopes to do a lot of weddings and celebrations. She plans to do subscription programs for regular customers, with possible pick-up points so people don't have to travel to Haliburton. She wants to keep her prices as reasonable as possible "to allow people to bring flowers into their lives on a regular basis." She sources her stock herself in-person when she can.

"Anything I do, I put 100 per cent towards. Having done that for so many other people, it was time to work those 12 hours a day and see that work directly pay off ... I just want to be open and busy."

Snaffle+Mane is at 83 Maple Ave. It is open Wednesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



Notice of Sewage Service Rates By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 14, 2023 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2022-25, being a by-law to impose fees and charges for the provision of Communal Sewage Services. This amendment will increase the Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) user fee and the metered Sewage Service Rate effective April 1, 2023.

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

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Owen Nicholls will test himself against the best up-and-coming curlers in the country at the Canada Winter Games. *Submitted.*

Games 'experience of a lifetime' for Haliburton curler

By Mike Baker

Haliburton's Owen Nicholls is looking to make a name for himself on the national stage later this month, when he travels to Summerside, P.E.I. to participate in the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

Nicholls, a Grade 12 student at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS), will play in the U18 curling championships, where he will represent the London-based Team Stratton. It will be his 12th major event of a highly-successful first season with the team, which has claimed wins at multiple prestigious events, including the Canada Winter Games trials in December, and the Ontario provincial championships in January.

The event will feature 12 of the best up-and-coming teams from across the country, including representatives from all 10 provinces, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories. Nicholls leaves Feb. 26 and will be down east for 10 days.

"To say it's the stuff of dreams would be an understatement. Having the chance to play at a Canada Games and see how good you have to be to actually compete at that level, it's going to be one of the best experiences of my life," Nicholls told *The Highlander*.

Playing the lead position, Nicholls has developed a tight bond with his new teammates this season. Having played with fellow Haliburtonian Jacon Dobson at the U21 level last year, Nicholls accepted an offer to join Team Stratton in the summer, after serving as a spare for the squad at least season's provincial championships.

"I gladly took the offer – they were the

reigning provincial champions and a national bronze medalist, so I saw it as an opportunity to take my game to new heights," he noted.

Nicholls has come a long way from his humble beginnings as a novice, starting out at the youth program at the Haliburton Curling Club. It's been nine years since he threw his first rock, and while he's played at some of the best venues across the province, he said his favourite rink will always be right here in the Highlands. He still gets out to the Mountain Street facility at least once a week for regular league play.

He gave a shoutout to Hugh Nichol and Terry Lawrence, who ran the youth program, for inspiring him at a young age and pushing him to learn and grow over the years. He said he plans to take their many lessons and put them into practice on the ice in Summerside next week.

After working out some early season kinks, Team Stratton is heading into the games as one of the favourites. Nicholls feels the team is coming into peak form at just the right time.

"This has been our goal right from day one. Now that we're here we have to make the most of this opportunity," Nicholls said. "At the beginning of the season, we were just scratching out wins whereas now we're really earning them... it's going to be nice to test myself and see how we fare as a team. I'm confident we can go there and compete against anyone."

Team Stratton is guaranteed to play five games, starting with an afternoon tilt against Team Northwest Territories Feb. 28. To track results, visit 2023canadagames.ca.

High school Nordic team off to provincials

By Lisa Gervais

Sisters, Olivia and Violet Humphries, were only two when parents, Joleen Thomas and Stuart Humphries, put them on cross country skis for the first time.

Now, Olivia, in Gr. 11, and Violet, in Gr. 9, are members of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Nordic team that is off to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Feb. 22-24 at Lakefield College School.

Olivia came in second in her category at COSSA high school, finishing a mere .8 of a second behind the winner, a club skier. She completed the seven-kilometre course in slightly over 24 minutes. Violet was also a silver medalist in her category, also losing out to a club skier. She completed a five-kilometre circuit in just over 17 minutes.

Neither knows what to expect this coming week as they have not raced at the provincial level before. Olivia thinks the schools from further north are probably a lot more into it due to weather and trail conditions.

Neither is intimidated, though. Violet has run cross-country at OFSAA. "I don't really mind because I'm used to races from cross-country running. To me, it's just another race."

Haliburton captured the COSSA junior girls team title. Violet, along with teammates Erika Hoare (fourth), Ella Gervais (fifth) and Olivia Gruppe (sixth) earned gold medals in this category supported by Grace Allder (eighth), who is the official alternate for the team. Hannah Sharp (ninth), and Teagan Hamilton (11th) also qualified for OFSAA in the junior girls division with their strongest ski of the season. Erika was 11th in the overall junior results.

Along with Olivia's second in senior girls, Haiden Bird was sixth in junior boys.

Gervais said looking at the overall results from COSSA, among all 42 junior level skiers across the three associations and both genders, Violet had the fourth fastest time, "which is pretty impressive.

"And all eight of our junior skiers finished



in the top three-quarters of the finishers. It should also be noted that the junior girls sprint relay team of Violet, Erika, Ella and Olivia had the top finishing time at the meet from all the junior teams, including the boys. This was a 4x900m course," Gervais said.

The coach said last season was cancelled due to the pandemic, and Sharp, Hamilton and Bird all learned to cross country ski just this year.

"They had been competing previously in the 3km Novice division as new skiers, but all chose to make the leap to the competitive 5km race and vie for an OFSAA qualifying spot, which is no easy feat to complete this distance. All nine skiers have qualified for OFSAA."

Coach Gervais is feeling "great" about their chances.

"I think our junior girls' team is looking really strong along with our top individual skiers."

Mike Rieger is co-coach and Joleen



Top: Members of the junior girls' team. Submitted. Bottom: Olivia Humphries was second in her category. Submitted.

Thomas and Kevin Hoare have also helped coach and support the athletes throughout the season.

Gervais said it's been years since they've had such a large Nordic team and sent so many athletes to OFSAA.

"These athletes have all worked really hard and each has improved so much individually."

She added even better news is they will all be returning next year, and will be joined by some strong elementary school skiers.

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- sport and recreation • reporter of the year
- local retail layout • online special initiative

Wish us luck, results coming soon!

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STARS OF THE WEEK



Kaine Brannigan played an outstanding game with two goals and four assists. He always shows up prepared. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.



Ethan Dobson has demonstrated excellent work ethics and strives to improve his goalie skills every time he steps on the ice.



Kyan Hall always shows determination and tenacity. He has taken on the roles of forward and defence and excels in both areas.



Aiden Perrott looks up ice. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Storm dominate Generals 12-0

On Friday, Feb. 17, The Highland Storm Tom Prentice and Sons U18 Rep team faced off against the Oshawa Generals at the S.G Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

The first period started with Aiden Perrott scoring a goal within the first 10 seconds. Twenty seconds after that, Alex Henry scored a goal. Next, Perrott scored his second goal. Then, on a powerplay, Kyan Hall scored a goal, making it 4-0. Within seconds, Henry scored his second goal. The game was 5-0 going into the second.

The second period started with a beautiful one-timer by Gage Hutchinson. Then, Kaine Brannigan scored his first goal of the game. Next, Brody Prentice scored his first goal of the game. Then, Perrott scored his hat-trick goal. Nathan Guild scored his first goal. It was 10-0 going into the third.

The third period started with Avery Degeer scoring his first goal of the game followed by another goal by Brannigan. The final score was 12-0. Submitted.



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Top: A Storm player battles along the boards. Bottom: Ethan Dobson tracks the puck. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

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Feb. 16 U11 Curry Chevrolet Vs Sturgeon 3-1 L	Feb. 19 U9 Cottage Country Building Supplies Vs Parry Sound 6-1 W
U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling Vs Woodville 2-2 T	U11 Up Right Roofing Vs Parry Sound 4-0 W
Feb. 17 U18 Tom Prentice & Sons Vs Oshawa 12-0 W	U15 Peppermill Steak & Pasta House Vs Parry Sound 5-1 W
Feb. 18 U11 Car Quest Minden Vs South Muskoka 7-1 W	
U13 Minden Pharmasave Vs South Muskoka 9-2 W	



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Huskies fry the fish in Family Day action

By Mike Baker

With just three games remaining in the OJHL regular season, the Haliburton County Huskies are in a straight shot with the Wellington Dukes for second place in the South/East conference – and the post-season home advantage that comes with it.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was packed to the brim on Family Day (Feb. 20) as the blue and white welcomed the Lindsay Muskies to town for the final chapter of this season’s Battle of Hwy. 35. The home team cruised to a 5-1 win, their fourth of the season over Lindsay, giving them 74 points after 51 games – one better than the Dukes, who have played a game less.

There was a celebratory mood inside the rink in the lead-up, with the Huskies holding a pre-game ceremony to honour its eight graduating players. Mid-season acquisitions Josh Currie, Boyd Stahlbaum and Zack Terry joined goaltender Aidan Spooner, top-scorer Ty Collins, assistant captains Sam Solarino and Isaac Sooklal, and captain Christian Stevens in receiving a standing ovation at centre ice, each flanked by members of their family.

Things turned serious as soon as the puck dropped Monday afternoon. Forward Lucas Stevenson lasted just 15 seconds before being handed a game misconduct for throwing a hit to the head of Muskies’ defenceman Gavin Keller.

The home side’s PK unit was resolute, killing the five-minute major and a Currie slashing minor.

Midway through the period, the Huskies found an opening – though the goal was shrouded in controversy. Currie latched onto a loose puck in front of the net at 9:41, diverting it goalward. Muskies blueliner

Alexis Gonzalez-Lambert attempted a block on the goal line, but, after a lengthy stoppage, the officials gave the goal.

Carson Christy scored a penalty shot for the visiting side at 13:26, sending the teams in tied after the first buzzer.

Zack Terry rung the iron with a low shot from the slot early in the second, before Stahlbaum, who started the season with the Muskies, came back to haunt his old team. He lifted a rebound high into the Lindsay goal at 11:54 after netminder, Yacine Chemrouk, had denied Sooklal and Leo Serlin. Collins then made it a 3-1 game at 14:29, finishing off another rebound – this time on the powerplay.

The game fell a little flat in the third, though the Huskies added a pair of goals late in the frame. Stevens took advantage of a five-on-three opportunity to score his 20th goal of the season at 15:23, with Alex Cunningham tipping a Lucas Marshall shot in at 18:22.

The win was the “perfect response” to a disappointing 6-3 road loss to the Georgetown Raiders Feb. 18, Stevens told *The Highlander*.

“We faced a bit of adversity there early on, but our PK has been unreal all season... we stuck in there, then took full advantage when our chances came,” Stevens said.

He felt it was a good omen that the Huskies had five different names on the scoresheet. “That’s what makes a championship team – scoring from all over the ice. We have confidence no matter who’s out there.”

With playoffs looming, the Huskies look set for a seven-game series with the St. Michael’s Buzzers or Toronto Patriots. They’ve played each team four times this season, going 4-0 against St. Michael’s and



Alex Cunningham celebrates scoring the Huskies’ fifth goal with teammate, Lucas Marshall. Photo by Mike Baker.

splitting their series with the Patriots 2-2.

“This is the best time of the year for a hockey player. I always get excited for playoffs,” Stevens said. “We’ve got to take care of business now in these last few games, try and secure that second spot that we’ve had all year. That would give us home ice advantage, which is huge for us because we

love playing in Minden in front of all our fans.”

First though, the blue and white will host the Toronto Jr. Canadiens Feb. 25, before traveling to Milton for a tilt with the Menace Feb. 26. They close out the regular season in Minden March 4 against the North York Rangers. Playoffs begin March 8.

Is your financial plan and portfolio ready for 2023?

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'One-of-a-kind experience' for local Husky

By Mike Baker

Haliburton's Graeme Armstrong had his hockey dreams come true earlier this month, taking to the ice with his hometown Huskies to make his OJHL debut.

The 16-year-old played a key role in the team's 10-4 victory over the visiting Caledon Admirals at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Feb. 4. He saw big minutes, particularly in the first and third periods, lining up on the right side of the Huskies' defence, and even helped himself to his first point – a secondary assist on the team's fourth goal, scored by Ty Collins.

Speaking to *The Highlander*, Armstrong recounts his experience from game day and the 48 hours leading up to it.

"I was down in Peterborough when I got the call from coach Ryan [Ramsay]. He had a few guys out nursing injuries and wanted to give them a bit of a break... I attended a players' camp with the Huskies in the summer and am registered as an affiliate player. Still, it was a massive surprise," Armstrong said.

The youngster has spent this season playing AAA with the Central Ontario Wolves' U16 outfit, putting up 16 points in 36 games

He got to the rink early, around three hours before puck drop, where he was greeted by Ramsay and assistant Jordan Bailey. The pair explained how and where they saw Armstrong fitting into the lineup, prepping him on the Huskies' systems. The rest of the team took the blueliner under their wing, including him in their usual pre-game

routines.

He was first out onto the ice for warm-ups, where he completed a 'rookie lap' in front of his cheering family and friends. That helped to settle the nerves, though Armstrong said he felt his heart skip a beat when Ramsay gave him the nod to jump the boards for his first shift early in the opening period.

"He just said 'welcome to junior hockey', told me to play my game, try not to be nervous and to do everything hard. He said I was there on merit and to go out onto the ice and show everyone what I can do," Armstrong said. "It was a bit overwhelming, but I took a hit against the boards almost right away, and that helped me to dial in."

He was on the ice for four Huskies goals in the first frame. Back in the locker room between periods, he was handed a puck noting the date and opponent, in honour of his first OJHL point.

With the result secure in the third, Ramsay started rolling Armstrong out every other shift, leaving him on the ice for the final two minutes of play.

"It almost felt like a one-of-a-kind experience. Not many kids my age can say they've been able to play Jr. A hockey, especially for their hometown team," he said. "I remember being in the stands last season and thinking 'wouldn't it be cool to make it out onto the ice, even just for one game'. Now I've had that first taste, I want more."

Armstrong will finish out this season with the Wolves, though said he hopes to play junior hockey next year.



Graeme Armstrong fist bumps a young fan after making his debut for his hometown Huskies Feb. 4 against the Caledon Admirals. Photo by Mike Baker.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- 1. **File No. PLSRA2022033:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front 1004 Minstrel Court located within Lot 13, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Minden
- 2. **File No. PLSRA2022065:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1045 Disk Drive located within Lot 9, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 3. **File No. PLSRA2022068:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1017 Minstrel Court located within Lot 13, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Minden

You can provide input by making a written submission to the Township. To provide input in writing, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhills.ca no later than **March 25, 2023**.

The Council meeting to consider a by-law to stop up, close and convey those parcels listed above will be scheduled for a later date. Should you wish to be notified when a Council meeting has been scheduled, please contact the undersigned or email adougherty@mindenhills.ca no later than **March 25, 2023**.

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Township Planning Consultant
705-742-2297x278
adougherty@mindenhills.ca



Paul Droniuk of Verba Ukrainian Dance Company will be in Haliburton Feb. 25. *Submitted.*

Kolomeijka to support arts in Ukraine

By Mike Baker

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) is reintroducing the public to traditional Ukrainian dance, culture, and food Feb. 25, bringing the popular Kolomeijka celebration back to the Highlands after a six-year hiatus. Taking place at the Haliburton Legion, the event will double as a fundraiser this year with all proceeds to support the arts in war-torn Ukraine. Organizer, Jim Blake, said it would be an evening of fun and reflection for those in attendance. “We had over 100 people out for our first event in 2017, and it was incredible – the dance floor was full, everyone had smiles on their faces, and there was a real appreciation for Ukrainian culture,” Blake said. “We did a poll of the people that came out last time, and about a third of them had Ukrainian ancestry, so there’s a strong presence in the Highlands.” The Russian invasion of the eastern European nation has hit many in the community hard, which was a big reason for bringing the celebration back, according to Blake. “It’s pretty shocking what’s been happening over there – people in the Ukraine are dealing with some very serious issues right now, and they require assistance from people in so many different ways,” he said. “We’re viewing this event as an opportunity to get together again and have a big celebration post-pandemic, while also raising some money to send to folks who really need it.” Jenn and Paul Droniuk of the Winnipeg-based Verba Ukrainian Dance Company are returning for the event. Explaining the

origins of Kolomeijka, Blake said it started out as a traditional music genre in the Ukraine but was adopted as a social event by Ukrainian immigrants in western Canada in the 1950s and 1960s. “It is a dance... it begins with participants forming a circle and then moving, usually counter clockwise, then clockwise, or by forming a spiral. As the dance progresses, individual or small groups of dancers go into the middle of the circle and perform their favourite dance ‘tricks’ involving lifts, spins and high kicks,” he said. “It’s considered to be the highlight of Ukrainian weddings and dances.” Vincent Rees is helping on the fundraising side through his non-profit Cobblestone Freeway Foundation (CFF). Initially launched in 2020 to assist people who were out of work due to COVID-19, CFF pivoted last year to assist people affected by the Russian invasion. Blake hasn’t set a fundraising target but noted 100 per cent of the proceeds from ticket sales would be diverted overseas, with CFF having identified a Ukrainian dance troupe requiring support. “Because of the war, many of these arts and dance organizations haven’t been able to do much. Their government funding has diminished quite a bit, but they still want to continue performing. Even though they’re going to war, people still need to celebrate,” Blake said. Doors open at the Legion at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students, with youth under 18 free. For more information, visit dancehappenshere.com.

EVENTS

Feb. 23, 6 to 7 p.m.
Join a group of supportive writers to develop a joyful writing practice, share craft tips, give and receive feedback, and commit to putting your pen to the page. Event running at the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

Feb. 24, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
It's parachute time at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Children will get to shake their wiggles out as they listen to music and shake the 'chute. For kids ages two to five. A caregiver must be in attendance.

Feb. 24
Ladies' Day at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride. Enjoy a day of fun and shenanigans with your friends. Price is \$175, or \$150 if you're a season pass holder and includes prizes, games, continental breakfast, BBQ lunch and dinner. Limited availability. To reserve your spot, visit sirsams.com.

Feb. 26, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Acoustic Coffeehouse at SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton. Come and share your songs, or jam along to others. Beginners welcome. Youth welcome. Don't have a guitar? No problem, borrow one of ours. Drop-in at 49 Maple Ave. or RSVP to events@sirch.on.ca.

Mar. 7, 1 p.m.
Minden and District Horticultural Society invites you to come and learn how to grow

habitats for bees and butterflies. Guest speaker is Shelley Fellows, a member of the Haliburton County Master Gardeners. Taking place at the Minden Community Centre.

Apr. 4, 1 p.m.
Minden and District Horticultural Society invites you to learn about drought tolerant plants. Guest speaker is Anna Mizyn of Anna's Perennials. Event taking place at the Minden Community Centre.

May 2, 7 p.m.
Minden and District Horticultural Society invites you to come and learn all about lavender. Guest speaker is Kara Carr of Rocky Meadows Lavender. Event taking place at the Minden Community Centre.

Visit the Agnes Jamieson Gallery this winter to view a selection of artwork featuring Canadian artist Andre Lapine. The Gallery holds over 100 pieces by Lapine, which will be on display through the first few months of 2023. The Gallery, located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden, is fully accessible and open Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. For questions regarding the exhibit, call 705-286-1260 ext.542, or visit mindenhills.ca.

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. 24: 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. 25: open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m. Ken MacFarland ice fishing derby - register before 9 a.m. Feb. 24 at the Legion, or before 10 a.m. Feb. 25 at the Wilberforce gas station.
Feb. 26 to 28: closed
March 1: open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.
March 2: open 2 to 6 p.m.

CORNER GALLERY



Decisions, Decisions
by Charles Pachter

Corner Gallery is now closed to exhibitions for the rest of the winter, but keep an eye out for our Special Events!

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NOTICE

2023 SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216, the County of Haliburton enforces reduced load restrictions on trucks to protect the County roadways during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

Restriction on permits issued under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216:

As outlined in the Highway Traffic Act and County of Haliburton By-Law #2216, reduced loading may be in effect in the County of Haliburton as early as 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2023.

The actual date of reduced load limit enforcement will be in effect when and where signs are posted. All annual and project permits for moving of heavy vehicle loads, objects or structures, in excess of limits set out in the Act and the By-Law, unless otherwise specified, are not valid on any County Roads during the Reduced Loads Period.

Reduced load limits will be in effect where and when signs are posted.

WHEN SIGNS ARE POSTED, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL HAVE A REDUCED LOAD LIMIT FOR THEIR ENTIRE LENGTH:

County Roads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 48, 507 & 648-with the exception from CR 10 west to HWY 118.

On and after **March 1st**, check the County of Haliburton website www.haliburtoncounty.ca under "Notices" to see when reduced load limits are in effect and when they are lifted.

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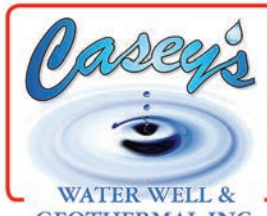


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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Lisa Kerr (nee Cusato)

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Lisa Kerr (nee Cusato). After one last Valentine's Day together, Lisa fell asleep peacefully at home by the warm fire holding the hand of Bill Kerr—the love of her life. Lisa was the best possible mother to her four children:

Steven (partner Emerald), Ryan (wife Christine), J.J. (partner Talia) and Loretta (husband Renato). Lisa cherished her parents Loretta and Michael Cusato and her siblings Michael (wife Leslie) and John (wife Isabelle). Since her diagnosis of brain cancer in June, Lisa has been surrounded by her loving family every step of the way.

Lisa graduated from Western Law School in 1987. Since making Minden her home in 1998, Lisa has had a tremendous impact on the county. Her most notable contribution was starting and nurturing the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County. She loved showing quirky films with Those Other Movies, laughing with her book club The Coaster Club, and being the "World's Okayest Violin Player" in the Highlands Chamber Orchestra.

We would like to send a special thank you to nurses Kerri, Alex, and the whole palliative care team at the Haliburton Hospital for treating Lisa as though she was their own family. Anyone who knows Lisa knows that she radiated joy in everything that she did. She will be missed greatly by many.

For those who cannot attend Lisa's Celebration, speeches will be livestreamed at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com. It will be available for viewing on Saturday afternoon for a full year and the link for the Celebration is in the Photos and Videos.

Memorial Donations to the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) would be appreciated by the family and can be made online through the funeral home website.



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SOLUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 23

1	P	F	F	T		5	K	O	B	O		9	B	A	S	S	O		
14	L	A	I	R		15	I	N	I	S		16	E	X	L	A	X		
17	A	C	R	Y		18	T	O	L	L		19	F	R	E	E	N	O	
20	I	T	S	O	21	K				22	B	E	E	T	R	E	D		
23	T	O	T	N	E	24	T	W	O	R	T	H		26	P	S	27	A	
				28	S	E	R	A		29	A	S	30	C	O	T	S		
31	I	C	E		34	P	A	Y	T	V		37	U	N	O	S			
38	B	U	S	C	39	A	S	U	A	L	40	A	41	T	I	R	E		
42	A	N	K	A				43	P	R	O	S	E		44	T	M	S	
45	R	E	I	N	46	47	R			48	G	A	L	49	A				
50	S	I	M		51	M	I	L	E	S	P	E	R	54	55	56	G	A	L
	57	F	O	R	B	E	A	R		59	X	T	I	L	E				
60	P	O	P	D	E	N	S	I	T	Y	61	62		63	F	L	A	T	
64	T	R	I	A	D			65	T	K	O	S		66	U	L	N	A	
67	A	M	E	S	S			68	S	A	I	L		69	L	S	A	T	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	A	L	G	A			5	G	I	P	P		9	T	H	E	M	S		
14	S	T	U	F			15	O	D	A	S		16	R	I	V	E	N		
17	A	S	T	R	O		18	T	U	R	F		19	U	T	E	R	O		
			20	T	O	R	E	N	T			21	I	M	O	N	I	T		
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26	S	C	R	E	A	M	O			28	M	O	I		29	F	O	Y		
30	I	H	A	D						31	S	M	U	S		32				
33	S	O	L	O	P		34	E	R	F	O	R	M	A	N	C	E			
			40	M	A	C	A	U						41	L	O	O	P		
42	O	M				45	R	I	G		46	S	H	E	L	T	I	E		
49	B	A	N			50	J	O	G		51	I	T	A	R		52	A	L	E
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56	A	T	R	U	E					57	R	U	N	A	C	R	O	S	S	
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63	N	E	S	T	S					64	S	K	Y	S		65	S	L	E	W

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*If you are interested in becoming a school bus driver
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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

HELP WANTED
Licensed Technician



E-mail
northernhvacco@gmail.com

NOTICES

HAS ALCOHOL TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE? Alcoholics Anonymous meets Sunday 10:30 a.m. at St Anthony's, 27 Victoria St. Haliburton, ON

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

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

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- Across
- 1 [fizzle]
 - 5 Canadian rival of Kindle with an apt anagram
 - 9 ___ profundo (choir voice)
 - 14 Hyena's home
 - 15 "Last one ___ a rotten egg!"
 - 16 Poduct brand alternative to bran
 - 17 "Don't be ___-baby!"
 - 18 Refusal to work the 1-800 line?
 - 20 Fair assessment?
 - 22 Blushing bigtime
 - 23 Bottom line value of a preschooler?
 - 26 Unpaid ad, for short
 - 28 Will be in Québec?
 - 29 Wide neckties
 - 31 Finish the cake, maybe
 - 34 Subscription-based viewing
 - 37 Spanish ones
 - 38 Relaxed clothing style for transit riders?
 - 42 "(You're) Having My Baby" singer
 - 43 Non-poetic works
 - 44 Superscript letters on logos
 - 45 "Meathead" portrayer Rob
 - 48 White-tie wing-ding
 - 50 Type of cell phone card
 - 51 Distance stat in a missy's marathon?
 - 57 Hold back
 - 59 8-pointer in a Scrabble bag
 - 60 Dad count in a specific area?
 - 63 Opposite of sharp, musically
 - 64 Basic chord structure
 - 65 Some bout enders
 - 66 Wrist-to-elbow bone
 - 67 "Rebel, rebel, your face is ___" (Bowie lyric)
 - 68 Breeze (through)
 - 69 Osgoode Hall entrance exam

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	57		58							59				
60								61	62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

- Down
- 1 Part of S.V.P.
 - 2 "Ipso" follower
 - 3 Word said while holding up an index finger
 - 4 Changing room activites
 - 5 Caboodle partner
 - 6 Lennon's "Woman" dedicatee
 - 7 Bag End resident in "The Hobbit"
 - 8 Canadian "Father of Modern Medicine"
 - 9 Cruise ship cabins
 - 10 Paul Bunyan, notably
 - 11 Consider overnight
 - 12 Weather event when camels shut their nostrils
 - 13 Brand next to Bovril, maybe
 - 19 Cheese packaged in brine
 - 21 ___ record (maintain notes)
 - 24 They often precede las
 - 25 Very high
 - 27 Bozos or burros
 - 30 Skip, as classes
 - 31 Flanged steel girders
 - 32 The writing on the Babylonian wall
 - 33 Ice cream treat whose first word is now "polar"
 - 35 Pre-hardened hardtop
 - 36 Youtube journals
 - 39 Positive thinker's word
 - 40 "By yesterday!"
 - 41 Fax forerunner
 - 46 On-site war correspondents
 - 47 It means nothing to the French
 - 49 Like Dickens's Dodger
 - 52 Endures
 - 53 Actress Christensen of "Parenthood"
 - 54 Lamprey "lungs"
 - 55 "Law & Order" actress ___ de la Garza
 - 56 Unleash on
 - 58 Vitamin bottle figs.
 - 60 "Harper Valley ___"
 - 61 You: Fr.
 - 62 Big inits. on the catwalk

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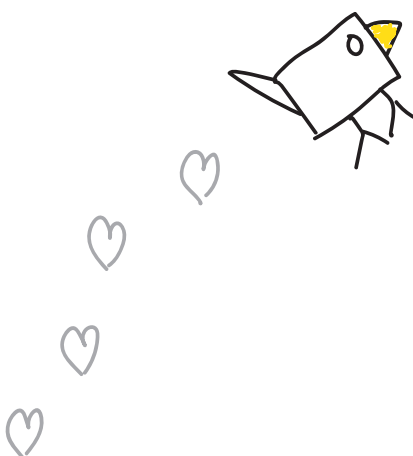
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		9		2	1			
1		4			8			7
5					7		3	
4	8			5		3		
		1		8		2		
		2		1			4	5
	6		1					3
9			8			7		1
			6	4		5		



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and takes
my breath
with it.

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