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The Highlander

Thursday **March 9 2023** | Issue 580

INSIDE: OPSEU CONSIDERS OPTIONS FOR FROST CENTRE PAGES 2-3 **FREE**



PACK PREPARED FOR PLAYOFFS

Pre-game in the locker room the last time the Haliburton County Huskies squared off against the Toronto Patriots. The playoffs open March 9 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. See the full story on page 17. *Photo by Tim Bates/OJHL Images.*



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OPSEU considering options for Frost Centre

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

By Lisa Gervais

When the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) announced it had purchased the Frost Centre on Jan. 8, 2021, the union said the historic Highlands site was “set for new life and a major lift” as a member resource and training centre.

More than two years later, OPSEU executives involved in the purchase – Warren Thomas and Eduardo Almeida – are no longer with the union. Former president, Thomas, has retired and former first vice-president and treasurer, Almeida, was defeated in a March 19, 2022 election.

In addition, on Jan. 16, 2023, OPSEU said it had commenced legal action against Thomas, Almeida and Maurice Gabay, alleging financial improprieties and seeking damages of more than \$6 million. The claims have not been proven in court.

Meanwhile, OPSEU is facing a civil lawsuit from a Muskoka-based contractor hired to do work at the site. The union has in turn filed a statement of defence and counterclaim.

OPSEU declined to comment on the civil lawsuit when contacted by *The Highlander*.

However, OPSEU told *The Highlander* on Feb. 22, it, “has put together a project team to consider options for the Frost Centre. Unfortunately, we can’t comment further at this time. Thanks in advance for your understanding.”



The provincial government sold the Frost Centre to OPSEU for \$3.2 million. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

An OPSEU spokesperson added, “the project team ... was created to review plans and options for the Frost Centre because of the change in leadership. While we don’t yet know the outcome of that process, we are committed to ensuring that all actions and decisions of the current administration are guided by the principles of transparency and accountability to OPSEU members and the communities they support.”

The union purchased the Frost Centre’s land and 21 buildings from the provincial government for \$3.2 million.

Contractor and OPSEU at odds

A&C Company Inc., in a statement of claim filed Nov. 8, 2022 in the Bracebridge Superior Court of Justice, alleges OPSEU

owes the contractor \$755,645.13 for work done at the Frost Centre. A&C Company is also seeking \$2.5 million in damages.

OPSEU’s statement of defence and counterclaim, dated Jan. 20, 2023, and also lodged in Bracebridge Superior Court of Justice, “denies it is liable to pay the May 2022 invoices and the unauthorized invoices.”

Continued on next page



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Civil lawsuit ongoing between contractor and union

Continued from previous page

The statement of defence and counterclaim further says, “OPSEU denies that A&C is entitled to any of the damages (including consequential damages), remedies or relief claimed, and puts A&C to the strict proof thereof.” It goes on to say the claims for damages are “exaggerated, remote, and not recoverable at law.” It also, “submits that this action should be dismissed as against it, with costs.”

In the counterclaim, OPSEU is seeking damages of its own, “in an amount to be determined in advance of trial.”

According to the statement of claim, A&C Company was awarded a tender on Sept. 15, 2021 at a price of \$250 per square foot. It says former OPSEU executive Almeida regularly inspected the site, directed A&C to do additional work, and that invoices, “were regularly approved in a timely manner and paid from October 2021 to May 2021, up to just under \$5 million [in total payments].”

However, OPSEU says in its statement of defence and counterclaim that, “Almeida was not in charge of the Frost Centre Project and the decision-making on behalf of the executive board. To the extent any instructions were provided to A&C verbally, Almeida did not have the authority to independently direct and approve A&C’s work. A&C knew or ought to have known that approvals for work beyond the scope of the tender should have been obtained from OPSEU executive board. A&C failed to seek and obtain such approvals.”

OPSEU says it only authorized the contractor to repair the downspouts and eaves before winter, ensure there was working heating in all the main buildings, repair areas to prevent rodent access, and start demolishing the main building. “No further instructions were provided to A&C in writing with respect to the Frost Centre Project (until OPSEU directed A&C to cease work ...)” it said. But A&C, in the statement of claim, said Almeida told A&C principal, Adrian Tycki, to renovate the former headmaster’s house, Kawagama Hall, two warehouses, the water purification plant, the water treatment plant, and the generator building which housed the backup generator for the entire



OPSEU purchased the Frost Centre to turn it into a training site for members of the union and their families. *File.*

complex. “Invoices for this additional work were rendered to OPSEU, approved and paid in full.”

The statement of claim says that following the March 19, 2022 union elections, members of the new executive board visited the Frost Centre on June 8, 2022, and told Tycki, “they were not aware of the extent of the work yet to be completed.” The claim further alleges that new first vice president and treasurer Laurie Nancekivell verbally told Tycki he should not proceed with any new work.

The claim goes on to say the contractor was asked to list the work required to keep the centre maintained, to itemize projects being worked on, and to provide an assessment of the stage of completion. The claim then says the contractor received written instructions on Sept. 16, 2022 to refrain from doing additional work without written approval. It goes on to say A&C Company sought to be paid for its outstanding invoices, but that OPSEU

refused to respond to its communication attempts.

The defence and counterclaim says, “OPSEU’s new leadership has identified deficiencies with A&C’s work, approvals and invoicing practices. OPSEU pleads it has overpaid A&C and should be reimbursed for any deficient work, inappropriate billing, extra billing, unauthorized cost overruns, inflated costs, interest, fees and or charges involved or claimed by A&C.” The claims have not been proven in court.

The statement of claim says the Frost Centre’s 21 structures had been vacant for more than a decade, “and been allowed to seriously deteriorate.”

Tycki told *The Highlander* on Feb. 23 that he thought the site was 25 per cent complete. He said they had done mould remediation and stopped deterioration.” The next task would have been to convert the existing spaces to accommodate a member resource and training centre.

The Frost Centre story to date:

- In 1921, a ranger station was established on the west shore of St. Nora Lake by the Department of Lands and Forests.

- In 1944, the province and the University of Toronto Faculty of Forestry entered into a partnership to educate government personnel and university students.

- In 1974, Premier Bill Davis announced that the facility would be developed as a demonstration area in resources management, education and recreation and would be called The Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre.

- On July 6, 2004, the Liberals announced it was closing the centre in one week.

- On July 13, 2004 the centre closed.

- A massive public protest and rally ensued. Proponents got the government to lease, not sell, the property. The Friends of The Frost Centre is launched.

- In 2007, the Frost Centre Institute was established, but closed in 2010.

- The Ontario government of the day put the property up for sale but was unsuccessful in selling it.

- On Oct. 29, 2020 the property was again put up for sale.

- On Jan. 8, 2021, OPSEU announced it had purchased the historic site for \$3.2 million.

- A contractor was hired to begin work on the site, claiming to have done \$5 million worth of remediation.

- In February, 2023, the union sues three of its former executives and tells *The Highlander*, it is now considering options for the Frost Centre.

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Politicians encouraged to sleep in cars

By Lisa Gervais

Nataly Mylan owns Moonlight Bay Tent and Trailer Park in Wilberforce and has heard some “heartbreaking” housing pleas over the last couple of years.

“Can I just pull into somewhere and pitch a tent? Are you sure you can’t stay open past October?” she shares, while standing in the parking lot at the entrance to Head Lake Park in Haliburton.

Mylan is organizing this year’s Sleeping in Cars event for Places for People, a fundraiser that highlights the need for more affordable housing in the Highlands.

The woman has personal experience with the topic. While she has never been homeless, she has lived rough in her distant past.

“Can I say that I’ve been cold and hungry?

Yup. It was a long time ago and it was when I was just starting out. My partner and I had just bought a very small and very underdeveloped business and for the first 10 years, I remember looking through couch cushions for quarters so I could buy groceries. I remember it snowing in the house. I remember my blankets being stuck to the wall. We were so infested with mice that I had to wash the dishes before we ate.”

Mylan said it’s important to get the community to talk about affordable housing, as well as raise money for Places for People Haliburton Highlands.

“I live in Wilberforce. We have a population that could really benefit from a lot more

affordable housing. A lot of people are aging out of their homes and have to leave communities. And, with the short-term rental situation, and the real estate market, we’ve just seen that exacerbated one million per cent. Our communities are really suffering. I want those people that have invested over the years to be able to stay and keep their social circles and for our communities to be healthy and prosperous.”

She added when they started Sleeping in Cars in 2019, it was a bunch of people gathering around a campfire “trying to nail down what affordable meant,” before retiring to their vehicles and trying to sleep.

She said that conversation had changed substantially in the past four years, with COVID and the increased cost of living.

It’s no longer a discussion about a minority of people at risk of becoming homeless because of life circumstances. She said it’s become far more reaching as there are people now with full-time jobs at risk of homelessness.

Mylan said she would like to see policy-makers gathered around that fire this year, and politicians sleeping in their cars, trucks, on couches, or in tents.

“It (homelessness) was such a huge thing at the last election that I think it’s become more of a political issue. It would be nice to get that political support.”

Sleeping in Cars is March 24, from 7 p.m. until dawn. Pre-registration is required. See placesforpeople.ca for more information.



Nataly Mylan will be sleeping in her car to raise money for Places for People, and awareness about affordable housing. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

INFORMATION PAGE

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PARKS AND RECREATION MARCH BREAK PROGRAMMING
Lots of ice programs going on at S.G. Nesbitt Arena between March 13-17.

March 13-17 (everyday): Ticket ice at 8-8:50 am,
parent/tot and 6 & under stick n' puck at 9-9:50 am, 7-10 years shinny at
1-1:50 pm, public skating at 2-3:50 pm.

March 13 & 15: 7-12-years stick n' puck at 10-10:50 am

March 14 & 16: Adult skate at 10-10:50 am

March 14, 15, & 16: 11-14 years shinny at 11-11:50 am

Please call 705-286-1936 for more information.

NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2023 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE BUDGET AND BY-LAWS
Please take notice that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider adopting Water and Wastewater Rate By-laws related to the 2023 Municipal Budget.

The 2023 Water and Wastewater Operating and Capital Budget and By-laws will be reviewed on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 9:00 AM during its Regular Meeting of Council, held virtually, via web conference, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

The proposed By-laws to be considered are as follows:

By-law 23-28 Wastewater Rates - Minden
By-law 23-29 Water Rates - Lutterworth
By-law 23-30 Water Rates - Minden

Dated this 27th day of February 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact: Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/
Treasurer 705-286-1260 ext. 504 gbedard@minden hills.ca

SPRING INTO BATTERY RECYCLING
As you spring your clocks forward this weekend, don't forget to check all your smoke detectors to make sure they're operating properly. Expired batteries should be changed out and can be recycled at the Scotch Line landfill site.

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NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT 2023 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES BUDGET
TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding the Draft 2023 Water and Wastewater Rates Budget. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer
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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.

(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:

March 9 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget Deliberations
March 30 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

CULTURAL CENTRE MARCH BREAK PROGRAMMING
March Break Drop-In Program at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre! Visit us in Nature's Place during March Break any time from 10 am – 12 pm for a fun nature based hands-on activity geared to children ages 4-10 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email culturalcentre@minden hills.ca.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND THE BATTERIES IN ALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS
Clocks will spring forward one hour at 2am on Sunday, March 12th and the Minden Hills Fire Department is recommending residents install new batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. Don't forget to check the date on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms they need to be replaced every 10 years.

SPRING FORWARD

Forum to stop ‘going around’ on housing

By Mike Baker

Non-profit Places for People (P4P) has organized a community housing summit for April 5, bringing in guest speakers from across Ontario to share ideas on how to overcome one of the region’s most pressing issues.

Fay Martin, P4P vice president, said the event was borne out of necessity with the County’s existing housing inventory “falling drastically short” of what’s needed.

“I think there’s a lot of frustration because we keep going around and around on housing, but because nobody owns the problem, we never seem to get anywhere,” Martin said. “We have [KLH Housing Corporation] for social housing, but there’s nothing for all the other kinds of housing, no authority driving things.”

She said the aim is to bring together people from other areas who have had success creating housing through a variety of creative means, and finding out how it can be done in Haliburton County.

The summit will take place at the Minden Community Centre and will feature keynote and closing speakers and three panel discussions.

Jennifer van Gennip, of Redwood Park Communities in Barrie, will share how her organization built 49 affordable housing units between 2009 and 2019. Martin said the YIMBY - Yes In My Backyard - campaign Redwood pioneered has taken off provincially. Van Gennip will provide

details on how that initiative helped foster positive discussions between would-be developers and concerned citizens.

The first panel will focus on worker housing, with speakers from Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, Sir Sam’s Ski/Ride, and Rodco Enterprise discussing how they were able to overcome labour challenges by providing accommodation for some employees.

A discussion on private housing options for seniors will feature Bill Mardimae from the Gardens of Haliburton; Anna Schmiegelow, of Oakview Lodge, on how they successfully created a co-living community; for-profit developers, John and Irene Gerber, about how they were able to bring 17 affordable apartments to Minden in the mid-to-late 2010s; and Dr. Nell Thomas on projects such as the Gardens, which provide health and wellness services on-site, having a positive impact on the public health system.

The final panel will focus on finances, with Habitat for Humanity sending a representative to unpack a new hybrid mortgage model the organization uses to make home ownership viable. Martin will discuss community bonds, and how investment at the grassroots level could help non-profits follow through on housing builds.

Lori-Anne Gagne, CEO of Victoria Park Community Homes, and Graham Cubitt of Hamilton-based non-profits Flourish and Indwell will close the day. The three organizations have helped bring thousands of affordable housing units to the GTA.



Fay Martin, vice president of Places for People, has done much of the leg work for a community housing summit happening in Minden April 5. Photo by Mike Baker.


The event is being sponsored by the Haliburton County Development Corporation, Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands, and media partners including *The Highlander*. Martin has invited MP Jamie Schmale, MPP Laurie Scott, and local councillors.

Martin added all levels of government, non-profits and private developers need to work together to bolster housing stock.

In his 2021 report *Baby Needs a New Home*, London-based economist Mike

Moffatt estimated around 1,200 new homes needed to be built in the County by 2031 to keep up with predicted population changes. KLH Housing Corporation has said it needed to build 750 affordable units in the Highlands by 2029 to meet expected demand.

“We’re already in a dangerous situation with our lack of housing. Unless we see real movement, and soon, I worry about the long-term future of our community, and our residents,” Martin said.



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TLDSB plans to improve student safety rating

By Mike Baker

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has unveiled a new three-year plan to bolster its mental health services and ensure all students feel safe at school.

Addressing trustees at a meeting of the board Feb. 28, superintendents Kim Williams and Jay MacJanet said student safety is the board's number one priority, outlining several steps staff have taken in recent months to ensure local youth feel secure and protected while in the classroom.

This comes after a student climate survey conducted last year among children from Grades 4 to 12 revealed only 51 per cent of participants felt safe at school, while between 31 and 42 per cent stated they were dealing with moderate to high levels of anxiety.

"The Ministry of Education would like us to have every single one of our students feeling safe at school, and we have a three-year plan to reach that goal," Williams said. "To help us, we need to shift the way our mental health counsellors are working in schools and with students. Rather than working individually with students, we are looking to increase the time they spend working with multiple students, either in small groups or within the classroom.

"For us to reach all our students, we need a different approach," she added.

Starting this year, the board's mental health counsellors will spend 50 per cent of their time coordinating with teachers and working inside the classroom, with Williams saying recent data suggests students respond better while being engaged in a group setting. Individual sessions away from the classroom will still be available for students with more extreme needs.

Director of learning, Wes Hahn, said students in Grades 7 and 8 recently completed portfolio presentations on mental health to great success.

"What it's doing is exposing students to



TLDSB is changing the way it provides mental health services to students. Photo by Mike Baker.

situations where they feel comfortable talking to adults about mental health, talking to their friends about it, and giving opportunities to mental health counsellors to interact with students and staff to help them through the difficult times they are experiencing," Hahn said.

MacJanet said TLDSB is also working with community partners, such as Point in Time in Haliburton, to ensure students in need are provided with more in-depth supports when they're not at school. He also noted the board had partnered with School Mental Health

Ontario to provide additional resources to students to support their mental health and wellbeing.

The board is hoping to launch a mental health advisory group in the spring, consisting of teachers, principals, support staff and mental health counsellors.

"We need their input and feedback so we can get better and pivot towards the needs of our students," MacJanet said. "This is an opportunity for our system to have a voice and show us what they're seeing boots on the ground... tell us what we're doing well and

where we can do better."

Hahn said the board will run another student climate survey this year.

"We want to make sure that we keep checking in with our students – that data is really valuable for us and helps identify [whether the changes we've implemented are working]," Hahn said.

"We are 100 per cent dedicated... to providing safe, caring and supportive learning environments for our students."

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Mental health pilot ‘taking off’

By Mike Baker

Demand for mental health and addiction supports is high in Haliburton County, with more than 55 per cent of participants in a new three-year mobile clinic program run by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) coming from the Highlands.

Jeff Cadence, manager of the program for CMHA Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge, said 60 of 108 clients served region-wide through The Road Ahead pilot since December 2021 have come from the County.

“Haliburton has been, by far, our busiest region so far. That demonstrates there’s a higher prevalence of geographic barriers people are facing in the community... a lot of people accessing our services don’t have the ability to travel long distances for support,” Cadence said.

The clinics, which run out of a custom-built, 37-foot-long bus, have been operating every other week in Haliburton, Minden, Eagle Lake, Kennebec Lake, West Guilford and Tory Hill. It’s being funded by a \$1 million grant from the Ontario government.

Anyone can qualify for service, Cadence said. CMHA conducts an over-the-phone assessment that determines the level of support required. People are then generally matched with services within two weeks. Counselling and therapy are carried out by two mental health clinicians and a mental health nurse on-site.

Once enrolled, people are treated through 10 bi-weekly sessions, though Cadence said some clients have required more long-term support.

Staff have adapted on the fly, he said, offering other supports that he says clients wouldn’t have otherwise been able to access. This includes couples therapy, health services system navigation, and general health care. He noted in the County there had been several cases of people presenting with issues stemming from undiagnosed diabetes. Virtual psychiatry is also offered, though a doctor’s referral is required.

“We also do a lot of harm reduction services for people with addictions. We have safe-use materials available, and we distribute naloxone so if people are using opioids they have protection against poisonings and overdoses,” Cadence said. “We want to be



CMHA Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge is running a three-year mobile clinic pilot designed to bring services to people with mobility challenges. *Submitted.*

flexible and nimble. The intention of this pilot is to get a really good understanding of the needs of the communities, and to build a model that helps meet those needs and overcome existing barriers to mental health services,” Cadence said.

There are 30 clients actively receiving support in the County, which Cadence said is more than any other region. Eighty per cent of clients served in the Highlands have received counselling services.

The pilot will run until December 2024, though Cadence said demand suggests it should be adopted permanently. He hopes, one day, to have a bus and staff exclusively servicing Haliburton County.

“The situations we’ve seen, if we weren’t here providing these services, these people wouldn’t be getting any help at all. They would be living unwell, and letting their situations worsen. So that is something that’s really heartening, that we can say with confidence that we’re bringing something to our clients that they otherwise would not have access to,” Cadence said.

In addition to this pilot, CMHA served 257 individuals across the County between April 2021 and March 2022 through its Four County Crisis support program. This initiative assists individuals with serious mental illness, according to CMHA spokesperson Caitlin Morris. Cadence said the mobile program works in tandem with CMHA’s other offerings.

He said one way people struggling with their mental health can get some respite is through outdoor activity – something he recommends to all clients.

“Once we’ve addressed some of the mental health concerns, it’s the ‘what next’. We live in a beautiful part of the world, so let’s get out there and engage in it. I’d like us to do a bit more proactive or positive programming in the future, rather than just treating illness, as part of a broader look at mental health,” he said.

For more information, visit cmhahkpr.ca. To access services offered through the pilot, email tra@cmhahkpr.ca or call 705-991-3551, or 1-888-357-1294.



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NOTICE ADOPTION OF 2023 BUDGET

NOTICE is provided that the Council of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-law to adopt the 2023 Municipal Budget at its Regular Meeting scheduled for **Thursday March 16, 2023**.

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 8th day of March, 2023.
Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: (705) 489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca



Notice of Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 28, 2023 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2022-64, being a by-law to impose fees and charges. This amendment will reflect 2023 increases to Waste Management and Parks and Recreation fees.

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

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

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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MPP and MP should take part



By Lisa Gervais

On Friday, March 24, members of Places for People and their allies will descend on Head Lake Park to sleep in their vehicles, tents, or even on couches, to raise money for the non-profit. They also hope to have some conversations around the fire about what affordable housing means.

I'm acquainted with the event, having taken part in the inaugural 2019 Sleeping in Cars. Back then, a handful of us parked in the Minden Hills township lot and tried to get some sleep during a late winter-early spring evening.

We had a fire and Eric Casper of North of Seven came to play some tunes. People, including some Minden Hills councillors, wandered by to encourage those who were sleeping out.

The next morning, Marilynne Lesperance and Joanne Barnes from the Minden Community Food Centre, came to the township office with coffee and breakfast. I don't remember everyone who stuck it out for the night, but P4P's Fay Martin and Rev. Max Ward were there, as was then Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin.

Others gathered that night in 2019 in Wilberforce and Haliburton.

LETTERS

CT could be helpful in saving lives

Dear editor,

I think we all understand and agree with the need for HHHS to carefully manage their funding by way of prioritizing the needs of HHHS in terms of delivering effective and quality health services to the residents of Haliburton County.

In this respect, I agree with Dr. Duff's observations in her guest column in the March 3 *Highlander*.

I thought it appropriate to mention that although we may not have the immediate funding, or all the specialists and a consistent need for a CT scanner, one could be helpful in saving lives.

The focus of technology in delivering health care is, and has, been rapidly growing. For over a decade, we have been able to digitally deliver, or make available for viewing, things like CT scans, lab results, X-rays MRIs etc. to specialists in the province who are tasked with responding to health services in smaller jurisdictions.

A CT scan for health emergencies, such as stroke or heart issues, could be helpful in terms of reducing time to treatment. Speed in differentiating ischemic from hemorrhagic stroke and treating the ischemic stroke with TPA, after a trained neurologist approves treatment, can save lives and prevent brain damage. Most of us hopefully know that speed to treatment in the case of stroke is the best way to limit damage.

Even Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay was able to deliver treatment to a stroke patient by getting authorization from a remote neurologist after the neurologist read the CT scan delivered by Ross Memorial

While sleeping in one's car for a single night is hardly equivalent to those actually sleeping in vehicles or tents for protracted periods of time in the Highlands, it did give us some insight, and some empathy.

Since then, there have been different iterations of the event, but this month's returns to its roots.

Much has changed since 2019. COVID-19 has altered the housing landscape forever, as our population has grown by 14 per cent, and some people have been pushed out of their homes by rising rents or landlords capitalizing on a hot real estate market and selling. We have also seen a proliferation of housing converted to short-term rentals and the cost of living has only exacerbated an already difficult situation for many Haliburton County residents.

The very definition of affordable housing has changed here. It used to be about vulnerable people who could be thrown off course by circumstances. Now, even full-time workers being paid below a living wage are dealing with homelessness issues and using food banks for the first time.

The issue of housing was discussed widely in the last municipal, provincial and federal

digitally. Of course, Dr. Duff is more familiar than the rest of us with this process.

Tom Edward
Clear Lake

CT argument lacks empathy

Dear editor

Dr. Duff's column presents a well-informed, fact-based argument that unfortunately lacks empathy for the plight of those in our community who require medical intervention.

A CT scan is often part of a broader treatment plan that requires frequent and often exhausting travel.

As a volunteer driver for Community Care, I routinely drive clients to Toronto, Lindsay, Peterborough, and even Napanee, for procedures, dialysis, and CT scans well in excess of the 98km noted in her article.

While we can't expect the province to fund infrastructure in our community on par with larger urban centres, we should have basic access without five to 10-hour round trips for CT scans.

I respectfully disagree with the doctor's conclusions. They state that "transfers have nothing to do with a lack of a CT scanner." This hypothesis ignores the non-emergency capacity shortfall for our community and ignores the toll on patients undergoing procedures such as chemotherapy and surgery that require frequent travel for treatment and follow-up.

John Herald
Dysart et al

election. Many pledges were made to tackle it. With that in mind, this time around, more than ever, we challenge MP Jamie Schmale, MPP Laurie Scott and our municipal politicians to sleep out in their vehicles in the Head Lake Park parking lot March 24. If they truly want to hear about the issue and how it is impacting their constituents, they need to gather around that fire and sleep in their vehicles on a cold winter's night. Otherwise, we can only assume they have been paying lip service to the issue and don't really care.

In particular, we feel it is time for Scott and Schmale to come to town for something other than a glorified photo opportunity. It isn't so much that they both make very good money, and have homes in their ridings as well as in Toronto and Ottawa respectively. It's about walking the walk, even if it is only for one night.

CT scanner 'nonsense of the first order'

Dear editor,

An excellent piece (March 2/23) by Dr. Diane Duff.

She hits the nail square on the head in a well-argued and realistic opinion.

The facts support her. A CT scanner here would be a nonsense of the first order.

Jane N. Taylor
Algonquin Highlands

Good, bad and ugly at Huskies game

Dear editor,

I was at the Huskies game Feb. 25 against the Junior Canadiens to cheer my Huskies team on

The good: nice to have Rick Lowes to MC. The little hockey players sharing the ice with the Huskies. The school choir singing the national anthem.

The bad: children running around inside the rec center unsupervised, playing in the elevator, tossing Gatorade bottles down the stairs, over-crowded in the rink area.

The ugly: all the fighting at the end of the game. What did that prove? Not a good example for the little players. This really bothered me. No security at the facility. It came to my mind in all the chaos, what if there was a fire or emergency? How would all those kids running around and the fans in the rink get out?

Cathy McIlmurray
West Guilford

Correction: In the Dysart et al council briefs that appeared in the March 2 edition of *The Highlander*, we reported the Rotary Club of Haliburton would be hosting a community carnival in Head Lake Park Aug. 11 and 12. While council approved the hosting of the event, Rotary is still working to secure an operator for the midway and has yet to confirm the event. *The Highlander* regrets this error.

Nicholls stops clock on timer career

By Sam Gillett

While the freezing rain fell outside, Highland Storm action was heating up the Minden arena recently.

The score kept ticking up for the home side as blue and yellow jerseys surged up the ice to the cheers of friends and family in the stands.

But without a bearded man in a blue Storm jacket overlooking the red line, the crowd, players or referees wouldn't know much about the game at all.

Eric Nicholls has been a hockey timekeeper for 40 years. He's watched the clock and penalty box as future stars stickhandled down the rink, kids played their hearts out for the Silver Stick championship, and a feisty rivalry ebbed and flowed between Minden and Haliburton.

On March 15, he'll deliver his last game report.

"I think it's time for me to step down and let somebody else take over," said Nicholls, standing beside the rink at the Haliburton arena.

He points over to the timekeeping box beneath the barn's dark brown rafters. That's the spot he began his timekeeping career at age 18 in 1982.

His friend, Luke Schell, asked him if he'd consider timekeeping for the men's league.

"Then it went from there," Nicholls said. "I was overwhelmed at the beginning, but after a while, it became second nature."

Nicholls would arrive about an hour before each game. Until a recent switch to digital timekeeping, he would collect the game sheets from the coaches. During the games, he watches the play to catch each whistle and penalty before deftly dialing in the time on the clock. After the buzzer, he gets referees to sign the timesheet before sending the vital information to the Ontario Minor Hockey League (OMHA).

The game's location matters to timekeepers, since the clocks at each arena function differently.

The Haliburton Arena has had three clocks since Nicholls started.

He taught his tricks of the trade to others throughout the years too.

"I remember the first night that we were sitting in the box together," said fellow timekeeper Diane Peacock, who Nicholls trained nine years ago. "I think about the fact of what he taught me and how he's mentored me over the years."

When the Minden arena was being rebuilt, Nicholls shared his home turf, Haliburton, with Peacock. "He said 'don't worry, you're not going to be without a job, we'll just split everything up.' And he taught me how to use Haliburton's clock and made me feel comfortable there."

Community kudos

"The greatest compliment I can pay him is when I call out-of-town referees to see if they can come help us out, they almost always ask me, 'is Eric doing the clock?'" said OMHA referee-in-chief Brad Tate. He was speaking to a crowd gathered to honour Nicholls' career after a Highland Storm game. "If I say yes, they say yes," Tate said.

Former Dysart et al mayor Andrea Roberts



thanked Nicholls for his dedication to minor hockey and his contribution to the town.

"It really is something you should be so proud of," she said.

Nicholls was also presented with a plaque from OMHA region 5 director Andy Cooke, and his own "Nicholls" Highland Storm jersey.

The timekeeper said he appreciated the recognition. "But I'd rather be a person behind the scenes."

Time for change

His number one tip for a new timekeeper?

"Just relax, enjoy it, and if you make a mistake, call the referees over. The referees will help you out," he said.

Peacock said there will be lots of support for new volunteers. "Once you get onto it, it's just a matter of hitting the right buttons," she said.

Many newcomers start out keeping time for younger age groups that often get fewer penalties.

"Everybody thinks it's a daunting task, but I caught on to it fairly fast," Peacock said.

For volunteers such as Peacock or Nicholls, it's also meant joining the Highland Storm community.

Nicholls said he'll still come out to games to see old friends and cheer on the Storm.

"It's a really tight-knit community," he said.

Back at the Minden arena, the Storm put the finishing touches on a 7-1 victory. The buzzer sounded and the teams scrambled off the ice. But the arena wasn't ready for the next game until Nicholls reset the clock.



Top: Eric Nicholls was around so often he got asked if he worked at the Haliburton arena. Nicholls kept time in Minden during a Highland Storm game. Photos by Sam Gillett.

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Addison Kulas with a couple of her medals. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

Carnarvon cheerleader off to the worlds

By Lisa Gervais

An 11-year-old Haliburton County girl is off to the Allstar World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida this spring.

Addison Kulas is a member of the Valley Sharks team that trains out of Orillia.

The Carnarvon girl, who goes to Archie Stouffer Elementary School, has been cheerleading since the age of seven when her family lived in Uxbridge. Since moving to the Highlands, she has continued to train and compete despite the distance.

Her parents, Nick and Laura Kulas, are her biggest supporters. Nick said competitive cheerleading takes them to Orillia three to four a times a week for training. There are girls from Orillia, Barrie and Muskoka, but Addison is the only Highlander on the 20-person team. She's also one of the youngest.

Addison is a flyer, so, "they throw her up in the air and catch her," Nick explains.

Addison dons her uniform and comes out with her cheer bag. She shows off some of the medals she has already won.

"I can do a back hand spring," she says, and begins demonstrating some of her skills. "I like when they throw me up in the air. And I like tumbling but I don't like jumps because I can't get my legs very high."

Nick said the team qualified for the U17 level two. Cheerleading goes up to level seven. Cheerleaders progress through the ranks as they age and mature. Level seven is Olympian and cheer will be featured for the first-time ever at the Paris games. Already, Addison can do most of the level three

requirements and is working on the others.

As part of the championships, in the first week of May, Addison will have the opportunity to train at the Top Gun Gym, one of the premier cheer gyms in North America.

Nick said being part of a team picked for the worlds is a big deal. There are already 2,000 teams going, and 40,000 competitors from 15 countries.

"I'm really excited," Addison said. "We have a pretty good chance because we got second in our last competition, and in the competition we just did, we were first with the highest score in the whole competition."

Nick added, "we didn't really know how big it was until the convenor told us, 'you should be very proud of your daughter, this is a big deal, an 11-year-old on an U17 team.'"

"Girls get college scholarships in the U.S. for cheerleading. Most people think it's pom poms and football, but it is a mix of tumbling, stunting and dance. You should see the stuff they do, fireworks, big screens, people are like, 'is this how it is?'"

Laura added, "Addison and her teammates are incredibly proud to have earned a bid to this prestigious event, as it is a massive accomplishment likely realized only once in a lifetime. However, this opportunity comes with a hefty price tag. The Valley Sharks are fundraising to help offset costs associated with their trip, through individual and, or team sponsorships and through a silent auction."

If interested, contact Valley Sharks fundraising committee head, Shannon, at 1-705-345-0443 or Nick Kulas at nickkulas@hotmail.com for more information.



Susan Hendsbee and Julie Rittenhouse served Rainbow Trout and Arctic Char for the last Wild Game Dinner in 2019. *File.*

Wild game back on the menu

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is reinstating its annual wild game dinner and auction on Saturday, April 1, at the Haliburton Legion.

The dinner, a popular community event and valuable fund raising activity for HHOA, had been held for more than 25 years, but COVID put it on hold for the last three years.

"The wild game dinner has always been very well attended," said Dan Smith, HHOA president. "We're very excited to be doing it again this year."

He said the dinner gives people the opportunity to try a variety of wild game, while also participating in a silent auction and having a great time.

This year's menu includes, venison, bear, moose, boar,

buffalo and rainbow trout. Domestic meat options are also available if people are not up for trying wild game.

The bar opens at 5 p.m., dinner and the auction start at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$35 per person, or \$55 per couple. Tickets can be purchased at HHOA by calling 705-457-9664.

Since 1998, the HHOA has raised and stocked more than 800,000 fish in local lakes. If you would like to help support the HHOA, you can join or donate at HHOA.on.ca. You can also help by playing the HHOA 50/50 monthly raffle at bigcatch5050.ca. Fifty per cent of all monthly proceeds go to one winner. The other 50 per cent supports the fish hatchery, the stocking of area lakes, walleye spawning rehabilitation programs and other HHOA activities that benefit the region's outdoors community.



Minden Rockbuster draws 16 teams

The Minden Rockbuster Bonspiel was held Feb. 24-25 with 16 teams competing for championship status. The four division finalists were: Thomas (A), DeVos (B), Bugg (C), and Tambosso (D). Convenor Bob Barron said participants, "expressed gratitude and enjoyment, with a desire to return in 2024." He thanked volunteers, from bar tenders to kitchen help, ice maintenance, scheduling, timekeepers and scorekeepers. He also gave a shout out to Minden Curling Club members who spared for teams at short notice. "For 2024, we will aim to get more Minden and local teams included into the Rockbuster Bonspiel," Barron added.

B division winners, left to right, Greg DeVos, Ian Morton, Graham Rae, and local, Mike Clewlow. *Submitted.*

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Let's Build the Dream Together

A photograph of a group of people standing together, possibly at a community event or a group photo. The image is somewhat blurry and has a blue tint.

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Members of the Gooderham Community Action Group present a cheque to district fire chief, Brian Horner (centre with grey hat) and his firefighting crew. *Photo by Rick Evans.*

Half way to a new side-by-side

The Highlands East station 3 voluntary fire department in Gooderham is another step closer to buying much-needed rescue equipment thanks to a \$2,000 donation from the Gooderham Community Action Group (GCAG).

"We're continuing to raise money for a new side-by-side, off-road vehicle that will allow us to perform better emergency rescue operations on the trails and in less accessible areas around Gooderham," said district fire chief Brian Horner. "This donation will get us to within one-half of the funds needed for

a new side-by-side."
Gooderham Community Action Group chair Valerie Dugale said people have continued to be generous in supporting good works in the community.

"Our volunteer firefighters are there for us and as a community we need to be there for them throughout the year with fundraising drives," added Dugale.

Donations can be made at the fire hall by cheque to the Gooderham Station 3 Firefighter's Association or through a bottle drive at the station. *(Lisa Gervais).*



Brad Beverly, centre, presents a \$500 cheque to Paul Sisson, left, and Derrick Moore of the Haliburton Legion to go towards the Legion's elevator program. *Submitted.*

Hockey to give legion a lift

A group of local residents who play pickup hockey in Haliburton, under the name Haliburton Old Guys, presented a cheque for \$500 to the Haliburton Legion Jan. 10, proceeds from the group's winter fundraiser. The money will go towards the Legion's elevator program. Legion executives feel

the installation of an elevator is necessary to improve accessibility throughout the building. Derrick Moore, sergeant in arms, said they hope to wrap up their fundraising initiative later this year, with the installation of an elevator coming in 2024. *(Mike Baker).*

SIRCH recognized for paying living wage

By Lisa Gervais

The Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) announced SIRCH is the first certified living wage employer in Haliburton.

As a certified employer, all full-time, part-time, contract, and seasonal workers earn at least the currently calculated living wage of \$19.05 per hour, the OLWN said in a news release.

“While staff in retail and food services are traditionally paid low wages, we felt that philosophically we could not tackle poverty and food insecurity unless we are truly walking the walk by ensuring our employees are not making less than the living wage for this area,” said executive director Gena Robertson.

A living wage is calculated by the OLWN to show how much a worker must earn per hour in order to make ends meet and enjoy modest participation in civic and cultural community. The calculations gather real local expenses such as shelter costs, childcare, transportation, and food. They also factor in any applicable government taxes, transfers, and benefits.

“Families who work for low wages often face impossible choices: buy food or heat the house, feed the children or pay the rent. Paying a living wage allows individuals and families to cover household essentials as well as occasional emergencies or unexpected expenses,” the OLWN said.



SIRCH executive director Gena Robertson in the Bistro. *File.*

Robertson added from a business perspective, paying a living wage can reduce employee turnover, absenteeism, and retraining costs. She said it can also improve performance and productivity, and lower staff turnover rates.

“It may be difficult to pay more for labour, but paying a living wage will help your employees remain in the County, remain in your employ, and feed their families. It’s one of the best local economic development strategies we can employ.”

For more information, including calculation documentation, coverage map, and certified employer directory see: ontariolivingwage.ca.



Minden Health Care Auxiliary back at it

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary held its AGM and draw for its Wine on Wheels fundraiser recently. “Hitch” Hitchcock said Mike and Loretta Cusato (pictured) of Minden were the winners of 48 bottles of wine and a wheelbarrow donated by Canadian Tire. The auxiliary is active post-COVID and always looking for new members. For more information, contact Gail at 705-286-4087 or Pat at 705-934-0011. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Textile Recycling

Along with donating gently used clothing to the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store and the SIRCH Community Services’ Thrift Warehouse, residents of Dysart can drop off textiles for recycling at Dysart’s five waste disposal sites during regular operating hours.

Place textiles in clear bags to help keep materials dry.

☑ Items you wear “head to foot” (including undergarments)

Clothes (including undergarments and socks), Hats, Scarves, Ties, Jackets, Coats, Belts, Shoes (including single shoes), Jewelry, Purses, Backpacks)



☑ Bedding, Blankets, Curtains, Fabric, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Towels



☑ While textiles should be clean, our textile recycling program will also accept torn, worn out, stained or scrap textiles.



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HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MARCH BREAK EVENTS

March 14

Origami Hour, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Wilberforce library. Follow step-by-step instructions on your own or with guidance to create 3D paper figures. All ages and experience levels welcome.

Green Screen and Simple Stop Motion, 11 a.m. to noon at the Dysart library. Create green screen magic using the Green Screen App by DoInk, then try super simple stop motion using the Stop Motion Studio App. Ages eight and above. Register online at haliburtonlibrary.ca.

Bad Art, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minden Hills library. Try and make the worst art you can imagine and at the end of the program children will have the chance to vote on the “worst” artwork. Ages seven and above. Register online at haliburtonlibrary.ca.

March 15

Bad Art, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Dysart library. Try and make the worst art you can imagine and at the end of the program children will have the chance to vote on the “worst” artwork. Ages seven and above. Register online at haliburtonlibrary.ca.

Green Screen and Simple Stop Motion, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Minden Hills library. Create green screen magic using the Green Screen App by DoInk, then try super simple stop motion using the Stop Motion Studio App. Ages eight and above. Register online at haliburtonlibrary.ca.

March 16

Squishy Circuits, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Dysart library. Squishy Circuits are a great, safe way for kids to learn about electricity by using conductive and insulating playdough. Ages six and above. Register online at haliburtonlibrary.ca.

Drop-in Craft: Light Bulb Snowmen, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Minden Hills library. Drop into the library to create snowmen out of recycled lightbulbs. Ages seven and above.

March 17

Elephant and Piggie Day, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Dysart library. Stop in for a puppet show followed by a variety of crafts and activities featuring the Mo Willems characters Elephant and Piggie. Ages five and above.

Family Board Games, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Minden Hills library. Families are invited to stop in for a fun afternoon of board games. All ages are welcome.

March 18

Let’s Build: Blue Blocks, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Minden Hills library. Drop in to build and create with the big, blue blocks. All ages are welcome.

Slime Time, 11 a.m. to noon at the Dysart library. Join us at the library to create your own ooey gooey slime. Ages six and above. Register online at haliburtonlibrary.ca.

STARS OF THE WEEK



Felix Dart's determination and versatility shone through this weekend, showing the crowds what he can do both as a player and as a goalie.



Arizona Latanville showed off the new skills she learned after attending her first local goalie clinic last week. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.



Roarke Stanfield always has a smile on his face, but it shines even brighter after he's chased down his competition and gained control of the puck.



Ashton Emmerson goes after the puck. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

Storm U7s represent well at Glen Dart

The U7 G.J. Burtch Construction Highland Storm team participated in the Glen Dart Memorial Jamboree this past weekend at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

The team was split into two squads for the jamboree, optimizing ice time for all the players. Each squad saw two games on Saturday followed by another two games on Sunday.

The Blue squad came out firing on all cylinders at the drop of the puck in each of their four games. The protectors of the twine saw Arizona Latanville and Felix Dart splitting their time equally between the pipes, both showcasing their talents by robbing their opposition of scoring opportunities time and time again.

Roarke Stanfield and Ashton Emmerson helped to provide some solid defence in front of their netminders, keeping the opposing teams at bay. Strong puck movement and lots of breakaways from Lucas Hillaby, Lawson Ramsay and Soyer Joanu led the team to a strong finish by collecting four wins, showing a solid outing of all players and both goalies.

The White squad also came to play this past weekend,

proving they were a force to be reckoned with. Travis Hutchinson started them off with a strong performance between the pipes in game one. Ben Gaffney and Kipton Cunningham also took their turns in net, both coming up with some massive saves when their team needed them to. Frances Gilmour and Hunter Carefoote both demonstrated their solid backchecking, creating turnover after turnover and allowing the puck to move back into the offensive end, where Ander Brown and Rome Hicks created some great scoring opportunities and helped the puck find the back of the net. Sullivan Brind, with his skates tied tight, was able to chase down the opposing team and steal the puck for more than a few goals.

The U7 team would like to thank Craig and Tammy Smith for organizing such a fun and well-run event, Eric Nicholls for keeping the game clock running, the Snax Team for keeping the food orders rolling and the candy bags filled, and to the amazing Dysart et al arena staff who worked tirelessly all weekend showing our out-of-town guests what a great community we get to play hockey in. Submitted.



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Top: Kipton Cunningham heads up ice. Bottom: Goalie Travis Hutchinson makes a save. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

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Feb. 28 U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling Vs Woodville 2-1 L	MPS championship tournament results U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX - A champs U13 Minden Pharmasave - A finalists U9 Cottage Country Building Supplies - eliminated in preliminaries. U11 UpRight Roofing - eliminated in semi-finals. U11 Carquest - eliminated in preliminaries. U15 Sharp Electric – pool A finalists U15 Peppermill Steak and Pasta House - eliminated in semi-finals in Pool B
March 1 U18 Tom Prentice & Sons Vs Millbrook 5-0 W	
U15 Haliburton Timbermart Vs Orono 3-2 L	
March 4 U11 Curry Chevrolet Vs Brock 7-4 W	
U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling Vs Mariposa 6-2 L	
March 5 U15 Haliburton Timbermart Vs Woodville 3-2 W	
U18 Tom Prentice & Sons Vs Brock 7-0 W	

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Serlin impresses in rookie season with Huskies

By Mike Baker

As the youngest player in the Haliburton County Huskies locker room, Leo Serlin has worked doubly hard this season to prove he belongs in the OJHL.

The 17-year-old has been a mainstay on the wing appearing in 49 games for the blue and white, posting 10 goals and 13 assists. His high-energy game has been a good match for a team renowned for its speed, skill, and work ethic.

“I’ve just been trying to earn the trust of my coaches and my teammates. I think I’ve done well,” Serlin told *The Highlander*. “I feel like my game has gone up so many levels this year.”

Born and raised in Toronto, Serlin started playing Timbits hockey when he was six. An athletic kid, he also excelled in baseball and soccer, but decided early on that hockey was going to be his primary focus, calling it his “one true love.” He played AAA with the Vaughan Kings and Toronto Marlboros, taking on leadership roles with both teams.

After serving as an affiliate player with the Huskies last season – making his OJHL debut in the team’s final regular season game, a 3-2 road loss to the Wellington Dukes – Serlin was determined to crack the roster this year. He had a good showing at the team’s rookie camp in the summer and was invited to attend main team practices, where he made a big impression.

Serlin said he was excited and nervous after learning he’d made the roster, but his new teammates went above and beyond to make him feel welcome. “We’ve got a really great group of older guys, and they took me under

their wing – especially our captain Chris Stevens. He made me feel at home, like I was just one of the guys,” Serlin said.

He got off to the perfect start, scoring in his home debut - a 5-2 win over the Cobourg Cougars.

He admits it was an adjustment moving to a rural community after living his whole life in the city, but Serlin said he’s grown to love Haliburton County.

“It’s a quiet, calm place. It’s the perfect place for a hockey player to be. There’s limited distractions and we can put our entire focus on hockey,” said Serlin, who is billeting in Haliburton. “This has been the best experience for me. I feel like I’ve gained 20 or so brothers playing on this team. We get so close and develop such a bond.”

With playoffs kicking off this week, Serlin said he’s excited to test himself in the post-season. He believes the Huskies have a good chance of making it out of their first-round series with the Toronto Patriots and going on a run.

He hopes it will be the first of many for him in blue and white. Serlin said he plans to return to Haliburton County next season, with a long-term goal of securing a Division 1 scholarship to play NCAA hockey.

“I’m just going to keep pushing and going to the next level... it definitely helps seeing guys like (former Husky) Oliver Tarr paving the way to play NCAA, it makes you realize that it is possible,” Serlin said.

Leo Serlin has enjoyed a successful debut season in Haliburton County, registering 23 points in 49 games.
Photo by OJHL Images.



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Blue and white open playoffs in Minden

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Huskies open their best-of-seven first-round playoff series against the Toronto Patriots on home ice March 9.

Under the OJHL playoff format, the third place team in the South/East Conference, the Huskies, play the sixth ranked team (the Patriots).

Puck drop is 7 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and head coach, Ryan Ramsay, said he is feeling excited and confident after a couple of weeks that featured sickness, suspensions and injury.

He was looking forward to a week of practice following a March 4 win over the North York Rangers and having a complete lineup ready to go.

The Huskies ended their 54-game season with 36 wins, 14 losses, one tie, and three overtime losses for 76 points.

The Patriots tallied 29 wins, 19 losses, two ties, and four overtime losses for 64 points.

"They're a good team. They work really well together. They have a game plan and stick to it," Ramsay said of the Patriots.

He added they, "have some really good talent," though perhaps not the high-end calibre of some of his squad.

While he didn't want to give too much away as to how his team is preparing to take on the Patriots, Ramsay emphasized, "just playing our system. When we play Huskies hockey, we're really good. When we venture off and do our own thing, it doesn't go well. If we stick to the game plan, we'll be fine."

The Huskies ended the regular season on a winning note Saturday.

Despite a depleted roster, the coach said some players stepped up and goalie Aiden Spooner was solid.

"I thought Saturday was just a great ending to the best season we have had here." It's the Huskies second season in the County.

The night started with a thank you to the billets.

"Without the billets, we wouldn't have a team here," Ramsay said.

The Huskies went on to score five goals in the second period to blow open what had been a tight game.

Luca Rea notched a short-handed tally, assisted by Patrick Saini, at 3:24 of the second. That opened the floodgates. Will Gourgouvelis potted one at 10:36, from Lucas Stevenson and Kaiden Thatcher. Then, Stevenson scored at 15:16 from Nicholas Dowling and Sam Solarino. Marco Iozzo joined the goal parade at 17:11 with helpers from Saini and Zack Terry. And, Alex Cunningham made it a 5-0 game with assists to Gourgouvelis and Josh Currie.

North York answered with two, one late in the second, and the first tally in the third, to bridge the gap at 5-2.

But Cunningham hit the half-dozen with a goal at 4:31 from Rea and Currie. The Rangers got one just past the mid-way mark of the third but the Huskies held on for a 6-3 win.

With puck drop tonight, Ramsay was asked how he'll manage the team's expectations



Forward Isaac Sooklal heads up ice. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

as they have been talking playoffs all season long. He thinks because of that, they'll be better prepared than last year.

He said they have one of the deepest rosters in the league, something he thinks was lacking last year, when the Cobourg Cougars ousted them with stronger third and fourth lines. He added it is about players keeping their emotions in check, "not too high, not too low."

First-round schedule

Thursday March 9 – 7 p.m. Minden
Saturday, March 11 – 7:30 p.m. Toronto
Sunday, March 12 – 2:30 p.m. Minden
Tuesday, March 14 – 7:45 p.m. Toronto
Thursday, March 16 – 7 p.m. Minden
Saturday, March 18 – 7:30 p.m. Toronto
Sunday, March 19 – 2:30 p.m. Minden

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Call for Committee Members**

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for volunteers to participate as members on the following Advisory Committees for the 2023-2026 term of Council:

Community Services Advisory Committee
Cultural Centre Advisory Committee
Events Advisory Committee
Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee
Irondale Community Centre Advisory Committee
Planning and Development Advisory Committee

If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating in any of the above committees, please submit a completed application form in person, by mail or email to:

Advisory Committee Applications
Clerk's Department,
Township of Minden Hills
7 Milne Street, PO Box 359
Minden, ON
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sprentice@mindenhill.ca

Application deadline is **Friday, March 17, 2023**, by 12:00 noon.

For an Application Form or for more information, please visit our website www.mindenhill.ca/LocalGovernment/CommitteesandBoards, or contact admin@mindenhill.ca or call the Clerk's Department at 705-286-1260 ext. 512



Notice of a Complete Application and Public Meeting For a Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Meeting on:

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting can do so by joining the Meeting Live Stream Link: <https://youtube.com/live/9RBY82KoCmc?feature=share>

To Participate: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meetings must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhill.ca by Wednesday March 29th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM

Participants registering after 8:30 AM will not be permitted into the public meeting. Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair.

To attend the Zoom virtual meeting via Web, type <https://zoom.us/join> or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82962918447?pwd=eExGTERc3VCLytmcnhwTGhUN0Y4UT09> into your browser or attend by dialing the number below:
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Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to admin@mindenhill.ca

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to consider zoning by-law amendment application **PLZBA2022101** pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act. The application for Public Meeting is listed below:

PLZBA2022101 – Part Lot 11, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Snowdon being 1251 Geeza Road (see Key Map).
Purpose and Effect of the Application: The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural (RU)' and is located within the Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The proposed zoning by-law amendment would serve to rezone the lands from 'Rural (RU)' to 'Recreational Commercial Exception 21 (C3-21) Zone' and 'Hazard Land (HZ) Zone' in order to permit a tourist establishment inclusive of a maximum of three (3) treehouse rental accommodations, a welcome centre and an accessory residential unit.



Additional Information regarding this application is available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

Any Person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.


If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at admin@mindenhill.ca.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

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Brian Campbell
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

It is with great sadness, we announce the peaceful passing of Brian Campbell at his residence surrounded by his family on Thursday, March 2, 2023. Beloved husband to Wendy. Loving father of Jeremy (Alanna), Jason (Jennifer), and Jessica (Adrian). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Maeve, Finlay, Nicholas, Chloe, Francesco, Lillian, and Raffaele. Dear brother to Rick, Stephen, and Ralph. Brian held many titles in his life, from songwriter to friend to entrepreneur, but his favorite role was being a father. He will forever be in our hearts.

Visitation & Celebration Of Life

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Saturday March 11, 2023 at 12 o'clock (Noon) for a Celebration of Brian's life. (Visitation one hour prior). For those wishing to join the family virtually please follow the enclosed link. <https://join.skype.com/mzd96qObS4qG> As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Community Care or SIRCH Community Services would be appreciated by the family.



In Loving Memory of
Carolyn Mabel Welsh

Passed away peacefully with family by her side at Hyland Crest Long Term Care Home on March 1st, 2023.

She was born in Toronto on July 3rd, 1935. Carol was the much loved mother of Bill (Kathy), Bruce (Cheri), Brad (Karen), Cindy (Ron(d.)) and Barry (Derrick). She was blessed with many grandchildren, Gavin (Dani), Brittany (Taylor), Brady (Rachel), Robby (Brittney), Brett (Rachel), Christopher, Ali, Brigitta (Sean), Ben (Vic), Charlene, Spencer (Lindsay), Emily, Christa (Eric) and Emma (Mark) and great grandchildren, Rome, Liam, Naia, Addison, Wylie and Aila, who all loved Grandma. She was also loved by her brother, George (Mike and Lynn), and sister Marilyn (d.) and their families, Jim, father of her children, Frank (d.) and Barb (d.) and their families.

Carol first started coming to Lake Boshkung in 1940, when her parents, Howard and Mary Welsh established one of the early cottages on the Lake. She attended Camp Calumet for many years, where she met Jim. She loved her cottage on the Town Lot Road, where she spent decades with her family and many Boshkung friends. Her laugh and kindness will be missed as will the frequent sightings of her swimming and paddling on the lake. Her family and her garden by the lake were her passions; her spirit will remain forever on Boshkung. Our sincere gratitude to the staff at Hyland Crest for their kindness and professional care of our mom.

A gathering to remember Carol will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated, in lieu of flowers by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



In Loving Memory of
Frank Lawrence Ferris
Aug. 29, 1939 – Mar. 2, 2023

The family is heartbroken to share the passing of Frank, beloved husband and best friend of Sharon (nee Buchanan), his daughters Lee & Jennifer (Ken), grandchildren Shelby (Cassidy) and Samantha (Kyle), and his treasured great granddaughter Charlotte. He will be missed by his sisters-in-law Lorna (Rob) and Sandy. Frank is predeceased by his brother Ross (Sandy).

Frank spent 42+ years in the printing business – his mantra “you need to love what you’re doing for a living”, and he loved printing. In fact, Frank loved life! As a competitive athlete, Frank won numerous medals in the Seniors games competing in all levels, most recently prequalifying for the 2024 Nationals. His passions included Golf (4 holes-in-one), tennis and curling – all sports that he proudly took home medals in. He was also an avid Blue Jays and Maple Leaf fan. Whatever the sport or occasion, Frank had fun & enjoyed to the max.

Frank's absence will leave a very deep void in all who knew and loved him. His humour, compassion, kindness and fun-loving spirit will be missed by many for a very long time.

A heartfelt thank you to Dr Rahim, Frank's oncologist for the past 22 years. For your compassion and care throughout the years, and recently, leading an amazing team of professionals through this newest turn of events at Southlake.

RIP Frank – we love you!

A celebration of life will be held on April 29, 2023 at Tam Heather Curling Club, Scarborough from 1- 5. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada

SERVICES

DESIGN & INSTALL Septic Systems, site preparations, removal of danger trees. Have skid steer dozer, excavator. Don't wait until spring! For every Septic System completed, will donate \$500. to YWCA & Haliburton Food Bank. Text DW at 705-457-0710

SOLUTIONS FOR MARCH 9

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1 BEDROOM FOR RENT – includes large living room, shared kitchen, shared bathroom, couch, chair, table & chairs, large fridge. Heat, Hydro & Internet included. Own entrance, parking space, access to Lake Kashagawigamog. Text DW at 705-457-0710

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Two (2) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer(s)

Successful applicants will possess a DZ licence and have road maintenance and repair experience. Hourly rate is \$24.66.

Two (2) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)

Successful applicants will possess a G licence and have experience in manual labour positions. DZ licence is an asset. Hourly rate is \$18.27.

One (1) Seasonal Engineering Student

The successful candidate must be currently attending a civil engineering program and have a G licence. Hourly rate is \$22.81.

These are unionized CUPE positions. Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed postings and job descriptions.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca
no later than March 17, 2023.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Across

- 1 Had ___ of it (struggled)
6 "___ die for!"
11 Piano scale with no black keys: Abbr.
15 Elaine's surname on "Seinfeld"
16 Pop by quickly
17 "In that range"
18 Entrepreneur who might need a boost?
21 Antonyms: Abbr.
22 Kindle text technology
23 David Bowie's supermodel widow
24 Capek play about robots
25 Cop who dwells on trivialities?
29 One offering a quid pro quo
31 Did some irrigation work
32 Toast with sangria, maybe
33 "Good ___!" (oxymoronic outburst)
36 Suffix with pay or crap
37 Painter who's feeling just dandy?
41 Chicoutimi chum
44 The last Olds made
45 One with a stable upbringing?
49 Where groupies click
52 Boatloads
53 Butler who shows common decency?
57 Web hits booster, in tech-talk
58 They hang in a "hang ten"
59 Woody Allen film about an anxious bug
60 From ___ (quick commute)
61 Crime investigator who keeps to himself?
65 Winans with many gospel Grammys
66 Historical segment
67 Puts a fine edge on
68 Baking soda has many
69 Follow-up to "bitte"
70 First month in Mexico

Down

- 1 Sucks up
2 Batter-dipped, in Asian cuisine
3 When many Aries are born
4 Spice Girls Scary and Sporty, for two
5 Berlitz subj.
6 Many an Iqaluit resident
7 Prissy denial
8 Like some punk rockers' hair
9 Sn, in chem class
10 Catch-all pronoun
11 The Moody Blues' "Veteran ___ Rocker"
12 Super-studly guy
13 ".... charming ___, Mr. Grinch" (song lyric)
14 ___ Stewart of "The Daily Show"
19 Kind of nuts, or a drink enjoyed with them
20 Fluff up the flour
25 Treatment for the 58-Across
26 Words of tribute
27 Fussy French poodle name
28 Qty. to take, on a label
30 ___-Puf (facial sponge)
33 Jiggly French dessert
34 U.N. Special Envoy Bob ___
35 Grammatically "out there": Abbr.

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by Barbara Olson
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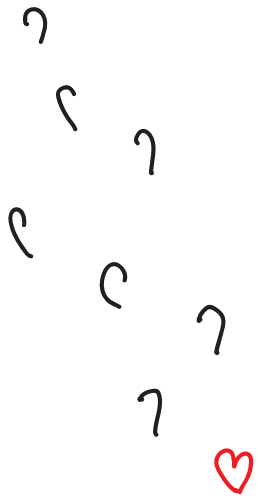
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3				4				
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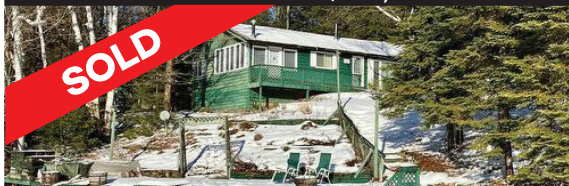
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