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The Highlander

Thursday **March 30 2023** | Issue 583

INSIDE: DOCUMENTING KINMOUNT'S MOVIE MAN PAGE 11

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Going, going, gone...

This skier, dressed in an inflatable dinosaur costume, braved the cold water to attempt the Spring Splash at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride March 25, marked the end of a successful winter season at the local ski hill. See more photos on page 18. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Housing project 'monumental' for County

By Mike Baker

A new intra-regional housing initiative, aiming to bring almost 500 affordable rental units to the Highlands by 2031, has been labelled a "potential game changer" by County CAO Mike Rutter.

Representatives from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) unveiled plans for its 'Seven in Seven' program to County council March 22. Peter Emon and Jim Pine, of the EOWC, said the project would construct 7,000 new affordable rental units across 13 counties in eastern Ontario over the next seven years, with a tab of at least \$3.1 billion.

Units will range in size from bachelor, featuring a single-roomed living area, to three-bedroom apartments.

Pine noted that, through the plan, the County could expect to see 490 new units built by 2031, with a further 735 units constructed in neighbouring Kawartha Lakes. Estimates peg the cost of that construction at \$496.2 million, though Pine noted this didn't cover procurement or servicing of land.

Emon said the EOWC had been working with municipal partners on the plan for around a year.

"Tackling the lack of housing and accompanied homelessness issue is our primary priority," Emon said. "There is a chronic and serious supply problem with [all forms of housing] across our region... while we have made some progress, it is not enough to solve the issue. That's why we have come together to pool our collective resources and experiences into a bold, new regional solution."

Rutter said the project would be "monumental" for the County if it were to proceed, especially following recent news from KLH Housing Corporation, the local community housing service provider, which announced in February that it was pausing development on three

Continued 'Possible' on page 2

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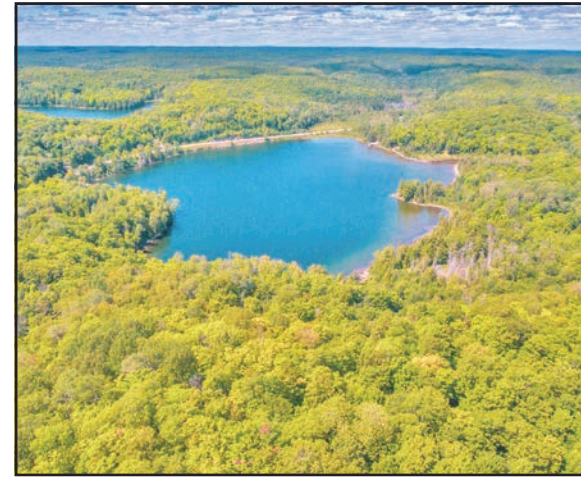
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Haliburton County CAO Mike Rutter discusses the 'Seven in Seven' project. *File.*

Possible 2024 start

Continued from page 1

new builds, slated to add 100 affordable units to the regional portfolio, due to the current economic climate.

As of Feb. 21, KLH reported having 2,198 households on the waitlist for community housing, including 438 in the County. The average wait time for new applicants is 10 to 14 years.

"This project would address our waitlist issues here entirely," Rutter told *The Highlander* in a February interview. "I think one important thing to note is this shows we're not alone. A lot of places are running into these same problems... coming together with an organization like EORN that has such a tremendous track record, it's potentially game changing for the future of our community."

time we did something," Schmale said. "But if we rely on government only to get this problem fixed, there will never be enough money. We do need the private sector to be involved."

Emon noted the project would have an economic impact of around \$9 billion.

"It's a great way to build the economy up at the same time," he said.

Investment needed

Local response

County warden and Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen said the EOWC has an "exceptional" track record when it comes to tackling regional issues, pointing to the success of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's Cell Gap project, which it helped launch. That \$300 million initiative will improve cell service for 99 per cent of rural residents in the region by 2025.

"They've shown they can bring big projects together," Danielsen said.

Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey said one of the major hurdles would be manoeuvring the provincial policy statement, which he says makes it difficult to sever and service lots in rural Ontario.

Bob Carter, Minden Hills mayor, said his concerns were mostly financial. Sitting on the KLH and local Habitat for Humanity boards, he said development costs would likely be significantly more than the \$440,000 per unit the EOWC is currently projecting.

"If we have to start adding water and sewer connections [to future lots], that increases costs substantially," he said. "We need to keep that in mind and be prepared to fight for this on a lot of different fronts to make it work."

Pine said the group has retained a consultant and is establishing a formal business plan. He said a pilot in one of the 13 counties to provide proof of concept will be launched in the fall. If all goes well, and there's a commitment from all parties, he said construction could begin in 2024. That was music to Danielsen's ears.

"It's ambitious...but it's in all our hearts that this is a successful project. We'll do everything we can [at the County level]. On our own, it's a struggle to see how we can make this work. But through a regional approach, there's a lot of opportunity for success," she said.

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To make the project viable, Pine noted the EOWC was looking to partner with private developers.

"A mixed model approach makes most sense. Evidence shows if we can [incentivize] one rent-geared-to-income unit to be built, the private sector will buy in and build three units of their own at market rate," Pine said.

This could help bring an additional 21,000 units to eastern Ontario.

All three levels of government will need to invest, too. Pine said municipalities could assist with land procurement, with the province and feds contributing funds for construction. He pointed to a recent report published by Scotiabank's Global Economics Group, which suggested investment in social housing is the best way to address Canada's housing crisis.

"They say it's the best solution to unlock greater supply, as more affordable units will relieve pressure across the wider housing continuum," Pine said.

MPP Laurie Scott said she was open to the initiative and "looks forward to [hearing] more information" soon, while MP Jamie Schmale threw his backing behind it.

"I would support anything that will get housing built quickly and at an affordable level. This housing shortage has hurt the growth of Haliburton County and created great hardship for a lot of people. It's past

Dysart shoreline plan coming in May

By Lisa Gervais

Dysart et al's mayor and deputy mayor unveiled early details of their township's shoreline preservation plan during an interview with *The Highlander* this week.

After declining to delegate authority to the County for its bylaw, Murray Fearrey and Walt McKechnie said council and staff have been working on a made-in-Dysart solution they hope to present to the public in May.

The two said they felt the County bylaw was overly complicated, and questioned whether it was needed, with an existing tree cutting bylaw they believe is under-enforced. Fearrey added he could not find another upper-tier government in Ontario that has implemented a shoreline preservation bylaw. He does not believe it is economically feasible because of travel across the Highlands from a Minden base. He also doesn't like that it's complaint-driven.

"In the County bylaw, if you had a 1,000 sq. ft. cottage, and you tore it down and built a 4,000 sq. ft. cottage, and you cleared the shoreline in front and nobody complained, there's no recourse," Fearrey said.

The County can, and has, fined violators, as well as ordered restoration however it is after the fact.

Fearrey said they will primarily target new lots and teardowns, since they believe these are the most problematic areas. He said people will be required to get a demolition and building permit, and must file a site plan.

"We're going to be on to you then, because we're going to ask 'what are you going to do?' We'll go out and take photographs of the trees. We'll ask them about size, location, the septic, where the stormwater is going to go, where the roof drains are going to go. So, there will be some kind of control," Fearrey said.

He added the township will offer a course, and invite landscapers, and perhaps environmental engineers, to teach, "the do's and don'ts of shoreline restoration, so everybody will be on the same page." He added it would be similar to education around the septic re-inspection program.

"I'm optimistic we're going to catch way more people this way than we would the other way," Fearrey said. "When we got boots on the ground, doing these inspections, it's pretty easy."

Fearrey said the "extensive education



Dysart is planning to make its shoreline preservation process public this spring. Top inset: Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey thinks it will be more effective than the County's. Bottom inset: Dysart deputy mayor Walt McKechnie thinks education, not punishment, is key. *File.*

program" would include cottage associations and information with tax bills. He added they will also talk to real estate lawyers, who can, in turn, advise their clients about what is permissible and not.

McKechnie said another key for him is educating property owners who clear cut years ago. He said it "hasn't ruined the lakes" but would like to see incentives for replanting, whether trees or shrubs. "This thing where we're going to punish people, I don't like that attitude."

Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA) chair Paul MacInnes has stated publicly in the past couple of weeks that education is not enough, and legislation is required.

Asked if they have sufficient staff to take on the shoreline preservation plan, Fearrey said, "we've talked to the building department and they're fine."

The County has approved the hiring of one person for its bylaw.

McKechnie added, "we've had many meetings already with our building department and they're extremely positive. They're not scared of the workload and if they are, they are going to communicate with Murray and myself and the rest of council, and we'll address it as we proceed."

The deputy mayor added they thought long and hard before declining to join the County initiative, and "we've spent a lot of quality time with our chief building official and

he's very informed and he's advising us and helping us with a lot."

Fearrey said they will have something in place as quickly as the County does. "May we'll have a draft at least. We're not sitting on our hands here. We may have to change it, tweak it."

McKechnie said the plan will also call for a ban on fertilizers within a certain distance of the shoreline.

"We, honest to goodness, are so conscientious about doing the right thing for this community. Our shoreline policy is not going to be perfect right out of the gate, maybe it will never be, but it won't be because we won't listen and try to amend or fix it."



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Dysart rescinds cell tower policy

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council has abolished its Policy 38 – legislation that outlined rules and regulations for the installation of cell towers within the municipality.

Following a heated discussion March 28 members voted unanimously to rescind the policy, just moments after approving a new 75-metre tower for Elephant Lake Road. Part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network’s Cell Gap project, the structure will provide 5G-level service to residents surrounding Benoir Lake.

It became the second tower site to receive approval in Dysart, after the previous council gave the green light for a similar structure to be installed on Minnicock Lake Road. In attendance virtually Tuesday, EORN CEO Jason St. Pierre said there will be 13 new towers erected in Dysart as part of his organization’s plan to improve cell connectivity for 99 per cent of residents across eastern Ontario.

Ward 3 Coun. Tammy Donaldson took exception to this latest application, saying she had issues with the way Rogers’ site acquisition specialist, Jeff McKay, handled a public consultation session March 14. She said most of the 16 attendees were against the tower’s location on Elephant Lake Road, with up to 10 alternate site proposals pitched by the public falling on deaf ears.

McKay retorted the chosen site had a “better than nine out of 10 score” for addressing outlined stipulations for an EORN project. He said the other sites proposed by residents during the meeting weren’t a good fit.

“At this location we are capturing hundreds of additional subscribers into a strong 5G coverage radius... we wouldn’t get that if we moved it,” he said. “Relocations as small as 50 metres can have a dramatic effect on who receives service and who doesn’t.”

Donaldson said the tower didn’t fall

in line with the municipal policy, which recommends sites be located at least one kilometre away from residences and be camouflaged. She noted the closest household, which she revealed to be her own, was 264-metres away from the proposed site.

When asked about a potential conflict of interest for Donaldson, CAO Tamara Wilbee told *The Highlander* it’s the responsibility of individual councillors to declare one. Staff has no input in the decision.

The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act stipulates if a member has an outside pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of council where the matter is discussed, they should, prior to any discussion, disclose the conflict and recuse themselves from taking part. The act also states that members with a conflict shall not take part in or attempt to influence any vote on the matter.

Donaldson was the lone vote against in a 6-1 decision.

When approached for comment, Donaldson said, “I reached out to the integrity commissioner [after the meeting] to discuss and I do not believe I have a pecuniary interest as the proposed tower is not on my property and I will not gain or lose financially. I felt I was representing constituents who raised concerns.”

Dysart’s integrity commissioner, Tony Fleming of the Kingston-based Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little and Bonham LLP, is responsible for investigating any alleged breaches of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. When approached for comment on this situation he said, “it would not be appropriate for me to make comments on allegations of this nature in the press.”

Following the vote, Donaldson pitched that council rescind Policy 38, which has been in place since 2014.

“We might as well not have a policy because nobody is abiding by the one we have,” she said.



Dysart et al Ward 3 Coun. Tammy Donaldson. *File.*

Director of planning, Jeff Iles, was seeking council direction regarding updates for the legislation, which he admitted last year was outdated. After council agreed to drop the policy, Iles said the most significant impact moving forward is that tower applicants

won’t be required to hold public open house meetings to discuss a proposed project. Instead, correspondence will be collected from the public by letter, responded to, and then submitted to the township for review.

INFORMATION PAGE

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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:

March 30 – Regular Council Meeting
March 31 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget Deliberations

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.

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

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Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Friday, March 31, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to continue the 2023 Budget Deliberations.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

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Looming \$3M HHHS deficit ‘significant’

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is anticipating a \$3 million deficit by year end, with CEO Carolyn Plummer saying the organization’s stretched resources were having a “significant impact” on operations and morale at the County’s two hospital sites.

Answering questions from *The Highlander* at a March 23 board meeting, Plummer said the status of HHHS’ finances was concerning, with the organization still relying on its line of credit to cover thousands of dollars in basic, day-to-day operational costs.

“We have a number of priorities we have to move forward with as an organization to make sure we can keep going and support the changing needs of the community... but with the financial and staffing pressures we’re facing, it does place a tremendous burden on the team to try and find ways to mitigate those challenges,” Plummer said.

“We can’t just pause and stall, we have to continue to move forward... to the best of our ability with the resources we do have,” she added.

Backing up the CEO, finance committee chair Irene Odell noted the organization’s financials are “in bad shape.” It was noted HHHS had incurred \$17,000 in interest-related costs over the past six months.

HHHS is spending approximately \$330,000 per month on agency nurses, including at its long-term care facilities, to keep its services operational. Plummer said between 40 and

50 per cent of the total nursing hours in Haliburton and Minden are being covered by agency staff.

Recruitment remains a challenge, Plummer noted. While she said there had been an uptick in the number of resumes received for open RN postings since the new year, retention of existing staff has proven problematic.

“It seems every time we take a step forward, we immediately take two steps back,” the CEO said. “We’re still running into issues with staff choosing to leave and go elsewhere where a higher compensation is offered, and we’re [not able to match that] with the constraints of our collective agreements. There’s certainly a lot of things that need to change, as many of the issues we’re facing are outside of our control.”

Plummer previously told *The Highlander* the organization could use an additional 12 full-time RNs.

Salaries for registered nurses in Ontario hospitals are set by the provincial government through the Ontario Hospital Association, with first year professionals starting at \$34.24 an hour and the most experienced RNs earning a maximum of \$49.02 an hour.

Nurses and other public sector workers have seen pay increases capped at one per cent a year since 2020, under Bill 124 – the province introduced as the Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act. An Ontario court found Bill 124 unconstitutional in December 2022, with



The threat of potential temporary emergency department shutdowns in Haliburton and Minden still looms large. *File.*

Justice Markus Koehnen ruling it infringes on workers’ rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. The government has since appealed the decision.

The government’s contract with the Ontario Nurses’ Association, the union that represents 68,000 RNs and other healthcare professionals, expires March 31. President, Bernie Robinson, told media March 3 that initial negotiations with the province had broken down, with arbitration looming in May.

While MPP Laurie Scott did not answer questions posed to her, Hannah Jensen, press secretary for health minister Sylvia Jones, told *The Highlander*, “hospitals experiencing

urgent operating and financial pressures are encouraged to work with their Ontario Health Regions to identify opportunities for improvement and cost savings.” Jensen did not respond to a question about the long-term feasibility of hospitals relying on agency nurses to fill shifts.

Plummer said the potential for temporary emergency department shutdowns in Haliburton and Minden still loomed large.

“We remain in a precarious position. Potential closures are something we continue to grapple with on a regular basis,” she said. “We’ve had many close calls (more than 20 in 2022), and we continue to have close calls on a monthly basis.”



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Minden Hills will hold a public meeting March 30 on its fees and charges bylaw, minus building permits and fees. *File.*

Taxpayer calls out MH for oversights

By Lisa Gervais

The Township of Minden Hills has conceded it erred in following provisions of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and has made changes to an upcoming public meeting after being questioned about not complying with the statutory notice period.

The concession came after a taxpayer, Matthew Wesley, wrote to council and sent a letter to *The Highlander*.

Wesley pointed to a recent staff report proposing a 14.29 per cent increase in permit fees for residential construction, and a 50 per cent increase in building administration fees. He claimed the jumps come with no rationale, as required by provincial legislation, nor was 21 days notice provided of the public meeting required under section 7(6) of the Building Code Act (BCA).

Wesley told *The Highlander*, “knowing how the relevant legislation applies, and being a concerned taxpayer when the municipality tries to operate without transparency or due process, I feel the need to speak to the issue.

“Most concerning seems to be that they do not even know about the relevant legislation. This particular issue affects me, as it should anyone else who will be taking out permits in the near future. If a fee increase went to attracting and retaining qualified staff to help service the demand in local construction, that I could get behind.”

He added the proposed fee increases, if used appropriately, “could improve an outdated compensation model that has seen chronic vacancy in that department after a hemorrhage of staff. Qualified building professionals protect the municipality and the taxpayer from risk and liability. In-house staff are also more affordable than consultants.”

The township has contracted out its planning to D.M. Wills Associates of Peterborough ever since former planner Ian Clendening left.

Mayor Bob Carter said it is estimated by the AMCTO (Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario) that municipalities, no matter their size, must produce between 200-300 reports per year for the provincial government. “This specific report is required by provincial legislation, but it is only submitted to council. Somewhere, the report was missed a number of years ago and nobody noted it,” he said.

“We thanked Mr. Wesley for bringing this to our attention and we will be producing this report regularly in the future. The report provides council with assurance that the fees collected do not exceed the costs for providing the service.”

Carter added, “our review of all fees was meant to bring us into line with the fees charged by neighbouring municipalities and to try to reduce the burden on taxpayers who are subsidizing services provided to users.”

CAO Trisha McKibbin wrote Wesley to say after reviewing files and speaking with finance and building department staff, “it appears annual reports have not been completed as outlined in Section 7(4) of the Building Code Act and thank you for bringing that to our attention. The township will ensure that these reports are completed annually moving forward in accordance with applicable legislation.”

As for the statutory public meeting, she added the township will be holding one on March 30 as outlined in a public notice. She said the meeting will focus on all other sections of the fees and charges bylaw, except the section related to building permits and fees. She said that meeting will likely take place in April and, “the township will ensure to provide you and the public with the statutory notice of this meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the public meeting.”

CanoeFM looking to boost juice

By Mike Baker

Haliburton-based non-profit radio station CanoeFM is concluding a two-week pilot project to see if there is enough demand to bolster the channel’s frequency across the County.

Station manager Roxanne Casey said she’s aware of multiple dead zones where residents struggle to tune in to the station, including in Minden, Wilberforce, Gooderham, and Cardiff.

“We live in a very large municipality, where there’s lots of hills and dales, so there’s a lot of people that don’t get reception when they should be able to,” Casey said. She noted Canoe’s sole frequency tower is near Eagle Lake.

“It’s crazy to have a community radio station that isn’t available to the whole community... we feel it’s important to try and address this and ensure we can reach the people we’re supposed to reach,” she added.

The station received approval from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) to run a test between March 17-31. They then purchased a DEVA radio modulation analyzer and monitoring receiver, which has been driven across the County over the past two weeks by station volunteers. Listeners have been able to access Canoe on its regular 100.9 channel and a temporary 97.1 channel.

The receiver has also been compiling data on the number of people that tune in. Casey is hopeful those stats will help Canoe receive approval from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and ISED to install another transmitter in the County.

Early estimates peg the cost at between \$30,000 and \$40,000, which Canoe would be responsible for. Casey said the transmitter could be placed on an existing tower along Scotch Line Road, improving service to those in the southwest.

“It’s tricky figuring out which area to target, but there’s a bigger population of people that can’t get us right now in Minden... so that’s our focus,” Casey said.

She noted other transmitters could be applied for in the future, but funding the increased day-to-day operating costs could prove challenging. While the purchase and



Roxanne Casey, station manager at CanoeFM, said the station hopes to bolster its frequency across the County. Photo by Mike Baker.

installation of the equipment can be covered through money the station pulls in from fundraisers such as Radio Bingo, gaming commission rules stipulate those dollars cannot be used on operational costs.

Casey is calling on the community to support the station’s bid by sending in letters outlining their experiences accessing radio, whether during the pilot or otherwise.

“We’ve been getting a decent response – I had one couple tell me they thought the reception on 100.9 was OK, but after they switched to 97.1, it was fabulous. I’ve heard

from others in Minden who have said the reception has been better over the past two weeks,” she said.

“Even after Friday (March 31), we need to hear from people who can’t get Canoe. I don’t know how many we need to have [to get CRTC approval]. We have around 40 responses. Is that enough? I don’t know. I’d like to have more.”

Correspondence can be delivered to the Canoe office at 739 Mountain St., or by emailing info@canoefm.com.



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TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

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

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian
Community Newspapers Association

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A bold, ambitious plan

There was a lot of excitement inside County council chambers last week after a delegation from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) tabled what appears to be a solution to the community's crippling housing crisis. Peter Emon and Jim Pine were the proverbial knights in shining armour, briefing council on a seven-year EOWC plan to bring 7,000 new affordable rental units to eastern Ontario. It's bold and ambitious. And it's exactly the kind of thing we need to reinvigorate our local housing inventory following years of neglect. The plan calls for 490 rent-geared-to-income units to be built in Haliburton County by 2031.

Given the waitlist for community housing, as KLH Housing Corporation says it is sitting at 438 households, this has the potential to be, as County CAO Mike Rutter put it, a massive game changer. The average wait time for new applicants is estimated at between 10 and 14 years. This project would wipe that out in one fell swoop. But it's important that we don't get too carried away. This is still in its infancy. It's going to take time to grow to where it needs to be.

If the EOWC receives the necessary buy-in from private developers and both the federal and provincial governments, Pine said construction could begin as early as summer/fall 2024. Right now, that's a big if. The best predictor of future behaviour

is past behaviour, and neither upper-tier governments have the best track record when it comes to investing in housing. The same can be said for our municipalities, though this project, pegged at \$3.1 billion, won't live or die based on the level of their involvement. The feds have distanced themselves from the community housing portfolio for over four decades. While there is potential for them to approve investments on a case-by-case basis, as has been done in pockets across the GTA and other urban centres in the eight years since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took office, an outlay of this nature in rural Ontario would be a change in direction. Even if Doug Ford told me straight to my face that he would personally sign off on funding this project, I'm not sure I'd believe him. This is the same government that's struggling to maintain operational and COVID-related payments to our hospitals, with Haliburton Highlands Health Services in recent months being forced to use their line of credit to cover basic costs. MPP Laurie Scott was scant in her reply, too, when I asked if she would support and lobby for the housing project at Queen's Park, choosing instead to take the 'wait and see approach'. There's also the small notion of figuring out where these units will be built. And private developers aren't going to help fund this out of the kindness of their hearts. There must be a real business plan presented that proves the project's feasibility

and reassures investors they will see a return. That's why it's a real plus that this is coming from the EOWC. Their track record with developing sizable, seemingly impossible projects is good. The much-lauded cell gap project, improving service and connectivity for 99 per cent of rural residents across eastern Ontario, which it helped launch, is well on its way to completion. This is easily the most important project I've seen tabled since my arrival nearly three years ago. As well as the positives for those waiting for community housing, imagine what this will do for people further up the ladder. I've lost count of the number of working professionals, nurses, contractors, consultants, I've spoken to who are staying in motels, or sleeping on friend's couches because they can't find anywhere permanent to live. Anything to move us away from that reality is a win in my books. Further updates are expected later this year. Until then, consider reaching out to Scott (laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org) and MP Jamie Schmale (Jamie.schmale@parl.gc.ca) to make your feelings known.



By Mike Baker

CLIMATE CORNER
The cost of silence

This is the second part of a column that began March 23. It's impossible to achieve action for change unless people are, first, informed, and second, confident their voices will be heard. The effort to silence climate scientists and others who demand an end to fossil fuels is considerable. However, the call for change is ever louder, as these success stories indicate.

SOLUTIONS: In June 2021, a tiny hedge fund called Engine No. 1 successfully pushed the energy giant Exxon to reduce its carbon footprint. Supported by highly influential investors, Engine 1 argued that Exxon wasn't making needed changes fast enough. This example of shareholder activism demonstrates that a mechanism exists for demanding companies' environmental responsibility. On Feb. 9, 2023, ClientEarth, a Shell shareholder, filed the world's first such lawsuit against Shell's board of directors for "failing to adopt and implement an energy transition strategy that aligns with the Paris Agreement." ClientEarth is a non-profit organization that uses the law to initiate changes to protect Earth. They received unprecedented support from international investors. In May 2021, a Dutch court ordered Royal Dutch Shell oil company to reduce its CO2 emissions 45 per cent by 2030, from 2019 levels. This win for environmental group Milieudefensie, the Dutch wing of Friends of the Earth, reflects a court's willingness

to dictate what a large business must do globally to protect the climate. This month at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, UN delegates reached an historic agreement called the High Seas Treaty, reflecting two decades of efforts by non-governmental organizations, civil society, academic institutions, and scientists. The treaty will protect marine biodiversity in international waters (two thirds of the ocean), considered crucial in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Scientist Rebellion is an international scientists' group campaigning for degrowth, climate justice and reducing climate change damage. In April 2022, more than 1,000 scientists from 25 countries participated in demonstrations following the IPCC report's release. In Los Angeles, four scientists chained themselves to the doors of JP Morgan Chase & Co., a bank with huge investments in fossil fuels. The protesters called for the bank's divestment from coal, oil, and gas. While arrested, the event was livestreamed on Facebook. In a press briefing afterwards, António Guterres, the UN secretary general said, "climate activists are sometimes depicted as dangerous radicals, but the truly dangerous radicals are the countries that are increasing the production of fossil fuels." Last week, after the UN released the 2023 IPCC report, the "Rocking Chair Rebellion" blockaded banks in 100 locations across the U.S. One group sang songs in the lobby of a Chase Bank in Washington before

being arrested. The author and environmentalist, Bill McKibben, helped launch a campaign, called Third Act, successfully organizing Americans older than 60 for climate action. Although significant numbers of climate defenders are imprisoned, many cases of environmentalists charged with public mischief are successfully acquitted, when allowed to present their actions as a reasonable response to the climate crisis. In 2021, activist Rowan Tilly was convicted for obstruction of a highway during an Extinction Rebellion protest, but the judge referenced the civil rights, anti-apartheid and suffragette movements and gave her an absolute discharge. In a landmark case going to trial this June, 16 young people are suing the state of Montana. They argue Montana's extensive support for fossil fuels is unconstitutional because the resulting pollution is dangerously heating the planet and has robbed them of a healthy environment. In February 2023, six members of Greenpeace International climbed a Shell oil and gas platform for Greenpeace's longest ever occupation of a moving platform. Threatened with fines and imprisonment, they were not deterred, and ultimately none of the activists was arrested. Next week: what you can do.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

LETTERS

Stopping speeding
in the County

Dear editor,

Over the past five years, despite valiant efforts to affect change in driving habits through pixel speed-monitoring boards, ticketing by OPP, road usage assessments by the roads department, signage for deer crossings, personal conversations with the former mayor, a dead deer in my driveway and multiple letters in the local papers, speeding in Haliburton continues unabated.

On Gelert Road, (County Rd. 1) alone, there is a fish hatchery, driving range, residential homes, hospital, long-term care facility, medical centre, and access roads to the three schools and residences on Grass Lake, plus nesting grounds for turtles, ducks, and multiple daily and nightly deer crossings.

Coming into town on Hwy. 118 from Tory Hill, is a very steep hill with lots of curves particularly treacherous on wet and wintry days. The Hwy. 118 entry point from West Guilford also has a very sharp curve ... with the lake on one side, and a seniors' residence on the other ... directly where seniors must cross the road to access the sidewalk. Haliburton's entry point on County Rd. 21 is fronted by several businesses, access to Industrial Park Road, a subdivision and the driveway to the high school, where all the school buses turn in twice daily.

Highland Street, the centre of town, with all its businesses, restaurants, delivery trucks and local traffic, is at-capacity daily, without the influx of seasonal visitors.

With the tourist season fast upon us, perhaps it is time for a different, more permanent approach.

May I suggest: a permanent speed-monitoring pixel board at each of the four entry points to town, and a reduced speed of 40 km\h.

Cheryl Cohoon
Haliburton

We, the people

Dear editor,

Are you tired of being blamed for all the damage done to the earth in the form of climate change? We everyday normal people who recycle, reuse and reduce are being asked to foot the bill for the colossal misdeeds of huge corporations.

Just a few:

- the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- the Bhopal cyanide gas leak (15,000 to 20,000 dead).

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Deb Robinson sent this photo taken by daughter Cassie Robinson on Harrington Trail on Soyers Lake.

- the spraying of Agent Orange over Vietnam.
 - the Exxon Valdez Prince Edward Sound Alaska oil spill (11 million gallons of oil spilled).
 - the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
 - industrial waste polluting Love Canal, evacuating 239 families (still an uninhabitable wasteland).
 - the Flint, Michigan water supply.
 - the Chernobyl meltdown (350,000 evacuated).
 - the deforestation of the rain forest.
 - the Gulf War oil spill (released 160 million gallons of oil into the Persian Gulf).
 - the industrial asbestos cloud released over Libby, Montana (400 died and thousands disabled).
 - the recent train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio (the spilled chemicals set on fire created a mushroom cloud of poison phosgene gas - a chemical used during the First World War, worse than chlorine gas).
- There are many more all caused by

corporations which, if they were fined at all, it usually was in the amount of a small portion of their operating budget. Yet now with the implementation of the carbon tax, governments around the world are demanding that we, the people, in many cases the actual victims, are being forced to pay.

Overall this tax will make most Canadian households financially worse off and is having significant negative effects on the economy and on Canadian workers across the country in the form of higher prices for home heating, gas and food. These too are just a few of the ramifications. Our federal and provincial governments are in the pockets of the corporation or on the strings of the puppet masters. Get your wallets out people because they're coming for your money.

Denise LeBlanc
Minden

Daylight saving time

Dear editor,

Why is Daylight Saving Time needed anyway as the First World War is long over?

There are accidents and our health is affected by the change also.

If it can be changed back and forth spring and fall, why can't it be left on Standard Time.

And if Saskatchewan can get along without it, why can't we as the states of North Dakota and Montana are at their southern border.

Why does it start so early in the year and end so late as the mornings are dark in the spring and the evenings are dark when it ends in the fall.

Why do we have to agree with others on changing it? Wasn't it put on us without anyone agreeing on it?

If it isn't abolished, it should be only from May to August 31.

Winston E. Ralph
Bancroft

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

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

Social media policy

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



Brad Robinson outside the family's general store prior to them selling in 2021. *File.*

Robinson's General Store to reopen in April

By Lisa Gervais

The Robinson family announced via social media last week that Robinson's General Store had again changed hands, with a new family, led by brothers Ven Komina and Satya Jyesta, planning to re-open the store in early April.

The Robinsons, who owned the store from 1921 to 2021, sold to Mike and Katie Hinbest. However, the Hinbests ran into financial hardship and closed the store Jan. 8.

During a Jan. 10 interview with *The Highlander*, Mike Hinbest said he had been speaking to the Robinsons about their difficulties.

Joanne Robinson posted to the Dorset community Facebook page March 23, to say, "after having been owned and operated by our family for 100 years, we were, like all of you, disappointed and devastated when we learned that our beloved Robinson's General

Store closed in January."

She said that since then, they have been working hard in the background to find a solution to allow the business to re-open.

"We understand the inconvenience this closure has caused the community and we thank you for your patience during this difficult time."

She went on to announce the new family taking over the operation of the store.

"Knowing how much the store is needed by the community, they plan to open in early April. It will take weeks and months after that to ramp up to full operation. Please understand this and support them through this transition time. We look forward to the community welcoming the new people and giving them all the support they need to allow the store to thrive again," Robinson added.

The Highlander was unable to contact Komina or Jyesta as of press time this week.



Brigitte Gall said she and Michael Bainbridge and family may be moving to Ottawa, but Occurrence puzzles will still be available, in store at UpRiver in Haliburton and Minden, and custom puzzles by order. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Don't be puzzled by move

Brigitte Gall and Michael Bainbridge may be moving their puzzle factory, The Occurrence, to Ottawa. However, the two said people will be able to purchase their work at UpRiver in Haliburton and Minden. In addition, they will still take Haliburton County orders for custom-made puzzles. Bainbridge has accepted

a job as assistant curator of the National Mineral Collection of the Canadian Museum of Nature. Gall said they will leave once their daughters finish high school for the year. For now, you can find them at 130 Industrial Park Road, unit 2, Haliburton; and check out their website at theoccurrence.ca. (*Lisa Gervais*).

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Cinematographer Owen Deveney and director Matt Finlin in Highlands Cinemas. File.

Falling in love with Highlands Movie Man

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands Cinema owner Keith Stata was a boy in 1960 when the movie, *The Time Machine*, was released.

The Kinmount lad got a lift to Minden with a neighbouring family and went to see the American post-apocalyptic science fiction film at the Beaver Theatre.

Time is a recurring theme in the hours upon hours of interviews documentary filmmaker, Matt Finlin, has done with Stata while working on *The Movie Man*.

"He speaks about time a lot, not having enough time, his time is limited, mortality, he says, 'if I just had a time machine, I could go back in time, and fix all of this stuff and really blow the socks off people'," Finlin shared in an interview with *The Highlander* March 23.

A partner in Door Knocker Media, a Toronto-based video production company, Finlin and his team have been in post-production since January on what will be a feature length film of more than an hour on the iconic Highlands Cinema and Stata, the man who built and continues to run it.

"We are very close to having a first cut of the film, which is great. Really excited and cautiously excited. It's a funny movie," Finlin said.

Finlin said he became friends with Stata over the four years he has been chipping away at the documentary, so he might be too close to the work to have perspective. However, he said his editor, "is enjoying himself so much. There's a lot of humour in it and a lot of heart which really brings out the best qualities in Keith."

He added the generations of Highlanders who have gone to the cinema are going to enjoy it, while those who have never been to the movie house on the hill will be intrigued.

Finlin said he has two goals in making the documentary, which really became an ear worm for him, when, at the age of 11, he visited Highlands Cinema for the first time.

Goal one? "Really making sure we fall in love with him (Stata) as a character who has dedicated his life to this thing. It's incredible. When we wrapped up filming with Keith in the fall, we did this long form interview, and it was almost sad to see it end."

Second goal? He'd love to have a gala-type screening at the theatre in Kinmount, encompassing some form of fundraising for both the business, which was closed for two-and-a-half years due to COVID, and the 50 cats that Stata takes care of.

"So, people who have enjoyed the cinema for 40 years can come and celebrate the film, and celebrate Keith. That would be a big thing for me, to show Keith what an impact he's had on people. He knows that, but I think just to really see that and feel that in a room would be really nice."

He's also preparing to send a rough cut to the Toronto International Film Festival selection committee. "It's a movie about going to the movies and why not have it at an international festival?"

He plans to have *The Movie Man* ready for summer.

Finlin said making the documentary has presented challenges. It's taken four years, with Finlin picking away at the project when he had time. There was some doubt if the theatre would open post-pandemic "and then we get to see the success of the reopening and how Keith's legacy is continuing."

There's been a lot of footage to sift through. Editing has been tough because there's, "no shortage of good stuff because he's entertaining."

Then there is Stata, himself. Finlin admitted that sometimes, during the pandemic, he talked about the business, the plight of small business, as well as the state of cinema during interviews, and he had to "pull him back to the case at hand."

Finlin also feels a sense of responsibility since Stata is no longer just the subject of the documentary.

"We're friends. I care very much about him. As a documentarian, you want to capture the whole story, but it becomes difficult when you become attached to this person, and you really are rooting for him."

To complete the documentary, Finlin is looking for still photographs of the Beaver Theatre in Minden around the time *The Time Machine* would have been shown in 1960. If you have any photos of the theatre from that era, please email them to matt@doorknockermedia.com.

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Top: Some of the participants in this year's Sleeping in Cars in the Head Lake parking lot. Bottom: Some young people joined in this year's event. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Car sleepers raise \$8K for P4P

By Lisa Gervais

Places for People (P4P) board president Jody Curry said they were "very pleased" with the turnout, and thankful for the weather, during the March 24-25 Sleeping in Cars event this year.

"We had about 28 people (most cars had more than one person in them) and about 15 others that dropped in and brought donations."

She said two people arrived with hot pizza, some of which was eaten cold the next morning, causing one participant to comment 'hey, this event was just like college'."

Curry said she also heard from another first-time participant that it was an eye-opening experience "and not a comfortable one. She felt that many people should try it for greater

understanding of others. One indicated it was interesting that we view it as roughing it for the night, when we had vehicles to sleep in out of the weather, cushy foam mattresses, warm sleeping bags, a heated washroom nearby, and food provided. She did not have to get up and get herself looking presentable for work the next day or get her cold kids off to school."

Curry said it was a success as they created awareness, and, so far, have raised more than \$8,300 for P4P.

Algonquin Highlands councillors Jennifer Dailloux and Sabrina Richards slept out, and Minden Hills councillor Shirley Johannessen and Dysart et al councillor Pat Casey dropped by, organizers said.

P4P is still accepting donations on the website if someone missed pledging. Go to placesforpeople.ca.



Dinah Wilson of the Haliburton County Master Gardeners and Trent University student Caleb Brown. *Submitted.*

Student research leads to walking tour

By Lisa Gervais

Locating an abundance of Northern Paper Wasp along the Minden River Walk was a “major, exciting find” for Caleb Brown, as the Trent University student worked with the Haliburton County Master Gardeners to track pollinators as part of his U-Links project this past year.

Brown’s was just one of 20 Trent University and Fleming College research projects presented at U-Links Celebration of Research March 25 in the Great Hall at Haliburton School of Art + Design. He was one of three students who presented their findings in front of the first in-person gathering in four years.

Brown added the Northern Paper Wasp’s nesting grounds have been under competition from the newer European Paper Wasp, but they are winning out in Minden. That’s a good thing, he added, since they are the native species. They’re finding food in the flower gardens along the River Walk, and, in turn, helping the gardens to thrive.

Another highlight of his research, said Brown, was finding Monarch butterflies. “I think the Monarch butterfly has kind of become the forefront of conservation. It’s definitely an icon and we recognize that its population is dwindling, but we did see them along the trail, and they really liked a lot of the flowers that were there.”

Brown said a lot of people think you need to plant milkweed to attract Monarchs, but that’s actually for the caterpillars, while adult Monarch will harvest nectar from almost any flower.” For example, he said they found Monarchs on Canadian sunflowers.

Brown added the change from turf grass to a diverse range of flowering plants has been a boon to pollinators and insects in general.

He said they found at least 20 different categories of insects. He added more insects also attract birds and other wildlife.

Shelley Fellows, of the Haliburton County Master Gardeners, is the project lead for ‘stepping into nature’ – which is the result of the Trent and master gardeners’ collaboration. They’re developing a multi-media walking tour of the diverse flora and fauna along the Minden River Walk Trail.

They worked with Brown last fall to produce a detailed inventory of the insects that form part of an “incredibly rich and diverse community along this beautiful riverfront trail,” Fellows said.

She added visitors to ‘stepping into nature’ can access audio tracks, photos and detailed information on the plants and insects found along the trail via a smartphone app called PocketSights.

The tour also contains tips and descriptions on how to naturalize property, how to manage shoreline erosion and how best to deal with the Canada Geese.

Fellows said ‘stepping into nature’ also received financial support from the Haliburton County Development Corporation and community donors. It will launch in May.

Sadie Fischer, environmental program coordinator with U-Links, said, “we feel it’s important to host this event so that we can showcase all the hard work the students are putting in to produce valuable information that can actually inspire change in our communities. It’s a really good way to bring people together and educate them on some of the most pressing issues we’re seeing in the County.”

CORNER GALLERY



We have a fantastic assortment of works in the gallery right now, including oil paintings, acrylics and some outstanding one-of-a-kind silk screen prints.

Come and see artwork from Byron Hodgson, Harvey Walker, Barbara Hart and Carole Finn.

We are open by chance or appointment.
Call now or email
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FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03. Municipal Tax Sale Rules
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on April 27, 2023, at the Highlands East Municipal Office, 2249 Loop Road Wilberforce Ontario. **Submitted Tenders will be opened virtually by Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855409293?pwd=Wm1DKzRmbWFsZXhMREYwMIJRMTVzd09>** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Highlands East Municipal Office, 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No.46 01 601 000 52100 0000; 1930 Glamor Lake Rd., Gooderham; PIN 39233-0140 (LT); PT LT 2 CON 11 MONMOUTH AS IN H136595; HIGHLANDS EAST; File 19-02
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$145,000
Minimum tender amount: \$17,461.31

2. Roll No. 46 01 902 000 01902 0000; Irondale Rd.; PIN 39225-0148 (LT); LT 5 CON 6 GLAMORGAN BTN BURNT RIVER & RDAL BTN CON 5 AND CON 6; HIGHLANDS EAST; File 19-06
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$1,600
Minimum tender amount: \$5,315.45

3. Roll No. 46 01 902 000 55900 0000; Highlands East; PIN 39230-0218 (LT); PT LT 28 CON 9 GLAMORGAN AS IN H40836; HIGHLANDS EAST; File 19-08
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$26,000
Minimum tender amount: \$9,229.43

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, availability of road access, or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the “Act”), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province’s Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:
www.OntarioTaxSales.ca
or if no internet access available, contact:
Shelley Fice-Trimble
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road
Box 295
Wilberforce ON K0L 3C0
705-448-2981 Ext. 424
sfice-trimble@highlandseast.ca
www.highlandseast.ca



Initiation White

James Seed, Annabelle Hutson, Brey Woodward, Matthew Foisy, Iverson Walker, Harper Roberts, Levi Kinghorn, Ruby Walt, Rhys Foster, Kenneth Heickert, Tyler Vehse, Quinntin Clark, Brayden Miscio, Vincent Stewart, Logan Stancati, Naia Hicks and Max Baker. *Submitted.*



Initiation Yellow

Sawyer Willis, Evan Joanu, Blake Coty, Maddox Gaffney, Madison Vehse, Keaton DeCarlo, Hudson Lynch, Jack Hunter, Gryphon Luck, Sawyer Mills, Jude Williams. *Submitted.*



Initiation Blue

Clark Frybort, Jase Cox, Kenzie Bishop, Dean Da Lanca, Ryan Cox, Charlotte Houghton, Leon MacInnes, Michael Clancy, Harper Kadlovski, Jai Rowden, Ryerson Jones, Nathan Demerchant, Orson Lavoie, Blaeklynn Reynolds, Carter Kadlovski. *Submitted.*



Lucas Hillaby, Travis Hutchinson, Kipton Cunningham, Arizona Latanville, Frances Gilmour, Ashton Emmerson, Felix Dart, Benjamin Gaffney, Alexander Brown, Sullivan Brind, Lawson Ramsay, Soyer Joanu, Roarke Stanfield, Rome Hicks, Hunter Carefoote. *Submitted.*

U7 LL Highland Storm

The G.J. Burtch Construction Highland Storm U7 Local League team was disappointed to see their hockey season come to an end last week. The kids would like to thank their parents and families for their support this season. The U7 team had a great season, playing some exhibition games against our local MPS rivals, Huntsville and Muskoka, in addition to participating in our local Glen Dart Jamboree. A welcome surprise was being asked to take part in the U8 end of season tournament with other Muskoka-Parry Sound teams. Thanks to great coaching from Gavin Hicks, Jordan Joanu and Ryan Ramsay, the U8 teams we played against didn't stand a chance against us. The U7 team would like to send a special thank you to G.J. Burtch Construction for their many years of being a valued sponsor with Highland Storm. *Submitted.*

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U8 LL Highland Storm

The kids of the U8 Smolen Dentistry Highland Storm team had a great year playing against different teams in the region. They came out strong, winning all the season games and finding a few challenging teams in our hometown Glen Dart tournament. All the players should be proud of themselves for a great year. We would like to thank our sponsor, Smolen Dentistry, and the parents and volunteers that make this happen. Without you, we could not do it. Go Storm go! *Submitted.*

Cohen Carpenter, Julian Mardus, Sebastian Dart, Emmett Legge, Jackson Little, Lucas Neville, Ryan Vehse, Penelope Irvine, Bentley Wilson, Isaiah Young, Abby Stancati, Jackson Mihalic, Nolan Carpenter, Tripp Meier, Gaelyn Mooney-Monster, Chase Casella. *Submitted.*



U9 LL Highland Storm

The U9LL Highland Storm had a very fun season together. In addition to successful individual growth, the team came together as a disbanded representative tier to mix with a local league level to galvanize the players on a common goal.

We had a number of first year skaters, which by the end of the season, had considerable skill growth.

Our hometown tournament was a well-fought four-game battle. A list-minute goal against staved off our chances for championship glory. We also participated in the Parry Sound tournament and had an excellent showing in securing the B Championship in dominating form.

A solid showing during the regular season with some impressive, wide margin games, as well as some very tight matchups set our team up for the MPSHL showdown in the A bracket. A very well- fought first game was overshadowed by a blown lead for the second game. Our final game was a carbon copy of the shortcomings from the season; a single goal loss put the final nail into our successful season. *Submitted.*

Nathan Hill, Wyatt Braun, Mason Bishop, Grayson Thomas, Everett Bjelis, Nolan Frybort, Beau Gilmour, Olivia Emmerson, Brody Alton, Kolby Hogg, William Brown, Ethan Draker, Chase Casey, Aliyah Cox, Brantley Worsfold, Raelyn Adlam, Campbell Adlam. *Submitted.*



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Do or die as Huskies trail series 3-0

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Huskies have their backs against the wall, trailing the Wellington Dukes three games to none in their best of seven, second round, OJHL playoff series.

It's a must-win situation for the Blue and White tonight (March 30) at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena or the Huskies' second season in the OJHL will draw to a close.

Head coach Ryan Ramsay said, "our message is your backs are against the wall, how do you guys respond as a group? It's a character check. It's a gut check. We won a lot of hockey games this year. We're a good team. Just go out and play."

"I think the boys got together as a group Tuesday, so there's no quit in them."

Dukes 8 Huskies 0

The Dukes thumped the Blue and White 8-0 March 27.

It was all Welly on a night that saw them score four first period goals, followed by another four in the second frame.

The Dukes took advantage of a Huskies parade to the sin bin, with two powerplay goals in the second.

They also notched a short-handed tally.

Goalie Aidan Spooner was chased at 9:14 of the first after surrounding three goals on three shots.

Tyler Hodges came in to face another 45 shots, turning aside 40. The Huskies managed 29 shots but could not crack Jacob Osborne in the Dukes' net.

Dukes 4 Huskies 3

On Saturday (March 25) the Blue and White got off to a 3-1 first-period lead.

Handed a powerplay at the 6:09 mark, it took just 41 seconds for Christian Stevens to snipe one past Osborne to get the home crowd into the game early. Boyd Stahlbaum and Isaac Sooklal got the assists.

Then, just 1:10 later, Patrick Saini found the back of the net, from Sooklal and Luca Rea, to spot the Huskies a 2-0 lead and what looked to be a rout.

It was short-lived, though, as Wellington answered back a little over four minutes later, at 12:09, with Luke Strickland beating Spooner.

But the sell-out crowd was soon back on its feet, when, at 13:05, Stevens popped his second powerplay goal of the period, from Alex Cunningham and Sooklal, to send the Huskies into the dressing room up 3-1.

But it was all Wellington from there as they roared back for the win.

Dukes 4 Huskies 2

On Friday (March 24) the series opened in Wellington with the Dukes taking game one.

Wellington opened the scoring at 8:56 before Sooklal tied things, from Stahlbaum and Saini. The Huskies took the lead in the second, on a Stevens powerplay goal.

However, Wellington scored three, third-period goals, including an empty netter.

Puck drop tonight is 7 p.m. in Minden.



Huskies goalie Aidan Spooner has been peppered with shots this series. OJHL Images.

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Top left: The Blue and White celebrate a goal against Wellington on home ice. Top right: Josh Currie is surrounded by a sea of Dukes red. Bottom left: The Dukes peppered goalie Aidan Spooner with shots in the third period of Saturday's game. Bottom right: Christian Stevens scores his first of two goals in a March 25 game. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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**Minden Hills Advisory Committees
Call for Committee Members**

Submission deadline for applications has been extended to March 31, 2023

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
K0M 2K0

sprentice@mindenhills.ca

Application deadline is **Friday, March 31, 2023**, by 12:00 noon.

For an Application Form or for more information, please visit our website www.mindenhills.ca/ Local Government/Committees and Boards, or contact admin@mindenhills.ca or call the Clerk's Department at 705-286-1260 ext. 512



Hello spring

Spring Splash at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride March 25 marked the end of a successful winter season at the local ski hill. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

EVENTS

March 31, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
It's parachute time at the Dysart library. Children will get the chance to shake their wiggles out as they listen to music and shake the 'chute. For children ages 2 to 5. A caregiver must be present.

April 1, 2 to 4 p.m.
Adults are invited to the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for an altered-book craft. The April project is a folded book bunny. No registration required.

April 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.

April 12, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Join the Community Legal Clinic at the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for an informative free session about wills and powers of attorney.

April 14, 2 to 3 p.m.
Learn basic skills on smartphones and tablets at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Session will focus on iOS (Apple) devices.

April 15, 5 p.m.
Red Wolves Special Olympics dinner/dance fundraiser at the Haliburton Legion. Western theme. Social at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m., featuring beef on a bun, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans and homemade desserts. Tickets are \$25 and available at Up River Trading Company in Haliburton or Minden.

April 19, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Are you a French speaker or a French language learner looking for a space to converse in French? join the French Conversation Circle at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library

for some friendly discussion. All levels welcome.

April 22, 2 to 3 p.m.
Join Mary-Ellen at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library to learn about the history and health benefits of tea. After the session you will be able to sample different types of tea.

April 29, 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 work the 'chute. For children aged two to five. A caregiver must be in attendance.

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.

Haliburton Highlands Writers and editors Network. Meet third Thursday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635.

The Gooderham, Highland Grove, Minden Hills, Stanhope and Wilberforce branches of the Haliburton County Public Library are hosting drop-in winter craft sessions during open hours from Jan. 3 to 7. Children of all ages welcome.

Join the Haliburton County Public Library for family story time, weekly from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Minden library and Thursdays at the Dysart library. Appropriate for children up to the age of six. Must be accompanied by a caregiver.

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 •
• **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

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call the Legion at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129. Everyone is welcome.

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 p.p. • **Sat:** Music and Meat Roll, music starts at 2 p.m., meat roll at 3 p.m.
Lunch & Music - March 31

Ham & scalloped potatoes or liver & onions \$13 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Followed by country music jam 1 to 4 p.m. Open mic & local talent. Food bank donations would be appreciated.

For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

Everyone is Welcome.

WILBERFORCE BRANCH
March 31: pool at 2 p.m. Fish and chips, chicken fingers and fries between 5 and 8 p.m.
April 1: open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.
April 2 and 3: closed
April 4: executive meeting at 7 p.m.
April 5: open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.
April 6: open 2 to 6 p.m.

Upcoming nominations of the executive to take place April 11.

If you are planning a function for social or other event, providing our guidelines/conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.

Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Please reach out as soon as possible to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!


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39	S	I	T	U													40	A	T	I	O	N				41	N	O	R	M	A	L			
42	F	L	E	S	H												43	C	L	E	O					44	A	P	B	S					
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49	B	A	N	S													52	T	53	O	54	M	C				55	O	N	N	O	R	S		
57	A	T	A														58	K	A	N	Y	E				59	D	E	V	I	L				
60	R	E	F	L	E	C	T	E	D								61									62	O	N				63	I	V	Y
64	B	A	T	T	Y												65	A	R	E	N	O									66	S	E	A	
67	S	T	A	R	S												68	P	S	S	S	T								69	E	R	S		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	B	2	A	3	G		4	O	5	R	6	A	7	N	8	G		9	A	10	P	11	T	12	T	13	O	
14	A	G	E				15	W	E	R	E	A					16	B	R	I	E	R				17	S	
18	D	O	M				19	I	N	A	T	O	R				20	B	E	N	N	I	E					
							21	S	U	P	I	N	E			22	G	R	A	F	T	O	N					
23	S	24	C	25	A	L	P							26	A	T	E			27	M	O	O	L	A			
28	Q	U	I	E	T			29	O	30	N	T	H	E		31	S	P	I	N	E	T						
32	M	E	D					33	O	W	I	E				34	E	S	L									
35	I	R	A	36	Q			37	I	N	S			38	T	39	E	P			40	S	41	L	42	I	43	P
								44	U	45	S	N			46	E	R	A	47	T			48	I	C	I		
49	P	50	I	51	P	I	N	G		52	I	53	N	A	B	L	A		54	N	K	E	T					
55	A	D	E	N	O					56	S	O	S					57	W	E	E	D	Y					
58	B	O	S	T	O			59	N	P	O	P	P	I	N	S												
62	S	N	E	E	Z	E								63	D	O	O	L	I	T			64	T	65	L	66	E
67	T	O	T	T	E	R								68	L	O	U	I	E				69	O	O	O		
								70	T	A	S	S	O			71	E	N	T	E	R			72	P	I	N	

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

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We are currently accepting resumes for the following position;

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Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job descriptions.

Please submit your resume by **3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



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3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Royal Canadian Legion, Haliburton

Register Today!
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flemingcrew.ca




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

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

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Call 705-457-9898

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Call Shannon 306-317-7073

MARK'S RESTAURANT
– Kitchen help needed. Full or Part Time, no experience necessary. Call Wilson at 705-286-1818 or bring resume to Mark's Restaurant in Minden.

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SERVICES

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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

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.

Think It Over

Across

- 1 Very hush-hush, to Haydn
4 Runs smoothly, as a motor
9 Martini's mate in wine
14 Bee-dee link
15 Utopian
16 Flip over
17 Office connection acronym
18 Taste master
20 Build ___ egg
22 i.e., in full
23 1101, to Brutus
24 Babylike facial feature
26 Albanian bills
27 Heating brand that's "hard to stop"
28 Classical grp. at Roy Thomson Hall
30 Castle-storming hindrance
31 "Yesterday!"
35 Noted nasty of "All My Children"
39 Snafu, at first?
42 Hue used in nudes
43 "Pinocchio" goldfish
44 Cruiser's alerts, briefly
45 Classic Canuckisms, supposedly
47 Scottish landowner
49 Prohibits
52 P.E.I. singer who stomped on stage
57 One-time bridge
58 2021 Grammy-winner West for "Jesus Is King"
59 Apt name for Cruella
60 Pondered deeply ... as depicted in 18-, 24-, 39- and 52-Across
63 Kid vittles
64 Out to lunch
65 "There ___ stupid questions"
66 Black or Red body
67 Teacher's supply for excellent work
68 Hissed "heyyy!"
69 Toastmasters newbie's utterances

Down

- 1 School setting for techies
2 Ingredient to be avoided by anaphylaxis sufferers
3 Break through
4 Former army base on Lake Ontario
5 Ginseng veggie in miso soup
6 Kidney enzyme
7 Some no-name, slangily
8 Purplish plums
9 What aluminum doesn't do
10 Photo finishes?
11 "You Won't ___" (Beatles song)
12 Moved unseen
13 Elba of film, not palindrome
19 "But ___ fire to the rain" (Adele lyric)
21 Facebook updates
25 Pleasing to Unger
26 Quiche kind of German origin
29 Hit-boosting tool, in webspeak
30 French abbr. of Doctors Without Borders
32 "___ 'em, Cujol!"
33 Verizon buy of 2015
34 Annual fest in the West, for short
36 Partake in TheatreSports, say
37 One offering curbside pickup?

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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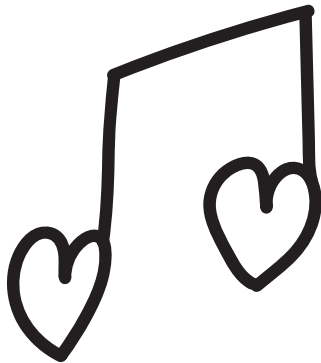
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	3	9			8			4
1						9		
4	5			3			8	2
		3						1
3			1			4	2	
	8			6		1		
			8	4	3			9



snubsta

Soon it will be summer
and the sparrow will sing.
It knows, however, the gap
between the notes
is where the music is born.

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