MINDEN ER CLOSURE



# heHighlander

Thursday **April 27 2023** | Issue 587

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# Hundreds gather for Minden ER closure meeting

By Lisa Gervais

Patrick Porzuczek told a packed house at the Minden Community Centre April 25 he'd never organized anything like the 'Save Minden Ontario Emergency Room' Facebook group.

However, he said since moving to the town seven years ago, he'd found a community and extended family. And that included the Minden emergency room after having twice had his abnormal heart beat return to a normal rhythm.

"My wife got in the car with our three kids and drove me to the ER while I was in an arrhythmia so I could be shocked. There's many people in this room that know of, or have had, emergency services at the Minden ER. There's many heart attack patients, cancer patients, patients that had an accident at home that used these vital services and saved our lives,' he said. He added his six-year-old daughter also received excellent care when she had a recent heart

He urged the crowd, that numbered in the hundreds, to look around the room and asked, "if we didn't have that emergency department in Minden, would that person sitting beside you be here today?"

The community came together to share stories of their life-saving interactions with Minden emerge, sign a petition, donate money, collect signs, and begin organizing next steps in their fight to keep the Minden ER open.

"I want to create awareness. I want to get these signs on lawns. I want to get the conversation started. I want all of you to go out there and write your letters to [HHHS CEO and president] Carolyn Plummer,"

Continued 'Organizers' on page 2



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# Organizers vow to fight HHHS closure decision

Continued from page 1

Porzuczek said. "Carolyn, we need you to come to Minden, face us face-to-face, tell us your plan. Tell us what you're doing and why and how you're going to handle it. We want to know how you made this decision, on all our behalf, without consulting any one of us."

He added they'd like answers as to anticipated wait times at Haliburton emerge, for 911, or if there is a major car accident on Hwy. 35, "how they will get immediate care having to drive 25 minutes or more to Minden?"

He said Plummer and the hospital board had made a decision, "that is going to affect us here in Minden for the rest of our lives. We cannot let this hospital close. Let's fix it. Not close it."

He vowed his group would do whatever it takes to save the Minden ER. Porzuczek plans to drive the petitions to Queen's Park this week.

Mayor Bob Carter said they "knew the decision was wrong" and he's concerned about the timing, with the closure coming June 1, at the beginning of a busy County summer. He added it's one of the oldest populations in Ontario. "As you get older, you need those

hospital services, so this decision in inexplicable."

He said they had to continue the momentum in the hopes of pausing the decision. He noted Plummer and board chair David O'Brien will be addressing Minden council today

Members of the crowd talked about the impact of COVID vaccine mandates on health care workers leaving their professions, the province mismanaging health care and allowing agency nurses and a move to privatization, while others said Haliburton's ER will be greatly impacted and that Minden serves people living south of the town.

Richard Bradley said Minden has successfully fought daycare and Service Ontario planned closures. "It sounds like a Moses thing here. We have done floods...we have survived all of those things ...'

Former HHHS health care worker Christina Allore advised the group as to what to focus on.

"We are entitled as Canadians to accessible and safe care. Those are the two key points that you have to press because moving up to there [Haliburton] is not accessible and it is not safe."

Go to Save Minden Ontario Emergency Room on Facebook for more information on the group.



Patrick Porzuczek addressed the crowd at a Minden meeting April 25. Photo by Lisa Gervais.



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# Emergency services to be consolidated

#### Minden ED slated for closure

By Lisa Gervais

The Minden emergency department is closing, with all emergency and in-patient services to be consolidated at Haliburton hospital, effective June 1.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) made the announcement April 20, saying Minden and the surrounding area will be able to access emergency services at the Haliburton site, and staff working in the Minden emergency department will be transferred to the Haliburton emergency department.

Chair of the HHHS board of directors, David O'Brien, said, "this was an evidence-based decision, which was made in the best interest of our community. Today is an important day for HHHS, because it means that we will continue to be able to provide the high-quality health services that Haliburton County residents and visitors count on."

President and CEO, Carolyn Plummer, added the move, "is really related to our health human resource crisis." She said the shortage of nursing and medical staff has meant the organization has needed to take "extraordinary" measures to keep both emergency departments operating, "which has required significant personal and professional sacrifices from staff.

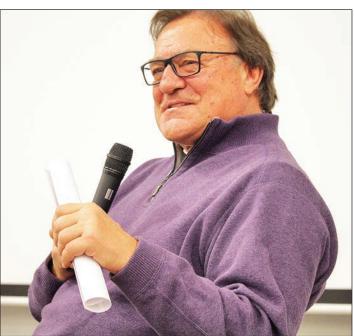
"By bringing together HHHS' emergency services at one site, there will be more staff available to help create a more stable and effective staffing situation overall."

She said there would be no job losses and the service will still need to recruit approximately five to six full-time equivalent nurses.

The service has had to rely on agency nurses, which has contributed to an approximate \$3 million deficit as of the last board meeting. Plummer said the decision isn't about money but, "it will certainly reduce the need for agency nurses and the associated cost, but this is really about making sure that we're making the best use of the resources we have."

Acting chief of staff, Dr. Norm Bottum said consolidations are not new. They have occurred in Peterborough, Cobourg and





HHHS CEO and president, Carolyn Plummer, and board chair, David O'Brien made the announcement last Thursday. File.

Port Hope, and led to those consolidated sites being able to expand their services, he said.

"There's been a limit to maintaining services at both sites," he added of Minden and Haliburton. "As medical staff, I've sat in on many strategic plans where we thought it would be ideal to be under one site. There's lots of efficiencies."

He added while the board has "gone above and beyond" to keep both Minden and Haliburton emergency departments operating, "the writings' been on the wall." He referenced the check-stop-go put in place in case of temporary emergency room closures and, "things have gotten worse over the last year rather than better. It's something we anticipated would happen a lot sooner."

#### Difficult for Minden communitu

Plummer acknowledged, "we know this is going to be a very difficult message for the Minden community. We're very cognizant of that.

"This was a very tough decision in that regard. It certainly wasn't made lightly. We've been talking about this and looking at options for quite some time. This is the decision that we needed to make in order to continue to provide health services in the County and make sure that everyone in the County has access to those services, and to give us the opportunity to build a really robust emergency department and hospital service. [This will] give us the opportunity to grow and evolve in the future to meet the growing needs of our community."

Asked about the fact Minden has more ER visits than Haliburton, Plummer said they needed to make sure their consolidated emergency department was attached to in-patient beds. There are 15 in Haliburton. Shifting to Minden would have required ministry approval, delays, and costly renovations, she added. The Haliburton site will require a few minor alterations.

Plummer said Haliburton is also "a little more central in the County as well from an EMS response perspective and travel distance perspective.'

As for the future of the Minden site, Plummer said, "we're going to look at lots of different opportunities for that site and what might help better meet the needs of the community.

Dr. Bottum added, "in the long run,

for the benefit of the organization, consolidating to one site and being able to optimize those services is going to be a bonus for the County for years to come. Instead of splitting money between two sites, which was politically nice, but from a medical standpoint, we've supported the idea of a single emergency department for

He also said it made sense to have a consolidated site to better recruit personnel and a primary emergency site to bolster the application for a CT scanner.

Plummer said since they have been planning for near closures for months, a lot of the legwork has been done for the transition. However, she said there would be adjustments for staffing, space, patient flow, equipment and parking, to name a

They are also rolling out a communications strategy that will include signage at Minden hospital and on highways, and staff on-site in Minden to redirect patients when needed.

"This decision is about maintaining the safety of our patients, the sustainability of our services, and the care our patients receive, and the well-being of our staff teams," Plummer said.



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# 4 Highlander news

# MPP Laurie Scott backs HHHS decision

MPP Laurie Scott has endorsed HHHS' decision to consolidate services at Haliburton

The Highlander asked Scott about a \$3 million HHHS deficit, created in part by delayed transfer payments; the Ford government not allowing nurses' salaries to increase by more than one per cent a year over three years; and it allowing agency nursing in

Scott said when it comes to transfer payments, the process has not changed. She said the province has tried to make it faster but it is similar with all transfers from government to agencies. "It takes a little bit to do the catch

She further said the Ontario government is in the midst of negotiations with Ontario nurses 'so, that's evolving.'

As to agency nursing, she did not directly answer the question.

Rather, she said, "I think what they did in Haliburton was look at the fact of how many nurses and doctors they have and the reality of 'we're more stable in one site, that we can provide more nursing care. There's more nurses if we pool it together.' I think you'll see that we'll have a stronger emerge and we're going to have to develop Haliburton a little bit more."

She mentioned the ask for a CT scanner is now before the Ministry of Health.

Scott said there is a global staffing crisis and the province is taking action, such as investments to expand family health teams, increased hospital beds, more than 12,000 nurses being registered this year alone, and last fall more than 109,000 students entering the

nursing field, but that it will take time.

"You can't, when you're dealing with this, say 'stop agencies'," she said. "Other areas have different needs. Lindsay doesn't necessarily use agency but they have more flexibility. They have more staff to pull from."

Pressed by *The Highlander* that if they paid public sector nurses more, they might not need agency nurses, Scott said, "there's two emergency rooms in Haliburton County. And I know the population fluctuates in the summer time. But that's lots of access to emergencies."

She was further adamant HHHS' decision was not about funding.

"The hospital will stabilize because they'll be able to hire more. There's lots of positive things on the horizon."

Scott added with a "great" community paramedicine program and pharmacists treating more common health care conditions, it deflects the need for more emergency department visits. She is also looking forward to hearing HHHS' ideas for the Minden site once the emergency department closes.

Agency nursing has been around for years, but boomed during COVID. Liberal MPP Adil Shamji is pushing for a Private Members Bill, the Temporary Nursing Agency Licensing and Regulation Act, to include mandatory licensing for temporary nursing agencies, a ban on "unconscionable pricing" and restrictions on how they can recruit.

During Question Period at Queen's Park April 26, health minister Sylvia Jones was asked about the Minden ER closure. She said it was a hospital board decision "in the best interests of the community." She added it was independent of ministry decision-making.



MPP Laurie Scott was at Queen's Park April 25. File.

# INFORMATION PAGE

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#### **CULTURAL CENTRE EVENT**

Cross Cut. an exhibit by Rob Niezen, will be on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery May 4 – July 1. The exhibit features 24 linocuts illustrating traditional Ontario folk songs reimagined in a contemporary context. The opening reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 1-3 pm.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm.

Admission is by donation. For more information please look at the events calendar https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2023-05-04-1000-Cross-Cut-Exhibit-by-Rob-Niezen.

#### SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT MARCH 17, 2023

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.

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NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2023 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden
Hills on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers
located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON, to consider adopting the 2023
Estimates By-law related to the 2023 Municipal Budget.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2023 Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer • 705-286-1260 ext. 504 gbedard@mindenhills.ca

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM from April 1st to October 31st, and fireworks permit for the ignition of fireworks. A burn permit is issued for the season. Visit our website at mindenhills.ca for current fees. Contact the Fire Department for fireworks permit prior to the ignition of fireworks at 705-286-1202.

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING(S) - APRIL 27, 2023

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding Public Meetings on Thursday, April 27, 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting.

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

The purpose of the meetings is to receive public input on the following: Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law Schedule A - Classes of Permits & Fees – Building; and • Proposed 2023 Municipal Budget.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact: Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk (705) 286-1260 Ext 505 • tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca

#### (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

> April 13 - Regular Council Meeting April 27 - 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.

IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

Don't recycle your current Landfill Card, blue in colour, valid from May 1, 2021-April 30, 2023, it has been extended to the end of December 2023.

# Minden erupts over emergency closure

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills politicians and residents are fighting a decision by Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) to close the emergency department at the Minden hospital.

HHHS announced April 20 it is shuttering the Minden emergency and consolidating services at the Haliburton site effective June 1.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter and deputy mayor Lisa Schell have publicly expressed their outrage at the move and the town has rallied with a Save Minden Ontario Emergency Room Facebook group, a GoFundMe, and a petition.

In an interview with *The Highlander*, Carter said, "Every one of us knows people in our community that are walking this earth today because of the availability of that Minden emerge and the dedicated staff that work there."

Carter said the closure would greatly impact his constituents. "We have the person in Miner's Bay who's in a real tough spot. They have to start going off in different directions." It's been suggested some patients living in the south and west of Minden Hills may have to be taken to hospitals outside of the County.

There will be a number of repercussions, the mayor added.

He said residents of Hyland Crest longterm care home, who used to be wheeled down the hall to the emergency department when they needed attention, will now have to be taken by ambulance to Haliburton. He fears they will face long wait times.

As a County councillor, since the County is responsible for land ambulances, he also decried that EMS was only informed April 20, despite being in the midst of developing a strategic plan for the future of the service.

County of Haliburton CAO Mike Rutter said EMS chief Tim Waite met with his management staff April 20 to discuss how the changes may impact them. "I expect those discussions will extend to front line staff over the next few days.

Carter doesn't like the timing, either. "This is just such a poorly-planned decision. Here we are with six weeks notice... and we're going to introduce it when? Just at the start of the time when



Petitions such as this one have been spreading across the township. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

our population triples."

He noted Minden Hills is also the fastest growing township in the County, with the 2021 Census pegging growth at 7.7 per cent since 2016. He said he personally would not move to Minden Hills if he knew it no longer had an ER.

He added Minden Hills council is not going to take the decision lying down.

"We are going to stand with the community to fight this. I termed it as ill advised, ill timed and ill planned and the problem is all those ills and there's no emergency room to go to. They may think it's a done deal and so on ... and we don't know all of our options ... but we're not going to let this stand. We certainly cannot let an unelected group of people (HHHS management and the hospital board) make such huge decisions that affect all of our

Schell was equally critical. She took to Facebook to say, "the decision by the HHHS board and CEO to close Minden Emerg as of June 1, is very short-sighted and difficult to understand. Minden is listed as one of the fastest growing communities in the country. This will cause health and economic harm and is absolutely shameful. The community has had zero opportunity to engage with the board before this decision was made. I am speechless."

She further updated her post to add that in a news article published in 2022, Haliburton emergency department saw 9,766 visits, while Minden's emergency department saw 12,768.

#### Warden: existing model unsustainable

County warden Liz Danielsen acknowledged the HHHS decision is difficult, but ultimately believes it is the right thing for the County's long-term

health care needs.

Danielsen said while it has "caused waves of anger and anxiety across the County... unfortunately, the possibility of temporary closures has been looming over us all for the past year, and we are fortunate that we have managed to continue to keep both facilities open so far.

"I believe that the financial challenges that HHHS has been facing, along with the inability to maintain adequate staff in place, has finally proven that the existing model can no longer be sustained."

The warden did say, however, that, "enhanced communications on a number of levels would have been beneficial."

But, "we must face this new challenge head on. County council will continue to maintain close contact with HHHS in efforts to mitigate the impact on our community as well as monitor closely just how seriously this decision will impact the delivery of emergency services overall."

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# 6 Highlander news

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Apr. 27

# Carter criticizes health services and board

By Lisa Gervais.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter and deputy mayor Lisa Schell have criticized HHHS and its board for what they say is a total lack of consultation on the decision to close the Minden ER. They have also questioned how management and the board operate.

"We had zero consultation and input into this," Carter said.

However, HHHS CEO and president Carolyn Plummer, and board chair David O'Brien, told *The Highlander*, "HHHS has engaged broadly with our local elected officials many times over the past 18 months as we have struggled to deal with our serious staffing shortages. We have been open about those challenges with each of the four townships in Haliburton County, and recently consulted local elected officials through a robust strategic planning process to understand what they wanted to see from HHHS over the next three to five years."

The Minden mayor alleges the hospital's executive committee makes decisions, and not the board, during in-camera meetings. He maintained, "the fact is we had absolutely no consultation and we, the elected officials who represent the people ... and community well-being is part of our mandate ... this was probably one of the most consequential decisions that has been made and we are not part of it. It's made by an unelected board acting on its own."

Plummer and O'Brien said the board regularly deals with confidential matters that cannot be discussed in public, such as legal, human resources, property acquisition and disposal, negotiations, and other sensitive items. They said regular board meetings are open to the public and the media, and the board always asks for questions from those in attendance during meetings.

Carter added County council has wanted a representative on the hospital board for some time, "and they have absolutely refused to allow that." He said in an attempt to improve communications, County council has more recently met with HHHS. The first was about communications, the second on HHHS' strategic plan, the third on Ontario Health Teams, and this last one on the consolidation.

Plummer and O'Brien said it is not common practice for local elected officials to sit on hospital boards, and across the Ontario Health East region, the vast majority of hospitals do not have municipal politicians on their boards.

"Members of hospital boards have a fiduciary responsibility to the hospital organization itself, which can create conflicts for local elected officials who must represent their particular communities," they said.

Carter also lambasted HHHS for recruiting management, while cutting back on frontline operations. "There's something fundamentally wrong with that model."

But Plummer and O'Brien retorted, "according to metrics from Ontario

Health, HHHS' administrative costs were 13 per cent in 2021/2022, which is lower than most other comparable small-to-medium rural hospitals, whose costs were eight per cent, 16 per cent, 17 per cent, and 19 per cent. It should be noted that HHHS' administrative costs also include those mandated by the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act*, 2021, as we are required to have certain leadership positions for each long-term care home."

Carter further said that Minden emergency operates differently than Haliburton, with 24-hour shifts, versus 12. He said out-of-town doctors attracted to the Minden emergency model won't go to Haliburton. "Now, you're going to have to go and replace those 9,000 hours."

Plummer and O'Brien said HHHS recognizes that patient volumes in the consolidated Haliburton emergency department will be higher overall, which will require a change to their staffing models.

"It should be noted there are currently 10 and 14-hour shifts at the Haliburton ED, and some physicians do work a 24-hour shift in Haliburton. HHHS will continue to work closely with Ontario Health East, the Ministry of Health, and HealthForceOntario to ensure we have the physician coverage that is needed, and these organizations are well aware of our coverage needs."



Right: Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter signs a petition at the community centre April 25. Inset: Deputy mayor Lisa Schell signs a petition. *Photos by Lisa Gervais*.



# Highlander news 7

# AH won't support Oxtongue tower

#### By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands council has decided against supporting a proposed 60-metre cell tower to improve service around Oxtongue Lake, though the project isn't completely dead in the water.

The tower, slated for installation at 4539 Hwy. 60, was discussed by council April 20. It is the latest proposal in the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Cell Gap Project, aiming to increase cell phone coverage and capacity for 99 per cent of residents in eastern Ontario by 2025.

In a tied 2-2 vote, councillors Lisa Barry and Sabrina Richards voted against the application, brought forward by Rogers. The telecommunications giant is partnering with EORN and the provincial and federal governments on the \$300 million project. Mayor Liz Danielsen and Coun. Julia Shortreed approved the proposal.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux recused herself from the discussion and vote, citing a conflict. Her home is approximately 150-metres south of the proposed tower location.

In the event of a tie, a motion is defeated. Speaking to *The Highlander* following the vote, Danielsen expressed her disappointment over the decision. The mayor has been a vocal supporter of improved cellular and internet service in the past.

The issue was back on the agenda last week following a prior discussion March 16, where township planner Sean O'Callaghan recommended the project be approved. Council deferred a decision, calling on Rogers to address concerns levelled against a public consultation process the company initiated in February. Issues were also raised about the tower location.

Jason St. Pierre, EORN president, told council last week there are five new tower builds planned across Algonquin Highlands. So far, none have been completed.

He noted denial of a single tower could impact the whole project.

"If an area is denied and we are unable to find a suitable location to move it to, it creates a hole in the network. There will be a dark spot... an unserviced area," he said.

Richards indicated she might be in favour of the tower build moving ahead in a



Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen felt the cell tower proposed to enhance service around Oxtongue Lake served the "greater good" of the community. *File*.

different location. She asked how long it would take to find an alternate site, with Eric Belchamber, representing Rogers, saying it would take "months and months and months." St. Pierre added that was time EORN didn't have.

"For us to restart this process... it would be very challenging for us to meet our target goals," he said.

Barry was hung up on the proximity of this proposed tower to several residences, highlighting municipal policy states any structure should be 1,000 metres away from any home. Belchamber said he feels that policy is outdated.

"When these protocols were enacted 10-plus years ago... that was when there were fewer users on the network, and people weren't using HD data," he said. "Placing a tower one kilometre away from where people live, work and play simply isn't viable and will not achieve our coverage objectives."

While she admitted to having some concerns over the location, Danielsen said she would support it "out of the greater good.

"There are more people that are going to be wanting this service than there are those concerned about it," she said. Shortreed said the denial was a major loss for students hoping to enroll in online classes from home.

"I know numerous kids who couldn't get [into a college or university] residence so couldn't go to school because of that. We must remember this effects people in different ways. Everyone should have the option to use this technology," she said.

Municipal councils do not have the power to approve or deny these projects – that falls to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. Belchamber noted the federal agency does take a municipality's decision into account, but only when a valid reason is brought forward.

"If we had positioned this in a wetland or an area of natural interest, there were migration issues or butternut trees located on the site, there would be grounds to say [we've] found an inappropriate location... While some people may not want to see it or look at it, that extends beyond the jurisdictional role the municipality plays," Belchamber said. "Based on the staff report [tabled by O'Callaghan], we're not sure why concurrence wouldn't be provided."



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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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# Loss cannot be overstated

HHHS' decision to close the Minden ER has stirred up a hornet's nest, especially in Minden Hills, which will be most impacted by the move to consolidate ERs and acute care in Haliburton.

We feel for the residents of Minden and surrounding areas. Having an ER that is close to where you live, work, and play brings a sense of comfort to all of us.

It will be particularly hard for those who live in the south and western parts of the township. The folks in Moore Falls and west of Carnarvon, for example, are going to be worried about the extra travelling time to Haliburton, or if their ambulance is even going to take them to Haliburton now, as opposed to Lindsay or Bracebridge or elsewhere.

Social media has been flooded with very personal stories about how the Minden ER has saved lives over the years.

The loss cannot be overstated.

However, it should not come as a complete shock to people. HHHS has been threatening possible temporary ER closures for 18 months. Remember those check-stop-go

And while some in the community say there has been zero consultation, HHHS has been pretty transparent for some time that staffing shortages are having a very real impact on the viability of keeping two ERs open.

That said, there is a big difference from

telling the community there may be temporary ER closures and announcing a permanent closure. A lot of people only found out last week - including politicians, and employees of HHHS.

While hindsight is always 20:20, HHHS should have anticipated the backlash over its decision. Perhaps a public meeting or town hall in advance of such a major closure would have been prudent. At least then, the public could have had its say. It hasn't and that is why Facebook groups are popping up, as well as GoFundMe campaigns and petitions. Perhaps all of this reaction still would have happened – even with a public meeting or town hall – but we'll never

We would ask hospital management and the board, however, to still hold a public meeting or town hall. The public wants questions answered. The answers may not mollify them, but at least they will feel they have been involved somehow. There will be an iota of transparency.

Some of us also wish we could turn the clock back. What would the situation be like today if the County politicians of the day had agreed to build just one hospital more geographically centered in the Highlands? Perhaps we would not be going through this today. Our parochialism is sometimes a gift, but often an impediment. It's no different than Minden Hills going it alone on a new

arena and recreation centre, instead of working with the entire County to build a larger facility that maybe could have housed an indoor swimming pool. We'll never know because



By Lisa Gervais

Minden was looking after Minden.

At the end of the day, all we can do is deal with what we are facing today.

Will having one hospital improve health care in the Highlands? Time will tell. Will we be able to attract more doctors and nurses and get more diagnostic imaging, such as a CT scanner? Time will tell.

One thing that isn't productive is continuing to be parochial and suggesting downright stupid reactions such as withdrawing funding from the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation in protest of the Minden emerge closure. That mentality just hurts us

We do, however, look forward to HHHS coming up with some innovative solutions for the dearth left by the closure of the Minden emerge, whether it is a walk-in clinic, or something such as the Dorset Health Hub's nurse practitioner-led model.

A positive announcement in that regard would go a long way to making Mindenites feel a little bit better about this decision.

#### **LETTERS**

#### Save our health care

Dear editor.

I live in Minden and this week it was announced our little hospital/emergency clinic will be closing on June 1.

We had heard before that they were considering this move but it never came to fruition until today. Furthermore, it was announced that this will be permanent and we would have to go to Haliburton or Lindsay for medical care. Carolyn Plummer states that they cannot get staffing and have to pay nurses from agencies and the cost is prohibitive.

Minden has the largest number of seniors per capita in the province and more seniors are coming to retire here all the time. Many came here because the emergency service is close by.

How can Doug Ford allow this to happen while he is spending billions of dollars to move the Science Centre, billions more to build a highway nobody wants and is building a medical clinic by his cottage? In spite of all that spending, he can't afford to keep our little hospital open. If we can't afford to staff our hospital/emergency service how will he staff the clinic near his cottage?

Maybe if Doug Ford had given health care workers a living wage instead of rolling their wages back, more of them would still be in the health care positions.

This closure is the tip of the iceberg closing this hospital is indicative of what [former premier Mike] Harris did when he was in office and the reason our health care is in so much trouble already. If you don't

think this is the beginning of privatization of our health care, think again.

The federal government gave the provinces extra money for health care – was it to shut down hospitals?

Please help us to save our health care.

Marilynne Lesperance Minden Hills

#### Where's the common sense?

Dear editor,

It is with grave concern for the health of the Minden Hills community that I reached out to MPP Laurie Scott to reconsider the closure of the Minden Hospital ER.

Hopefully she along with Doug Ford and the Ministry of Health can step in and keep the doors open.

We the people are losing trust in our governments with the poor judgement on such important issues as health care in our region. We will not hire full-time nursing staff but will contract out nurses at up to three times the money.

Governments will spend \$13 billion, which equates to \$13,000 million dollars for a VW battery plant but can't spend \$2 million keeping a rural hospital open.

Where is the common sense in this? I hope to hear from you, Ms. Scott, on this important matter soon.

Bill Kulas and family Minden

#### **Decision needs revisiting**

Dear editor,

The closing of the County's busiest emergency department in Minden in favour of the one in Haliburton reduces services to the greatest density of the population in the area and puts more lives at risk.

The Minden emergency department has always been the busiest. Being located along the Hwy. 35 corridor, it is accessible to a greater number of people, both permanent and seasonal. The Haliburton site "centrally" located in Haliburton County does not equate to serving the greatest concentration of the population.

The Minden emergency department services extend outside of just Haliburton County and include Kinmount, Norland and Coboconk, to name a few.

The argument that the emergency department should be where the hospital beds are located lacks merit when the majority of acute cases presenting in the emergency department in both Minden and Haliburton are shipped to secondary and tertiary hospitals, mainly Lindsay, Peterborough and Toronto. The shortest distance and time to those facilities is from the Minden site. This decision to close the Minden emergency department makes no sense and needs to be revisited.

**Paul Heffer** Minden Hills

#### **LETTERS**

#### Pay attention and act

Dear editor,

Does anyone think congratulations are in order for the disastrous closure of the Minden ER?

I think not. And any politician that supports this is totally out of touch with this community.

Everyone must read mayor Bob Carter's comments and see all the flaws in this mistaken adventure. This decision is illformed and made behind closed doors in a quiet and obscene manner.

Let's enlighten everyone by having HHHS, MPP Laurie Scott, MP Jamie Schmale, and Minden and Haliburton councils shed light on how this horrendous plan was hatched. Maybe even premier Doug Ford could spare a few hours away from his Ontario Place renovation as this reeks of some hidden agenda.

Instead of promoting this idiocy, Laurie Scott should be up in arms about this. This will not be a seamless transition. It will be

Let's hear from all parties and start operating in an open manner and get to the correct solution.

Everyone, pay attention and act.

Michael Stefanich Minden Hills

#### Playing with lives

Dear editor,

It is with great wonderment that I am writing this letter. In my opinion, HHHS is playing with lives by closing the Minden hospital emergency.

I understand staffing is an issue. Welcome to the post-COVID world. Everyone is having staffing issues.

I take great exception to Dr. Bottum's comments as well. How can you compare Haliburton County to Peterborough? Drive times alone are significantly different. Closing a hospital in Peterborough has zero relevance to this situation. With the aging population in Minden, it is foolish to think this solution is a wise one.

John Trimble Minden Hills

#### Time to speak up

Dear editor,

I have just been informed that the Minden emergency department will be closing for good June 1.

I think it is shameful and shocking that such poor management and lack of concern for people of this very kind and loving community will be put in such a situation. Time to speak up, people.

Diane Coleiro Minden Hills

#### **Devastating news**

Dear editor,

What devastating news. How did this happen? Who can we write? What will the emergency department be used for now? Are more doctors coming to the area? Are they getting new choppers to take everyone to Lindsay or Haliburton? Will our property taxes go down, since now we officially only have snow plowing services? More ambulances to be able to pick people up as half the community is elderly and doesn't even drive? This is disgusting.

There are no walk-in clinics, no doctors and from my home, I am now 45 minutes to an emergency room. With all the tourists around here coming up this summer, this is going to be insane. I already wait usually three to four hours at the Minden emergency room on a normal day.

Sara Michelle Moore Falls

#### Bone-headed idea

Dear editor,

As a former resident of Haliburton County (I lived in Haliburton for seven years), I find it strange that HHHS would opt to close the ER in Minden; especially since Minden is bigger than Haliburton.

I would have opted to hire more staff for both hospitals. Supposing someone in Minden has a heart attack and the ER in Minden is closed. Wouldn't he or she die on the way to Haliburton? Time is crucial in the case of a heart attack or stroke. This is a bone-headed idea on the part of the HHHS board.

**Bud Cooper** London (former resident of Haliburton)

#### Delay closure

Dear editor,

The closure of Minden Hospital must be delayed until further input is considered. If closed, the impact on the community will be phenomenal in regard to lives, general health care and financial repercussions. Our elected officials and the general public must act now.

Lynne Kilby Kinmount

#### Ford government starving health care

Dear editor,

Ontario spent less per capita on health care in 2022 than all other provinces and territories except New Brunswick.

Our current provincial government is starving our public health care system, with the goal of more private health care

If you want more ER closures, Haliburton, keep voting Conservative.

Tom Needham Lake Kashagawigamog

#### PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Maggie Lawrence sent this photo of a Barred Owl in her backyard at Haliburton Lake.

#### Fight ER decision

Dear editor,

We must not let the Minden hospital emergency department closure happen without a fight.

It is fundamental to this area and especially during our busiest tourist season.

We, as the local population, have few resources for our health care needs. We are even without a walk-in clinic so must utilize the E.R. The aging population of this area is in need of greater care and local availability. To put added burden on our EMS and firefighters will become an added debt to all

We must organize and show our angst and have this decision reversed.

Sandra and Brian Beach Minden Hills

#### Lack of clarity about horrific war

Dear editor,

Re: letter in the April 20 edition of *The* Highlander, 'Why is Russian war on Ukraine being allowed to continue?' by Winston E. Ralph, Bancroft.

I agree that there is a real lack of clarity about this horrific war. With respect to the question of "Why did Russia invade Ukraine?" I found these resources very helpful:

1. Two documentaries, one titled Ukraine on Fire (2016) and its sequel Revealing Ukraine (2019), both directed by Igor Lopatonok - these are available on various streaming platforms including (at the time of writing this letter) YouTube.

2. Lecture video featuring US political analyst John Mearsheimer titled 'Why is Ukraine the West's Fault?' produced by the University of Chicago and available on

With respect to the question of "Why is Canada allowing the carnage to continue?" We'd have to ask our elected federal representatives

John Bastable Haliburton

#### **Kudos to The Highlander**

Dear editor,

I enjoyed Lisa Gervais' column (20/ April/2023) on the awards The Highlander received from the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) this year.

Each week, I look forward to receiving the paper in my inbox and always find several interesting and informative articles to read. As the judges said, "it's as if you meet the whole community in the pages of the paper."

Congratulations on your great publication, Highlander. I hope that next year the OCNA also recognizes the tremendous contributions Dr. Nell Thomas is making to the community regarding environmental issues, an educational approach that offers some of the solutions up front. The Highlander needs to be recognized for its efforts in helping the Haliburton Highlands become more informed about climate, and [to be] stronger environmental citizens.

S. McCormick Kawartha Lakes

# MH takes 4.79 per cent hike to taxpayers

#### By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council will bring a projected 4.79 per cent tax hike to a public meeting April 27.

Council finalized its last draft of the budget at an April 20 meeting.

To get to the estimated figure, they further increased some fees and charges, by \$60,000, to whittle the final draft down from 5.4 per cent. The township is looking to collect even more money now for compliance letters, fire calls and construction tipping fees.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey recommended the increased fees and charges, in an attempt to bring the levy down as she felt, "taxpayers are not going to be happy with five per cent."

She also queried reductions in gravel resurfacing to further erode the tax hit. However, council left the roads spending intact from the last draft of the budget.

Finance director Greg Bedard noted council was putting \$870,000 into reserves this year, but drawing more than \$2 million. He cautioned, "our reserves are being used for well and good intentions this year for public works projects that we need to do on an urgent basis, however the continued draw on our reserves of this magnitude isn't sustainable."

But mayor Bob Carter said, "we have contributions to and from reserves this year. The net usage of those reserves is less than 15 per cent of our reserves going into extraordinary projects that absolutely need to be done. This is why we keep reserves. To be able to do them (projects). It's a unique year, hopefully."

Self-contained breathing apparatus, Brady

Lake culverts, and Scotch Line landfill fill and closure were all shifted to reserve financing, from borrowing money, on April 6.

When McKelvey suggested reducing gravel coverage from four inches to two inches on some roads, director of public works Mike Timmins said he would not advise it. He said it would affect the longevity and life of roads.

Carter agreed council should not tell public works staff how to maintain roads but, "give them enough product so they can continue to work the product over the next number of years, so we don't have to do this again."

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said 95 per cent of council complaints are about roads. "In the past, they've been neglected … based on money put into the budget … no one likes swallowing the 5.4 per cent, but if that means having our roads brought back to where they should be, I will support it."

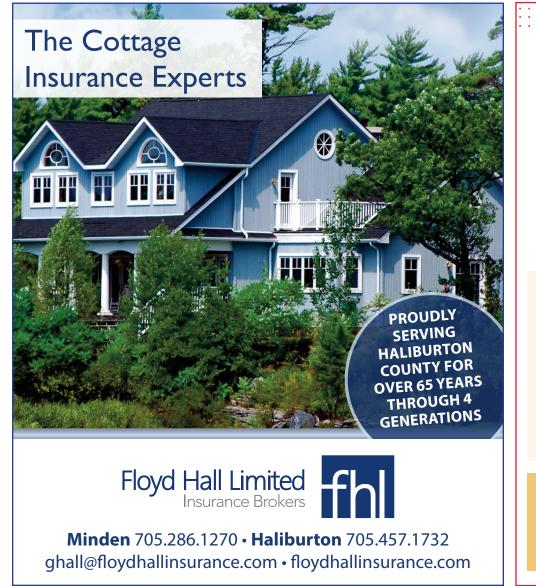
Council is borrowing about \$3.5 million for work on Scotch Line and Bobcaygeon roads. Coun. Pam Sayne said she hoped decisions being made now will help to lower tax rate increases in future.

In finalizing the last draft and bringing it to a public meeting, Carter said, "we need to get on with governing and all of the other projects in the municipality. We're never going to make it (the budget) perfect."

Go to the Minden Hills website for information on attending the meeting. However, people must pre-register by 8:30 a.m. April 27 if they want to make comment. The public can also watch the meeting live.



The township of Minden Hills will take its budget to a public meeting April 27. File.



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Ron Tenthorey, Ketziah Rhule and Kathryn Clark attended the job fair on behalf of Camp Wanakita. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

# Young post-COVID job seekers struggle

#### By Lisa Gervais

With plenty of interest in their summer camps this year, staff from Camp Wanakita attended a Fleming Crew job fair in Haliburton April 19 "looking for talent," according to Ketziah Rhule.

They weren't alone as the hall was filled with employers looking to bolster their ranks for not just the summer season, but beyond. At times, there were far more people looking to hire than those looking for work.

"We have 60 openings right now at Wanakita," Rhule said. "We have about 300 to 400 campers who come through in the summer months, so it's a big push. We're definitely looking for kitchen staff, maintenance and folks that are licensed as lifeguards."

One advantage Wanakita has is staff housing. However, Rhule said it's still hard to find workers. For example, she said there is a Canada-wide shortage of lifeguards.

Asked why she thinks that is, Rhule halfjokingly said, "kids are much better at being YouTube stars ... influencers ... and it makes

However, she thought attending the job fair was worthwhile.

"Hopefully it's awareness, hopefully we can build connections with the college and with the community and hopefully we can get our jobs filled."

Job seeker Kylie Brohm, 18, attended the fair as she is looking for a second job to save up for college and prepare for a career. She's been working at The Independent bakery throughout high school.

She came, "just to see what was around Haliburton instead of looking online ... being in-person, getting to talk to people ... get your face out there."

She is fortunate that she has her own car and lives with her parents, so housing and transportation are not current challenges.

Interested in travel and helping people and animals, care-giving type jobs appeal and she picked up an application for Gardens of

When asked why more young people don't appear to be looking for work, she said her generation has finished high school and early career years during a global pandemic.

"Sometimes it's hard to get out there and want to talk to people based on how things go. It's a scary place in the world especially having COVID during a lot of the years that people would be developing and getting into jobs. A lot of my friends struggle with wanting to get out there and getting to know what's out there because they've been kept inside."

She added, "I'd say we want to work. It's just we don't want to work the way we've seen our parents work. It depends how you want to live your life. I like switching it up sometimes. I took two months off and just got myself a little better. I had to get my health right and whatnot."

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# A family affair at Coneybeare's butcher shop

#### By Mike Baker

For years, Chris Coneybeare had no idea what he would do with his downtown Minden butcher shop when he retired.

While his kids, Lily and Mckay, had spent some time working at the store, located at 10 Milne St., during their childhood, the pair left the community after graduating high school. Lily attended Queen's University, where she studied chemistry, while Mckay moved to Ottawa to pursue a business degree.

"There really was no succession plan. I never wanted to put any pressure on them to take over the family business," Chris said in a recent interview.

He noted Coneybeare's has existed, in some form, since the early 1940s. Originally a butcher shop, opened by the Easton family, it transitioned into a grocery store later that decade before Chris' dad, Al, got involved in the 1960s. He transitioned the space back to a butcher's operation, fronting Main Street. After having the idea to open a travel agency, he repurposed the building to house his new endeavour at the front, and butcher shop at the back.

Chris took the business over in the 80s and has been running it ever since.

Since the onset of the pandemic though, he's had a little help. After completing their post-secondary studies, Lily and Mckay have returned home. Over the past 12 months, they've each taken a more active role in managing the business, leading to Chris' decision earlier this year to partially retire.

We both kind of went out into the world and saw what was out there, but I think that helped us realize what we had here," Mckay said. "When you've got a business like this that has been in the family for so long, you want to keep it that way.'

Lily added, "I didn't realize how much I missed this place until I left. It's home."

The two are now working full-time at Coneybeare's. They oversaw extensive renovations of the retail space in March, giving it a fresh, new look.

"The floors needed to be redone, so we leveled them out and installed some new ceramic tile. We gave everything a new paint job, installed new trim. We felt it was important to spruce things up a little bit. There probably hadn't been any renovations done for about 30 years," Lily

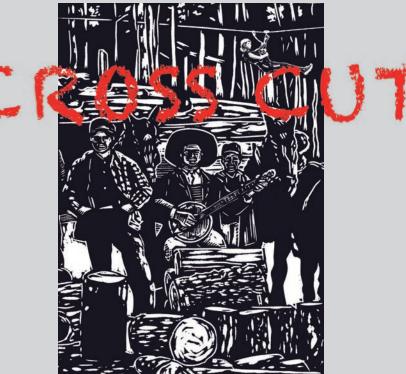
Chris admitted it has been "pretty cool" watching his kids take over the business.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive from customers too, Mckay noted.

"We've had people coming in who say they remember when we were just little kids, and how nice it is that we're carrying on the Coneybeare legacy," he said. "I'm in this now for the long haul. You develop relationships with people so quickly and I really feel part of this community."



The next generation have taken over Coneybeare's Butcher Shop. From left, Mckay and Lily pictured with their dad, Chris. Photo by Mike Baker.



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# Highlander community 13



Haliburton Rotary is expanding its summer Music in the Park series to 10 events this summer. The Ya Babys will kick it off June 27. File.

# Rotary nixes carnival, expands music

#### By Mike Baker

Haliburton Rotary president Ursula Devolin said she's choosing to focus on the positives after the club was forced to cancel its 2023 carnival, with no guarantees it will ever return.

The event was last held in 2019, and while there were plans to bring it back this year, Devolin said she has had great difficulty trying to find a midway operator willing to come to the County. Kitchener-based Homeniuk Rides ran the event for years, but shut down during the pandemic.

"We just can't get a provider. We've tried for two years in a row," Devolin told The Highlander. "We've contacted every provider in Ontario – this isn't a huge industry, and all the operators still standing after COVID have full circuit schedules. It's disappointing, but we've accepted there's nothing else we can

The celebration, typically held in August, has been a summertime staple in Haliburton for decades. Devolin said some of her favourite memories growing up came from attending the carnival with her family and friends. In recent years, with kids of her own, she's planned her family's whole summer around the event.

"The carnival has been a big part of my life, and a big part of a lot of people's lives in Haliburton," she said.

Devolin noted she's remaining optimistic it could return in the future.

"My realistic side says everything I hear from the amusement operators is that this industry is not growing. More of the

operators seem to be slowing down or shutting down completely," she said. "I hate to say it's unlikely [the carnival returns] though. I'd like to keep the door open.'

Devolin announced Rotary is expanding its Summer in the Park schedule, with 10 shows lined up this year.

"We asked ourselves as a club, 'what else can we do?' The one thing we've been super successful at is Music in the Park. So, we decided to build on that," she said. "Last year, we would get between 300 and 350 people out. There's nothing better than sitting beside Head Lake on a warm summer night, enjoying some live music."

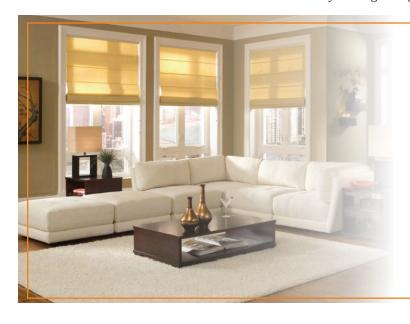
The season will kick off June 27, when The Ya Babys take to the stage at the Rotary Bandshell in Head Lake Park. Shows will run weekly through to the end of August,

every Tuesday beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Other confirmed acts include: Nick & Benton, July 4; The Rockin' Bobs, July 11; Rick Fines, July 18; Gary & The Rough Ideas, July 25; Adverse Conditions, Aug. 1; Jeff Moulton, Aug. 8; Sandra Bouza, Aug. 15; Ragged Company, Aug. 22; Suzie Vinnick, Aug. 29.

While the date is still to be confirmed, Devolin said there are plans to make one of the August shows "a little more special." A children's entertainer will be brought in, with Rotary announcing the winner of its annual car draw.

"It won't be the same as the carnival, but it'll be a little something for the kids and for families," Devolin said.



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# Celebrating 50 years answering the call

#### By Lisa Gervais

Even before joining the Oakville Fire Department, Tony Aymong stopped for roadside accidents. "Hardwired to help," he is into 50-plus years with emergency services.

It all began in 1972 when 22-year-old Aymong saw an ad in an Oakville newspaper looking for firefighters. He applied and got the job.

A self-described "hands-on person," he said it was exciting. The fire department quickly recognized his jack-of-all trades ability and one of his first jobs was helping to repaint a truck. Then they asked him to retrofit a door from a cement block wall. "Ninety-five per cent of your work at the fire hall is cleaning and preparing for the five per cent of calls," he noted.

His schedule involved working four nights, followed by seven days off, so it afforded him time to come up to the family cottage on Boshkung Lake.

He recalls his first fatality, with the alarm going off at 5 a.m. one morning before heading north. They responded to an accident on the QEW. A three-ton cucumber truck going to market in Toronto was involved and the husband and wife killed.

He worked with Oakville for a couple of years, but said his real dream was to become a police officer. He realized that goal in joining the former Mississauga police department. That career lasted 18 months as the call of the County brought him back permanently to the cottage despite still working in the city for many years.

"I love Haliburton County," he said. He got an electrical apprenticeship with Yake Electric and joined the volunteer fire department in Minden because his journeyman was a captain there.

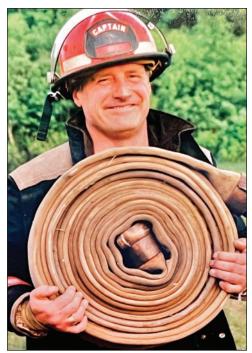
When the Toronto Fire Department put out a call for career firefighters, Aymong applied, was hired, and spent the next 25 years working all over the city, including on the William Lyon Mackenzie fireboat and Toronto Island.

His first big fire was during the first week of drill school when the Eaton's Annex building, at Albert and James streets, caught fire. The fire was so big that the recruits were pulled out of class and sent to help. Aymong said he was "excited" as several vans transported the rookies to the fire.

A couple of years into that career he stopped at a structure fire at Hwy. 118 and Hewitt Road near Carnarvon. George Wilson was the Stanhope Fire Department chief and when Aymong asked if they needed a hand, Wilson said 'yes'.

"Someone threw me a petch coat and that was the beginning of being on the Stanhope fire department." He's still there more than 40 years later, noting that when he moved up permanently, he was asked to join various service clubs, but chose to dedicate his time exclusively to the fire service.

"John Hogg and I went into that building ... the phone had melted, the fan had melted. We knocked the fire down really fast, and my air alarm went off. I ran out, changed bottles



Tony Aymong earlier in his firefighting career. *Submitted*.

and ran back in."

By that time, Aymong was a career and volunteer firefighter, known as a two-hatter; and he had purchased Yake Electric, which he ran for 25 years. At Stanhope, he was a captain for many years and then deputy chief. However, being a paper pusher was not his thing, so he happily stepped back to being a firefighter.

He's glad he joined Stanhope, saying, "I think I've been a benefit to the community."

At 72, he is transitioning from the front lines to more of a supporting role. He still responds to calls, but is more likely to ferry air bottles than enter a burning building. He's also the guy the chief asks to take the fire department boat in for servicing, make minor repairs and annually organizes the hose testing. "There's a role for everyone, at any age," he says.

Aymong said there's a big difference between urban and rural firefighting. In Toronto, they'd respond to an accident, help paramedics and go back to the station for a coffee. He said they never heard about it again, except maybe a snippet on the TV news

By contrast, he said volunteer firefighters are often called to the homes of friends, family and neighbours, which can be tough. His first experience was going to someone with chest pain to find an elderly neighbour whom he comforted until the ambulance came. The next week, he attended the same man's funeral. That was the first of many such experiences.

Asked what he would tell would-be firefighters, Aymong said, "it's a great job. It's also good money. You can go from volunteer to career firefighter." And many career firefighters continue to volunteer once they're on a bigger department.

But for him, it all comes back to that helper mentality.

"It's been great to serve the community all these years."

# Youth curling program offers roadmap to success

#### By Mike Baker

Dave Ablett has been curling for much of his adult life. Now, he spends time each winter passing his knowledge and experience down to kids through the Haliburton Youth Curling program.

The initiative, which has been running for over 15 years, returned in 2022 after an enforced three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Ablett said 16 youth completed the program, which started last fall and wrapped up in March. It ran every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"It's been a great year – we had nine first timers come out and stick with us for the full season. It's been really encouraging seeing how much these kids have taken to curling," Ablett said.

The purpose, he said, is to expose young people to a sport that can be played by anyone.

"I'm 75 years old and I still get out and curl at least once a week, and I'm nowhere close to being the oldest guy in the club. There's a lot of people who curl into their 80s," he said. "We just love the sport so much and want to share it with other people.'

The club received a grant from the Canadian Tire Kickstarter fund this year that allowed them to offer the program for free. The money covered the cost of registration, equipment and transportation.

Ablett said the first few weeks were spent teaching the basics – like how to slide, throw a rock and sweep. The rules of the game are also explained, as well as safety protocols. He noted youth are also taught about what he calls "curling culture."

"I'd say that's one of the more important things we do – impress upon them how to approach the sport. Anytime I'm in a rink, everyone is smiling and having a good time. There's never any ill will towards another player. It's about like-minded people getting together and having fun," he said. "Sure, you can be competitive, but it's important to be a good sport too. That's what curling is all



Team Stratton stopped by the Haliburton Curling Club last month to help coach the local youth curling program. Photo submitted.

There is a small team of coaches who assist with sessions each week, including Russ Duhaime, Terry Lawrence, Susannah Moylan, Hugh Nichol, and, new this year, Owen Nicholls.

The 18-year-old Nicholls has developed into one of the country's top up-and-coming curlers after getting his start with the local program several years ago. His coaches made a huge impression on him while he was growing up, and he wanted to give back.

"It was quite the full circle moment for me, being on the other end of the ice. I remember what it was like for these kids just starting out, because that was me not so long ago,' Nicholls said. "I had a lot of fun helping. It was good for the kids too; they were able to see that someone from their town came through this program and is now having some success. I think it opened their eyes a little bit, to see what's possible."

the London-based Team Stratton along to assist with a practice in March, something Ablett said "wowed" the kids in attendance.

Nicholls is far from the only local success story. National college championship silver medalist Liam Little graduated from the program in 2019, while sisters Jessica and Savannah Byers have made a name for themselves on the women's youth and college circuits in recent years.

The crown jewel though is Jacob Dobson, who this year claimed wins at the Curling Canada College Championships and the Swiss Junior Cup.

"My coaches in Haliburton provided me with such a strong foundation. They made it easy to fall in love with the sport. They inspired me, taught me how to play and showed me what I needed to do to keep improving," Dobson said. "You don't usually

He brought his competitive teammates from find this sort of a program unless you're in a big city, so the fact something like this is available in Haliburton is amazing. It gives us small town kids an opportunity to chase our dreams.

> "I wouldn't be where I am today without that program. I'd encourage any kid to give it a try," he added.

Ablett said the steady stream of success stories to have graduated in recent years shows the local group of coaches are doing something right.

"There's a limit to what we can teach them, none of us older guys are professionals by any means, but we give them the basic tools they can then take and build on elsewhere. Seeing how many kids we have competing on the provincial, national and international level, I think that speaks very highly of the program."

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#### Gooderham gives Gaia some love

The Gooderham Community Action Group marked Earth Day in the hamlet April 22. After a community clean-up of the surrounding area in the morning, there were earth-friendly displays, including bee keeping, worm composting, fossils, geocaching and children's activities at the Robert McCausland Community Centre in the afternoon.

Top: Lynn MacDuff, Merryn Camphausen, and Marg Kampers pick up litter along the roadway. Bottom: Michele Little and Joanne Vanier promote geocaching inside the Robert McCausland Community Centre. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.* 

# Highlander events 17





#### Wild west for Haliburton Red Wolves

The Haliburton Red Wolves Special Olympics held a western themed fundraiser at the Haliburton Legion April 15, raising \$6,859. The event was a sell-out, with attendees being treated to a beef on a bun dinner and a dance, led by DJ Ron Murphy. Volunteer, Tracey Pratt, said the money would help the organization enhance its summer and fall programming for athletes. Bowling will run until May 10, with golf and bocce to begin later this year. The Red Wolves have 28 registered athletes.

Top left: Rod Sisson, right, was the winner of the raffle, taking home a 32-inch smart TV donated by Canadian Tire in Minden. Trevor Brauer presented Sisson with his prize. Top right: Skylar Pratt, Alyssa Whitaker, Ainsley Pascoe and Kim Buie enjoying themselves at the dance. Bottom: Ainsley Pascoe, Skylar Pratt, Dawn Piercey, Greg Phippen and Russell Snodden take advantage of the western-themed photo booth and pose for a picture. Photos by Mike Baker.





**Haliburton County Council** is seeking members of the public for a Citizen Appointment to the **Land Division Committee** 

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. The County's Land Division Committee makes decisions on Applications for Consent which include new lot creation, easements, rights-of-way, lot additions, and other application types under Section 53 of the Planning Act.

Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- · A resident of Haliburton County
- Have interest or experience in land use planning

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Sarah Hume, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 x 224 or at shume@haliburtoncountv.ca

The application process will close on April 28, 2023 at 1:00pm.



FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 HALIBURTON CURLING CLUB at 7 pm **NEW GOLFERS WELCOME** 

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#### **EVENTS**

#### 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.

**April 29, 7 p.m.**Minden Bible Church is hosting a film screening of *The Jesus Revolution*. Tickets are \$5 at the door for adults and \$2 for ages 12 and under. Proceeds from the refreshment table will go to support the Pregnancy Care and Family Support Centre in Haliburton.

**April 29, 1 to 4 p.m.**The Wilberforce FUNraising Group is hosting a community meet and greet at the Lloyd Watson Centre. Come and see what's happening in Highlands East, and meet people with similar interests. Snacks will be provided.

**April 30, 2 p.m.**Razzamataz Kids' Shows presents Mary Jane Mosquito by Carousel Players at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. For advanced tickets, visit razzamataz.ca.

April 30, 3 p.m.
Highlands Festival Singers is celebrating its 31st anniversary with a gospel celebration at Haliburton United Church. Tickets are \$15 and available at Master's Bookstore in Haliburton and Minden Pharmasave.

#### May 1, 4 to 6 p.m.

The County of Haliburton is hosting a series of First Responders Day open houses across the Highlands. Residents of all ages are invited to visit participating bases, halls and stations across the County for a variety of activities. Meet emergency service personnel, learn more about programs and services offered, hear about volunteer and career opportunities, understand how to prepare for emergencies, and get an up-close look at emergency equipment and vehicles.

#### May 2

Highlands Festival Singers is celebrating its 31st anniversary with a gospel celebration at Haliburton United Church. Tickets are \$15 and available at Master's Bookstore in Haliburton and Minden Pharmasave.

#### 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

#### May 6, 13 and 20.

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is inviting families with children to join local artists for a hands-on collaborative project - Community Cardboard Village Workshops. The event will see people construct cardboard buildings of local landmarks to recreate our villages, featuring scenery, roads, vehicles, and villagers. The events are free. Register ahead of time at haliburtonarts.

#### May 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Places for People is hosting its 'Biggest Book Sale Ever' fundraiser at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery. There will be over 3,000 titles available covering topics such as gardening, martial arts, spirituality, alternative energy, permaculture and more. By making a \$100 donation, you get an exclusive first-pick of 10 books between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. To pre-register, email info@placesforpeople.ca.

May 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Spring Craft and Vendor Market at the Burnt River Community Centre. Over 25 vendors participating, so there will be something for everyone. Free admission, prizes to be won, parking available on-site.

#### **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS**

#### Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room.

Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall & bingo, doors open at 6 p.m.

Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

**Fridays:** 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.

Saturdays: 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.

#### Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

**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 activities:

Karaoke every second Friday.

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.

Tuesday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.

Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

#### **Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624**

April 28: Diners club at noon, \$15 per person. Call 705-448-8865 to book. Pool at 2 p.m. Fish and chips, chicken fingers and fries 5 to 8 p.m. April 29: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.

April 30 to May 2: Closed

**May 2:** Executive meeting at 7 p.m.

May 3: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.

May 4: Open 2 to 6 p.m.

Elections taking place May 9 at 7 p.m. 2023 membership dues must be paid to attend to attend the meeting and vote.

May 20 is the Lou Moody Rainbow Trout fishing derby. Tickets are \$20 per fish. Register by May 19 at the Legion. Everyone welcome.

#### **Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519**

Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m. First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 10 a.m. \$15 per person. Saturdays: Music & Meat Roll - Music starts 2

p.m. Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

#### Lunch & Music - April 28

BBQ chicken or liver and onions, \$13

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Followed by country music jam between 1 and 4 p.m.

Open mic and local talent

Food bank donations would be appreciated.

Elimination draw May 20, grand prize is \$600. For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127.





and it shows.

# Highlander classifieds 19

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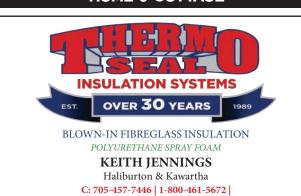
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Ontario Corporation 1029233, operating as Bongo Studios, headquartered at: 80 Sherbourne Street, Unit 101, Toronto ON M5A 2R1, Incorporated: 1993-05-05, voluntarily dissolved

of which the applicant was an executive and shareholder

The application may be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A IA2.

Dated at...Toronto, Ontario, this...16th...day of...March...2023. Andrew Knight.

416-707-5348 ndrwknght@yahoo.ca

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(Making application on behalf of applicant).

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#### **SOLUTIONS FOR APRIL 27**

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#### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

CLASSIFIEDS \$9 • BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS \$29

# Highlander classifieds 21

#### **HELP WANTED**



#### **WE ARE HIRING** SHOP HELPER

#### **FULL TIME**

**Duties Include** Clean up around the shop/yard

- Receiving parts
- Help mechanics when necessary
  - Detailing vehicle after repairs completed

Resumes can be sent to: haliburton@carstar.ca

705-457-2765 • 154 Industrial Park Rd.



Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub

#### PROGRAMMING AND PEER SUPPORT **FULL TIME-CONTRACT**

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager and alongside a coordinated service team, the Programming and Peer Support Worker will provide support to youth who access services and recreation at the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub. They will assist with program and activity coordination and facilitation and will support in creating a safe and accepting environment for youth (12-25). They will also have the role of Driver and provide transportation to youth accessing services and wellness activities at the Hub. Services include. but are not limited to, mental health, addictions, employment, housing, primary care and outreach, 2SLGBTQ+ supports and Indigenous peer support. As well as harm reduction supports.

#### **Responsibilities and Qualifications:**

Facilitate and support Youth Advisory Committee and Youth Engagement activities; Plan and facilitate activities at the Hub and in the community; Good communication/interpersonal skills; Education or volunteer/work experience in social services or related field; Knowledge of anti-oppression and inclusion including knowledge of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and creating positive spaces is an asset; Knowledge or experience with Canva design program; Strong driving skills and a clean record; First Aid training; Vulnerable Sector Check required; Ability to work evenings and weekends.

For full job description, please visit www.pointintime.ca.

Please send cover letter and resume by April 28, 2023 to HR@pointintime.ca or drop off/mail to: Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents PO Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton ON KOM 1S0

Point in Time is committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with. We encourage applications from members of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of other equity seeking groups. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.



The Municipality of Highlands East Is Currently Seeking A

**Full-Time Building Inspector** Rate of Pay - \$29.35

A copy of the detailed job posting and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications clearly marked "Application - Building Inspector" may be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 12th, 2023 via mail, in person or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

> Brittany McCaw, Deputy CAO/Treasurer Municipality of Highlands East P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0 E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the Deputy CAO/ Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.

Hyland Taxi DRIVERS - part time or full time - needed for Hyland Taxi. G License for taxi is required. B, C or F License required for 11 passenger van and bus. Call 705-457-9898

THE DOCK SHOP - Hiring two individuals who like to work outside and learn new skills. Full time work, Monday to Friday. \$19/hr - Apply to info@thedockshop.net

HALIBURTON COTTAGE RENTALS - Looking for mature, responsible, selfmotivated cleaners for cottage turnovers. Available for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays this summer. \$35/hr plus 1 hour of travel time. Contact Skye Today! 705-457-9997 or info@haliburtoncottagerentals.ca

REPUTABLE BUILDING CONTRACTOR-looking for a person with Carpentry Experience. Must have a valid driver's license. Please call 705-754-4603

CLEANER WANTED - Looking for a reliable person to clean 2 small cottages on Sundays from May/June to September. Approximately 4 hours of work. \$25/hour Located 10 minutes outside Haliburton. Please contact by call or text at 705-927-5801

### **HIRING?**

Reach thousands of Highlanders with an ad. Email sales@thehighlander.ca or call 705-457-2900

#### **HELP WANTED**



#### **Township of Algonquin Highlands** Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following seasonal positions:

> Seasonal Trails Office Attendant Stewardship Youth Ranger Lead Swim Instructor **Assistant Swim Instructor**

For the complete job descriptions, please visit our website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:

#### Dawn Mugford-Guay, **Human Resources Coordinator**

Township of Algonquin Highlands 1123 North Shore Road Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1 Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



#### HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS Come join our team!

Haliburton Highlands Golf Course is looking to fill a few open positions. We are looking for versatile team members who like to do a little bit of everything!

We are looking for the following:

**Golf Shop Attendants (FT or PT)** Starter / Marshals **Turf & Grounds Maintenance** 

If interested please forward a resume or contact us at golf@haliburtongolf.com



#### **WE ARE HIRING!**

#### **DONOR RELATIONS MANAGER**

Are you a fundraiser with a passion for health care in a rural settng?

We are looking for a fundraiser to foster positive relationships with current donors and cultivate new relationships within the community.

#### **EVENT COORDINATOR**

Canada Summer Jobs\*

Are you looking to play an important role in the coordination and execution of summer fundraising events and be a positive ambassador for the HHHS Foundation?

Interested applicants should express their enthusiasm and forward their resume in confidence by 6pm Monday, May 1, 2023 to Melanie Klodt Wong, HHHS Foundation

Executive Director, mklodtwong@hhhs.ca For further information on the Foundation,

please visit www.hhhs.ca/foundation \*Position is contingent on Canada Summer Jobs



#### THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Minden Branch 636

Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden is looking for a

**Part-Time Cook** 

A Food Handler Certificate is and asset but not an additional requirement if you take the course later.

Resume may be left at the bar, emailed to rclbranch636@hotmail.com or mailed to RCL Branch 636, PO Box 238 Minden ON K0M 2K0.

#### **HALIBURTON BUS LINES**



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

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



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

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

The Highlander is looking for an energetic person to join our team for the summer.

This is a part-time position with evening and weekend work. We are looking for someone who loves to take photos and write about community events. We're hoping they'll unearth some good human interest stories along the way.

A drivers license and car is a must as well as a sense of adventure.

Send your resume to publisher Heather Kennedy, heather@thehighlander.ca.

TheHighlander

# HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS

YOUR GUIDE TO **HALIBURTON COUNTY REAL ESTATE** 

Put your real estate brand in front of thousands of residents and cottagers. Home in the Highlands is Haliburton County's #1 source of real estate listings.

**NEXT ISSUE: MAY 18** 

To advertise in our next issue contact one of our sales team.

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laurie@thehighlander.ca 705.457.2900

#### **DAWN**

dawn@thehighlander.ca 705.306.9458

#### **HEATHER**

heather@thehighlander.ca 705.457.8670

#### The **Highlander**

#### **OBITUARY**



In Loving Memory of Alice Hogg

Passed away peacefully at Fosterbrooke Long Term Care, Newcastle, Ontario on Sunday, February 5, 2023 at the age of 92.

Beloved daughter of the late Oliver and Bertha Hogg. Dear sister of Oral (Joyce), Raymond (the late Eileen), the late Oliver Laverne (Reta) predeceased by Wilfred (Shirley), Audrey (James), Murray, Madeline, Russell, Pearl and infant Laverne. Lovingly

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Friday, May 5, 2023 from 11:00 am until the time of the Funeral Service for Alice at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home. Interment at the Ingoldsby

remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.



TheHighlander It's what everyone's reading

#### **That's Unreal!**

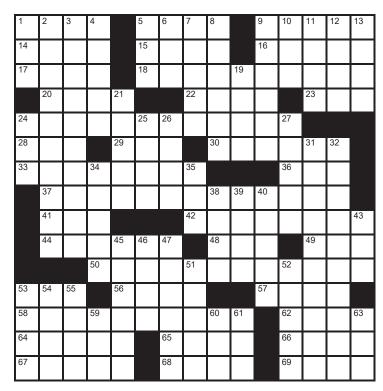
#### Across

- 1 Alphabet quartet
- 5 "Happy Days" jukebox puncher
- 9 Anti-freezes?
- 14 Brockovich played by Julia
- 15 Shielded from a sea squall, say
- **16** Not working properly
- 17 Blustery blast
- 18 Narwhal, by another name
- 20 "Cheers" regular who sat at the end of the bar
- 22 Neutrogena dandruff shampoo
- 23 Quick two-outs in baseball: Abbr.
- 24 One constantly glued to one's phone, iPad, etc.
- 28 wish I were an Oscar Mayer wiener'
- \_\_\_ Speed Wagon (vintage vehicle)
- **30** Workshop for aspiring painters
- **33** Daring base runners
- **36** Social following?
- 37 Online rabble-rouser
- 41 Subway overseer in N.Y.C.
- 42 Warty, tropical hopper
- 44 Strenuously avoid
- **48** \_\_\_ pinch
- 49 Coach Nick Nurse's org.
- **50** Fearsome lizard of Indonesia
- 53 "I have a dream" monogram
- **56** Katz of "Dallas," 1983-96
- 57 Takei's "Star Trek" role
- 58 '70s hatchback listed on CNBC's 10 Ugliest Cars of All Time
- **62** Some glass recyclables
- 64 Hot box?
- 65 Current swirl
- 66 Word with fee or friendly
- 67 Like a high-IBU brew
- 68 Pill bottle datum
- 69 Established ways: Abbr.

#### Down

- 1 What one might do to differ
- 2 When to buckle down
- 3 Throws off one's bearings
- **4** \_\_\_ nous (secret sharer's phrase)

by Barbara Olson © ClassiCanadian Crosswords



- 5 Notes before sols
- 6 Scandinavian man's name
- 8 Figure of speech exemplified by "She ran a fever and a marathon"
- 9 Duskily illuminated
- 10 Word after post or ad
- **11** ... wink and
- **12** Radio station on a '70s sitcom
- **13** Rip and tear, e.g.: Abbr.
- 21 Haggard who was a San Quentin inmate when Johnny Cash played
- 24 Therefores, simply
- **25** \_\_\_-do-well
- **26** Swedish portraitist of Theodore Roosevelt
- 27 Gangster Al's nemesis
- **31** "Finally!!"
- 32 Emphasized to death, as a point
- 34 Sharp as \_
- 35 No longer jiggly
- 38 Rush or The Be Good Tanyas, e.g.

- 39 Be inclined (to)
- 40 Sitting areas?
- 43 Aykroyd or Levy
- **45** Follower of two hips
- 46 Model with a palindromic name
- **47** \_\_\_ out of (slyly avoided)
- 51 Newfoundland town featured on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"
- 52 With sauce, as prime rib
- 53 Prepare potatoes for shepherd's
- **54** Texter's "You crack me up!"
- **55** Keurig single-serve pod
- 59 Country's econ. gauge
- 60 Selfish psyche sections
- 61 Bow-tied scientist
- 63 CARP mems.

#### Steve Kerr • Complete Dentures • Partial Dentures • Same Day Repairs & Relines • House Calls 143 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com stevekerrdentureclinic.com CALL NOW TO BOOK A FREE CONSULTATIO

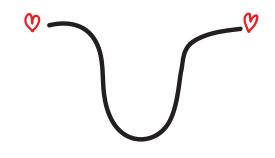
Can you eat with your dentures? ~ The answer should be yes, call us

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



SUBSTA

The thing about growing up is one day you realize you knew everything important when you were five.

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Samantha Miller Sales Representative 705-854-1229

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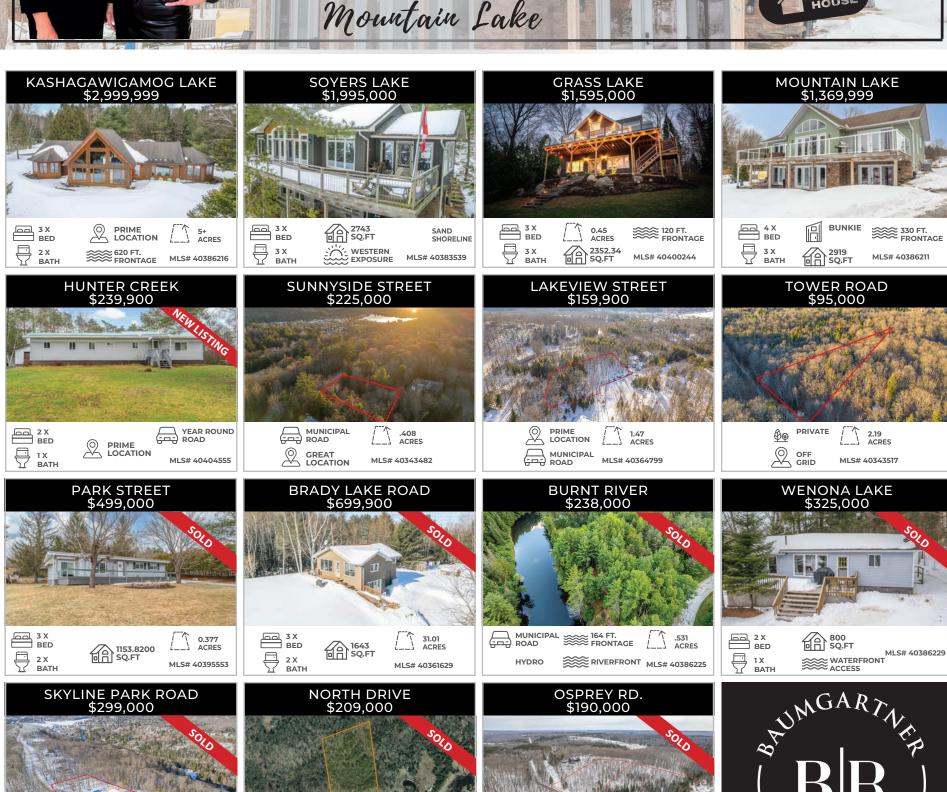
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\*Not intended to solicit Buyer's or Seller's under













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