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The Highlander

Thursday **December 7 2023** | Issue 619

INSIDE: RACE FOR COUNTY WARDEN PAGE 3

FREE

Ministry probes Wigamog Inn demolition

By Mike Baker

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is investigating the ongoing demolition of the Wigamog Inn property in Haliburton.

Shannon Simpkins, MECP spokesperson, told *The Highlander* the ministry received a complaint in August and has followed up, with site assessment ongoing.

“The ministry was made aware of demolition activities occurring at the Wigamog Inn through public concerns related to waste disposal activities and potential impacts to species at-risk. We are currently assessing site activities to ensure compliance with the applicable environmental legislation,” Simpkins said.

Asked for specifics on the legislation, what the ministry was investigating, protocols used to determine if rules had been broken, and the potential punishments, Simpkins said, “it would not be appropriate to speculate” until the investigation is complete.

Hailey Cole, Dysart et al bylaw officer, has been assisting with the investigation. She said all remaining demolition and removal of debris is on hold until the MECP wraps up, with the municipality aiming for a tentative completion date sometime in spring 2024.

The Wigamog has been in a state of disrepair for years. Aurora Group purchased the property in March 2016, announcing big plans for the site. A proposal posted to the company’s website included reopening the inn and the Moose Bar and Grill. There was also talk of a new residential development, featuring 180 condos, townhouses, and detached homes.

Years went by without any action. Dysart’s previous bylaw officer, Robert Mascia, reported carrying out multiple inspections of the property between 2019 and May 2022, when he issued a remedial action notice to Aurora Group outlining 47 infractions of the township’s

Continued ‘Demolition’ on page 2



He shoots he scores!

Haliburton County Huskies netminder Brett Fullerton wrote his name into the record books Dec. 1, scoring his team’s third goal in a 3-1 win over the Wellington Dukes. It was the first goal scored by a goaltender in the Ontario Junior Hockey League in 11 years. For more, see page 16.

Photo by Ed McPherson/
OJHL Images.

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Demolition of the Wigamog began in April and is now expected to run until spring 2024. *File.*

Demolition of site pushed to spring 2024, township says

Continued from page 1

property standards bylaw. Issues varied from downed power lines to smashed windows, damaged doors, and collapsed decks.

At a property standards committee meeting in fall 2022, Aurora Group said they intended to demolish the 37 buildings that make up the Wigamog site. They then missed a deadline to submit a demolition permit, which led to the committee, in October 2022, directing Dysart's chief building official, Karl Korpela, to issue an RFP to have the site torn down.

Staff were still working on the RFP in March when Aurora Group started the demolition process. To date, around a dozen buildings have been taken down.

The Wigamog was discussed briefly among Dysart's elected officials Nov. 28, with coun. Barry Boice saying he's heard there are squatters living inside the building.

"People are telling me there are lights going off throughout

the night... someone found canisters in there that look like [they store] propane, canned food," he said.

Cole said this was the first she had heard of people illegally residing on the property, telling council she would follow up.

Deputy mayor, Walt McKechnie, told *The Highlander* he was pleased the MECF had gotten involved, believing it will force Aurora Group into action.

"When you bring the ministry into the playing field, the game kind of changes a bit. You've got to start playing by their rules," McKechnie said. "This is a really big concern. Every week we're getting calls, all of council. I'm running into people in the street, in the store, and they all want to know what's going on with the Wigamog... I think a lot of people will still not be happy, because they wanted action yesterday, but they're going to see action soon."

Aurora Group did not respond to *The Highlander's* request for comment.

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Danielsen, Carter running for warden

By Lisa Gervais

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen is seeking a sixth consecutive year as County warden, but Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter, in running against her Dec. 12, said the position was supposed to be rotated on an annual basis and it is time for change.

Danielsen, who claimed the warden’s chair in 2019, at the outset of COVID-19, has not had to relinquish it, although she has been challenged, winning by having her name pulled out of a box last time around.

She has long said she thinks “consistency” is key.

“Our staff are our biggest resource, our strongest resource. We are about to recruit a new planning director, a new director of public works, we have a brand-new CAO,” Danielsen said. “The staff are a really strong, tightly-knit, group and I know they were nervous about (former CAO Mike Rutter) leaving and who was going to be in place. They know me. They work well with me. Continuity is important now. Having a new warden, who could very well take things in a different direction, is probably not the best thing for everybody concerned.”

The sitting warden added during her tenure, councils had tackled the shoreline preservation bylaw and short-term rental bylaw. She conceded they’d struggled with the services delivery review but, “if given another year, we can really pin down where we see some areas with success.”

Danielsen also argued that having a warden from Algonquin Highlands or Highlands East ensures more County-wide neutrality, as opposed to Dysart et al and Minden Hills.

“We’re more neutral when it comes to things like EMS bases, housing funding, and transportation. We pay into it but we don’t get anything out of it. Minden Hills and Haliburton, with greater tax bases and larger populations, they’re the ones who get those sorts of things and, consequently, there’s more conflict between the two of them, which creates more challenges within the County. That Haliburton versus Minden thing is not there for me.”

Carter focused on housing

Carter said it’s true the County is in a changing environment, but not just staff. He said they are dealing with major provincial government policy shifts that are greatly



Above: Warden Liz Danielsen at last year’s inauguration. Inset: Contender Bob Carter. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

affecting all of Ontario’s 444 municipalities but fiscally impacting rural and regional communities.

“Our cost of doing business is now not significantly less than it is in bigger centres, when our situation is we have pretty much a service-based economy. We don’t have any industries or large commercial enterprises that can help us with the tax base. Any money we have to spend, we have to get from the taxpayers, so I’m really conscious of that situation and see our costs continuing to go up.”

Carter sits on the boards of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation and Habitat for Humanity. He said there’s “still so much to be done” on the file but it is difficult to build affordable housing.

“How do we subsidize the numbers we need right now? We would have to take the money out of our tax base and with no large industry or commercial establishments, I’m very concerned about the financial impact on the County on a go-forward basis.”

Carter said there is some movement, including the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (EOWC) 7-in-7 initiative. “I’d like to

sit at that (EOWC) table for a while to try to see if I can contribute and make things better for Haliburton County.”

The Minden Hills mayor added that, for him, it is not about “being warden for life or anything. The whole idea of the warden was supposed to be some sort of rotation. It was not something where wardens were put in permanently, which is why we do it once a year. I spent a year learning things at the County level and I’d like to try to make things better here in Haliburton County.

“The world is changing. Sometimes you need to not necessarily have that same thinking and that same continuity. I would say we’re in a dynamic environment with a new CEO and so on.”

He acknowledged Danielsen’s work in leading the shoreline preservation bylaw and short-term rental bylaw but said, “now we have to concentrate on some other things. It’s not a continuity thing. It’s new things. That’s where I’m at.”



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MINDEN HILL NEWS

Give it a try fitness classes

Minden Hills residents are being given an opportunity to do a free fitness class in December, with classes being offered for a fee in the new year.

Manager of parks, recreation and facilities, Candace McGuigan, said during the week of Dec. 11-15, they are having ‘give it a try’ fitness programming.

The township has a new recreation coordinator, hired in September, who is a certified fitness instructor and personal trainer “which gives us an opportunity to tap into some revenue-generating programming,” McGuigan said.

She added “the need is there for fitness programming to provide some cross training and utilizing the gym space and the weight room. So, there will also be an introduction on how to use the weight room equipment, how to use it properly.”

The township is offering core fusion Dec. 11, cardio fit Dec. 13, gentle exercise Dec. 14 and HIIT Dec. 15.

Surplus projected

Director of finance, Greg Bedard, said it’s anticipated the township will have a year-end surplus of approximately \$1.7 million.

He further noted, “as council has previously discussed, any year-end surplus will be instrumental in reducing the amount of debt needed for the Bobcaygeon Road and Scotch Line Road reconstruction project.”

Bedard said the biggest contributor to the surplus is corporate wages and benefits are under budget as the township continues to struggle to attract and retain staff. The year-end positive variance could be as high as \$900,000.

While fiscally positive, he said the numbers reveal a major challenge.

“We have a very dedicated, loyal, committed staff complement, but I fear we’re running on the edge of burning out or are already at being burned out. And, to a certain extent, that’s very concerning. And to a certain extent, a lot of our staff are feeling unappreciated.” He said while troubling, the township has tools to improve that.

User fees to be discussed

The township will hold a public meeting Dec. 14 on its updated fees and charges bylaw.

Bedard said user fees offset, in full or in part, the cost of services provided to people and businesses.

“They are a useful revenue tool to mitigate tax rate increases. User fees are an important source of revenue for the township, accounting for approximately eight per cent of budgeted revenue in 2023,” Bedard said.

Some examples of changes include the removal of fees associated with administering marriages; a new electric vehicle charging station rate of \$2.50 per hour; a full day school group using the cultural centre doubling to \$200, from \$100; minimum charge for photocopy fees climbing to \$50 from \$5; new fire department fees, and increased fees for planning and recreation. Advertising at the ball diamonds is not recommended due to ongoing issues with vandalism.

The 2024 draft comprehensive fees and charges bylaw can be found on the township meeting agenda for Nov. 30.

Ice policy

Coun. Tammy McKelvey voiced concern at the meeting that more and more hockey tournaments are going to Haliburton because of Minden Hills’ ice facility allocation policy.

McGuigan tabled a report to the meeting suggesting some changes. They included definitions of season of play: summer ice June 1-Aug. 31 and regular ice Sept. 1-May 31. They have also defined prime and non-prime ice time hours. They have revised sections of the cancellations policy. The ice request process has also been changed, as well as a premium for statutory holidays.

McGuigan told council “staff recommends having discussions with user groups of the proposed changes, as well as consulting with A.J. LaRue Community Centre (Dysart et al) and Keith Tallman Memorial (Highlands East) Arena staff to work towards a cohesive ice facility allocation policy for all three ice rinks.”



Pickleballers play in the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena gym. File.

Steel plates for Scotch Line

Director of public works, Mike Timmins, said he had “a good news” story when it came to steel plate cover for the Scotch Line landfill.

Steel landfill cover plates are used as an alternate to daily cover. They are applied over the working areas of the landfill site

at the end of each day, which minimizes windblown scatter of garbage, wildlife, as well as the need for daily soil cover.

Timmins said they were unsuccessful tendering the project so approached Draper Industrial Contracting of Dunsford to see if they were interested in quoting the job.

He said council had budgeted \$50,000 for two steel plates and Draper quoted \$46,999 plus HST for three cover plates. (Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

INFORMATION PAGE

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<p>CULTURAL CENTRE</p> <p>The Agnes Jamison Gallery is now displaying selections from the permanent collection including new acquisitions by André Lapine ARCA (1866-1952). The Gallery is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm. The Gallery will be closed from December 25 to January 1, 2024 for the holidays. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca</p>	<p>FIRE DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Be prepared for winter driving, always tell someone where you are going and when you get there and try to have half a tank of gas or more. Keep the following items in, on or, your vehicle. Snow tires; sand and small shovel; tow rope and reflectors; windshield washer fluid; a bag with a blanket, cell phone power pack and cord, first aid kit, flashlight, hot paws, and snacks.</p>	<p>VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS</p> <p>Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meeting is:</p> <p>December 14 – Regular Council Meeting</p> <p>Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or 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.</p>
<p>MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE FOUNDATION</p> <p>The Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Wednesday, December 13 at 4 pm. All members of the MHCCF are welcome to attend. Please email mindenhillscfFOUNDATION@gmail.com for more information.</p>	<p>SAFE WINTER DRIVING</p> <p>It's not a race, give plows space! Plows can't see you and you can't see the road ahead. Plows are extra wide and throw snow and spray, making it difficult to see if the road ahead is clear for passing. The safest place is well behind the plow.</p>	
<p>NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING – COMPREHENSIVE FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW</p> <p>TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding the Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-law.</p>		

Nelson wants to see HHHS ‘grow and thrive’

By Mike Baker

Despite only serving as acting Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CEO for a matter of months, Veronica Nelson’s fingerprints can be found throughout the County hospital.

Nelson’s interim title was made permanent Dec. 4. It’s something of a homecoming for the administrator, who, in the early stages of her career, spent time working in imaging and diagnostics at the old Minden site.

After transitioning to a director role at Lindsay’s Ross Memorial Hospital, Nelson stayed true to her Highlands’ roots. She worked with former administrator, Varouj Eskedjian, to bring ultrasound and echo services to the County, and later assisted his successor, Carolyn Plummer, on the proposal to bring a CT scanner and mammography unit to the area.

Nelson noted plans are moving ahead for that enhancement, with the organization putting out a tender for construction for the \$4.3 million project on Dec. 4. She said the goal is to have everything in place for a summer 2024 launch.

In an interview with *The Highlander*, she said her main priority moving forward was to rebuild the community’s trust in HHHS. Discussing the closure of the Minden ER site, the new president and CEO admitted the organization had faltered by not engaging with the public.

“We do have to acknowledge that [the closure] wasn’t handled the best way. To

me, we did go wrong by not communicating with the community before making the announcement, 100 per cent,” Nelson said.

She stood behind the “difficult decision” the board made to close the site, noting it was necessary to ensure the County had one solid, operational emergency department.

Since June 1, HHHS has drastically scaled back its spend on agency nurses. While she couldn’t provide specific numbers, Nelson said the organizational deficit, pegged at around \$4.2 million at the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year in April, had shrunk to around \$1.7 million as of Sept. 30. She attributed much of that to a decreased reliance on agency staff.

Financial pressures do remain – Nelson noted the repealing of Bill 124 and subsequent renegotiation of nurse contracts was expected to cost HHHS an additional \$3.5 million this fiscal year, while inflation and increases to other costs is set to add another \$1.5 million to \$2 million.

“We still have an underlying structural base funding problem. The board and I have been doing significant advocacy work to try and address that,” she noted.

After taking comments from the public “very seriously” regarding rumours of people applying for jobs at HHHS and not hearing back, Nelson said she oversaw “drastic changes” to the hospital’s HR department through the summer. Since then, around 30 new staff members have been brought on board.



Veronica Nelson was appointed permanent president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services effective Dec. 4. Photo by Mike Baker.

That hiring push will continue, with Nelson working closely with County physician recruitment coordinator, Wendy Welch, to attract new doctors to the Highlands. She said the organization has some leads on overseas-trained doctors currently living and working in the UK.


She believes HHHS will be a much more attractive proposition once the CT scanner and mammography unit is online.

County council recently donated \$1 million to that project on the premise they’re granted a seat on the HHHS board. Nelson said it’s her understanding the board is open to that. She said she has big plans for HHHS.

“I have a dream. We’re working on our master program master plan right now... we’re getting our stage 1 pre-capital submissions into the ministry. What that does is it puts us on the list to say ‘hey, we have our hand up, we want to start doing something’,” Nelson said. “So, services like CT, mammography, endoscopy, MRI. We’re never going to be able to do neurology here, we don’t have the capacity, but we can look at things that make sense for our rural hospital.

“I never want to stand still. I want to see this place grow and thrive,” she added.

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Minden dissolves committee of adjustment

By Lisa Gervais

A Minden Hills council decision to disband its committee of adjustment has been criticized by existing members, although the town’s mayor says they are within their rights to make a change.

Committee members have received a phone call and follow-up letter, and the township is advertising for new committee members.

Two of five publicly-appointed committee members - Bill Blakes and Dick Schell – spoke with *The Highlander* on Dec. 1, as did mayor Bob Carter.

Blakes said he had been on the committee seven or eight years, and dealt with hundreds of applications, with no problems. He added while he suspects the move is because the committee went against the town planner on a couple of recent files, he claims the committee members were not given a reason for the decision.

However, he said his interpretation of bylaw 2084 s. 623 is that there has to be supporting rationale for the disbanding of a committee. “There was no reason given at all.”

Carter said, “I think it’s important that we didn’t fire them. We disbanded the committee with the intention of appointing a new committee. Anybody who was on the old committee could apply to go on the new committee. We can restart the committee at any time. It’ll come down to seeing who else in the community is interested and qualified.”

Carter added when they set up the committee following the last election, they

wanted to be able to review its work. “This is sort of like a one-year review, and so, we’re going to reappoint for the upcoming year type of thing.”

Asked if they would reapply, Schell, who said he has been a township volunteer for 43 years and a member of the committee for 27, replied, “no, once bitten, twice shy.”

The committee – for which council chooses members – is looking for people to serve from 2024-2026. The deadline to apply is Dec. 8. The committee considers applications for minor variances from the township’s zoning bylaw as set out in the Planning Act. A minor variance may allow property owners to use their land in a way that does not comply exactly with the requirements of the bylaw. The committee comprises the town planner and five community members.

Carter added the committee is quasi-judicial and its decisions are final unless appealed.

“I’m not saying that everything has to be copasetic and there’s never going to be a disagreement... but they just seemed to be going in the wrong direction, so we want to see if there is a possibility of doing something different. Having said that, in a small community, you can’t make this just business, it’s taken as personal.”

Blakes and Schell said they are taking it personal as word spreads.

Blakes said during meetings, the members look at information from the town planner but also from consultants representing the applicant. He said they had recently voted in



Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said council is within its rights to dissolve the committee of adjustment. *File.*

favour of the applicants on a couple of cases. Blakes, who worked for the City of Toronto for 28 years and believes he is highly qualified, said, “they (council) may have authority to do it (disband the committee) but it’s questionable. There is something wrong with this.”



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Man jailed for sexual assault

By Mike Baker

An Algonquin Highlands man has been sentenced to 90 days in jail, to be served on weekends, and nine months of house arrest after being found guilty of sexual assault and unlawfully entering a dwelling following an incident in the community in February 2021.

Paul Gregory Watson confronted an elderly neighbour in her home without her permission late at night Feb. 17, 2021, making several sexual advances. When rebuffed, Watson persisted, exposing himself while expressing his fondness for the victim, an Oshawa courtroom heard Nov. 30.

The sentence was handed down by Justice Russell Wood, who had earlier found Watson guilty on both counts on July 19. Crown prosecutor, Rebecca Griffin, had sought an 18-month jail sentence.

Wood noted how Watson's act was a clear betrayal of trust, given his familiarity with the victim. He and his wife, Michelle, had temporarily lived with her while their home was being renovated, while Watson would regularly assist with chores on the property.

The judge added Watson's actions have had a "profound impact" on the victim's life. The woman, in her late 70s, sold her home and moved away from the community, something she was not previously planning to do. Wood said the victim impact statement was "quite harrowing."

"Her experience over the last couple

of years has been very difficult, to put it mildly. Mr. Watson's conduct turned her world upside down... she has always felt capable and safe. Mr. Watson shattered the confidence in her," Wood said. "She has relocated and changed her daily routines and leisure activities. She has been attending counselling sessions to cope with what took place."

He added, "obviously, this was not how she had hoped to spend her golden years."

In landing at what he deemed to be an appropriate sentence, Wood said he considered the impact this had on the victim.

"It cannot be understated that sexual assault is inherently invasive and violent. Although the degree of intrusion here is not at the more aggravating end of the spectrum... it is clear Mr. Watson's conduct has had a very profound impact... in my view, jail time is necessary," Wood said.

He suggested an intermittent sentence based on Watson being a first-time offender and the testimony of his wife, who said she

relied on her husband to run their shared business, Watson General Contracting, and to assist her with medical-related issues.

It was noted Watson works long hours with his waste management company, which, it was noted, manages several municipal landfill sites, including in Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands.

Minden mayor, Bob Carter, said he did

not know all the facts and refrained from commenting when approached by *The Highlander*. He noted while municipal employees have to provide a criminal record check prior to their employment, the same conditions aren't extended to contractors. He was unsure if the issue would be addressed by council at its next meeting Dec. 14.

Algonquin Highlands mayor, Liz Danielsen, said the township is investigating what approach to take.

Wood noted a letter submitted to the court by Watson, expressing remorse for his actions, was "quite heartfelt."

"This is a situation where a carefully crafted blended sentence... will effectively meet the objectives and principals of sentencing. It sends the appropriate message to Mr. Watson that his conduct was serious and will not be condoned by the community. Further, it will allow Mr. Watson to explore rehabilitation, continue with his employment, and assist his spouse," Wood said.

The sexual assault charge carries an eight-month probation, as well as 90-day incarceration, with the unlawful entry of a dwelling carrying two years of probation, on top of nine months of house arrest. Watson is prohibited from possessing any firearms for five years and will be placed on the Ontario Sex Offender Registry for 10 years.

He is to serve his sentence at Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, presenting himself on Friday evenings and being released Monday morning. He is ordered to remain in Ontario for the entirety of his sentence, and, when on house arrest, seek permission for attending medical appointments and religious services.

Wood noted Watson is to present himself at the request of his supervisor at all times during the period of house arrest, or risk facing further jail time.

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TheHighlander

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

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Dysart needs to pressure Wig



By Mike Baker

A new date has been pencilled in for the demolition of the Wigamog Inn. Dysart et al bylaw officer, Hailey Cole, told *The Highlander* this week that, due to an ongoing Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks investigation, she doesn't expect teardown of the dilapidated property to be finished until spring 2024. We've heard this song and dance before. Forgive us if we're a little skeptical. Once the shining light of a thriving lodge industry on Lake Kashagawigamog, the times, and lack of any real investment, has left the Wigamog a shell of its former self. Major work was needed well before current owners, Aurora Group, bought it in 2016. At the time, they pushed grandiose ideas for what that parcel of land could become. Sadly, there has been no follow through. The township has been actively working to have the site torn down for well over a year. In May 2022, former bylaw officer Robert Mascia issued a remedial action notice to Aurora Group outlining 47 infractions of the township's property standards bylaw, with issues varying from downed power lines to smashed windows, damaged doors, and collapsed decks. A few months later, Aurora Group representatives told Dysart's property standards committee they wanted to demolish

the main lodge and 36 outbuildings. They then missed a deadline to submit a demolition permit, which led to council ordering its staff to put out an RFP to have a contractor complete the work on Aurora Group's behalf. Before that could be done, Aurora Group hired a team to begin tearing down chalets that littered the northern portion of the property. This was in April. Mascia told *The Highlander* then that he was told the plan was for demolition to be wrapped up in six weeks. Eight months later, and there's still much work to be done. The project has been further complicated by an MECP investigation. Officials were vague when *The Highlander* reached out seeking more information. No timelines were presented. This is a major red flag, as the province isn't especially renowned for moving quickly. Especially when it comes to environmental issues. Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie is trying to stay optimistic, hoping the ministry's involvement will help move things along. I'm not convinced. I think Dysart council had it right months ago, when mayor, Murray Fearrey, called on staff to put together another RFP to try and find someone to demolish it. At the

time, staff felt this would be a risk and advised against it. They said, since Aurora Group had started demolition, it would be in the township's interest to allow them the chance to follow through. Again, that hasn't happened. Aurora Group has shown on more than one occasion that it is incapable of sticking to its word when it comes to the Wigamog. If council truly wants to see the site levelled, and I believe they do, they're going to have to do more than just sit back and hope. At a meeting last week, coun. Barry Boice said he'd heard there are people squatting on the property. If true, that's a huge safety risk. Then there's the empty swimming pool, the mountains of debris from torn down chalets. There's no fencing preventing people from getting in and out. I worry that, unless the township applies real pressure once the MECP investigation is over, spring 2024 will come and go with the Wigamog still standing.

CLIMATE CORNER
The adaptation gap

The devastating effects of climate change are forcing governments around the world to take urgent action. As climate change accelerates, humans must find ways to adapt to a much hotter world with more extreme weather, floods, fires, droughts, crop shortages, costlier food and goods globally. The Annual Adaptation Gap Report for 2023 (UNEP) says we are losing ground and "... inadequate investment and planning leaves the world exposed." World leaders aren't moving fast enough, and the adaptation gap is widening. Canada's climate is warming two times faster than the global average, and three times faster in the north. This affects food supply, road and water safety, forest fire risk, agriculture. It lowers water levels (affecting Great Lakes shipping, hydropower production) and increases diseases and pests. The latest IPCC report says we need to adapt; reducing emissions won't be enough to protect lives and livelihoods from climate change. Globally, and here, we need to alter aspects of our lives - like how and where we build our cities and how we grow food. Seas will be rising and permafrost thawing for at least the next century. Intense heat and changes in precipitation require planning and preparation. SOLUTIONS: At least 84 per cent of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have established adaptation plans, strategies, laws, and policies. A consortium of multilateral development

banks, funders, countries and philanthropies published the *Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions*, announced this week at the World Climate Action Summit's 28th session of Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP28) in Dubai (Nov. 30 - Dec. 12). It's a plan for financing rapid reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, protecting people from climate risks, building resilient, environmentally sustainable health systems/communities. Canada was the first country to promise a 75 per cent reduction in methane (from oil and gas) emissions at COP28. Fifty oil and gas companies endorse climate action with The Decarbonization Charter, promising to be net zero by 2050, close to zero by 2030. The charter is part of the Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA), focusing on rapidly scaling and decarbonizing the energy system. Colombia is the first Latin American country and the largest producer of coal and gas to join the growing bloc of nations pushing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Portugal produced enough renewable energy to supply all customers for six days, despite rain and low winds. Because power from wind, solar and hydro is far cheaper than from oil, prices dropped almost to zero. New Jersey announced it will phase out the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035, joining California and New York. Michigan signed legislation setting 100 per cent clean energy standard by 2040,

decreasing household utility costs by an average of \$145 a year, creating 160,000 jobs, adding \$8 billion federal dollars for clean energy. Canada created The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), a framework for climate action incorporating health, nature, infrastructure, disaster resilience, economy. Understanding our vulnerability to disaster and climate change risks is key. New building codes prepare for flooding, wildfires, heat events. Public awareness campaigns include emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. The NAS states that without adaptation, by 2050 flooding will cost billions of dollars annually in Canada even with reduced emissions. Because communities will need insurance and funds to replace property and relocate people, federal programs now include: the Task Force on Flood Insurance and Strategic Relocation; Emergency Management Strategy for Canada; Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. Adapting to climate change doesn't let anyone off the hook. All action toward reaching net zero by 2050 helps. Canada's commitments in the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan are critical. NEXT: What you can do



By Dr. Nell Thomas

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Anand Ghanekar took this photo recently at Esson Lake near Wilberforce.

LETTERS

Park must be renamed

Dear editor,

We are disheartened, disappointed and angered by the decision of Dysart council to rescind the decision to re-name Sam Slick Park with a more appropriate community recognition.

In July 2022, the Dysart cultural resources committee (CRC), along with a group of high school students, made a recommendation to council that Sam Slick Park be re-dedicated in recognition of the Indigenous peoples of this region. The park is named after the fictitious character Sam Slick in the book *The Clockmaker* by Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

As the CRC pointed out in their presentation, Slick makes statements that are misogynistic, racist, demeaning to women, Indigenous peoples and people of colour.

The CRC and youth recommended the current plaque be removed and placed in the Haliburton Highlands Museum, where its context could be described. Dysart's previous council passed a resolution to support the recommendation, and work was undertaken by the committee to engage Indigenous communities in the re-dedication process.

On Nov. 28, representatives from the CRC restated their case, background and research. Then, the mayor led with the statement,

"the consensus seems to be we want to leave things the way they are." There had been no discussion during the meeting, so how was this consensus reached? He states, "it's important to maintain our history and that's history whether we like it or not" and "we've learned. We've moved on." This was supported with comments from councillors about "erasing history" by removing the plaque and forgetting "the lessons we've learned today". How does 'moving on' demonstrate anything has been learned? By moving the plaque to the museum, its history would be preserved, in its rightful place with other historical artifacts.

Changing the name was an opportunity to publicly declare we as a community and council acknowledge the past harms of racism and misogyny and demonstrate in a small, but significant way, we are trying to do better.

In Windsor, N.S, the birthplace of T.C. Haliburton, Sam Slick Days festival was changed when the community became aware of the racist content of *The Clockmaker*. The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail Association changed the name of the Sam Slick Trail in Glebe Park to Roller Coaster.

The students had told council they were surprised to learn the parkette "had such negative associations, and decided we wanted to do something to change it. We

can't continue to act in ignorance. We can't continue to celebrate a character whose values are not representative of who we are as a community."

We urge Dysart council to do better. Change the resolution and support the cultural resources committee to continue its work with community and Indigenous partners to move forward instead of standing still.

**Barb Fraser, Myrna McBrien, Judy Paul, Lynda Shadbolt, Sue Shikaze
Dysart et al**

No discussion of renaming Haliburton

Dear editor,

As stated in the Nov. 30, 2023 *Highlander* (Dysart opts to keep Sam Slick name), the Dysart et al council, regrettably, allowed an uncomplicated decision to escape them when they decided to ignore the substantial research and recommendations of the cultural resources committee to change the name of a small park in the village.

The reasons for this compelling, timely and appropriate correction were very well documented and presented but it appears that at least one of the councillors confused

a fictional literary character with the real-life author. Nowhere was Haliburton, be it the village, the County or the author, ever the subject of the discussion. Sadly, a significant opportunity to remedy was lost.

**Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton**

Thank you, Tammy

Dear editor,

The Haliburton Santa Claus parade this year was wonderful because of the spectacular entries from so many community groups and businesses.

This year, we arranged for the parade to be recorded and available for showing at local long-term care homes, such as Extendicare and Highland Wood.

We are extremely grateful to Tammy Rea of Sticks and Stones Productions and we heartily thank Tammy for this generous effort.

It can be found at vimeo.com/891098115/a998c19b04?share=copy

**Jim Frost
Parade coordinator**



A grand opening

Staff from the Gardens of Haliburton retirement residence welcomed the community to a grand opening of its second phase of development Nov. 30. The extension was completed Oct. 31, adding 34 new residential suites, four ground-floor communal areas, a fitness room, and library. It brings the total capacity of the Gardens complex to 100 units.

Staff and dignitaries held a ceremonial ribbon cutting, from left to right: Gardens of Haliburton partner, Phil McKenzie; Dysart Ward 1 coun. Pat Casey; Gardens principal owner, Bill Mardimae; Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey; Gardens director of community relations, Patti Lou Robinson; and general manager, Selena Eastman. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Reverse advent calendar full of food

RE/MAX Professionals North Baumgartner Realty is collecting food for the 4Cs via a food collection calendar it is advertising on conventional and social media. It is piggybacking on RE/MAX Professionals North upstairs. “We encourage the public to bring in the item of the day,” Linda Baumgartner said. “Anybody who does bring in a food item, we put their name in for a draw.” The last collection day is Dec. 12. “We like to give back in some sort of way at Christmas,” Baumgartner added. “We gave out gingerbread houses the night of the Santa Claus parade and collected donations for the 4Cs. Whatever we collect, I match it, so we will be giving them money along with food.”

Left to right: Stef Wood, Nicole Baxter, Barb Williams, Rosemarie Jung, Linda Baumgartner and Nicole Phillips. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*





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The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking residents to serve on the Committee of Adjustment for the 2024-2026 term. Members will receive \$100.00 for each regular meeting attended, plus an additional \$10.00 per application, and are reimbursed for mileage associated with conducting site visits. Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the last Monday of each month.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

The Committee of Adjustment considers applications for minor variances from the Township's Zoning By-law as set out in the Planning Act. A minor variance may allow property owners to use their land in a way which does not comply exactly with the requirements of the Zoning By-Law. The Committee of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body made up of citizen representatives appointed by Council. Decisions made by the Committee of Adjustment may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and a cover letter to:

Clerk's Department
Committee of Adjustment Member
Township of Minden Hills
P.O. Box 359 - 7 Milne Street
Minden, ON., KOM 2K0
or by e-mail to:
sprentice@mindenhills.ca

Applications must be received by **Friday, December 8, 2023.**

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 the collection and use of this information should be directed to the Clerk, Vicki Bull, Township of Minden Hills, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, KOM 2K0 (705) 286-1260 ext. 515.



Festive feast of dancing as Nutcracker returns

Performers from Skyline Dance Studio will bring Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* to life in Haliburton Dec. 9 and 10, with three shows at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Director, Julie Barban, said there are 48 dancers featured in this year's production. The Skyline Dance team have been in rehearsal since early October preparing for the two-hour ballet. "We're all very excited – the kids have been working so hard," Barban said. Tickets are available online at onstagedirect.com/heritageballet.

Top: Reese Wood waltzing around. Above: Chloe Morissette and Gracie Pockett run through their routine. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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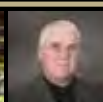
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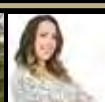
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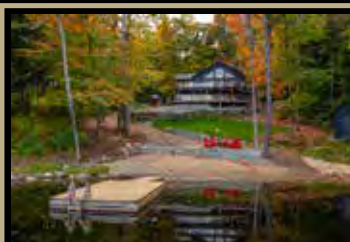
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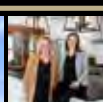
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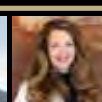
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Andrea Hagarty and Johnny Waite sailed the Palawan Islands last February. *Submitted.*

Sailing snorkelling and sleeping out

By Lisa Gervais

Fancy spending an hour on a sailing adventure in the Philippines? While the Haliburton County Community Cooperative can't transport you there Dec. 13, you can hear all about Andrea Hagarty and Johnny Waite's tale of their February 2023 trip at the Speaker Series at the fish hatchery Dec. 13.

The two travelled on a 74' wooden Paraw through the Palawan Islands.

The Cooperative's Barrie Martin said that in addition to sharing their experiences of sailing, snorkeling and sleeping in traditional bamboo huts on remote islands, Hagarty and Waite "will be telling the incredible story of how the provider, Tao Adventures, has become an integral part of the local economy, providing hundreds of jobs for the wonderful people from this extraordinary corner of the world."

He said the two have promised to share images of spectacular scenery, stormy seas, and endless adventures.

Hagarty is the long-time proprietor of Bonnie View Inn on Lake Kashagawigamog. Waite is a coach, speaker and international event organizer, having created various adventure races in dozens of countries.

They started dating in February 2015 and, after agreeing to "keep it casual" ended up

traveling the world together instead - and got married in December 2015 in Mendoza, Argentina after climbing Mount Aconcagua (the tallest mountain outside the Himalayas).

Since then, they have never looked back and, now retired, have founded The Golden Age of Adventure - a company devoted to creating travel experiences for others.

This is the second time they have been speaker series guest presenters.

"When we spoke about our Aconcagua climb, it took us right back to the mountain ourselves, so we are very much looking forward to revisiting this awesome sailing experience," the two said.

Martin added, "the season is off to a great start with three very entertaining and informative presentations behind us. We are very excited for the months ahead. Maryam Monsef, Ian Tamblyn, Charlie Angus, Ted Barris, Ruth Walker, Jane Selbie, Wendy Wood and Sandi Luck will be our featured speakers."

The series happens on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7-9 p.m. at the HHOA Fish Hatchery. Admission is \$15 per person payable, at the door. If you would like to receive more information or have a story you would like to tell, please email barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com or call 705-457-7557.

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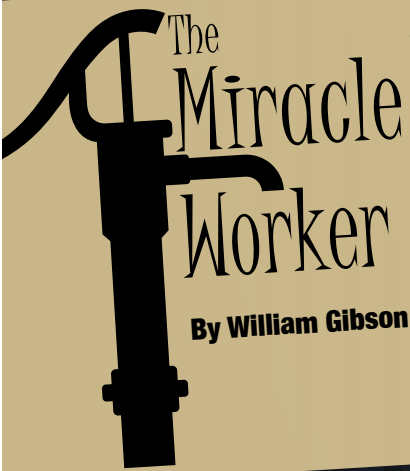
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

book by Rachel Sheinkin
score by William Finn

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything in this delightful musical.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a delightful hive of comedic and musical genius. Opens July 2 through to July 11 for nine performances, including two matinees.



Twelve-year-old Helen Keller lived in a prison of silence and darkness. Deaf, blind, and mute from an illness as a baby, with no way to express herself or comprehend those around her, she flew into primal rages against anyone who tried to help her, fighting tooth and nail with a strength born of furious desperation. Then Annie Sullivan came. Half-blind herself, but possessing an almost fanatical determination, she would begin a frightening and incredibly moving struggle to tame the wild girl no one could reach...

Opens July 15 for eight performances including three matinees.

Sarah, a turkey farmer, has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail, a beekeeper. Add in Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, *The Birds and the Bees* is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys. Six performances from July 28 to August 2.

(This production contains mature themes. Recommended for ages 13 and up. There is no official rating system for live theatre. We encourage you to use your judgment based on your child's age and maturity level.)



By Mark Crawford

The Good Lovelies



Highlands Summer Festival is delighted to present *The Good Lovelies*, a Canadian folk/country harmony trio, consisting of Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore. At their core they can be described as a country/folk trio, with tinges of pop, roots, jazz and sometimes hip-hop mixed in.

The group's three members, Brooks from Whitby, Ough from Port Hope and Passmore from Cobourg, were all performing as solo artists in the Toronto area when they came together in 2006 to perform at a Christmas concert at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The three subsequently decided to continue working together, releasing their debut EP, *Oh My*, in 2007. Since then, they have released nine LPs including the latest *We Will Never Be The Same* in 2023. In 2018, they performed at Massey Hall in Toronto and were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award. The trio is on stage for three performances, July 24, 25 and a matinee 26.



Back by popular demand, Highland Summer Festival presents Leisa Way and her Wayward Wind Band with another outstanding concert, *Opry Gold*. To share the Grand Ol' Opry's history is to share the story of Country Music. Leisa Way and her phenomenally talented band have brought audiences many great shows, and this latest concert raises the roof with the hottest country songs from the last few decades. Sing-a-long to Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, Vince Gill, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Lady Antebellum, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Zac Brown Band, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Glen Campbell, Taylor Swift, Darius Rucker, Kenny Chesney, Gretchen Wilson, George Strait, Roger Miller, Flatt & Scruggs, Ricky Scaggs, Hank Snow, Roy Acuff, Alan Jackson, and more! Five performances starting August 4 through August 8.

Fall in love with live theatre again this summer!

Fullerton makes history with rare goalie goal

By Mike Baker

With less than 30 seconds left on the clock, and a competitive game in a hostile barn on a knife's edge, Haliburton County Huskies netminder Brett Fullerton shut out all the noise, vacated his crease, brought a bouncing puck under control by the boards, gazed down the ice and let fly.

Time seemed to stand still at Lehigh Arena, home of the rival Wellington Dukes, Dec. 1 after Fullerton recorded an uber-rare goalie goal. Not only was it the first in Huskies franchise history, it's believed to be the first league-wide in more than 11 years.

Officially timed at 19:40, the late tally was the icing on the cake for a Huskies outfit chasing its first-ever win at the venue. It secured a 3-1 result for the blue and white.

The Highlander caught up with Fullerton and several other Huskies players and staff members this week to reflect on the goal. The 19-year-old Ancaster, ON native said it wasn't planned, noting his instincts kicked in once he realized there was a chance.

"All I remember is them dumping it in and so I skate out to meet the puck, look up and I notice their goalie was gone, so I just shot it. I didn't even think about it, it kinda just happened," Fullerton said. "The rest, after that, is a bit of a blur."

The Huskies social media manager, Noah Giordano, spotted the opportunity before Fullerton had reached the puck. The teams were all square on the ice, five-on-five, after Dukes blueliner Dimitri-Alexander Tzaferis took a tripping call at 18:59. Chasing the game, home coach Kent Lewis brought his netminder, Jack Lisson, to the bench.

"I just said 'shoot Fully, go for it', and he did," Giordano said. "It was insane."

Captain Patrick Saini was skating back into his own zone when he saw Fullerton leave the net.

"I know he likes to play the puck, so I wasn't thinking anything of it. Then I notice him look up and I just remember thinking 'there's no way he's trying this right now'," Saini said. "It's one of the coolest things I've

ever seen playing hockey. You see goalie goals on clips on Instagram and it's cool, but to see one in-person is nuts."

Huskies forward Lucas Stevenson had a front row seat.

"I was on the ice and he ended up shooting it up my side – the puck just flew up into the air. It almost hit the scoreboard they have coming down from the roof at centre ice," Stevenson said. "It looked like it was going to miss just to the right initially, but then it swung left, bounced, and trickled in. We all went nuts."

Isaac Larmand was watching from the bench with bated breath. He was following the play when one of the coaches called out, "wow, he's trying it boys." From his angle, it didn't look like it was going to go in. Then it did.

"It was just an explosion, none of us could believe it," Larmand said. "We were all just in awe, coaches included. For him to do that, with a couple of Wellington forwards hounding him, it was a one-in-a-million moment, for sure."

As those on the ice celebrated, Stevenson told Fullerton to "run the train" and mark the occasion with the rest of the team. He skated by the bench, receiving high-fives from everyone.

After the game, he was presented with the puck, which he has since taped and added the result, date and opponent.

"That'll be a nice keepsake probably for the rest of my life," Fullerton said. "It's definitely something really cool. Not something you ever think you're going to experience as a goalie. I'm glad I did it... I think this is top of the list now as far as career accomplishments go."

The teen noted it wasn't his first attempt – he tried for one last season while playing Jr. B with the Chatham Maroons, and again a couple years back with the Ontario Hockey League's Saginaw Spirit.

It was a special moment for head coach Ryan Ramsay, who has enjoyed a near 20-year career playing professionally and



Huskies goaltender Brett Fullerton shows off the puck used to score his goalie goal.

Photo by Mike Baker.

coaching junior without ever seeing a goalie goal in-person. He said he was delivering some final messages to some guys preparing to hit the ice when he saw the puck fly up into the air.

"I didn't know who had shot it until it went in and everyone started going crazy," Ramsay said. "His shot is unbelievable – it's the hardest goalie shot I've seen, and he's probably the best goalie for coming out and playing the puck [that I've worked with]. The kid has got a cannon. Good for him, it was a great moment."

Fullerton's family were able to share in the moment while watching the game live

online. The goalie credits his heavy shot to his dad, Greg, who set up a shooting room in the family home for he and his brother while growing up.

"It definitely makes it more special knowing they were watching – I owe everything I have in hockey to them. They called me right after the game and said they had a bunch of family friends over at the house for the game, and everyone went crazy when I scored," Fullerton said.

"This is something that will stick with me forever."

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Huskies put together three straight wins

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay believes his team has turned a corner after three wins in four days last week, keeping the hometown team in contention for a playoff spot.

The blue and white recorded a 6-1 win over the Brantford 99ers on the road Nov. 30, before a herculean effort Dec. 1 saw them topple the second-place Wellington Dukes 3-1. They rounded out their perfect weekend with a 2-1 win on home ice Dec. 3 against the Stouffville Spirit.

"I was really impressed with the effort, and the maturity we displayed, especially against Wellington. That's the first time we've ever won there, so that was a big one for us," Ramsay said.

Logan Kennedy backstopped the Huskies to a comfortable victory in Brantford. Nicholas Lamont opened the scoring with a powerplay marker 4:48 into the first period, set up by Ty Petrou and Patrick Saini. Lucas Marshall doubled the lead 2:50 into the second, unassisted.

Evin Kojokaro potted one for the home side at 5:26 of the middle frame, scoring his 17th goal of the season on the powerplay.

Isaac Larmand scored a shorthanded goal at 8:49, assisted by Lucas Vacca and Noah Lodoen, with Saini adding a fourth five minutes before the second whistle after being

set up by Petrou and Lucas Stevenson. Alex Bradshaw, from Stevenson and Charlie Fink, and Gavin McGahey-Smith, from Ethan Wright and Lodoen, rounded out the scoring in the third.

Friday night in Wellington will go down in history due to visiting netminder, Brett Fullerton's, goalie goal in the closing seconds. It was a spirited come-from-behind effort for the Huskies, who went a goal down in the first period but rebounded in the third with tallies from Stevenson, assisted by Jack Staniland and Petrou, and Antonio Cerqua, assisted by Stevenson and Bradshaw. Fullerton's marker, at 19:40 was unassisted.

Sunday's tilt in Minden against the Spirit was a rollercoaster. The Huskies were largely outplayed in the opening period, with Fullerton in fine form to keep Stouffville's dynamic attack at bay. Stevenson grabbed the game's first goal 11:39 into the second, unassisted. That held up until 15:51 of the final frame, when Andoni Fimis thought his effort was sending the game to overtime. But Bradshaw stepped up with the game-winner 45 seconds later to send the fans home happy.

The team sits in eighth in the OJHL East Conference with 32 points, 15 wins, 13 losses and two ties. They are back in action Dec. 8 on the road against the Aurora Tigers before hosting the Pickering Panthers in Minden Dec. 9. Puck drop is set for 4 p.m.



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Miller Brown sets himself for a shot. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Shutout leads Storm to victory

A Saturday morning tilt between the Highland Storm U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies and Almaguin Ice Devils featured two top teams vying for the right to crown themselves first in the league. Both teams brought their A-game – a busy opening period saw the two teams cancel one another out. Heading into the second, James Hamilton gave the Storm the lead, potting after a net front scramble to get the home side on the board. The score remained 1-0 heading into the final frame.

The Ice Devils continued to push hard during the third period, creating several scoring opportunities after pinning the Storm back. They maintained continued offensive zone pressure, but stellar goaltending from Mason Bishop, and a concentrated team defensive effort, halted the comeback attempt. It was a gutsy effort for the Storm en route to a 1-0 win. *(Submitted).*

STARS of the WEEK



Mason Bishop

Mason 'The Brick Wall' Bishop stopped every opportunity the Ice Devils could throw at him. Timely saves and a friendly crossbar provided Mason with a much-deserved shutout.



James Hamilton

James' restless pursuit of the puck and defensive responsibility had him engaged in the match on both ends of the ice. His second period tally proved to be the difference-maker in the closely contested game.



Grayson Thomas

Grayson played a tremendous defensive game. His persistence in putting shots on net and making timely poke checks, and stopping would-be breakaways, were instrumental in the win. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*

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Dec. 1 U15 Rep Haliburton Timbermart VS Mariposa • 2-2 T	U11 LL Cottage Country Building Supplies VS Almaguin • 1-0 W	Dec. 3 U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS South Muskoka • 6-4 W
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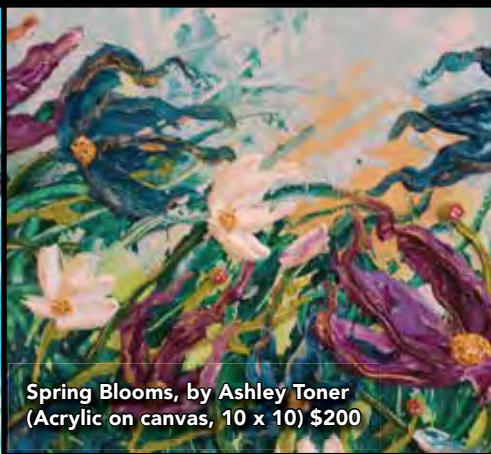
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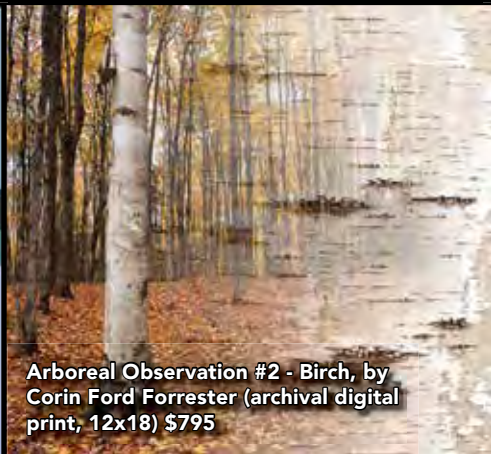
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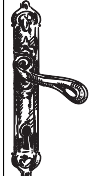
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OBITUARIES




In Loving Memory of
Laura Bannon
(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton on Sunday November 26, 2023 in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late John (Jack) Bannon. Loving mother of Patricia (Robert), Katherine (Rick), Nancy (Dan), & Terry-Lynn. Fondly remembered by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her daughters Audrey, Donna and many of her sisters and brothers. Also lovingly remembered by her son-in-law Wayne and many nieces and nephews. Laura was actively involved in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129 Ladies Auxiliary for many years. She loved the Haliburton Highlands and most of all spending time with her family.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Monday morning, December 4, 2023 for a Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Interment later Evergreen Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada or the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129 would be appreciated by the family.






In Loving Memory of
Harris Franklin Steele

Harris passed away peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at the age of 75.

Beloved husband of Carolyn, Dear father of Shawn and his wife Katherine, Christopher and his wife Melanie, Veronica and her husband Glen, Aarica and her husband Andrew, Loving Poppa to Taylor (deceased), Ashley, Natasha, Katie, Cody, Ashley, Bryce, Dylan, Landon, Talia, Crystal and great poppa to many. Dear brother of David and predeceased by Kevin, Warren and by his parents Frank and Muriel. Son-in-law to Rica Anderson and predeceased by George. Fondly remembered by his family and friends.

Friends are invited to a Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Harris's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, December 16th, 2023 from 11:00 o'clock until 2:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Special Olympics Ontario, Haliburton County Red Wolves and ASES Breakfast Club (Cheques only for both charities) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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14	R	O	I		15	I	O	U		16	N	E	W	S	D	A	Y
17	I	N	A	S	N	I	T		19	S	T	A	T	I	N	S	
20	C	O	M	E	A	N	D		21	F	O	R	G	E	T	I	T
	22	T	A	R		23	I	A	M		24	F	O	S	S		
25	F	O	R	B		26	I	D		27	D	I	N	G	W	A	R
30	O	N	I	O	N	Y		31	L	I	E	O	N				
32	Y	E	A		33	F	I	G		34	A	T	M		36	I	B
				39	H	E	N	R		40	I		41	S	A	R	N
				43	F	O	R	G	I		44	V	E	A	N	U	D
45	T	A	R	T					47	M	A	G			48	E	E
49	W	R	E	S		50	T	L	I	N	G		52	F	O	R	M
55	E	M	S	P	A	C	E		56	S	E	N	S	A	T	E	
57	R	E	C	O	R	D	S		58	O	T	C		59	N	E	D
60	P	R	O	T	E	S	T		61	N	A	E		62	D	R	X

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	M	R	P	I	B	B		7	O	J	S		10	G	I	G	I
14	A	T	O	N	A	L		15	N	O	T		16	S	O	B	A
17	S	E	E	T	H	E		18	S	E	Y	E		19	T	O	E
19	K	I	T	H		20	W	E	I	R		21	E	G	G	E	D
				22	E	D	I	T		24	I	T		25	N	O	
26	B	I	G	B	A	T	H		29	E	D	W	O	L	F		
31	A	L	I	A	S			32	C	E	O	S		33	I	L	L
36	B	E	R	G		37	G	R	O	S	S		39	G	L	U	E
40	A	S	T		41	O	W	E	N			42	R	E	C	C	E
				43	H	A	V	E	N	O		45	F	E	A	T	H
				47	L	I	N	E		48	E	X	E	S			
49	A	L	I	O	N		52	G	E	L	T		54	R	H	A	P
58	B	O	T	H	E	R	E	D	T	O		60	T	E	A	R	S
61	A	B	R	A	S	I	O	N		62	R	E	A	C	T	S	
63	B	O	Y	S		64	D	N	A		65	T	A	L	K	A	T

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

BIRTHDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Willie Cox is turning 90!

Please come to her Birthday Open House
Dec. 30, 1 to 3
Main Room Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St.

Looking forward to sharing some memories or dreams.

Light refreshments will be served.

In Lieu of gifts or cards, if you wish to drop off a loonie in the collection box for Highland Hill United Church's elevator project, that would be welcome.

BIRTHDAY

HELP WANTED

WE'RE HIRING!!!!

Haliburton Wee Care

is hiring for **full time RECE** and **Assistant positions**. We would love to be able to serve as many children as possible and support our local workforce.

We are a licensed child care with a great reputation for outstanding care and are looking to expand our team. We are open Monday to Friday 7:15-5:45 (6 @after school) and offer up to 44 hours per week with competitive wages and benefits, all statutory holidays are paid and 2 weeks of paid vacation after one year.

A clear Vulnerable Sector Check, Standard First Aid CPR Level C and a Health Check form filled out by your family doctor must all be obtained upon hire.

Please forward Cover Letter and Resume to:
haliburtonweecare@hotmail.com



HIRING

Full Time Food Services Manager

- Competitive Rates
- Benefits
- Positive Work Environment
- Professional Atmosphere
- Experience in Management a must
- Job shifts are as needed

Please apply via our website, by email at jobs@gardensofhaliburton.ca or by calling 705-457-4848 for more information.

HELP WANTED

WE ARE HIRING

DRIVERS NEEDED

HOME TO SCHOOL AM/PM

- GOOD WITH PEOPLE?
- LOVE TO DRIVE?
- HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE?
- WILLING TO LEARN?
- LIKE AN ENJOYABLE / HAPPY WORKPLACE?

Send Your Resume To:
ascheffee@haliburtonbuslines.ca

More Information Call:
(705) 457-8882

PERKS

TRAINING PROVIDED

SIGNING BONUS \$

FLEXIBLE HOURS

NO CHILDCARE NEEDED





WE ARE HIRING!
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

Would you like to be part of the fundraising team working to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County? Do you have a passion for community building and local health care?

We are looking for a dynamic full-time Administrative Associate to be the first point of contact in the HHHS Foundation office and to support a small fundraising team. Duties range from reception to donation processing, financial reporting to volunteer management and more. The successful candidate will be well-organized, computer savvy, and able to juggle multiple priorities.

We look forward to hearing from interested applicants by 6 pm Monday, December 18, 2023 to

Melanie Klodt Wong, Executive Director
HHHS Foundation, mklodtwong@hhhs.ca

Please visit hhhs.ca/about/careers for the full job posting and hhhs.ca/foundation to learn more about the HHHS Foundation.

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation is currently seeking a Permanent Part-time Maintenance Person to join our team. Applicant must have valid driver's license and be available for on call and weekends in a rotating schedule. You should be organized, have some knowledge of plumbing, electrical, patching/painting of drywall and computers. Full job description available upon request. Please email your resume no later than **Dec 22, 2023** to: manager@haliburtonhousing.com

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

TheHighlander
It's what everyone's reading

FOR RENT

HALL FOR RENT – Space available for training, meetings, or family gatherings now with Starlink internet. ½ day \$75, full day \$125, licensed event \$200. Call 705-457-9664 or email halihhoa@gmail.com
Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, 6712 Gelert Rd., Haliburton

FOR RENT – Clean 1 bedroom apt across from Shoppers Drug Mart, Haliburton. Available Dec 1st
Call 705-341-1710

FOR RENT 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Haliburton. Large kitchen & living area. Private outdoor patio. Includes parking space and storage locker. Located in lovely Granite View complex within walking distance to amenities and lake. Available January 1.
705-854-0103

BEDROOM FOR RENT | SINGLE PERSON – Large bedroom for rent in a beautiful, shared home in the village. Close to all amenities and college. \$1,000/month, utilities and wifi included. Please text Sue on 647-824-5734. References and security check required.

MISSING PET

MISSING



OPAL

2 year old black female labrador retriever

LAST SEEN 2304 Haliburton Lake Rd., Eagle Lake

Missing since Nov. 23. Very friendly, deeply missed. Please help bring Opal home.

CALL 705-749-3787
jennifercoates148@gmail.com



It's that time of year again

Now is your chance to get into the 2024 Highlander Handbook!
Call today
705-457-2900

TheHighlander

Going Pro

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Three-item Subway item
 - 4 Arafat's grp.
 - 7 Opiner's opening, with "to me"
 - 14 A French face card
 - 15 Short letters?
 - 16 Sitcom Raymond's sports column paper
 - 17 With one's nose out of joint
 - 19 Cholesterol-reducing meds
 - 20 Party invitation to an amnesiac?
 - 22 Feather mate
 - 23 "You're not!" retort
 - 24 "Time Cycle" composer Lukas —
 - 25 Declaring a kid's card game verboten?
 - 30 Like chive dip, flavourwise
 - 31 Use as a mattress
 - 32 House call, maybe?
 - 33 Fiddle-leaf houseplant
 - 35 Balance provider
 - 36 "Think" computer brand
 - 39 Painter Matisse
 - 41 Largest city on Lake Huron
 - 43 Pardon someone for poking you?
 - 45 Butter ___ (iconic Canadian treat)
 - 47 Muscle car wheel
 - 48 Very wide shoe meas.
 - 49 Headlock first, strangle hold next, then half-nelson?
 - 55 Large gap, in typesetting
 - 56 Perceived by sight, smell, touch, etc.
 - 57 Reponds "after the beep"
 - 58 Non-Rx
 - 59 Homer's "neighborino"
 - 60 What "the lady doth" do too much, in "Hamlet"
 - 61 It's not for Robbie Burns?
 - 62 Mad scientist of Action Man toys

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16						
17				18				19						
20								21						
	22					23					24			
25				26	27			28	29					
30							31							
32				33		34		35				36	37	38
			39				40		41		42			
		43						44						
45	46					47				48				
49				50	51				52	53				54
55								56						
57								58				59		
60								61				62		

- Down**
- 1 ___-a-brac (trinkets)
 - 2 Vocal quality of Ferris Bueller's teacher
 - 3 Alternative to Kahlua
 - 4 " ... ___ coladas ..." ("Escape lyric)
 - 5 Type of pork roast
 - 6 One-upped
 - 7 Trouble achieving one's dreams?
 - 8 Prefix meaning "four"
 - 9 Prize bag stuff
 - 10 Gloria who led Miami Sound Machine
 - 11 Will Shortz, for the New York Times crossword, e.g.
 - 12 Fingernail treatments, for short
 - 13 Procedure models: Abbr.
 - 18 ___-Croatian (Slavic language)
 - 21 An epic one is really bad
 - 25 Sainte-___ (Quebec City suburb)
 - 26 Glean
 - 27 Losing battery power
 - 28 ___ kick out of (enjoys)
 - 29 Lennon's tribute to Ono
 - 34 Requiring the most elbow grease
 - 36 Flying off the shelves, say
 - 37 One who can stomach a lot?
 - 38 West of Hollywood
 - 39 Happening place
 - 40 Terrible leader?
 - 42 Sorry sorts
 - 43 AI ___ (outdoors, as dining)
 - 44 Taunts into action
 - 45 Waste-of-time type
 - 46 Weapons supplier
 - 50 Weight of freight packaging
 - 51 Most PC screens these days
 - 52 Spanakopita cheese
 - 53 Word of reminiscence
 - 54 "Ideas worth spreading" spinoff

Be seen by thousands while they work on the crossword or sudoku!
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- House Calls

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stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

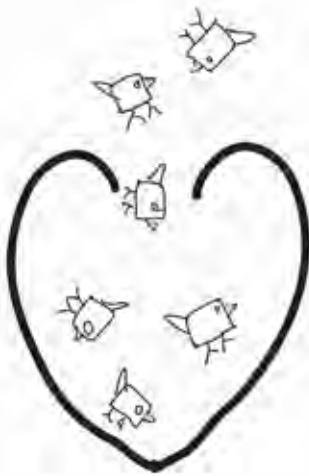


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snubsta.com



Stumbling through today
waiting to allow the world
to knock me senseless with awe.

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



THE REAL ESTATE MARKET WILL ALWAYS
EBB AND FLOW, BUT INTEREST IN THE
HIGHLANDS NEVER FALTERS.



KENNISIS LAKE
\$1,675,000



4 X BED 3 X BATH

94.31 FT. FRONTAGE MUNICIPAL ROAD MLS# 40466972

GELERT ROAD
\$1,639,000



3 X BED 3 X BATH

14 ACRES 2500+ SQ. FT. MLS# 40499725

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$999,000



3 X BED 2 X BATH

169 ACRES SOUTHWEST EXPOSURE MLS# 40424313

SALERNO LAKE ROAD
\$449,500



3 X BED 1 X BATH

OFF GRID 2.67 ACRES MLS# 40487128

BETHEL ROAD
\$195,000



24.65 ACRES

330 FT. FRONTAGE MUNICIPAL ROAD MLS# 40476956

ABLETT COURT
\$719,000



3 X BED 1 X BATH 2100+ SQ. FT.

RIVERFRONT LAKE ACCESS MLS# 40500660

KERNOHAN FARM TRAIL
\$137,500



150 FT. FRONTAGE 1.12 ACRES MLS# 40472855

HWY 35
\$549,000



3 X BED 2.7 ACRES MLS# 40463263

BRADY LAKE ROAD
\$210,000



MUNICIPAL ROAD 6.83 ACRES MLS# 40497548

Our experience with Linda and her team was flawless. Over a couple of weeks, we bought a new property and sold our existing one. No small task, yet we felt unexpectedly comfortable throughout the process. The key was their knowledge of the marketplace and their experience in putting deals together successfully. We found they had extensive relationships in the real estate community. Those relationships and the information we gleaned from them were critical in our decision-making process. The after-sale, pre-closing service was also impressive. We had many questions during that time and they were answered quickly and where there was a problem, successful solutions were deployed by Linda and her team. These days real estate is a multi-million-dollar decision for most people and having advisors you can trust is essential. The Baumgartner group is hard working, honest, detail oriented, and results driven. We happily recommend them and would use them again without a second thought. ~ J & D Case



BRG'S ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE

Week 4: December 6th - December 12th



Dec 6 - Chocolates/Sweets

Dec. 7 - Granola Bars

Dec. 8 - Canned Chickpeas

Dec. 9 - Canned Pineapple

Dec. 10 - Jar of Mixed Nuts

Dec. 11 - Canned Black Beans

Dec. 12 - Canned Carrots



*For every item donated, your name will be entered into a draw to win a Holiday Prize!

*Drop off your donations to our office at 191 Highland St. Suite 102

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner

(705) 457.3461

contact@haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

www.haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

RE/MAX

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