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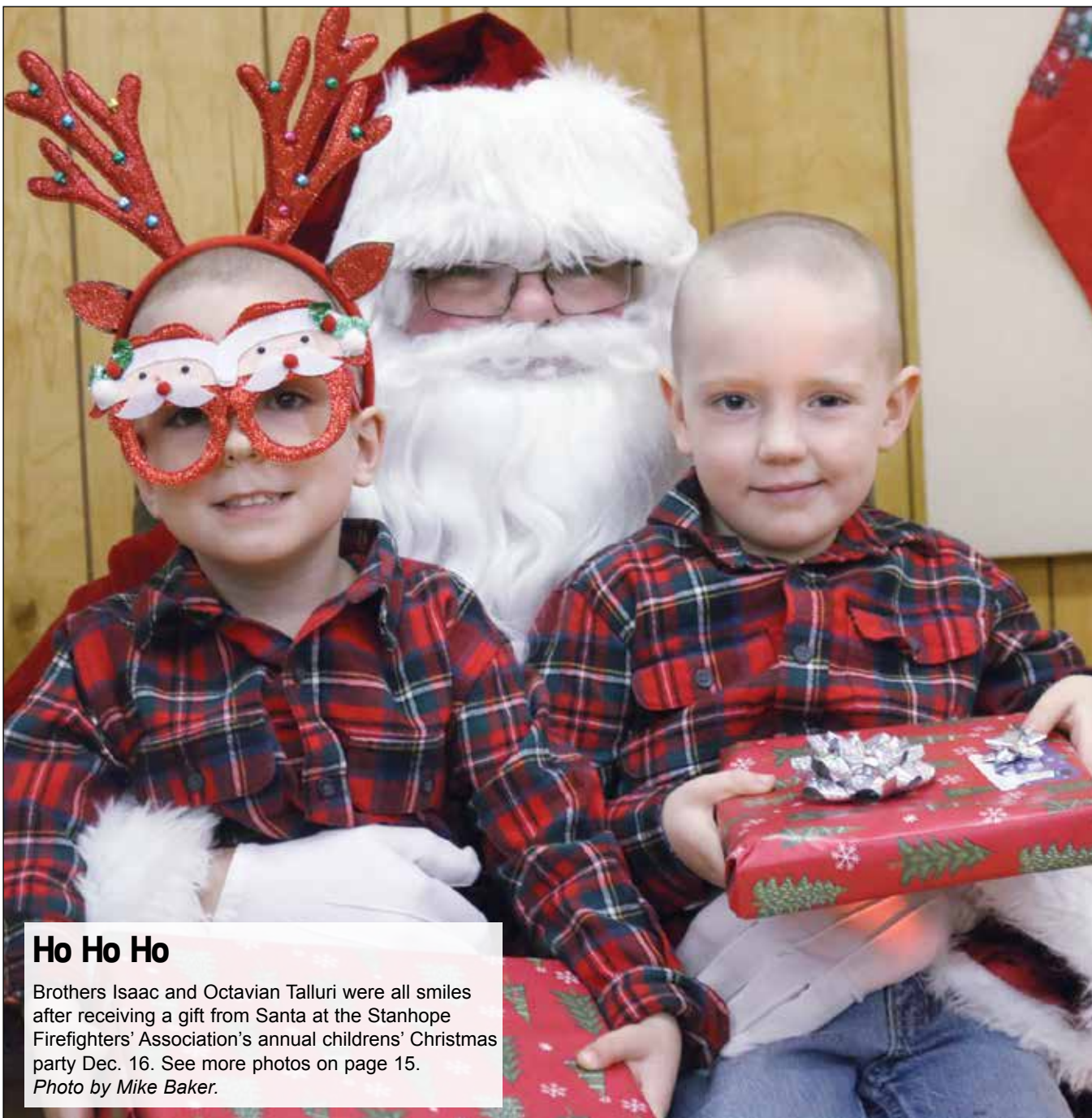
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# The Highlander

Thursday **December 21 2023** | Issue 621

**INSIDE: CHRISTMAS GREETINGS PAGES 11-14**

**FREE**



## Ho Ho Ho

Brothers Isaac and Octavian Talluri were all smiles after receiving a gift from Santa at the Stanhope Firefighters' Association's annual childrens' Christmas party Dec. 16. See more photos on page 15.  
*Photo by Mike Baker.*

## Fleming breaks ground on new residence

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey hopes the addition of a new student residence at the Haliburton School of Art + Design will lead to expanded programming at the local college.

Fearrey was one of several invited guests at a groundbreaking ceremony for the residence Dec. 15. The \$16 million project was described as game changing by the mayor, with two, three-storey buildings containing 47 units to be added to HSAD's footprint within Glebe Park.

"This is a great opportunity – it's a project that's bringing much-needed housing to our community. It's going to take some pressure off students who want to come here and study, and it's going to help people who need regular rentals in our town, not having so many students competing for space.

"I think this is going to make a big difference to a lot of people. A really important project for this community – it's fantastic," he added.

The mayor said having a dedicated space for students should help make HSAD even more of a destination for those with an interest in the arts.

"Before, when parents brought their kids up here and saw there wasn't a good place for them to stay that's safe, I think sometimes they turned around and went home, and checked Haliburton off the list," Fearrey said. "I think they'll stay now."

Fearrey has long advocated for enhanced programming at the campus, believing it could become a hub for the skilled trades. He said he'll continue with that push.

Drew Van Parys, executive vice president of corporate services and marketing at Fleming, said things remain on track for a 2024 completion. Student intake will begin at the residence in January 2025, he said.

Continued 'Will' on page 2

## HOLIDAY HOURS:

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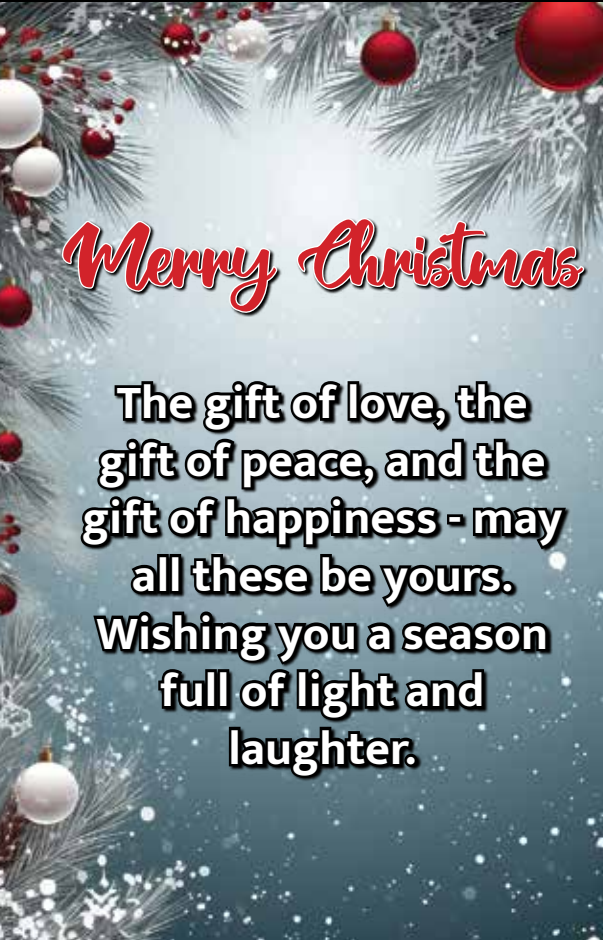
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Fleming College board chair Don Gillespie, minister of colleges and universities Jill Dunlop, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, Fleming College president Maureen Adamson, Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey and Liz Stone, chair of Indigenous perspectives at Fleming, at a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 15 for the new student residence in Haliburton. Photo by Mike Baker.

# Will help with village housing

Continued from page 1

“This is a revolutionary project for this campus and an important contribution to the housing issues that affect Haliburton. Forty-seven beds might not sound like a huge amount in an urban context, but in Haliburton it’s very significant and such an important addition to the [community’s] housing inventory,” Van Parys said.

While the residence will primarily house students, there will also be space for visitors attending conferences and arts-related workshops in the area.

“We know students love it here when they get here. Housing has always been a barrier – we look forward to that no longer being an issue,” he added.

Fleming College president Maureen Adamson noted the project is a long-time coming. Initial discussions between college, provincial and community officials began in the early 2000s, but it wasn’t until 2018 that it started to take shape.

Adamson reserved praise for former Dysart mayor Andrea Roberts and the previous term of council for agreeing to partner with Fleming. The township has donated 3.7 acres of

land to facilitate the build.

“This is a project that secures our future [in Haliburton],” Adamson said.

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott and Jill Dunlop, minister of colleges and universities, were also in attendance. Scott said the project is “an amazing collaboration” between Fleming and Dysart that addresses one of the community’s greatest needs.

Dunlop said the provincial government has been leading roundtable discussions with communities since November to identify key priorities, with student housing a recurring theme.

“We’ve heard loud and clear that housing is a growing issue of concern... when students move away to begin their studies, it’s critical they have a living situation where they feel safe and comfortable. It can make all the difference in their academic success and overall student experience,” Dunlop said. “Congratulations to Fleming College for this exciting new milestone, and congratulations to the community of Haliburton.”

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# Hosts ask for pause on STR bylaw and MAT

By Lisa Gervais

A short-term rental owner in Highlands East has asked the township to pause the proposed STR bylaw and municipal accommodation tax (MAT).

Elizabeth Oakley made the request at a Dec. 12 council meeting. She said she is also a volunteer leader for the Bancroft-Madawaska Area Airbnb Host Community on Facebook.

Oakley said her Airbnb is her primary residence, rented to offset expenses.

“Both of us (partner Grant Kauffman) work full-time. We are not speculators, nor are we absentee hosts. We’re not operating under any illusions that we’re going to become millionaires.” She said her research has determined the typical host makes about \$9,000-a-year.

She acknowledged STRs have been “a blessing and a curse” with some “bad apples.” However, she said she vets renters “like crazy.”

She told council she agreed in principle with licensing of STRs as long as the cost is reasonable, saying \$250 to \$500-a-year was acceptable.

However, she said they’re “deeply concerned” about a MAT. She said tourists will go to municipalities without one, causing lost revenue; it could potentially drive hosts underground; is discriminating if not applied to hotels and motels and, “STRs’ contribution to the local economy far exceeds revenues

generated through MAT.

“As property owners, we’re already taxed enough (property taxes and HST for the STR). Municipalities that don’t use the MAT for its prescribed use (50 per cent to go to a tourism third party to market the region) face zero consequences. Where is the accountability from the municipality expecting STR hosts to be accountable on their end? How can we be assured MAT funds will go to their intended purpose? Where’s the compliance on the municipality’s side?” she asked.

“This tax is fundamentally flawed and nothing more than a cash grab for municipalities hoping to make up for budget shortfalls.”

However, County of Haliburton director of economic development, Scott Ovell, has said staff would create a municipal services corporation, which would handle the money collected to go towards things such as destination marketing.

He has told County council that if the four municipalities were to implement the MAT, it could generate more than \$3.4 million in revenue annually. Ovell based his projections on a calculation of 1,300 short-term rental hosts being charged a four per cent MAT. He said 80 per cent would have to remit the tax with a medium nightly rental rate of \$348, and based on an average occupancy rate of 65 per cent.

The director said it would more than cover some items in the economic development and tourism budget, such as wayfinding signage, marketing, Hike Haliburton programs, economic development strategy works and web design and maintenance.

“The savings created by this approach could then be redirected towards other programs and/or services provided by the County,” Ovell said.

In her delegation to council, Oakley added STRs contribute to local economies and noted a lot of STR bylaws are being challenged in court. She said Airbnbs in Ontario contributed \$1 billion to the economy last year; owners hire property managers and create other jobs; they fill the void of not enough hotels, motels and B&Bs; they attract tourists who spend locally; and sometimes these people move permanently to the area.

“My worry is there is significant pressure being put on municipalities to rush this flawed legislation through without fully examining the impact it will have, not only on STRs, but to the local businesses and those employed by them, in the long run. Let’s find equitable solutions and move forward taking all parties into consideration.

“I’m asking you to consider taking a pause before implementing both the licensing and taxing of STRs here. Wait until the Tiny Township legal case is resolved, as I’m



Elizabeth Oakley and her partner, Grant Kauffman. Submitted.

certain the findings there will set a precedent across Ontario.”

In Tiny Township, four appeals were filed with the Ontario Land Tribunal - the provincial board that hears and adjudicates matters related to land use planning, environmental and natural features, heritage protection and more - regarding the township’s recently-adopted STR bylaw.

“A phased approach followed by a study of the first-year impact and a more measured and balanced approach to the MAT is the best course of action to take in what remains a challenging and emotionally charged matter,” Oakley said.

Council received the delegation for information only.

## DYSART ET AL NEWS

### Hefty tax hike

Dysart et al ratepayers could be facing a hefty hike in the new year, with the first draft of the township’s 2024 budget featuring a 14.85 per cent increase on the tax levy.

For residential homeowners that represents a \$46.94 increase per \$100,000 of their property’s assessed value – determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Commercial rates could climb \$69.60 per \$100,000 of assessment, with industrial rates potentially going up \$80.65.

Addressing council during a special meeting Dec. 8, Dysart treasurer Barbara Swannell said the impacts of high global

inflation had hit the municipality hard. She projected the township’s expenditures for the coming year to be just over \$24.4 million – an approximate 13 per cent increase.

Just over half of that, around \$12.7 million, will be funded through taxation, with \$2.8 million coming from provincial and federal grants and \$8.9 million from other non-tax revenues, such as interest earned on investments, and municipal fees and fines.

The most significant spend is in transportation services, with department costs at \$10.7 million – 44 per cent of the total budget. Public works manager, Rob Camelon, said there are several major projects slated for this year, including the \$1.2 million replacement of the Koshlong Lake Road bridge, and the \$1.35 million replacement of the Redstone Brook bridge. Another \$2.3 million is earmarked for road rehabilitation projects, with almost \$1.5 million set aside for five key pieces of municipal equipment: three tandem truck and plows, a one-ton truck and plow, and a backhoe loader.

Environmental services make up 17 per cent of the budget, at \$4.1 million, with protective services – fire and the OPP – coming in at \$3.9 million (16 per cent). The recreation and culture budget is pegged at \$2.6 million, with general government costs just north of \$2 million. Planning and development is projected at \$754,000, health services at \$194,000, and social and family services \$25,000.

Swannell said debt repayment next year,

covering debentures and internal loans, is projected at \$864,505. Municipal reserves will see a slight decrease, pegged at \$5.2 million. Swannell said the township will draw \$1.65 million from reserves in 2024 but reinvest \$1.625 million.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said he wasn’t happy with such a substantial increase and called on the township’s department heads to find efficiencies in the coming weeks.

“This is a tough year. We have a lot of people hardly able to buy their groceries right now,” he said. “It’s a big hit. We need to make sure we think everything through and make the right decisions.”

Council will convene for another round of budget deliberations Jan. 12. (Dysart et al news compiled by Mike Baker).

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**HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS**

**Temporary load reduction Camp Can-Aqua to expand**

Parks Canada is advising the public of a temporary load reduction to five tonnes and speed reduction to 10 km/hr for the White Lake Road bridge in Highlands East, connecting Salerno and White lakes.

Following a routine inspection at the site, it has been determined repairs are required, necessitating the temporary load reduction as well as a short closure in the near future, Parks Canada said.

Additional information will be provided on the exact dates of the closure; however, the public is being asked to plan their routes accordingly in advance.

**IB&O bridge reopened**

The IB&O bridge in Highlands East has been replaced in time for this winter’s snowmobile season.

Public works operations manager, Perry Kelly, told council on Dec. 12 that bridgework had been completed and the new bridge was open for use as of Dec. 7.

The former bridge had been closed since July 2022 when engineers deemed it to be structurally unsound. The township spent approximately \$215,000, exclusive of GST, on the new bridge, with user groups (the Central Eastern Area Snowmobile Region and the Haliburton ATV Association) chipping in nearly \$100,000 of the cost.

They opted for the most economical replacement; a Lessard bridge, made of steel, 50-feet long, and with a 10-ton capacity to support a trail groomer.

Camp Can-Aqua, a children’s camp that’s been operating in Highlands East for 40 years, came to council seeking a zoning bylaw amendment

Planner Chris Jones explained the reason is to allow the camp to construct three new buildings, including: a dining hall with a floor area of nearly 650 sq. metres; an office building of about 56 sq. metres and a maple syrup processing facility of about 182 sq. metres. Jones said the new buildings will require a new septic system.

He recommended council approve a zoning bylaw amendment to recognize the existing camp and authorize the proposed new buildings. However, he suggested they be subject to a holding provision - which will require the applicant to enter into a site plan agreement to address site planning and design, stormwater management, site evaluation of the lands to be used for the new septic system, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority giving it the nod, and the authorization to use, and future acquisition, of the original shore road allowance, as well as preparation of a current real estate property report.

**Herlihey Park update**

Kelly also updated council on work on Herlihey Park.

He said extensive work had been completed to date on the two parking lots.

“The parking lot directly across from the arena has been excavated, roughed in and new aggregate added and is ready for final grade in the spring,” Kelly said.

He added, “the parking lot next to Agnew’s General Store has also had some extensive work done to it. Topsoil has been removed, tree trimming completed and elevations set for more work to be completed in the spring. All monitoring wells have been removed and decommissioned.”

Kelly said all of this work is in preparation for the tender that will be issued in early 2024 to fully complete the park.

**Water and sewer rates increasing**

Council approved a four per cent increase in water and sewer rates for Ward 1 for 2024.

The annual increase had been recommended in the 2021 financial plan.

Environmental supervisor, Patrick Thompson, said the plan was developed, “to ensure the annual expenditures forecasted in the financial operating plan can be sustained... The funding plan relies on operating revenues from the direct users of the drinking water systems.”

He added residential customers are currently not metered and are charged a flat rate. The Trillium Lakelands District School Board and the Royal Canadian Legion are metered and billed according to the volume of water used, but together make up only a small fraction of the total user revenues, Thompson said.

He said the four per cent hike is “to cover operating and capital expenditures associated with the drinking water and wastewater systems.”

It means approximately \$825 for residential water in 2024, up from just over \$793. For sewer, it climbs to just over \$518, from just over \$498.

**Blue Box program agreement**

Highlands East has an agreement with Circular Materials of Ontario (CMO) for 2024 for blue box services.

Kelly said Highlands East transitions to producer responsible recycling on Jan. 1, 2024.

While a lot of work for staff, Kelly said, “we are anticipating a smooth transition, with minimal changes noted by our residents. Our current contractors will be utilized throughout the year and the service level at both the depot locations and curbside will remain as it is.”

Staff said the major benefits are “the new system will be a better tracking tool for our annual operating budgets as the finances are current, not based on prior years’ financials.”

Kelly added, “financially, it’s a responsible move for the municipality moving into 2024.”

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

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COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Minden to Hali bus idea to go to RFP

County director of economic development, Scott Ovell, reported back on Coun. Bob Carter’s request – and council’s endorsement of – a bus between Haliburton and Minden.

At a Dec. 13 meeting, he recommended they look into compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. He also said they need to identify the type of service. Coun. Jennifer Dailloux told him at the meeting they want a fixed route, and council agreed.

Carter reiterated he wanted a proposal for a “bare bones... trying to build a spine... something that is like a shuttle service. I had suggested it could start at the Minden arena, public housing projects around our arena, and then we have long-term care and the hospital, moving into the downtown, hitting the grocery stores on Hwy. 35, and then going to Haliburton and doing precisely the same thing of cycling by the larger centres that have people, the long-term care, the hospital, and ending at the arena again.”

He said a committee could determine exact stops, but “the whole idea of starting something that we can try and then we can build off of it... other routes to Wilberforce, Carnarvon, and so on.”

Carter said he had also spoken to the people in Bancroft who operate a similar service there, with little public money spent as they use provincial government gas tax funds. Ovell said they could use gas tax money in the second year of a service in the County.

The director of economic development added they’ll need to figure out where the stops will be but said they need ones at Haliburton hospital and Minden Urgent Care Clinic, as, “the region is trending towards an aging population, the need for some form of public transit will be required, particularly between centres providing medical services and support.”

He said they’ll also need to get a handle on proposed fares, a schedule, the type of transit to be used, a timeline, an idea of the cost to the County, how people will catch the bus, and an investigation into whether shelters or stops are needed.

He suggested the County put out a request for proposals to do that work.

Warden Liz Danielsen said she would like the County to pin down stops that would benefit the business community, not just accessing medical care.

Coun. Cec Ryall said they need to do an RFP and look at funding of the operation. Coun. Murray Fearrey said they should find out how Bancroft does theirs, while expressing concerns about local logistics.

Danielsen said, “I think we’ll see through the development of the RFP, and the work that our staff do, we’ll see what comes back and go from there.”

Restoring edges of rail trail

Oliver Zielke, Cara Steele and Pamela Marsales shared their vision for a greenspace project with County council.

Pitching a partnership between The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, Abbey Gardens, Friends of the Rail Trail and, they hope TD Friends of the Environment Foundation - Marsales told council the project is inspired by the restoration of two gravel pits at Abbey Gardens into “a thriving place for people of all ages to enjoy, as well as creating ecologically-balanced flora and fauna.”

They said they’d also been inspired by The Meadoway Community Powered Green Spaces – a project to convert land underneath a 16 km hydro corridor into a meadow habitat providing a pathway for adjacent neighbourhoods.

She said their idea here (with Zielke coming up with it) is to restore edges of the Haliburton County Rail Trail with funding from TD Friends of the Environment.

They asked the County to support a grant application, with the County acting as lead applicant, and if the grant is awarded, funds would flow through the County. However, they noted, they would write the grant, plan the project, and get volunteers to help with the work.

They added the grant deadline is Jan. 15, 2024, and if successful, they would like to start the work in April.

They said their objectives are to engage volunteers, encourage learning and stewardship, and increase pollinators and birds. The work would involve finding out which plants are thriving, and what needs help, as well as identifying what’s missing, and problematic invasive species. They’d



County Coun. Bob Carter wants a bus between Minden and Haliburton. File.

then develop a plant and pull plan.

They said there are lots of advantages, including adding value to the rail trail at no cost to the County, ensuring ecologically-balanced flora that is more sustainable and a rail trail that’s easier to maintain including stabilizing erosion on embankments.

Council has asked for a staff report and the item is expected to return to a Jan. 10 meeting. (County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

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# New mental health support ‘game-changer’

**By Mike Baker**

A national restructuring of support services for people suffering with suicidal thoughts and tendencies is a “game changer” according to Ellen Watkins, director of corporate services at Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge.

The local chapter was chosen to be one of 45 national providers for a new 9-8-8 suicide crisis helpline, which recently launched. It replaced regional call operations, previously operated in HKPR through the Four County Crisis community response program, providing people with around-the-clock access to professional support.

“What this means is if someone is experiencing thoughts of suicide or extreme emotional distress... there will always be someone available to answer your call,” Watkins said.

Calls made to 9-8-8 are immediately routed to the closest geographically available agent, using an algorithm that distributes based on area code.

“Calls that are meant to come to us, will do so. Having the ability to understand both the social and environmental context of our callers is important,” Watkins said. “The other piece is we’ll be able to connect individuals in real-time to local resources.”

As part of the restructuring, the HKPR chapter is tripling the number of on-the-ground mental health workers – from four to 12 – who will be available to travel across

the region to meet with people most in-need face-to-face. Referrals will be made for anyone who calls the 9-8-8 service, with Watkins saying the goal is to establish an in-person connection within 48 hours.

Watkins noted there had been a spike in demand for CMHA services in recent years, which she attributes to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Loneliness and lack of connection is often at the core of what drives changes or increases [in numbers]. People were more harshly exposed to what that all looks like through COVID,” she said, noting suicide numbers were also up.

“For people who are contemplating ending their life, three things are occurring – there’s suicide ideation, there’s an opportunity, and there’s no one around to interrupt the opportunity. We’re hoping, through 9-8-8, for those who have the idea and opportunity, there may be a spark of ‘maybe I would like someone to help me interrupt what I’m thinking of doing’,” Watkins added.

According to the CMHA national database, around 4,500 people die every year as a result of suicide. Last year, the HKPR chapter assisted 479 people through its crisis intervention supporting services. This year, Watkins said the organization is anticipating serving around 800 people through its new brief mental health services team.

“For people in Haliburton, this is a step change for us in terms of the level of support we’ll be able to provide in a community

that is not as resource-rich as some others within the region,” Watkins said. “We feel that by improving the number of workers we have available [on the road], being able to support people in place in Haliburton County will change the momentum [towards more positive outcomes] and make a difference in people’s lives.”

## Temporary housing bolstered

CMHA HKPR is also expanding its Safe Beds program, now operating in downtown Peterborough.

The space provides short-term temporary housing for six people and is available to anyone going through a mental health crisis that resides in the HKPR region. Intake is usually by referral and after HKPR staff have conducted a thorough assessment. Stays are typically capped at 10 days.

Watkins said, while roughly 100 km away, the space is available to County residents.

“Constituents from Haliburton are very welcome. We can help with transportation if necessary,” she said.

For more information, visit [cmhahkpr.ca](http://cmhahkpr.ca), call 705-748-6711, or email [info@cmhahkpr.ca](mailto:info@cmhahkpr.ca).

CMHA’s Ellen Watkins believes the restructuring of suicide support services is a win for the community. *File.*





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Some members of the public are calling for Minden Hills to stop charging for leaves and yard waste. *File.*

# Minden signs off on user fees

By Lisa Gervais

The Township of Minden Hills passed its new user fees for 2024, with two members of the public objecting to some of the charges during a public meeting Dec. 14.

Diane Peacock spoke against a proposed increase to rent the community room. She's leased it the past two Novembers for a Christmas craft sale.

"I started this sale because the previous Christmas artisan market that the township held was no longer being offered. I participated in those sales and they were always so well attended. Some of the artisans I knew wanted to do a Christmas sale that was inside and not in the cold," Peacock said.

However, with the proposed raise in the rental fee for 2024, she said, "it means that if I hold the sale next November, the rental fee will be \$382.75 plus insurance, and \$30 tax for a total of \$466.40. Because of this raise in rates, I will likely have to raise the cost of a space for next year, which is something I'm not wanting to do."

Peacock added she looked around the County and found a larger hall that would only charge her \$200, without insurance,

putting the township on notice she may move. She said other events have left the township, including the fur harvesters workshop and Coby Islander hockey tournament. "What is next?"

She said they won't get more rentals if they keep increasing fees.

Peacock also objected to the fire department no longer issuing burn permits during the fire season. She said her husband has used them in the past to burn brush and trees. She said she's been told the alternative is to pay to bring brush and trees to the landfill or burn after 7 p.m. but Peacock said her husband does not feel that is safe. She said more people will burn illegally and they should scrap the brush fee at the landfills.

Bill Blakes agreed. He said he had lived in "quite a few municipalities and we've never been charged fees for dumping leaves." He said most of the townships recycle them and make money instead of charging residents for them.

Peacock added, "I realize the user fees are put in place to generate revenue for the township to offset taxes but if you keep raising the user fees, these revenues will go down and the taxpayers will end up paying

higher taxes."

Following the public meeting, Coun. Ivan Ingram asked about cemetery fees if people don't want markers for a burial plot and, or cornerstones. He asked if it could be a separate charge. Coun. Pam Sayne did not want marriage services taken out of the fees and charges bylaw. Clerk Vicki Bull said they don't have enough staff to provide the service now. Ingram said it was a matter of needs, versus wants since they do not make money on marriages. Coun. Shirley Johannessen said she'd had feedback on community room fees as well. Coun. Tammy McKelvey asked if they'd address the concerns about community rental fees, burn permits and waiving leaf and brush costs.

After numerous meetings on the bylaw, mayor Bob Carter said, "this document is never going to be perfect. Ninety-five per cent of it is correct, and we need it for the budget process and for making plans. If we have one or two little things that we need to further examine we can bring it back and make the change."

Council adopted the fees and charges bylaw for 2024.

For breaking news,  
visit [THEHIGHLANDER.CA](http://THEHIGHLANDER.CA)

A MESSAGE FROM



Haliburton Highlands  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

*Wishing everyone a  
safe and happy  
Holiday Season*

*Join the  
Chamber!*

- Unifying your voice at the provincial and national level
- Connect with your Community and Colleagues
- Leverage savings through Affinity Programs and Member Perks
- Getting you online with our searchable directory

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Highlands Chamber  
of Commerce



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County Rd 21



Haliburton Highlands  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

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Kindness matters

This is the last print edition of *The Highlander* for 2023.

Like many of you, we are taking a well-deserved break over the holidays.

We'll return to newsstands and your inbox Jan. 11.

Our news team, as always, remains on standby, so if there is breaking news, you can always go to our website, thehighlander.ca

For those of us who use ink by the barrel, we're pretty accustomed to being on-call and working holidays. It's part of what we signed up for. At this time of year, I always stop to honour the OPP, paid and volunteer firefighters, ambulance attendants, and those who will be staffing our ER, urgent care clinic and hospitals.

Then, there's the people who will be plowing our roads, checking us out at the grocery store, working double time to get our Christmas parcels here and away, and the list goes on and on.

Let's turn to others who will toil over the holidays; volunteers. They will ensure people get food, drives to medical appointments, and a myriad of other social services that are still

required, even when Santa comes to town.

It's been a tough year, in the Highlands and across the globe. There is no doubt that COVID has changed us forever. It's been a year in which Russia has continued its war on Ukraine and the Middle East continues to erupt. Climate change is very real. Most of us are operating with some degree of stress and anxiety. Many are struggling with mental health issues as a result.

We are battling against the increasing cost of living, shaking our heads at grocery prices and not quite understanding why our purchases are exceeding our income increases, if we are getting them.

In a season of hope, for many there does not appear to be any. But we are blessed to live where we do. Thanks to agencies that always bat above their size, we do our best to take care of our own. And where those agencies hit their limits, we have an army of volunteers that step up, time and time again, to fill the void.

I am humbled by the amount of money the Shindig for Fuel for Warmth, and the Heat Bank fundraiser at Rhubarb pull in, the

radiothons for health care and food banks were as strong as ever. People are even collecting pajamas to ensure everyone has some warm threads. There have been countless food and toy drives, whether it's the home builders' association, local realtors or volunteer firefighters. The kids at the high school have gotten into the spirit as well.

After a year like 2023, there is plenty of reason to feel down, but when I look around me, and see that people still care about people in our little patch of the world, it gives me hope.

As the adage goes, 'in a world where you can be anything, be kind.' I can honestly say, there are not too many places that still hold true to those values. We have to fight to ensure we stay this way by continuing to practice tolerance with one another.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



By Lisa Gervais

CLIMATE CORNER

Why climate adaptation is important?

Canadians are paying an average of \$720 per year on repairs from flooding, wildfires and storms caused by fossil fuel-driven climate change. Canada may face \$25 billion in annual losses, with damages of \$100 billion annually and a loss of half a million jobs by 2055. Economies will stall as an overheating climate will make outdoor work unsafe, weather events more disruptive and costly, communication and transportation unreliable, supplies less available and more expensive.

Like other countries, to prepare for climate change, Canada must build new infrastructure. It could cost \$250 billion to bring infrastructure (safe housing, roads, water security) to an acceptable standard across the country (Canadian Climate Institute). Without this preparation, costs in lost lives and damages will be far higher.

The Global Assessment Report (GAR2022) forecasts 1.5 medium-to-large-scale disasters a day by 2030. Millions of lives and most social and economic privileges we enjoy are in danger, warns this UN report. But disasters can be prevented if countries and communities invest time and resources. The report warns: "the world needs to do more to incorporate disaster risk in how we live, build and invest..."; and "by deliberately ignoring risk and failing to integrate it in decision-making, the world is effectively bankrolling its own destruction."

Proof that preparation is good investment is demonstrated in Our World at Risk: Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future, where it is reported that

implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies reduced the number of people affected and killed by disasters in the last decade (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

Review Canada in a Changing Climate: Synthesis Report (changingclimate.ca/synthesis). An interactive map of adaptation actions lets you click on locations and learn how communities are adapting to a changing climate across Canada. Case studies, videos and stories demonstrate steps Canadians are taking to understand how climate change affects them and the solutions they are finding to adapt and increase their resilience.

The Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate Report (2022) identifies 10 areas of focused adaptation, including mental health, water and air quality, food security, infectious diseases and natural hazards. The report lists health risks to Canadians and the healthcare system from climate change. There is a 10-minute survey for readers.

Canada's National Issues Report (2021) identifies industries particularly at-risk: forestry, fisheries, agriculture, mining, energy, transportation, and tourism, with chapters addressing adaptations for each.

Public Safety Canada is developing a national risk profile under the Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030. The National Risk Profile uses scientific evidence and stakeholder input to strengthen Canadian communities' resilience to the costliest natural hazards.

A National Infrastructure Assessment looks at Canada's long-term infrastructure needs, coordination among infrastructure owners and funders, determining the best ways to finance infrastructure. See Canada Green Building Council.

Encourage financial systems to incentivize risk reduction. Costa Rica's innovative carbon tax on fuel in 1997 helped reverse deforestation, a major cause of disaster risks, and benefitted the economy. In 2018, 98 per cent of the electricity in Costa Rica came from renewable energy sources.

Follow 440 Megatonnes, Canadian Climate Institute.

Read Canada's Net Zero Future, Finding our Way in the Global Transition.

Use incentives to shift to heat pumps. See Environment Haliburton (EH!) for inspiration. Montréal is tackling its greenhouse gas emissions by banning natural gas in most new buildings starting in October 2024.

Read The UN 2023 Interconnected Disaster Risks Report to understand the potential power of changing our behaviours and priorities. Make climate change part of daily conversations. Normalize discussions about adaptation to our rapidly changing world.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

THIS IS A 2 WEEK PAPER.  
OUR NEXT ONE WILL BE OUT JAN. 11, 2024



## LETTERS

### No fees for vendors

*Dear editor,*

I would say to Dysart council, the Haliburton farmers market is a friendly and healthy place to shop; fresh, healthy food from farm to kitchen.

But where has the market gone? To Rotary Beach Park you say? An inappropriate, out-of-the-way location. A walkway is missing. A person must be prepared to stumble along with their shopping bags. We're too old for stumbling.

Please, seriously consider the benefits of restoring the farmers market to Head Lake Park, where people expect to find it on market Tuesdays.

And permit vendors to market their produce without punitive fees that will only discourage their presence. After all, the vendors need encouragement to travel and set up here, and they're entitled to profit from their efforts.

The vendors are the market. Look around this province and you'll see that farmers markets are not penalized with exorbitant fees to bring fresh produce to the residents. The markets benefit local businesses too.

Many friends and neighbours have voiced their concerns about Dysart council's misunderstanding of the importance of the farmers market at Head Lake Park.

Look to your conscience on this matter that's essential to the community, and when you have restored the farmers market to Head Lake Park, shop with us on market Tuesdays to appreciate having access to fresh, healthy produce, and know that your decision is benefitting local businesses as well.

**Michael Kursbatt**  
**Haliburton**

### Sam Slick decision was wrong

I have followed the Sam Slick story since it hit the headlines.

Part of the reason for doing so is that one of the areas where I am extremely well read is modern history. Following the decision of council to reject the solution offered by the cultural committee, I have read a lot of what is publicly available on the subject. Recently, I started reading a book called *Canada's Place Names & How to Change Them*. The book has about 200 pages of reading and over 45 pages devoted to notes and an index. Currently, I have read 30 pages, so I can't offer definitive conclusions on the author's point of view.

What I would like to say is that I am extremely disappointed in how this council has dealt with the issue. I cringed when I saw the mayor being disruptive during the cultural committee presentation. I felt sad at the way council dismissed the letter on the subject at the council meeting on Dec. 12.

Over the last 12 months, I have been devoting time and energy to make sure that some Eagle Lake history is preserved. In doing this, I have engaged with some of the members of the cultural committee. For me, the conversations have been quite fascinating. We are very lucky to have these

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



### Happy holidays

Stuart Baker Elementary School held its Christmas concert at JDH Dec. 20, much to the delight of the students, staff and parents.  
*Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

talents in our small community of 6,000 people.

Over the years, various councils have acknowledged the importance of the arts community that we have and the role of volunteers in all aspects of community life. I suspect that the Sam Slick decision will be seen as a large negative by these people.

Currently, I am of the view that the Sam Slick decision is a political blunder.

Over the seasonal break I hope council will give more thought to the Sam Slick issue and the consequences that will flow from the council decision.

**Peter McLuskey**  
**Eagle Lake**

### No apology or recourse

*Dear editor,*

I am writing in response to your Dec. 14 article, "Ombudsman: closed meeting broke

the rules."

I do not believe Haliburton County council convened the April 27 closed session meeting, with the HHHS representatives included, with any scurrilous intentions by their staff or any individual council members.

In fact, I am not at all sure that, based on their behaviour(s) beginning with the Apr. 20, 2023 closure announcement and similar behaviour that continues to this day, those speaking for and representing the HHHS board would have made themselves available for a public meeting of any kind.

However, I am not at all impressed by the response; "learning experience for us all" as warden Liz Danielsen's explanation. Seriously? Haliburton County is an upper-tier municipal government. It's a council that includes four township municipal mayors and four township municipal deputy mayors. That's four municipalities represented by their eight highest-ranking and long-serving officials.

In fact, Mayor Murray Fearrey is one member, and happens to have been the

longest serving warden in Haliburton County's history.

It is very difficult for me to believe that this group wasn't aware of the correct interpretation and application of the Municipal Act or the rules pertaining to closed sessions.

Equally, while County council accepted the finding and recommendations of the report, no apology was uttered or implied by Danielsen on behalf of council for the violation.

I also find it frustrating that other than a finding, many months later, of guilt by the Ombudsman, there is no timely remedy or recourse available to the residents and ratepayers of Haliburton County when such violations occur.

**Richard Bradley**  
**Moore Falls**



# Foundation donatates \$50K to YWCA

By Lisa Gervais

The Morton Family Foundation has continued a tradition of generosity by donating \$50,000 to support the YWCA’s services for women and children experiencing gender-based violence in Haliburton County.

“We are incredibly grateful for the continued leadership shown by the Morton Family Foundation in the Haliburton County community,” said Kim Dolan, executive director of YWCA Peterborough Haliburton this week.

She added, “Patricia and David’s ongoing generosity is a testament to their commitment to supporting the YWCA’s efforts to serve the rural women and children in Haliburton County, providing them with the resources and support they need to feel safe again.”

Access to safe and reliable resources in rural communities is an ongoing problem, Dolan said. The Women’s Centre in Haliburton County offers resources women need in order to escape gender-based violence and find safer ways to move forward with their life. The centre provides access to transition supports, such as safe transportation, individual counselling, a family law lawyer, court support and guidance.

YWCA’s Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS) provides safe and supportive temporary accommodations for women with and without children fleeing abuse in Haliburton County. The service is

designed to be available on an as-needed basis and offers space for two families at a time, so that women can move away from the abusive situation in their home without leaving their support systems, jobs and schools, families and friends behind.

Dolan said rural women in Haliburton County have reported far more serious and complex abuse since 2020. Like women’s organizations across the province, the YWCA faces heightened demand and increasing costs.

Patricia Morton said, “David and I feel very fortunate to be able to continue to support the wonderful work of the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, because this work continues to be so essential to so many area women and children.

“And it is important to remember that both under Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms and under the United Nations Charter, violence against women and children is a major and criminal violation of human rights. However, shockingly, this violence is actually on the increase throughout Canada, especially against rural women, just as it is here and now against isolated rural women in Haliburton County, and likely in neighbouring rural counties as well.”

David Morton added, “thank goodness the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is here to provide these women and their children with safe shelter at HERS and with vital services, to help these victims of violence move forward past the trauma and suffering, to



The YWCA operates a centre in Haliburton County. *File.*

strive to rebuild their lives and become brave survivors.

“As a man, I find femicide and all forms of violence against women and children appalling. I will never understand why some - too many - men take out their anger, frustration, or whatever by inflicting physical and/or psychological violence on women and children. However, we are grateful at least to be able to support the YWCA Peterborough


Haliburton to provide essential help to the rural women of Haliburton County who are suffering from such appalling male violence, hopefully to be able to empower themselves.”

Community members who wish to donate or find ways of supporting YWCA services in Haliburton County are encouraged to visit [ywcapeterborough.org](http://ywcapeterborough.org) or contact the YWCA directly at 705-743-3526.


## Holiday Recycling

### Recycling for Containers


Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food




Aluminum foil and trays



Metal food cans

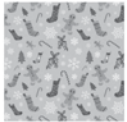


Plastic bottles (caps can be left on)




Plastic tubs, containers


### Recycling for Papers




Paper gift wrap




Paper gift tags




Paper gift bags (remove string)



Christmas cards & envelopes




Cardboard rolls




Cardboard boxes (flatten)


### Garbage




Metallic or foil wrapping paper




Ribbons, bows, tape




Styrofoam shipping block



Bubble wrap



Broken ornaments







Plastic toy packaging (hard-to-cut material)

### Dysart Landfill Holiday Hours

<b>Sunday, December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve)</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennis Lake, West Bay, West Guilford	<b>Sunday, December 31, 2023 (New Year's Eve)</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennis Lake, West Bay, West Guilford
<b>Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)</b> All Dysart landfills closed	<b>Monday, January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day)</b> All Dysart landfills closed
<b>Tuesday, December 26, 2023 (Boxing Day)</b> 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Haliburton, West Guilford 12 noon to 5 p.m.: Harcourt, Kennis Lake, West Bay	<b>Tuesday, January 2, 2024</b> 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: West Guilford 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Harcourt, Kennis Lake, West Bay Closed: Haliburton

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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., K0M 2K0  
or by e-mail to:  
[vbull@mindenhills.ca](mailto:vbull@mindenhills.ca)

Applications must be received by **Wednesday, January 3, 2024.**

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, K0M 2K0 (705) 286-1260 ext. 515.





We wish you a  
*Merry Christmas*  
TheHighlander



*Christmas Eve Service*  
HALIBURTON PASTORAL CHARGE  
DECEMBER 24 – 7:00 P.M.  
Annual joint service for Haliburton,  
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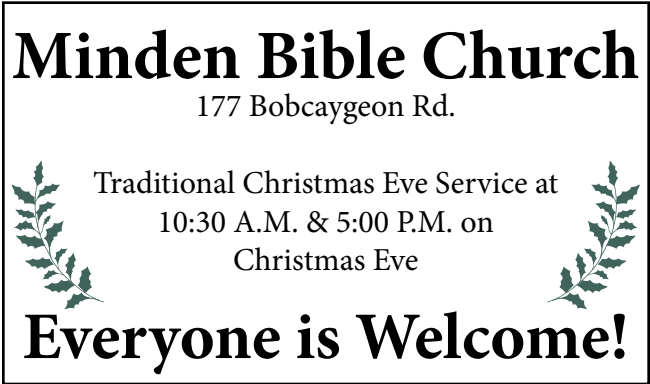
**Christmas Eve Service**  
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All are welcome to join us for  
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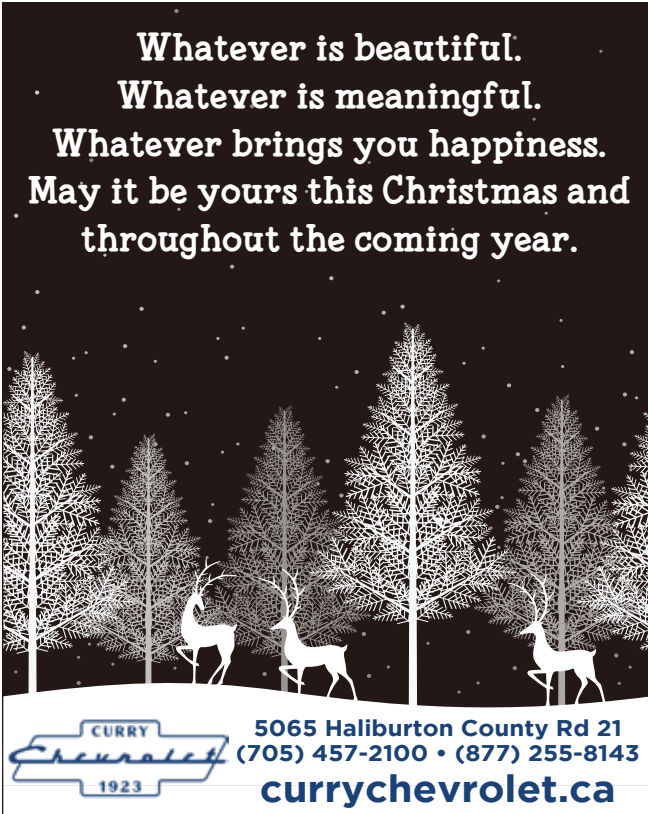
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Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24 ❄️ 3 p.m.

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Join us In-person and on Zoom

Contact Rev. Max Ward  
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705-286-1470  
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# THANKS

*Thank you*



To all our customers who have supported us!  
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## To our friends near & dear at Christmastime...



As another holiday season comes dashing in, we'd like to pause and wish all of our customers and neighbours here in town a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Friends like you make us grateful to be part of this fine community, and we thank you for your generous support.

### Best Wishes & Happy Holidays!



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Bob Amos	Jackson Melrose	Matt Try
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Bryan Leavens	Jeff Chambers	Michelle Townsend
Cameron Bradley	Jeff Graham	Mike Clark
Carter Sisco	Jeffrey Wright	Mike Needham
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Claude Auger	Jesse Lefebvre	Paulette Seeley
Cleve Roberts	Jess Madamba	Peter O'Connor
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DECEMBER 24 - 3:00PM.  
St. James Anglican Kinmount

DECEMBER 24 - 5:00PM.  
St. Paul's Anglican Minden



May this Christmas be filled with happiness in all that you do, and may this joy continue the whole year through!  
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Santa spotted in Stanhope

Christmas came early for dozens of excited County kids Dec. 16 as the Stanhope Firefighters' Association hosted its annual childrens' Christmas party at Station 80 in Algonquin Highlands. Attendees enjoyed games, complimentary refreshments, entertainment via Barry O'Neil and his 'Barry O Kid Show', and a visit from Santa Claus. Volunteer firefighter, Benjamin Datti, said 51 children received gifts on the day, with another 100 presents donated to families in-need in the Stanhope area.

Top: Addy English and Paisley Shannon were Santa's helpers at the event, handing gifts to Santa to give out. Middle: Phil Dulong, Tiffany English, Tony Aymong, Benjamin Datti, Kenny Cox, Kevin Alcock, and West Popp of the Stanhope Firefighters' Association. Above: Barry O'Neil was a big hit as he performed his 'Barry O Kid Show'. Photos by Mike Baker.

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Packed open house

Student passion and creativity was on full display at the Haliburton School of Art + Design Dec. 16 during the annual end-of-semester ‘Wrap It Up’ art exhibition. Dozens of graduates from the artist blacksmith, ceramics, drawing and painting, fibre arts, photo arts, and visual and creative arts programs were on-hand to showcase pieces made this semester.

Above: Madi Schmidt said she’ll be taking what she learned from the fibre arts program and teaching it to others when she returns to Toronto in the new year. Top right: Zenon Bigs held a live weaving demonstration in the afternoon, showcasing his skills on a rigid heddle loom. He holds diplomas from HSAD’s jewelry making, glassblowing, ceramics and fibre arts programs, and will be back next semester for blacksmithing. Right: Madison McFadyen recently completed the ceramics program and is planning to explore pottery-making full-time through her new company, Portage Bay Pottery. Photos by Mike Baker.



2024 PERFORMANCES

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**WHY CHOOSE OPERA?**  
July 29th | 7:30pm | Abbey Gardens Performance Tent  
Hear the 2023 participants sing their personal favourite music – other than opera and talk about what brought them to opera.

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An evening featuring songs of all kinds in a relaxed atmosphere.

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August 16th | 7:30pm | NLPAP, Haliburton  
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**MISHAABOOZ’S REALM** (postponed from 2023)  
August 15th & 17th | 7:30pm | NLPAP, Haliburton  
Experience this powerful & moving work combining opera with traditional Indigenous singers and instrumentalists, created for HOS by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour. Mishabooz’s Realm takes us on a journey from an Indigenous perspective through Creation, Colonization, and ultimately Hope for the Future.

**‘THE BARBER OF SEVILLE’ (IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA)**  
August 22nd, 24th, 26th | various times | NLPAP, Haliburton  
From Bugs Bunny cartoons to movie soundtracks, ‘The Barber of Seville’ by Rossini is one of the most popular and recognizable Italian comic operas. Join us for the hilarious antics as Figaro helps Almaviva outwit the doddering and conniving Bartolo for the hand of the beautiful Rosina. Fun for all ages!

CONCERTS

**OPERA TO BROADWAY**  
August 1st | 7:30pm | St. George’s Anglican  
Enjoy an eclectic variety of favourite solos and ensembles from opera and musical theatre in an intimate venue.

**POP GOES THE OPERA**  
August 7th | 7:30pm | St. George’s Anglican  
Featuring more great operatic & musical theatre selections.

**CELEBRATIONS!**  
August 10th | 7:30pm | Abbey Gardens Performance Tent  
Featuring music marking important musical anniversaries & achievements.

**HOMECOMING!**  
August 19th | 7:30pm | St. George’s Anglican  
Welcome past HOS participants in an evening of reminiscence and great singing.





Whodunit?

Students from the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School drama club had the crowd in stitches Dec. 16 as they brought their version of the classic murder mystery *Clue* to life at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The story centres on six eccentric guests who assemble for an unusual dinner party, where blackmail and murder are on the menu. Chaos ensues when the group’s host, Mr. Boddy, is found dead in the mansion – leading the crowd on a hilarious back-and-forth journey filled with laughs and surprises.

Top: The six guests, from left, Ms. Scarlett (Marley Mariani), Mrs. White (Lillian Ramsdale), Professor Plum (Paytra Mylan-Goulet), Mr. Green (Brody Bolger), Mrs. Peacock (Olivia Humphries) and front, Colonel Mustard (Hayden Thorn). Middle: Mr. Green is beside himself after being left with the bodies of the cook (Jessica McCready-DeBruin) and Mr. Boddy (Keith Bailey McLeod). Above: Wadsworth (Annabelle Borgdorff) tells the guests their gathering is no coincidence. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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**Christmas Day - December 25, 2023**  
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**Boxing Day - December 26, 2023**  
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**New Year's Day - January 1, 2024**  
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January 1, 2024**





# Students' festive fundraiser gifts toys

By Mike Baker

Students and staff at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) embraced the spirit of giving this festive season, collecting goodies for the Interact club's annual Christmas gift drive.

Held every year in the lead up to the holidays, the initiative has become a staple of the school's pre-Christmas festivities, says club member, Hazel Jones. Students are encouraged to bring in toys, games, gift cards, school supplies, hats, mitts, scarves, and hygiene products, which are divided into gift bags and donated to the 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton and the Minden Community Food Centre.

"The bags are handed out to families in-need, or who might be struggling... the idea is to make sure everyone can enjoy Christmas," Jones said.

Between Nov. 27 and Dec. 5, the school community rallied to put together 51 gift bags, which were dropped off at the food banks last week.

There was a competitive component introduced this year – the 20 participating classrooms were split into two teams, captained by principal, Jenn Mills, and vice principal, Andrea Borysiuk. Donations were tracked, with the team that collected the most gifts getting the chance to come up with challenges for teachers to do at the school's holiday assembly.

Mills' team was declared the winner, with her and 10 other teachers facing the forfeit. "We haven't decided what it's going to be yet, but it'll be something silly and fun," Jones said. "Last year some of the teachers had students do their makeup, we've also done things like shaving hair."

This is Jones' second year on the Interact club – the high school equivalent of Rotary. The Grade 10 student said it's a great way to engage with the school community and make new friends. The club has 25 members.



Haliburton Interact club members show off contributions to this year's Christmas gift drive. *Submitted.*

This is Interact's second major event of the school year, following a successful food drive over Halloween. Jones said she always looks forward to these initiatives, as the wider school community usually buys in.

"These things sort of take over school for about a week – kids are always talking about it in the halls, friends try to one-up

each other, the teachers find creative ways to encourage donations. People really get into it," Jones said.

She added the club is hoping to do something to raise awareness about homelessness in the new year. Plans are also underway for the annual international fundraising campaign, where Interact

collects money for the Mahatma Gandhi Sishu Sisksha Sadan School in northern India. Proceeds support the infrastructure of the school and purchase of much-needed supplies, Jones said.

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Red Hawks red hot in home tourney

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School’s senior girls’ volleyball team hosted a tournament Dec. 5 at the school. They won six of eight sets. The Red Hawks defeated Fenelon Falls 25-22 and 25-19. They split with St. Thomas, winning 25-21 and losing 25-23. They divided with Brock, dropping the first set 27-25 but coming back to win 25-12. They beat I.E. Weldon 26-24 and 25-10. The roster includes: Abi Lewis, Charlotte Moynes, Ceinwyn Mathura, Paige Hough, Sarah Mee, Sofie Mills, Lily Manning, Nicole Lee, Alissa Mantle, Emery Bagshaw, Chloe Hartwig, Allie Todd and Annabelle Borgdorff. Coaches are Dan Gimon and Brett Caputo.

Above: A Haliburton Highlands Secondary School player goes up for the block. Right: Abi Lewis serves. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



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Highlands Festival Singers  
Highlands Wind Symphony  
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Jason Adams  
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Joel Levis  
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Karen Gervais  
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Kawartha Lakes Medical Society  
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Hoops at Hal High

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks hosted basketball action at the school Dec. 14. The senior boys team dropped their game to I.E. Weldon 57-48 while the juniors were bested 58-37. The locals will host Fenelon Falls Dec. 21, with games at 3 and 4:15 p.m. They will then resume their schedules Jan. 10.

Above: Junior player Fynn Gooley sets up the play. Right: Senior player Sawyer Boutin dribbles the ball into the I.E. Weldon end. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*





**COUNTY OF HALIBURTON  
NOTICE  
Holiday Office Hours**

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON will close on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open for regular business on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. The County Roads Department has a 24-hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

**We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.**

Gary Dyke, CAO/County Clerk  
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Minden, ON K0M 2K0  
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## The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

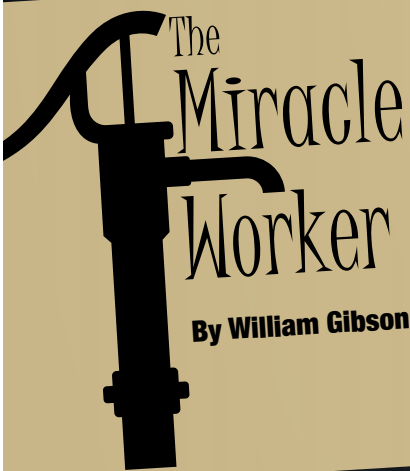
book by Rachel Sheinkin  
score by William Finn

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

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent 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.



## The Miracle Worker

By William Gibson

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

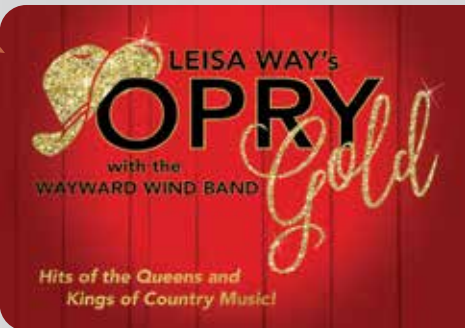
## The Good Lovelies



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  
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# Duchene passes 1,000 NHL games

By Mike Baker

When Dallas Stars forward Matt Duchene took to the ice Dec. 7 at Capital One Arena in Washington, he did so with an extra spring in his step.

The date had been circled on the superstar forward’s calendar for months, with the game representing an extraordinary milestone: 1,000 games played in the National Hockey League.

The Haliburton product became the 387th player to hit four figures, joining fellow Highlands native Bernie Nicholls – who featured in 1,127 games – in the millennium club. Duchene marked the occasion with an assist, three shots on goal, a hit, and a block in just under 18 minutes of ice time in a 5-4 shootout win over the Capitals.

Speaking to *The Highlander*, the 32-year-old centre said he’s thankful to have enjoyed a long career at the top level, with this his 15th pro season.

“It’s funny, I don’t really look at it like a success, even though it is. I honestly look at it more as a moment in time when you can reflect on your life and career and just be grateful,” Duchene said. “For me, that game is just a product of those who have been with me from day one of hockey, when I was four [playing in Haliburton] up to NHL game 1,000.”

Duchene was able to share the moment with his family – mom Chris, dad Vince, wife Ashley, and two of his children: Beau and Jaymes, which made it all the sweeter.

“It wouldn’t have been the same if they weren’t there,” he said. Vince said he and Chris flew into Washington D.C. Dec. 6, catching up with Matt briefly at the hotel the next day. After arriving at the rink, the Duchenes were brought down to the bench during warm-ups to surprise Matt.

While there, Vince bumped into Ray Ferraro – TV broadcaster for ESPN and veteran of 1,258 NHL games over a near 20-year career.

“He said it’s one of the hardest things to do. Matt is only the fourth from his 2009 draft year to do it [after John Tavares, Victor Hedman, and Ryan O’Reilly] so it is quite an accomplishment, and one we as a family are so proud of,” Vince said.

While Duchene has competed in NHL All-Star games, played meaningful hockey in the Stanley Cup playoffs, and won Olympic gold with his country, Vince said the standout moment, for him, of his son’s career came just prior to puck drop against the Capitals.

“The Stars asked if Beau would read the starting line-up in the dressing room... it was an amazing moment,” Vince said. “Seeing the joy and love in Matt’s eyes for his family – that moment is at the top, for sure.”

The Stars have planned a special ceremony Jan. 27, before a home game against the Capitals in Dallas, where Duchene will be presented with a silver stick commemorating his 1,000 games played.



Matt Duchene made sure his family was in attendance for his 1,000th NHL game, Dec. 7. From left: mom Chris, dad Vince, daughter Jaymes, wife Ashley, and son Beau. Submitted.

## Making the most of an opportunity

Duchene said he’s enjoying his time in Dallas. He signed a one-year deal with the organization in the summer after being bought out of the final three years of his \$8 million a season deal in Nashville.

“I can’t say enough good things about my teammates, my coaches, the organization, and the city. We are at the top of our division, and I feel like we still haven’t hit our top gear, so that’s exciting,” Duchene said. “We have a great chance to make a deep run at the cup.”

The forward has 10 goals and 17 assists in

29 games with his new team as of press time.

While he’s only on a one-year deal, Duchene said he’d love to stick with the Stars long-term.

“My family and I really like it here... I’m hoping we start to talk in the new year about an extension. The idea around a one-year deal [was] to try something out and see if it fit. So far, it’s been great.”

Having passed the 1,000-game threshold, Duchene is already chasing down his next target – a first Stanley Cup.

“I’ve been lucky enough to win everything possible at the international level with Team Canada, but the ultimate prize is the cup,” he said. “I still am hoping my biggest games are in front of me.”

May the Christmas season  
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# Huskies contending in East Conference

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies head into the Christmas break on a high after polishing off five wins in six games in December to re-establish themselves as contenders in the Ontario Junior Hockey League's tough eastern conference.

The blue and white were dominant on the ice, if not the scorecard, in a 3-2 come-from-behind win over the North York Rangers in Minden Dec. 16. Goals from Charlie Fink, captain Patrick Saini, and Jack Staniland earned the team its fifth-straight win at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

It was a bright start for the Huskies, who showed their ability to control the puck in the early goings. Fink thought he'd given his team a deserved lead four minutes in, his shot looping over Amir Valiullin in the Rangers net, only for the officials to wave it off – with the frame coming off its spikes.

The Huskies were busy throughout the first, firing off 24 shots.

They maintained that pressure heading into the second. Saini spurned a great opportunity four minutes in, going eye-to-eye with Valiullin but seeing his shot saved. The Huskies were relentless as they sought an opener – they registered 12 shots on the man advantage five minutes in after Saini was tripped but couldn't find a way past the impressive Valiullin.

They were hit with a sucker punch at 17:02 – Jacob Strizzi scoring on a breakaway on only the Rangers' fourth shot of the period.

It looked like being a day to forget for the Huskies when, six minutes into the final frame, Cian Noble doubled the visitors' lead, scoring just one second after a Lucas Vacca cross-checking penalty had lapsed.

There was a roar from the crowd as the game restarted, with chants of 'let's go Huskies' reverberating around the arena. The home side used that energy to keep pushing and finally got their reward – Fink lifting the puck over Valiullin's pad on the rebound at 8:31 after Izayah Luddington and Antonio



Game-winner Jack Staniland, left, celebrates the Huskies 3-2 win over the North York Rangers Dec. 16 with teammates Brett Fullerton and Ty Petrou. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Cerqua had been denied.

Saini sniped the leveller at 12:21, assisted by Lucas Stevenson and Lucas Vacca, sparking mass celebrations on the ice.

Huskies netminder Brett Fullerton made a huge save a minute later, robbing Hudson Weger in close to keep the scores level.

With the home side pushing, Saini drew another penalty – high sticking from former teammate Josh Rumolo. The Huskies were patient, recycling the puck while searching for an opening. Defenceman Jack Staniland was the hero at 18:48 – taking control of the biscuit at the blueline, he walked along the wall, saw he had some space and ripped one on net. Valiullin got something on it, but not enough to keep it out, with the puck trickling over the line to the delight of the crowd.

Staniland earned first star honours for his late contribution. Speaking to *The Highlander* after the game, he said he feels the win could be a huge turning point in the Huskies season.

"I think the performances have been there, but you've got to turn that into results. I think we've done a good job of that heading into the break," Staniland said. "We've found some lines that are connecting now, some guys are playing really well with one another, and it's helping us move forward."

## Loss on the road

A tight game in Markham Dec. 17 saw the Huskies on the wrong side of a 3-1 decision.

Despite outshooting their hosts eight to four in the opening frame, the Huskies found

themselves behind after the first buzzer – Ashton Miwa scoring just five minutes in. Shane Bondy made it a two-goal game 10:16 into the second.

Nicholas Lamont gave the Huskies some hope with his 12th of the season 11:54 into the third. The blue and white dominated during the final frame, firing 12 shots to the Royals' six, but couldn't find the equalizer. Bondy scored his second, an empty netter, with nine seconds left on the clock.

The Huskies sit in 7th place with 38 points from 34 games – 18 wins, 14 losses and two ties. They have two more games left in 2023 – home tilts with the Toronto Patriots Dec. 29 (7 p.m. puck drop) and Wellington Dukes Dec. 31 (2 p.m. puck drop).

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Top: Lucas Stevenson and Charlie Fink battle in front of the net as Jack Staniland's shot from the point trickles over the line. Above: Alex Bradshaw tries to keep the puck away from Rangers forward Hudson Weger. *Photos by Mike Baker.*



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Win tickets to a Huskies game. Simply cut out this ad and include your contact details and drop it off at The Highlander during office hours to be entered into a draw. We will contact the winner Friday afternoon.

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Storm captain Parker Simms barrels down on goal in Silver Stick tourney action. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

# U18LL Storm host regional tourney

The U18LL Highland Storm made an impression at the Silver Stick regional tournament held in Haliburton Dec. 16. For some players, it was the final Silver Stick appearance of their minor hockey career.

The team took to the ice early Saturday, taking on the Apsley Flames. The dressing room was abuzz with positive vibes as the players geared up for their first game of the tournament. The Storm were at it right from puck drop, putting in lots of effort. While it was one of the team’s best games of the season, with 100 per cent effort given by all players from buzzer to buzzer, they came up just short.

As the day went on all players maintained a positive attitude. Game two was a match-up with the Lakefield Chiefs. The home side came out buzzing, scoring two quickfire goals in the first period through Haiden Bird and Austin Latanville. The gameplay was fast and furious, with

Storm goalie, Carson Simms, keeping his team in the game.

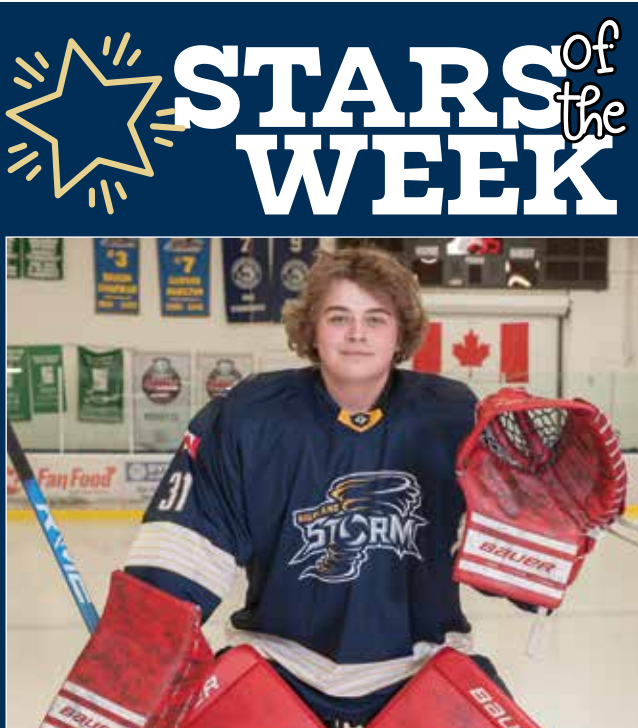
The Storm went into the third period down by one, but found a way back into the game early through Latanville – a slapshot from the point finding its way past the Chiefs goalie to tie the game at three. Despite an intense effort in the final frame, the Storm found themselves on the wrong side of the scoreboard at the final buzzer.

The team played in one final game, a 4 p.m. tilt against the Collingwood Jr. Blues.

Even though the tournament may not have gone the way the team hoped, head coach Dallas Latanville said he was extremely proud of his players for their effort and never give up attitude.

The U18LL squad has two more tournaments coming up and will be pushing for a playoff spot in the new year. Go Storm go. *(Submitted).*

SCOREBOARD		
Dec. 12	Dec. 16	U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS South Muskoka • 10-2 W
U18 rep Tom Prentice & Sons VS Brock 4-3 L	U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS Huntsville • 2-1 W	U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House VS South Muskoka • 9-0 W
Dec. 14	U13 rep Walker’s Heating & Cooling VS Durham • 11-1 W	U11 rep Curry Chevrolet VS Kawartha 2-2 T
U13 rep Walker’s Heating & Cooling VS Mariposa • 7-4 W	U11 rep Curry Chevrolet VS Brock • 1-3 L	
Dec. 15	U13 Up Right Roofing VS Huntsville 17-0 W	
U15 rep Haliburton Timber Mart VS Millbrook • 6-2 W	Dec. 17	
	U13 Up Right Roofing VS South Muskoka 8-0 W	



## Carson Simms

The Storm’s number one goaltender put forth a valiant effort this weekend, giving his team the opportunity to compete and go for the win in every game. Carson has battled in every game this year.



## Austin Latanville

Austin had a strong outing in the tournament, scoring a pair of goals in game two against the Lakefield Chiefs. With his strong faceoff abilities and grinding in the corners, Austin is a huge asset to the team.



## Haiden Bird

Haiden had a strong outing this weekend, scoring a beauty goal against Lakefield. His speed and puck moving ability is a big asset to the team.

*Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*



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Heat and holiday hope

Rachel Gillooly of the Central Food Network’s Heat Bank Haliburton County was at Sir Sam’s Ski/Ride Dec. 16 as the ski hill hosted the local charity. It sold tree ornaments to raise money for its program. In addition, the network says it has seen a 22 per cent increase in the number of households seeking assistance for food. With the rising cost of food, they said the need is only growing. They are seeking donations for their 2023 holiday hope campaign to help them prepare for the year ahead and continue investing in community services. People can donate at canadahelps.org. The network recently raised more than \$30,000 thanks to its annual fundraising dinner and auction at Rhubarb Restaurant. They also received food and money from an OPP fill-a-cruiser event at Wilberforce Foodland on Dec. 16 (Lisa Gervais).

PJs for Christmas

The Great South Lake Pajama Project received 186 pj’s in total, said spokesperson Joy Webster. They have partnered with their church community, St Paul’s Anglican Church and their thrift shop in Minden. “We could not have been this successful without their help,” Webster said. She added collections have come from Mississauga, Everett, Collingwood, Orillia, Minden, Haliburton, Brooklin and Ajax. “We are a family that had an idea to collect pj’s 365 days a year. We will hold three drop offs; Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. “We are not a not-for-profit; we do not take cash and we do give pj’s from others to those struggling in these hard times. We are cottagers in the area of our two families combined of 113 years,” Webster said. They dropped off at six locations: Hyland Crest, the Urgent Care Clinic, HHHS, Point in Time, Minden Community Food Centre and St. Paul’s. (Lisa Gervais).



L-R: Gail Nicholson, South Laker and warden of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Joy Webster, Great South Lake Pajama Project, YMCA Women & Children’s Shelter staff, Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark and Rev. Martha Waind of The Anglican Church of Minden, Kinmount and Maple Lake. Submitted.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

1. **File No. PLSRA2022067:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Lake, lying in front of 1020 Capricorn Court located within Lot 4, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon

2. **File No. PLSRA2022080:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Lake, lying in front of 1161 Kendrick Creek Lane located within Lot 2, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Snowdon

3. **File No. PLSRA2022083:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1058 Voyager Drive located within Lot 26, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Minden

4. **File No. PLSRA2023038:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Pigeon Lake, lying in front of 3420 Deep Bay Road located within Lot 11, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

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

**AND TAKE NOTICE** should you wish to provide comments with respect to any of the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than **January 12, 2024.**

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

**AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)

Manager of Planning, Township of Minden Hills

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EVENTS

Dec. 21

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is featuring a selection of artwork from its permanent collection over the holidays. Nine oil paintings and one watercolour by Andre Lapine, and one watercolour from Owen Staples are new additions, with works from E. A. Dalton, Herbert S. Palmer, Tom Stone, George Thompson, John Lennard and George Pratt also on display. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Dec. 22 to Jan. 6

Drop into any Haliburton County Public Library branch over the winter break for a fun selection of free crafts and colouring pages. Children of all ages welcome. Visit [haliburtonlibrary.ca](http://haliburtonlibrary.ca) for branch locations and hours.

Jan. 10, 7 to 9 p.m.

The Speakers Series returns to Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery, featuring guest Maryam Monsef, former Peterborough MP and cabinet minister, now CEO and founder of ONWARD. She will discuss her journey from arriving in Canada in 1996 as an Afghan refugee to serving on Parliament Hill and becoming a successful entrepreneur. Tickets are \$15 payable in cash at the door. A portion of ticket sales supports a local charity or non-profit organization.

Jan. 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Trappers workshop at Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. Join the Minden District Fur Harvesters and numerous vendors for displays, demonstrations, competitions and door prizes throughout the day. Admission by donation. Lunch available. Food will also be collected for the local food bank. For more information, call Ted at 705-448-2877.

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

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

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email [mike@thehighlander.ca](mailto:mike@thehighlander.ca).

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129

Haliburton weekly activities

**Mondays:** Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Rm.

**Tuesdays:** League darts 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. Main hall, and bingo, doors open at 5 p.m, with games starting at 7 p.m. Weekly jackpot of \$500.

**Thursdays:** General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 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, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email [haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com](mailto:haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com) or visit [haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals](http://haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals)

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk

Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m. No meetings in January or February.

**Tuesdays:** Soup and sandwich lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.

**First Wednesday of the month:** Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.

**Saturdays:** Meat Roll at 3 p.m. starting up again Jan. 6, 2024.

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 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

**Weekly activities:**  
Karaoke: call for dates  
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 Wilberforce

**Dec. 21:** Open 2 to 6 p.m.

**Dec. 22:** Open 2 to 8 p.m. Wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Dec. 23:** Open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.

**Dec. 24 - 26:** Closed

**Dec. 27:** Open 2 to 6 p.m. No darts.

Tree of Warmth at Branch 624 is now accepting donations for the Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary school children. Homemade or store-bought socks, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks would be appreciated. Take your donations to the Legion Wednesdays to Saturdays between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Or drop off at Agnew's General Store.

President's Levy Dec. 30 from 3 to 6 p.m. Drop in, refreshments available.

If you are planning an event, our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.



PHOTO CONTEST

The Highlander is looking for your best photos for inclusion in this year's The Highlander Handbook.

We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submissions will be printed on this year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi).

Please limit 3 entries per person. Deadline April 10, 2024 by 5 p.m. Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email. Send entries to [production@thehighlander.ca](mailto:production@thehighlander.ca)

INFORMATION PAGE

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OFFICE CLOSURE

Season's Greetings

FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

COUNCIL AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE IN MINDEN HILLS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Administration Office

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CLOSED Dec 23rd to Jan 1st

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery

CLOSED Dec 25th to Jan 1st

Landfills

All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st

SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre

Dec 24th CLOSED at 11a.m. CLOSED Dec 25th, 26th & Jan 1st

Dec 27th Facilities will be open, Office CLOSED

Public Works Department Administration Office

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CLOSED Dec 23rd to Jan 1st

Fire Department Administration Office

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CLOSED Dec 23rd to Jan 1st

Regular hours resume Jan 2, 2024

WASTE DISPOSAL

New Waste Disposal Site Hours

A reminder that new waste disposal site hours start January 1, 2024.

For a list of new hours, please ask your Site Attendant for a handout at your next visit to one of our waste disposal sites. You can also visit our website at [mindenhills.ca](http://mindenhills.ca) or contact staff at 705-286-3144 ext. 572.

Holiday Hours - All Minden Hills waste disposal sites are closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Waste disposal sites will operate on their regular winter hours all other days. Happy Holidays!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Holiday baking with children this holiday season? Make sure to keep an eye on those little bakers and remember to never leave the oven unattended. Safety first, cookies second!

Baby, it's cold outside! Staying warm this Winter Solstice means practicing fire safety. Space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces are all great ideas until an accident happens. Keep at least one metre (3 feet) distance between your heat source and combustibles, like paper and fabrics.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON 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 Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

January 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

January 25, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

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](http://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](http://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.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Everyone must do their part to get around safely in the winter. When a winter storm is expected, all municipalities have a plan. Drivers need to have their own plan, which includes leaving earlier and planning a route. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It's also safer for drivers.



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## Thank You to our Auction Dinner Team & Donors!

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Liquor Donors: Profile Wine Group, Fielding Winery, Haliburton Highlands Brewing, Publican House Brewery



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# Moving key to healthy life

By Mike Baker

Active living and the importance of maintaining a mobile lifestyle were on the menu as Aging Together as Community - Haliburton Highlands hosted its holiday social Dec. 2.

Around 50 people attended the event, held at Haliburton United Church. One of the organizers, Brigitte Gebauer, said it was a great way to end what has been a productive year for the group. With four guest presenters on-hand, sharing information about health and wellness programs and services available in the County, and leading live demonstrations, Gebauer said it was a great learning opportunity for anyone, young or old.

"Events like this are all about promoting some of the incredible things we have available to us here in Haliburton County, that help people to age in-place," Gebauer said. "We try to get as much information as possible out to support seniors, and help caregivers, family and friends establish plans around active living."

The Aging Together group held its inaugural meeting in January. Co-lead Bonnie Roe said the grassroots project is designed to bring community members of all ages together to build a shared vision of care for the Highlands' older population.

"Through a series of community conversations, we have a collective desire to expand the current options of what aging looks like in Haliburton County," Roe said, noting the group's vision is to ensure "members of the local community can age with dignity and [with] the supports we would want for ourselves and our loved ones."

Wilma Thompson, of Haliburton FLK Taoist Tai Chi, was the first presenter. She said tai chi is a moving meditation that reduces stress and helps people feel more energetic, balanced, strong and supple.

She led some volunteers through a quick demonstration, noting tai chi is accessible to anyone. Sessions are held Thursdays at the Haliburton United Church from 10 a.m. to noon.

Georgia Shank is a Seniors' Fitness Instructor Course (SFIC) certified instructor. She runs balance and fitness programs through Sit to Fit Bodies in the County every week.

"It's really important to integrate movement into every day of your life. Routine is important, consistency is key and it's never, ever too late to get started with fitness," Shank said.

She shared a story of a 70-year-old local who started attending her programs, with life-changing results.

"The key is finding something that speaks to you - whether that's dancing, boxing, seated fitness, walking with a friend. As long as you integrate some form of activity into your life, you will be better off," Shank said. "Our aim is to prevent early admission to long-term care and keep people as independent as they can be."

Emily Clarke, a registered kinesiologist and certified



The Alzheimer Society's Jennifer Stubbart and Melissa-anne Foster. Photo by Mike Baker.

matrix repatterning practitioner, told attendees movement can sometimes be the best medicine for a range of ailments. She specializes in working with people with Parkinson's, but also offers functional fitness training, therapeutic exercise instruction, and assists people rehabilitating from injury and recovering from surgery.

Jennifer Stubbart and Melissa-anne Foster, from the Alzheimer Society Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton, run weekly Minds in Motion programming in Haliburton. It's designed for people suffering with dementia or memory loss, and their caregivers.

"It's all about having fun and making connections, we want people to come in, leave their issues at the door, and have a good time," Stubbart said. "We do things like axe throwing, trivia, games. We've done pumpkin carving and different themed things around holidays."

The program runs on Tuesday afternoons, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Haliburton United Church. It will restart in March, on an eight-week loop. Registration is required.

The Aging Together group has organized another gathering, taking place at Pinestone Resort Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. Gebauer said there will be more guest speakers, promoting ways for people to get active.

"We want to keep the momentum going," Gebauer said.

To learn more about the group, search 'Aging Together as Community - Haliburton Highlands' on Facebook.

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

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OBITUARIES

**Doreen Margaret Kolkman**

Peacefully, surrounded by family, at age 57, in Newmarket, Ontario, on December 10, 2023. Mother to Liam Richard, sister to Karen (Beric Maass), Richard (Peggy Bailey), predeceased by her brother Alan (Cathryn Kolkman) and loving parents John and Margaret Kolkman of Bradford, Ontario. Donations to Doane House Hospice and/or Margaret Bahen Hospice in lieu of flowers. Private interment. Memorial December 22, at 1 pm, The Armoury, 89 Mosley Street, Aurora, Ontario.

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Blair Hanthorn**  
Canada/Europe - RCAF

Passed away peacefully in Ross Memorial Hospital, affectionately known as "Poppie", he was just shy of his 100th birthday. Predeceased by his wife Vivian, his sister Beulah Robson, and brother Gayle. His brother Closson lives in Ohio and sister Lorna in Fenelon Falls. Son Christopher lives in BC, daughter Lou (Weber) in Gelert, grandsons Endres, Max, Hansel, Jordan and Bradley, great grandchildren Misa, Elsie, Chloe, Max, Fenris, Ravi and Soren.

Blair always called himself a Burnt River boy and loved being busy outdoors. He was an educator for 35 years and retired as Vice Principal of Mariposa Elementary school in 1985. He served in WWII as a WAG and stayed close to his crew for the rest of their lives. He was an avid "Barbershopper" and directed the local chapter.

Blair loved to play piano, drive, eat his cornflakes and keep daily notes and drawings. He spent 3 years at Lakeland Extendicare after Vivian passed away in 2020, he was loved and well respected there and had dear friends and caregivers.

Donations to the Veterans Transition Network can be made through the Lakeland Cremation/Funeral Services in Lindsay on Moose Road, a service will be held there for both Blair and Vivian on Dec. 22nd 2023. A more detailed obituary is also posted at <https://www.lakelandfuneralcentre.com/obituary/GrenvilleBlair-Hanthorn>

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14	F	O	X	H	O	L	E		15	L	E	N		16	C	I	I		
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41	I	C	E	C	42	A	P	S		45	P	R	O	F	46	A	N	48	E
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55	A	I	T		56	S	H	O	T	57	G	L	A	S	S	E	S		
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63	N	Y	T		64	S	P	Y		65	R	I	P	O	S	T	E		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	A	N	G	L	O	S		7	B	E	R	T		11	B	T	13	O	
14	M	O	M	E	N	T		15	A	M	O	R		16	E	I	N		
17	P	L	A	T	T	E		18	T	E	X	A	19	S	T	E	A		
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24	A	M	B	L	E		27	A	V	O		28	N	O	R				
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56	D	R	E	W	N	E	A	R				57	E	L	I	D	E	S	
58	R	E	E		59	E	T	T	A			60	N	U	D	I	E	S	
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9	7	6	5	3	4	1	8	2
2	5	8	1	9	6	3	7	4
1	3	4	7	8	2	9	5	6



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lbacik-zanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca

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

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process. For accommodation options and to ensure full and equal access during the recruitment and selection process, contact Human Resources.

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The current hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$30.58

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Interested candidates should submit a detailed resume indicating your skills and experience no later than **Monday, January 08, 2024 at 4pm**. Please send your resume to:

lbacik-zanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca  
Lauren Bacik-Zanetti, Human Resources Manager

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

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process. For accommodation options and to ensure full and equal access during the recruitment and selection process, contact Human Resources.

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We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submissions will be printed on this year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi).

Please limit 3 entries per person. Deadline April 10, 2024 by 5 p.m. Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email. Send entries to [production@thehighlander.ca](mailto:production@thehighlander.ca)



Pardon M'Eye Puns

by Barbara Olson  
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Helped hatch a heist
  - 8 Brew finisher?
  - 11 Paul, John, George, but not Ringo: Abbr.
  - 14 Battlefield hideout
  - 15 Toronto's "Steal My Sunshine" duo
  - 16 Twice LI
  - 17 Optometrists' clubs?
  - 19 180° from WSW
  - 20 Stravinsky or Larionov
  - 21 Whiner's wish, maybe
  - 22 Sodium abbrs.
  - 23 \_\_\_ Tin Tin
  - 24 Item on an optometrist's task list?
  - 28 Ancient courier's delivery
  - 30 Online reference bested by Wikipedia
  - 31 Rotgut wine
  - 33 Jacob who exposed American poverty
  - 34 Optometrist's specialty?
  - 39 Comedian Thomas of Bob & Doug McKenzie
  - 40 Open a \_\_\_ worms
  - 41 Polar coverings
  - 45 Filled with four-letter words
  - 49 Reason to visit an optometrist?
  - 51 Shorten blades
  - 52 Where lost letters go: Abbr.
  - 53 Spanish "those"
  - 54 Mystical air
  - 55 Tiny river isle
  - 56 Major repair job for an optometrist?
  - 60 George Thorogood song "That's \_\_\_ Quit"
  - 61 King in a Steve Martin schtick
  - 62 Important way to be, for Wilde
  - 63 Big paper in the Big Apple: Abbr.
  - 64 Wired worker
  - 65 Zingy comeback

- Down**
- 1 Verify as true
  - 2 Get down on the dance floor
  - 3 They're out of pens?
  - 4 Hump day follower: Abbr.
  - 5 Lean-\_\_\_ (sheds)
  - 6 '50s film actress Taina
  - 7 \_\_\_ Spiegel (paper that translates to "The Mirror")
  - 8 Gold miner's water trough
  - 9 Persevered
  - 10 Performing harmoniously
  - 11 Word after "worst case"
  - 12 "Tough-actin" anti-fungal brand
  - 13 Sonora snorefests?
  - 18 Lift the lid, poetically
  - 24 West Edmonton \_\_\_ (Alberta attraction)
  - 25 "Hallelujah, there is \_\_\_!"
  - 26 Bingo-like lotto
  - 27 Cross-border trade tax
  - 29 Throne \_\_\_ (Parliament opener)

- 32 The Colonel's chain
- 34 Specific-use building, as a gym
- 35 Penny-dropping cry
- 36 Puff on a pen
- 37 About, in a memo
- 38 Any moment now
- 39 Regard with contempt
- 42 Trials creating mushroom clouds
- 43 Arm-strengthening floor exercise
- 44 Feeling better?
- 46 Gives a giggle
- 47 What the wicked get, it's said
- 48 Computer trash
- 50 Fast flyer across the pond: Abbr.
- 54 \_\_\_ other (one-of-a-kind)
- 57 Cologne's ctry.
- 58 China's Chou En-\_\_\_
- 59 Renowned Dadaist Jean

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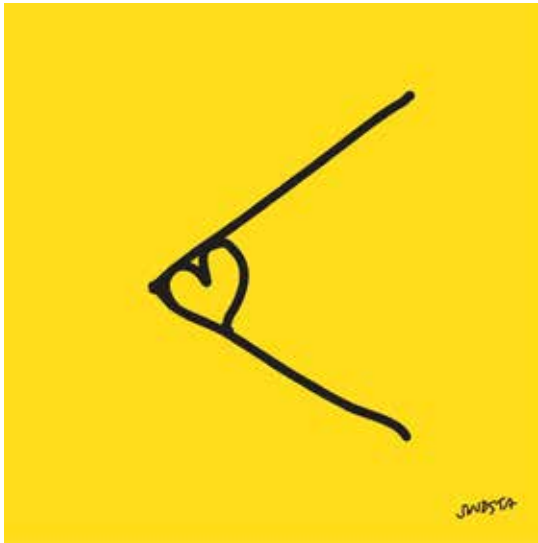
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The sun is shining and I'm here,  
seeing the world with my heart.  
(I see more clearly that way.)

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