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**HIGHLANDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

# The Highlander

Thursday **January 25 2024** | Issue 624

**INSIDE: REMEMBERING 'ROWDY' PAGE 7**

**FREE**



**Slipping and sliding**

The Canadian Automobile Sport Club Ice Racing 2024 season got underway in Minden Jan. 20-21. More than 50 drivers tested themselves on the circuit at the Minden Fairgrounds. A passenger flashes a thumbs up while running the street stud points circuit. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

## Dysart reduces farmers market ask

**By Mike Baker**

Dysart et al council has reduced its financial ask from the Haliburton farmers market to return to Head Lake Park, although market officials remain unconvinced.

At a Jan. 23 meeting, mayor Murray Fearrey said he and his council want to maintain a farmers market in the village, but

are adamant the Haliburton County Farmers Market Association (HCFMA) should pay if they want it back in Head Lake Park.

The event was held at the downtown park for 11 years before being moved to nearby Rotary Beach Park last season.

Brian Nash, of the HCFMA board, said the relocation was not well received, by

vendors or the public. Attendance was down approximately 30 per cent while some merchants opted not to move.

The association has stated it will not return to Rotary Beach this season, previously telling *The Highlander* there likely won't be a market in Haliburton unless it's returned to Head Lake Park.

Dysart's latest offer is for the HCFMA to pay approximately \$4,200 to run the upcoming season at the site, based on having 40 vendors for 21 events.

Fearrey said, "we have arrived at \$5 per [vendor] for each market event. So, if in May you have 12 vendors, that

Continued 'Farmers' on page 2



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The future of the Haliburton farmers market remains unclear after a Dysart council meeting Jan. 23. *File.*

# Farmers remain unconvinced

Continued from page 1

would cost \$60 to run. If it's July and you have 40 vendors, that would be \$200. If there's bad weather, or you decide not to run a market, there wouldn't be [any charge]. That's a substantial difference financially to what we proposed before."

In December, the mayor suggested charging the association \$1,000 for each market during the "busy" summer months – July, August and September – with a \$700 fee applied for any other month, for a total cost of around \$15,000. That was then lowered to a flat rate \$1,000 per month to run events in July, August and September, and \$700 in May, June and October, totalling \$5,100.

"We have a lot of money to spend on the park. Nobody is trying to take advantage of the farmers," Fearrey said, noting township staff often had to carry out repairs at the park after market events.

In a letter to council, the association replied, "we take exception to your suggestion the market causes such extensive damage... to justify a \$5,100 (now \$4,200) annual damage fee... while we are aware of the odd tire track on very rainy days, or perhaps damage to sprinklers, we have no knowledge of any 'significant' damage we have ever caused."

Nash said the board has offered, in the past, to reimburse the municipality for any landscaping work, but claims they were told the issues "were an easy fix" by parks and recreation staff.

Nash said the board has asked the township for records highlighting any major damages. *The Highlander* has made a similar request, though no evidence has been provided.

HCFMA board member Angel Taylor said the association does not have the money and would have to download on market vendors. She estimated it would represent a more than 25 per cent increase. It was noted merchants pay \$400 per season – not the \$300 previously quoted. An increase would

bring that to \$505.

Nash said an email will be going out to existing vendors this week to see if they would return under the proposed conditions.

"This is likely to drive away some of our smaller agricultural vendors. Farmers Market of Ontario requirements state to be designated as a farmers market you need to have half plus one of your vendors agricultural. Our numbers are pretty borderline... if we lose three vendors, our numbers will likely fall below that requirement and we wouldn't be able to have a market anyway," Nash said.

He maintained he doesn't feel the association should have to pay, pointing to events such as the boat races, or Art in the Park, which are not charged.

Fearrey previously stated council will consider implementing fees for other events on a case-by-case basis. He noted many of the organizations that use the park make other contributions to the community, such as the boat races donating annually to Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Nash said the farmers market also gives back. "We bring 15,000 people to town. We also provide financial support to good causes – we've given about \$5,000 to Places for People over the years.

"It seems they just want to get money to use that site. OK, I get that, but let's be honest about it. It's not really about damages, because we don't have any evidence of damages. This seems totally discretionary. It seems like there's [an agenda] against us."

Nash said the board will likely have an answer by next week as to whether vendors are willing to absorb the cost. If not, they will be going back to council. Fearrey indicated the township was open to further negotiation.

"If you shed light on something that changes our mind, we may change our mind... we can have another discussion," Fearrey said.



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# Decision on health unit merger looming

By Mike Baker

Dr. Natalie Bocking, chief medical officer of health with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, said a decision over a potential amalgamation with Peterborough Public Health will be made in the next six weeks.

Speaking at a HKPR board meeting Jan. 18, Bocking said a draft report by consultant, Tony Yu and his firm Sense & Nous, will be presented to a joint board of health working group next week. Presentations will then be made to the HKPR board Feb. 5 and to the PPH board Feb. 6.

Local board of health members will discuss further at a Feb. 15 meeting, which will include officials from the Ministry of Health, Bocking said.

"We have scheduled a series of meetings that will hopefully bring the board to a point where it can make a decision by the end of February," Bocking said, noting the province is accepting business cases for voluntary amalgamations until April 2.

Last August, the Ford government said it would provide funding to health units that want to merge as part of a provincial approach to clarify roles and responsibilities of public health. This follows a 2019 move to download more costs of public health care delivery to municipalities – with the province lowering its funding contribution from 75 per cent to 70 per cent.

Bocking said the consultants recently completed HKPR staff consultation, providing local feedback on any possible amalgamation. Several concerns were outlined, she said, including a fear

relationships between public health and the community would get watered down with a larger organization.

There was also concern expressed about the leadership of a new, larger health unit, given Bocking and Thomas Piggott, PPH medical officer of health, are relatively new to their roles. Bocking joined HKPR in April 2021, with Piggott taking on his role in December 2021.

"[Comments received] suggests there has been a considerably positive culture shift at the respective organizations," Bocking said, noting staff didn't want to see any regression on that front.

Staff also asked questions about job security, what implications amalgamation would have on existing collective bargaining agreements, how additional work travel due to having a larger coverage zone would be handled, and what would happen if the boards decided against coming together.

Bocking said there has been considerable consultation with Curve Lake



and Hiawatha First Nations, which have agreements for public health delivery with PPH, on how any amalgamation may impact them.

"We've had good discussions. What came through to me is the importance of not losing local connections in any merger... what works in urban Peterborough may not work in Haliburton County," Bocking said.

Yu noted his team has put together a merger feasibility report that identifies how amalgamation will impact HKPR across all departments. The report also considers potential benefits of the merger.

"Based on our experience... any merger is possible, it just depends on how much effort you're willing to invest, how much pain you're willing to go through to see this through," Yu said. "As a board of health, you need to think about not only the costs, but what are the possibilities that can be brought forward."

Bocking said while a decision will likely be made by the end of next month, any merger is likely to be a long process.

"Once our board makes a decision, it has to go to the Ministry of Health for approval. That's not going to happen right away. Even after we put a business case together, there will be an air of uncertainty because we don't know 100 per cent if they'll approve it," she said, explaining there are no timeframes in place.

Cec Ryall, who represents Haliburton County on the board, asked how big a merged board of HKPR and PPH representatives would be. HKPR currently has seven representatives, while PPH has 13.

"Will every community, every Indigenous group be represented? If it becomes 20 people, how will that work? No decision is going to be made with a board that size," Ryall said. "Haliburton County is one of the smallest municipalities (in HKPR). How are we going to be protected (to ensure we have a voice)."

Bocking said the makeup of a combined board would be discussed should both health units agree to a merger.

## 'Tis the season

Bocking provided an update on the 2023/24 respiratory season, noting numbers are down this year and more in line with pre-pandemic levels.

She said there have been 44 COVID outbreaks in HKPR, resulting in 28 hospital admissions and 17 deaths. There has also been 111 confirmed cases of influenza, resulting in seven hospital admissions.

"While we're not seeing waves of COVID the same way we did before, we're still seeing illness associated with COVID," Bocking said. "There's a desire from all of us to pretend it's behind us. It's not... the new normal is COVID is part of the mix of respiratory viruses in our communities."

HKPR chief medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking said a decision on local health unit amalgamation. *File.*

## Townships, County receive provincial windfall

Municipalities across Haliburton County are splitting just over \$1.1 million in provincial money from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund.

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott announced Dec. 11 the taxpayer money is to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure across the Highlands.

"Together, we are building a foundation for a prosperous future by fostering

economic growth and creating more jobs within the region by improving roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems," Scott said.

The County of Haliburton received around 40 per cent of the funds, taking in \$455,416. CAO Greg Dyke said the money will be used to offset the cost of repairing and upgrading bridges and large culverts. He noted the upper-tier council was in the process of identifying specific projects

the funds will be allocated to via the 2024 capital budget.

Dysart et al will receive \$288,155, Minden Hills \$163,996, and Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East each \$100,000. The CAOs of each township noted the money will be allocated for projects during 2024 budget deliberations.

OCIF provides funding for local infrastructure projects in communities with less than 100,000 residents, as well as all

rural and northern communities. Funding allocations are based on a formula that considers the different needs and economic conditions of each community, Scott said.

In 2024, the government is allocating approximately \$400 million in OCIF funds to 425 communities. Scott noted communities may accumulate funds for up to five years to address larger infrastructure projects. *(Mike Baker).*

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# Ingram: ‘what does tourism look like?’

By Lisa Gervais

There’s a familiar face in former County CAO Mike Rutter’s office, as Angelica Ingram takes over as the Highlands’ new tourism manager.

Many would know Ingram as a reporter with the *Haliburton Echo* and *Minden Times* until 2018. She went on to work for SIRCH and the Haliburton BIA while raising her two young girls with husband, Chad.

Now that the kids are in school, Ingram said it was the perfect time to return to full-time work, and she couldn’t pass up applying for the tourism job when she saw it advertised.

Born and raised in Richmond Hill, Ingram got her first taste of cottage country working as a summer student for a newspaper in Muskoka.

“I loved it. There were a lot of feel-good stories about small town living and tourism. It was a great job.”

She returned to the city, found a corporate gig, but was not happy. Then the *Echo* and *Times* job was posted. She got a reporting position in the fall of 2009, thinking she’d spend a year, pad her resume, and move on.

“That was 14 years ago,” Ingram says with a laugh.

She said in Richmond Hill, she could not name 20 people she knew. However, “within a year or two of living in Haliburton, I had a community. That really kept me in the area. People knew their neighbours. People looked out for each other.”

SIRCH allowed Ingram to hone her marketing skills and get a handle on the clientele serviced by the agency. The BIA fulfilled her interest in economic development and downtown beautification.

Some have questioned her experience for a tourism manager, but Ingram said, “you could have a very qualified individual, but you can’t make them know or fall in love with the area. If you don’t have a passion for the area, it’s really hard to market it.

“How do you get people to come up for experiences or book accommodations or go to restaurants if you yourself are not enthusiastic about the restaurants or the accommodations or experiences up here?”

She added she told her interviewers, “you can teach me things, but you can’t teach me



Angelica Ingram is the County of Haliburton’s new tourism manager. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

where you can find the best food, the best lunch spot, or things like that.”

Ingram added it is the landscape that is the major drawcard to the County, which is why protecting the local climate is paramount.

“That’s why environmental groups are important because we need to keep all of that protected and intact and as pristine as possible because (otherwise) people aren’t going to want to come up here.”

Ingram feels blessed to have followed in the footsteps of, first, Amanda Virtanen, and then Tracie Bertrand. She already has a blueprint for the job. She has Thom Lambert and Eric Casper to draw on.

“There’s been some really great work done in the last 10 years,” she says of branding, social media, websites, and collaboration.

She will continue to work towards making the County a year-round destination, not just

a summer one, pointing out how the Hike Haliburton winter festival is growing, and they will continue to endeavour to get more shoulder season visitors.

She said she and Lambert are discussing marketing the area as a place to rejuvenate. “There’s some really neat stuff happening and I think that’s another area that we could pursue and expand.

“I think I’m coming into the role at a really great time. I just want to build on a lot of what Amanda and Tracie have begun. I don’t need to reinvent the wheel. We’ll look to other areas to see what they are doing well.”

She said the key is pivoting, a lesson learned from COVID.

She noted climate change is bringing changed winter conditions and providers cannot always rely on tourism opportunities of the past.

“Stakeholders have to get involved because their livelihood can’t just be based on a six-week season.”

Ingram said her department is asking, “what does tourism look like? Does it look like a wellness, holistic, retreat type of thing? I think that’s something that’s definitely going to be top of mind for the next couple of years.”

They are also discussing sustainability. “Does this area want more visitors or does it want someone who comes and stays longer? We have to think about all that. What’s our long-term goal?

She added she also brings a “young family, kid perspective” to the job.

“There are so many great events for young kids and for families, but what’s missing and what more do we need? What can we promote more?”

## INFORMATION PAGE

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**WINTER PARKING**  
From November 1st, 2023 to April 30th, 2024 overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on all township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interfere with snow removal operations will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

**VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

January 25 - Regular Council Meeting	February 1 - Special Meeting of Council
February 5 - Special Meeting of Council	February 8 - Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at [mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx](http://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx). Visit our website for more information.

**SNOW REMOVAL**  
Pushing snow across roads and streets is a safety hazard and against the law. The *Highway Traffic Act* states no person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing from the road authority responsible for maintenance of the road.



# Better public toilets one MH budget ask

By Lisa Gervais

The public and councillors received an overview of the draft Minden Hills budget Jan. 18 – with a starting point of a 9.41 per cent tax levy increase over 2023.

Factoring in assessment growth, it equates to a 7.81 per cent hike, CAO Cynthia Fletcher and treasurer Greg Bedard told council.

A little over a third (35 per cent) would go to wages and benefits; 33 per cent for materials, supplies and operating costs; 12 per cent for policing; nine per cent for contribution to other funds, such as cemetery and capital; six per cent for debt servicing and five per cent to reserves.

Fletcher said the capital budget includes investments to improve roads, public safety, regulatory compliance and accessibility.

“Council, staff and the public spend a great deal of time and consideration in developing a budget that provides necessary services to residents, businesses and visitors,” she added.

Bedard said the typical single-family home in Minden Hills has an assessed value of \$209,000. This property would see a \$68.56 increase if the draft went unchanged. The typical seasonal recreational dwelling has an assessed value of \$316,000 and would see a \$103.66 increase. The impact on \$100,000 of residential assessment is \$32.81.

Property owners contribute 72 per cent of the cost of running Minden Hills, while grants are 15 per cent, penalties, interest and other revenues seven per cent and six per cent in user fees.

Bedard said government grants had dropped this year by about \$60,000. It’s anticipated tipping fees, building bylaw and planning department fees will be less, while recreation centre revenues should increase.

He said inflation and supply chain issues are impacting the budget. For example, he’s seeking 4.8 per cent more for fuel costs, and additional financing is needed for vehicles, utilities and insurance.

Staff are proposing a new ditching program. Bedard said, “many township roads do not have adequate ditches, and this hinders water from draining properly. The lack of proper ditching results in washouts, poor driving surfaces, and increased operational costs to repair.” The proposed drainage program will focus on improving ditches and water drainage, with a specific focus on roads identified for resurfacing in the following calendar year.

The costs associated with operating landfills and transfer stations have increased. Policing costs are up as well.

The draft calls for transferring \$867,460 to reserves. Debt servicing costs are headed north, projected to increase to \$1.2 million in 2025.

Bedard said the township is looking to use just shy of \$1.2m in reserves, \$2.255m in loans; about \$383,00 in grants and \$859,500 in taxation.

Staff are further proposing a two per cent water rate increase and three per cent wastewater hike.

The biggest ticket items are \$1.5 million for the construction of the Scotch Line

transfer station and nearly \$1.4 million for road resurfacing.

Council will resume budget talks in February and hopes to finalize the document March 5.

## Public input

Only three people spoke at the public meeting.

Jim and Bernie Davis talked about the need for better public washrooms.

“There continues to be a problem with the lack of facilities for the public in our community,” Jim said. “I am here hoping that the township can find some funding to improve our public washrooms, especially as we are an aging population and it is becoming more and more of an issue.” However, he said it would benefit young families, too, and keep people downtown.

Bernie said they could look to Bracebridge as an example.

Mayor Bob Carter said public washroom companies present new concepts and ideas at the ROMA and AMO conferences.

“I would agree with you that there is something that needs to be done.”

Bill Blakes said he believes there is a problem with the township’s water billing system. He claims readings are being taken eight to 14 days before the beginning of the billing cycle, and sometimes four to eight days after. “That meant during the summer... we were getting billed for an extra 14 to 15 days, which we already paid for in the last bill, and which we would pay for in the next bill.” He said the issue has



Recreation revenues are expected to rise in 2024. *File.*

been going on for years.

Carter said, “I know this has been a problem for some time that I’ve been on council and it’s something that we have to do better with and we will.”

## HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

### Applying for EV charger grants

CAO and treasurer, Brittany McCaw, got council’s support Jan. 16, to submit an application to the Ministry of Transportation EV ChargeON program.

McCaw said if successful, they would like to put level two port chargers at Herlihey Park, Gooderham Community Centre and Cardiff Community Centre.

The program became available at the end of 2023 and is accepting bids from townships of under 170,000 people, eligible to receive up to 75 per cent of total project costs.

The township now has one charger in Wilberforce.

McCaw said, “The municipality would like to attempt to secure funding for EV chargers as it would help to address municipal climate change initiatives and create economic development opportunities. While the electric vehicles are charging, vehicle owners may go into our towns to shop or visit and see what Highlands East has to offer.”

McCaw said the township would have to front the money – estimated at \$120,000 – and then be reimbursed 75 per cent (\$90,000). She said the money is in the 2024 budget and the program would operate as a fee for service.

### ‘Yes’ to STR rules

Cheryl Quantrill of Cardiff spoke to council about the need for a short-term rental bylaw.

The Paudash Lake resident said she was responding to a Dec. 12 delegation by a resident opposed to the bylaw.

Quantrill said she has a new short-term rental operation next door. She claims they have advertised on an online rental site for up to 16-plus renters for six bedrooms.

She said while the December speaker said the average renter makes \$9,000 a year, her neighbour charged more than \$6,000 for a five-night rental in September, with higher rates in July and August.

Quantrill added with STR rules and regulations being discussed since 2018, new owners should have done their homework to know what is coming.

The County is leaning towards a short-term rental bylaw for the spring.

### Septic inspection back for 2024

Chief building official, Colin McKnight, said the septic maintenance program, suspended in 2023 due to staffing shortages, is resuming this year.

The program started in 2017 with a focus on lakefront properties, and continued

until 2020 where it paused due to COVID challenges. It resumed in 2021 and 2022 before being paused again last year.

McKnight said the department now has a full-time septic inspector, however he is finding the data is not consistent or accurate. He has asked council to support the hiring of a summer student to review and verify data and put it into a master document.

He said he and the septic inspector will do site visits while the student cleans up the records.

“I’m hopeful at the end of 2024 we can provide council with an accurate update on what is outstanding and move forward with the completion of lakefront properties. At that point, I would recommend we look at riverfront properties, then any additional properties as per council direction,” McKnight said.

### White Lake Road bridge closure

Highlands East says the White Lake Road bridge was closed Jan. 22 for at least three weeks.

The township said on Jan. 16, “Parks Canada would like to advise the public that following a routine inspection, it has been determined that deck repairs are required at the White Lake Road bridge located in the



Council has begun budget talks. *File.*

Municipality of Highlands East, connecting Salerno and White Lakes.”

The release added that residents and visitors are encouraged to plan alternate travel routes.

The temporary load reduction to five tonnes and speed reduction to 10 km/hr will remain in place until repairs are completed.

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais).



## ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

### AH takes on Dorset park

Algonquin Highlands has agreed to a deal assuming ownership of Dorset Pavilion Community Park, with mayor Liz Danielsen noting the agreement will close at the end of January.

Disclosed following a brief in-camera session at a Jan. 18 council meeting, the deal will see the township assume all responsibility for maintenance, upkeep and management of the site, located at 1047 Main St. in Dorset.

The long-term future of the park had been in question after Lake of Bays reneged on a cost sharing agreement it had with its previous owners to split maintenance, insurance, property tax and utility costs. The township backed out of a 10-year lease it signed in 2021 after learning the park is located on land outside Lake of Bays' boundaries.

Collin Reaney and Penny McEachern, representing the Dorset Community Partnership Fund (DFPF), approached Algonquin Highlands council last September asking the township to step in.

The DCPF played a pivotal role in the park's development, raising \$120,000 for the installation of washrooms, a pavilion, fencing and a soccer field in 2011. Cottagers Don Tapscott and Ana Lopes purchased the land in 2021 to ensure it would remain a community park, leasing it to Lake of Bays.

Danielsen thanked the pair for their work in maintaining the site, which is being donated to the township.

"I'm really happy on behalf of the residents of Dorset that we've been able to come to an agreement to acquire the park. It will remain a community park for years to come," Danielsen said.

### Fifty years of Frost

Council has supported the idea of a reunion celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Frost Centre.

Barrie Martin, a long-time event planner and recreation specialist in the Highlands, said he wanted to recognize the historical significance of the site, which was used primarily by the Ontario government as a demonstration area in resources management, education and recreation following its construction in 1974.

The facility was re-established as the Frost Centre Institute in 2007 before closing again in 2010. The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) bought the property in 2021 and is considering its options for the site.

Martin, who worked at the facility for 28 years, said thousands of people benefitted from programs and services offered there. He envisions a multi-day event featuring a welcome reception, open house, gala, concert, guided hikes, and gatherings for various special interest groups.

He has been in touch with OPSEU to see if the facility can be opened for the event but has not yet heard back. He proposed the Dorset Community Centre, Stanhope Community Centre, Dorset Lions Club and Sandy Lane Resort as other potential hosts.

He wants the event to be held in October.

Martin said he recently started spreading the idea of a reunion, noting there is significant interest. He believes it could be a good revenue generator for the area, with guests likely to come from across the province.

Council agreed to write letters of support for the event to OPSEU and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, while making municipal staff available to assist with planning.

### Status quo

Council has elected to maintain its current procedure for selecting a deputy mayor.

Clerk Dawn Newhook tabled a report seeking direction after the previous council expressed interest in re-evaluating the election process for deputy mayor. Currently, the position is filled via appointment following a vote from existing members of council.

Newhook said transitioning to a system where the deputy mayor is elected by the public would necessitate a change in council makeup – either adding two members to become a seven-person team or reducing the number of elected representatives from Stanhope from two to one.

Coun. Sabrina Richards said she didn't like either option. She feels adding two new members would be too costly and wasn't in favour of reducing representation in Stanhope – the township's most populated area.

"We've acknowledged it, we've talked about it... but what I'm hearing is we're not interested in pursuing," Danielsen said.



AH has agreed to a deal to assume ownership of Dorset Pavilion Community Park. *File.*

### EV hook ups


The township is applying for provincial money to offset the cost of installing two electronic vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Dorset Recreational Centre.

Township staffer Brian Mulholland said the Ministry of Transportation's new EV ChargeON program would fund approximately 75 per cent of the cost, which amounts to \$204,375. Council agreed to cover the remaining \$68,125 if successful.

The proposal calls for the installation of Level 2 and Level 3 stations, with four charging hook-ups. If approved, the township will have two years to complete the project. Mulholland said it will likely be a user pay system managed by a third party, with the township sharing any revenue.

*(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker).*


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# Rowden lived 'long, happy life'

By Mike Baker

Summer afternoons on his dock overlooking Twelve Mile Lake will never be the same for Haliburton resident Gary Rowden, who lost his dad, Harold, last week.

One of the County's last remaining Second World War veterans, Harold 'Rowdy' Rowden passed away Jan. 14, just three months shy of his 100th birthday. The veteran had spent the past three years living at the Gardens of Haliburton retirement residence after a long life that involved a lengthy tour of Europe with the Canadian Armed Forces as a teenager and stints living in the Highlands, Toronto, and on both the west and east coasts.

"Dad always liked to keep busy. He worked and travelled around a lot, especially once he and my mom split and he left Haliburton County," Gary said.

His return in 2020, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was a big deal for the entire Rowden family, Gary said. Its patriarch was home.

Some of the best memories he has of his dad were made in the years since. Gary recalls how every weekend his dad would join him at the cottage for a catchup – and a beer.

"We'd have some laughs out there – he had his license until last year, so he would drive himself over and stay for a while. He always made sure to only have one beer so he could drive himself back to Haliburton," Gary said. "For the last year or so, my sister [Gail] and I would take it in turns to pick him up and take him out for a drive, or to do something, a couple times a week. He always liked us doing that."

Rowden was fiercely proud of his military service, Gary said. Serving with the 3rd Division of the 13th Field Regiment during the Second World War, 'Rowdy' was there the day members of the Canadian military went where no Allied soldier had gone before, pushing the Nazis out of their beach-front strongholds, and sending them into retreat.

Harold was 15 when he signed up for the war effort. He spent years training at various sites across Canada and the UK, though was in Portsmouth, England on that fateful day, June 6, 1944. The Normandy landings, particularly the Canadian affront on Juno Beach, have long been considered the catalyst for the Allies' eventual victory.

Rowden shared his story with *The Highlander* for a piece in the lead up to Remembrance Day in 2021. He told how, as a dispatch rider, it was his job to collect messages from one command point and



Harold 'Rowdy' Rowden, a veteran of the Second World War, passed away Jan. 14 at the age of 99. *File.*

deliver them to another. It was dangerous work – his orders were often top secret.

After emerging from the wreckage of Juno Beach, Rowden saved lives while treating wounds during a fight with the Nazis in a small French town, Courseulles-sur-Mer, and saw action in the Battle for Caen. He was injured during intense enemy shelling in Caen, sent to the UK to recover and discharged once the war was won.

Once back in Canada, he met and married Nellie Miscio. He moved to Haliburton and took a job at Carnarvon Lumber, where he worked for years while he and Nellie raised their nine children. After they split, Rowden moved to the city, where he spent years working as a mechanic and, later, a truck driver. He retired to Orillia in 1990, living there for almost three decades.

After moving to the Highlands, Rowden became a member of the Haliburton Legion. Its president, Mike Waller, said 'Rowdy' was always in good spirits when visiting the branch.

"He was very forthcoming, always made time to chat. He was very generous that way," Waller said. "He was a fun guy. He had some good stories – he'd always have people laughing when he came in."

Waller said Rowden would visit the legion once a week. While he didn't like to talk about his experiences during the war, 'Rowdy' was a central figure at the Haliburton Remembrance Day services the past four years.

"He always made himself available for things like that. Remembrance Day was a big deal for him. He didn't like it when you made a big deal of him though – I remember former president Don Pitman saying to him, 'you're a real hero' and 'Rowdy' would reply 'no, the only heroes are the boys we left behind'," Waller said. "He was very humble about his service."

Gary said he'd miss seeing and spending time with his dad, but noted he has many lessons to remember him by.

"He always used to say to me 'if a man's word is no good, then he's no good'. Those are good words to live by, it's basically how he lived his life. Just be true to your word and be honest – those are the main things I learned from him," Gary said. "I'll miss him, but he lived a long, happy life."

Per Rowden's wishes, there will be no visitation or funeral service. Donations can be made to the Orillia or Haliburton legions in his honour.

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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.

**STAFF****PUBLISHER**

Heather Kennedy

heather@thehighlander.ca

**EDITORIAL**

Lisa Gervais

Editor | editor@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker

Asst. Editor | mike@thehighlander.ca

Kimberly Strong-Knight

Contributor

**SALES**

Dawn Poissant | dawn@thehighlander.ca

Laurie Johnson | laurie@thehighlander.ca

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

Glenda Mumford

admin@thehighlander.ca

**DESIGN**

Tania Moher

Manager | production@thehighlander.ca

**DISTRIBUTION**

Walt Griffin

**CONTACT**

705-457-2900

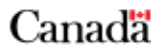
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# A curious case

Four months away from a new farmers market season and we are still no closer to knowing if the popular weekly event will have a home in Haliburton this year.

The Haliburton County Farmers Market Association and Dysart et al remain at loggerheads over the Haliburton market, which ran successfully at Head Lake Park for 11 years before being moved to Rotary Beach Park in 2023.

Market executives say the move has been a failure – with an approximate 30 per cent decrease in visitors last year. Several merchants have indicated they will not return unless the event is back in Head Lake Park this spring, HCFMA officials say.

Dysart council, it would appear, aren't too thrilled about having the event back a stone's throw from Highland Street. Several councillors, notably mayor Murray Fearrey and coun. Pat Casey, have expressed concerns over the location, listing issues like waterlogging at Head Lake Park on rainy days, a lack of available parking in the downtown and traffic congestion as reasons for the event's relocation.

There has been a change in attitude recently, however. Now, council appears happy to sign off on the market's return - providing the HCFMA pays for it.

Initially, Fearrey wanted around \$15,000 for HCFMA to use the space – which has since been reduced to \$4,200. Any money received, Fearrey said, would be used to rectify damages caused by market vendors and visitors.

Market officials have been left exasperated by this request. Brian Nash, a long-time board member, said aside from a few tire marks left imprinted in the grass on wet days, and a few damaged sprinklers, he's unaware of any damage caused during a market day. He's asked the township for proof of any damages – invoices that show work has been completed – but hasn't received any.

A similar request from *The Highlander* has also fallen on deaf ears.

That does seem curious. Given how adamant Fearrey is that the association should pay, one would be forgiven for assuming there's a laundry list of issues that have been rectified over the years at a substantial cost.

The whole situation has left those with links to the farmers market feeling singled out.

Fearrey's comments at a Jan. 23 council meeting won't have done much to ease tensions. First, he said HCFMA should not be considered a true not-for-profit given his belief that many of its vendors make a lot of money in Haliburton on market days. The organization does have official non-profit status with the federal government.

After it was pointed out other events that frequent Head Lake Park, such as the annual powerboat races, Art in the Park, and Rotary-sanctioned activities, have faced no such charge, Fearrey said those things all give back to the community – noting powerboat race organizers donate annually to Haliburton Highlands Health Services and Rotary has a long history of supporting

important causes and projects in the area. The mayor said the market hasn't contributed on that level.

HCFMA's numbers state it sees around 15,000 visitors to the Haliburton market annually. Given many of those people will then shop at Haliburton stores, eat at Haliburton restaurants, and gas up at Haliburton pumps – the payback is surely there.

It should speak volumes too that several downtown businesses, as well as the Haliburton BIA, have called for the market's return to Head Lake Park.

Given Dysart council this week approved its 2024 budget, with expenditures pegged at north of \$24 million, is it really worth alienating County farmers and agriculturalists and risk losing an event that brings thousands to the downtown over a few coppers? Because that's essentially what \$4,200 is on a municipal ledger. A percentage of a percentage point.

Should council persist with an annual fee, it needs to develop a consistent fee structure for any event at Head Lake Park. Having one rule for HCFMA and another for everyone else would be a terrible look. It would only fan the flames for those who feel the farmers market is being unfairly targeted.



By Mike Baker

## NATURE'S CALLING

# Happy fishing

Well, it looks like winter has finally arrived. Some wish winter would stay away; others are likely just as happy as I am.

This past weekend, Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve finally had the chance to open their snowmobile trails, so we wasted no time packing up and heading into our trailer for the weekend. We spend as much time there as we can all year round. We have a wood stove in the add-a-room to stay cozy and warm.

When we arrived, it was snowing but not too cold; the forest looked beautiful with the snow on the branches, like a winter wonderland. I couldn't help but take photos. We unloaded things from the snowmobiles and quickly started the wood stove to warm things up. After organizing things indoors, we headed outside to get a campfire on because you must roast marshmallows when camping.

We woke to about eight to 10 inches of wet snow on Saturday morning, perfect for making snowmen. Remember when you

were a kid and you prayed for the ideal snow so you could go out and make the biggest snowman you could? Well, we got it on Friday night, and just like we were kids again, my husband and I went out to build a giant snowman in the front of our trailer. It was so fun; we had so many snowmobilers giving us thumbs up as they passed by; when did you last build a snowman?

We ventured out on the ice, very cautiously, to see the thickness and if we could do some ice fishing. Thickness was between four to five inches. We dropped our lines and fished for a little while. We had a few bites but were still waiting to catch something. It was an adventure, and it was great to enjoy the day in the fresh air.

The trails were busy on Saturday, so we decided to go for a trail ride after dinner on Saturday evening. The trails with the fresh snow on them made them exceptional.

Sunday morning, we got up and slowly packed to head back home. I always hate having to leave, but I know it won't be long

until we are back up there, enjoying the outdoors and exploring what nature has to show us.

We can't wait for more ice so we can get out ice fishing this winter and do some more sledding. Since I was a baby, we have been going into the Haliburton Forest, which is like a second home. I am so lucky to have had this place to go to each year. My parents have a spot there, my grandparents had one there, and I have now had my site there for about seven years. It has only been the last two years that we have been going up in the wintertime, and wow, is it beautiful there at this time of year.

Make sure you grab your Fishing Regulations Book from Service Ontario when getting or renewing your license as to when ice fishing starts in your area. Be careful and happy fishing.



By Toni Cooper

**Clarification:** In the Jan. 11 edition of *The Highlander*, in the opinion piece 'housing must be the focus' the author claimed Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey negotiated and agreed to a land purchase without informing or involving the rest of council. The issue was discussed in-camera by Dysart council twice before the deal was signed June 27, 2023 – on May 9 and June 13.

**Correction:** In the Jan. 18 edition of *The Highlander*, in the story 'ARC receives \$100,000 for retreat upgrades' we incorrectly stated a four-day retreat for cancer patients costs Abbey Retreat Centre approximately \$6,800. The retreats actually cost closer to \$2,500. *The Highlander* apologizes for this error.



LETTERS

Market at risk?

Dear editor,

It is quite disappointing to see that Haliburton village is once again at risk of losing the farmers market. I was involved from day one in establishing the market and though I've left the County, I follow County news. The first year, the market operated on private property, but that option disappeared after one season. We were unable to find an acceptable alternative site in Haliburton village despite asking council for help. So, we relocated to Carnarvon where we held a highly successful market for several years.

After my involvement ended, I understand the HCFMA board was approached by Haliburton village about opening a new location there.

Is the village again at risk of losing the market and its positive benefits to local residents, food producers, artisans, and downtown merchants?

Bob Smith  
Peterborough

Dysart concerns

Dear editor,

Like many residents of Dysart et al, I am concerned and wondering about some decisions being made by mayor Murray Fearrey and his council. Many are wondering about the mortgage on the land purchased on County Road 21. The optics are a bit wonky. And at the same time, council is making life difficult, or impossible, for the Haliburton farmers market to operate this year. The farmers market is a lively attraction to Haliburton village for both residents and visitors alike. To say they are getting a free ride is both wrong and insulting to this group of hard-working people. I thought the park and the new washroom facilities are there for the use and enjoyment of the taxpayers and visitors to our community. Please bring these concerns to the next council meeting. Thank you in advance for your attention to these concerns.

Ann Maher  
Haliburton

Short-term rentals

Dear editor,

I understand the mayors are going to vote on passing a new bylaw for STR property owners in the very near future. They are proposing charging owners a yearly license fee of \$250 to \$500; knowing many are charging from \$2,500 a week and up and \$350 a day. I find it hard to believe they are going to pass this bylaw even though they have admitted in the past they have no idea how many STRs are operating in the Highlands. They don't have the manpower nor resources to inspect and enforce it. Anyone with any

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A Sunday afternoon floating over Haliburton. By Bernie Sheehey.

business sense would be a fool not to take advantage. It's a license to make money with no fear of financial or legal consequences. Highlands East mayor Dave Burton and coun. Angela Lewis are on record, at a candidate meeting in Cardiff, stating they would not knowingly buy a property located beside, or close to, a STR. Why is mayor Burton now going to vote to approve the new bylaw after publicly stating he doesn't approve of them? If it's not good enough for mayor Burton's personal use, why is it all of sudden good enough for everyone else? Property owners in HE are going to be concerned about their property values. Are mayor Burton and HE going to assure them they will cover proven property losses from being beside or close to a STR, on anyone's properties purchased before mayor Burton and HE approved and passed their new STR bylaw? All of the municipalities here have allowed STRs to operate illegally in residential zoned areas and done nothing, while law-abiding taxpayers had to endure renters noise, parties, and other intrusions on their properties. Many rural municipalities and big cities across Canada are restricting and shutting down STRs.

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Harold Hutchings  
Wilberforce

STR clarification

Dear editor,

I'm writing to correct two inaccuracies about my Jan. 10 delegation to Haliburton County Council as reported in *The Highlander* Jan. 18. You reported that I said "problem renters should be fined under existing bylaws". What I said was that problem homeowners - including short-term rental hosts - should be fined under existing bylaws. We already have the tools to clamp down on problem STR hosts with existing noise, fire, fireworks and septic inspection bylaws. Responsible hosts ensure their guests follow the rules.

You also reported I said that hosts pay income tax "via the GST". I actually said hosts pay income tax on their rental income and collect and flow through GST on behalf of the federal government. Our County and municipal decision-makers have been working this file for seven years, hired consultants and invested in legal opinions. Getting short-term rental regulations right by registering STRs and conducting public consultation on the draft bylaw would improve host compliance and the ultimate success of the program... which would make all that investment pay off.

Jacqueline Baptist  
Algonquin Highlands

Thanks for slowing down

Dear editor,

Since the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena opened a couple of years ago, the traffic on Parkside Street and Prentice Street has increased greatly. These two roads are also used by many pedestrians of all ages, i.e Archie Stouffer students, the day care on Prentice Street, seniors out for a stroll, and many others walking to and from their homes. Because of concern for the safety of those using these roads, the board of directors for Staathworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation wrote to Minden Hills council requesting speed signs be installed to help slow down vehicle traffic. Council responded by installing a very effective speed indicator on Parkside Street. This instrument thanks and smiles at those who drive safely and reminds those driving too fast to slow down. The board of SNPNC and the tenants from The Terrace and The Court would like to thank Minden Hills council for responding to our safety concerns and we also thank the many drivers who are driving under the limit along these busy streets.

Jim Hicks  
Minden Hills

Customer service

Dear editor,

Sometimes you just need to publicly thank your local business staff. This is the second time that I've found myself in the "yard" at Minden Home Hardware being served by a young man. This fellow deserves a special shout out. He treats me with respect, offers helpful advice, goes above/beyond and always make me smile.

Carolyn Humphreys  
North Kawartha

A nothing-burger

Dear editor,

I personally have no problem at all with people feeding deer. They were here long before Haliburton was settled and they've made their way for generations. They are a part of nature... our life and lifestyle. This is the way of the country. Unfortunately, you had better get used to it... it comes with the territory. I feed my birds... my chipmunks... want to see a vid of a rare-ish Martin? They are comical and truly beautiful animals. I have had 'pets', including a fox, for years... I feed him/her... does that make me bad? Leave it alone... they are surviving. Yes, I have had a deer experience or two with a vehicle. Expensive. It's called defensive driving. It still happens... live and let live... We have so many bigger problems in our world these days and everyone seems to be worried about the nothing-burger. Maybe consider that the world does not revolve around our trivial means and wildlife? Leave them alone. We are encroaching and taking advantage of their environment. They were here before us, as well as the rest of the animals.

Avery Gurr  
Haliburton County



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Scott Walling, curator at The Space exhibit in Haliburton, says his favourite piece on display is 'Blue Spirit', a 3x6 foot woodcut and lithograph collage print, from Tamasauskas' Water Balancer series. Photo by Mike Baker.

Elemental exhibit

'Earth, Wind and Fire', a printmaking exhibit by Kingston-based artist Otis Tamasauskas, is being featured at The Space in Haliburton until Feb. 24. The presentation debuted Jan. 10 said curator, Scott Walling, who is excited to showcase 29 pieces from Tamasauskas' collection. The name may be familiar to locals who have taken classes at Haliburton

School of Art + Design, with Tamasauskas a visiting instructor at the campus. The exhibit is open Thursday to Saturday noon to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. A reception has been scheduled for Feb. 24, with Tamasauskas appearing. All works are available for purchase, with Walling saying he's sold one piece as of press time. (Mike Baker).

The search for Helen... and others... is on

By Lisa Gervais

The Highlands Summer Festival has begun its search for an 11-13-year-old girl to bring the role of Helen Keller to life once again on the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion stage this summer. Festival artistic producer and director, Scot Denton, said, "I think this is the role of a lifetime. It is challenging, but one that will become a watershed moment in their life." Auditions for this, and other roles, in the play will be held Jan. 27-28 at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton. Actors, parents or guardians should visit the Highlands Summer Festival website at highlandssummerfestival.on.ca and follow the links from the home page to the audition package for more details, or call Stella Voisin at 705-457-4524.

HSF spokesman Jack Brezina said the dramatic story of Helen Keller's escape from her dark and silent prison is one that has captivated audiences for years. The play, which relates the patient and remarkable efforts of her tutor, Annie Sullivan, to open the world to the child, is returning. Brezina said, "there is no question *The Miracle Worker*, by William Gibson, is a compelling tale, one that audiences around the world have praised as brilliant and moving. It is also a dramatic presentation that asks a great deal of its actors, particularly Annie Sullivan, but equally so the young actress who plays the child, Helen Keller." Jasmin Nelson (then Jasmin Purnell) was the actress who carried the role in the HSF 2006 production. Her participation, as a 12-year-old, is an enduring memory for the mother and early childhood educator, Brezina said.



Scot Denton, festival artistic producer and director. File. "Being a part of *The Miracle Worker* brought me so much joy," Nelson said. "I loved working alongside the energetic and caring cast and crew. It was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun." She said the experience was challenging but also taught her many life lessons that are still with her today. "That role enriched me with determination and drive," she said. "I will never forget that exciting summer when I had a chance to play the role of Helen Keller." The summer lineup also has roles for additional actors in *The Miracle Worker*, in the musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, as well as the comedy, *The Birds & The Bees*. Follow the links on the website for more information about these productions and casting.



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# Student film sheds light on adapting to Highlands

By Mike Baker

As a recent Haliburton School of Art + Design graduate, international student Erica Olavario said she wants to help pave the way for other overseas arrivals to the Highlands. Olavario, who grew up in the Philippines, completed the year-long integrated design course at the Haliburton campus in December. As a part of her program, she produced an 18-minute documentary highlighting her time in the Highlands, showcasing the highs and the lows of adapting to life in a rural community in a foreign country. The movie was featured at the San Diego Filipino Film Festival in October.

“I was having a hard time adapting to the new culture... I battled homesickness, anxiety and depression. My film tackles all those issues, while revolving around the four seasons in Haliburton and how they have been like a parallel to how my life has been changing,” Olavario said. Titled *Ugnayan*, which translates to connection in Filipino, the movie begins with a backdrop of snow – winter in the Highlands. Growing up in a tropical country, this was Olavario’s first time living in, and adapting to, extreme cold. She talks about being away from home and having to adjust to a new way of living without any real support system.

After starting her studies, Olavario said her community began to grow. She made friends with classmates and connected with mentors such as Barr Gilmore, HSAD’s integrated design professor. “I was learning to be OK, to be self-sufficient, to be more connected with myself. My time in Haliburton, although difficult, taught me to be brave. It showed me how strong I am, and how much I love making new experiences,” Olavario said. The film features picturesque stills from around the HSAD campus, the space Olavario was renting, and various spots in Haliburton village. The idea, she said, was to show everything the Highlands had to offer. “My aim was to extend a hand of



Erica Olavario has released an 18-minute documentary on life in Haliburton as an international student. *Submitted.*

understanding and validation to those who share similar experiences. Leaving home and adapting to a new culture is a profound journey, often marked by a range of emotions. The film captures that, offering a personal perspective on this transformative voyage... I wanted to show people that things do get better, they get easier,” she said. She added, “this project has been an opportunity for growth, empathy and healing. By sharing, I hope to foster a sense of community and connection. *Ugnayan* is a testament to the power of storytelling to bridge gaps, create understanding, and validate the shared experiences of our lives.” She hopes to continue showing the documentary to others, recently submitting

it for consideration in several 2024 film festivals. Olavario noted her biggest challenges, aside from acclimatization, was a lack of transit options and housing. Sometimes, she said, she would be waiting at the school for over an hour before finding a ride home. She said having a bus service connecting HSAD to Haliburton village would be a big deal for students. The County has recently supported a transit pilot, with a bus running from Haliburton to Minden and hitting key areas in both communities – with HSAD identified as a potential stop. She also believes a new 47-unit student housing facility, which broke ground last month, will help students, particularly those

from overseas, settle better. By the time summer came around, Olavario said she was settled. She had found a rhythm between studying, exploring her new community, and maintaining contact with her family and friends. She has relocated to Toronto as she attempts to pursue a career in the arts, though Olavario said she will always look back fondly on her time in Haliburton County. “I call it my home now – I have friends there who have become almost like family. I love the community I had in Haliburton. People were very supportive and giving,” she said. “It was tough for me to start, but I’ll have very positive memories of Haliburton for the rest of my life.”



Fun in February  
in Dysart et al

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# ‘Ray days’ priceless for canoe builders

By Lisa Gervais

Kim Switzer and partner, Brad Archer, are enjoying what they are calling ‘Ray days’ - working with legendary canoe and paddle builder, Ray Kettlewell.

For the past year, the partners have been travelling to Kettlewell’s shop near Kinmount to learn how to build cedar canoes.

In a large shed, heated by a wood stove, and filled with tools, Switzer and Archer lean over a canoe-in-the-making, steaming cedar ribs to curve them around a form, and then tacking them down with specialized nails.

Kettlewell looks on, occasionally offering a word of advice, but mostly letting the couple do the work themselves.

Kettlewell knows a thing or two about the trade. He’s been involved with canoeing and wood most of his life.

Prior to 1970, he worked in the hardwood lumber industry; logging and managing a sawmill and dry kiln in southwestern Ontario.

Much of his spare time was spent paddling, though, on his own and guiding groups of adults and children on canoe trips. Kettlewell earned a canoe instructor’s certificate in 1973 and 15 years of marathon canoe racing earned him a canoe full of trophies.

He began making paddles in 1970 to supply himself with the kind of paddles he wanted. He had access to the best hardwood and years of knowledge of wood. Since 1977, making paddles had been Kettlewell’s full-time occupation until retirement. After having purchased a 130-year-old Chestnut form canoe from New Brunswick, his focus shifted to canoe building and he points to the 20th canoe he’s built up on a rack. He reckons it takes 200 hours to build one by hand.

At 89, going on 90, it’s time to pass on his knowledge. So, when Switzer came calling last fall, and the two shared a connection over all things canoeing, it made sense for Kettlewell to take her under his wing.

Switzer tells the story of how she learned about, and wanted to buy, a famous Ray Kettlewell paddle but she couldn’t lay her hands on one. When she learned the inventor lived just down the road, she called and was invited to come to the shop.

## Deep passion

“We talked for over two hours, about the passions that light us up, like the feeling of being one with your canoe. Only a select few share that real deep passion for paddling and being in a wooden canoe. And then I saw he was building these boats. I came looking for a paddle but then it was like, wait a minute, what’s this? I said I want to learn how to build these. I want to be involved in this. I want to know how to do this. And the next thing I knew, I’m down here building and this has been an amazing journey, so many skills, so many lessons to be learned. And I really hope to carry this on.”

Kettlewell is equally pleased since, “there’s nobody really passing this on that I know of. I know some other builders, but they’re not passing it on because probably they can’t find anybody to do it. It’s a dying industry because everybody thinks fibreglass does the job. With cedar, hand-built canoes, you’ve



Above: Ray Kettlewell talks canoes, paddles and wood in his workshop. Right: Kim Switzer and Brad Archer enjoy a ‘Ray day’ in Kinmount. *Photos by Lisa Gervais*

got to have many, many skills.”

Looking at Switzer and Archer planking the canoe, Kettlewell adds, “they’re interested. I don’t know whether they’re interested enough to make a career out of it, but at least there’s knowledge being spread.”

Switzer has a yellow canoe that she saved from the landfill, however, she said the canoe has in many ways saved her life, helping her to heal from a myriad of losses.

“So, this is also going to help me keep my yellow boat alive, which is a big part of who I am. Learning how to build boats and hopefully passing on these skills and knowledge to others. I want to keep doing this. I want to build a boat with my son, Memphis, because he’s got that passion. And he’s been able to come down here. Ray has welcomed him into the shop and he’s been weaving seats and tacking planks, too. If we don’t have people that want to teach and pass on these skills, it’s going to die.”

Switzer adds no one has ever wanted to teach her woodworking, but Kettlewell has been “amazing” and pushed her beyond her comfort zone. For example, using power tools and doing things she’s never done before. It’s given her confidence.

“I’m just in awe of this whole experience. It’s lit me up in so many ways.”

Archer had a shop and carpentry skills so the two make a good team. He says it has been an interesting experience, sharing how his family owned the Matabanick Cottage Resort on Boshkung Lake, with its large boathouse. “My grandfather used to build boats, and did a lot of work on canoes. I don’t know if they actually made any canoes or not, but I know they made cedar-strip row boats and dippy boats.”

Switzer can’t wait to get the canoe in the



water, even if there is some ice. She finds solo paddling slow, calming and steady. It brings her peace and joy.

Switzer adds her ‘Ray days’ may be unpaid, but they are priceless.

“This isn’t something that we would put a

value on. And I think that was one of the questions that Ray asked me. What would you value this at... the information, the knowledge, the skills, the craftsmanship, the time, the energy? All of that is priceless.”





The tournament-winner Highland Storm U13 Rep team. Submitted.

# Highland Storm strike Silver-Stick

By Lisa Gervais

The Highland Storm U13 Rep team have returned victorious from the Jan. 21 International Silver Stick Championships in Forest, Ontario.

Team manager Cynthia Hutchinson said the team went 4-0 in the preliminary round against four other regional champions, from Columbus, Ohio, Dresden, West Niagara and Frontenac.

In the finals, the Storm were up against the scrappy Ice Dogs from Arran-Elderslie.

Hutchinson said the Storm made use of their speed and passing to create space and generate goals from Travis Rowe (2), Chase Kerr and Henry Neilson to secure a 4-0 win behind the shutout goaltending of Blake Hutchinson.

Strong defensive support from Levi Rowe, Hudson Meyer and Tyler Hughes kept

Frontenac at bay. At the same time, forwards Lyla Degeer, Cruize Neave, Hawksley Dobbins, Linus Gervais, Jaxon Hurd, and Brycen Harrison were all over the ice with incredible forechecking and back-checking, generating chances. Marshall Heasman was again at the ready if needed in goal as the Storm brought home the title, Hutchinson said.

For head coach Scott Neilson, this finishes

what he started last year after a narrow loss in the semi-finals. Supported by assistant coaches James Reilly, Shawn Walker, trainer Marcus Rowe, and team manager, Hutchinson, the U13 team was well prepared, organized and motivated.

“For the kids, the banners hanging in Minden and Haliburton will represent memories that will last a lifetime,” Hutchinson said.

## Recycle Right

### Recycling for Containers

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

Food & Beverage Cartons

Plastic bottles, tubs, containers (caps can be left on)

Plastic plant pots and trays (no soil)

Glass bottles and jars

Metal beverage cans, metal food cans

Aluminum foil and trays

Cardboard canisters

Styrofoam (food and drink only)

Plastic shopping bags (clean, dry, empty)

### Recycling for Papers

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Envelopes (includes ones with windows)

Corrugated cardboard (flatten)

Paper beverage cups (plastic lids go in Recycling for Containers)

Brown paper bags

Paper egg cartons, paper take-out trays

Toilet paper rolls, Paper towel rolls

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Food waste (consider composting)

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# Mountain bike racer juggles work and play

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County mountain bike racer Nick Emsley had a big 2023 – winning the Canadian Rockies 24 Hour race and starting his own business; Fix it Nick.

Emsley finished second in the 2022 version of the gruelling Alberta race, saying “it was a close race, a tough one.”

So, he was determined to return this past summer to the world-renowned Canmore Nordic Centre.

“The race was exceptionally good... truthfully, I couldn’t have asked for a much better race,” he said of the win.

He was naturally pleased as, “with 24-hour races, you never really know. You can go in as prepared as you want but you never know. I mean it’s 24 hours. How do you prepare?”

For example, he said riders can train for six to eight hour stretches but never actually train for 24 hours straight.

“So, it’s hard to prepare yourself for that 24-hour period, but overall, physically, mentally, you’re all ready to go,” Emsley said.

In the 24-hour solo open men under 40 category, the local completed 21 laps in 23:14:14.2, beating out Magnus Stenlund, who did 20 laps.

“He was a great competitor, we were really

neck and neck,” Emsley said of Stenlund. “He kept me really going and we were playing a little cat and mouse for awhile there. But I took the lead in the start and kept a consistent pace at the front. And he kept trying to catch me. Couldn’t have asked for a better 24-hour race. Everything worked out great. My mental picture, physical picture, everything was good.”

He said it is challenging trying to get nutrients right in a 24-hour race. He estimates he burns 700 calories an hour in the first eight hours of an endurance race. Then, muscles deteriorate, requiring less. Near hour 20, he might be burning 500 an hour. But he did burn about 15,000 in 24 hours, “which is a lot.”

He said while riding, he tries to consume about half of what he burns. The challenge is riders cannot take on a lot of solid foods as it takes energy to digest. So, there are a lot of smoothies and “foods that won’t make you sick. Which is hard,” Emsley said.

And while riding, there were only three spots he could actually eat food. “You have to consume around 400-500 calories in three bites. It’s hard to get the right foods. It’s a big challenge but this year everything worked out well.”

It was Emsley’s fourth 24-hour race win in

his career.

After that, he did an eight-hour at Harwood Ski and Bike near Orillia. But as it was just a month after the 24 Hour, and he said his deep tissue muscle was not healed from Alberta, he finished fourth.

As for this year, Emsley said he had already registered for the Canadian Rockies 24. It’s July 27-28. He is undecided about Albion Hills since it is only a month prior to the Alberta race. He is planning some eight-hour events.

## Fix it Nick

As a person who “likes to do his own thing,” with a “design fabrication mind” and being into construction and maintenance, Emsley started Fix it Nick in April 2023.

“I know there’s a little lacking in the handyman industry right now. All of the contractors, or most of them, have been doing bigger work.”

He said in his first year, he was not expecting anything big but knew it would be hard. “In the spring, I hit my max of 87 hours a week,” he said, which was why he did not train and race as much last year.

It went from not expecting much to a lot of phone calls, Emsley said. It expanded faster than he thought it would. He said he’s tripled



Nick Emsley after winning the Canadian Rockies 24 Hour. Submitted.

what he originally envisaged in one year. “I’m expanding even more this year. So, it’s really good.”

At just 24 years of age, Emsley still wants to race and said he can do so once his business is firmly established.

“It’s been something I’ve been doing for 13 years, having put all of this effort in.”



## Junior Hawks continue winning ways

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School junior boys’ basketball team took on the St. Thomas Aquinas Titans at home Jan. 17. The locals pulled off a 36-24 win.

Far Left: Caleb Manning takes a shot at the basket. Middle: Tristan Leslie holds off a defender as he drives the basket. Left: Atticus Jorritsma takes the ball up court.

Photos by Lisa Gervais.

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- **The Miracle Worker** by William Gibson
- **The Birds & the Bees** by Mark Crawford

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**Sunday, January 28, from 12:30 p.m.**  
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Character descriptions and other important details, including how to register, can be found in the audition package, linked from the HSF home page at  
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# Nicholls wants to make mark at U18 nationals

By Mike Baker

Haliburton’s Owen Nicholls will test himself against some of the best up-and-coming curling talent in Canada next month when he takes to the ice for the U18 national curling championships.

Taking place in Ottawa Feb. 5 to 10, the competition will feature 21 of the nation’s top performing teams – with representatives from all provinces and territories, apart from Nunavut.

It will be a second successive appearance at the competition for Nicholls. Last year, he was a member of the Ontario champion, Team Stratton, while this year he will fly the flag as skip on Team Nicholls.

“At the end of last season, Team Stratton all went our separate ways. I started a U20 team with a former teammate, but I knew in the back of my mind I still had another year of U18 eligibility,” Nicholls said.

Having relocated to Ottawa in the fall, Nicholls said he didn’t know many locals from the Rideau Curling Club, where he is now a member, interested in competing. He had almost given up hope of putting a team together when he remembered a young curler, Kole O’Connor, who had reached out to him last year asking how to break into the competitive circuit.

“Turns out he had another year of eligibility, so he became my lead. We connected mid-November and the qualifiers for provincials was in early December. So, it was a week of scrambling trying to find players,” Nicholls said.



Kole O’Connor, Tye McCutcheon, Drew Zettler and Haliburton’s Owen Nicholls (right) will compete at the U18 national curling championships in Ottawa Feb. 5 to 10. Pictured with coach, Sierra Sutherland. Submitted.

They recruited the team’s third, Drew Zettler, after Nicholls connected with a friend from Nova Scotia he met at last year’s tournament who knew someone looking for a team in Ontario, while their second, Tye McCutcheon, is friends with O’Connor.

The team was able to practice together once before going 3-0 at the provincial qualifier in Ottawa Dec. 1 to 3. That qualified them for the Ontario championships, which were also

in Ottawa Jan. 10 to 14.

Team Nicholls went 5-2 in round robin play and beat Team MacDougall 6-4 in the semi-finals. They lost the final 6-3 to Team MacTavish from Waterloo, though claimed silver, and a spot at nationals, by again defeating Team MacDougall in the ‘B Final’, this time 10-5.

“It’s a huge accomplishment, especially given our team’s circumstances and how late

we came together. It’s really special for me, because I’m skipping the team this time,” Nicholls said. “Getting back to nationals again so soon is amazing. It’s very special for me to get back. If we put a few games together, we all make some shots, I think we have a decent chance of at least making the playoffs.”

# Hodgson signs try-out contract with Preds

By Lisa Gervais

The Milwaukee Admirals – the Nashville Predators’ AHL team – announced Jan. 17 they’d signed Haliburton’s Cody Hodgson to a professional try-out contract.

Hodgson is returning to the ice for the first time since the 2015-16 season, when he split time between the Admirals and Predators. Following that season, he retired after being diagnosed with malignant hyperthermia.

Sportsnet’s Elliotte Friedman reported during a Leafs telecast Jan. 13 that Hodgson, 33, was eyeing a comeback, since he had been given a clean bill of health and was back skating multiple times a week.

“He understands he’s not starting in the NHL, he knows nothing is guaranteed, but he’d like to resume his career and he’s looking for an opportunity,” Friedman said.

Hodgson has declined comment for now.

A first round pick of the Vancouver Canucks in 2010, Hodgson played in six NHL seasons, scoring 64 goals and adding 78 assists for 142 points in 324 contests between the Canucks, Buffalo Sabres, and the Predators.

Hodgson also earned a gold medal with Team Canada at the 2009 running of the World Junior Hockey Championship, scoring an incredible five goals and 16 points in just six games.



Cody Hodgson and his mother, Marie Hodgson, in a photo taken at the A.J. LaRue Arena. File.



# Huskies cling to fourth place in East

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies got back on track with a come-from-behind 4-2 road win over rival Cobourg Cougars Jan. 22 as the Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season enters the final stretch.

The hometown club is sitting comfortably in a playoff spot in the league's East Conference with just 13 games to play, boasting 51 points and a 24-16-0-3 record.

Monday's tilt in Cobourg was a big one, with the Huskies having the chance to leapfrog the Cougars in the standings.

It was a notorious slow start for the blue and white, who were pinned into their own zone for long stretches as Cobourg controlled the game. Trevor Hoskin gave the home side a deserved lead at 12:46 of the opening frame, scoring his 29th goal of the season on the powerplay, assisted by Kaiden Harmon and Andy Reist.

The Huskies were outshot 13-7 in the first period.

Head coach Ryan Ramsay got into his team during the break, and they were better for it to start the second. Centreman Charlie Fink potted his 12th of the season at 3:48, scoring on a five-on-three powerplay opportunity after Chris Brydges and Hoskin were both caught for high sticking within 15 seconds of one another around the two-minute mark.

The visitors grew in confidence, taking control of the game. They couldn't find a way past the impressive Ryan Piros in the home goal, who made 15 saves in the middle frame. Michael De Sousa landed a sucker punch for Cobourg at 18:06, assisted by Hoskin and Jack Lowry.

The third period was one-way traffic as the Huskies took over. Lucas Stevenson tied the game 48 seconds in, assisted by Matt Milic. Ian Phillips got the go-ahead goal at 11:35, assisted by Stevenson, and Ty Petrou added a late empty netter at 19:17 to send the visitors home with two points.

A meager showing on home ice Jan. 20 resulted in the Huskies dropping a 4-1



Recent addition Matt Milic patrols the blueline. Photo by Mike Baker.

decision to the West Conference's Burlington Cougars.

The Huskies were flat for much of the opening period – outshot by the visitors 12-6. They went in behind at the break after Cougars captain, Jacob Bramwell, lit the lamp at 11:47, assisted by Justin Legault and Tommy Karmiris.

Owen Davies doubled Burlington's lead 21 seconds into the second, beating Huskies netminder Brett Fullerton with a speculative shot from the boards, assisted by Eric Bertelsen and Alexander Stephen.

Lucas Digiantommaso made it a three-goal game at 2:16, taking full advantage after Fink broke his stick attempting to clear the puck – assisted by Mitchell Brooks and Gabe Runco.

Stevenson gave the home crowd something

to cheer about at 14:50, scoring during four-on-four action. He had his captain to thank – Saini was relentless as he carried the puck along the boards on a breakaway before sending a pass to Stevenson, who made no mistake with the finish.

The Huskies created a few openings late in the period, but Phillips was caught trying to make a play on the blueline, sending the Cougars on a two-man breakaway, which Brooks dispatched at 19:05, assisted by Legault and Nikola Murgic.

The home side dominated the final frame, firing 16 shots to Burlington's six, but couldn't find a way past Kyle Metson, who finished the game with 32 saves.

## Trenton 6-2 Huskies

The Huskies went face-to-face with the

league-leading Trenton Golden Hawks Jan. 19, getting blown out in a 6-2 loss.

Blueliner Milic gave the Huskies a deserved lead 8:53 into the first, assisted by Noah Lodoen and Adam Smeeton. The visitors outshot their heavily favoured hosts 14-12 in the opening frame.

The Golden Hawks came to life in the second, firing four goals without reply.

Lucas Marshall gave the Huskies hope in the third, scoring his sixth goal of the season on the man advantage at 2:37, but that was as good as it got for the blue and white.

A busy period for the Huskies sees the team host the St. Michael's Buzzers at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Jan. 27 (4 p.m. puck drop), before a road game against the Wellington Dukes Jan. 28. They'll end the month on the road in Georgetown Jan. 31.

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Top: Antonio Cerqua assesses his options after retrieving the puck from behind the visitor's net in a 4-1 loss on home ice to the Burlington Cougars Jan. 20. Above: Aidan Yarde fires a shot on goal. Photos by Mike Baker.



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Storm captain Kelson Bagshaw assesses his options while carrying the puck down the ice. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

# Storm dominate Huntsville

On Jan. 20, the U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX team played Huntsville North Country on home ice.

The Storm had a very strong first period, scoring five goals. Connor Isles scored the opening goal, assisted by Bently Bull. Nash Wilson followed with an unassisted goal. Oakley Craftchick then assisted a goal by Bull. Kelson Bagshaw added to the board, assisted again by Bull and Hunter Hamilton finished the period with a goal, assisted by Mackay Windover.

The second period started strong again for the Storm with Bull opening the scoring, assisted by Craftchick, followed

shortly after by an unassisted goal by Bagshaw. Wilson added two more, with assists by Moss Davis and Bagshaw.

Huntsville never gave up and scored two quick ones on Carter Shaw. The Storm's Travis Greer and Windover ended the second with two more goals.

The Storm again dominated the third period, scoring five more goals with contributions from Wilson, Windover, Bagshaw and Hamilton.

The final score was 16-2 for the hometown Storm. *(Submitted).*

## SCOREBOARD

**Jan. 16**  
U18 Tom Prentice VS Muskies • 6-0 L

**Jan. 18**  
U15 Haliburton Timbermart VS Mariposa  
5-4 W

**Jan. 19**  
U15 Haliburton Timbermart vs Kawartha  
2-2 T

U18 Tom Prentice VS Millbrook • 3-2 L

**Jan. 20**  
U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Sturgeon • 3-2 L  
U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS Huntsville  
16-2 W

U9 Haliburton Hockey Haven VS Huntsville  
0-5 L

**Jan. 21**  
U15 The Pepper Mill VS South Muskoka  
2-4 L

U11 Cottage Country Building VS  
Huntsville • 3-5 L

U9 Haliburton Hockey Haven VS South  
Muskoka • 7-1 L

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## STARS of the WEEK



### Oakley Craftchick

Oakley played a great defensive game with an overabundance of ice time as the Storm were short two defensive players.



### Kelson Bagshaw

Kelson had a strong offensive game, scoring three goals and tallying three assists.



### Bently Bull

Bently was a force in the offensive end, scoring four goals and contributing two assists.  
*Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*



EVENTS

**Jan. 25, 7 p.m.**  
Environment Haliburton! and Seniors for Climate Action Now! present Rick Hill, an Indigenous historian, artist and educator who will speak about how to embrace the values necessary to ensure a sustainable world for future generations. Available via Zoom. To register, visit [environmenthaliburton.org](http://environmenthaliburton.org).

**Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands conference 'Inspiring Creativity, Empowering Change' at Pinestone Resort. All ages are welcome. There is no charge. Register by Jan. 13 by emailing [agingtogetherhc@gmail.com](mailto:agingtogetherhc@gmail.com), or visit our Facebook page.

**Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.**  
The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization is hosting Ken Cox, southern region fire advisor to Ontario Aviation and Forest Emergency Services (a branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) for a Zoom seminar 'The forest is on fire'. To register, visit [lko.ca](http://lko.ca) or call Kate's Burger Counter at 705-286-4554.

**Feb. 2, all day**  
Stop by your local library for free PA day activities. Stanhope branch will have a drop-in Groundhog Day craft from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Minden Hills branch will be watching Monsters Inc. starting at 1 p.m. Wilberforce branch will be making beeswax candles (registration required, visit [haliburtonlibrary.ca](http://haliburtonlibrary.ca)) at 11 a.m.

**Feb. 2, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library welcome you to join in a series of PA Day movies during the school year. There will be a free, family-friendly movie screening in the Welch Room at the cultural centre. No registration required. Snacks will be provided. Movies will be decided via vote at the Minden library, or online at [haliburtonlibrary.ca](http://haliburtonlibrary.ca).

**Feb. 3, noon**  
Minden & District Horticultural Society invites you to its annual pot luck event at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Minden (7 Bobcaygeon Rd.). Please bring your own mug, plate and utensils. Lunch will be followed by a presentation from guest speaker Marilyn Bodogh, 'Hearts and Flowers'.

**Feb. 3, 2 to 4 p.m.**  
Beat the February blahs with Lift Your Spirits! an afternoon of music with Drew Allen at Highland Hills United Church in Minden (21 Newcastle St.). Drew is a talented local pianist, singer and guitarist who will be performing uplifting tunes for all ages, from Billy Joel to Gershwin, Bach to Disney. Come early to browse the bake sale. Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. Family tickets available for \$50. This is a fundraiser for the church's elevator fund. Tickets available at the church by calling 705-286-1470, or buy online at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca) (search Lift Your Spirits and enter Minden as the location).

**Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to noon**  
Winter Signatures - 'Wildlife Tracks and Signs' presented by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Join Rich Whitteker, outdoor guide, educator and nature writer, for an engaging snowshoe hike. Release your inner detective and explore the tracks and signs of winter wildlife movement, feeding and survival on this fun and educational hike on the trails of Barnum Creek. Pre-registration required at [haliburtonlandtrust.ca](http://haliburtonlandtrust.ca), or calling 705-457-3700.

**Feb. 10, 11 a.m. to noon**  
Get ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count by creating your own backyard birdfeeders at the Dysart library. Recommended for ages 6 to 13. No registration required.

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. Bingo is on a break, hoping to return in March.  
**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). Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129... everyone is welcome!

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Cobocnong**  
**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.

For more information call 705-454-8127

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce**  
**Jan. 25:** HHHS Social 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Jan. 26:** Seniors' 55+ lunch at noon, open 2 to 9 p.m., fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Jan. 27:** Open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.  
**Jan. 28 - 30:** Closed  
**Jan. 31:** Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.

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.

**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.



Notice of Special Council Meetings – 2024 Budget

The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills is preparing its 2024 Municipal Budget. These meetings will be held in the Minden Hills Council Chambers located on 7 Milne Street, Minden, On. Meetings to commence at 9:00 AM. Any change in location, date, or time will be advertised.

Council commenced its overview of the Draft Budget and Business Plan at the January 18, 2024 Special Meeting.

Council will consider the 2024 Draft Budget and Business Plan at several upcoming meetings

- **Thursday, February 1, 2024:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Fire Department; Public Works Department; and Water/Wastewater.  
  
The Adoption of the Water and Sewer rates will be considered at the February 1, 2024 meeting; however, the bylaws are to be passed at the following February 8, 2024 Regular Council meeting.
- **Monday, February 5, 2024:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Community Services Department; Planning and Building Departments, and Administration Department.
- **Tuesday, March 5, 2024:** Potential date to Adopt and finalize the 2024 Budget.

Please note that dates are subject to change and are dependent on deliberation discussion and direction of Council.

Supported material including the Budget Book will be provided on the agenda package located on the CivicWeb portal site.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Greg Bedard  
Director of Finance/Treasurer  
(705) 286-1260 Ext 504  
[gbedard@mindenhills.ca](mailto:gbedard@mindenhills.ca)



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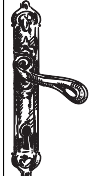
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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of  
Hilda Teusink

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of our dear strong loving mother who died peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Thursday evening, January 4, 2024 in her 95th year. Beloved wife of the late Fred Teusink (2007). Loving mother of Fred, John (Lucy), Arnold (Sandra), Alix (Jim) and Betty-Ann. Fondly remembered by her many grandchildren Chris (Delaney), Matthew, Lindsey, Tyler (Jessica), Jamie, Jordanna and by her great grandchildren Brittney (Landon), Makenzie, Jady, Lucas, Hailee, Sabrina and by her great great granddaughter Sophie. Survived by her two sisters in Holland. Predeceased by her brother Henk and sister Lise, by her daughter-in-laws Brenda (2006) and Dixie (2016) and by her great granddaughter Nora (2014). Hilda loved the Haliburton Highlands. She lived in Elliot Lake before coming to the Wilberforce. She will be remembered for her infectious smile and laugh. She also enjoyed spending time with her family.

Visitation & Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Hilda's life will take place in the Spring at Harcourt Bible Chapel in Harcourt. Interment later South Wilberforce Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Harcourt Bible Chapel or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



In Loving Memory of  
Ivan Cecil Cooper

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Monday, January 22, 2024, with his loving wife by his side at the age of 74. Beloved husband of Mary (nee Hulland) for 32 years. Dear father of Darryl, Angela, Sheila, step daughter Sherri and daughter by heart Jenni. Loving poppa of Emily, Cory, Jessica, Maddyson, Kaylin, Clay, Marisa, Felix and great poppa to Jamie, Rylin and Colin. Fondly remembered by his family and friends.

Mary would like to thank the following caring people; Dr. Nell Thomas and staff, Beth Archibald and the palliative care team, Remedies Drug Store Staff, Gail Crowe, Jill Brown, Tracey and Duane Pratt, Eric Casper, Corey Walker, Dr. Norman Bottum and his team, Staff at the Haliburton Hospital, Barry Cray and Kirsten Monk. Mary was blessed to have all of you in Ivan's Journey.

It was Ivan's wish to be cremated. A Private Family Interment will be held at the Minden Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Minden Health Care Auxiliary or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF - Palliative Care Room) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



THANK YOU

Thank You

From the Family of Jean Margaret Tyler

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our families and friends for their kindness and the support shown for our Mother, Jean Margaret Tyler, who passed away on January 7, 2024. We thank the dedicated staff of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services including the Physicians who attended to her during her hospital stay, as well as the Nursing and Physiotherapy staff, the Personal Support Workers and Support Services staff, all who work tirelessly caring for their patients.

The ongoing support that our Mother received from the community enabled her to live independently in her home into her 98th year. We would like to recognize the excellent health care provided by the Family Physicians of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team. Thank you to the staff of Home and Community Care Support Services, Community Programs and their caring PSWs, housekeepers and drivers. Thank you to the many local businesses who ensured that our Mother's home remained cared for and safe, including Jim Elstone and the Briggs family, Nathan Petrini and his staff, the Warburton family, Ed Burke and so many more, we thank you all. We are especially grateful to the late Peter Varty and his family, who kept a caring eye on our Mother for so many years.

Thank you to the staff at Haliburton Community Funeral Home and Reverend Harry Morgan for their professionalism and attention to detail making our Mother's visitation and service a special reunion of family and friends.

Sharon, Cathy and John



In Loving Memory of  
Dale Griffin

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at the age of 66.

Beloved husband of the late Rochelle Ann Griffin (nee Reid) (2023). Loving father of Natalie and Ian (both at home). Dear brother of Robert (deceased) Sandy, Neilson (Sheila), Chris, Brian (Kerriann), Terry (deceased), and uncle of Jerry, Brittany (Paul), Margaret, Victor, and great uncle of Jackson. Lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

A Memorial Visitation to Celebrate Dale's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 1:00pm until 4:00pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F. - Cat Scan Fund) or to the Kidney Foundation (by cheque only) would be appreciated by the family.



In Loving Memory of  
Harold Arthur Rowden  
(WWII Veteran)

Passed away peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Sunday January 14, 2024 at the age of 99.

Harold, beloved husband of the late Mary (nee Peacock). Loving father of Linda, (Ken) Gary, (Cindy) Gail, Ken, Keith, (Debbie) and the late Barb, Blanche, (Paul) Junior and Bonnie, (Ian). Loved stepfather of Sherry, (David) Shelly, (Larry) and Barry (deceased).

Harold will be remembered for his fun loving and colourful personality. He always enjoyed a good time full of laughter and pranks. During his retirement years, he enjoyed and shared his many wood working projects. He will be sadly missed by the many grandchildren and great grandchildren. As per Harold's wishes there will be no visitation or funeral service.

As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Orillia or Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to the Mundell Funeral Home.



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14	T	H	E	A		15	O	R	A	L		16	N	O	O	N	E
17	A	I	R	C		18	A	N	A	D	A		19	F	L	E	E
20	S	C	O	T		21	L	A	N	D	Y		22	A	R	D	
23	T	A	B	S	E	T		24	I	D	I		25	M	E	M	
27	O	N	A		28	F	I	R	S	T	D	E	31	G	R	E	E
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40	A	S	L	E	W		43	O	N	E		44	P	H	A	R	
48	G	R	A	N	N		49	Y	K	N	O	T	51	S	E	D	A
53	E	S	C		54	S	E	N		55	T	A	I	L	O	R	
57	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	S	C	O	R	E					
60	G	U	M	U	P		63	V	A	N	I	S	H	I	N	G	
64	P	R	I	N	T		65	E	T	O	N		66	A	S	E	A
67	S	I	C	K	O		68	S	O	N	G		69	T	E	D	S

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	C	A	H	N		5	T	S	A	R		9	A	C	U	R	A
14	C	L	E	A		15	R	A	N	C	E		16	C	A	N	A
17	C	O	N	G	E	R	E	E	L			18	A	N	I	T	A
19	P	O	R		20	A	G	E	R		21	S	P	A	T	E	S
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27	N	A	P	A		30	A	M	I	E	L		32	W	I	E	
35	F	A	R	M	E	R	S	A	L	M	A		38	N	A	C	S
39	S	H	E		40	Y	O	K	E	L		41	A	Y	E	S	
42	S	P	E	L	T			44	H	T	S						
46	F	E	E	L	G	O		48	D	M	O	V	I	E	S		
52	A	V	A	I	L	S		53	O	T	T	S		54	L	I	U
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59	O	R	O	S	S		60	M	E	D	I	T	A	T	E	D	
61	F	I	N	E	S		62	D	R	A	P		63	P	E	S	O

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

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If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Public Works Operations Supervisor - Landfill"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Monday, February 12th, 2024 via mail, in person or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

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

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

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

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/ Treasurer.



**Employment Opportunity**  
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**Full Time Equipment Operator**

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of the municipal road system including bridges, culverts, drainage, and other road/property. Primary duties include, but not limited to operation of a sidewalk plow, dump truck (with sander/snow plow), backhoe, loader and grader.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'A' or 'D' licence (manual) with 'Z' endorsement is required along with an acceptable abstract. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is \$27.77 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. Pension and Benefits after a 6-month probationary period.

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HR Manager [hr@dysartetal.ca](mailto:hr@dysartetal.ca)  
**Closing date is February 9th, 2024**

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

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Corner Gallery, Hailburton County's fine art gallery, is looking for a **Gallery Manager**, available from May to October. This role could be full-time, part-time or a job share.

You'll be at the forefront of our gallery operations, playing a key role in curating and managing art exhibitions. You'll have the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with artists and art collectors. Your responsibilities will include driving art sales, overseeing gallery finances, and enhancing our presence through print and social media.

If you're passionate about art and have experience in customer service, sales or marketing, please look at the full job description at [cornergallery.ca/manager](http://cornergallery.ca/manager) or contact [hello@cornergallery.ca](mailto:hello@cornergallery.ca).

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Visit our website at: [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca) for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay  
Human Resources Coordinator  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
1123 North Shore Road  
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Email: [dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca)

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Measure for Measure

by Barbara Olson  
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Put \_\_\_ on (limit)
  - 5 Needing more dryer time
  - 9 R&B superstar with a 3-octave range
  - 14 "\_\_\_-Team" (24-Down's show)
  - 15 Poetry slam format
  - 16 Who is above the law, per Roosevelt
  - 17 "Your World Awaits" carrier
  - 19 Runs out quickly
  - 20 Distance equalling .9144 metre in Glasgow?
  - 22 Indenting tool in Word
  - 23 Amin played by Forest Whitaker
  - 24 Part of M.P.: Abbr.
  - 27 "... sesame seed bun"
  - 28 Temperature denoting one above zero?
  - 32 Townshend of The Who
  - 34 Chill in the air
  - 35 "Absotively"
  - 36 Weights at Best in Show?
  - 40 Heaps
  - 43 Best, or worst rating
  - 44 \_\_\_ Lap (famous racehorse)
  - 48 Speed units on cruises for little old ladies?
  - 52 Disney's "The Owl House" Clawthorne
  - 53 Key out
  - 54 Political Red Chamber mem.
  - 55 One with a fitting job
  - 57 Group of twenty Broadway shows?
  - 60 Impede, with "the works"
  - 63 Going poof in a magic show, maybe
  - 64 Don't use cursive
  - 65 College attended by James Bond
  - 66 "... against \_\_\_ of troubles": "Hamlet"
  - 67 Warped weirdo
  - 68 Dance partner?
  - 69 TV's Baxter and Lasso
- Down**
- 1 No longer moving
  - 2 Win through deceit
  - 3 Pilot in the Snowbirds, e.g.
  - 4 Post-war agreements
  - 5 Supporting a GoFundMe
  - 6 Irish "fisherman's" sweater
  - 7 Anti-"one for the road" grp.
  - 8 Famed "Casablanca" request
  - 9 Give the boot on Facebook
  - 10 Good sign to a realtor
  - 11 Sod buster
  - 12 Toronto-to-Ottawa dir.
  - 13 Landline no., often
  - 18 Hebrew A: Var.
  - 21 Put in
  - 24 See 14-Across
  - 25 Common Mkt., previously
  - 26 Unenthused assessment
  - 29 Actor Torn
  - 30 Spaghetti twirling utensil
  - 31 Sound of a new jogger
  - 33 Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
  - 37 Admits being guilty of

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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After the sun sets, thousands of little suns appear. Which proves, I think, the universe is filled with love, even on the darkest nights.

	7			6			9	
2				3		7		
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Cathy has been a lifelong resident of Haliburton County, with family roots in the area going back 4 generations. This and her 20+ years of experience as a licensed realtor give her an extensive knowledge of the beautiful Haliburton Highlands.

Cathy's lengthy background in office administration & customer service has provided her with the organizational skills and attention to detail that are necessary to make the process of buying & selling real estate as seamless and stress free as possible for her clients.

This award winning realtor is committed to finding the perfect property for you. Whether buying or selling, Cathy will welcome the opportunity to provide you with an exceptional service she is known for.

705-854-1553 | [cathy@trilliumteam.ca](mailto:cathy@trilliumteam.ca)

Many Thanks to Anthony, Marcia and Nanci.  
Very professional and a pleasure to do business with. Their  
attention to detail was second to none! I recommend this  
Team of Pros in handling your Real Estate needs.

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