





TheHighlander

Thursday February 8 2024 | Issue 626

INSIDE: VALENTINE'S DAY PAGE 13

FREE



Driver Lamech Kamuza with the last TOK Coachlines bus Jan. 31. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

One line ends, another begins

By Lisa Gervais

Lamech Kamuza is driving his TOK Coachlines bus down Country Road 21 about 8:30 a.m. when he sees a deer at the side of the road and slows down.

"I've seen them so much," he comments. He began driving the Haliburton to Toronto route more than a year ago. He was at the wheel for the last time with TOK Jan. 31, as the Concord, ON-based company has discontinued the route it had operated for 34 years.

However, Kamuza broke some good news to passengers last Wednesday, telling them Entertainment Tour Travel Inc., of Markham, was beginning a new service effective Feb. 2. [see related story on page 3].

When TOK announced Nov. 6 it was ceasing the run, Kamuza said he was saddened.

"I was getting a lot of seniors that go into the city to see doctors, and stuff like that. I knew there was no other way for

Continued 'l'm' on page 3

Warm weather causing havoc

By Mike Baker

A warm weather snap is running roughshod over the Highlands' tourism sector, with some businesses scaling back operations and cancelling events.

Tegan Legge, general manager of tourism and operations at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, confirmed Feb. 5 that the 33rd annual Poker Run snowmobile fundraiser, slated for this coming weekend, has been cancelled.

With temperatures rising as high as eight degrees Celcius Feb. 8 and 9, Legge said she couldn't guarantee the Forest's trail network would be in good enough condition to host the 400 to 600 riders that usually participate.

The event is a fundraiser for the Dysart et al Fire Department, bringing in \$20,000 last year. Legge said past donations have gone towards purchasing equipment such as jaws of life, a 'snowbulance' and rescue boat.

"It's a massive disappointment, but given the weather, we didn't have any other choice. We could have looked at pushing the event back and doing something in March, but it's very unlikely, given the way things are looking, that we'd be able to host it then," Legge said.

She noted some of the Forest's other activities – trail hiking, ice climbing and the wolf centre, are going strong.

"It's been a nailbiter of a season so far... we could be doing better, but we're in a good position compared to a lot of other places in Ontario. The trails aren't pristine, they're a little bumpy, but people are just happy to get out there," she said.

Meghan Orr, owner of Buttermilk Falls Resort, said the winter ice fishing season has been a disaster so far. The rural retreat, which overlooks Boshkung Lake, boasts eight winterized cottages, which Orr said are usually full now.

She noted the resort had 29 weekend bookings in

Continued 'Not' on page 2





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2 Highlander news







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Sir Sam's Ski/Ride is one of a handful of winter tourism vendors that won't be impacted by the pending warm snap. File.

Not all bad for some operators

Continued from page 1

February 2022, 28 in February 2023, but just 12 this year. "A lot of people come here for ice fishing... we don't have any of our huts out there yet," Orr said.

She noted this wasn't a new issue – in the three years she and husband, Stephen, have owned the resort, the winter season has been getting shorter and shorter.

"The previous owners aimed to have huts out for the third weekend in January. We had one season where we got them out in the last week of January, then the past two years it's been February," Orr said. "Now, we're not sure we're going to get them out at all this season."

Neil Vanderstoop, president of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA), has warned people to exercise extreme caution when debating whether to take their machine onto a lake. The Highlander has received reports of snowmobiles going through the ice on Redstone and Gull lakes in recent weeks.

"If the lake isn't staked, then it's not safe," Vanderstoop said, noting HCSA hasn't staked any lakes in the County yet this season, and likely won't.

He noted less than half of HCSA's snowmobile trails are open, but the group was working around the clock to maintain anything passable, including the Hydro Line Trail that travels south to Whitby and several loops around Haliburton village. He noted access to the B112 South into Minden is very

Angelica Ingram, the County's tourism manager, said that

while the mild winter season is disappointing for some, there's still lots for locals and visitors to do.

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride has 14 runs and is open as usual, while Winterdance Dogsled Tours is still taking bookings. Ingram noted Hike Haliburton Winter Edition, which took place Feb. 3 and 4, was a great success, with people participating in 12 hikes across the County. There's plenty of free events for people to enjoy too, she said.

"People can visit Abbey Gardens, where they have so many things happening – there are trails and an outdoor rink. There's the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, which is just beautiful at this time of year, and we have art galleries open in Haliburton and Minden that are both debuting new exhibits this weekend," Ingram said.

"It's been a slower start to winter. We're trying to stay positive though – it's not completely green out there. We just have to hope more snow comes, while at the same time emphasizing there's lots to do even if you can't ice fish or do a ton of snowmobiling."

County warden Liz Danielsen said the upper-tier government may have to come up with a different long-term plan for winter tourism.

"The traditional activities are rapidly going out the door. I was talking to someone recently who said they bought a new [snowmobile] a couple of years ago and they've only used it once," Danielsen said. "It's an unfortunate situation. It's going to change how we deal with tourism, how we offer tourism packages going forward."

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'I'm really glad I've had an opportunity to do it'

Continued from page 1

them to get into the city."

The resident of Ingoldsby said when his car broke down awhile back, he could not find transport to Toronto. "That experience was very discomforting. I moved from the city up here and I'm used to the convenience of the city. To realize that there's not a public transit system... a way for people to get around... that was very discomforting."

He said he took the TOK driving job thinking it would be just a way to make some

"I quickly realized it was more than a job," he said. He understood the importance of providing a ride to and from Toronto for those who needed it.

"I've met some awesome people. There's a few elderly that take the bus from Haliburton... can I say names? There's Stella, Nancy, oh gosh, there's just so many. Quite a few in Minden, too. I meet elderly seniors, children, males, females, even pets that come through the door."

Lovely people always

Kamuza pulls into the Shell Station in Minden and greets one of his regulars as she boards the bus.

Vanessa Blackie takes her seat and says she takes the bus about twice a month from the city to visit her parents, who have retired outside of Minden.

She said it is "convenient, awesome driver, awesome service, lovely people always.' When she first heard the news in November that TOK was discontinuing, she was "concerned" and looked at alternatives. It would have involved her parents picking her up from somewhere other than Minden, such as Peterborough.

However, she said they would have worked something out. She feared others would not

"There really isn't anything else that's close, that provides a service like this." She added Kamuza "is so good with the seniors, and so attentive to them, and goes the extra mile for them.

"How many people count on this to come down to the city for appointments from Minden? They already have issues with access in Minden. Cabs are expensive."

Alana Gordon boards the bus in Norland. She took it up from the city Jan. 12 and was returning from visiting her best friend. "It's great, brings me here, cheap..." She said the threat of the discontinued service "sucked... because this is my best friend I've known forever." She welcomed news of another operator. "Just as long as I can come back."

Steven Bergeron sits at the front of the bus, chatting with Kamuza as the highway lines whiz by and snow gives way to green en route south. A transit aficionado, he came from Orillia to take the last run.

"I wanted to come today because I know this route is important. My dad cottaged up here for 30 years at Haliburton Lake by Fort Irwin. He knows how it is up here; how hard it is for people to live up here. So do I.'

Bergeron said he wanted to ride the TOK bus one last time as "it is a little bit of history. It's also good that there's another company coming."

Driver 'nostalgic'

As we drive through Coboconk, into Fenelon and Lindsay, Kamuza said he wasn't overly worried when he found out about the line ceasing, believing everything was going to be okay. He will be driving for the new company. He had an opportunity to continue with TOK but it would have meant being in the city more. His family, including his threeyear-old baby girl, are in the Highlands and he likes to come home at night.

The bus continues to Hwy. 35 and 115 then into Bowmanville, Courtice and Oshawa before heading out on the 411 towards Scarborough and Vaughn. Kamuza will then work from the city for several hours before the bus that left Haliburton about 8 a.m., heads back north around 5 p.m.

Stephen and Mieke Foster are some of the last customers as the bus pulls back into Haliburton about 9:30 p.m.

The retirees own a home in Toronto but use the coach to come back and forth to a second home in Haliburton village. They do not own a car. They boarded with backpacks and carts at Vaughn.

"Not everybody has a car," Mieke said, and Stephen added as they get older, they dislike driving in the busy city. "So, this gets us away from that. The worst we have to do is haul ourselves. It's not fighting my way through snow."

Mieke adds, "having the bus up to Haliburton just makes it that much easier because we would otherwise have to rent a car, pick it up, return it on time, fill it with gas. On the bus, you can sit down, do what vou want to do.'

As if on cue, she sits down on the floor and does some stretching. The two said they are "relieved" someone else is taking over the route and hope it succeeds.

Kamuza, meanwhile, is "nostalgic." He tells the story of an elderly gentleman, a regular, who likes to ride up front but tends to cringe as Kamuza makes his way through heavy city traffic, saying, "I don't know how you do it!"

With the last stop, the Shamrock gas station, in sight, Kamuza adds, "driving for a living... you cannot play around. This isn't like working somewhere where you can sit down, and take your eyes off the road. You are constantly on the ball, but I really enjoy driving. I'm really glad I've had an opportunity to do it."

New company offers Haliburton to Toronto bus

By Lisa Gervais

While TOK Coachlines will no longer be operating a Haliburton to Toronto bus route, The Highlander has learned that Entertainment Tour Travel Inc.. based out of Markham, is taking over the service.

Company spokesman, Mark Williams, was planning to run a coach Feb. 2 and continue Monday, Wednesday and Friday, as TOK previously did.

Williams said he owns property in Minden Hills and was moved when he heard that TOK was discontinuing service effective Jan. 31, 2024.

"Hard to close it down just like that," he told the paper. "I'm willing to take it on, and put one of my buses on the route, and see where we go from here."

He said the only big change for now is the last stop will be Yorkdale. otherwise it will be status quo.

He said people can purchase tickets from agencies. Here in the County, they can go to the Minden Shell gas station. In addition, they can purchase tickets on the bus. The company is working on a website for ticket orders in future. He said he will consult with riders about future changes to schedule times etc.

"I think it's going to be great. I really do believe it's going to be awesome,' he said.

Williams said he purchased his property in the County in 2021.

He said his company, which started in 2016, runs coach tours out of Toronto and across the GTA, to Gravenhurst for the steamship trip and farmers market, Ottawa for the Tulip Festival, to Quebec, overnight to Niagara Falls and Windsor, even to New Orleans.

Stephen and Mieke Foster take the first Entertainment Tour Travel Inc. bus to Toronto Feb. 2. Submitted.



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AH takes on Bear Lake Road maintenance

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands council has directed township staff to continue summer maintenance along Crown-owned Bear Lake

At a Jan. 18 meeting, council heard from Adam Thorn, public works manager, that a trial held last summer hadn't caused his department any issues and was deemed a success. He said he'd be in favour of adopting the road into the municipality's seasonal road maintenance policy.

"We started in June and ran through to October. Overall, it was a successful season. I didn't see overly large amounts of damage to the road... the major complaints we did hear were over surface treated sections [where] potholes were starting to form and some other areas that have been torn up by vehicles turning in and out near surface treated areas," Thorn said.

Under the agreement, staff patrolled the road once per month, provided grading on it twice and did some dust control work. Other minor maintenance operations such as culvert cleaning, ditching, brushing and gravel application were not required, Thorn said.

The township's previous council agreed to the trial in October 2022 after a lengthy back and forth with representatives from the Bear Lake Winter Maintenance Association (BLWMA). The group had long lobbied the township to allow winter maintenance on the thoroughfare so those with homes and cottages in the area could access their property after the first snowfall.

Council had repeatedly denied that request, believing the road to be municipally owned. The association didn't give in, however, and retained a lawyer to assess what options its members had. The lawyer reported the township never had formal ownership of Bear Lake Road, despite maintaining it for more than 50 years.

While the township had documents suggesting the former Sherbourne township assumed ownership in 1971, that paperwork was deemed to be incorrect, with the land belonging to the Crown.

Council debated walking away from the



Algonquin Highlands council will continue maintaining Bear Lake Road during the summer. File.

road but opted to carry out maintenance last year, with a view to establishing a more permanent arrangement providing there were

Thorn noted the road will now be eligible for regular seasonal maintenance during the spring, summer and fall, which includes: patrolling once a month, or as needed due to a weather event; grading once a month, or as needed; preparing the site for grading and gravel in early spring and then carrying out the work in the summer; doing culvert clean-outs or replacements, as needed; doing ditching work, brushing, sign maintenance and tree removal; and cold patching surface treated sections.

The municipality's asset management plan states Bear Lake Road will be due single surface treatment in 2026, with costs estimated at \$49,534. It's up for reconstruction between 2032 and 2034, at a cost of just over \$184,000.

Thorn noted since the road is on Crown land, the township would need to apply for a permit to complete the work through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Should any culverts along the road need to be replaced, he said staff may have to apply for an environmental assessment before doing any work.

Due to liability concerns, Thorn recommended council not consider winter maintenance.

He did warn there was some risk associated with spring, summer and fall maintenance.

"If we go and grade a road, we have to understand we take on everything... if someone comes in and does work behind us or say, someone decides to take the gravel we put down, leaving a big divot, if a car then drives down and has an accident, that's on us," Thorn said.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said she'd like to see the BLWMA, or any other entity carrying out work on the road, to enter into an agreement with the municipality that they would accept responsibility if damages occur, but CAO Angie Bird said, since the municipality doesn't own the road, it has no authority to make any such request.

Coun. Sabrina Richards said she has "big concerns" with liability, noting the township has made decisions recently, such as with its license of occupation policy, to mitigate potential risks. She felt this was "a very big gift" for residents of Bear Lake Road.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux, who has consulted extensively with the BLWMA, felt this was a good move by council.

"This has been a challenging journey for everyone... but this is a good day," she said.

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- Fact: Cooking is the number one cause of residential fires in Ontario.

 Keep a proper-fitting pot lid near the stove when cooking. If a pot catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Do not move the pan.
- Wear tight-fitting or rolled up sleeves when using the stove. Loose, dangling clothing can easily catch fire. If your clothing catches fire, stop, drop to the
- ground and roll over and over to put out the fire.

 Keep combustible items such as cooking utensils, dishcloths, paper towels and potholders a safe distance from the stove.
- Keep children away from the stove. Make sure electrical cords are not dangling from countertops, where they could be pulled over by small children
 Cool a burn by running cool water over the wound for 3 to 5 minutes.

If the burn is severe, seek medical attention.

Always make sure to: stay in the kitchen and pay attention when cooking; drink responsibly when cooking, and if a fire occurs, get out immediately and call 911.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be closed February 6-9 as we install our next exhibit. Archie Stouffer Elementary School presents their 1st annual student exhibit with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. The exhibit will be on display in the Gallery from February 10 to March 30. All are

ome to the opening reception on February 10 from 1-3 pm. Refreshments will be served. Admission is by donation.

Family Day fun at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Monday, February 19 from 12 – 2 pm. Pop by for hands-on activities, check out our latest exhibits find a treasure at the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library Book Sale and grab a delicious bowl of chili or a hot dog donated and served by the Rotary Club of Minden. All are welcome, admission by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

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:

- February 8 Regular Council Meeting February 29 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. Visit our website for more information

ZERO FOOD WASTE TIPS

- You can take action to avoid food waste:

 Cut off any mushy imperfections on strawberries. Put the strawberries with imperfections in ice water for 20 minutes and they will come out firmer and bright. Strawberries will last longer if stored in a glass jar.

 • Store potatoes with an apple to prevent sprouting.
- If you have sliced avocado, but lemon juice on the avocado to prevent browning For more tips on how you can take action on food waste visit Township of Minden Hills social media

SNOW REMOVAL

Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181

WINTER PARKING

From November 1 to April 30, 2024 overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on 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 interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense





Study calls for Dysart road improvements

By Mike Baker

Approximately half of Dysart's roads have insufficient or no speed limit signage according to a consultant tasked with reviewing the municipal network.

Joshua de Boer, a project manager with Paradigm Transportation, presented a report to council Jan. 23 analyzing the township's entire roads system. He noted Dysart has 315 kilometres of roads it maintains and operates, with two thirds having a hard top surface and one third gravel.

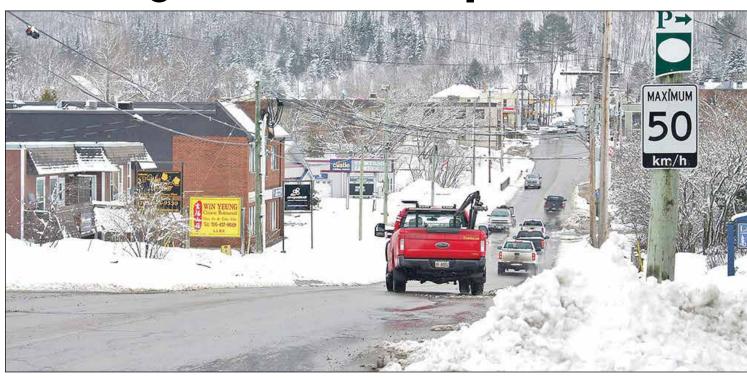
De Boer said 48.9 per cent of the network has a posted limit of 50 km/h, with 2.1 per cent set at 40 km/h. The rest, about 49 per cent, are currently unposted, which, per the Highway Traffic Act, means the accepted limit is 80 km/h. Public works director, Rob Camelon, said this poses problems for the township.

"I'm not a big believer in signage quite honestly, but the crux of this report is if we don't pass bylaws and don't sign [appropriately], our roads are, by default, 80 km/h, and that will have impacts on our minimum maintenance standards," Camelon said. "At the very least, we should be revisiting our bylaws and ensuring we have the proper signage up [along roads of concern]."

It was recommended that all roads currently operating with an unposted limit should be capped at 50 km/h. Roads in an urban area, like Haliburton village, should be 50 km/h, with most rural routes carrying an 80 km/h limit. De Boer said there are four roads in Dysart operating with a 40 km/h limit – Bitter Lake Road, Grass Lake Road, Green Lake Road, and Universal Road. He's recommending they be maintained.

Of the 101 signs the township currently has installed on its roads, 41 per cent are considered to be in poor condition.

De Boer outlined the need for upwards of 100 new road signs, saying 85 per cent of



A consultant has told Dysart et al council it needs to improve signage along municipal roads. File.

municipal roads require extra signage.

He noted standards for sign placement is outlined in the Ontario Traffic Manual, with different recommendations for roads in built-up areas and rural thoroughfares. Generally, de Boer said most urban roads require signs every 300 to 900 metres. For roads with a limit of 70 km/h or higher, signs should be spaced at least a kilometre apart.

Camelon added that simply placing a sign at the start and end of a road does not change the speed limit. He said speed signs should be installed at all major intersections.

The consultant said he spent much of October 2022 analyzing local roads, looking at traffic patterns and driver habits. The cost of the report - \$39,300 plus taxes – was covered by money from the municipal modernization fund, Camelon noted.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said installing the number of signs outlined in the report would be a costly exercise for the township.

"It's going to cost \$100,000 to put all those signs in, and we'd only be knocking them down [with plows] during the winter. I'm not sure people pay attention when there's no enforcement anyway," Fearrey said.

De Boer said council has two options

De Boer said council has two options for enforcement – police or machine. He recommended a mix of both. He noted automated speed signs (ASE) offer many advantages over traditional manual speed enforcement, including higher rate of vehicle detection and improved accuracy tracking a vehicle's speed.

"ASE is a supplement, not a replacement, for other enforcement methods... it's use is limited to select portions of a road, like

community safety zones and school zones," de Boer said.

Paradigm Transportations is currently doing a similar study in Algonquin Highlands, de Boer noted.

Camelon said he would present a followup report to council, likely at its Feb. 27 meeting, where he will provide his recommendations. Fearrey said council would appreciate further guidance.

"This is as clear as mud right now... we need more on where we should go with this. We couldn't possibly put all those signs up, it's going to be virtually impossible," Fearrey said. "But, if we have an obligation, we'll have to honour it and [figure out a way] to do it."







New face to lead \$4.3M hospital campaign

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation has announced a new lead for its \$4.3 million CT scanner and mammography unit fundraising campaign.

Executive director Melanie Klodt Wong said she is excited to welcome Tayce Wakefield, an experienced campaign volunteer and long-time resident of the Highlands, to the team. A cottager for more than 30 years and full-time resident since 2010, Wakefield said she's looking forward to the challenge of leading local fundraising

"I have grown to love this community, but, like many people, I know there are a couple of things that need to improve to allow Haliburton to continue to grow and prosper – health care being one of the most important," Wakefield said.

A past president and board member of the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners Association, and founder of the Haliburton Pet Owners Assistance Fund, Wakefield is no stranger to local volunteerism. She has a considerable background in fundraising – in 1999 she served as co-chair of McMaster University's 'Changing Tomorrow Today' campaign, which raised \$100 million for infrastructure upgrades, program expansion and the creation of new student scholarships and bursaries

Wakefield said her first task will be to build a "campaign cabinet" of people she can trust to help with community outreach.

She said for a project of this size in a relatively small community, it's going to take considerable community buy-in to succeed.

"This is a huge campaign, aiming to raise \$4.3 million. We're going to need everyone's support to make this happen. Local businesses have long been supporters, as well as groups of local people, but not everyone has been engaged thus far. My remit is to reach out more broadly, to get more people involved," Wakefield said.

"To me, this is also about broadening the fundraiser base and building the foundation for the future. It's about positioning the County to take steps forward, to continue to grow and improve healthcare services," she

The Ministry of Health approved HHHS to purchase and operate a CT scanner and mammography unit in July 2023. County EMS chief Tim Waite said the news "was better than Christmas" for his department, noting the local paramedic service transports more than 350 patients a year to other hospitals outside the County for specialized diagnostic care. That represents over 2,000 hours that County ambulances spend outside the community.

Klodt Wong said, given the aging population in the Highlands along with the abundance of high-risk work and recreational activities in the area, having diagnostic services available close by will help provide quick diagnosis of critical illnesses and



HHHS Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong, new CT scanner fundraising chair Tayce Wakefield, and foundation board chair David Blodgett. Submitted.

She said information from diagnostic scans is sent to a specialized Picture Archiving Communications System, which stores them and allows specialists from across the province to securely evaluate them and provide diagnosis to staff in the Highlands.

Wong wouldn't disclose how much had been raised thus far. The County of Haliburton signed off on a \$1 million donation in December, while proceeds from the 'Magic of Giving' campaign over the holidays brought in more than \$238,000.

After HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson told The Highlander late last year she hopes to have the machines installed

and operational sometime this summer, Klodt Wong said she'd like to wrap up this campaign as quickly as possible. Wakefield said this is going to be her main priority moving forward.

"For everybody whose heart is in the Highlands, this campaign is for you. This equipment will be good for you and your family, and you will be glad to have it here," she said. "We're asking for your support to improve health care across the region for

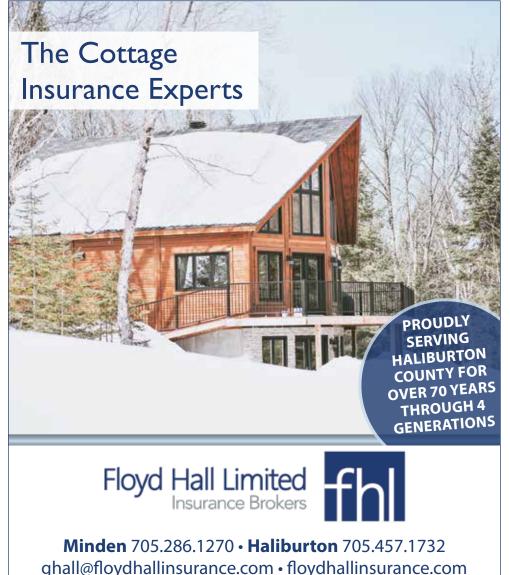
To donate, contact HHHS Foundation at 705-457-1580.





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HE begins budget deliberations

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East taxpayers, and council, got a look at the township's draft budget at a Feb. 6 special council meeting.

CAO and treasurer, Brittany McCaw, said they are looking for a \$569,154 increase in 2024. That equates to a first round 6.83 per cent municipal tax rate increase. It would mean an extra \$35.91 per \$100,000 of assessment on the municipal tax. That is in addition to County and school board rates.

"This was not an easy budget to prepare. Our departments needed to take a hard look at what's a want, what's a need, and the priorities for the municipality," McCaw told council.

She acknowledged the first draft is higher than normal, citing inflation. "The cost of doing business is just seeming to increase." She noted rises in calcium and surface treatments, building products and insurance fees, "so these are just drivers of our operating and capital expenses."

McCaw noted capital projects and transfers to reserves are necessary to avoid large expenditures in future.

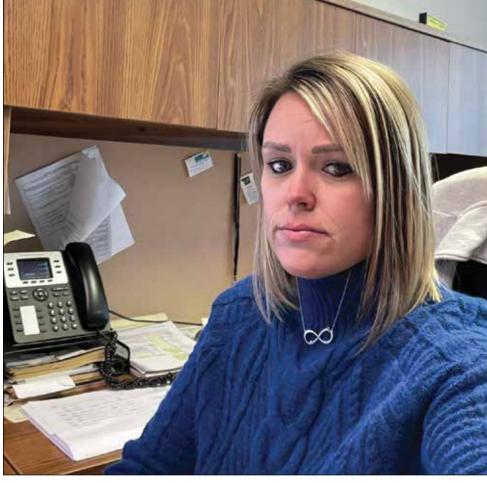
On the revenue side, Highlands East is seeing a decrease of \$24,600 in OMPF funding, down to \$1,950,500. McCaw noted they are getting more than \$120,000 in former gas tax funding.

The township is applying for \$90,000 in grants for EV charging stations. If they are successful, they will top the grant money up. They'll go to reserves, including \$250,000 for a municipal office design and engineering, and \$30,000 to complete the corporate strategic plan.

McCaw said insurance is going up 12 per cent, and benefits three per cent. They'll spend \$5,000 on municipal surveillance projects. Another bigger ticket capital project is \$55,000 for an asset management plan.

The fire department would see fire hall upgrades, a fire master plan, and hydrant maintenance. The service will get some new bunker gear. The cost of policing is going down. The township will pay \$1,137,660 in 2024, a decrease of nearly \$95,000 from last year. Highlands East will pay seven per cent more in conservation authority costs.

Councillors will need to discuss upping



CAO and treasurer Brittany McCaw. Submitted.

some user fees, such as for building permits. McCaw has factored in some costs if the township goes ahead with a short-term rental bylaw. They are looking at more than \$32,000 in expenses, in addition to \$25,000 for compliance software.

As for roads and bridges, they'll take \$300,000 of OCIF funding to put towards the McColls bridge project.

Under public works, McCaw said the focus will be on Gooderham Dam (\$55,000), Hadlington Bridge (\$20,000) and Donroy culverts (\$25,000).

Capital projects for 2024 include: \$90,000 for repairs to the works garage, \$10,000 to conduct a needs assessment for the salt tent, \$50,000 for a float trailer, \$22,000 for a new CSA-approved steamer, \$50,000 for a Hybrid SUV, \$1,167,575 for the McColls bridge replacement, \$162,225 for Clement Lake Road, \$355,000 for Irondale Road, \$50,000 for Upper Paudash, \$15,000 for a generator for the roads garage, \$30,000 for a poly water tank, and \$10,000 for a roads' needs study.

Staff are recommending a four per cent user fee increase for water, and another four per cent increase for wastewater.

They'll spend north of \$285,000 on Herlihey Park and more than \$15,000 on two new dog parks in Gooderham and Cardiff. Money is going to Essonville Church (\$30,000) and \$50,000 for a trails master

Budget talks are continuing.

A MESSAGE FROM



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8 Editorial opinion

The **Highlander**

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

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

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On the buses

I had circled Jan. 31 on my work calendar as that was the day of the last TOK Coachlines bus going from Haliburton to Toronto.

With a service having operated for more than 30 years coming to an end, I thought I should ride that last bus to the city in the morning, and take it back home again that evening.

I easily ordered the ticket online, only having to decide whether I would get off in Scarborough or Vaughn. I did a little online research and figured there would be more for me to do in and around the Scarborough Town Centre for the close to six hours I would be waiting for my bus back. The cost was \$58.50 one way or \$117 return.

I was doing this for a story. Taking my journalism hat off, and thinking like a rider, I asked myself if I would ever take the service otherwise. I hadn't before. I'm lucky enough to own a car and while I am not crazy about it, I am capable of driving to the city. But what if I didn't own a car, or couldn't city

Initially, I thought it was a bit pricey. However, when I factored in that I would be riding the bus for nearly eight hours... it worked out to less than \$15 an hour. After some initial interviews with the driver and

some passengers, I was able to just settle in from about Norland on. There was nowhere to plug in my laptop and there was no Wi-Fi so earlier plans of working as I drove along flew out the door. But that wasn't entirely a bad thing. I sat and looked out the window and watched the world go by. It was relaxing. I'd also packed a book.

It definitely took longer than if I had been driving myself. But I was in no rush. I was gathering research and taking photos. Had I been going to a specialist appointment in Toronto, I would have had time with that nearly six-hour gap. If I was not coming back that night, three hours and forty-five minutes was not that big of a chunk out of my day.

At Scarborough, I had a short walk to Scarborough Civic Centre. They have a branch of the Toronto Public Library so I was able to get my laptop set up and Wi-Fi to work from there. After a few hours, I was then able to pop into the Scarborough Town Centre for a quick shop and to grab an early dinner before making my way back to the

On the return trip, I was greeted by Stephen and Mieke Foster who were on their way to Haliburton. We chatted as the GTA receded. On the highway to Lindsay, we all settled

into our own little worlds. There was a stop at Lindsay to let some people off. Some stretched their legs. Others grabbed coffee. Then it was onto Norland and home. This nearly



By Lisa Gervais

four-hour ride did seem long – and by the time we got to Haliburton, I was happy to get off the bus. I'd left at 8 a.m. and it was now

On the drive, I learned that a new company is taking over the service. My advice to them? They need to market. A lot of people do not know about the bus and word of mouth is not a good advertising plan. I was told there were only two passengers on their Feb. 2 inaugural trip to Toronto. The new operators might have a Minden connection and want to ensure people are not left without a service but their patience will thin if they cannot cover the cost of fuel, maintenance and a driver. And for the people of Haliburton County the message is also clear: they need to use the service or they will most definitely lose it.

LETTERS

Libraries foster community and belonging

Dear editor.

Lisa Gervais' editorial, 'Leave libraries alone,' was right on the money, especially the part about libraries in the smaller

So, Highlands East has four branches? Well, Highlands East has a population that is spread out over a large area.

Do County councillors think a Highland Grove or Cardiff resident would like to take a trip to Gooderham or Haliburton to use the Wi-Fi, check out a book, or let the kids enjoy a craft or story hour?

What about Dorset library patrons who've been looking forward to getting their branch back? The book delivery system has helped them, but it's not the same as walking into the branch, browsing the shelves, and chatting with the librarian or friends.

The libraries are important as they foster community and belonging.

Amalgamation or cutting services to the smaller centres? Give your heads a shake, please.

Sally Kenerson Gooderham

Essential community resource

Dear editor.

Libraries are an invaluable community asset that deserve municipal support.

They inspire, educate, and promote personal growth. They offer equal access to a host of resources in a safe, inclusive space. They host programs for all ages instilling a

life-long love of learning and a variety of opportunities for community engagement.

Ontario's Public Libraries Act requires public libraries to provide free admission and free use of materials. Solid municipal funding for the libraries of Haliburton County is required to sustain and enrich this essential community resource.

Sue Harrison Dysart et al

County deserves good libraries

Dear editor,

Public libraries in Ontario are incorporated and answer to the Public Libraries Act

It dictates a board of directors to outline, through policy, what the library should accomplish. They hire a qualified CEO who focuses on how these accomplishments are achieved.

In Haliburton County, on a library board of nine, five are County councillors. It's a majority on the board, and County council. By the time the library budget gets to County council it has already been endorsed by five County councilors.

Coun. Fearrey and Carter's comments are insulting to those qualified to run a library, and to the five councillors who have already given their support. The County is not required to establish a library system, but if they do, besides adhering to the PLA, there are guidelines set out by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries that public libraries in Ontario are expected to meet. There is a cost.

I am certain that Fearrey or Carter would not suggest fewer police officers or ambulances. I recognize there is a hierarchy of needs that obviously doesn't put libraries at the same level as some other services but this does not mean they are any less bound by the legislation that governs them.

If the County, through the library board, is going to operate a library system, they must understand that it will cost.

For comparison, in my current position as CEO of the Orillia Public Library, I manage a budget of \$3.2 million and Orillia has a population of 32,000 people. If I'm doing my math correctly that equals \$100 a person, the exact number that Carter cited as a 'substantial' increase. Maybe with this increase, the library will be better positioned to offer the service at a standard that the citizens of the County deserve.

Bessie Sullivan, MLIS Dysart et al

Support farmers market

Dear editor,

I have been following with great concern the debate about the Haliburton farmers market and how the municipality of Dysart et al is again (like approximately 15 years ago) trying to sideline the market.

Why do some people feel threatened by farmers and craftspeople, who spend untold hours to make a small profit, which in many cases amounts to no more than minimum wages?

Tuesdays in the summer have become highly successful days for main street businesses because the market attracts new traffic to the town centre.

Why fix something that does not need fixing? It is a win-win situation for all concerned.

Small Ontario farmers i.e. small Ontario

LETTERS

family farms need our support, they are essential to a thriving economy in Ontario. I am appealing to the mayor and council to support the Haliburton farmers market.

Armin Weber Eagle Lake

Listen to voters

Dear editor,

Regarding last week's Highlander report on the ongoing saga that is the Dysart et al council seemingly pitted against the Haliburton County Farmers Market Association (HCFMA).

When might our elected authorities start listening to the very people who elected

Haliburton wants a visible, well-attended, busy and profitable farmers market... full stop. This has been demonstrated for the past 14 years.

The farmers market is a seasonal attraction like the Arts and Crafts Festival, and the Rotary Music in the Park Tuesday evening concerts.

For those of us who have been fortunate enough to travel, we know that market day in so many societies all over the world is celebrated. They become the community's focal point for the day. They can be boisterous and a bit chaotic, filling the air with wonderful aromas and the sounds of commerce, people visiting and buskers.

I strongly suggest to council they start seeing the farmers market for what it really is and for what it really can be and they can begin by relocating the market to its rightful place in Head Lake Park and withdrawing any punitive financial conditions.

Sean Pennylegion Haliburton

Still wants STR bylaw pause

Dear editor,

I fear the County of Haliburton is continuing its historical practice of rushing through flawed legislation- this time the proposed STR bylaw.

I am co-chair of the Facebook Airbnb group for Madawaska - Bancroft. For months, hundreds of our STR hosts have tried to get the County to pause the implementation of the proposed STR bylaw, which hasn't faced full, transparent public consultation. We've phoned and emailed them. More recently we've created a petition on Change.org that now has more than 765 names asking for a temporary pause until all the 'kinks' are worked out.

Warden Liz Danielsen is wrong when she says there's been ample consultation. No attempt has been made to contact STR hosts by local government but when we've reached out, the door has politely been slammed in

Right now, Tiny Township's proposed STR bylaw is before the Superior Court. We believe it will serve as the basis for STR legislation going forward. Local

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The new Norland ice rink at dusk. Submitted.

municipalities have clearly struggled to find a balance between oversight and overreach. Haliburton could face similar legal challenges and should take caution before proceeding.

The latest bombshell is the County's recent hiring of a U.S. based firm to handle STR host compliance. Granicus will profit from Canadian STR hosts. Surely, there are domestic firms that could handle that job. I suspect both sides of the STR debate can agree this is yet another bad decision the County has made.

Pausing on the STR bylaw and registering hosts this year is the proper approach. We can then proceed with a more balanced and reasonable licensing bylaw to be rolled out in 2025 once all members of the public have their voices heard. Isn't that the way government is supposed to work?

Eliabeth Oakley Highlands East

Lack of political attendance

Dear editor,

On Saturday, Jan. 27, we had the good fortune to host a sold-out conference put on by Aging Together as Community.

The conference, at the Pinestone Resort, was entitled 'Inspiring Creativity and Empowering Change' and over 165 people attended. It was informative, inspiring and thoroughly engaging. There were a number of excellent speakers on various topics and from various generations, from teens to more elderly folks as well. The presenters were both local and from other parts of Ontario and Canada.

The biggest disappointment for us was the lack of attendance from local politicians. Councillors from all four municipalities and the County were invited. Only one councillor

responded and registered and one other councillor arrived without registering. The purpose of registering, of course, is to keep track of numbers to meet fire regulations and to plan the number of lunches needed.

All other councillors, to my knowledge, were mute. I should note that our MP, MPP and the leader of the provincial NDP, Marit Stiles, and the Leader of the Green Party, Mike Schreiner, all responded.

This would have been an amazing opportunity for our local councillors to engage with the community on these important issues. This truly makes us wonder, and worry, about the level of community engagement from our representatives.

Thanks to all those that made this fantastic event possible.

Grea J. Roe (Aging Together as Community Steering Committee)

Leave deer alone

Dear editor.

Deer have been in this town for decades, and in my opinion add to the charm of the village.

It took me one season to realize my veggie garden needed a 10' fence. Ornamentals can be protected by spraying a mixture of one egg and water on them.

Encroachment is what's happening. You don't realize how much development has happened in and around town. Trees hide a lot of it. It seems to be since the massive influx of people to the area during the last few years that people have started complaining about the deer.

These deer used to sleep and eat in the many vacant and bush lots, which have been turned into condos and homes. When all the construction noise is over, the deer return to their home to find green grass and flowers. It is their nature to eat these things. Your nature is not so nice.

Whether people want the deer fed or not doesn't bother me as much as the time of year that was chosen to quit feeding them, in the hopes of driving them to the woods, just before winter and in time for hunting season.

Shame on you. I don't know when you last took a stroll in the woods, but there is nothing for them to eat out there. What is out there are a bunch of coyotes.

The character of a deer is like that of a chipmunk.

Have you seen how many animals in North America have been taken off the endangered list because they are gone.

I thank you, Albert Saxby and Keerie Marks, for letters you wrote to the editor.

I see no need to start a war over deer eating flowers. Haven't we got enough war going on? Let's at least love nature and the wildlife that's left and possibly our neighbours.

Come on, please, just plant more flowers.

Marjorie D. Nelmes Haliburton

HHHS appreciated

Dear editor,

Last week, I was admitted to the HHHS emergency department and was there for five

I am expressing my heartfelt appreciation to the doctors, nurses and staff for the outstanding care they provided me in my

Their job has doubled since the Minden closure but every day they treated me with kindness, respect and smiles.

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Shannon Kelly and April Austen show off a selection of work to be featured in a student exhibit at Agnes Jamieson Gallery Feb. 10 to March 31. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Minden exhibit to showcase ASES

By Mike Baker

Minden's youth will take centre stage at a new art exhibit debuting at Agnes Jamieson Gallery this weekend.

Students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School were challenged last month to produce original artwork expressing what Minden means to them. Dozens of submissions were sent in, capturing local landmarks like the Rivercone, S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and the Minden Boardwalk, and attractions such as the Haliburton County Huskies, Minden Ice Races and Haliburton County Fair.

April Austen, a volunteer with the ASES school council, said 21 pieces will be featured in the exhibit, which opens Feb. 10 and runs to March 31. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m., with students invited to discuss their work.

"Haliburton County is a huge artistic community for adults – we thought it was time we bring the kids on board and get them involved too," Austen said.

She said last year, ASES had a teacher, Meghan Mardus, who made a great impression on students and helped spark an interest in art. While she has since left the school, Austen said she wanted to build on the momentum and encourage students to pursue the arts, no matter their talent level.

She connected with Shannon Kelly, manager of cultural services with Minden township, in October and the pair discussed a student exhibition. Kelly felt it was a great idea and a good way to drive traffic to the downtown gallery during its quiet season.

"We're always looking for ways to engage with students and youth in the community. Art is a great way to do that. It appeals to all ages. It's great getting kids involved because all kids are artistic in a way. We told them, you don't have to be the best, just try to express yourself," Kelly said.

"What better way to attract people to the gallery than to put up the artwork of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren... we think this has the potential to become a great annual event," Kelly added.

Austen said the ASES community is buzzing ahead of the exhibit's opening. There are pieces from all ages – kindergarten and Grade 1 classes each put together a group submission, with 19 other entries from students from Grades 2 to 8.

"The kids are so excited – they had a lot of fun working on their pieces through January, and now they're excited to see them up on the wall in a real-life gallery and show them off to their family," Austen said.

Kelly noted the gallery is closed Feb. 6 to 9 so the exhibit can be installed. It will be open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An open house has been scheduled for Family Day, Feb. 19 from noon to 2 p.m., with hot dogs and chili served by Minden Rotary.

Highlander events 11







Hiking in the Highlands

Another Hike Haliburton Winter Edition is in the books, with around 100 people attending 12 organized hikes in the Highlands Feb. 3 and 4. Hosted by the County of Haliburton, the event encourages people to register for hikes around popular local trails and destinations, such as Barnum Creek, Abbey Gardens and Glebe Park. It's also a great way to bring tourists to the area, with a Hike at Bethel Heights Farm attracting 10 people from the GTA.

Above: Three-year-old Sophia Rahaman is in her element as she's surrounded by goats at Bethel Heights Farm in Haliburton Feb. 3. Top right: Five-year-old Louella Thaler clings to grandma, Marg Thaler's hand while snowshoeing through trails at Bethel Heights Farm. Right: Five-year-old Wilder Bosnell said his favourite part was when he got to feed goats at the end of the hike. Photos by Mike Baker.



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Township of Algonquin Highlands NOTICE - Special Council Meetings

2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

TAKE NOTICE that Council will conduct its 2024 budget deliberations during Special Meetings commencing at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- Thursday, February 22, 2024

The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands. Members of the Public may also observe Council proceedings by joining a livestream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal

Dated this 7th day of February, 2024.

Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk

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It was love at first kiss for Allan and Ellenor

By Lisa Gervais

Allan Bagg's mom worked with a young lady named Ellenor at a Bell Telephone office in Maple.

Allan had met her a couple of times and says with a cheeky grin, "and I thought, oh boy, because she was a looker then." He didn't think he stood a chance.

Allan's mom invited the 17-year-old home for dinner one night. After eating, Allan, who was 21, and Ellenor were left alone on the verandah, chatting. When it came time for Ellenor to be driven home, Allan said "we stood up, and I don't know what happened. We just kissed each other. That was it." On the way home, he asked her out on a date that Saturday night and she said yes.

It was 1955, and they dressed up to visit Casa Loma. There was a big band playing, and dancing. After a short courtship,

Allan said he knew he wanted to get married. He went to Ellenor's mom and dad and asked for her hand. They said yes.

They married June 9, 1956 and have not looked back, celebrating 68 years in 2024.

"Allan's been my only sweetheart," Ellenor says.

The two lived in southern Ontario for years.

Jasper & Hazel the dogs

They settled in Eagle Lake and are now at the Gardens of Haliburton. People would know them from the Eagle Lake Country Market.

The two waited four years to start a family, as they were renovating their home and enjoying summer at the lake.

"To me the secret of a good marriage is to honour your wedding, don't be doing anything you shouldn't do," says Allan. "Be true to your partner and do things together."

He adds, "everywhere we could, we went together. We always went to church together and any dances or anything like that. I was not the kind of man who went out with the boys and things like that. It wasn't my thing.'

He says as a result "they have never had a hard word together, disagreements, but no hard words."

For her part, Ellenor says it seems like her mother-in-law

chose her for Allan. The couple think she was

a matchmaker. Both families befriended each other. Despite the distance from Maple to Woodbridge, they made it work. Allan had a car and would go for Sunday dinners

Ellenor believes "joining things together, going to

to Maple.



Allan and Ellenor Bagg at the Gardens of Haliburton. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

church together, families getting along well together" contributed to their success. "I think the backbone of a marriage is being able to go to church together and feel comfortable. Have faith."

The two were also active in the community. Allan added she was, and is, a good mother. When Allan was in hospital in the New

Year after a fall, and needed surgery, Ellenor said she missed snuggling with him. It was weird sleeping alone. She hadn't done it since 1956.

"We've had a good marriage," Allan says. "We couldn't have asked for anything better in our marriage. And I love her today as much as I did when I got that first kiss."

I wish I was an octopus, so I could hold you with eight arms instead of two. I can't wait to marry you this year, Sandra, I love you! Anaie Woof you furever!

My Kyle, you make every day feel like Valentine's with your endless love and affection. I cherish you and our boys more than anything, you set such a great example for them on how to properly treat a life partner. Thank you for always being you, constantly pushing yourself for us, and for being mine no matter what comes our way. I'm very honoured to call you my Valentine, here is too many more.- Hell Star

To Matt, Roses are red, the broomball court's blue. I shoveled it today, Just for you. Love Els

To the love of my life, Neil Dejong Thank you for coming into my life. I never knew how I really needed you in my life to make it complete. So, hunny I hope you have a great Valentine's Day. XOXO Karen

Dear Readers.

"And I love her today as

much as I did when I got

that first kiss."

- Allan Bagg

"I fell in love at first glance" when I met Ahne Crawford-Ridley in the fall of 1978. Lots of people will tell you stories, but how many of them are actually true and how many of the men stand by it 40 plus years later. Ahne is talented, kind, and beautiful, and is so happy living up here. After many years abroad raising two children and devoting herself to her profession, the four seasons in Canada is where she wants to be. Plus, she really enjoys the idea of community driven towns! Ahne is clearly my valentine! Love, Phil Ridley





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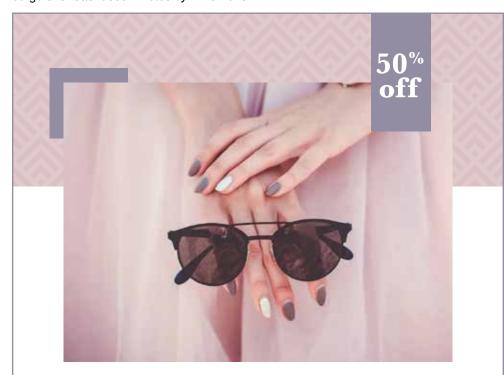
14 Highlander events



Community cookout

The Paudash Trailblazers snowmobile club held its annual winter cookout Feb. 3. More than 200 people stopped by the group's clubhouse, located on West Eels Lake Road, for the event, which featured a free BBQ, raffle and 50/50 draw. Club president Jon Cumming said his membership has hosted cookouts for years, saying it's a nice way to connect and engage with the community. He noted the Paudash group has around 1,500 members and its celebrating its 48th anniversary this year.

Above: Paudash Trailblazers committee members (from left) Rob Dingwall, Ron Rutherford, Ron Maybee, Jon Cumming, and Darrin Sharp. Top right: Snowmobilers Carol Anne Stapley, Kelli Stapley (both front), Sharon Johansen, and Peter Johansen (back) stopped for some food while out riding around the County. Right: Sharp was on grilling duty, cooking burgers for attendees. *Photos by Mike Baker*.



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The Haliburton Curling Club hosted 16 teams for this year's Todd's Independent Bonspiel, Feb. 3 and 4. One of the organizers, Megan Bawn, said it was a great weekend, with three local teams and 13 visiting squads competing across four pools. Team Ellis from the York Curling Club won Pool A, beating out Haliburton's Team Moylan in the semi-final; Team Jim from Brampton won Pool B, beating Team Critchley and Team Osborne – both from Haliburton – in the semi-finals and championship game; Team Keon from York Curling Club won Pool C, with Team Tambosso from Richmond Hill winning Pool D.

Above: Pam Osborne and Russ Duhaime prepare to sweep after Joan Duhaime releases a rock during round robin play. Top right: Sue Kean, from the Milton Curling Club, observes. Right: Mike Millar and Kristy Seminsky, of the Oshawa Curling Club, guiding a rock. Photos by Mike Baker



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Huskies in 'playoff mode' down the stretch

By Mike Baker

With the postseason less than a month away, Haliburton County Huskies captain Patrick Saini said he and his teammates "are already in playoff mode" as a mix of teams jostle for position atop the OJHL's East Conference.

The blue and white sit sixth in the standings – four points clear of the ninth-place Lindsay Muskies, but with a game in hand. The top eight teams qualify for the post-season. Just 10 points separate the Wellington Dukes, in second, and the Stouffville Spirit, in eighth.

It was a mixed week for the Huskies, who closed out a narrow 2-1 road win over the Georgetown Raiders Jan. 31 before falling to the Buffalo Jr. Sabres 5-2 Feb. 4.

"For us, the playoffs have already started. Every game from here on is a must win. You've got to be willing to jump in front of pucks to block shots, chip pucks out and play less of a pretty game, but a more effective game," Saini said. "We want to make sure we're coming into every game with as much intensity as possible."

The tilt in Georgetown was a hard-hitting affair. The teams drew a blank through the opening period, with Saini taking centre stage midway through the second. The 20-year-old scored his team-leading 33rd goal of the season at 10:34, assisted by Noah Lodoen and Lucas Marshall.

Brandon Kakei tied the game early in the third, scoring on the powerplay. But the Huskies weren't to be denied – Saini helping himself to the game-winner 6:41 into the final frame, assisted by Charlie Fink and Ian Phillips.

"That was a huge character win for us. Georgetown is in a similar position [in the West Conference] fighting for a playoff spot. It was an intense game – we had guys blocking shots, making hits, killing penalties," Saini said.,

He credited backup goaltender Logan Kennedy, fresh off an appearance in the OJHL Prospect Game during the All-Star break, for backstopping the Huskies to an important win. The 18-year-old made 20



Goaltender Brett Fullerton made 28 saves in a losing effort on the Huskies' U.S. road trip. Photo by Ed McPherson/OJHL Images.

saves in the winning effort.

Sunday's afternoon tilt in Buffalo came after an early start for the Huskies, who had to be on a bus at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena by 7:30 a.m. Saini wouldn't blame a brutal five-hour, 400-plus kilometre bus ride for the result, which was the Huskies second loss in three games.

"I don't think we played that bad of a game in Buffalo. It wasn't our best by any means, but we had some really good moments. We did a lot of things well, it was just a couple of mental breakdowns at bad times that they capitalized on that cost us," Saini said.

The Huskies went behind early, Haeden

Ellis scoring his 14th goal of the season 13:44 into the opening frame.

Matt Milic tied the game on the powerplay 25 seconds into the second, beating goaltender Aiden McKenna after being teed up by Lucas Stevenson. Gavin McGahey-Smith added a second for the blue and white at 8:09, assisted by Aidan Yarde and Lucas

The visitors then gave up four straight goals en route to a disappointing defeat – Josh Pryztstal tied the game 17:22 into the second; Michael Kull potted the go-ahead goal 14 minutes into the third, with Zach Derito and Ellis adding further tallies late on.

The Huskies are back on the road Friday (Feb. 9) for a huge game with the third-placed Markham Royals. A five-game homestand follows, with the Huskies hosting the Royals Feb. 10, the Mississauga Steelers Feb. 13, Trenton Golden Hawks Feb. 17, Lindsay Muskies Feb. 19 and Caledon Admirals Feb. 24.

"You love to play every game, but the home games are that much more fun. Our fans have been awesome the past three years. They help us when we're not feeling so hot, they help bring us back into games. They can be a difference maker, for sure," Saini said.

















Top: Huskies captain Patrick Saini is excited for a five-game homestand, which begins Feb. 10 when the Markham Royals visit S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Above: Defenceman Matt Milic notched a powerplay goal in Sunday's 5-2 loss in Buffalo. *Photos by Ed McPherson/OJHL Images.*



A pair of Huskies tickets

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18 Home of the Highland Storm



Nolan Carpenter is a picture of focus as he prepares for a faceoff. Photo by Mike Baker.

U9 Storm dominate Brock

The U9 Haliburton Hockey Haven Highland Storm had a good showing at last weekend's Bernie Nicholls tournament. It didn't take long for them to take control of the opening game, against the Brock Wild Black.

Nolan Carpenter opened the scoring just 20 seconds in on a stunning individual effort – first winning the faceoff and stickhandling through four players before firing past the goalie. Seconds after the restart Carpenter was at it again, stealing the puck from a Brock player, skating behind the net and beating the goalie on a wraparound. His leadership set the pace for the remainder of the game, which the Storm won

Defencemen Griffin Hunt and Abby Stancati did a great job keeping the puck in the offensive zone throughout, and were instrumental as Carpenter fired in his hat-trick goal 3:41 into the first. Minutes later, Jackson Little went end-to-end, deking out several players before lifting the puck top shelf

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Sturgeon • 5-3 W

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Lindsay • 3-2 W

U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS Mariposa

U15 Haliburton Timbermart VS Mariposa

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Mariposa

Jan. 29

6-4 W

over the goalie's outstretched glove, sending the Storm in 7-0 after the first buzzer.

Penelope Irvine and Isaiah Young – just back from injury – did an incredible job keeping the puck in the offensive zone to start the second, giving Bentley Wilson and Sebastian Dart scoring opportunities. C. Carpenter and Hunt added to the scoresheet, giving the Storm a 10-0 lead after two.

Tripp Meier and Gaelyn Mooney-Monster were phenomenal on the backend, helping goaltender Julian Mardus in keeping the Brock team at bay. The two Carpenters and Little added to the scoresheet in the third. Mardus lost his shutout in the final moments of the third, but it made no difference as the Storm recorded a resounding win. Fans were on their feet at the final whistle, showing the Storm how proud they were of their efforts. What an incredible way to start the tournament. (Submitted).



Feb. 2

U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House VS Huntsville • 6-2 W

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Mariposa

Parry Sound • 6-1 W

U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling VS

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Millbrook • 5-1 W U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS Parry Sound • 3-2 W

U11 Up Right Roofing VS Almaguin 16-0 W

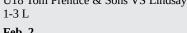
Feb. 4

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Lindsay • 3-4 L

U11 Up Right Roofing VS Huntsville 14-0 W

U15 Haliburton Timbermart VS Sturgeon

U18 Sharp Electric VS Parry Sound • 1-11 L



U15 Haliburton Timbermart VS Sturgeon

U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS



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Griffin Hunt

This is Griffin's first season, not only with the Storm but also as a hockey player. As one of the U9's most defensive defensemen, he also holds a burning desire to be the first to the puck.



Jackson Little

Jackson is a treat to watch on the ice and leads by example. He shows speed, intelligent choices, and ability to fluidly move through the opposing team without being touched.



Nolan Carpenter

Nolan is a force of nature on the ice using his speed, puck handling and sheer strength to out skate, out play and maneuver around any opponent. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.







2024 Auditions Continue

Saturday, February 10 from 10 a.m. & Sunday, February 11 from 12:30 p.m.

The Highlands Summer Festival is holding auditions for the following 2024 productions:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (a musical) book by Rachel Sheinkin, score by William Finn
 - The Miracle Worker by William Gibson
 - The Birds & the Bees by Mark Crawford

St. George's Anglican Church 617 Mountain Street, Haliburton

Character descriptions and other important details, including how to register, can be found in the audition package, linked from the HSF home page at

www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

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Those interested can contact Melissa Stephens at 705 455-2366 or melistep@gmail.com

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of **Patricia Davis**

(nee Beale) (Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Thursday, January 25, 2024 in

her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late Daniel Leon Davis of Springhill, Nova Scotia. Loving mother of Daniel Davis (Judy Stirling) and Elizabeth Lee (David Lee). Cherished grandmother of Jessica, Katie, Amy, Ashley, and Daniel. Fondly remembered by her greatgrandchildren Charlotte, Conor, Rowyn, Ellie, Hailey, Isaiah, Luca, Hunter, and Everett. Predeceased by her parents William Beale and Constance Beale (nee Green).

Patricia moved back to Ontario 9 years ago from Nova Scotia, where she called home. Before her time living in Nova Scotia, she worked with Metro Toronto as secretary to the Director of Children's Services. She loved traveling with her sisters Barb and Joan. Patricia was a talented and beautiful knitter and loved spending her time playing cards.

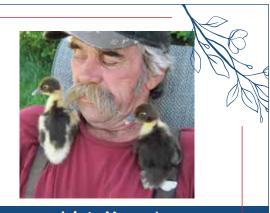
Private Funeral Arrangements

Funeral arrangements are private. As an expression of sympathy, donations to The Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Canadian Cancer Society, or The Alzheimer Society 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 MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of James Robert Miller November 19, 1953 - February 9, 2023

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Valerie

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In Loving Memory of

Delaine Miller (Nee Ward)

(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Saturday morning, February 3, 2024 in

her 93rd year. Beloved wife and best friend of Allen Miller. Cherished daughter of the late William and May Ward. Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. Delaine worked as a waitress at Kozy Korner for many years in the Haliburton Highlands. She also worked at Miller's General Store on Pine Street in Haliburton. Allen and Delaine were faithful adherents at Lakeside Baptist Church in Haliburton and West Guilford Baptist Church.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON** COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Wednesday afternoon, February 7, 2024 from 12 (Noon) until time of the Funeral Service in the Chapel at 1 o'clock. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the West Guilford Baptist Church or the Haliburton Highlands

Health Services Foundation would appreciated by the family.

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COMING EVENTS

CALL TO REGISTER – The Tour De Forest summer art tour is looking for a variety of participants in both studio artists and guest artists. Please download the application from haliburtontourdeforest.com. Deadline is February 16, 2024. For more information contact Lori at 705-754-0444 or contact tourdeforestjurying@ gmail.com

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Haliburton County's Only Community Radio Station is looking for a passionate and motivated individual to join our team. The ideal candidate will prospect and generate new commercial business while expanding sales from existing accounts by understanding and fulfilling account needs. The successful candidate will have a robust connection to the community and a zealous commitment to the success of community radio.

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This is a contract position with future employment potential. Compensation consists of base, plus commission, plus mileage. If interested, please send your resume to manager@canoefm.com or call us at 705-457-1009. Deadline for submissions is February 18th, 2024.



Employment Opportunity Municipality of Dysart et al

Museum Curatorial Assistant

The Municipality of Dysart et al is looking for a full-time Museum assistant to join our team. This position works closely with the museum's collection to maintain and process artifacts and conduct research to investigate stories. Design and create new exhibits to showcase community's history. Assist the Director with visitors and educational programming. Varied duties season to season. The detailed job description is available on our website www.dysartetal.ca/careers

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No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday February 23, 2024.

** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes. **



Township of Algonquin Highlands Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following seasonal positions:

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

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay, Human Resources Coordinator

Township of Algonquin Highlands 1123 North Shore Road Algonquin Highlands, ON KOM 1S0 Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

HALIBURTON COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION (HCHC) Board of Directors Opportunities

HCHC is currently seeking individuals to serve as a Director on the corporation's Board. If you are a community minded individual and believe in the value of affordable housing, please consider submitting a resume to join our caring compliment. The average commitment is approximately 3-5 hours per month depending on your personal level of involvement.

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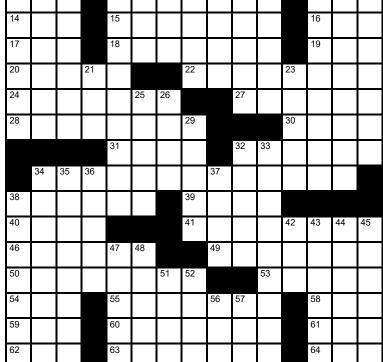
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Across

- 1 "___ for Alibi" (Grafton title)
- 4 Lays claim to, kid-style
- **11** Pen pal's afterthoughts
- 14 Single-stranded genetic unit
- 15 Most favourable
- 16 Make the final payment on, say
- 17 Jazz legend Charles
- 18 Framed railway bridge
- Dolly (Jennifer Lawrence in "Winter's Bone")
- **20** "___ to you" ("I'm easy")
- 22 *Out of the woods
- 24 Greyhound at capacity
- 27 Quick squirt
- 28 *Around this time
- **30** Comics dog with a single spot
- 31 Elsa's sister in "Frozen"
- 32 Fixed badly?
- **34** *Alternative to eyeglasses
- 38 So-called "dog monkey"
- 39 Stand-in worker
- **40** From ___ (direct route)
- 41 *"How am I supposed to know?"
- 46 Words from birds
- **49** Lose grip, as tires
- **50** *Haul off unceremoniously
- 53 Vice partner
- **54** Old-timey "get a move on!"
- **55** Ferocious flesh-eating fish
- **58** Flavius's 650
- **59** Suffix with script or fail
- 60 Poetic kin of an iamb
- **61** Drug company founder ___ Lilly
- **62** Quick data storage device: Abbr.
- 63 Place to find the starts of the starred clues' answers
- 64 Salt water?

1 "... andale, andale!" (Speedy Gonzales cry)



- 2 Where three dirty men of rhyme
- 3 Speaks with authority
- 4 Thorny political issue
- **5** A 30-day mo.
- **6** Executive office: Abbr.
- 7 Meal, or item containing it
- **8** "___ blame" ("My bad")
- **9** Dry skin applications
- **10** Succumb to a lullaby
- **11** Breakfast for fairy tale bears
- 13 Prompted a blessing, in a way
- 21 Knife of the north
- 23 Kermit and kin
- **25** UN predecessor of Ki-moon
- **26** "Je pense, ___ je suis"
- 29 Bulb data
- 32 Update for GPS, maybe
- 33 Behind closed doors

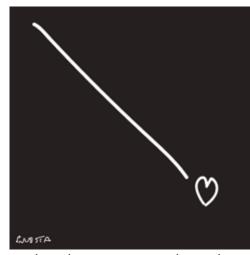
- **34** What a pet Sphynx lacks
 - **35** Stick in the winds?
 - 36 Poker player's "pass"
 - 37 Jeans with a trademark leather
 - 38 Party-hardy Roman god
 - 42 Toronto event a.k.a. "The Ex"
 - 43 Swarming masses
 - 44 Insert oneself rudely, with "in"
 - 45 Latin "yada yada yada"
 - 47 Fleshy tropical melon
 - 48 Piggish lout
 - 51 Part of U.A.E.
 - **52** Pekingese protestations
 - **56** In the: It.
 - 57 Atl. shopper's add-on



Highlander Sudoku sponsored by

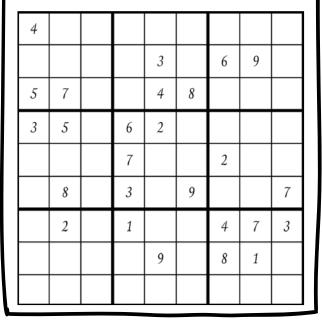
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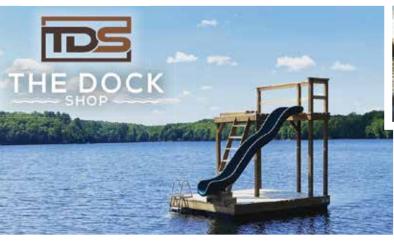
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Today the sun remembered us and lent its fuzzy shadows. It threw crushed diamonds on the ground, blasted white the moony lake and put halos on foamy, snowy branches.

And that was enough.







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- Natural stone landscaping, stone patio, firepit
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- Unspoiled side walkout basemen



BURNT RIVER • \$899.900

- 4+1 bedroom, 3 bath, 2500 sq ft home on 18 acres
- Small riverfront area included is a lease
- Full basement with high ceilings, rec room area
- Detached insulated 24' x 28" garage with 2 garage doors
- 1900 sq ft heated insulated shop, phase 3, separate hydro



NORTH PIGEON LAKE • \$899,900

- 2 bedroom, 2 bath home/cottage with 1 bedroom bunkie
- 200 feet clean shoreline on spring fed lake
- Sunroom, 2 stone fireplaces, renovated kitchen Double detached garage, year round township road
- Close to Minden Village and all amenities



HORSESHOE LAKE ROAD • \$624,900

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 2570 sq ft living space
- · 2 bay attached garage, storage shed, sunroom
- Spacious level lot, partially fenced
- Central air, hardwood floors, wetbar
- Close to Horeseshoe Lake, wild water reserve and all



KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE RD • \$309,900

- Close to public access on 5 lake chain
- Located between Haliburton & Minden villages for all
- Detached double garage, sun porch, enclosed porch off master. Being sold "as is"



KENNAWAY ROAD • \$260,000

- Build your dream home on this 43 acres lot
- Paved year round municipal access
- Close to prime lakes and recreational trails
- Minutes to Haliburton village and all amenities
- Abundance of mature maples for syrup production



BARRY LINE ROAD • \$89,900

- 1.18 acre level well treed private lot
- Driveway in, lot mostly cleared, year round road
- Close to beach, ski hill, golf course and Haliburton
- 15 minutes to Haliburton and Minden villages for all amenities. Being sold in "as is" condition



MILBURN RETREAT • \$2,500 / MONTH

- 100 acre parcel surrounded by crown land
- Recent total renovated 2 bedroom getaway
- 2 ponds, lots of wildlife and plenty of trails 2 wheel drive access off year round township road
- Mainly furnished ready to enjoy



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