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**HIGHLANDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

# The Highlander

Thursday **February 22 2024** | Issue 628

**INSIDE: MEET THE NEW LIBRARY CAO PAGE 7**

**FREE**



## Hear ye, hear ye!

The town crier, Bruce Kruger, leads the Dorset Snowball parade Feb. 17 as thousands flocked to the annual event. See more photos on page 18. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

## OPSEU selling Frost Centre

By Lisa Gervais

The Frost Centre is back up for sale as the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) remains embroiled in lawsuits against the union executives that oversaw the purchase in 2021.

The property went back on the market last week and is listed for \$3.499 million.

The union purchased the land and 21 buildings from the provincial government for \$3.2 million in a deal announced in January three years ago.

The listing description, by Royal LePage Terrequity Brokerage of Thornhill, says the property is being sold “as is, where is.” It adds some buildings have heritage designations, but there is potential to sever some of the property, including the seven existing cottages, to create additional waterfront lots.

It is acknowledged Algonquin Highlands has easements for the trail along St. Nora Lake and the boat launch. Heritage designations are also referenced.

Barrie Martin said he didn’t expect the news, but wasn’t surprised.

“We were very hopeful when OPSEU assumed it... because it would be a more public and community-based type of initiative. So, it’s very, very, disappointing for those of us who have a lot of history with the Frost Centre. You can’t help but wonder, is there a community solution? But at this point, it’s a tall hill to climb.”

Former Algonquin Highlands mayor Carol Moffatt said “the Frost Centre means a lot to a lot of people and I’m sad that it’s on the market.”

She added protecting the trails easement, and preserving heritage, remain paramount to her.

She said Algonquin Highlands would not sign off on the release of the property by the Government of Ontario until it negotiated the easement for the trail system.

“They can list it and say severances are possible but everybody needs to realize the township has an existing easement along the waterfront,” she said.

Continued ‘Property’ on page 2

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# Property listed at \$3.499M

Continued from page 1

Moffatt added, “it is my recollection there are certain aspects of certain buildings that have heritage designation attached to them.

“The Frost Centre is an incredible provincial icon, and an incredible local icon. There’s a lot of people who have a lot of really strong emotional attachments to this place. The Frost Centre is entrenched in the fabric of Ontario’s forestry history. What can we do to make sure it doesn’t all get plowed under and turned into a number of cottages?

“It feels even more important that we collect and preserve its history because ‘it’ itself may be going away in its current form. What can we do as a community to ensure that its legacy is preserved in places like the Stanhope Museum?”

She wonders what will become of it, as does Algonquin Highlands mayor and County warden Liz Danielsen.

Danielsen said, “it’s disappointing to see that OPSEU’s original plans are being abandoned, as they fit nicely into our hopes for the centre going forward.

“It will be interesting to see the level of interest there may, or may not, be in the property given the heritage designations that will make future development challenging. There are still lots of folks who I’m sure had hoped for reopening of the centre with some environmental aspect attached to it; however, the odds of that happening seem to be diminishing.”

## 50th anniversary reunion now in doubt

Martin – who’s been planning a 50th anniversary reunion for the centre – said he is now rethinking those plans.

While he has the support of Algonquin Highlands, he said OPSEU and the MNR have not gotten behind his idea.

He said he was never going to hold the reunion on site. However, he was envisaging guided hikes of the trail system and was hoping OPSEU would do a site tour.

Martin said there’s been “lots of interest” from people who used to work there, former MNR staff, educators and students.

“I’m confident there’d be good attendance.”

He added they had talked about using the Dorset Recreation Centre, Stanhope Firefighters Hall, and maybe a local resort for the main events.

Danielsen said she was sad to see the reunion may now be “scuppered as far as anything taking place at the centre.”



The Frost Centre is back up for sale. *File.*

## The Frost Centre story to date:

- In 1921, a ranger station was established on the west shore of St. Nora Lake by the Department of Lands and Forests.
- In 1944, the province and the University of Toronto Faculty of Forestry entered into a partnership to educate government personnel and university students.
- In 1974, Premier Bill Davis announced that the facility would be developed as a demonstration area in resources management, education and recreation and would be called The Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre.
- On July 6, 2004, the Liberals announced they were closing the centre in one week. On July 13, 2004, the centre closed. A massive public protest and rally ensued. Proponents got the government to lease, not sell, the property. The Friends of The Frost Centre is launched.
- In 2007, the Frost Centre Institute was established, but closed in 2010.
- The Ontario government of the day put the property up for sale but was unsuccessful in selling it.
- On Oct. 29, 2020, the property was again put up for sale.
- On Jan. 8, 2021, OPSEU announced it had purchased the historic site for \$3.2 million. A contractor was hired to begin work on the site, claiming to have done \$5 million worth of remediation.
- In February 2023, the union sued three of its former executives and told *The Highlander*, it was now considering options for the Frost Centre.
- In February 2024, OPSEU puts the property up for sale.

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# AH issues no trespass orders, public responds

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen said the township is “trying to do the right thing” after becoming embroiled in a disagreement with property owners along North Shore Road over an access point to Maple Lake.

The municipality issued a press release Feb. 1 stating the land, located near the intersection of North Shore and Dawson roads, has been used by the public for decades to access the water.

Danielsen said this was in response to a group of homeowners who have made repeated claims the property is privately owned, noting frequent attempts have been made to prevent people from using the spot to access the lake.

“To be abundantly clear, the property in question is municipally owned... no claims of private ownership have been substantiated through any credible documentation or otherwise,” the release states.

Kythe Baldwin, president of the Haliburton County Landowners’ Association, told *The Highlander* he is one of the property owners taking exception to what he believes is “blatant overreaching” by the township.

“They’re trying to steal people’s property and we’re not going to let that happen... Algonquin Highland thinks they own [that parcel], they think they own North Shore Road – they do own the road, they own the pavement, but they don’t own the land underneath it,” Baldwin claims, citing Crown land patents issued in the late 1800s suggest ownership lies with the individual property owners.

Baldwin says he has a patent for his property, at 1805 North Shore Road, dating back to 1863, which he claims is the oldest known document for land surrounding Maple Lake. He said the land that houses the access point is covered by another Crown patent, held by one of his neighbours, that has been in place since 1883.

“We’ve gone through every historical document for [our properties] and the Crown land patent has never been opened, it’s never been amended, it’s never been changed, it’s never been cancelled,” Baldwin said.

Danielsen is adamant Algonquin Highlands owns the land, noting the township has received confirmation from its legal counsel. Baldwin says he’s not been presented with



A ‘no trespassing’ sign has been erected on land overlooking Maple Lake on North Shore Road. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

any physical documentation proving that, despite repeated requests.

“I’ve asked for almost 10 years now – show us what rights you have,” Baldwin said. “The only thing I can rely on is the 1913 act that downloaded shore road allowances from the province to the township. There’s nothing else. If they had anything, they would have had to purchase the property from the family, which there’s no record of, or they would have had to open the Crown land patent, which they haven’t done,” Baldwin said.

Algonquin Highlands planner Sean O’Callaghan did not respond to *The Highlander*’s request for comment and clarification.

Danielsen said no trespass orders were issued in January, with those cautioned immediately issuing no trespass orders of their own to the township. She noted further

action was taken in mid-February, though didn’t elaborate.

The mayor advised anyone trying to use the access point who is “bullied or hassled” to report the issue to the OPP.

“That’s about all we can do right now,” Danielsen said.

## Licensing root of issue

Baldwin indicated this issue is far bigger than a disagreement over a single parcel – he’s questioning the legality of the township’s license of occupation policy, which was passed in December.

“When [Maple Lake] was surveyed in 1860, the shore road allowance [they allocated] is now about 120 feet off the shore. It’s buried under water,” he said, believing that, years after the lake was flooded for the Trent

Severn Waterway project, the township moved the allowance to the top of North Shore Road.

“Those shorelands, if a patent is held, are private property,” Baldwin added.

Stefanos Karatopis, a governor with the Ontario Landowners Association, says in cases where private property owners hold Crown patents for lands a municipality wants, it would have to be expropriated. He says this is covered in the federal Public Documents Act.

“They’re set in stone, the patents say ‘forever to their heirs’ and forever hasn’t happened yet. There’s no way for those patents to be cancelled, deleted, anything,” he said. “[Algonquin Highlands] would have to come up with documentation showing the municipality owns this land... or they’d have to buy it.”

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## COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

### Police board coming

The County of Haliburton’s new police detachment board has been approved by the province for an April 1 start.

CAO Gary Dyke reminded council Feb. 14 it will cover the entire County, and may have seven members, including one appointed member of County council, four appointed members of local municipal councils (likely mayors), one community member appointed by the County and lower-tier townships, and one provincial appointee.

Dyke said the board would have a say in selecting detachment commanders, determining the priorities and objectives of the detachment, including local action plans, and provide annual reports to townships.

He estimated annual operating costs of \$73,000, with the County taking those costs on for 2024.

Other board details have yet to be determined. Warden Liz Danielsen said she hoped those would come back to council’s Feb. 28 meeting. It will also go to the lower-tier municipalities for discussion.

### Making Glamorgan Road safer

The County will lower the speed limit on a section of County Road 3, also known as Glamorgan Road, for safety reasons.

Public works director, Sylvin Cloutier, said the move comes after a road safety study. “Recently, there have been an increasing number of collisions and a history of road safety concerns along this section of County Road 3 involving vehicles turning in and out of private entrances and public intersection,”

Cloutier said.

He added, “the noted collisions and road safety concerns were a combination of excessive speeds, site line visibility and reaction time to maneuver safely at the entrances and intersection. At these speeds, drivers are unable to react to vehicles entering or exiting the roadway.”

Council approved a speed reduction zone to 60 km/hr from 370 m south of Minnicock Lake Road to 2,385 m north of it.

“This reduced speed limit, if followed, will increase reaction time for motorists travelling along County Road 3 and assist motorists entering and exiting private driveways and public intersection safely,” Cloutier said. He added it will cost less than \$1,000 to post.

### New council chambers

Dyke said it’s his goal to have a new County council chambers in the former land registry office, across the street from the existing office at 11 Newcastle St., by Christmas 2024.

He made the comment after Cloutier said they had no bidders on work to renovate the building.

After Danielsen said “well, that’s disappointing,” Cloutier said he did not think it would result in a delay. He indicated they may go through a different procurement process to move forward.

Dyke said they are discussing different methodologies and think they have a solution. Staff will report back to council.

“Good news,” Danielsen said.

### Accessibility support

St. George’s Church in Haliburton asked, and received, a letter of support from County



The County of Haliburton’s new police detachment board should be online April. 1  
*Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

council for their application for an Ontario Trillium Foundation capital grant to complete work on making the lower level of the church fully accessible.

Church treasurer, Jenny Reiger, said they’d already installed a lift, but need to adjust a ramp, widen some doorways and create a wheelchair accessible washroom.

She added she hoped the letter “would note that Haliburton County has the oldest demographic in the province and very few community spaces that are wheelchair

accessible.

“Completing this project would allow the community access to a lovely and large room for events, programs, art and cultural activities.”

St. George’s is actively programming for seniors through exercise, cards, crafts, talks and music, however only one of the lower-level rooms is accessible, Reiger said.

*(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*

## OPP NEWS

### Traffic stop nabs suspect

Haliburton Highlands OPP say they arrested a wanted person during a routine traffic stop Feb. 15.

They added that it resulted in multiple weapon and drug-related charges.

Police say that shortly after 10 p.m., they,

along wth Kawartha Lakes OPP, stopped a vehicle in the Norland area.

“During the stop, it was determined that the vehicle passenger was wanted on outstanding warrants. Through investigation, numerous other offences were discovered,” they said.

As a result, a 44-year-old Minden

man was arrested and charged with: five counts of possession of a schedule I substance; one count of possession of a schedule III substance; 10 counts of possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order; two counts of unauthorized possession of weapon; possession of a credit card obtained by the

commission of an offence; possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000; five counts of possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking and possession of a schedule III substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The person was held for a bail hearing. *(OPP news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*

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#### SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Leave extra space when driving in icy conditions. Approach intersections slowly when they are covered with ice or snow. Watch out for black ice, a thin, nearly invisible coat of ice that can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement will look grey or white in the winter.

#### 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.

#### MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

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 Agnes Jamieson Gallery (176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden) until March 30, centre is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation

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#### SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - 2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will continue 2024 Budget and Business Plan Deliberations and will review follow-up items from the previous budget meeting discussions during its Special Meeting of Council scheduled for **March 5, 2024**. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

- Note a tentative date has been scheduled for an additional Special Meeting of Council to Adopt and Finalize the 2024 Budget on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024** at 9:00 AM.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining the **live-stream link, available on the township website** at [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/). We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. **Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the township website** at [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/).

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

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 29 – Regular Council Meeting
- March 5 – Special Meeting of Council
- March 14 – Regular Council Meeting
- March 28 – 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 <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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# Speed message boards slowing drivers

By Lisa Gervais

The verdict is in, says County director of public works, Sylvin Cloutier, with a six-year analysis finding speed radar message boards are working.

The County's been using the device – which displays speed to oncoming motorists in the hopes they'll slow down – since 2018.

Cloutier said they'd evolved, to display messages that can change based on the actual speed in relation to the posted limit. So, they'll turn red and tell drivers to slow down, or turn green and thank them for doing the limit. He added the latest models can collect speed and vehicle count data.

"This data can be analyzed to provide speed characteristics along road sections to identify strategic implementation of speed zones and time periods for selective speed enforcement," the director noted.

Cloutier said the County board had collected "a tremendous" amount of data at 34 locations in those six years.

"The locations tend to be near built-up areas, where residents have concerns of vehicle speeds. Residents have indicated they notice a change in driver behaviour when the (board) is in operation."

He said they used to keep the monitor in place for extended periods of time, but recently have been moving it every two weeks to ensure more widespread coverage.

He explained that when moved to a new location the unit is set up in stealth, or non

display, mode for a week. Speed data is recorded but not displayed. After one week, it's switched to display mode where it shows operating speeds to oncoming motorists. Speeds continue to be collected from vehicles travelling in the non-display direction.

To understand the impact, he said staff had analyzed all data collected from all locations since 2018.

It was found that displaying speed to motorists reduced overall speeds by up to 10 per cent on average. It was also found that speed was not affected for vehicles travelling in the non-display direction.

For example, he said the unit was used on CR 2/Devil's Lake area July 13-27. It is a 50 km/hr zone. In stealth mode, 87 per cent of drivers were found to be over the speed limit, averaging about 70 km/hr. When speed was displayed, 51 per cent of drivers were going too fast, averaging 65 km/hr.

He cited another example of CR648/the Wilberforce Road area. In stealth mode from Sept. 20-27, with a posted speed limit of 70 km/hr, 76 per cent of vehicles were speeding, averaging 89 km/hr. With the board on the next week, it dropped to 60 per cent of speeding vehicles, at about 86 km/hr.

He noted the speed data time stamps vehicle speeds allowing staff to identify peak periods of vehicle speeding. "Staff are working to provide this information to the local OPP detachment to help with selective speed enforcement," Cloutier said.

"Staff believe this program provides a



A speed message board in Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

positive impact resulting in safer driving conditions for all road users."

Coun. Cec Ryall asked if it made sense to have them set up permanently in one or two trouble spots. However, Cloutier responded that if left too long, they blend in and drivers don't pay attention. "In our experience, moving it around is very effective."

Coun. Bob Carter said they tested them in Minden and have budgeted to purchase more. He said it had made a noticeable difference

in people's speed, particularly around Archie Stouffer Elementary School, the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and along Water Street. "We think these are very effective."

Warden Liz Danielsen said Algonquin Highlands has two that have "really been quite successful."

She said Cloutier's report was "very helpful information" but "it does indicate that there's still a lot of people who don't pay any attention at all."

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sales representative**BOARD OF HEALTH NEWS**Highlands East, and County coun. Cec Ryall, sits on the HKPR district health board. *File.***Health Unit merger update**

At a Feb. 13 Highlands East council meeting, deputy mayor Cec Ryall, who is the County representative on the HKPR district health unit board, briefly spoke to the potential merger of HKPR with Peterborough Public Health.

During an HKPR board meeting, Feb. 15, board members, including Ryall, had an opportunity to meet via Zoom with Dr. Kieran Moore, chief medical officer of health for Ontario, and Liz Walker, executive lead, office of the medical officer of health, to ask about voluntary mergers of health units.

"There have been ongoing meetings all through January and February," Ryall said, referencing the Feb. 15, and an upcoming Feb. 22 meeting.

"At this point in time, it seems to be a favourable position," Ryall said of a potential merger. "There are a lot of questions related to how long it is going to take to do this if we were to proceed. There's an estimated price tag of around \$3.5 million. We have been told there's going to be substantial provincial assistance, but having said that, nothing has been put together.

"So, the next few meetings are going to see some critical information brought to us and hopefully we'll have an answer as to whether or not we'll pursue some sort of a merger by the end of February or mid-March," he said.

**School immunizations**

Dr. Natalie Bocking, chief medical officer of health for the HKPR district health unit, said that as of Feb. 15, only 36 students in Grade 3 or in high school did not have their immunization records up to date.

On Jan. 5, the health unit had reported 1,357 students in those grades as being non-compliant.

They were facing suspension as of Feb. 5, and Dr. Bocking said 442 students were deemed in contravention at that point.

But with getting that number down to 36, Dr. Bocking said, "I think this has been a tremendous amount of work among HKPR employees, amongst school boards, principals and parents and we're thankful to everybody that has participated."

She added the second round of enforcement, which is for all of the other elementary grades will be starting at the beginning of March, with a suspension date in May.

She said these grades tend to have fewer students who are not up-to-date since it is around Grade 3 that boosters are required.

Dr. Bocking said there are about 3,400 first notices that will go out in the beginning of March and they are anticipating the numbers to be lower than the initial 1,357.

(*Board of health news compiled by Lisa Gervais.*)

**Free income tax clinics in Haliburton County**

Experienced volunteers are ready to lend a helping hand this tax season for people in Haliburton County, the Central Food Network (CFN) says.

Locations in Wilberforce, Haliburton, and Minden will be hosting free weekly clinics.

CFN, a community agency that shares food and heat resources, is working in partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to host the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP).

The program provides free tax-filing assistance for low-income households to access the vital financial benefits for which they are eligible, CFN said.

Last tax filing season, CFN income tax volunteers unlocked \$216,565 in benefits through the tax clinics, which also makes these tax clinics an economic boost both to the region and to the households.

"It may seem like a simple thing, but helping someone complete their income tax return can unlock critical benefits such as the Canada Child Benefit (Baby Bonus),

GST/HST refunds, the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors, and more. Every dollar is crucial these days as we continue to see the cost of basic needs rise faster than incomes," says Lindsay Hobbs, income tax clinic coordinator with CFN.

She added, "helping people increase the amount of money coming in can reduce the need for households to access our other programs, while improving dignity."

Anyone interested in becoming a tax volunteer can visit [canada.ca/taxes-volunteer](http://canada.ca/taxes-volunteer), call CRA at 1-800-959-8281, or email [taxes@centralfoodnetwork.org](mailto:taxes@centralfoodnetwork.org). CVITP clinics are run by a friendly team of tax volunteers and welcome everyone with a modest income and simple tax situation. Community members are encouraged to reach out to Rachel at CFN to book an appointment. Clinics begin on Feb. 29 and run through April 25; alternate options are available for those who have limited mobility. Call or email: [rachel@centralfoodnetwork.org](mailto:rachel@centralfoodnetwork.org); 705-306-0565. (*Lisa Gervais.*)

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Andrea Brown is the new CAO of HCPL. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

# Brown 'destined' to head up Haliburton County library service

By Lisa Gervais

New Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) CAO Andrea Brown admits, that as a child, she would sneak into the bathroom of her Stoney Creek home to read when she was supposed to be in bed. She also read under the covers with a flashlight.

Her father was a teacher, and instilled in her a love of books, and learning. They went to the library a lot. She even checked out books that had been gifted to her from her own small personal library.

"I'd have little pieces of paper and I would check out books to myself, so I feel like it was destiny," she says of her chosen career.

She was born and raised in Stoney Creek, and after high school, headed to Trent University in Peterborough to do Canadian Studies and Environmental and Science Studies.

After her second year of university, she took some time off with Canada World Youth, doing an agricultural exchange on a dairy goat farm in Ontario and also travelling to Thailand. Awaiting the start of a new semester, she did community development work in Peterborough.

While not part of her Trent education, she says "it really seeded the roots of me wanting to build community and do something that really made communities great places to be for everyone."

In her last year, she worked in the inter-library loans office. She also fell in love and moved with her now husband to Montreal for 1.5 years.

They then moved west and Brown applied

to work at the Vancouver Public Library, getting a job in the children's library, "and found my people."

She started shelving books, and applied for library school at the University of British Columbia, getting her Master of Library and Information Studies.

While in B.C., Brown coordinated the creation of a provincially-funded \$50,000+ Reading Tree early literacy book project, which received accolades including a City of Vancouver staff innovation award.

She started working with HCPL in the fall of 2021 as deputy CEO/public services manager, around the same time then CAO Chris Stephenson joined. She said the two wanted to modernize the service. They rebranded, developed a new website, and got a delivery van. Brown is now working hard on the new Dorset branch.

She is passionate about children and literacy.

"I really want to get kids excited about using the library. We try to find all sorts of ways to bring them in."

For example, they have seed libraries to get kids interested in gardening. They've had bookmark-making contests. Brown is also keen about community partnerships, such as with EarlyON, for literacy kits, and with Pinnguaq for free kits for kids to learn science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. They open the library for the Central Food Network in Cardiff for their annual Christmas toy distribution.

She said COVID kept people away, but they have restarted programming such as family

story time, boast a great children's section, and offer free Lego and crafts "so we try to make it as fun and accessible as possible."

She added it's also about bringing not just kids, but adults and seniors together and keeping them connected.

She said she is proud of the work they have done so far, and had a hand in the new strategic plan.

"I really want the library to be a place where we learn to be a resilient community together. Growing our own food, sharing skills. We've had some great workshops in Highlands East about beeswax candle making, DIY birdfeeders. The world is changing and the library has always been a place for learning, where we share information and stories, and that hasn't changed for hundreds of years."

Brown said she loves living in the County, and while a big change from Vancouver, "I love being in the water, canoeing, paddleboarding. I can look out my windows and there are trees. I can have a campfire in the yard. I've got a chicken coop. There's space for two German Shepherds."

Her grandparents and their siblings had four cottages on Skeleton Lake in the Township of Muskoka Lakes so her new surroundings are familiar. "I've always wanted to come back to the cottage and this area. My heart sings."

Library board chair, David O'Brien, said the board and library staff "are excited to welcome Andrea into her new role and look forward to the continued success and growth of HCPL under her leadership."

A MESSAGE FROM



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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

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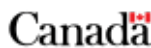
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## Out-of-box ideas for Frost

A little over three years ago, like many Highlanders, I was excited to learn that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) had purchased the Frost Centre.

The welcome news came amid COVID-19.

Then union president, Warren (Smokey) Thomas, heralded the purchase in a Jan. 8, 2021 media release as setting up the historic Frost Centre “for new life and a major lift.” It was to be a members’ resource and training centre.

The site had been vacant for years, and, not surprisingly, deteriorating at an alarming rate.

At the time, union first vice-president Eduardo (Eddy) Almeida said preserving the integrity of the site was of the utmost importance.

The hyperbole of the day was thick. Almeida said they had a “duty” to preserve the property’s integrity, and were looking forward to working with Highlands’ community partners to reinvigorate the Frost.

Thomas retired, and Almeida was ousted in March 2022 union executive elections. Then, lawsuits began flying out OPSEU’s doors.

Since then, OPSEU hasn’t spoken with us much. They said they’d put together a project team to consider options for the Frost. They would not comment further, thanking us in

advance for understanding.

Pressed by *The Highlander*, they said back in Feb. 2023, they’d have more information to share at a later date. They never did. Thanks to a source, we received news of the listing last week.

Meanwhile, we have also been told by the lawyer representing a Muskoka-based contractor hired to do work at the site - who sued the union for back pay and damages - that the claim had been settled. OPSEU had filed a defence and counter-claim. No further details are forthcoming.

Just as Barrie Martin, Carol Moffatt and Liz Danielsen express disappointment in the potential sale in today’s edition, we share their sentiment.

And, like them, we wonder what will happen to the property.

Based on pre-sale reports sent to OPSEU, the site does have challenges. For example, Algonquin Highlands successfully negotiated easements for the trails on St. Nora Lake and for the boat launch. There are also heritage designations on some of the buildings.

At present, the door appears open to limited residential development.

Some are encouraging Martin to rally the troops once again, to put the centre into local

hands. However, while \$3.5 million is not ridiculous for this prime piece of real estate and its buildings, it does not take into account the millions that will be required to restore aforementioned buildings and ensure wells and septic are functioning.

This is going to require very deep pockets, indeed.

Of course, with the provincial and federal governments both pontificating about the need for housing – and namely affordable housing – perhaps it is time for MP Jamie Schmale and MPP Laurie Scott to stop wringing their hands over the future of the Frost and begin some real dialogue as to how this site might be converted to housing – while still respecting easements and heritage. This could be a win-win for all of us.

However, it is going to take the type of ‘out of the box’ thinking that Scott and Schmale are not exactly known for. They’ll revert to all the reasons it can’t be done, rather than finding reasons for why and how.



By Lisa Gervais

NATURE’S CALLING  
Is winter back?

Well, this weather lately is abnormal. However, it looks like winter is back. There is still lots of winter left, meaning time for winter activities such as snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and one of my favorite winter activities, ice fishing.

I will be back out ice fishing several times before the end of the season. This year, we have a girl’s ice fishing weekend planned for March, the first time we are all getting together on the ice. A reminder that all huts will be off the ice by March 15 in lakes surrounding Zones 17-20 and ice huts north of Highway 16 by March 31. Make sure you know what zone you are in.

This year, I challenged myself to learn two new things a month. In January, I learned to knit a dishcloth like my grandmother used to make, and I also learned to make bagels. This month, I am learning to make my granddaughter’s knitted scarves and make butter. Giving yourself some challenges is good, and learning new things is great.

I’m thinking of March to learn to make my own mayo and to crochet. Eventually, I would love to be able to knit slippers and socks. Of course, these are indoor challenges, but I still need outdoor challenges; I am going to try to forage mushrooms this year and make some teas using different tree needles and saps. Did you know dandelions make excellent healing salve? Also, you can use cattails to filter water. Nature has many things to offer us if we learn how to use them.

With March right around the corner, it is time that I start thinking of what we will be planting in our vegetable garden this year so we can get seeds started in the greenhouse and begin to prep for maple syrup making. I don’t make the syrup, but I help with it. However, my other half, Traviss, is talented at making it. He makes the best maple syrup I have ever tasted. I remember when we were kids, we went on a school trip to the sugar shack; they poured hot syrup on the snow to

make taffy. It was so good; I can’t wait to do the same for our grandkids. We love getting our grandchildren involved in everything we do, teaching them young, getting them outdoors and off the electronics. They enjoy coming to Poppa and Meeme’s house and learning all new and exciting things.

This year, two of the three grandkids will be old enough to help plant the seeds for the garden. They each get to pick something to grow on top of what we plant. It is a good learning activity for them, and they can feel helpful being able to help bring food into the house.

This year has been moving fast, and there are many things to get out and do. I can’t wait to have you all involved in my exciting adventures this year. Remember to get outdoors and enjoy nature.



By Toni Cooper

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO  
OF THE WEEK

Email your photos to  
editor@thehighlander.ca



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Brenda-Lee Cunningham of Algonquin Highlands sent in this photo of a “black and white world, waiting for the colours of Spring.”

Highlander up for six awards

*The Highlander* has been nominated for six Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) awards for 2022-2023.

The paper is up for general excellence in the class four, circulation 6,500 to 12,499 category.

Under the premier awards category, the *Highlander* is nominated for arts and entertainment; best editorial page/section; Environment Ontario award (Lisa Gervais and Tania Moher); health and wellness (Gervais) and twice for best online experience; for the County Election podcast, ‘What are we doing?’ and ‘Dorset: forest firefighting mini documentary’.

The awards are presented in April. (Lisa Gervais).

Read the complete paper online each week.  
Sign up at  
TheHighlander.ca

LETTERS

Holes in ice

Dear editor,

This is an essential message for our cottagers and users of the lakes.

This is just to inform you of the law regarding cutting holes in the ice or having a bubbler for your dock or boathouse, as it is an offence under the Criminal Code not to mark an opening in the ice (Duty to safeguard opening in ice Sec263(1)).

Some will say it is only a tiny hole for ice fishing, but if someone walks and steps in, they could hurt themselves, maybe break a leg. Also, the hole could get bigger. So, for our safety, please mark your opening in the ice.

Charles Gerditschke  
Moore Lake

What do elected officials have to say?

Dear editor,

Kudos to Lisa Gervais for going the extra mile to report on the valuable bus service from Haliburton to Toronto and points in between (‘One line ends, another begins’).

Good to hear that Entertainment Tour

Travel Inc. is starting a new service after the TOK Coachlines service ceased.

Lisa’s interviews with the driver and passengers on the final TOK bus trip illustrate the importance of the service for people of all ages and needs.

Not everyone owns or drives a vehicle. I do, but over the years I’ve taken the bus a few times between Toronto and Minden, as have my daughter and some other family members. It’s a convenient and safe way to travel. You can read, chat or nap without having to concentrate on the road. Yes, the trip takes longer but an added bonus is seeing some of the Ontario towns, scenery and stops along the way.

I would be interested to hear the views of our elected officials on this issue. Bus service to Haliburton and Minden should be part of an integrated transit plan.

Yes: STRs are a huge, very profitable business that is not currently regulated; zoning matters - residential means residential; STR business owners must pay the bill for proper oversight and STRs are a major issue being addressed globally.

We can learn from many others’ experiences.

This has been studied enough. Time to move forward. Now.

The political leaders owe it to the residents and taxpayers who elected them to protect their interests to fulfil their mandate.

Martin Risk  
Haliburton County

Not okay to trivialize issue

Dear editor,

Re: Jan 15, 2024 ‘STR sky will not fall’

I understand the editorial page is for opinions, but is it appropriate to caricature citizens with legitimate concerns as overreacting like Chicken Little?

Is it okay to trivialize the idea that a new bylaw could force a family to sell their cottage, as if it were an acceptable outcome? These are real people in our community. Encouraging understanding and dialogue,

rather than telling people to “suck it up,” could lead to more respectful discussions.

As a responsible cottage renter, I am in favour of a fair and balanced STR bylaw, and in fact, I agree with many of your points. I want to protect my lake. There’s nothing wrong with making sure STRs are safe. I concur a licensing fee is appropriate, and, in fact, a Municipal Accommodation Tax could be a net revenue generator for the municipalities.

The criticism of the draft bylaw arises due to the lack of a call for public input, its adversarial approach, its complexity and overreach. Sections of the bylaw inappropriately discriminate against STR owners, some requirements overstep the authority of the municipalities, and there are regulations that do not exist in any other town. For example, only Haliburton proposes a demerit point system in which the points never expire.

If the STR bylaw were as simple as the editorial suggests, I’d fully support it. But it’s far from simple. There remain important questions that deserve answers.

One moral of the Chicken Little tale is not to be alarmist. Another is to not act without sufficient evidence.

Bryan Stewart  
Dysart et al

Move forward on STR bylaw

Dear editor,

I believe Lisa Gervais captured the situation perfectly in her Feb. 15 editorial ‘STR sky will not fall.’



# Free group 'lifeline in new motherhood'

By Lisa Gervais

Days before having her now 16-month-old daughter, Steffani Russell gifted herself a birthday membership to an Orillia post-partum support group.

"That was my lifeline in new motherhood," Russell shares. Although she and her partner already had two children from his previous marriage, it was her first time having a baby. "I was looking for a village... a group of people who were in it with me or who already had experience," she said.

Moving to Gooderham from Orillia last June, when her daughter was still just eight months old, Russell said she's met many moms who want to connect but are lacking the space to do so, specifically moms in the newborn, first-year, phase of parenthood.

Having worked in children's mental health and wellness for 10 years, Russell said she knows post-partum can be unpredictable. Some women suffer from post-partum depression. "Having a support system is huge because you really don't know how it is going to be for you," she said.

She started researching resources before their family move "and it was tough to find." She did connect with EarlyON and found the program to be "excellent" but still encountered new moms "starving for connection with others."

Chatting with the new moms, she had some answers to their questions thanks to her Orillia post-partum support group.

The light went on.

She connected with the Wellness Hub in Haliburton and they "generously donated their space" to run a group for six weeks starting Feb. 27. It will be free for attendees.

Russell will talk the first week, and other speakers to follow over coming weeks include a social worker from Point in Time, on mental health and wellness, a nutritionist, a pelvic floor physiotherapist, and a sleep consultant.

Russell thinks the support group is important for moms, particularly at a time when people are dealing with post-COVID and the high cost of living.

"Being a mother, in itself, is a new frontier. On top of that, we have a lot of financial barriers. In our area, a lack of community support means you can be on a waitlist, or have to travel far for free support, or are paying a premium for quick, local help."

She noted the program is free to participants, thanks to the wellness hub and speaker donations.

As for logistics, she said while people are being asked to register, it is not mandatory they attend all six sessions if something comes up; they can bring other children but must care for them; they are breast-feeding friendly and moms can bring snacks if needed. She added someone does not have to be experiencing depression to come. It is about connecting.

"Moms don't put themselves first... it's not our time to put ourselves first, but there's still



Steffani Russell is offering a free post-partum support group at the Wellness Hub in Haliburton. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

that element of needing self care. We're lifted up by connecting with others and supporting others. Even if we're not struggling ourselves, we can all relate to a time that we were struggling and even just having an opportunity to give your experience or share your story can be empowering for you and the people that are in group with you.

"In those early months for me, the support

group was a reason to get myself dressed, because I was getting my baby dressed, but I wasn't necessarily getting myself ready every day, and I had a place to go.

"We are so excited to have a space to support local moms and connect them with their community."

The registration is through Russell's business website: [cordandcrystal.ca](http://cordandcrystal.ca).

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Upstaging Valentine's

Love was in the air in Haliburton Feb. 16 as theatre troupe Ctrl-ART-Del brought its *A Valentine's Cabaret* variety show to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The two-hour production featured eight short plays, starring a host of Highlands-based talent. It was a fundraiser for a pair of feature productions the Ctrl-ART-Del crew will be bringing to life later this year.

Above: Rita and John Jackson had the audience in stitches during *We Interrupt This Program*. Top right: Sadie Evans-Fockler as Juliet in *Rmeo + Julez*. Right: Lindsay Jowett and Myia Hampton do improv. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



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Dancing on ice

The Haliburton County Huskies partnered with Minden Hills for a Family Day community skate at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Feb. 19. Players joined around 50 skaters on the ice for an hour, with head coach and general manager, Ryan Ramsay, saying it was a great way for players to connect with fans.

Above: The Haliburton County Huskies pose for a photo with some young fans. Right: Huskies defenceman Matt Milic races with a young fan. *Photos by Mike Baker.*





**County of Haliburton**  
**2024 Budget Deliberations**

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be holding further discussions on the 2024 budget at a special meeting of Council on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the County Council Chambers at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON. The agenda for the above noted meeting date can be viewed online at <http://haliburton.civicweb.net>

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# Huskies close in on playoff berth

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies took another step towards post-season qualification over the Family Day long weekend, earning three points to keep their playoff hopes alive.

The blue and white turned heads with a 6-4 road win Feb. 17 over the Trenton Golden Hawks – the top team in the East conference – before dropping a heartbreaker 3-2 to the Lindsay Muskies in double overtime on home ice Feb. 19. The results see the Huskies tread water in seventh place – five points clear of the Stouffville Spirit and Muskies – with four games to play. The top eight teams from each conference will qualify for playoffs.

Head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay has called on his team to finish the regular season in style, noting four wins could see the Huskies earn home ice advantage if other results go their way. Just five points separate the hometown team from the second placed Wellington Dukes.

“We just have to stay focused and play our game. Try not to look too far ahead. We have four games to go and just need to leave everything on the table,” Ramsay said. “We’ve got some games we should win, obviously we can’t take those teams lightly. We need to stick to our systems and believe that will be enough.”

Emotions were running high inside S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Monday as the Huskies honoured its graduating stars. Captain Patrick Saini, alternates Lucas Stevenson and Jack Staniland, and fellow stalwarts Lucas Marshall, Matt Milic, and Aidan Yarde were greeted at centre ice by their families in a special pre-game ceremony.

Saini has spent five years with the organization, dating back to its days as the Whitby Fury, while Stevenson, Staniland, and Marshall have played all three seasons in the Highlands. Yarde joined the team last fall, making 46 appearances this season, with Milic, a trade deadline acquisition from the

Burlington Cougars, dressing in 13 games.

“It’s an emotional time for everyone seeing these guys’ time come to an end... they’ve all been tremendous characters, great personalities. I can’t say enough about the guys like Saini, Stevenson, Marshall and Staniland who have been here with us all three years and wanted to play here. They’ll hold a place with me, [team owner] Paul [Wilson], this organization, and this community forever,” Ramsay said.

## Lindsay 3 Huskies 2

It was another slow start on home ice for the blue and white, who found themselves behind after just 79 seconds, Brandon Nye finding space in front of the net and burying one past Huskies netminder Brett Fullerton.

The visitors almost added a second in what was a ferocious start, but Fullerton recovered well, making smart stops to deny Ethan Wright and Dawson Hettiarachchi.

Saini tied the game at 4:47, picking up a loose puck by the blueline, skating between two Muskies defencemen and then lifting one over goaltender Ethan Fraser to send the crowd wild.

The two goalies took turns bailing their team out through the remainder of the first and the entirety of the second, with Fullerton making several highlight reel saves during a lengthy Huskies penalty kill in the middle frame. The home goalie also denied Owen Fitzgerald on a penalty shot, after he was brought down on a Muskies breakaway.

There was an explosion of noise as Ty Petrou broke the deadlock 3:48 into the final period, a powerplay marker assisted by Saini and Lucas Vacca. That held up until the final minute, when Fitzgerald made amends for his earlier miss by sliding the puck past a helpless Fullerton on a six-on-four man advantage.

Saini spurned a golden opportunity to end the game in the second overtime period but couldn’t make a clean connection with the goal gaping. Hettiarachchi made him pay



Forward Charlie Fink battles for position in front of the net on a Huskies powerplay.

Photos by Mike Baker.

minutes later, pouncing on an Ethan Walker rebound to end the game.

“We played pretty well – had a slow start, their urgency was a little more than ours in the first 20 minutes, but we got better. We missed a couple empty nets, on a different day we probably win in regulation, but coming away with a point is good. It all matters at this stage of the season,” Ramsay said.

## Huskies 6 Trenton 4

The Huskies recorded its third win of the season over the Trenton Golden Hawks Saturday, inspired by Saini who had a three-point night.

The Golden Hawks got on the board early in the first, Gianni DiVita beating rookie netminder Logan Kennedy four minutes in. Ian Phillips tied things at 6:26, assisted by Zach Wilson and Vacca, with Yarde getting the go-ahead goal after 13 minutes, assisted

by Noah Lodoen and Antonio Cerqua. Thomas Kuipers tied things at two late in the period.

The home side kept pushing early in the second and found the breakthrough just three minutes in, Caleb Van de Ven scoring on the powerplay after Tyson Rismond took a hooking penalty. Ryan Cutler extended the lead at 10:37.

The blue and white weren’t to be denied, though – Saini brought them within one at 12:56, assisted by Alex Bradshaw and Vacca, before Fink tickled the twine at 16:33, assisted by Cerqua and Milic. Saini got the eventual game-winner with six seconds left in the period, a powerplay marker assisted by Stevenson and Petrou.

Bradshaw potted the lone tally in the third, assisted by Vacca and Saini, to add some gloss to the scoreline.

The Huskies are back at home Feb. 24 when they host the Caledon Admirals. Puck drop is 4 p.m.

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Top: Patrick Saini beats Lindsay Muskies goaltender Ethan Fraser for the Huskies first goal in a 3-2 double overtime loss Feb. 19. Middle: Noah Lodoen fakes out a Muskies defenceman after flicking the puck behind the boards. Above: Graduating forward Aidan Yarde pictured with his mom and brother pre-game. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Aiden Perrott breaks away from a pack. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

# U18 Rep headed to playoffs

The Highland Storm U18 REP Tom Prentice and Sons team played Feb. 16 in a playoff round robin against the Brock Wild.

The first period was filled with many scoring chances and fast-paced action but the game remained scoreless.

Half way through the second period, the Storm found themselves down 3-0.

Cooper Coles opened the scoring for the Storm with four minutes left in the second.

Less than one minute later, Brechin Johnston scored to cut the lead to 3-2.

Coles scored again to tie the game before heading into the third.

Brock scored early in the third to take the lead.

The U18s worked hard throughout the third and were rewarded as Avery Degeer scored on the power play to tie the game 4-4.

The Storm continued to pressure the puck and with two minutes left in the game, Aiden Perrott intercepted the puck and scored to win the game 5-4. Great game and best of luck in the playoffs. *(Submitted).*

## STARS of the WEEK



### Avery Degeer

Avery showcased both his defensive and offensive skills on Friday. He played strong defence all game and scored the fourth goal. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*



### Cooper Coles

Cooper's scoring capabilities were on full display during the 5-4 win. He scored two crucial goals to swing the momentum back in the Storm's favour.



### Aiden Perrott

Aiden played an aggressive game by using his speed to break up plays and get in on the forecheck. It paid off as he scored the game-winning goal.

SCOREBOARD

Feb. 12

U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS Apsley • 4-4 T

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Mariposa • 5-3 W

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Kawartha • 0-4 L

Feb. 16

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Brock • 5-4 W

Feb. 17

U9 Haliburton Hockey Haven VS Almaguin • 4-6 L

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## Family Day fun

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre was the place to be on Family Day Feb. 19. The Agnes Jamieson Gallery was open all day to showcase Archie Stouffer Elementary School's first-annual student art exhibition, Manny Medeiros was on hand inside the Welch Room to make balloon animals for children, while Minden Rotary served complimentary hot dogs and chili. There was a play area set up for kids at Nature's Place, while volunteers from the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library held a book sale.

Top left: Sue Sisson, Minden Hills councillor Shirley Johannessen, and Pat Brezina show off some of the books available at a Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library book sale. Top right: Minden Rotary representatives Scott Baker, Cheryl Ripley, John Kerr, Dave Woodcroft, Betty Mark and Phylis Baker served chili and hot dogs throughout the afternoon. Above: Jamie and Kenzie Merritt enjoyed checking out the student art exhibit with children Joey, six, and Arden, four. Right: Alyssa Gordon brought her children Tavish, seven, Magnus, five, and Lennox, one, for an afternoon of fun, which included balloon animals from Manny Medeiros, also pictured. *Photos by Mike Baker.*



### Board Member Recruitment for 2024/2025

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care at the Haliburton site), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at [www.hhhs.ca](http://www.hhhs.ca).

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

**How to be Considered**  
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Recruitment" in the subject line to [mhenry@hhhs.ca](mailto:mhenry@hhhs.ca) by **March 1, 2024**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: [www.hhhs.ca/about/board](http://www.hhhs.ca/about/board)

**Inquiries can be directed to:**  
Email: [mhenry@hhhs.ca](mailto:mhenry@hhhs.ca)  
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### Dorset winter wonderland

Winter made its way to Dorset Feb. 16 and 17 in time for the Snowball Festival. It was a cold and snowy weekend as the hamlet hosted thousands from around the community. The ice rink was in fine form and families celebrated the weekend by watching a parade, playing games, and taking in various demonstrations, such as the 'Great Canadian Lumber Jack Show', wildlife caller Steve Morrin, and rock band Junkyard Symphony.

Top: Dignitaries cut the ribbon to open the festival. From left to right: MPP Laurie Scott, AH councillors Sabrina Richards and Lisa Barry, Mayor Liz Daniels, and, far right, MP Jamie Schmale. Coun. Julia Shortreed was also in attendance. Middle: Wildlife caller Steve Morrin. Above: Jacob Outram chainsaw carves a rabbit. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



EVENTS

**Feb. 22, 2:30 p.m.**  
Cribbage, euchre and other card games at St. George's Anglican Church, located at 617 Mountain St. in Haliburton. All are welcome. This event is supported by funds from the Ontario government. For more information, contact [lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca](mailto:lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca).

**Feb. 23, 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.**  
Ladies Day at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride, featuring live entertainment with DJ Chris Evans, lip sync battle, ski race, themed party, prizes, meals, games, beverage service and more. For more information, visit [sirsams.ca](http://sirsams.ca). Tickets are required.

**Feb. 24, all day.**  
West Guilford Snow Shuffle snowmobiling event. Registration opens at 9 a.m. at the West Guilford Community Centre. Cost is \$50, with lunch included. There is a dinner and dance beginning at 6:30 p.m., which costs an additional \$20. Don't wait, get your tickets soon, we're expecting another sold out event. Tickets available at West Guilford Shopping Centre and West G Auto.

**Feb. 24, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
Dorset Poker Run, hosted by Tall Pines Snowmobile Club and the Dorset Volunteer Firefighters' Association. Includes BBQ hamburgers/sausage and a drink, with \$1,000 grand prize. Cost is \$50 per rider, with one additional hand available for an extra \$20. The run will start at the Dorset Fire Hall and loop around other checkpoints, including Crozier Lake, Trout Spawn and Bear lakes, Mountain Trout House Marina, and the Raven Lake Landing.

**Feb. 24, 6 to 10:30 p.m.**  
Salsa Night in Haliburton. Marta Elena Perez and her six-piece Cuban Orchestra from Toronto's Lulu Lounge will be at Castle Antiques for the evening. Dancers Dailyn Martinez and Enrico Casertano will show off their Salsa moves before the band hits the stage. Refreshments provided by Poquito Loco. Hosted by Dance Happens Here Haliburton. Tickets available online at [eventbrite.ca/e/salsa-night-in-haliburton-tickets](http://eventbrite.ca/e/salsa-night-in-haliburton-tickets).

**Feb. 27, 1 p.m.**  
Creative Collaborations craft group. Share your skills, learn new skills, bring your own project or work on the featured project. Taking place at St. George's Anglican Church. Beginners welcome. For more information, contact [lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca](mailto:lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca).

**March 1, 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).

**March 5, 1 p.m.**  
Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside St.). Guest speaker Tanya Smith will be reviewing pruning. This will be followed by the monthly society meeting. The associated Youth Garden Club, for children in Grade 2 and higher, will follow the meeting, running from 4 to 5 p.m.

**March 22, 7 p.m.**  
The sixth annual Sleeping in Cars event is coming to Head Lake Park. Hosted by local non-profit Places for People, this fundraiser supports affordable housing developments in the community. Sleep in your car, truck, on a couch or tent. Includes a light breakfast. Pre-registration is required, with a minimum \$50 pledge per vehicle. For more information, visit [placesforpeople.ca](http://placesforpeople.ca).

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

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities**  
**Mondays:** Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Rm.  
**Tuesdays:** League darts 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.  
**Wednesdays:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Scottish country dancing throughout February, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the main hall. Everyone is welcome. Contact Jim at 705-457-6962. Bingo is returning March 6. The jackpot on the first week of the month is \$1,000, with every other week at \$500.  
**Thursdays:** General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.  
**Fridays:** Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.  
**Saturdays:** 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email [haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com](mailto:haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com) or visit [haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals](http://haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals). Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129... everyone is welcome!

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Cobocnuk**  
**Second Monday of the month:** General meeting - 7:30 p.m. No meetings in 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.

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce**  
**Feb. 22:** HHHS Social from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Feb. 23:** Open 2 to 9 p.m. Fish and chips 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Feb. 24:** Open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.  
**Feb. 25-27:** Closed  
**Feb. 28:** 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.

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Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.  
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.



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NOTICE

2024 SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216, the County of Haliburton enforces reduced load restrictions on trucks to protect the County roadways during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

Restriction on permits issued under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216:

As outlined in the Highway Traffic Act and County of Haliburton By-Law #2216, reduced loading may be in effect in the County of Haliburton as early as 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2024.

The actual date of reduced load limit enforcement will be in effect when and where signs are posted. All annual and project permits for moving of heavy vehicle loads, objects or structures, in excess of limits set out in the Act and the By-Law, unless otherwise specified, are not valid on any County Roads during the Reduced Loads Period.

**Reduced load limits will be in effect where and when signs are posted.**

**WHEN SIGNS ARE POSTED, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL HAVE A REDUCED LOAD LIMIT FOR THEIR ENTIRE LENGTH:**

**County Roads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 48, 507 & 648-with the exception from CR 10 west to HWY 118.**

On and after **March 1st**, check the County of Haliburton website [www.haliburtoncounty.ca](http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca) under "Notices" to see when reduced load limits are in effect and when they are lifted.



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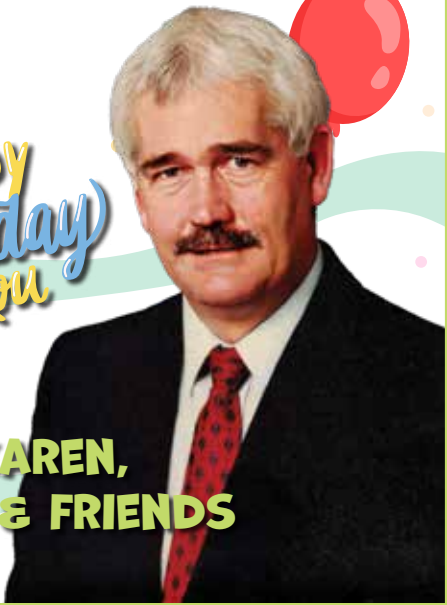


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THANK YOU



I wish to thank the many well wishers upon my retirement from the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

Whether in person or in messages, I am honoured by your kindness.


A special thanks to the Municipality of Dysart staff for the surprise farewell party & gifts.

Thanks, as well, to Canoe Radio, The Highlander & The Haliburton County Echo for their interviews.

Most of all, a sincere thanks to the people of Haliburton. You are a wonderful community. My interest in local history remains.

Thank you to everybody.  
Stephen Hill

OBITUARIES




*In Loving Memory of*  
**Douglas Hugh Cameron**


Passed away peacefully at Fenelon Court, Fenelon Falls on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the age of 89.

Beloved husband of the late Noreen (nee Bewell). Dear father of Glen, Karen and her husband Riley. Loving grandfather of Shane (Patricia), Alex and great grandchildren. Dear brother of Paul and his wife Barbara. Dear friend of Pat Marshall. Fondly remembered by nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday February 24th, 2024 from 11:00am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Doug's Life at 1:00pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home.

Memorial Donations to the Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary would be appreciated by the family.






*In Loving Memory of*  
**Nancy Farrell**

Passed away at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Thursday, February 15, 2024 with her family at her side, at the age of 78.

Beloved wife of the late Wayne Farrell. Dear mother of Tracy (Jeff) Howe and Doug Farrell. Loving grandma of Brittany (Ian), Jordan (Bailey), Calvin, Riley, Denton and great grandma to Cash and Rhys. Dear sister of Carole Robinson and predeceased by her parents Helen and Alvin. Fondly remembered by her niece Sherri.

A Private Family Interment will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society and the Alzheimer's Society 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.





*In Loving Memory of*  
**Eleanor Marjorie (Goudie) Bunker**  
(Sept 18, 1927 - Feb 15, 2024)

Eleanor was born at Stouffville, Ontario to Fletcher Goudie and Ina Mertens. She is predeceased by her parents and all her siblings: Ivan (Doreen), Helen Davis (Don) and Donald "Sam" (Glenna). In 1944 her family moved 3 miles east of Stouffville to Altona where she met Mervyn Bunker (deceased 2016). They were married April 17, 1948. Eleanor is survived by her children Tom (Josie), Lynda Williams (Gary), Patricia Elson and Christopher (Ava), ten grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and two great great grandsons.


Eleanor was busy with her family and Women's Institute at Altona. Mervyn, Eleanor and the two youngest children moved just north of Minden in 1976 where she was active in sewing circle and quilting. She and Mervyn were partners in creating "Bunker's Hill" antiques and miniature village.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Thursday, February 22, 2024 from 2-4 pm.

Then to the O'Neill Funeral Home 6324 Main St., Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1G9 for visiting on Friday, February 23, 2024 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Eleanor's Life at 12:00 o'clock noon. Interment to follow at Altona Mennonite Cemetery, Stouffville.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.







*In Loving Memory of*  
**Nicholas "Nick" Semenuk**  
(Resident of Minden, Ontario)

It's with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Nicolas Vincent Semenuk. Son of Nick Sr. and Anne. Brother to Terry, June, and Mark. Having to unfortunately return from the West Coast to aid in the care of his ailing parents, he eventually chose the Haliburton Highlands to settle and grow roots. Attempting to leave as little a mark as possible on the world, his days were spent enjoying the daily visits from the local deer and bending one of his numerous fishing rods in the local waters. Unfortunately, after a short hard-fought battle, he peacefully succumb to the cancer in the morning hours of the 5th of February 2024. Heartfelt gratitude goes out to the staff at Haliburton Highlands Hospital whose tremendous care eased his mind in his final days. At his request there will be no public service. Thanks for the good times and for allowing us to get to know you, already missing our fishing buddy.

**Private Funeral Arrangements**

Funeral arrangements are private. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association - Fish Hatchery and The Candian Cancer 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 Loving Memory of*  
**Robert Ernest Hockley**

Who passed away peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Monday, February 5, 2024 surrounded by his family, at the age of 74.

Beloved best friend and Husband of Margaret for 45 years, loving Father of Robert, Sandra (Rob) and Shelly, Scott (Mia) and Stephen, Grandfather to 5 grandchildren.

Lovingly remembered by his family and friends. Missed by Daisy and Chili.

A gathering to celebrate Bob's life will be held at a later date.

Cremation has taken place.

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### 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.

HCHC is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge experience and / or interest in any of the following areas:

- Operations / Maintenance
- Finance / Legal
- Construction / Engineering
- Affordable Housing/ Participating in a community board

If you would like to consider applying for this volunteer position we would like to hear from you by March 1, 2024. Please contact Laurie Johnson 705-457-9119 or [manager@haliburtonhousing.com](mailto:manager@haliburtonhousing.com)



The Municipality of Highlands East Is Currently Seeking A  
**Full-Time, Administrative Assistant**  
Administration Department  
Rate of Pay - \$26.35

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at [www.highlandseast.ca](http://www.highlandseast.ca)

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications clearly marked "Application -Administrative Assistant" may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., March 8th, 2024, via mail, in person, fax 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.

Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

## LOOKING FOR WORK

CONSTRUCTION WORKER looking for work. Familiar with all aspects of construction. Mason by trade. Available for weekends or rainy days. Call Shannon 306-317-7073

## COMING EVENTS

Bracebridge Gun & Hunting Show, Sunday, May 19, 8 am - 1 pm. Bracebridge Fair Grounds, J.D. Lang Activity Park, 330 Fraserburg Rd, Bracebridge, ON. Admission \$6.00, tables available \$25.00 per 8 foot table. For more info please contact Jeff @ 905-623-1778.



## NOW HIRING!

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Learn more at:

[wanakita@ymcahb.ca](mailto:wanakita@ymcahb.ca)

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## FOR RENT

RENTAL - January to May, 2024. One bedroom, shared common areas, kitchen and washroom. Parking and utilities included, close to all amenities in village. \$800.00 / month. Call or text 647-924-1866

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

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom cottage on Lake Kashagawigamog, 3 kms from Haliburton. \$2,000/month all inclusive. Pets are negotiable. Call 705-457-0294

FOR RENT - 1 bedroom shared accommodation, large bath, kitchen, living space & dining area. Hot tub, water access & shared laundry. 5 min. to Minden. \$800/month, first & last. Mature working individual. References required. Call 705-455-2050

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT 160 Highland Street, Haliburton. 1500 sq ft available April 1, 2024 Measton3@rogers.com or call 705-457-8868

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, Various sizes. Call (705) 457-1224

## SERVICE

NEED A HANDYMAN, Odd jobs, honest & conscientious worker. Experienced in construction. Yard work. Call Mr. S.A.W. at 705-854-1326 or 705-341-8291

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Tandem Trailer 6 ft X 12 ft. \$700. Call Gord at 705-457-0878

FOR SALE - Dry wood for sale, \$175 a face cord. Please call Ray 705-457-3283

## WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

## SOLUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 22

1	R	E	D		4	A	S	B	I	G		9	O	P	E	N	13	A	
14	E	V	E		15	N	E	A	T	O		16	P	I	V	O	T		
17	S	A	C	K	18	D	R	E	S	S		19	E	X	I	S			
20	I	D	R	I	S				21	S	O	22	U	R	A	L	E		
23	S	E	E	D		24	R	O	F	G	A	R	D	E	N		26	N	
27	T	R	E	N		28	D	E	D		29	T	O	T		30	O	U	T
					31	A	O	N	E	S		33	I	T	E	M	S		
				35	S	P	O	T	R	E	M	37	O	V	E	R			
38	S	39	P	A	S	M			40	T	E	W	E	S					
41	U	R	N		42	S	43	A	M		45	I	N	S	T	E	47	A	D
49	D	E	C	50	K	C	H	A	51	I	R	S		52	I	N	R	E	
		53	S	T	A	R	L	I	T			54	A	E	R	I	E		
55	C	A	I	R	O				56	T	O	57	W	N	C	R	I	E	R
59	A	G	O	A	L				60	A	L	K	I	E		61	C	L	E
62	Y	E	N	T	L				63	I	D	S	A	Y		64	O	S	S

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	U	H	A	U	L		6	B	O	A	T	S		11	I	H	N		
14	M	E	R	L	E		15	R	U	B	U	P		16	N	O	N		
17	L	I	O	N	S		18	G	A	T	E	B	R	19	I	D	G	E	
20	A	G	U	A		21	R	U	T			22	A	F	E	W			
23	U	H	S		24	F	I	N	A	L	L	Y	S	N	A	P			
28	T	H	E	M	R	S			30	T	I	S		31	T	S	O		
32	S	O	R	T	A		33	E	D	G	E		35	I	S	H	E		
			36	N	U	M	E	R	O	U	N	O							
39	V	C	R	S		42	O	N	T	V		43	A	W	F	U	L		
47	A	L	A		48	A	S	I			49	T	H	E	O	N	E		
50	C	A	N	D	Y	H	E		52	A	R	T	S		54	O	N	T	
		55	S	L	O	E			56	D	E	F		57	E	T	A	T	
58	W	H	A	T	S		59	T	H	E	E	N		61	D	G	A	M	E
62	H	E	T		63	I	W	A	L	K		64	E	G	G	E	R		
65	A	D	E		66	R	O	B	E	S		67	C	O	E	D	S		

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

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



## PART-TIME CHILD CARE ASSISTANT

Must be able to deliver interesting and engaging activities for children ages 2-6. You will work as part of a team 3-6 hours per week.

Send resume and cover letter to [info@sirch.on.ca](mailto:info@sirch.on.ca).



Hit It!

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Mountie's serge colour  
4 Equally enormous  
9 \_\_\_ door for (be polite, in a way)  
14 Killer role for Sandra Oh?  
15 "Stellar," once  
16 Pandemic buzzword for "adapt"  
17 Loose-hanging frock of the '50s  
19 Live  
20 Elba, but not the island  
21 Pucker-inducing brew  
23 Bad \_\_\_ (inherently rotten kid)  
24 Area with high growth potential?  
27 Blew up on TikTok  
29 Day care drop-off  
30 "There's the door!"  
31 Top-of-the-line recruits  
33 10 \_\_\_ or less (express line sign)  
35 Stain cleanser such as Shout  
38 Sudden cramp  
40 Lauren \_\_\_ of "The Love Boat"  
41 Cremains receptacle  
42 "You Send Me" singer Cooke  
45 As a replacement  
49 Cruise ship seating  
52 "It's about," in a memo  
53 Like a twinkly sky  
54 Condor's condo  
55 Home to Tahrir Square  
56 Bygone reporter with a loud voice  
59 Have as \_\_\_ (aim for)  
60 Drink-dependent one, for short  
61 Key word in French?  
62 "Papa Can You Hear Me?" Streisand film  
63 Guesstimator's lead-in  
64 Pre-CIA spy agcy.

Down

- 1 Stand firmly against  
2 One getting around?  
3 Judicial order  
4 What &s replace  
5 Sunday delivery: Abbr.  
6 Casual lover?  
7 Ronstadt hit "\_\_\_ Easy"  
8 Become less demanding  
9 Spy mission agents  
10 "Toy Story" studio  
11 Satanic sort  
12 Barely-visible biter  
13 LSAT taker, one day  
18 Snatches for a ransom  
22 Tognazzi of "La Cage aux Folles"  
24 Broadway show based on Puccini's "La Bohème"  
25 Fetid-sounding river  
26 P.M. times  
28 Continually read a depressing feed  
32 Prepare the dinner table  
34 More apt to snap  
35 Penalize by severing trade with  
36 Golda who led the Knesset

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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49			50					51				52		
	53									54				
55						56		57	58					
59						60						61		
62						63						64		

- 37 Trounces  
38 Montreal's Rive-\_\_\_ (South Shore)  
39 Foretell an event  
43 Calder Cup sports org.  
44 Tiki bar cocktail  
46 Italian inventor Fermi  
47 "The Little Mermaid: \_\_\_ Beginning"  
48 Well-known tractor brands  
50 Gold standard?  
51 "Hate to say \_\_\_ you so but ..."  
54 \_\_\_ Rowe, host of CBC Radio's "The Doc Project"  
55 Low, sandy island  
57 Yr.'s 52  
58 Actress Long or Vardalos

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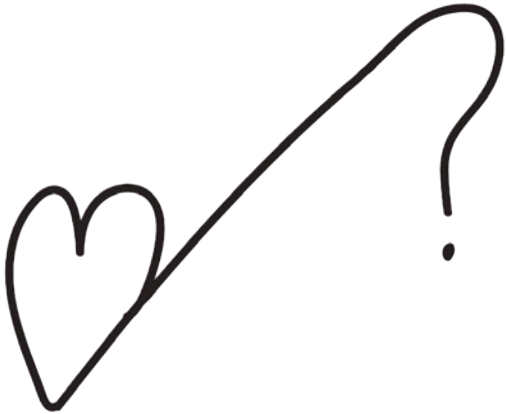


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The trouble with growing up  
is we forget what it's like  
to feel grass between our toes.

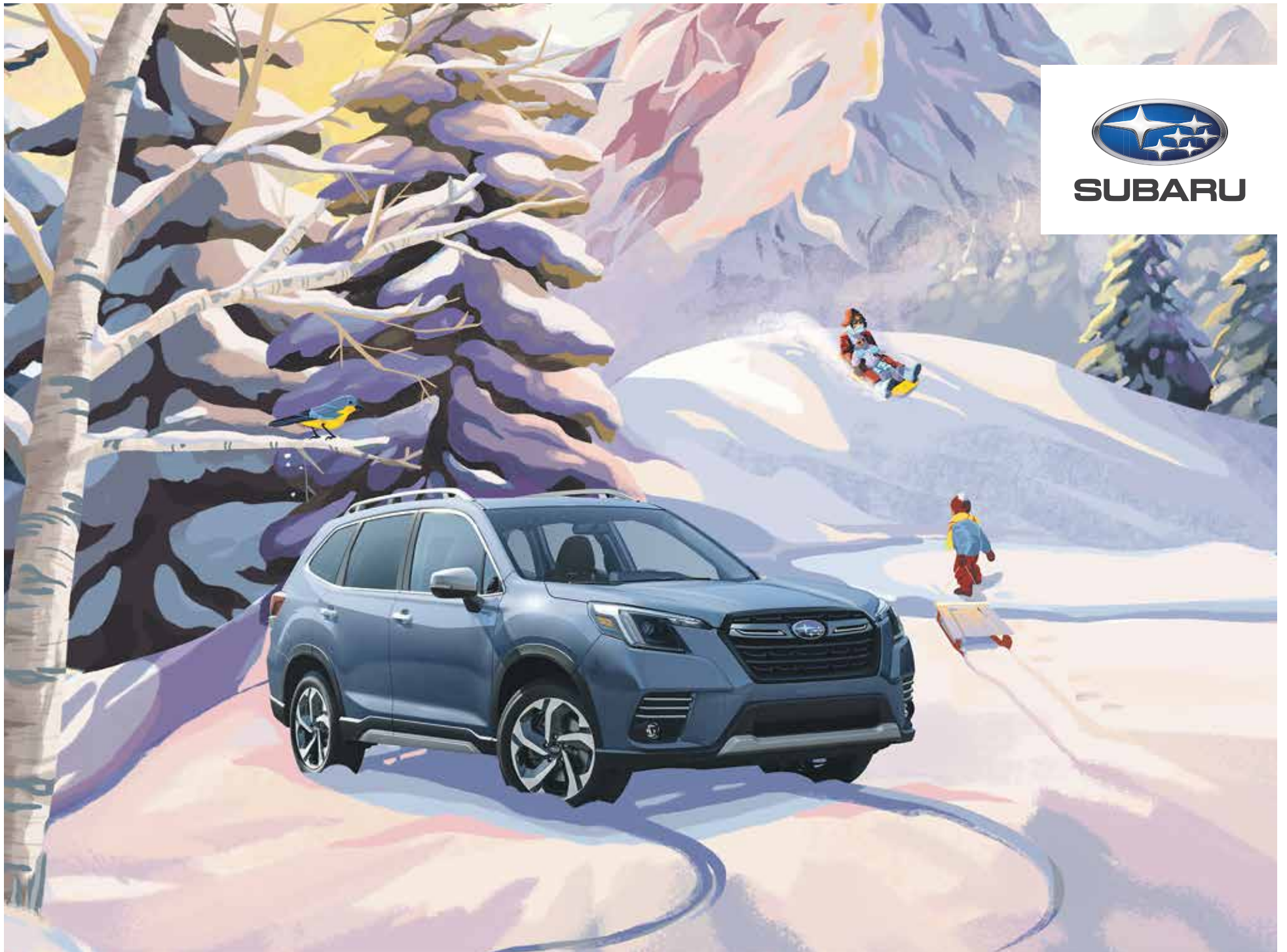
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9								1
		3			9		5	
8			1				2	3
	1			8		7		9



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