



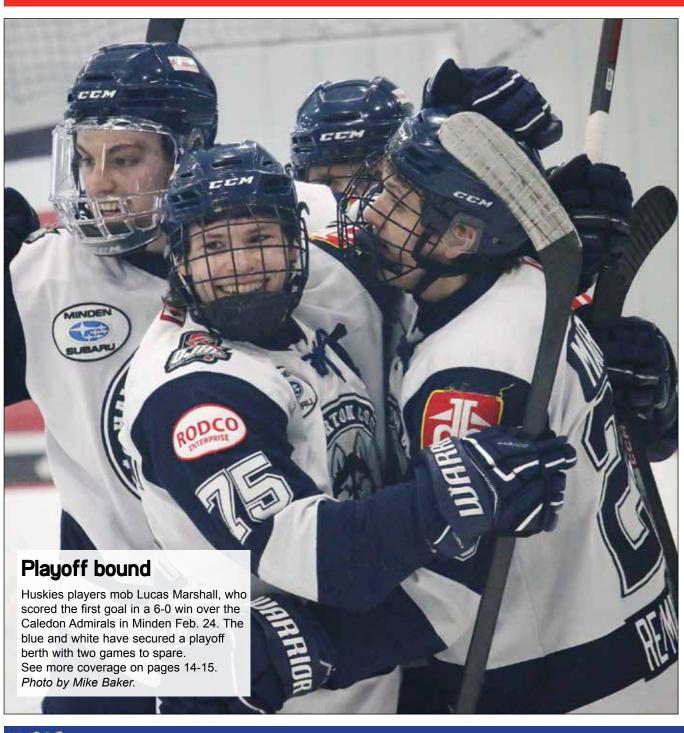


TheHighlander

Thursday **February 29 2024** | Issue 629

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FREE



Inquest into Hegedus death announced

By Lisa Gervais

The Ministry of the Solicitor General announced Feb. 23 it will conduct an inquest into the death of Leslie Hegedus – the man killed in a shoot-out with OPP in Haliburton July 15, 2020.

Ministry spokesperson, Stephanie Rea, said details regarding the date and location "will be provided at a later date when the information becomes available."

As of last Friday, she said Dr. Paul Dungey, regional supervising coroner, east region, Kingston office, had made the coronial inquest announcement.

The ministry noted Hegedus, 73, died in hospital on that day more than three years ago following an interaction with officers from the OPP in Haliburton. Inquests such as this are mandatory under the Coroners Act.

"The inquest will examine the circumstances surrounding Mr. Hegedus' death. The jury may make recommendations aimed at preventing further deaths," Rea said last week.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has already cleared two OPP officers in connection with the incident. The SIU is a civilian law enforcement agency that investigates incidents involving police officers where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault. In cases where no reasonable grounds exist to criminally charge police, the director files a report with the Attorney General communicating the results of an investigation.

SIU director Joseph Martino said in his investigation – as reported in the July 30, 2021 *Highlander* - that a heavily-armed and camouflaged Hegedus hid in the bushes at his Indian Point Road property and fired at police first.

Martino said it was unclear which of Hegedus' three gunshot wounds came from which officer but

Continued 'SIU' on page 2



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February 29, 2024





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OPP closed off Indian Point Road on July 15, 2020 during a police investigation. File.

has cleared officers

Continued from page 1

"there are no reasonable grounds to believe that either subject officer one or subject officer two acted other than lawfully throughout this incident. Accordingly, there is no basis for proceeding with criminal charges in this case, and the file is closed."

Martino also said that the multiple rounds fired at Hegedus – nine by one and 19 by another officer – amounted to reasonable force.

"There can be little doubt that Mr. Hegedus was intent on killing police officers," he said.

The incident began earlier that morning at the Minden Valu-mart. Martino said Hegedus fought with and assaulted staff members over wearing a mask. It was during COVID-19 mandatory mask mandates. Hegedus got into his vehicle and ran into other vehicles in the parking lot, and struck the exterior of the store and several shopping carts.

He drove north on Hwy. 35 and then east on County Road 21. Police began a chase but called it off for safety reasons after Hegedus refused to pull over.

They checked the car's licence plate and found the black Alfa Romeo was registered to a property on Indian Point Road in Dysart.

Police were also warned to proceed with caution as there had been some weapons complaints from 2011 involving the registered owner of the vehicle.

Shoot-out with police

Upon arrival, police saw fresh tire tracks going into the garage but did not see the suspect.

The investigator said Hegedus was wearing camouflage, had two guns, a 'Ruger' Mini 14 .223 calibre semi-automatic rifle and a 'Browning' .380 semi-automatic pistol and several boxes of ammunition in a knapsack, and was hiding in thick bush north of his residence.

The investigation revealed Hegedus fired his rifle twice at an officer, who was not struck but dove for cover. OPP then called for tactical backup. That's when the two officers directly involved in the shooting arrived, armed with C8

"Mr. Hegedus fired his rifle in subject officer one's direction, prompting subject officer one and subject officer two to discharge their weapons at him multiple times. In the course of this exchange, it appears Mr. Hegedus fired further rounds from his rifle before he was incapacitated."

After firing at the suspect, they could see Hegedus lying behind a tree stump and heard him groaning. His rifle was laying partially across his lap.

They asked Hegedus to show his hands and radioed for an ambulance. After no response they went to do First Aid on the gunshot wounds. Paramedics arrived and took him to hospital where he was pronounced dead at 11:47 a.m.

Martino said that in his interviews with the subject officers, they told him they fired their weapons out of fear for their, and each other's, lives.

"I am confident that the officers returned fire believing it to be necessary to protect themselves from death or grievous bodily harm," he said.

He added the two subject officers ordered Hegedus repeatedly to show his hands, he chose not to do so, "instead rising from a crouched position behind a tree stump and firing at subject officer number one.

"In that instant, the officers' lives were in grave danger and they acted reasonably and proportionately, in my view, in resorting to lethal force of their own. Retreat or withdrawal were not realistic options in the moment.'



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AH to explore affordable housing options

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen believes the development of tiny homes could form part of the solution to the community's "crippling" housing crisis.

At a Feb. 15 meeting, council heard from representatives from Places for People (P4P), Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region, and Tiny Town Association, on ways the municipality could bolster its affordable housing supply.

Fay Martin and Roland Lange, board members with P4P, said their organization has "changed direction somewhat" in recent years to embrace new ways to bring larger housing projects to fruition.

Founded in 2007, P4P owns and manages five rental locations in the County, boasting 12 residential units. They are currently being used to house 30 people - 14 adults and 16children. Martin noted P4P has provided housing to 91 people over the past 16 years.

While proposed projects in Minden and Haliburton have fallen by the wayside, Martin said she is optimistic about a possible 16-unit residential build along Peninsula Road, which would more than double P4P's existing inventory.

Lange said the organization isn't just putting all its eggs in that basket, however. He said he's leading several new initiatives, such as investigating managing rental properties on behalf of local homeowners, encouraging short-term renters to transition to a long-term rental model, assisting property owners with secondary unit applications, and promoting communal developments.

He said P4P was looking into a pilot that would see them build up to four tiny homes on property it owns in Carnarvon.

"We're very excited about this. We've been talking about it since we bought the property two years ago. We'd like to find a way to work with you to make this happen," Lange told council. "We firmly believe everyone has to look at affordable housing in different ways. The needs are so great, we need to find out how we can start implementing things at a much faster pace."

Danielsen said the tiny home concept "does interest us all", vowing to keep in contact with P4P officials to see if there's a path forward. Martin said those potential units could be offered at rent geared to income,



Ed Peterson of Tiny Town Association. File.

like most of P4P's other properties, or be offered for rent to own.

'We want to be here'

Susan Zambonin, CEO of the local Habitat chapter, said her organization has recently rewritten the book on how it moves big builds forward. In the past, Habitat built houses for families and held mortgages for them at a zero per cent interest rate, capped at 30 per cent of their income, and paid off over 25 years.

When the real estate market ballooned in 2020, they were forced to pivot.

"Now, we've partnered with a local credit union, they provide a first mortgage to homeowners for what they qualify for and then Habitat holds a second mortgage for the balance of the purchase price at zero per cent interest, with no payments to be made until the owners sell or refinance," she said.

Zambonin said Habitat recently completed a 41-unit build in Peterborough using this model, with another nearby 12-unit development wrapping up this summer. There are plans for additional 41 and 84-unit developments in Peterborough, too.

While Habitat has yet to complete a project in Haliburton County, Zambonin said she

wants that to change.

"We'd love to be building here – this is our territory... we just haven't found the land to build on," she said.

Danielsen noted Algonquin Highlands has identified four lots that could be suitable for development, the largest along Hwy. 118. She asked what a partnership could potentially look like between Habitat and the township. Zambonin says whatever land a municipality donates, they would receive the value of it back in rental units once a project

Ed Peterson founded the Kingston-based Tiny Town Association in 2017, with a goal of popularizing communal housing developments in Ontario. He believes tiny homes are the cheapest and quickest way to address Ontario's housing crisis.

He said his company looks to partner with municipalities, who would donate land and cover the cost of any permit or rezoning fees, with Peterson taking on the responsibility of building small communities and servicing them. He said he could build between 16 and 20 residences per acre, with units maxing out at 384 sq. ft. of living space.

The tiny homes could then be bought at a fraction of the cost of a regular home, offering them for less than \$150,000. Rentals would be offered at \$800 per month, with rent-to-own initiatives also available.

Peterson said he's currently working on proposals with 24 municipalities, with a 91-unit project in Odessa and 82-unit build in Elliot Lake close to proceeding.

"We hope municipalities will see us not as a for-profit developer, because we aren't, but as... a partner developing affordable housing within your municipality," he said, noting once land has been committed, he could have the first units ready within a month.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux said she was "buoyed" by the three presentations, saying there was plenty of options for council to consider.

"Since I've come onto council [in 2018] we've not embarked on a bold, possibly risky new partnership [for housing]. These are highly reputable potential partners; we all have the same goal. This is a really good opportunity for us to explore," she said.

Council will discuss its options at a future meeting.

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4 Highlander news

Housing advocates to sleep in the cold

By Mike Baker

Susan Tromanhauser will be one of several first-timers braving the elements to spend a night outdoors next month as Places for People brings its Sleeping in Cars fundraiser back for a sixth year.

The County-based non-profit uses the event to drive conversation about housing affordability in the Highlands, as well as bringing in money to help bolster local rental inventory.

Since 2019, Sleeping in Cars has raised approximately \$100,000.

"We hear people say stuff like 'oh, we don't have homeless people here', just because they aren't sleeping on park benches or lined up along Highland Street, it doesn't mean they aren't here. Our homeless people are sleeping in cars, they're couch surfing, or sleeping in housing that isn't suitable," said Tromanhauser, who took over as P4P president last fall.

"There are many people in our community in need of appropriate housing. This event gives people the opportunity to spend a night in their shoes, get a little taste of what they have to go through," she added.

This year's event takes place March 22 at Head Lake Park. Tromanhauser noted there are 37 people registered, which is roughly double the usual turnout. She believes this is proof P4P's message is getting out to the public.

The organization owns and operates five properties across the County, with 12 affordable housing units. Its immediate focus is setting as much money aside as possible for a potential 16-unit build on Peninsula Road in Haliburton.

Owner of the land, Paul Wilson, pledged one of four lots fronting Grass Lake to P4P in 2022. A proposal to develop the



Participants gather at last year's Sleeping in Cars event, held at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. Submitted.

property has been supported by Dysart et al and Haliburton County councils, though is subject to an Ontario Land Tribunal review, scheduled for November.

Tromanhauser said P4P is also looking for opportunities to invest in existing rentals, like the deal struck in 2022 to take over a fiveplex in Carnarvon.

"We need to maintain as many rental units in this County as possible. We can't afford to lose a single one," Tromanhauser said, noting P4P receives dozens of applications for every unit that becomes available.

More than 400 Highlands households are waiting on subsidized community housing

through Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation. Michelle Corley, KLH spokesperson, noted there has been a marked increase in homelessness in the County since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tromanhauser said she wants to be an advocate for those struggling to find housing.

"My husband and I moved from the city

— we're originally from St. Catherines but
have had a cottage on Saskatchewan Lake for
30 years. We have a real love for the area,"
she said. "It wasn't until we retired here that
we realized how big a gap there is between
the haves and the have nots in Haliburton
County, especially when it comes to things

like affordable housing.

"I'm not really sure what to expect. We're planning some activities for before bed – I've already dug myself a nice pair of woolly socks and a few blankets out to help get me through," she added.

There will be live entertainment from 7 p.m., with people encouraged to gather and share stories around a campfire. A light breakfast will be served the next morning.

For more information, or to register, visit placesforpeople.ca. Minimum donation of \$50 required to participate.

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 - Only use generators in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
 - Use barbecue grills only outside and never indoors or in the garage.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

Archie Stouffer Elementary School presents their 1st annual student exhibit with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. Selections for our permanent collection and new acquisitions are also on display. The exhibits will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 30.

be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 30.

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is by donation.

The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14.

The first drop-in class is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 from 3-5 p.m. at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. All materials are supplied.

Celebrate International Women's Day with the documentary Under the Willow Tree at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, March 7 at 5 p.m.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - MARCH 5. 2024

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. Council will also hold a Closed Session during this meeting. The Special Council 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/. 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/.

WINTER PARKING

From November 1 to April 30, 2024 overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 a.m. 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.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2024 Interim tax bills will be mailed no later than February 29, 2024. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office. The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments: March 22 and May 24, 2024. This bill has been calculated using the 2023 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2023 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 12th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts shown on your tax bill do not include penalty, interest for February and March. Please contact our office for a current balance at 705-286-1260 or email admin@mindenhills.ca.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. As per the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

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 and Closed Session
 - 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.

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING

You can now recycle your household batteries at any of the Township's Waste Disposal Sites. Properly recycling batteries helps to reclaim rare metals so they can be re-used to make new products. This reduces the need to mine new raw materials and helps build a strong circular economy. To avoid the risk of sparks/fires, you need to tape the terminal on some batteries before you store or recycle them. Drop off your batteries at least every 3 months to avoid corrosion.

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Dysart sticks to its guns on farmers market

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Farmers Market Association is still yet to confirm whether it intends to host a weekly market in Haliburton this year, despite executive Angel Taylor telling Dysart council Feb. 27, "getting this settled now is really urgent."

The township and farmers market board have been at loggerheads for months over the event's return to Head Lake Park, where it ran for 11 years before being moved to Rotary Beach Park last season.

Taylor previously told council attendance was down approximately 30 per cent at the new location, with market manager Mike Townsend saying he didn't think enough vendors would sign up for a re-run.

Addressing the duo Tuesday, council doubled down on its stipulation the market can return to Head Lake Park providing each vendor pays an additional \$5 per market day. The market typically runs for 21 weeks, from May to October.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie reiterated his belief this week that an extra \$5 per week "isn't a big deal." He said he has discussed the issue with about 15 downtown businesses, who he claims are on council's

"There wasn't one of them that was saying we were doing something wrong after I explained it to them. We're not here for a fight... we're trying to do what's best for the municipality of Dysart and all taxpayers," McKechnie said, while emphasizing he's "very supportive" of the market.

Mayor Murray Fearrey suggested the \$5 fee – which would run approximately \$4,200 for the season based on the market having 40 vendors each week - at a meeting in January. That was reduced from earlier suggestions that would have cost HCFMA \$15,000 and \$5,100 to bring the event back to the downtown park.

On Tuesday, Fearrey said Dysart would likely spend around \$70,000 on park improvements this year. He has previously said the township incurs "significant costs"



Council is standing firm on its proposal to implement a \$5 per vendor, per event, fee on the Haliburton County Farmers Market Association to bring the Haliburton market back to Head Lake Park. *File*.

repairing damage in the park after a market.

"Our offer is the same, that \$5 fee, with no conditions attached to it. We will put the money into a park fund," Fearrey said. "I think we've been more than fair... we'll be looking at other events too, we're not just going to pick on you. At the end of the day, you have three options — go to [Rotary Beach Park or the Head Lake boardwalk] for free, or pay the money and go into [Head Lake] Park."

Taylor asked if council was willing to consider any of the three options HCFMA presented to the township in a letter earlier this month. They ranged from council waiving all fees to run the event at Head Lake Park, to HCFMA accepting the \$5 fee,

providing council use the funds on repairs to the park proven to be caused by the market and provide invoices to the association. Council declined, opting for no conditions.

HCFMA reached out to 18 other farmers markets across Ontario to find out if any were paying fees to their hosts, Taylor said 15 of them ran their market with no extra

Addressing the \$5 fee, Taylor agreed that to most people it may not seem like a lot of money, but for small agricultural vendors who may already be losing money, it could be the difference between signing up or not.

"I was a [vendor] from 2009 to 2019. I never made a profit. I am not saying other small local farmers are in the same boat, but some are. We care about and are mandated to protect and encourage the little guys. This means they'll have bigger losses, some of them, and that matters. To others, it's a principal position [not to pay any increased rate]," she said.

Councillors Pat Casey, Barry Boice, Carm Sawyer and Tammy Donaldson all favoured implementing a \$5 fee with no conditions.

Casey said, "I think we should carry on with what we've proposed, ride it out for this year and in the fall see how it all went, just like we did last year."

Taylor said HCFMA was "still pulling things together" and likely won't make a final decision until next week. "We're quite disappointed... in council's position."



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AROUND THE COUNTY NEWS

Minden roads closed due to flooding

The Township of Minden Hills issued a news alert about 5:30 p.m. Feb. 27 letting drivers know about flood-related road closures.

The municipality said Soyers Lake Road is closed from Blairhampton Road to Alexander Road and Blairhampton Road is closed from Sovers Lake Road to Alexander Road.

"Residents should not attempt to drive through these areas. These road closures and restrictions will remain in effect until road conditions are deemed appropriate for

reopening," the township said.

It added, "we want to remind the public to use caution around area lakes, rivers, creeks and other water sources such as ditches. as high-water levels and swift currents can create unstable conditions. Avoid driving on any roadways that are underwater, as road conditions may be unstable and dangerous."

People can subscribe to news and alerts to receive important information and updates, including in the event of an emergency. Go to subscribe.mindenhills.ca/subscribe.

Two men charged in assault and robbery

Haliburton Highlands OPP have charged two people in connection with an assault and robbery in Minden earlier this month.

On Feb. 9, shortly after 4:30 a.m., officers responded to an assault and robbery with a weapon on Parkside Street. The victim

was transported to a hospital with non-lifethreatening injuries.

Police said on Feb. 28, that after a thorough investigation, Steven Norman, 44, of Minden Hills, is charged with aggravated assault, robbery using firearm, possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon while prohibited.

They added that Michael Gunn, 28, of Minden Hills has been charged with aggravated assault, robbery using firearm, possession of a weapon, fail to comply release order and possession of a firearm while prohibited.

OPP said both were held for a bail hearing and the investigation is ongoing.

Investigators are asking that anyone with any information who has not yet spoken to police to contact Haliburton Highlands OPP at 705-286-1431 or the OPP Provincial Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122.

HCSA wraps up season

Meanwhile, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association has closed its trails for the season. They said it was one of the most challenging winters in recent memory with the constant freeze-thaw cycles and low

HCSA president Neil Vanderstoop said "we are forever grateful to our landowners who, with no compensation, allow snowmobiling on their properties, and of course to our volunteers who put their heart and soul into our 370 kilometres of trails." He added "they make a big contribution to Haliburton's



OPP have made arrests in connection with an incident in Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

The coming days will be extremely busy as the HCSA closes gates linking trails, collects lake markers, and prepares its grooming fleet for summer storage.

Vanderstoop added; "we are forever

grateful for the ongoing support from our snowmobile trail permit holders and area businesses. Plans are underway for the HCSA's 53rd winter." (Lisa Gervais).



A MESSAGE FROM



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Health boards oversaw COVID-19 vaccinations. File.

Regional health boards to merge

By Mike Baker and Lisa Gervais

The boards of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) district health unit and Peterborough Public Health (PPH) announced Feb. 26 they will seek provincial approval, and funding, to voluntarily merge.

In August 2023, the Ministry of Health announced what it termed "plans to strengthen the public health sector" by offering one-time funding, resources and supports to public health agencies deciding to voluntarily merge by Jan. 1, 2025.

In response, the two regional boards of health decided to move forward with a process to explore the impacts of a voluntary merger. In November 2023, a joint board merger exploration working group was established with representatives from both, and external consulting firm Sense & Nous, to prepare a comprehensive feasibility assessment report. The findings were recently presented to both boards to help make a decision.

"Throughout this process, it was quickly identified that both HKPR and PPH have an extensive history of collaboration and share similar geographic, demographic, health status and population characteristics. Both organizations are also dedicated to reducing health inequities and addressing the most pressing public health challenges faced by the urban, rural, and Indigenous communities they serve," the two boards said in a press release embargoes until Feb. 28.

During a Feb. 15 meeting, the HKPR board decided to proceed with a proposal to voluntary merge with PPH. The Peterborough-based board made a similar commitment Feb. 21.

Joy Lachica, PPH board chair, told a Feb.

28 media scrum that several benefits have already been identified for the merger.

"Beyond strength in numbers... we're looking at improved program expertise in specialist positions; cross coverage of staff and improved succession planning; enhanced strength of central corporate service functions; better surge capacity and resiliency, which, hopefully, will lead to less burnout for future public health emergencies," she said.

Lachica noted the province is likely to make a decision on the merger this summer, though work to bring the two organizations together is likely to stretch into 2025. Dr. Natalie Bocking, HKPR medical officer of health, said the two entities had committed to continuing all existing programs through the merger process.

Bocking said the new entity would serve approximately 345,000 people. There will be no immediate staff cuts, with HKPR currently employing around 170 people and PPH 130.

"I'm excited about the opportunity that a merger like this affords. HKPR and PPH shares similar type of communities, we have the same mandate, we have the same vision and focus on health equity, and we both have a long track record of serving our communities well," Bocking said. "This merger allows us to bring the strengths of each organization and look at how we can maintain our services and add to them."

While the HKPR board were told by consultants in November that a merger could cost up to \$3.5 million, Bocking said a final figure will be revealed in coming weeks. She confirmed the provincial government had committed to funding all associated costs.

David Marshall, HKPR board chair, said the leadership and structure of the combined units will be discussed extensively before any merger is complete. He said it's the two board's intent to retain both Dr. Bocking and Dr. Thomas Piggott, medical officer of health for PPH.

"Some health units have an MOH and a CEO, some have an MOH and an assistant MOH... Dr. Bocking and Dr. Piggott are the only two physicians across both organizations now... [having both] offers an opportunity to look at what is the best leadership structure moving forward," Marshall said.

While Bocking and Piggott stopped short of confirming they will both be around post-merger, they said they are both "pretty passionate about public health. We care a lot about the work, we believe in it, and we're committed to our communities."

Next steps

The HKPR District Health Unit and PPH Boards of Health will submit a joint voluntary merger application to the Ontario Government by April 2 - that demonstrates how a proposed merger would benefit the communities they serve, while supporting outcomes and priorities identified by the Ministry of Health.

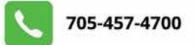
Mergers of public health units require provincial legislative change, so will not be definitive until the province has approved it, and commits adequate funding for its success later in the year. Both PPH and HKPR District Health Unit will continue to operate independently during the provincial review period.

Stay Connected

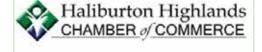








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8 Editorial opinion

The **Highlander**

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 communitu.

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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Is public health merger good?

When the HKPR district health unit and its Peterborough counterpart decided to apply to the province to merge earlier this week, we had some questions.

We tried to get some of them answered on Monday – when the news was announced but were told we'd have to wait until Wednesday for a media scrum.

Let's hope this isn't indicative of the likely new model going forward - and that a bigger health unit doesn't mean diminished transparency for media and the public.

And, we really hope that, as with many of our local agencies aligned with Peterborough, or the City of Kawartha Lakes, that Haliburton County isn't an afterthought as events unfold elsewhere.

With the two medical officers of health, Dr. Natalie Bocking of HKPR, and Dr. Thomas Piggott of PPH, bringing in a combined salary of more than \$622,000, we wonder if there will now be one of them, taking nearly \$300,000 out of the combined budget?

And, after a cursory glance at the Sunshine List for 2023, reporting for 2022, we were surprised to find there are more civil servants making more than \$100,000 in HKPR, than in Peterborough. According to the stats, some 24 HKPR'ers are making about \$3 million (including Bocking). Another 15 are

pulling in nearly \$2 million at PPH (Piggott included). That's a combined \$5 million in salaries and benefits alone. That is before a single program is even delivered.

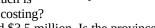
Premier Doug Ford came after health units prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Remember his "modernization" of public health announcement on April 11, 2019? Many said modernization was a spin word for cutting public health. He planned to cut spending by \$200 million, a 27 per cent budget cut, and reduce public health units to 10 from 35. Of course, he was urged to pause his modernization plans by, among others, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies until the COVID-19 emergency was declared

Incidentally, the province downloaded a greater share of the costs to municipalities.

About a year ago, his government offered voluntary mergers instead. Some health units, like HKPR and PPH could clearly see the writing on the wall, accepting the 'voluntold' invite.

We know the hard-working folks at the HKPR office in Haliburton have to be worried about what this means for them. They valiantly led the COVID fight for years and are now catching up on all of the programming that fell by the wayside such as student vaccinations. They are only catching up on those now.

As members of the public, we want to know a few things, too. How much is this merger costing?



By Lisa Gervais

We've heard \$3.5 million. Is the province really going to fund this?

Will there be staff cuts? Will there be programming cuts? Will we still be able to take our well water to the health unit for testing? Will the health inspector be out at local restaurants? Will someone be keeping an eye on student vaping? How can we ensure that smaller towns and cities, such as Haliburton, Minden and Wilberforce, still have access to the public health programming they have had for years?

On the surface, one might say the public health system is bloated and needs to be streamlined. However, until we know what the other side of the coin means for us, it is hard to say whether this is a good thing, a bad thing, or a somewhere in the middle



By Peter Ferri

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Green burials

The thought of a green burial may bring visions from scary horror movies, possibly even The Walking Dead.

It really wasn't a part of my schema growing up. Yet, when I stop to think about, and investigate, a green burial, it makes a lot of sense. Let's dig a little deeper beyond scary movies and look at First Nations' peoples; manifesting modern day green burial rituals pulled from the ancient past. Can looking back on Indigenous burial rituals lead us to a renewed vision, and model of support for them today? I believe they do support our moving in that direction.

Recently, Hereditary Chieftain Randy Chipps of the West Coast Nu-Cha-Nulth Nations shared historical ceremonial ritual and beliefs of his people, with me. Also, during his speech at our Jan. 27 "Aging Together as Community (ATAC) conference," Randy shared with me an historical burial tradition of his people. I was inspired and in awe.

Randy said that for thousands of years, it was tradition to place their loved one on a bier in the arms of a tree. After a four-year period, their loved one had been returned to Mother Earth, with their DNA having been shared with their brothers and sisters; the four-legged, the winged, the crawlers, the rooted, and other decomposers of the land.

In the fifth year, the family returns to collect their late relative's now bleached bones, to

be placed into a special handmade bentwood box, which is taken to rest in a cave, or some other sacred place. Their late relative has left the family with the gift of a new plant found at the base of the tree. The plant is honoured, collected, nurtured and studied to determine what new gift, or gifts, it brings to them, to be shared with the village; and, once proven, to be shared with the Nations. Hence the completion of the human life cycle.

He then informed me that his Nation alone had added over 200 medicines to today's pharmacopeia. This was also a piece missing from my growing up inside a Christian belief

In itself, green burials support ancient First Nations' ways of being; which brings to mind what we have lost over the thousands of years we have moved away from our own historical traditional burial rights. The fact we now have moved to corporate structured burials and restrictive cemetery rules and regulations, has taken us away from a very important stage, in not only our grieving processes, but most possibly the essence of the transition into the next spiritual stage of our existence.

Growing up with Christian beliefs and rituals around death and burial, I was always left cold when walking away from the internment. Before my father died, I remember him very clearly stating there was no way he was going into the ground

inside a cement vault. It brought back pictures in my mind of the cement cistern for water that we had on the farm, a very cold and dark cement pit of no return.

No matter our religious beliefs, I believe we are now in a place within our developing and evolving community, to embrace rituals such as green burials. Though our focus today may be based on a different context, in essence, the concept of recycling and

replenishing our natural ecosystems, it's also knowledge that we are one.

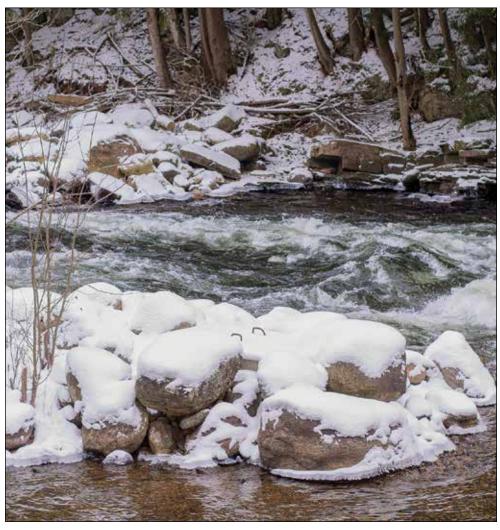
For me, choosing a green burial as part of my exit plan from this physical plane gives me peace, knowing that I will be feeding future generations of all living things. With this, light shines from my heart.

Peter is a retired local principal living in Haliburton County. He is a community activist and a member of the lead team, with the local committee, Aging Together as Community. As well, he is a host on The Journey Together, a radio show on CanoeFM. He brings his passion for equity, fairness, and awareness, and sometimes his sense of humour with him, to his written

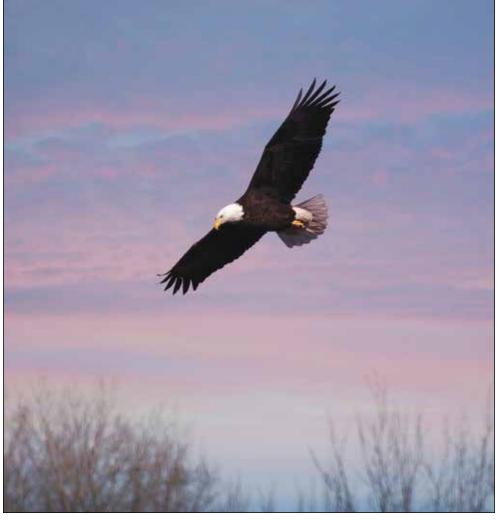
HAVE AN OPINION?

Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Photographer Leanne Young from Glimpses of Glory Photography took this picture at the Minden whitewater preserve.



Fred Pyziak took this image near Gelert on the Drag River.

LETTERS

Deer me

Dear editor,

It seems the discussion in Haliburton over deer has gone on for over a year now.

While the world wrestles with Ukraine and Gaza, we wrestle with deer?

My grandparents moved to Kinmount in 1930, built a house, and a fence and a gate, as they had a garden and the cattle in the town wandered freely and just loved to eat the tops off the veggies.

My father, in 1975, wanted a garden in the field where the theatre now stands. To protect it, I installed an electric fence. It worked with the wildlife but not the lowlife that snuck in in September and dug up and stole all his

A friend on an eight-acre compound in Florida, says the residents enjoy the deer, and he put a fence around his Japanese Blueberry tree to stop them eating it. I have been in Haliburton twice in the last couple of weeks, both times I noted a deer approaching the road, so I stopped. He looked at me, I looked at him, then he crossed the road.

Food for thought, in the vastness of the universe, and the 4.5 billion years the earth has been around, our lifespans aren't even a blink of an eye. The deer have been here over 12,000 years, we haven't. We don't actually own the land, but are the caretakers for a short time.

As humans encroach more and more on animal habitats, there will be more conflict. The constant desire of humans to control animal populations does bring a smile to my face, the only animal population totally out of control on this planet is us, we, not fossil fuels, are the cause of global warming, so I am dying to see how we fix that one?

I have bears, deer, foxes, coyotes, a zillion racoons, a possum, rabbits and a wolf in my yard in Kinmount. Admittedly, sometimes they can be a pain, but so can people, so I just try to get along.

Keith Stata Kinmount

Spring gardening tips

Dear editor,

I am an avid gardener, and always like to get an early start in planning what I will do to make my property more attractive.

This year, my schedule will go something like this: as soon as the ground thaws, I will remove all the eaten ornamental shrubs, and plant a lush carpet of grass.

The same for all my flower beds which formerly surrounded the entire back yard, grass. No more fussing with watering and fertilizing. I'll trim the cedar hedge up to the seven-foot level to remove all the eaten branches, and the five French hybrid lilac bushes, which have been eaten to the ground, will require no further work.

With the flowers gone last year, so went the hummingbirds, the butterflies, and the chickadees. Thank goodness I won't have them bothering me anymore, not to mention not having to spend \$400 to \$500 at Country Rose anymore.

Forgot about the vegetable garden. I think another nice patch of grass will suit that area just fine.

Now, I am at a loss as to what to do with the spruce and pine trees. I think I will just leave them alone, as the deer seem to like them, and there's not much more around to feed them.

I hope other gardeners will find my gardening tips helpful. I plan to spend many hours this year watching the grass grow, and I can't wait to start sending pictures of my efforts to my friends.

John Skinner Haliburton

Stop polarizing over STRs

Dear editor,

Two weeks ago, Lisa Gervais decided it was a good idea to slap down the operators of short-term rentals, (STRs), and publicly shame us for voicing concerns over the proposed STR bylaw. I was surprised with the blatant beatdown of people who choose to operate STRs that ultimately support our local economy. It was unprofessional and mean-spirited.

I'm all for having your say, expressing opinions in a polite and appropriate manner, but what was said was factually incorrect and biased. I empathize with cottage owners who've had to suffer with STRs that are nothing more than party dens. I understand their frustration and share in their concern. We are not greedy, tone-deaf and inconsiderate. We welcome the licensing and registration of our STRs that put us all on a legal and level playing field. It shows both our integrity and our commitment to improving the existence of STRs going forward. Funny how that wasn't mentioned and deliberately so.

We're being cast as evil, inconsiderate hosts, who are above the law. This is simply not true. We agree the industry needs guard rails and we will comply. What's proposed reflects government over-reach, not simply oversight.

It's about balance, folks. Those against STRs need to know what we're facing paying a Municipal Accommodation Tax with no accountability, spending \$15,000 on a shoreline allowance, or bylaw officers gaining entry to homes without notice, and having our names/addresses made public. None of these details were a part of Ms. Gervais' column. That's lop-sided journalism in my books.

We want to play ball, but when the media stokes a 'just get over it' attitude, it does little to help us find solutions together and further ramps up the polarization of this issue.

Elizabeth Oakley **Highlands East**



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Jenn Emmerson is excited for her business, BAO Beauty Clinic, to become part of the fabric of Highland Street. Photo by Mike Baker.

Clinic bringing more beauty to downtown

By Mike Baker

One of Jenn Emmerson's favourite things to do is walking with family along Highland Street, stopping by stores that make up the fabric of the downtown business community.

Now, she's a key thread of that tapestry after relocating her business, B.A.O. Beauty Clinic, to the corner of Highland Street and Maple Avenue - in the space that last housed Tipples of Haliburton. The clinic will close its current home base, above the SIRCH Bistro, Feb. 29.

The move comes just three years after Emmerson left her job as an ER nurse in Bancroft to focus on her clinic, formerly JE Medical Cosmetics. Since then, she and her team, which includes nurse practitioner Christine Wickson and four other staff, have built the business that now serves around 700

"It's been a goal of mine, a bit of a dream actually, to move downtown and be a part of the downtown energy. There's so much life and vibrancy here, especially during the summer. It's going to be so nice seeing all the people walk by the store - hopefully we're able to attract new clients. I'm really excited," Emmerson said.

The clinic will open March 3, with an open house planned for later in the month.

Speaking to the services provided, Emmerson said she is certified for cosmetic injectables, such as Botox, and advanced procedures such as the application of plateletrich plasma for skin and hair rejuvenation, fat-dissolving injections, skin tightening, and non-surgical facelifts.

There will be some new services debuting in the spring too, Emmerson said, noting everything she and her team offer is Health Canada approved.

Emmerson has spent the past month

extensively renovating the space, with the help of family and staff. The new clinic will boast four treatment rooms and several manipedi stations. Her goal is to breathe new life into the building.

"I'm hoping this spruces up the location, that it stands out for people coming into town. We've basically rebuilt a building within a building. I want to do some painting [outside] and maybe put a little patio in off the back [entrance]," Emmerson said.

While she may have been the one to launch the clinic, which bears the name of her three children Brooks, Ashton, and Olivia, Emmerson said it's been a real team effort building the business into what it is today.

"When I was first starting out, I hired a business coach and told her I wasn't planning to hire anyone, I just wanted a room to myself so I could do my thing. I hired someone the very next day and haven't looked back," she said. "All my employees have come organically. We all know each other from other parts of our lives and careers. We're all very like-minded, which makes it easier to pull in the same direction as a collective."

Noting she left nursing to strike a better work-life balance, Emmerson said that hasn't exactly panned out – she works seven days a week and is constantly thinking up new ways to improve the clinic. She wouldn't have it any other way, though.

"Owning your own business is a different kind of stress. You don't get to turn it off, really. It's constant. But I've had the best time digging in, getting to know my clients, and building this with my incredible team. Seeing how far we've come and the growth we've had in just three years makes [all the sacrifices] worth it," she said.

For more information, visit baobeauty.ca.

Highlander business 11



ACM Designs will be moving to its new home at Abbey Gardens later this year. Submitted.

ACM Designs moving to new digs at Abbey Gardens

By Mike Baker

Local entrepreneur Andria Cowan Molyneaux says fate was behind the decision to relocate her business, ACM Designs, from its current home in Haliburton village to Abbey Gardens

The interior design firm will be slowly transitioning into the space vacated by Haliburton Highlands Brewing over the next few months. It brings an end to a fruitful eight-year stay in the village, which saw the company get its start in the basement of the old Haliburton County Development Corporation space, move into new digs along County Road 21, plan for a new home beside Tim Horton's, before settling at its current home base at 7 Dysart Ave.

"It's been a real story of evolution. I've been looking for a location that we can really grow into and this opportunity at Abbey Gardens fits all our needs size wise, is almost perfect style and design wise – it's almost like a unicorn here in the County," Cowan Molyneaux told *The Highlander*.

There was a huge element of luck behind the move, she revealed.

"The truth is I was contacted to see if I knew someone who might be interested in that old brewery space. Immediately, I said 'yeah, me'. That's exactly how this all happened," she said

Having grown from two employees in 2016 to 17 today, Cowan Molyneaux said she needed somewhere she knew she could stay for the long haul. She has signed a five-year lease.

The most exciting aspect of the move, she says, is being able to bring all aspects of the company together under one roof. While the bulk of the design team currently work together in the Dysart office, Cowan Molyneaux said some of her newer employees have been forced to work from home, or other spaces in the community.

Cedric Butz joined the company as a carpenter in 2022 and while the services he provides had been a great fit with the ACM team, Cowan Molyneaux hasn't been able to offer him a dedicated space to work from. Until now.

"He creates goods that we design, so things like furniture, custom doors. As we're conceptualizing different designs and products, he's bringing them to life," she said, noting Butz only uses locally salvaged wood for all his projects. "I had to figure out a way to execute on this new segment of the business on a wide scale, and I felt we needed a dedicated shop Cedric could work from to do that."

Becoming a key component of the Abbey Gardens family was a big draw, too. There will be increased visibility at the new space, and more chances to collaborate with long-term partners like Abbey Gardens and Abbey Retreat Centre.

"We haven't even moved in yet, but it already feels like home. I know it's where we're supposed to be. We want to be part of the fabric here now," Cowan Molyneaux said.

She said it's easy to get excited for the future now, knowing she's found a place that can house the business no matter how much it grows in the coming years. She didn't expect to be where she is today, noting things "just took off and never really slowed down" in the early months of the pandemic.

Her focus now is on establishing new carpentry techniques, sending Butz on training programs in California and the UK later this year. She's also working on a collaboration with Haliburton School of Art + Design.

"It's been quite the ride these past eight years, but I'm so excited for the future. This move sets us up for the long haul... we've finally found our home in the County," she



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Salon exhibit showcases artists' dreams

By Mike Baker

Laurie Jones said this year's salon exhibition at Rails End Gallery may be the most diverse collection in the 15 years the show has been open to the community.

Centred around the theme 'Dream', the exhibition features 67 pieces across a variety of mediums. Jones said submissions were received from renowned local artists and from amateur gallery members. The result is a spread she said people, "need to make an effort to see."

'Dream' opened at Rails End Feb. 10 and will run to April 13.

"I like to give people a challenge," Jones said, explaining the theme. "I felt it was something that is completely open to interpretation... there's some wildcards. People have prepared pieces that are quite different, but you can tell they put a lot of thought, a lot of time, into their creation."

Some familiar names include Greg Gillespie, a "world class woodcarver," according to Jones. He submitted the carving 'Unscheduled Departure', featuring birds flying away from a snake, which took him around 1,000 hours to finish. Mixed media artist David Douglas is also featured, submitting his 'Eurydice Hunting Antlers' found art assemblage, made of chalk composite and an old lamp.

One of Jones' favourite pieces is a political commentary submitted by Keith Rydberg titled 'The Emperor has no clothes', a wood carving with acrylic paint that focuses on former U.S. president Donald Trump.

Paintings from long-time contributors like Harvey Walker, Renee Woltz, Susan Hay, Ian Varney, and Deborah J. Reed are also featured.

Grethe Jensen is a first-time participant. After relocating to the Highlands in June 2023, she quickly discovered Rails End and has been an active member ever since. Her piece 'All My People' is an acrylic painting

that focuses on people coming together.

"As people, we are gathering dreams all our lives. I was trying to portray the concept of gathering, that our lives are better the more connections we make," Jensen said, noting she completed it in stages over a six-month period last year.

Coming from Toronto, where she was heavily engaged in the arts community, Jensen said Rails End stands out as one of the best galleries she's been involved with. She believes the salon exhibition, held every year, is a great way to engage with the local arts community and showcase Highlanders' talents.

"This gallery is an absolute gem here in the community. The fact we have a gallery that is so open and responsive to new things, that actually wants to promote people's work whether they're accomplished or not, I find it very welcoming," Jensen said.

Jones said winter is an ideal time to stage the exhibit as it encourages artists to "get back on the saddle" after the holidays. It also helps drive traffic to the gallery during its quiet season.

"It's a nice keynote to start the year. The artists seem to appreciate having something to do, having somewhere to stage their creations, and people get a real kick out of coming in and seeing all the different ways artists have interpreted the theme... it's usually a very passionate, yet playful exhibit," Jones said.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jones noted the public can vote for their favourite pieces to determine the 2024 People's Choice award. The exhibit is also available to view online at railsendgallery.com.

Rails End Gallery curator Laurie Jones said this year's salon exhibition 'Dream' boasts more than 60 pieces, including this wood sculpture by Greg Gillespie.

Photo by Mike Baker.





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We will be offering outside BBQ patio and take out from May to Oct. weekends. Hurry spring!









Feeding growing kids

Angelo Bortolazzo and Amanda McKenzie donated a hotdog and hamburger lunch for Wilberforce Elementary School students Feb. 27. Bortolazzo also handed over \$2,780 in proceeds from a Feb. 18 Benoit Lake radar run, to put towards the school's food programs. School secretary Sandra MacDonald said they wanted to thank Angelo for putting the event together, and raising so much money. "I really want to show our appreciation for this amazing donation." She added the school provides breakfast and lunch as food security can be an issue. They sometimes help with groceries and things such as dog food for family pets. MacDonald said the program costs about \$1,500-a-month to run so the donation will get them through a couple of months. "That's going to feed a lot of families," she said. Students of the 61-pupil school pay 25 cents for breakfast and \$2 for a hot lunch. WES has paid staff to administer the program, through the Children's Breakfast Club of Canada program. (Lisa Gervais).

Above: The school community came together Feb. 27. Submitted. Top right: School secretary Sandra MacDonald says food security is an issue at WES. Right: Amanda McKenzie and Angelo Bortolazzo cook up hamburgers and hotdogs for Wilberforce Elementary School students. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



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Huskies 'to turn heads' in playoffs

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies secured a playoff berth after a flawless weekend that saw the team score eight goals and goaltender Brett Fullerton record back-toback shutouts

It's the third successive year the blue and white have qualified for the post-season. Fullerton believes the hometown team, which climbed to fifth position in the East Conference after a 6-0 win over the Caledon Admirals Feb. 24, and 2-0 win over the North York Rangers Feb. 25, has what it takes to compete for an OJHL championship.

They will likely have to do it the hard way, ceding home ice unless they win their final two games, and several other results go their way. If the Toronto Jr. Canadiens and Markham Royals lose two of their final three games, the Huskies have a chance to sneak into fourth place, which would bring home ice advantage.

"For us to get that home ice would be huge, some other stuff has to fall into place, but our mindset right now is just to win out and see where that takes us," Fullerton said. "Everyone has talked about playoffs... I don't think we really care who we play. It's just about knowing if we play our game then we can beat any team, as we've shown this season."

More than 500 people packed into S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Saturday for the Huskies penultimate regular season home game. The crowd barely had a chance to take their seats before Lucas Marshall opened the scoring 77 seconds in, notching his seventh goal of the season after being set up by team captain Patrick Saini and Charlie Fink.

Saini doubled the lead 17:51 into the first, assisted by Matt Milic and Marshall. Fink then got in on the scoring action, finding twine on the powerplay 5:17 into the middle frame on assists by Adam Smeeton and Ian Phillips.

Petrou added another powerplay marker two minutes later, assisted by Saini and



Lucas Marshall was credited with the game-winner after opening the scoring 77 seconds into the game. Photo by Mike Baker.

Milic, before Phillips potted his 12th goal of the season at 8:14, assisted by Petrou and Noah Lodoen. Fink helped himself to his second of the game, and 19th of the season, 11:34 into the third, assisted by Saini, who had a four-point night, and Marshall, who had three points.

Fullerton was rock solid between the pipes, turning away 16 shots en route to his first shutout of the season.

"Right from puck drop, the boys were really up for it and that helps me, for sure. I felt pretty relaxed in net knowing if we stuck to our plan that I was probably going to have a good night," Fullerton said. "All credit for the shutout goes to the rest of the boys – they

really limited the shots I had to face."

A quick schedule turnaround saw the Huskies take to the ice in Toronto approximately 20 hours after Saturday's final buzzer. The players showed no sign of fatigue in a dominant win over the Rangers, capped by Saini scoring his team-leading 40th and 41st goals of the season.

The captain got his side off to the perfect start, scoring just 36 seconds in after being teed up by Fink and Alex Bradshaw. He made sure of the result 3:10 into the third, beating Rangers goaltender Amir Valiullin on the powerplay on assists from Milic and affiliate player Kyle Butt, making his first appearance of the season.

Fullerton was again perfect, making 12 saves to secure his second shutout in as many nights.

"Never done that before," Fullerton said of his back-to-back shutouts. "I was still feeling pretty good from the Caledon game, thought it was important to get as many quality minutes under my belt as possible before playoffs. I'm feeling good. We feel like we can take on anybody right now."

The Huskies welcome the Toronto Jr. Canadiens to town March 2 for a matchup that could have significant playoff implications, before finishing the regular season March 3 on the road in Niagara Falls. Playoffs will begin the following week.







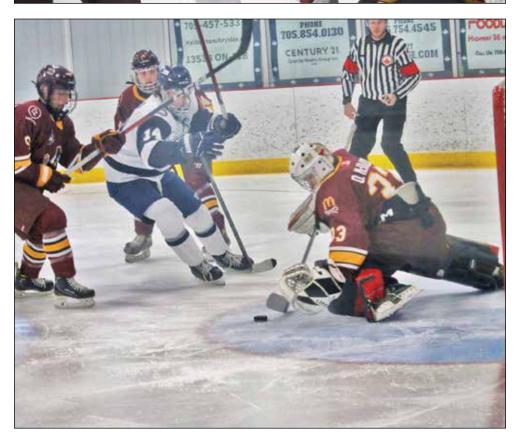












Top: Defenceman Raine Nadeau prevents the puck from crossing the blueline on a Huskies attack. Middle: Lucas Stevenson gets in position to screen Caledon goaltender Austin McKillop. Above: Charlie Fink watches as his net-front redirect is kept out. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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16 Home of the Highland Storm



Brody Hartwig battles to move the puck up ice. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

torm shut out Newcastle

The U15 Haliburton Timber Mart team played Newcastle Feb. 23 in Minden with the stands full. The Storm opened up the scoring in the first period with an unassisted goal from Brody Hartwig. The second period saw the Storm adding to

the scoreboard with two additional goals, by Brody Harrison and Kieran Cox, assists from Harrison and Hartwig. The final score was 3-0. (Submitted).

·C··O··R··E··B··O··A··R··D

Feb. 20

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Sturgeon • 5-2 W

U15 Haliburton Timber Mart VS Kawartha 2-12 L

U15 Haliburton Timber Mart VS Newcastle

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Newcastle

U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling VS Millbrook • 9-1 W

U11 Car Quest VS South Muskoka • 6-3 L

U13 Up Right Roofing VS Almaguin • 8-1 W

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Brock • 4-0 L

U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling VS Newcastle • 8-0 W

U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS Parry Sound 12-3 W

U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Newcastle 4-3 W

U9 Hockey Haven VS Huntsville • 7-3 W

Roofing • 4-2

U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS U13 Up Right U15 Haliburton Timber Mart VS Millbrook

U18 Sharp Electric VS South Muskoka • 1-9 L U18 Tom Prentice & Sons VS Brock • 4-5 L

U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS Huntsville • 2-1 W

U15 The Pepper Mill VS South Muskoka

U18 Sharp Electric VS Parry Sound • 2-1 W

U9 Hockey Haven VS Huntsville • 4-1 L

U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling VS Lindsay

U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Newcastle • 4-1 W

U11 Car Quest VS Huntsville • 4-3 W





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Brody Hartwig

Brody continued to elevate his game in the Storm's second playoff game. He set the tone with his speed and effort. Brody scored the first - and eventual game-winning - goal of the night.



Kieran Cox

Kieran didn't miss a beat in his first game back from injury. He showed off his offensive skill as he chipped in with the game's second goal. Kieran's return to the line up helped the Storm secure their win.



Joel Robertson

Joel led by example with his hard work, and constant positivity. He was dependable every shift and was willing to do whatever he could to help the Storm come out with the win. Photos by Tim Tofflemire.





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Hawks soar at OFSSA Nordic skiing

By Lisa Gervais

The Red Hawk Nordic ski team had a successful OFSAA championship at Lakefield College School Feb. 22-23, with Violet Humphries earning bronze and three relay sprint teams finishing in the top five.

Coach Karen Gervais said the team nearly doubled in numbers this year, 15 athletes up from eight.

Skiers were forced to contend with rapidly changing snow conditions and early starts each day, as race times were bumped up to 8 a.m. to avoid the warmest parts of the afternoon. Despite less-than-ideal ski conditions, HHSS athletes came home with fists full of ribbons.

In Feb. 22 interval distance races, Violet Humphries met her goal of a podium finish, skiing the 5km course under slick conditions to a bronze in the high school category. At the OFSAA level, skiers can compete in either the high school or open categories, with high school skiers competing and training exclusively with their school team, and open skiers training with a club and competing on the Ontario Cup circuit.

Teammate Olivia Gruppe followed Humphries with a personal best ski and 15th place finish. Ella Gervais was 24th; Sadie Kelly 34th and Grace Allder 67th in a field of 114 high school trained skiers. This earned the junior girls team a fifth-place finish overall.

Gervais said, "a lot of our skiers' success can be attributed to the strong foundations built in our local Jackrabbit program organized by volunteers and the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association. Many of our athletes continue to act as junior instructors in this program and spend their Saturday afternoons teaching the next generation of Nordic skiers.'

In the highly competitive junior boys' category, the Backus twins made their OFSAA Nordic debut, returning to the sport after several years. Graham Backus finished 14th, closely followed by Evan in 16th. Ninth-grade skier Winston Ramsdale finished



33rd; Brechin Johnston 47th; Owen Megrah-Poppe 61st and Carter McKnight-Sisco 80th. There were 122 skiers in the category. Johnston and Megrah-Poppe donned crosscountry skis for the first time ever this year and "continue to make excellent progress in the sport," Gervais said. As a team, the junior boys finished ninth in the interval races, one place short of taking home an OFSAA ribbon.

On the senior girls 7km course, Olivia Humphries skied to a strong 10th place finish; Erika Hoare was 14th; Hannah Sharp 44th and Teagan Hamilton 50th. Sharp and Hamilton are only in their second year of Nordic skiing. This team earned a sixth-place finish and a burgundy OFSAA ribbon to bring home.

Feb. 23's sprint relays held a lot of drama and intensity, Gervais said. The junior

girls' team of Gruppe, Kelly, Gervais and Humphries finished fourth.

The junior boys' team of the Backus', Ramsdale and Johnston excelled with their strength and grit in the slushy snow on the 900m loop to ski to a fifth-place finish.

The senior girls' team of Sharp, Hamilton, Hoare and Humphries secured fourth-place in a commendable team effort.

"The Haliburton Highlands Nordic team stood strong against big skiing schools with many club skiers such as Huntsville, Collingwood, Glebe and Nepean in Ottawa and Sudbury's Lo Ellen Park and one of few schools to field three teams in the sprint relay finals," Gervais said.

Above: The entire Nordic ski team. Right: Violet Humphries navigates an icy turn in the junior girls 5km race. Submitted.



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OBITUARIES



Mary Harnden (Nee Saunders)

Mary passed surrounded by the love of her family at Northumberland Hills Hospital at 88 years of age. Mary was born to Albert and Ethel Saunders and

raised on the family farm in Wilberforce. After raising her family in Cobourg, Mary returned to her roots up north where she continued to develop her many talents. Over the last several years, Mary enjoyed the friendships formed within her apartment community in Cobourg. Always up for a project, she transformed a strip of land into a garden filled with colourful plantings. Mary will be forever missed by her children, Janet (Fred Swanson), Joanne McCullough (Tom Corneil) and Mark (Nancy Hompus). She was blessed with her grandchildren, Jesse Campbell (Dan), Ben Harnden (Stacey) and Matthew McCullough along with her great grandchildren Madelyn and Cole Harnden. Mary is now reunited with her brother Jim Saunders (deceased 2019) and is survived by her sister-in-law Mina Saunders and their children. Special thanks to Dr. Al-Ali and the intensive and palliative care departments of NHH for her care.

Visitation & Funeral Service

In keeping with Mary's wishes a Funeral Service will take place on Saturday morning, May 4, 2024 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior) at the **HALIBURTON** COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209. A reception will follow in The Community Room. Interment South Wilberforce Cemetery. For those wishing to join the family virtually please follow the enclosed link. https:// join.skype.com/m57em6troWu4. As an expression of

sympathy, donations may be made to a charity of your choice and would be appreciated by the family.



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IN MEMORIAM



One very long year has passed Life hasn't and never will be the same without you Everything about you, your love, laughter, kindness, are so terribly missed But beautiful memories remain You are always on my mind, And forever in my heart

Love always, Sharon xo



IN LOVING **MEMORY OF** TOM MAYHEW

You were my best friend and my soulmate. Now you are my angel. I think of you every day & will love you forever. I miss you Tommy. Love Kat



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY PETER **WALFORD-DAVIS**

OPEN HOUSE To celebrate Peter's 90th birthday at the Mill Pond Restaurant in Carnarvon March 2, 2-4 p.m. All welcome. No gifts.

HELP WANTED



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a **Director of Planning**

The County of Haliburton is in the heart of cottage country in central Ontario approximately 2 hours north-east of the Greater Toronto Area and situated immediately south of Algonquin Park. The County is part of a two-tier governance structure including the Townships of Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills and the Municipalities of Dysart et al and Highlands East with a total population of approximately 20,000. The County of Haliburton is a prominent tourist destination that sees our population more than double to approximately 43,500 on a seasonal basis. The Haliburton Highlands is an active community of artists, independent businesses, outdoor enthusiasts and for those enjoying a relaxed and vibrant lifestyle. This could be your location to live, work and play - come and join us in #MyHaliburtonHighlands.

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Planning has responsibility for a full range of professional land use planning functions as well as supervising planning staff and preparing and monitoring the planning division budget. This responsibility includes policy development, making recommendations regarding the County Official Plan to County Council, and associated committees of Council. Emphasis is on providing professional advice and working collaboratively with our local municipalities regarding land use matters. As part of the Senior Management Team, the Director shall be a collaborative thinker with the ability to adapt to change and interact effective governments and agencies, developers, consultants, and key stakeholder groups in a professional and courteous manner.

Key duties include ensuring compliance with legislation and Council policies; the effective and efficient delivery of development inspection services; implementation and improving long-term community plans and strategies; and providing planning technical advice and guidance to the Chief Administrative Officer and Council.

The successful applicant will hold a University degree in land use planning or a related discipline with a minimum of five years progressive municipal experience. They will also be a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) in good standing, with a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI).

For complete responsibilities and requirements of the position please visit our website at www. haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

Please submit a detailed resume indicating your skills and experience no later than March 8th, 2024, to: Gary Dyke, Chief Administrative Officer gdyke@haliburtoncounty.ca

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

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

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



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 $\,$

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

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

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.

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

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This is a unionized CUPE position. Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job

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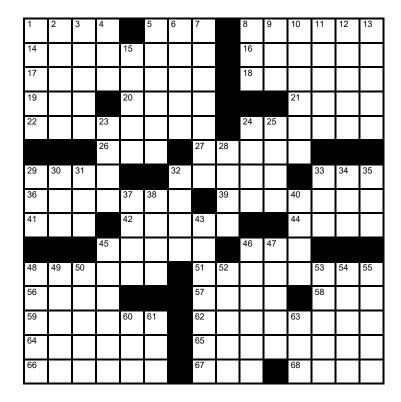
(See answers to starred clues)

- 1 Maids-a-milking number, in
- **5** Letters from a shy guy?
- 8 "Stifle!"
- **14** One with a take-out order?
- 16 Classic Carol Burnett role
- 17 *Ailment causing stuffiness
- 18 *Scientist associated with an apple
- 19 U.S. attorneys' org.
- 20 Golden- (senior)
- 21 Prefix with sphere or scope
- 22 *Windsor, Ontario's "Heritage Tree" type
- 24 *School period
- 26 Early cyberchat co.
- 27 Ending with sun or moon
- 29 Pampered poodle name, perhaps
- 32 Similarly quirky
- 33 Palindromic pop band
- **36** *Makes funky-coloured fabric
- **39** *Bridge work for a plastic surgeon
- 41 Place for a pip
- 42 Having a lot to lose, in a way
- 44 Way for an ex-smoker to blow off steam?
- **45** Be ___ cause (have no hope)
- 46 "May ___ of assistance?"
- 48 *Killer cocktail, maybe
- **51** *Crimes and misdemeanors
- **56** Pt. of BCIT or CNIB
- 57 Not a repro
- **58** "___'s Coming" (Three Dog Night song)
- **59** *Just about
- **62** *Cross-field football passes
- 64 Oil-rich neighbour of Iraq
- 65 Plays charades, at times
- 66 "Fixed" a feline
- **67** Wiring professionals: Abbr.
- **68** Pay, with "up"

Down

- 2 Perishable food label words
- 3 First name of 18-Across
- 4 Little fella

by Barbara Olson © ClassiCanadian Crosswords



- **5** Figure with equal angles
- 6 Hockey's Connor McDavid is one
- **7** Prepare to retire?
- 8 Place of "sober second thought": Abbr
- **9** Part of a palette array
- **10** Lacking sober second thought, perhaps
- 11 Texas-made vodka brand
- 12 Word form for "image," as with clast
- 13 Mortise insert
- **15** Phishing expeditions
- 23 Surrounded by
- 24 Venice beach resort
- 25 They should meet
- 28 Perfect, as skills
- 29 Co. that makes funeral arrangements?
- 30 Grandfather clock's 15-minute
- **31** "Finder's" charge
- **32** Enzyme suffixes
- 33 Steely Dan's best-selling album
- 34 Seuss title verb

- 35 Grandpa Simpson
- 37 First-time skydiver's cry, maybe
- 38 Blake's black
- **40** On an ___ keel
- **43** Police plant
- **45** Away from the target
- 46 "Say you're right about that, ..."
- 47 Sire, biblically
- 48 Shades in a girl's bedroom, maybe
- 49 Do a little better than
- "___ ship a-sailing... '
- **52** It gets the picture?
- _-Sky Highway (Vancouver-Whistler route)
- 54 First name of talk TV
- 55 Pantywaist
- **60** "No ___!" ("For real!")
- **61** So far, to a CPA
- 63 Juno genre

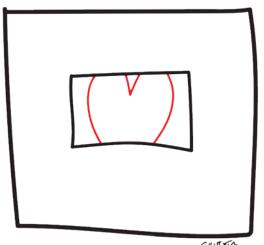


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Knock windows in the walls and let the light in. Open the windows and let the air in. Break down the walls and let the world in. Step outside and be it.

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





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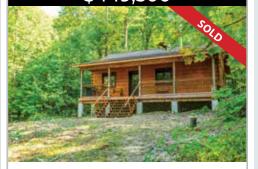
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