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The Highlander

Thursday February 20 2020 | Issue 427

INSIDE: RED HAWK BOYS CURLERS PROVINCIAL CHAMPS PAGE 16

FREE

Dogs seized from Minden property

By Joseph Quigley

Neighbours and advocates are relieved after officials removed 11 hunting dogs from Minden properties during an animal welfare investigation.

Officials removed the dogs Feb. 14, due to the owner not complying with orders relating to standards of care, according to the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Fourteen dogs were initially chained to insulated dog houses on an uninhabited property, according to the property owner. The ministry said the dogs were brought to humane societies, but no information was available on the three dogs unaccounted for as of Feb. 18.

Shanna Dryburgh was one of the neighbours who originally reported the issue Jan. 22 due to concern over the dogs' conditions. She said it's bittersweet seeing the dogs removed.

"In the back of my mind, I didn't want anything to be wrong," Dryburgh said, adding she feels bad for the property owner. "But it's a relief that there's an acknowledgement. (Dogs) being left unattended in this community is not something hopefully, going forward, that will be tolerated."

The property owner could not be reached for comment after his dogs' removal. In an interview before the dogs were taken, he said his setup is common among hunters. He also said his dogs were in good health, and he attended the property twice a day.

Officials did not initially seize the dogs. An OPP press release Jan. 30 said animal welfare investigators were

working with the property owner to improve property conditions.

Dryburgh described the public response as "overwhelming." A video of the dogs went viral, attracting tens of thousands of shares and comments on Facebook. One online petition, calling for an investigation as to why the dogs were not initially removed, garnered 10,023 signatures.

She said she still has concerns about how the officials handled the investigation and believes they should have taken the dogs right away.

"It would have stopped all the public outcry," she said, adding the owner could get the dogs back after fixing any issues with their habitat. "It's better to err on the side of caution and just get them out of there."

The Ministry of the Solicitor General said Feb. 11 a veterinarian was called to two Minden properties to aid the investigation. But the Jan. 30 OPP press release makes no mention of a vet. After being asked whether a vet was called when investigators first attended the site, the ministry said it could not comment as it is an ongoing investigation.

Advocate: outcry made a difference

Lynn Perrier is a long-time animal welfare advocate who started the petition. She said she feels the public outcry made a difference in how the ministry handled the case.

See "Advocates" on page 2



A juggler makes his way down the main street of Dorset during this past weekend's Snowball Winter Carnival. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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Advocates seeking change

Continued from page 1

"We had over 10,000 signatures in two days. There's no way that any government can ignore that," Perrier said.

The case came in a time of transition for animal welfare in the province. The Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act came into effect Jan. 1, putting enforcement in the hands of the province instead of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA).

Perrier said the new act has loopholes, as evidenced by this case. But she added the act is a good framework and the province will need more time to add more regulations for animal care.

"They really are totally inexperienced with this and I think we need to have patience," Perrier said. "I have no doubt that eventually, we're going to have an animal welfare system that is the best in Canada, but it's going to take time."

Laws come under scrutiny

The situation has put a new focus on the practice of tethering, or chaining dogs. It's legal in Ontario, but another online petition, which cites this case, is calling for tethering to be banned. It has amassed more than 38,000 signatures.

In its code of practice for kennels, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CMVA) said tethering is not allowed as a method of confining a dog to a primary enclosure, nor as the only means of containment. It also recommends dogs be monitored while



One of the dogs allegedly on a Minden property, which came under scrutiny for animal welfare concerns. Photo submitted.

tethered, and tethers be five times the length of a dog.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) does not have a position on tethering, according to resources management specialist Lauren Tonelli.

But the OFAH is working on a new code of conduct for hunting dogs. Tonelli said the code will provide best practice, including for the training and care of hunting dogs. Outdoor care will also be mentioned.

"Really that idea of a weather-appropriate shelter, making sure they do have somewhere warm and out of the elements and somewhere they can always access water," Tonelli said.

She said the OFAH is aware of the Minden case but could not comment

on it specifically. She also said concerns raised by a situation such as this are broader than hunting.

"If anyone ever sees a situation where they're concerned about the treatment of any animal, they should be contacting either their local municipality or the OPP," she said. "It's not a hunting dog issue, it's a dog owner issue."

Minden bylaws are also coming under scrutiny. The municipality restricts rural properties to nine dogs, besides kennels. But Dryburgh said even nine is too many and plans to make a delegation to council.

"At nine dogs, there are sanitary issues, there are noise issues," Dryburgh said. "It's just a crazy number."



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County warden Liz Danielsen said the municipality needs to ensure it gets its shoreline bylaw right. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

Builders storm council chambers over bylaw

By Joseph Quigley

Haliburton's construction sector is raising alarm bells over a draft shoreline preservation bylaw. However, County councillors have assured them their concerns will be heard.

County council discussed the bylaw during a committee of the whole meeting Feb. 12, with its chambers packed with onlookers from the construction industry. Staff had gathered feedback and worked on the bylaw for several months, aiming to protect shoreline and lake health by restricting development within 30 metres.

Brown + Co contract manager Andrew Brown said the bylaw in its current form would severely hamper developments and puts new lakefront properties at a massive disadvantage to existing ones when it comes to lake views. He added although he understands people want less clear-cutting, he thinks existing bylaws can cover that, but are not enforced.

"The construction industry, Haliburton's largest employer, is seriously worried about the delays, restrictions and extra fees," Brown said. "Not to mention the amount of people forced to break the law because they can not afford the expense to see the lake, the reason they moved to Haliburton."

Council did not make any decisions about the bylaw, voting to receive it for information and have staff propose a public consultation process.

The bylaw itself impacts all lands within 30 metres of the high-water mark of a body of water. Within that area, unless it falls under an exemption or a permit is granted, it states nobody shall remove, destroy or injure natural vegetation. It also calls for those spaces to be kept clean of litter and refuse, restricts any site alterations, restricts tree removal, as well as other limitations for noise and odour.

It also specifies certain types of work would not require permits, including snow removal, installing a driveway or pathway, removing invasive species, clearing obstacles such as fallen trees and culvert cleaning.

The bylaw includes fees for application, permits and an extension fee, suggested at 50 per cent of the original permit. The draft states that permits will expire after 90 days if site alteration activities have not commenced.

The exact fee costs are not yet listed, but Coun. Patrick Kennedy questioned the extension fee.

"I almost feel that's a cash grab," he said.

Director of planning Charley White suggested fees be waived for the first year of the bylaw to help get compliance.

Councillors brought up other concerns, such as the enforcement challenges the bylaw could pose and the possible need for additional staff. They expressed the need for a good public consultation process.

"I would rather not have any rush to put something in place until we're absolutely sure we've heard from everybody and understand the concerns," Coun. Carol Moffatt said.

Haliburton County Home Builders Association vice-president Glenn Evans said the executive was pleased by the outcome of the meeting.

"The process seemed to be almost well underway and predetermined," Evans said. "It was nice to understand there was more room for public input."

He said the association is starting a task force to examine the bylaw. He added more should be done to properties which have already damaged natural shorelines and the task force will seek a middle ground between protecting lakes and economic interests.

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Highlander news



Highlands East passed its 2020 municipal budget Feb. 11. *File photo.*

HE passes budget with 3.81 per cent levy increase

By Joseph Quigley

Highlands East passed its 2020 municipal budget with a 3.81 per cent levy increase Feb. 11.

The budget includes funding for an array of improvements to some roads, fire departments and Cardiff facilities.

CAO Shannon Hunter said the budget this year avoids larger changes to the organization and infrastructure to do further review.

With the County and education rates factored in, Highlands East residents can

expect a total tax rate increase of 1.61 per cent, or \$13.69 for every \$100,000 of assessment.

Coun. Cam McKenzie complimented staff on the budget, adding council has generally not taken issue with budgets in recent years.

"I would just like to say to Shannon and her staff, well done," McKenzie said. "I've been on council five years and we've never had a major disagreement or in-depth discussion on the budget."

Highlights include \$175,000 being transferred to reserves for a future, singular municipal office, recommended in an

organizational review. The municipality is also allotting \$50,000 for an asset management plan revision and \$15,000 for a service delivery review.

Most fire halls are receiving repairs to add exhaust fans, with a couple receiving roof repairs. Station 6 is getting \$59,600 for fans and roof repairs, station 4 is getting \$42,560 for the same and Stations 1, 2 and 3 are each getting \$20,000 for fans only.

Road projects this year include \$250,000 for Clement Lake Road, \$150,000 for McColls Road and \$48,000 for Magnificent Road.

Cardiff facilities are also getting improvements, including \$200,000 for a new changeroom and bathrooms at the pool, as recommended by a facilities review. The Cardiff municipal office and library are getting \$33,500 for concrete walkaways amongst other upgrades, while the Post Office and food bank are receiving \$15,000.

The final budget removed \$10,000 originally included in the draft for a consultant to review ward boundaries, Hunter said.

Budget briefs

Minden Hills to make it formal

Minden Hills will officially pass its 2020 budget at the end of the month - with a 5.3 per cent levy increase.

The township is planning to borrow about \$2 million for some major projects. They include: the Sunnybrook Bridge (\$400k), Sedgwick Road Bridge (\$160k share, should they receive successful funding), Millburn Road Bridge wearing surface (\$10k) and 0.9km of Bobcaygeon Road (\$775k).

Other projects include the Shetland Road drainage project (\$230k) and IGA Road (\$375k).

Also approved was 35.32km of mechanical brushing. This will be done on Bacon, Bethel, Claude Brown, Conway, Devils Lake, Plantation, Queen's Line and Scotch Line roads.

Receiving slurry seal and a minor rehabilitation are: Hunter Creek, Spar Lake and Hospitality roads, along with Spring Valley, County, Plantation, and Fleming roads.

Under the environment department, the

budget also paves for the way for the closing of the Irondale landfill. There are also plans to close all landfills on Wednesdays in winter, reopening them on Thursday. The rationale is to allow training since the township hopes to eventually bring the service in-house.

Users of the Lutterworth water system will see an increase of five per cent, or about \$55 per user. *(Lisa Gervais)*

AH begins budget deliberations

Algonquin Highlands council began its budget talks Feb. 19-20.

Interim treasurer Tammy McKelvey said in a first draft budget report that the starting point there is a 5.83 per cent levy increase.

She estimated a year-end surplus of approximately \$265,000 being transferred into the Working Funds Reserve. She attributed this to staffing vacancies experienced in 2019. She noted the vacancies also resulted in some projects not being completed.

"The 2020 budget as presented was prepared with the 2019 Municipal Levy,

plus the .86% growth related taxes of \$44,839. At this point, an additional levy of \$304,06 is required. This is an additional increase of 5.83%," she said.

She added there are numerous impacts on the 2020 budget, including: \$67,000 for the recruitment of a maintenance co-ordinator position; \$15,000 for transitioning a seasonal to full-time operator; \$57,000 for the fire department SCBA costs not covered in the levy; \$120,000 for the insulation of the Dorset roads garage; \$47,000 in increased recycling costs; \$27,500 for a Dorset Tower capital project; and \$32,000 for docks and landings. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Dysart et al passes budget

Dysart et al passed its 2020 budget and its corresponding tax bylaw with a 3.65 percent municipal levy increase Jan. 28.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said she was glad to pass the budget in January, months earlier than is traditional for the municipality. She added although disagreements can come from budgeting, council must work through them.

"It's tough, but we work as a group, we work collectively and that's more or less what the budgeting process is about," Roberts said.

Coun. John Smith requested a recorded vote and was the lone person to go against passing the bylaw. He was once again critical of the roads budget and called for \$200,000 to be moved from discretionary areas into roads work.

"This is what people feel are most important," Smith said. "It's a thing that impedes people from coming to town."

But Smith could not find any support for the idea amongst councillors. Roberts said they could not find an easy \$200,000 to shift to roads.

Coun. Larry Clarke said council sees a need to move ahead with a new asset management plan this year to figure out a comprehensive approach for roads going forward.

"It's going to take some patience to get there," he said.

The levy increase equates to \$10.36 per \$100,000 of assessment for residential, \$15.36 for commercial and \$17.80 for industrial, according to treasurer Barbara Swannell. *(Joseph Quigley)*

Highlander news



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Sweetening the pot for affordable housing

By Joseph Quigley

Housing developers and advocates flocked to an information session in Haliburton Feb. 11 aimed at highlighting incentives that will help fill the regional affordable housing gap.

The City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton housing services hosted the session to discuss the new annual Affordable Housing Target Program. The initiative will guide developers through a yearlong process to help them take advantage of all the government financial incentives available to develop affordably.

More than 50 people attended. Places for People vice president Faye Martin said the new process should attract more interest into previously undersubscribed incentives.

"There was very poor take-up and part of the problem was people didn't know about it," Martin said. "The really, really smart thing this time around is they got Elise (Karklins, affordable housing program coordinator) here to basically hold your hand, take you through it."

The program will accept expressions of interest for several housing types, including new rental and home developments, secondary suites, and multi-unit rehabilitation. Packages will be provided to developers based on their projects and what incentives they seek. After being filled out, the packages will be reviewed by the coordinator and a technical team, before

eventually being forwarded to councils for approval. The amount of funding released by municipalities will depend on how much interest there is, according to city human services manager Hope Lee.

It is all to help the City and the County achieve their new affordable housing targets, committed to in 2019. The City is aiming to create 2,000 new affordable units over 10 years while the County is aiming for 750.

"It's not competitive," Lee said. "We're going to look at each expression of interest based on its own merits and how it helps us achieve those targets."

The incentives include a variety of funding programs that can be provided as an up-front grant, Lee said. In general, the amount of money available to an applicant is greater based on how long a developer keeps the proposed unit(s) affordable.

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation president Glenn Scott complimented the presentation and what is being offered.

"It's actually getting close to rubber on the road," Scott said. "This is the way to do it, is to give us a process where there is some opportunity for money at the end."

However, he added the biggest test of the program will be seeing exactly how much funding it can provide.

"I love what they're doing but let's really see how they can help us out," Scott said.



City of Kawartha Lakes human services manager Hope Lee addresses an audience about a new housing program in Haliburton Feb. 11. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

Maple View Apartments administrator Kathy Rogers said there is some real potential in the program.

"It's a great step on starting to get us all together," Rogers said. "There's definitely a lot of interest."

The pre-submission process is planned for March, with expressions of interest meetings planned for April. More information is available by contacting Karklins at ekarklins@kawarthalakes.ca or 705-324-9870 extension 3105.

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The Highlander's Mission

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week

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

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

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

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

If you build it ...

We applaud the City of Kawartha Lakes-County of Haliburton housing services for hosting an information session Feb. 11 in Haliburton.

The event attracted more than 50 people. There were housing advocates, which is great. But they are the converted. More importantly, housing developers attended. They're the ones the city and County must convince to invest in affordable housing. And the only real way to entice them is to assure them that there is government money available, and that they can, in time, make some money off of the housing they build.

The hosts came to talk about the new annual Affordable Housing Target Program. This initiative will guide developers through a yearlong process to help them take advantage of all the government financial incentives available to develop affordable housing.

As is sometimes the case with government incentive programs, it takes awhile to get the word out. Builders and developers are so busy, well, building and developing, that they don't always have the time to research this stuff.

So, having affordable housing program coordinator Elise Karklins on hand, to basically walk developers through the incentives, was good common sense.

The program will accept expressions of interest for several housing types, including new rental and home developments, secondary suites, rent supplements and

multi-unit rehabilitation.

Packages will be provided to developers based on their projects and what incentives they seek. After being filled out, the packages will be reviewed by the coordinator and a technical team, before eventually being forwarded to councils for approval.

The amount of funding released by municipalities will depend on how much interest there is.

With the city setting a target of creating an additional 1,280 affordable housing units, and the County 750, over the next 10 years, this is a good first step.

The incentives include a variety of municipal sweeteners and funding programs, many of which are provided as an up-front grant. In general, the amount of incentives or funding available to an applicant is greater based on how long they keep the proposed unit(s) affordable.

Of course, the devil is in the details. How much funding will be provided?

Developers are reminded that the pre-submission process is planned for March, with expressions of interest meetings planned for April. (*See related story in today's edition for more information*).

An April 25, 2019, *Globe and Mail* article outlined really well the National Housing Strategy's (NHS) key federal funding initiatives. It talks about non-profit WoodGreen Community Services building a new 35-unit housing complex for seniors

on Toronto's Danforth Avenue.

It's one of the slew of new projects taking advantage of billions of dollars in funding available through the NHS.

Launched in 2017, the \$55-billion-plus NHS is the country's first ever federal housing strategy. Its goals include reducing homelessness by half, removing about 530,000 families from housing need, renovating and modernizing about 300,000 existing homes, and building more than 125,000 new units over the next decade.

One of the key themes is bringing together different parties from public and private sectors, including private developers and non-profit organizations, to tackle this major undertaking.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is the government agency responsible for implementing the lion's share of the NHS, using grants, loans and incentives.

Each of the federal funding initiatives have been designed to fund sustainable, affordable housing projects that would have otherwise been impossible using traditional financing models.

It's a welcome program since we all know how desperately more affordable housing is needed here.



By Lisa Gervais

In for a dime, in for a dollar

I don't know about you, but I have been underwhelmed by the legalization of marijuana in Canada, which followed legislation approved on October 18, 2018.

It has been a bit of a non-starter from my perspective, but then maybe I am not the demographic they are aiming for.

Indeed, it has been quite some time since I shared a joint or even contemplated the purchase of the wacky weed. In addition to being outside the target market, my understanding is that what is on offer right now is not "my grandfather's marijuana" ... where I, presumably, am the grandfather.

The reports I see (my source here is the highly esteemed website herb.co) tell me that the hippy weed from the 60's had one per cent THC content, while today's weed contains six to eight per cent THC, a significant increase. Perhaps at that potency, it's just not for me. Anyway, I have little interest in reactivating that portion of my hippy years.

While the federal government legalized the recreational use of pot 17 months ago, the distribution and management of the product was left to the provincial governments. The powers that be at Queen's Park, with its snail like introduction of retail outlets, appears to have a lack of interest in reaching out to those who would like

to get their hands on a dime bag, if that is still a thing. Indeed, the ham-fisted and clumsy roll-out of provincial sales was both disorganized and mysteriously unseen. Perhaps, despite the much rumoured past history of the premier, the government was happy to leave the business in the hands of the unregulated market. Even with government controlled online sales, delivered by Canada Post, and a smattering of over-the-counter operations, the tsunami that was to be the introduction of legalized marijuana just doesn't appear to have materialized.

Those few users who I talk with, or at least those who admit to me they still light up, are, as far as I know, buying from their traditional sources. And why not? Look at the prices. According to Bloomberg News, an October 2019 report blamed the lack of retail outlets in many Ontario communities and the lower prices charged by dealers operating outside the law, for enabling the illegal sales to continue to thrive. On a Canada-wide basis, the illegal product was roughly 35 per cent less expensive, according to StatsCan. The average for a gram of government-controlled weed is \$10.23, while the proverbial guy on the corner is selling the same amount for \$5.59. I'm sure that even those who want to make

their purchases legally, would be prepared to bend their scruples a little when faced with that price differential. Heck, I know guys that will drive 25 kilometers to save two cents on a litre of gas.

While the province has promised to open the legal marketing of recreational marijuana, 20 new stores-fronts will be approved every month this year to add to the 25 already open, those numbers hardly compare to the 254 open last year in Alberta with another 250 being added this year, a province with just over a quarter of Ontario's population.

Far be it from me to suggest anyone should light up, or indulge in some newly released edibles. However, if part of the exercise was to knock the black market down and make some revenue for the provincial and federal governments, then Ontario needs to step up its game. As the old saying goes, in for a dime, in for a dollar.



By Jack Brezina

HAVE AN OPINION? SEND YOUR LETTERS TO EDITOR@THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

Eye on the street: How do you feel about the teacher strikes?

By Hannah Sadlier & Joseph Quigley



Jordy Schell

Minden

"I feel there are both pros and cons. Pro: Teachers are standing up and that's great- con: students fall back because of missing school."



Ash Grasley

Hamilton

"They're important but I don't think the Ford government is going to listen and I'm upset about the way that's going to be affecting the students' education."



Peter Moore

Guelph

"Teachers in general should be paid more. They work really really hard and a lot of that work goes unnoticed."



Carolyn Coburn

Haliburton

"Thankful, because they're representing all of our interests."



Marla Force

Haliburton

"As a retired teacher, I fully sympathize with the teachers. It happens over and over again when cuts go first in education."

LETTERS

Leave Centre Lake alone

Dear editor,

Regarding: Jan. 3, 2020 - Multimillion Dollar Condominium Proposed at Centre Lake

What gives Mayor D. Burton and his gaggle of councillors the right? What gives them the right to destroy Centre Lake? This lake and land doesn't belong exclusively to them! A handful of elected officials have no right to decide what should be done on Crown Land, land that belongs to the public. We are all guardians of the land, we all need to be accountable to the land and lakes we have, including Centre Lake and the Crown Land surrounding it.

Saying that the developer (Granite Shores Condominium Development) would have to work with the County's Shoreline Preservation by-law is a moot point, it is a by-law and must be adhered to regardless. But shoreline protection is only a fraction of what's at stake here, the Crown Land includes forest, lake, flora and fauna habitats and cannot be separated from the shoreline when it comes to protection ... or destruction. You can be as sanctimonious as you want reciting all the laws and by-laws of protection when queried but inevitably there will be devastation and pollution.

The reserve on this piece of Crown Land, as C. Jones puts it, dates back to the mining era and was put in place to preserve the lake from exploitation. With the possibility of the reserve being removed, the Granite Shores Condominium Development will be able to do what the mining company couldn't, exploit it. Centre Lake will be beleaguered with cottages and condos, noisy, stinking, polluting watercraft and hideous inflatable toys littering the lake. Isn't an undeveloped, beautiful and pristine lake worth more, is it not better to keep it as Crown Land so everyone can enjoy this beautiful lake, without the overpowering affliction that land development will bring?

This proposal is nothing but greed wrapped in the pretext of 'economic benefit'.

I sincerely hope the Ministry of Natural

Resources makes the right decision and keeps the reserve on the Crown Land surrounding Centre Lake and keeps Highlands East council and the Granite Shores Condominium Development out! Home run be damned!

Deborah Wisniewska
Tory Hill

Centre Lake a 'gem'

Dear editor,

Centre Lake is a gem - a gem of nature that everyone driving along Highway 118 can enjoy every day of the year. Centre Lake should be seen as more than just another lake in Haliburton County, it represents what pristine nature can look like and it's right in our own backyard for all to experience.

Why would we want to lose that? We should all realize that Haliburton has hundreds of lakes and rivers that are enjoyed by those lucky enough to own a waterfront cottage, but only one Centre Lake.

Centre Lake is a local treasure and should be cherished by the community and not sold off for "profit".

Our local council are empowered to make decisions that have our best interest at heart. It is up to us to let your voice be heard so they know exactly where you stand on the future of Centre Lake.

For once Centre Lake waterfront is re-zoned to allow the building of a cottage resort, then it will quickly become just another lake in Haliburton, instead of being the gem that it is.

Maurice Guzzo
Highlands East

Backing teachers

Dear editor,

I am very fortunate, it seems, to have gone through the Ontario public school system during the Bill Davis years, when the baby

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Ashlee Gross, a Grade 9 student from Thornhill, ON sent us this photo of an owl that she took at the cottage on Grass Lake in Haliburton over the Family Day weekend.

boom required new schools, and there was a real interest in and support for education. The government invested heavily and there was a general sense that government actually cared and responded to public need.

Now, we have a government whose actions, rather than words and slogans, demonstrate no interest in supporting quality public education. The minister, who comes from a private school background, is promoting the idea that Ontario model its education system (e-learning) on Alabama, the poorest ranked education system in the US.

Ontario has a top ranked public system and the RepubliCons are intent on carving off chunks of it. The teachers are being vilified by the premier and the education minister. There was the recent fake ads campaign and now the government is suggesting that teachers should be tested for math competency by a private company.

This from a government which did a big "oops" on the size of the deficit that was the basis and rationale for all the cost-cutting and "efficiencies." Reductions in the number of teachers and increases in class sizes are causing nightmares for school boards, students and parents.

There is an obvious thrust for more privatization of education, health, welfare and other services in Ontario. The teachers are standing up against policies that they can see to be very detrimental to a future Ontario. If you want to show some resistance to these and other government policies, join the teachers on Friday, Feb. 21 for the one-day, province-wide strike for better education and a better future. And don't stop there. RESIST where you see the need. It is past time to push back.

Eric Lilius
Haliburton

Highlander news

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Hospital cook wins foundation lottery: Hospital cook Michael LeBlanc was on hand to learn he won the \$20,000 grand prize in this year's Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Cash for Care Lottery. The final draw took place Feb. 14 at the Haliburton hospital. Other winners included George Milne of Oshawa, who won \$2,000, and Doris Pierson of Eagle Lake, who won \$1,000. The annual fundraising lottery is helping the foundation purchase new cardiographs for the Haliburton and Minden emergency departments (Joseph Quigley).

TripAdvisor spurs tourism debate

By Joseph Quigley

The County Tourism Committee remained at an impasse about spending on a TripAdvisor page and will seek more stakeholder feedback before coming to a decision.

The committee asked questions during a Feb. 16 meeting about investing \$13,500 from the marketing budget for a Destination Sponsorship package with the company. The package would allow the County more control on a TripAdvisor destination page for the Haliburton Highlands, but some accommodators have expressed concern TripAdvisor could end up costing individual businesses.

The committee asked questions of TripAdvisor's Emily Fowler over teleconference. Committee chair and Coun. Carol Moffatt said she wanted to ensure the County's investment would not take extra money from local businesses.

"We don't want to use public money to facilitate something that will force the hand of our small business owners into somewhere that they don't want to go," Moffatt said.

Fowler explained that with the purchase, the County would be able to control most everything on a central page for the Haliburton Highlands to promote the area. The County would be able to curate the content of the page and direct it to link out to different local businesses.

She also said TripAdvisor would not force the hand of those small businesses, who could benefit from a controlled central page directing traffic to them without having to pay into TripAdvisor themselves.



The County tourism committee reviews an example TripAdvisor destination page during a meeting Feb. 12. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

"Working with their tourism board, they're able to have that tourism board post on their behalf," Fowler said. "It's really a win-win-win for stakeholders."

But Rob Berthlot challenged that. He noted TripAdvisor offers sponsored placements to make a business feature more prominently on its website.

"If the County's going to sponsor something, I don't want it to sponsor something that makes me feel beholden to upgrade my thing in order to get my benefit out of it," Berthlot said.

Fowler said she can work with businesses that do not pay into TripAdvisor directly and that the destination page does not favour businesses with a paid membership. She added algorithms for viewing habits can impact what someone sees as they browse the website.

County tourism director Amanda Virtanen

said the page itself is only a \$2,500 investment, for one year. The remainder of the funding is different advertising for the County on TripAdvisor, one of several different marketing initiatives being worked on, she added.

Committee member Tegan Legge said she supports it, adding TripAdvisor is important to online presence.

"To me, it's a no-brainer," Legge said, adding her Haliburton Forest utilizes TripAdvisor readily despite not paying into it. "There are other platforms out there, but again, this is the top one, this is number one ... I am very passionate that this should happen."

The committee voted to accept the discussion as information and have staff bring back feedback from the tourism stakeholders' group to the next County meeting.

Highlander news

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The Rotary Club of Haliburton donated \$1,800 to Community Living Job Quest to purchase a new utility trailer Feb. 4. The club initially donated its first trailer to the organization 10 years ago. Left to right: Employment counselor Tim Tofflemire, Andy Glecoff, Community Living executive director Teresa Jordan, Ted Brandon, Rotary Club president Brian Nash, Jim Joseph, David Zilstra, Kevin DesRoches. The club also donated \$2,500 to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Feb. 11. The funding will go to the Land Trust's new Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

Drug strategy partners carry on work

By Joseph Quigley

The Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland (HKLN) Drug Strategy is planning to maintain itself despite the end of its funding term.

The drug strategy has run for the past three years addressing drug abuse in the tri-county area by coordinating different services, with partners including the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR), OPP, the Four Counties Addictions Services Team and PARN – Your Aids Resource Network. The strategy operated using a funding grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation but that expired at the end of 2019.

But coordinator Megan Deyman said despite her position ending, those partners are continuing to meet and further work on the strategy. She said it remains important and they hope to secure more funding through grant applications and municipal partnerships.

"The partners are committed to continuing and building on the work of the last three years," strategy and

PARN communications worker Dylan DeMarsh said.

But Deyman said having full-time staff working on it is critical given the limited time of other health organizations.

"The full capacity that organizations are at currently, substance use and core response sometimes get pushed off people's desks," Deyman said. "It should be a priority and they identify it needing to be a priority but they don't always have the capacity to address it."

She said the collaborative efforts of drug strategy members have helped with stigma reduction in local communities over the past several years.

"Haliburton, certainly, there is more of an openness and an increased awareness for substance use issues," Deyman said. "You can see better, more understanding of the factors contributing to the rise of substances."

Opioids have remained prevalent in the area. According to Public Health Ontario, there were 119 emergency department visits across the HKPR

district related to opioids in the first half of 2019 – greater than the 67 in the first half of 2018. There were also 30 opioid-related deaths in 2018, compared to 10 in 2017.

"We are seeing an increase," Deyman said. "Although this is a complex issue, it is also an immediate need to address."

She said it is important that drug strategy work is tailored to the individual communities it serves.

"We need to be able to address it in a way that's relevant and appropriate to the various uniqueness of counties and communities," she said.

Bringing in a more diverse set of service options to help people treat and recover from substance abuse is a next step for the area, such as acupuncture, she said.

"We can look at maybe more non-traditional forms of support and recovery," Deyman said. "There is an identified priority for beginning these kinds of supports and services in Haliburton. It just takes time to build. It's on the horizon."

— Minden Hills news

Council considers climate change targets

Minden Hills council proposed climate change targets and whether they need to be bolder than staff recommendations.

County climate change coordinator Korey McKay presented to council Feb. 13. She recommended a 20 per cent reduction in building greenhouse gas emissions, 10 per cent for vehicle fleet and 10 per cent for the waste sector from 2018 levels by 2030. The municipal waste sector is the biggest offender, making up 77.3 per cent of the municipality's total emissions of 4,253 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

Coun. Pam Sayne said the municipality should be challenging itself more, citing Markham's commitment to be net zero emissions by 2050.

"This is a long time coming. I think you're being very gentle with us compared to where I think the municipality should be going," she said.

Coun. Bob Carter expressed concern about the targets falling short due to population growth, and whether the report's estimated 15.8 per cent population rise was accurate.

"Bad assumptions lead to bad policy. I think that really needs to be looked at," Carter said.

Mayor Brent Devolin and Carter asked for more data to be brought back on how different rates of population growth could impact the numbers.

"If data says we have to lean into this harder and more aggressively, I think philosophically as a council, we're probably prepared to do that," Devolin said.

Additional arena items under scrutiny

Minden council continued to wrestle with the prospect of adding additional costs to the new arena project for value-added items.

Council reviewed a list of value-added items in the project for consideration, ranging from parking lot paving at \$56,000 to smaller upgrades, such as a \$395 motorized upgrade for basketball back-stops. Some of the items have received approval and have proceeded, while there are still \$207,000 worth of items on hold.

Carter questioned how the list has changed and whether all the items really were optional, such as office and lobby furniture, estimated at \$43,000. He also asked whether the value-added list was obscuring the true cost of the arena.

"As much as this (list) is transparent, it's almost non-understandable without a great deal of study, which makes it pretty opaque," Carter said.

CAO Lorrie Blanchard explained the value-added list has fluctuated as the project committee went through the project, adding and adjusting it.

Devolin said contract bidding is almost complete and the numbers should become clearer in March. Council approved an additional \$250,000 in contingency funding in December.

"From a contracting point of view in terms of bidding, we're close to the finish line," Devolin said. "There's a significant amount of money left to do a whole lot of the rest of the value-added." (*Minden Hill news compiled by Joseph Quigley.*)

The Highlander up for six awards

The Highlander newspaper is a finalist in six categories in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA) awards.

The 2019 Better Newspaper Competition finalists were announced Feb. 13. The news means the paper has already been judged in the top three of papers of its circulation size across Ontario.

Category finals include: General Excellence; Reporter of the Year (Stephen Shaw award) for Joseph Quigley; best editorial by editor Lisa Gervais; best spots news photo; and best creative ad and original ad idea by head of

production Lyelca Rodrigues and the sales team.

"The OCNA is proud to recognize the outstanding work produced by our member newspapers," the organization said. Simon Payn, publisher of The Highlander, said: "Our team works very hard to make an excellent newspaper for readers and advertisers in Haliburton County. It's gratifying to have their skills recognized in this way."

First, second and third place winners will be presented during the Awards Gala on Friday, April 3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Vaughan. (*Lisa Gervais*)

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Jim Hicks at a Community Support Services gathering. Photo submitted.

Milestones, memories and magnificence at eighty-nine

Submitted by
Nancy Brownsberger

Aging well is something we might all want to pay a little more attention to. Perhaps it's a quest for magnificence at any age, or perhaps just learned strategies and techniques to help us live better longer.

We have nothing if we don't have our health, no matter the age. As we embrace the baby-boomer march towards senior living, in a Zoomer world, we all have an opportunity to gain insight and education on how to age well and show up as best we can to our third and fourth acts of life.

Notably, we hear more and more about the benefits of social activities for folks aged 55-plus. Some include better cognitive function, the maintenance of good emotional health, improved physical health and boosted immunity. All the neuroscience and medical research indicates that hanging out with others and engaging with them regularly increases our longevity.

Let us introduce you to Jim Hicks, a retired public school principal, engaged intellect and regular attendee at the Highland Hills Pastoral Charge drop in program run by Community Support Services. In October of 2019, Jim lost his much loved wife, Mary, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Prior to her death, he found himself

living alone while she was in long-term care. He spent many hours with Mary and received a great deal of emotional support from the staff at Hyland Crest, which he is deeply grateful for. He found himself reaching out into the community for further social supports and took advantage of many opportunities that would help him through these difficult days.

Each Friday morning, he joins his fellow residents at Staunworth Terrace for coffee and chatting. He also attends the social recreation group offered through Community Support Services, at the Highland Hills Pastoral Charge, every other Friday. Here, he is invited to enjoy coffee, tea and snacks and join an active group of folks looking to discuss many topics, ranging from global warming, the importance of kale, to deep contextual dives into history, philosophy and technology. He sometimes brings his computer or phone to get help from the technically savvy leader of the group.

Finding conversation with others a type of solace and necessity for remaining healthy, Jim is a proud and dedicated community member that has not let his age, mobility or hearing loss interfere with the social interaction this group provides. In November of 2019, he joined a grief support group, also offered by Community Support Services, in order to help him

navigate grieving during the Christmas season. With an understanding of how devastating a fall can be at his age, Jim also attends a balanced fitness and falls prevention program offered in Minden and Haliburton.

Jim will turn 90 in the summer of 2020 and he had set as one of his goals, to attempt a last water ski. He fondly recalls doing this exact activity on his 80th birthday. Understanding that his strength is not what it used to be, and not sure his son will agree to drive the boat, he says it might be more realistic to look forward to watching his four-year-old great grandson take his first ski this summer.

"That would be very exciting and probably a wiser choice."

When asked what makes the difference to aging well, Jim states "being engaged with others in the community and my family makes all the difference to me."

He loves a good chat and laugh, with his cell phone often ringing multiple times during a visit as his family or friends are checking in or making arrangements for their next adventures.

His advice to aging exceptionally? "Take advantage of the many support groups and social activities that are offered in our community."

Aging exceptionally well is a new feature that will appear every month.

Living well

Life-changing support for cancer patients

By Lisa Harrison

The Abbey Retreat Centre (ARC) has gone from a concept to being fully operational in four years, altering the lives of cancer patients and their carers seeking respite.

"My cancer journey was in a sense solitary," writes a participant from one of the four-day retreats the centre offers.

"Well-meaning friends could not hear what I was saying and sometimes my spouse and I have not said things out of concern for the other's fragility. Here we found a loving, caring, healing and fun community of newfound friends who shared our experiences. An incredible gift."

ARC is on the grounds of the 300-acre Abbey Gardens Community Trust on Highway 118 in West Guilford. It provides free, four-day support retreats to people who have been diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers. Each retreat typically has 10 participants.

Doug Norris, full-time executive director, said, "During their time here, a group ... will share in opportunities for facilitated conversation around the experience of the cancer journey."

Activities also include yoga and meditation, massage therapy, expressive arts and music, as well as "a carefully built menu, and time for quiet and reflection in the retreat centre and woodland grounds with trails and ponds," Norris said.

He added there's ample research to show

the value of these practices for an increased resilience and strength for whatever stage of the cancer journey – diagnosis, treatment, recovery, or preparing for unknowns - that people are facing.

He said the groups form close bonds and can discuss shared experiences with professional guidance while being cared for with compassion.

"Evidence-based work increasingly supports the links between physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual factors for a 'whole person' approach to care," Norris said.

Situated across from scenic Grass Lake, the centre building features several programming spaces, a commercial-grade kitchen, office space and sleeping accommodations for eight.

In addition to Norris, there are eight contract staff who provide retreat leadership. Retreats are offered every six to eight weeks and there's now a waiting list of up to eight months.

Norris credits this to a strong social media presence, word of mouth from retreat guests, and networks in the cancer care world.

The centre is also rented out for other things, which raises money for the retreats in addition to donations.

Norris calls ARC "a Haliburton good news story."

"[It's] local people seeing an opportunity



Joy Davey, Daye Simpson and Tom Parviainen at Abbey Retreat Centre. The centre's staff and volunteers provide cancer patients and their caregivers with compassionate support during free, four-day retreats. *Photo submitted.*

to use the Haliburton setting and the practice of generosity to bring about a world-class program to serve the needs of Haliburton residents and now increasingly guests from all over the province. The work of the centre calls on the diligent volunteer

work of local residents who serve on the board and who support with onsite work during retreats."

For more information visit abbeyretreatcentre.ca, email info@abbeyretreatcentre.ca or call 705-754-2966.



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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM!

Bantams knocked out of playdowns

On Saturday, Feb. 15, the Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House-McKecks Place Highland Storm Bantams hosted the Dundalk Storm in game three of their playdown series.

The Storm came out determined to not go down without putting up a fight. Haliburton kept the pressure on and was trying to control the game but Dundalk scored on a power play to put them up 1-0, and then scored another to close out the first period with a 2-0 lead.

Haliburton didn't back down though and kept up with Dundalk but they scored again to put them up 3-0. With time winding down in the second and Haliburton still working hard, Matthew Wilson scored from the point assisted by Kaine Brannigan making it 3-1. Haliburton, with a little momentum their way, pressured the Dundalk team again but headed to the third down by three.

Haliburton kept at it, never giving up. Every player left everything they had on the ice but unfortunately couldn't capitalize and lost 5-1, thus ending the Bantams season. (Submitted)



Storm netminder Ethan Dobson deflects a shot off goal in a game this past Saturday in Haliburton. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

THE PEPPER MILL - MCKECKS PLACE HIGHLAND STORM BANTAM THREE STARS



#1 TAYLOR CONSACK

Taylor is always there to support his team. He always comes with a positive attitude and focuses on the game ahead. He always has his teammates' backs.



#2 ETHAN DOBSON

Ethan has an incredible work ethic. His eagerness to learn is a testament to how he plays on the ice. He really throws players off with his catcher being on his right hand and it works very well.



#3 ALEX HENDRY

Alex is a first year Bantam. He came to the team with a great attitude and willingness to learn. Alex always has a positive mindset and is a great teammate. Alex's commitment to the team has been outstanding.

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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM



Congratulations to this year's Brightwoods Landscaping Minor Novice Blue and Gray teams who took part in the Clearview Minor Novice Cross Ice Jamboree this past Saturday, Feb. 15 in Stayner. The players, fans and coaching staff all had a great day cheering on the teams together. *Submitted photo.*



A Highland Storm bantam player rags the puck up ice during a game against Dundalk this past weekend. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

SUBARU SCOREBOARD REP LEAGUE

Ridgewood Ford-Haliburton County
Chiropractic Novice
Feb. 15th - Storm 4 vs. Ennismore Eagles 2
Goals: H. Neilson (2), B. Harrison, N. Ecclestone
Assists: C. Neave
Feb 16th - Storm 5 vs. Sturgeon Thunder 3
Goals: H. Dobbins (2), N. Ecclestone (2), T. Rowe
Assists: H. Hamilton, C. Neave, N. Ecclestone
Feb 17th - Novice REP took the ice at the Peterborough Petes Arena for an Intermission Scrimmage

Haliburton Timbermart-Castle Cottage Country
Building Supplies Atom
Feb. 15th – Storm 1 vs. Wasaga Beach Stars 3
Goals: V. Logan
Feb. 16th - Storm 1 vs. Wasaga Beach Stars 6
Goals: H. Neilson

Peppermill Steak & Pasta House - McKecks
Place Bantams
Feb. 8th - Storm 1 vs. Dundalk Storm 5
Goals: M. Wilson
Assists: K. Brannigan

The Highlander-Smolen Family Dentistry Midgets
Feb.15th - Storm 1 vs. Shelburne Wolves 5
Goals: N. Smith
Assists: I. Little
Feb 16th - Storm 0 vs. Shelburne Wolves 2

LOCAL LEAGUE

Initiation II- Tim Bits
Feb. 15th - Took part in the Lindsay Initiation Cross Ice Jamboree

Bright Woods Landscaping LL Minor Novice team navy and grey
Feb.15th -16th - Took part in the Clearview Minor Novice Cross Ice Jamboree in Stayner

Walkers Heating & Cooling -Walkers Home Hardware LL Pee wee Yellow
Feb.15th - Storm 1 vs. South Muskoka 5
Goals: J. Davis
Assists: A. Lippolis, L. Burke



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Highlander sports



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www.mindenhills.ca/events



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NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION & PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT - PLZBA2020011

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Zoning By-law No. 06-10 pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, RSO 1990, Chpt. P. 13, as amended. The site specific amendment applies to property municipally known as 112 Bobcaygeon Road and located in Plan 1, Lots 5 & 6, in the Geographic Township of Minden (see Key Map below).

AND TAKE NOTICE that Council for The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a public meeting under Section 34 of the Planning Act. The purpose of the public meeting is to provide the public with an opportunity to understand and comment on the proposed Amendment.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The subject property is presently zoned Village Commercial (C4). The purpose of the zoning by-law amendment is to change the zoning to the site specific Village Commercial Exception Four (C4-4) Zone in order to permit three (3) dwelling units as a permitted use of the property.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING – PLZBA2020011

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Municipal Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street during normal office hours and online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclendening@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext.206).

ANY PERSON MAY ATTEND the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE DECISION of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Township of Minden Hills at the address below.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY DOES NOT make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the proposed by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

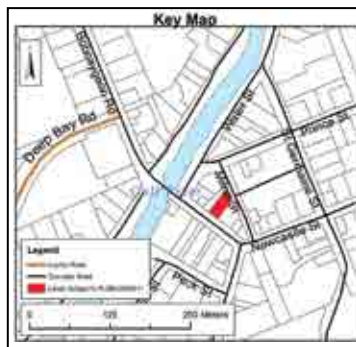
ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

DATED this 20th day of February, 2020
Ian Clendening, MPL., Planner

Township of Minden Hills, 7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0

We cannot guarantee the exact time the Public Meeting will commence as the time may vary depending on the number of items on the agenda and the complexity of each matter brought forward.



The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School boys curling team poses together after winning the Schoolboys Trophy. *Photo submitted.*

High school curlers edge out win in dramatic finish

By Joseph Quigley

Facing a championship-deciding shot, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School boys curling skip Jacob Dobson said he treated it like any other.

"We just said, here we go. Just another shot, another day," Dobson said. "I knew exactly as soon as their rock stopped moving what I had to do."

It was close – a matter of inches. Dobson said he could not see the result immediately. But Haliburton lead Owen Nicholls could, and he lifted his arms into the air and shouted the result: "We won!"

The team of Dobson, Nicholls, vice Liam Little and second Corin Gervais claimed the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championships in Chatham Feb. 13-15, winning the Schoolboys Trophy.

It was a dramatic finish to the tournament, which would see Haliburton go 2-1 in a round robin and best the favoured hometown Ursuline team 6-5 in the semi-finals. They surged ahead 5-0 against the Carlton Place Bears in the final, but the Bears battled back to make it 5-5 and send it to an extra end.

The Bears were ready to score two in the final end, before Dobson made a strong draw to the button to come out ahead. But after Carlton matched his shot with one of their own, Dobson had to make another difficult draw to the button through multiple guard stones to win.

But after two previous years of provincial competition and years of practice, Dobson said he was ready for the moment, and succeeded. Dobson and Little placed fourth in the same competition in 2018, while

Gervais joined them in placing fifth at the OFSAA provincial competition in 2019.

"It was something we worked three years for with this team," Dobson said. "I was quite happy we were able to get that last shot out."

It's the first high school provincial title for Haliburton's curlers since 2014, when a girls' team took the title. The only other title came in 2009 with a boys' team.

High school coach Darrell Dobson, Jacob's father, said it is a mark of success for the Haliburton Curling Club's youth program. He credited fellow coaches Hugh Nichol and Russ Duhaime for their efforts, which have helped result in a new championship banner being hung up at the club.

"The whole county can be proud," the elder Dobson said.

Jacob Dobson said he is inspired by the curling greats – the likes of Mike Harris, Brad Jacobs, Brad Gushue, who sent a congratulatory message to Dobson, who attended Gushue's curling camp. One day, he hopes to join their ranks and bring home a Brier title and an Olympic medal.

"But at this point, just taking those steps, winning the games now," he said.

The team was back in competition quickly. They played in the Kawartha championships Feb. 18-19, the results of which were not available before press time.

Jacob Dobson said the team worked well together with their combined experience and expects a strong showing.

"We just hope we're going to have the same results as before," Dobson said. "Take it game-by-game."

Highlander events



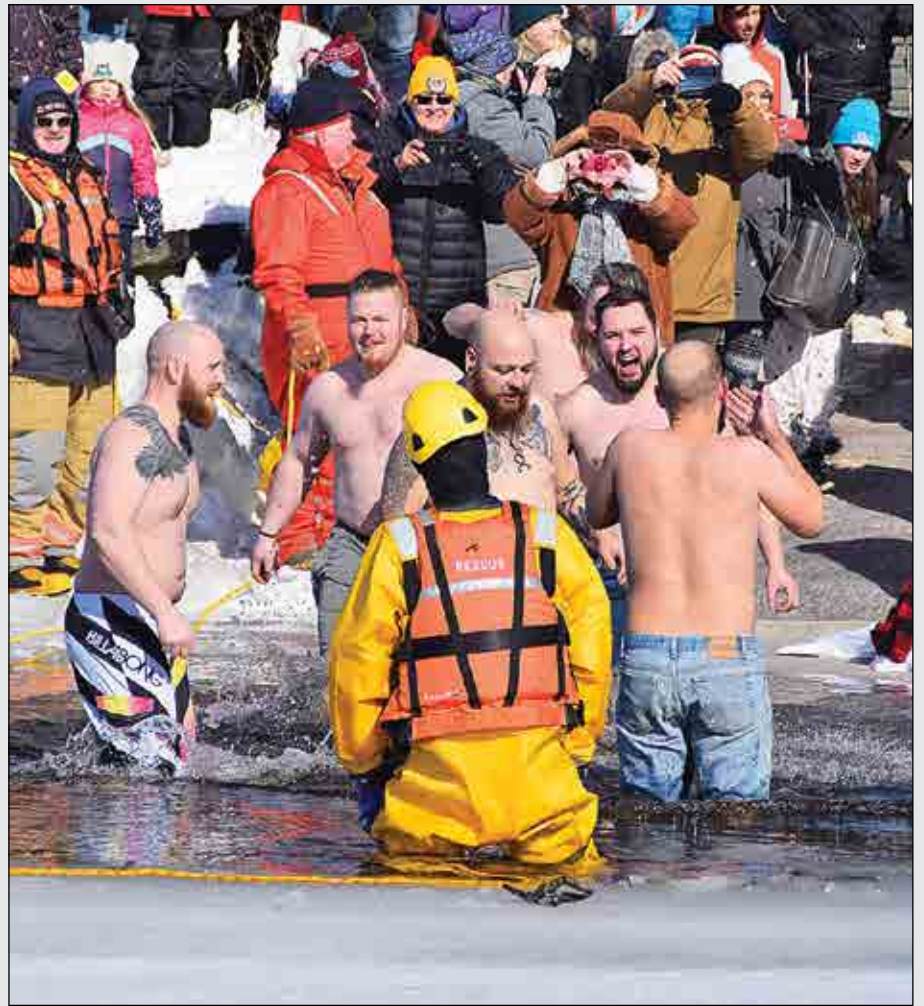
Dignitaries, including the town crier (Bruce Kruger) and Mr. and Mrs. Snowflake (Ruth and Brian Lynch) were on hand for the event. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Throwing snowballs for 30 years in Dorset

Despite a chilly Friday and Saturday, locals and visitors flocked to downtown Dorset Feb. 14 and 15 for the 30th annual Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival.

Snowball hosted a variety of winter activities such as skating, a pancake breakfast, parade, horse-drawn wagon rides, kids' games and activities, hockey shoot-out and Hockey Night in Dorset. Some of the new attractions this year included axe throwing and virtual dogsledding.

Snowball was started by the volunteer committee for the Dorset Recreation Centre in 1991 as a community event and fundraiser for the centre.



Students from the blacksmith program at Fleming College took the plunge. *Photo by Hannah Sadlier.*

Polar Bears raise nearly \$7,500

Saturday marked Haliburton's annual Frost Festival at Head Lake Park.

In the afternoon, everyone gathered around the lake to watch those who were brave enough to take on the Lions Club 'Polar Bear Challenge'.

The teams, and individuals, who participated raised \$7,487.75.

Proceeds go to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation and the the Hospital for Sick Kids: Garron Family Cancer Center. (*Hannah Sadlier*)

INFORMATION PAGE

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden ON K0M 2K0 Phone: 705-286-1260
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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE DIAL 9-1-1. FOR ALL OTHER MUNICIPAL EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL 1-866-856-3247.

Budget Approval Notice:

Adoption of 2020 Budget

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will meet on Thursday February 27, 2020 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON to consider adopting the following By-laws related to the 2020 Municipal Budget:

- 2020 Budget for the Minden Cemetery Board;
- 2020 Minden Water Rates By-law;
- 2020 Minden Sewer Rates By-law;
- 2020 Lutterworth Water Rates By-law; and
- 2020 Estimates By-law

Dated this 20th day of February, 2020.

Vicki Bull, Clerk
705-286-1260 ext. 215
vbull@mindenhills.ca

Important Tax Information

The 2020 Interim tax bills will be mailed on February 21, 2020. 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 20th and May 22nd, 2020. This bill has been calculated using the 2019 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2019 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 10th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change.

Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

Summer Student Employment Opportunities

Are you a student looking for a great summer job? The Township of Minden Hills is currently accepting resumes for Summer Students for our **Community Services Department in Parks** and at our **Minden Hills Cultural Centre as Heritage Interpreters**.

Both positions are for a 16 week period from May to August with the rate of pay being \$14/hour, pending 2020 budget and grant funding approval.

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for posting details, job requirements and submission instructions, or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca

Council Meetings

Public Welcome

Meetings are held at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street.

Feb 27 – Regular Council Meeting
Mar 12 - Committee of the Whole Council Meeting

For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca
Note: Council meetings are reduced to one (1) for the months of July, August and December

Recycling Tip of the Week

Plastic bags are recyclable if they are stretchy (like milk bags and grocery bags). If they don't stretch (like drink pouches and chip bags), they belong in the garbage. Bundle all bags in one bag and place with your paper recycling. Check out our website for more recycling tips!



Highlander classifieds

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of **Peter Donnelly**

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the age of 80.

Beloved husband of the late Gloria (2004). Dear father of Debbie, Trevor, Laurie and her husband John.

Private Cremation Arrangements, a Celebration of Peter's Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Salvation Army or the Multiple Sclerosis 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.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



At Rest **Alice Elizabeth Crawford**

Passed away peacefully at the Frost Manor, Lindsay on February 11, 2020 at the age of 93.

Wife of the late Samuel Wesley Crawford (1983). Mother of Ruth (David) and predeceased by her

son Ray (2003). Grandmother of Annette (Daniel), Dion, Fabian (Megan), Renee (the late Mark), great grandmother of Dana (Josh), Aaron (Kayla), Austin (Chelsea), Angelina, Harmony, and great great grandmother of Ashton. Survived by her sisters Rosalie and Hazel.

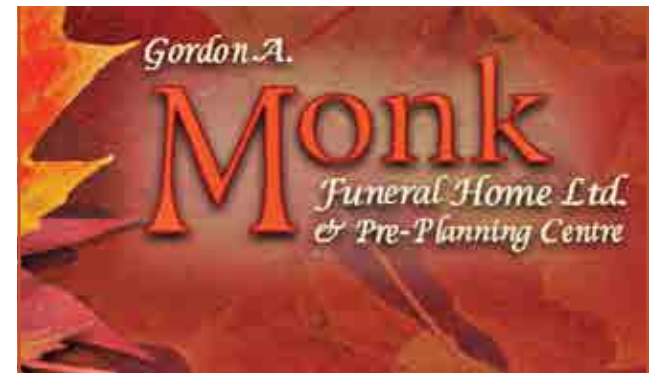
A Private Family Graveside Committal Service and Interment will be held at the St. Stephen's Cemetery, 2072 Buckslide Rd., Algonquin Highlands in the spring.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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ERIC GUNTHER

Eric Gunther passed away suddenly on Feb 15, 2020. Loving son to his mother Irmgard and father Ernst (deceased), his older brother Steve (Jeanette) called him "Eric, the blonde viking." Also brother to Karl-Heinz (deceased), Paul and Ben (Jamie). Loving friend and partner to Debbie and father figure to David, Sarah and Jamie. Uncle to Melissa and Kimberly. He will be sadly missed by all.

His friends called him Iggy or Iggy. He loved to garden, fish and his cooking was extraordinary. He was also an animal lover.

Thanks to the Gooderham Volunteer Fire Department and Dysart et al Ambulance Crew. Donations to the Wilberforce Legion Branch 624. Viewing to take place at the Haliburton Community Funeral Home on Friday, February 21, 2020 from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Reception to follow at the Wilberforce Legion at 1 p.m.



In Loving Memory of **David Savage Eastwood**

Died peacefully in the Palliative Care Unit at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on February 9, 2020 after a short but heroic battle with cancer, at the age of 73.

Beloved husband of Jane Taylor Eastwood. Proud father of Heather (Michael), Alex (Savannah), Meaghan (Morgan), grandfather of Fiona, Cameron and Rowan. Dear brother of Ann (Dean), Susan and predeceased by his twin sister Elizabeth. Fondly remembered by his cousin Joan (David) Gauthier and by all who knew him.

The entire family is most grateful to, and appreciative of, the medical and professional staff who were devoted over the last two months to David's care at home and in Bracebridge, Barrie, Huntsville and Minden ER. Our healthcare system is remarkable.

Private Cremation Arrangements. Memorial Donations to the Doctors Without Borders Canada 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.



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EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - If you have a problem with alcohol, contact A.A., We can help. 705-745-6111. <https://district82aa.org/Meeting-Locations.html>

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Tuesdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Hyland Crest, Minden. All are welcome.



In Loving Memory of **Michael "Mike" L. P. Byrnes**

Passed away peacefully at home in Minden on February 14, 2020, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 71.

Loving husband and best friend of Marnie Robinson. Loving father of

Tammy, Terry (Tammy), Jennifer, and David (Lindsay). Loving gramps of Laiken, Brooke (Colin), Kassandra (Ethan), Brianna, Alyviah, Chloe, Tori and Kaylee. Dear brother of Clemmy (Dorothy), Johnny (the late Gloria), Reggie (Lorraine), Terry (Sylvia), Martin (Beverly), James (Jeannie), Jacqueline (deceased), Noreen, and Patricia (Ed). Son of the late Thomas and Johanna Byrnes.

In keeping with Mike's wishes, cremation has taken place. To celebrate Mike's Life, a party will be held at the family home in Minden on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer 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.



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Highlander classifieds

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Out Standing in his Field

Empty Spaces

After solving, read the answers to the starred clues, in order, to reveal a quote by entrepreneur Seth Godin that is very fitting for this puzzle.

Across

- 1

* "___ funny!"
- 4

* "Come here ___?"
- 9

Rubs the right way?
- 14

Long leg of a right triangle: Abbr.
- 15

Jouster's jabber
- 16

Call the whole thing off
- 17

T.O.'s Spadina or Danforth
- 18

Second-to-last section in most Shakespeare plays
- 19

Showing some moxie
- 20

* "___ need no education" (Pink Floyd lyric)
- 22

* ___ and take
- 24

Partner of drugs and rock & roll
- 25

The "S" of GPS: Abbr.
- 26

Hand out, as homework
- 28

Dead lines?

Abbr.

- 53

* "You've got some big shoes ___"
- 55

* "___ beginning..."
- 57

Bee Gees surname
- 60

Useless tic-tac-toe line
- 61

Lit up the hockey goal light
- 62

Worshipping one
- 64

Forged bit of writing from a hooky player, maybe
- 66

U.S. president after Jimmy
- 67

Summer clock hrs. in Que.
- 68

Handled stuff in pottery class
- 69

* Fire ___ (shoot nonlethal ammo)
- 70

Gun the motor
- 71

Besides that

Down

- 31

* "Purple ___ Eater" ('50s song)
- 35

With no more than
- 40

Like "vintage" clothing
- 41

* "If ___ shoe fits, ..."
- 42

* "When ___ knocks, ..."
- 45

Bricks-and-mortar workers
- 47

Increases, with "up"
- 48

Pull up a chair to
- 49

"1234" singer from Amherst, N.S.
- 50

Gibraltar or Bering:

- 1

Defrosts
- 2

Yiddish "Yikes!"
- 3

Point-of-view pieces
- 4

"The Good Earth" wife
- 5

It's true
- 6

Explosive letters
- 7

Smokeless smokes, for short
- 8

Scotland's highest "ben"
- 9

Go back, as on a promise
- 10

Number before "Happy New Year!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
20			21			22		23		24		
25					26				27			
			28	29	30			31		32	33	34
35	36	37					38	39		40		
41			42				43	44				
45		46				47						
48					49					50	51	52
			53	54				55	56			
57	58	59		60				61				
62			63			64	65					
66						67				68		
69						70				71		

- 11

Those in charge: Abbr.
- 12

Great Lakes count
- 13

Hades waterway
- 21

"Then again, ..." to a texter
- 23

Red carpet treader
- 26

Over or above
- 27

Words that are capitalized in German
- 29

Know someone's tricks now
- 30

Cute little hell-raisers
- 32

Tire pressure meas.
- 33

Give the okay
- 34

Maker of a U.S. ice cream
- 35

Places to check your balance
- 36

Trendy Asian cuisine
- 37

Reason to cram, maybe
- 38

Racquet smacker, maybe
- 39

Hiking path
- 43

"Registered" brand
- 44

Slight stock market growth
- 46

High-fibre muffin grain
- 49

Work in litter-prevention?
- 50

Walk in the park, maybe
- 51

Angle symbols, in geometry
- 52

"Calgary" drink of beer and tomato juice
- 54

Ontario Tories with a "nation"
- 56

Present time, poetically
- 57

Clothing choice
- 58

Worshipped one
- 59

Opposite of "mala"
- 61

"Great White North" show, for short
- 63

8-foot statue in Vegreville, Alta.
- 65

Suffix with ox- or sulf-

by Barbara Olson
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SUDOKU								
6		3		7				
5	2	1		4			6	7
					3			1
					7			8
7		5		8		1		2
4			1					
9			8					
3	6			5		8	1	9
				9		2		5

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS								
5	3	7	9	4	2	6	8	1
8	6	9	1	7	3	5	4	2
2	1	4	5	8	6	7	9	3
6	9	2	8	1	5	4	3	7
1	4	8	3	2	7	9	6	5
3	7	5	4	6	9	1	2	8
9	8	6	7	3	1	2	5	4
7	5	3	2	9	4	8	1	6
4	2	1	6	5	8	3	7	9

1	F	I	G		4	L	O	O	P	S		9	T	E	M	P	13	S		
14	A	D	A		15	A	V	R	I	L		16	A	G	E	N	T			
17	C	O	W		18	A	B	U	N	G	A		19	L	O	W	E	R		
20	T	S	K	S		21	L	O	G	I		22	A		23	I	S	U	S	
					24	P	O	E		26	I	N	I	T	S					
		28	S	29	T	O	P	S	30	I	N		31	S	H	T	32	33	34	K
35	S	C	O	T				36	A	G		37	E	L	E	S	S	L	Y	
38	O	O	H		39	E	O	M		41	N	E	B		42	I	A	L		
43	B	R	O	A	44	D	C	A	45	S	T		46	L	E	T	M	E		
48	A	N	E	M	I	C		49	T	R	A	50	A	U	M	A	S			
				51	E	N	U	R	E		53	L	E	B						
54	B	R	A	N		57	R	E	E	S	E		59	O	E	D	S			
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SALES

The Highlander is looking for an experienced and effective sales person to join our team in Haliburton Village.

You will have at least two solid years of business-to-business sales experience with knowledge of all aspects of the sales process, from prospecting to client service. Media sales experience and/or local sales experience would be an asset but is not required. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills.

We offer an excellent salary plus performance bonus, health and dental benefits and three weeks annual paid vacation.

Must have own vehicle and valid licence (mileage will be reimbursed). This position could be part time for the right person. Please send resume and cover letter to admin@thehighlander.ca by March 2, 2020.

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

The Highlander is looking for a freelance/contract part-time graphic designer.

You will have training and/or experience in designing marketing materials or advertisements. Basic knowledge of Adobe programs is an essential; InDesign a definite plus. Magazine or newspaper page layout would be an asset but is not required. You must have excellent client service and time-management skills.

Please send work samples and a cover letter to lyelca@thehighlander.ca by March 2, 2020.

FREELANCE WRITER

The Highlander is looking for a freelance writer for our Home in the Highlands publication. Experience with lifestyle/design/construction topics is an asset. Clear, accurate and lively writing is essential.

Please send work samples and a cover letter to admin@thehighlander.ca by March 2, 2020.

CLEANERS needed Tuesday to Friday for residential and commercial properties. Must have own vehicle. Call 705-854-0436

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

WAITRESS REQUIRED, must be 19 or older, No experience necessary. Full or part time. Year round position. Phone or drop off resume at Mark's Restaurant Minden, 705-286-1818.

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To Apply, Send Resume by February 28th to:
Jacquie Barry, General Manager
5201 Country Road 21, Haliburton, K0M 1S0
Or Email Jacquie.barry@homehardware.ca

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Please send resume to:

Tori Miscio, Acting Administrator
Extendicare/Haliburton

167 Park Street, Box 780, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
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What's on



Bárbara de la Mora Guerrero and Gabriel Avila Rios stop in place after performing a traditional Mexican dance at the Camexicanus showcase July 6, 2019. *File photo.*

Fiesta to fill stomachs and hearts

By Lisa Gervais

If you can't get to Mexico this winter, Camexicanus is offering County residents a short trip down south for an evening this Sunday, Feb. 23.

Dubbed February Fiesta, it's a fundraiser for their March break volunteer humanitarian arts trip. Founder Greg Sadlier and his wife Hannah Sadlier are taking four local Grade 11 and 12 students to Monterrey and the Yucatan, Mexico for a cross-cultural arts exchange.

Camexicanus was officially formed in 2013 but its journey has been developing for years, ever since Greg went to Mexico in 2001 on a similar student exchange.

Sadlier said the Haliburton students will be running arts camps, working with charities, meeting Camexicanus Mexican students and their families and representing Canada and the Highlands on their trip.

He said it's a mirror image of what

Mexican students did when they came to Haliburton this past summer, "running day camp programs for kids especially in underreached areas that don't have any programs."

During the trip, they will be connecting with their Mexican students, staying in their homes with their families, and experiencing real Mexican life, he said.

Sadlier said a lot of organizing goes into the trip, including hockey bags of arts, craft and music supplies. In some cases, they purchase items in Mexico to help the economy there. "It's always a bit of a balancing game. If we can get it there, at relatively the same price or less expensive, I prefer to do that."

He added it is hard to predict the needs when in Canada. For example, they may arrive to find a family desperately needs a new microwave oven. "We just have to be prepared and be ready. if we're doing a kids' camp and we become aware of a need with a family, we need to be ready to

jump in and fill those needs."

He encouraged people to come out to the fundraiser as he believes their program is unique due to the "breadth and width" of their reach. He said Haliburton youth not only receive a cross-cultural exchange but stay on to form Camexicanus' summer staff. They also run after-school programs and had almost 100 students in 2019 across the County.

"It's sort of the ripple effect of cultural change that I think is very unique when you are working with youth and in an arts context," he said.

The event is being held upstairs at the A.J. LaRue Arena this Sunday at 6 p.m. The Sadliers will be cooking an authentic Mexican feast, including tamales and enchiladas, and the kids will be putting on a show that will feature music, dancing and theatre. There's also a silent auction. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Tickets are available online or by emailing info@camexicanus.ca

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What's on

FEBRUARY 2020 • EVENT LISTINGS

ROYAL CANADIAN
LEGION EVENTS



Sir Sam's Ski/Ride will be hosting a ski challenge this Sunday, *File*.

Pickleball every Tuesday and Friday from 7 – 9:30 p.m. at Haliburton High School gym. Cost is \$2 and racquets available. Contact Jennifer Coates at 705-749-3787. No Pickleball March 17 and 20, April 10, May 1.

Devotional Gatherings, to be held Mondays/Tuesdays. Come join us for prayers, meditations and readings; all spiritual traditions are honoured and welcome; an open space for reflection, prayer and sharing for well-being of individuals and the state of the world. “Religion should unite all hearts and cause wars and disputes to vanish from the earth...”, bahai.org. Call Kathie/George at 705-286-3378.

Thursday February 20
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Lunch Is On Us – at SIRCH Central, 2 Victoria St., Haliburton. Free of charge, eat in or take out. Bring your friends, or make some new ones. For more info see sirch.on.ca/lunchisonus

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – HHWEN/Haliburton Writer's and Editor's Network monthly meeting, third Thursday of each month in Rotary Room at the Minden Library 136 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden. No charge. haliburtonwriters.ca 705-286-6635.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Canadian Federation of University Women

(CFUW) Haliburton Highlands presents Donna Gagnon, SIRCH Family Roots Program Coordinator who will present SIRCH: Social Enterprise, Family Roots and Other Innovative Solutions for Haliburton County at Malcolm MacLean Radio Hall at Canoe FM, 739 Mountain St, Haliburton (Park at the arena)

Saturday February 22
3 – 6 p.m. – Stockdale Central live in the Clubroom at the Haliburton Legion

Monday February 24
1 – 4 p.m. HHHS Community Support Services - Don't fall on the ice! How to prevent falling on the ice or in the snowy weather so you can get outside and enjoy life! Carrot potato pancakes is our communal recipe...yummy! Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – National Cupcake Day to benefit Muskoka OSPCA Bracebridge. Contact Laurie Johnson at MindenAnimalHospital@ljohnsonmah@outlook.com for pre-orders or to donate.

Tuesday, February 25
5 - 6:30 p.m. - Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Sausages at St. Paul's United Church in Minden

Wednesday February 26
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Food Handler Course, at the Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 310) in Haliburton. This course

teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely and provides a certified food handler certificate (valid for a period of five years). Pre-registration required, \$40/person. To register, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006.

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – HKPR Sexual Health Clinic, providing clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Thursday February 27
10 a.m – 2 p.m. HHHS Community Support Services - Don't fall on the ice! How to prevent falling on the ice or in the snowy weather so you can get outside and enjoy life! Carrot potato pancakes is our communal recipe...yummy! Wilberforce Legion, 1007 Burleigh Road

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Lunch Is On Us – at SIRCH Central, 2 Victoria St., Haliburton. Free of charge, eat in or take out. Bring your friends, or make some new ones. For more info see sirch.on.ca/lunchisonus

HALIBURTON BRANCH

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m.

Tuesdays: Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. (Sept - June)

Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start. Bingo Doors open at 6 pm, Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - \$500 Jackpot \$1000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month

Thursdays: General Meeting. Third Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary. Last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start. Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., Last draw a 6:30 p.m., 6 tickets for \$2 per draw...Chester Howse, MC. Darts Friday fun darts – 4:30 p.m. onwards

Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw-tickets are \$1 each available from noon onwards

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rc129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129. Everyone is welcome.

MINDEN BRANCH

Monday - Thursday Breakfast 9 -11 a.m; Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday Liver Lovers Special plus regular menu

Friday Fish and chips or wings and chips (onion rings) -11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. -7 p.m.

Saturday All day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a lunch special from noon.

Weekly events

Monday 10 a.m. to noon, Haliburton Highlands Rug Hookers (every two weeks)

Tuesday 10 a.m. to noon, seniors' art group and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. bid euchre

Wednesday noon - four meat draws with butcher quality meats. \$1 per ticket; 1-4 p.m.; ladies darts; 5:30-6:30 p.m. calorie counters

Thursday 7 p.m., darts in the Sports Room and euchre in the Club Room

Friday 7:30 p.m., mixed darts. 7:30-11:30 p.m. every second week Karaoke with Fred and Linda

Saturday 1 p.m., four special draws.

Sunday noon - 4:30 p.m. sports day

KINMOUNT BRANCH

Wednesday - Darts 7 p.m.

Friday - Bingo - Starts at 6:56 p.m.

Saturday - Meat Draw 5 p.m.

Feb 29 - Leap Year Dinner. Doors open at 5pm. Roast Beef Dinner including coffee, tea and dessert \$15 per adult and \$8.00 per child.

WILBERFORCE BRANCH

Feb 21 Pool 1:30 p.m. Spaghetti dinner 5-7 p.m.

Feb 22 Meat draw 2 p.m. Early bird 3 p.m. SHARP. If you come out offer to help sell tickets please

Feb 24 Card night 7 p.m. Beginners welcome

Feb 26 Fun Darts. Everyone welcome 7:30 p.m.

Feb 27 HHHC social rec. drop in. Come out for coffee/tea or juice, cards, board games, crafts, Tec. time, pool or just to chat FREE 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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