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# The Highlander

Thursday **May 21 2020** | Issue 440

**INSIDE: SUMMER READING PAGE 21**

**FREE**



Up River Trading Co. co-owner Mike McKeon prepared the outside of his store May 19 for a reopening the next day. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

## Haliburton County back in business

**COVID-19**

By Joseph Quigley

Haliburton County's construction and retail sectors began further reopening May 19 after the province lifted some restrictions. Ontario launched stage one of its COVID-

19 reopening plan. It means if proper public health safety protocols are followed, all construction can proceed, and retail stores with street-front entrances can open with limited capacity.

G.J. Burtch Construction Enterprises Ltd. owner and Haliburton County Home Builders Association representative Gary

Burtch said although the health restrictions will be in place for a long time, starting more construction will be a boon for the County.

"At least we're able to get going," Burtch said. "That will help the economy of the town and the County, so I'm happy about that."

The province is also allowing businesses such as vehicle dealerships, marinas, golf driving ranges, pet care and more to start reopening.

Burtch said working with new restrictions around sanitation and distancing takes some getting used to. But builders have dealt with those restrictions in recent weeks, having

Continued 'Retail' on page 2

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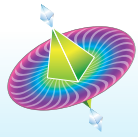
# Highlander news

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## COVID-19 NEWS

### School's out for summer

The Ontario government announced May 19 that it's keeping schools closed for the rest of this school year. In making the announcement, it said it's protecting the health and safety of students during the COVID-19 outbreak.

It went on to say the decision was made after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, health experts on the COVID-19 Command Table, and medical experts at The Hospital for Sick Children.

All students who were on track to graduate from high school will be able to graduate and all students will receive report cards.

Further, the government said it would continue to support learning at home.

At the same time, it's planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year, the gradual reopening of child care, and the opening of summer day camps subject to the continuing progress in trends of key public health indicators.

### No positive COVID tests at HHHS

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) last week confirmed that the COVID-19 tests of staff and residents at Highland Wood and Hyland Crest have all come back negative.

They said further surveillance testing of all HHHS staff took place on May 5 and HHHS was able to confirm that 100 per cent of those tests results have also been negative.

"While we are extremely pleased to share this news, we are looking at this testing as strictly one 'picture in time'," said president and CEO Carolyn Plummer.

She went on to say, "HHHS will not



Ontario announced May 19 that school will not resume. *File.*

relax our diligent work to protect all residents and staff, including through physical distancing and handwashing, twice-daily temperature screening, and the wearing of masks in our facilities."

### Highlands East pandemic notes

Highlands East has eased restrictions on landfill sites as well as the Glamor Lake Park and boat launches.

Landfill sites have reverted to summer hours. For further information, visit highlandseast.ca.

The township continues to urge residents to only go when absolutely necessary. The bulk material limits implemented May 6 continue. The items included and their current limits are: four tires per visit; one appliance per visit (incl. fridges, freezers, washers/dryers, dishwashers, etc.); one piece of furniture per visit (couches, chairs, tables, etc.) and one each of

mattresses and/or box springs per visit.

The Glamor Lake Park is available for limited day-use access as per provincial guidelines.

The boat launches located at the Glamor Lake Park are open but the beach area remains closed.

Mayor Dave Burton said, "many will want to escape the city and enjoy a small piece of paradise. We ask that all Highlands East residents, permanent and seasonal, continue to abide by the public health measures put in place. Please avoid non-essential travel as much as possible, no public gatherings, come prepared and be respectful of everyone."

"We continue working our way through these difficult times and we will change and adapt, as required. I look forward to the day that we can get back to our new normal; whatever that may be."

(COVID-19 news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

## Retail, construction sectors open up

Continued from page 1

been allowed to continue ongoing projects and do some work such as site grading.

"For us up here, we're working in the bush," Burtch said. "There's enough space."

The County's four townships are again issuing building permits.

Up River Trading Co. is one of the retail stores opening this week. It's been closed since March 22 due to the pandemic. Owner Paul Roy said they are following government safety guidelines, adding screens, touchless pay and limiting capacity.

"We're very excited. Looking forward to seeing all of our customers

back," Roy said. "We feel very comfortable opening."

The business ran an online shop while it was closed. Roy said it did not compare to having a physical space but they were very pleased with the support they received.

"We're happy to be able to open in more of a limited capacity and hopefully, as it progresses, it will become a little bit more like normal again," Roy said.

Meanwhile, governments and agencies are still offering businesses support due to the crisis.

The Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) rolled out the federal Regional Relief and Recovery Fund May 15, aiding "main street"

businesses such as retailers and restaurants with new loans of up to \$40,000.

"Sole proprietors, social enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," HCDC executive director Patti Tallman said. "We look forward to delivering this critical program to our local community."

Burtch said it should be full steam ahead for the construction sector. Thus far, he said he has not heard of any local construction projects getting held off due to economic circumstances, though he acknowledged that could happen.

"Let's get rolling," he said.



# Highlander news



Pigeons roosting on a roof in downtown Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

## Minden's pigeons may be running out of time

By Lisa Gervais

Downtown Minden's pigeons have been given a stay of execution - at least until council's May 28 meeting.

Director of public works, Travis Wilson, tabled a report on the mitigation of pigeons at the May 14 committee of the whole meeting. The report stemmed from a letter of complaint by Stan Russell to the township on the March 12 council agenda.

Wilson said staff contacted two contractors, Eco-Choice Pest Control of Haliburton County and Rentokil, the township's out-of-town current contractor for seagull mitigation.

He said both were knowledgeable in the field and had provided an extensive proposal.

"Both propose placing baited live traps on any flat roof occupied by the pigeons (subject to any requirements for owner permission)," Wilson's report said. "The traps would be checked regularly, with the pigeons taken off site and euthanized."

He added that in order to successfully trap pigeons, the birds will need to become accustomed to the traps. This would entail pre-feeding them without having a trap set, and contingent on others not feeding them. The traps would then be set with the essentials for life, shade, water, and feed. Pre-feeding could be conducted on the rooves currently inhabited, or baited on the municipal building, his report said.

Wilson said Eco-Choice has also recommended that if these measurers become ineffective, since pigeons will learn that food leads to traps, that they employ a form of birth control in the pigeon's food. Wilson said it's approved and endorsed by the humane society as a humane control option.

He recommended going with Eco-Choice, saying it had provided a price of \$50 per visit for a weekly service, for 30 weeks, and a \$1,500 contingency for equipment and or birth control feed.

Coun. Jean Neville said she'd only noticed a small number of pigeons and wondered if the issue had been dealt with or if the pigeons had moved on.

However, Mayor Brent Devolin said "there's in excess of 100 and, no, they haven't gone away."

Neville said if they went with birth control feed, it might have to go on indefinitely but Wilson said only until the situation improves.

Coun. Bob Carter had a number of questions, including whether staff had talked to other municipalities with the same problem and received references from the companies about successful pigeon mitigation. Wilson said he had not talked to other townships but what was being proposed was a straightforward process.

Carter also said he'd heard people are feeding the pigeons and he knows of their roosting in abandoned buildings in town.

"Would it not make more sense to cut off their food and shelter and make it seem like they're not welcome? I'm a little worried that this just seems like another open-ended contract that may go on forever and ever amen," Carter said.

Coun. Pam Sayne agreed the township should "focus on feeding, and what's drawing them to downtown at this point, than throwing more money ... a better, conservative approach right now."

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell wondered about a two-pronged approach, what was being recommended and working with businesses to close off roosting sites. For example, she said the old theatre is a haven for pigeons.

Carter asked if owners could be held responsible.

There was talk of the former theatre changing hands with a possible demolition. Carter said he didn't want to wait months. Coun. Ron Nesbitt agreed. "At least close it up. Educate people not to feed them. There is disease from the excrement."

Former owner Rahim Lakhani said he had sold the building but did not know the new owners' plans.

Council received the report as information and will vote on it at the May 28 meeting.

"They need to be gone," Devolin said. "It's getting increasingly worse. Just walk from the bridge by The Dominion every day and observe the excrement that's there."

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### Wenona Lake



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### Kennisis Lake



It's all about the lot!! Enjoy the gorgeous sunsets from this west facing level lot. Amazing rock shoreline, deep water entry is great for the avid swimmers. 125 ft frontage and year round road. Looking for a fixer upper this one is for you! 3 bdrms 2 with balconies. 3 product pellet stove and back up solar system. \$569,000

### Twelve Mile Lake



Offering a million-dollar view and spectacular sunsets! Bright open concept custom built 3 BR, 3 bath home. Floor to ceiling windows providing stunning lake views. Finished lower level. Cozy 3 season cedar screened in porch. 56 ft of Houston docking. Waterfront enjoyment without waterfront taxes. \$558,000

### Miskwabi Lake



Looking for the perfect traditional cottage to call your own? This turnkey 3 bedroom, 4 season cottage is on beautiful Miskwabi Lake. Open concept living space. Finished with pine walls and ceilings, gives the true cottage feel. Recently installed laminate flooring throughout, indoor sauna. This property has it all! Walk-out to wrap around deck. Bunkie for additional living space. \$486,900

### Nesbitt Road



Recently renovated 4 bdrm, 2 bath home. Low traffic year-round municipal maintained road. Beautifully treed level lot. Many recent upgrades include new roof, fully renovated bathrooms, luxury vinyl flooring throughout, blown-in insulation and much more. Bright open concept living space, spacious kitchen, large rooms and ample storage space. Finished lower level, large deck and heated attached double car garage. \$399,999

### Contau Lake



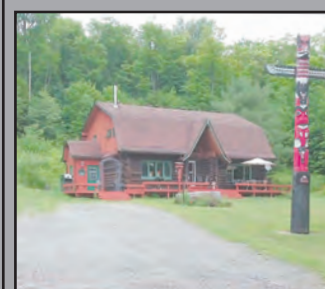
Charming seasonal waterfront cottage. 100 ft of frontage. 3 bdrms, 1 bath. Spacious eat-in kitchen and gorgeous lake views from the living room. Storage shed, easily converted to Bunkie Good swimming off the large floating dock. Seller is installing a new septic. \$339,000

### Haliburton Lake



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### Carroll Road



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### Little Glamor Lake



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### Percy Lake



Great traditional family cottage! 4 Bdrm, 1 bath cottage has open concept living space finished with laminate flooring and wood interior boasts cottage charm. Large lakefront deck. Enjoying the Southern exposure. The list doesn't stop there, sauna building at waters edge, large sitting deck and dock provides ample space the whole family will enjoy. \$379,000

### Airport Road



We found the perfect starter or retirement home for you! 1.10-ac level lot surrounded by mature trees. Cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home with open concept kitchen and living space. Kitchen is finished with Pine cabinetry and beautiful views of the backyard. In-floor radiant heat and recently installed vinyl flooring throughout. Attached oversized single insulated garage. \$259,000.



# Highlander news

## COVID-19

See the latest business updates at  
TheHighlander.ca

# Pandemic costly for Algonquin Highlands

## COVID-19

By Lisa Gervais

The Township of Algonquin Highlands could face considerable revenue losses due to COVID-19, particularly in the parks, recreation and trails department, treasurer Jean Hughes will tell a May 21 council meeting.

“At present, and based on the costs to date (April 30, 2020) the cumulative loss in revenue and additional expenses equates to approximately 1.3 per cent of the existing municipal tax levy or approximately \$69,105,” her report to the regular council meeting says.

She added that should the closures continue throughout the summer months, losses could easily exceed this amount.

“The duration of the COVID-19 pandemic remains unclear, but we anticipate the economy will return to some normal activities in the coming months and we will head into recovery mode,” Hughes said. “The township will have to consider its options to fund the potential budget deficit which may be offset by drawing on reserves, reducing expenditures or deferring non-essential capital projects.”

The township stands to lose income from camping fees, trail permits, soccer and equipment rentals, as well as revenue from events, memberships and admissions.

Hughes also outlined expenditures

incurred to date on the purchase of COVID-19 related supplies, plus costs to the township for overtime hours and self-isolation hours directly related to the pandemic.

Hughes said employee cumulative hours for tasks related to COVID-19 are not depicted on the chart she provided to council as they are performed during regular business hours, but are being tracked accordingly.

“These tasks include disinfection duties, public relations, health and safety meetings, emergency operations center (EOC) meetings, peer-to-peer meetings, virtual meeting setup and training, and setting up of signage and barricades as required for provincial and municipal closures,” she said.

She added in her report that other potential sources of lost revenue include: a drop in fire permits and inspections; licenses, permits and compliance reports; lease and fuel sales at the airport; tipping fees and planning application fees.

On a positive note, she said Algonquin Highlands’ taxes receivable is reduced in comparison to previous years and they continue to receive payments for the upcoming second installment.

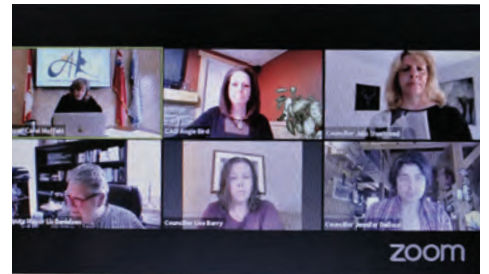
She said penalty and interest charges in comparison to his time last year are down approximately 16 per cent, “which means property owners are continuing to pay their taxes at this time.”

Also at the May 21 meeting, fire chief Jonathan Wilker will table a report to summarize to council the procedures followed by the Emergency Control Group at EOC meetings in response to the COVID-19 emergency since this is the first meeting of council since the pandemic struck. They did meet May 14 but only to pass a bylaw allowing virtual meetings.

He will also table a report to provide council with a Health and Safety Planning and Recovery Strategy relative to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report provides a framework for recovery operations in the township.

“Implementation of this framework will require flexibility to adhere to public health guidelines and directions being implemented at the local and provincial levels of government. The township will adhere to all public health in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public and its employees,” Wilker’s report states.

See next Thursday’s *Highlander* for more coverage of the May 21 meeting.



Algonquin Highlands Council will meet via Zoom May 21. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

For gravesite funeral services, there can be no more than 10 people, not counting funeral staff. Physical distancing is still encouraged.

Cottage kits are not available for purchase at this time.

The building department has begun to issue building permits, effective May 19. The fire ban has been lifted. However, daytime burning remains prohibited between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Daytime burn permits remain suspended.

There’ll also be a household hazardous waste date on June 6 in the afternoon, at the Maple Lake landfill site. Residents will not be permitted to exit their vehicles. Staff will retrieve materials directly from vehicles. Place hazardous materials in a distinct and easily accessed location in your vehicle. Be sure all containers are clearly labeled with their contents and securely sealed.

## Some reopenings

The township has reopened the Stanhope tennis and basketball courts and sports field, hiking trails (except the Dorset Tower trail). Municipal boat launches are also open.

In addition, cemeteries have reopened. Gatherings are still limited to five people.

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# Editorial opinion

## TheHighlander

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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.

## Covering COVID from the garage

I remember when the coronavirus pandemic first hit home for me.

It was Thursday, March 12.

I recall it because Minden hockey player Hunter Hamilton was scheduled to be a Scotiabank skater before the Toronto Maple Leafs-Nashville Predators game at the Air Canada Centre that night. I was texting back-and-forth with his mom, Cheryl, as to whether the game was going to be played. It was cancelled. Having National Hockey League games shelved due to COVID-19 was the big wake-up call that we were dealing with something we had never dealt with before.

While sinking in on a personal level, we also had a newspaper to plan for March 19 and I knew it was going to be a COVID-19 edition. We swung into action and delivered the first comprehensive series of stories on the continuing health care saga. It is a job that has continued as we go into our 10th pandemic edition.

Pretty early on, we were declared an essential service. There was never any doubt that we would produce the news. We just had to do it differently. That meant we've been operating more like a daily, than a weekly, newspaper. We have prolifically published on Facebook and on our website.

The newspapers have then provided more in-depth weekly coverage.

These days, we produce *The Highlander* from four different locations. Head of production Lyelca Rodrigues works from her home near Eagle Lake. I'm based out of my studio garage in Carnarvon. Journalist Joseph Quigley toils from his apartment in Haliburton and publisher Simon Payn from his home on Drag Lake. Our sales team works from home and in the field. Only our business manager, Cindy Campbell, can usually be found at *The Highlander* office.

Joseph and I research and write our stories from home. We spend a lot of time on the computer and on the phone. We hardly go out to cover anything anymore. For a while there, we wrote a lot about COVID-19. With the resumption of council meetings via Zoom, we've been able to expand our news coverage. Thankfully, there have been lots of human-interest stories, too.

One of our bigger challenges has been photography. We've been able to get some images, from a social distance, of those who have agreed to meet up. That's why you are seeing so many file photos in our editions.

As we pass the Victoria Day long weekend, we are less sure about what we will fill the paper with each week. We

know there will be continuing COVID-19, council, and people stories. However, with so many events being cancelled, there won't be typical *Highlander* summer newspapers, filled with pages and pages of photos and write-ups from events.

It is forcing us to be more creative.

Today, we are kicking off a newspaper serial, entitled *Harp on the Water*. It's written by Hope Thompson, who lives in Algonquin Highlands. Thompson writes for theatre and television and has had plays produced in Toronto, Vancouver and Los Angeles. She recently wrote for the CBC's *Baroness Von Sketch* and is currently working on a collection of crime stories. Her series will run over the next eight weeks.

We're also kicking off a series called *The Armchair Traveller* and are inviting readers to submit travel stories and photographs throughout the summer. And, by all means, if you have story ideas, don't be shy about reaching out to editor@thehighlander.ca or joseph@thehighlander.ca.



By Lisa Gervais

## Environment Haliburton!

## To mask or not to mask?

As our political leaders start a gradual reopening of workplaces, and social activities put on-hold during the pandemic, many people in Haliburton County and across Ontario are struggling with whether or not to embrace wearing a mask in public places.

While infection rates and deaths are continuing to gradually decline across the province, there's a huge amount of concern about both increased personal exposure and community spread. In effect, we're engaged in a large, semi-controlled experiment on the relaxation of pandemic restrictions and there's considerable uncertainty, even among healthcare professionals, about what's going to happen next.

Will we see a continued decline of new infections and deaths or a spike in the numbers across Ontario? Will community transmission of COVID-19 rear its ugly head and overwhelm our limited local healthcare capacities? Or, will we make it it though the "great reopening" relatively unscathed?

In Haliburton, and other communities that experience a large influx of seasonal residents and tourists, the coincidence of both the reopening of the economy and the May 24 kick-off to the annual cottage season has heightened underlying tensions. Economic dependency and income disparity breeds a kind of love/hate dynamic at the best of times and crises can fan slow burning embers into flames.

At the same time, the economic and

social havoc wreaked by the pandemic has gone way beyond the seasonal tourist sector to encompass every aspect of life in the county. Reopening and beginning the process of figuring out what our collective future will look like is going to take a lot of hard work and a huge amount of trust in each other.

Which brings us back to masks.

According to a recent poll, within a two-week period in April, the percentage of Canadians who report wearing a mask in public rose from one-fifth to one-third. Clearly, this is a significant cultural change and reflects the high level of concern people have about their personal susceptibility.

But it can also mean much more than that.

Until recently, the science regarding the impact of masks being worn by people other than frontline healthcare workers did not indicate significant benefits in protecting both the mask-wearer from the virus as well as others from being infected by the mask-wearer.

That's now changing with the World Health Organization (WHO) and public health officials, including Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, reflecting international experience suggesting that wearing a mask helps reduce the spread of the virus from infected people with no symptoms to others.

In addition, there's also evidence that masks can reduce the risk of infection for mask-wearers from others to varying

degrees depending on what material it's made of, how well it fits, and how often it is cleaned.

Quite apart from what the current science has to say, mask-wearing may also be important for the message it conveys to others you encounter in public and how that impacts on their willingness to actively participate in a gradual restarting of various kinds of social interaction.

In a very real sense, wearing a mask can be an important expression of social solidarity – "I'm wearing a mask because I'm helping to protect you and you're wearing a mask because you're trying to protect me."

Of course, to be effective, mask-wearing needs to be done in tandem with all the other public health measures we've had drilled into our heads during this pandemic, from regular hand-washing to appropriate physical distancing.

Inventing a new, post-pandemic normal in the wake of all the anxiety, turmoil, illness and death that has traumatized our communities means trusting that we are all going to do our part to keep each other as safe as possible.

And, mask-wearing in public is one of the easiest and clearest ways to demonstrate that "we all have each others' backs," time and time again.

**Terry Moore**  
*Environment Haliburton*

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK?** Send your photos to editor@thehighlander.ca



# Editorial opinion

## LETTERS

### Community respect

*Dear editor,*

It's unfortunate that the city cottagers and seasonal residents that visit our county during the summer months are feeling some resentment towards those of us that live and have businesses here.

City people visit the county usually three, perhaps four, months of the summer with the occasional weekend visit the rest of the year. The majority of them fit in with our community like one of us.

The others, and you know who you are, have the loud parties until all hours, from the time they arrive, until their departure. They light off fireworks and harass the wildlife. They let their dogs bark relentlessly and speed down our roads with total disregard for runners or walkers. They are the cyclists that ride side-by-side with little regard for others on the road.

Some people rent their properties to those that are here for a good time not a long time and could care less. You have, unfortunately, brought on that horrible derogatory term 'Citidiot.'

Now with COVID-19, of course like every community, we are concerned for ours. We have managed to protect ourselves during the worst of it. We are concerned with the public making return trips to and from wherever, bringing the virus here. It only takes one person. Living in a rural community, we don't have the luxury of unlimited hospitals, doctors and nurses. Our hospitals fit the size of our community. We have to wait for weekly delivery of groceries and supplies. We live within our means here but gladly share our beautiful space with anyone. Show us some respect and you'll get the same.

**Deb Watson**  
**Minden**

### Finding the truth

*Dear editor,*

In reply to "Lest We Forget" (letters, May 7, 2020), I think it is important, if humanity is to evolve beyond war, that the accounting of what took place has to be precise, exhaustive and absolute.

It is true that the Japanese people were warned about being bombed, but it was thought to be carpet bombing. No mention was made of the atomic bomb or to evacuate women and children from Hiroshima. As well, 33 possible sites were mentioned to be evacuated, that did not include Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Direct warnings to Hiroshima were not made before the bomb was dropped and the direct warning to Nagasaki was received the day after the atom bomb was dropped.

Also, the consideration has to be made that the LeMay Leaflets warning of the bombings as they were written were not to avoid loss of civilian life but, rather psychological warfare, aimed at convincing the Japanese that continuing was hopeless and they should surrender. If the intent had been to save civilian life, a direct warning would have been given to Hiroshima plus using the name "atomic bomb", explaining this was new technology and how this was far more destructive than carpet bombing.

It would be reasonable to evacuate one city that was directly targeted than to evacuate 33 cities. When the "Enola Gay" fighter bomber was spotted coming towards Hiroshima it could not have been known in one's wildest imagination that one plane and one bomb would cause so much death, destruction and devastation.

I think that if we do want to evolve beyond war then we have to fearlessly wade our way through the evidence and war propaganda to find the truth that helps us to evolve beyond the notion of enemy and the

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association sent this after the May snowstorm.

psychology applied that turns human beings against human beings.

**Darlene Buckingham**  
**Tory Hill**

### Praise and gratitude

*Dear editor,*

During a time when it seems that all of the stories coming from long-term care facilities in Canada are heartbreakingly dismal, I would like to share a story of praise and gratitude.

My mother, Margaret Brown, was a comfortable and contented resident at Hyland Crest and passed away there recently. Mum was cared for with tenderness, compassion, and dignity especially in her final days and hours.

What a wonderful display of professionalism and kindness during what must be an emotionally exhausting period.

The current restrictions and PPE protocols have placed additional demands on an already over-burdened staff. And yet, providing a comfortable passing was their mission - the ultimate gift. We are truly blessed to have a facility and staff of this caliber in our community. Our family will be eternally grateful.

Thanks to their diligent preventive procedures and isolation practices, the LTC homes in our county have remained free from COVID-19 cases in both staff and residents. It is time that LTC workers were valued and compensated at a level consistent with their skill, dedication, and commitment to our elders.

**Laurie Brown and family**  
**Minden**

## Good for you

## COVID and long-term care homes

Next to the nuclear power industry, long-term care (LTC) is the most highly regulated industry in Ontario. LTC homes are reviewed on an annual basis without notice and these assessments are so thorough they literally take days to complete. Comprehensive reports are generated and LTC operators are cited for corrective actions with specified timeframes. Complaints are also thoroughly investigated. Given this level of surveillance, why are so many residents of Ontario LTC homes dying of COVID-19? And, why have the residents and staff of some homes been spared?

Admission to LTC homes requires residents to be extremely frail and unable to be cared for in the community. As a result, individuals living in LTC homes are some of the most vulnerable members of our society when it comes to contracting infectious diseases. The Ontario Long-Term Care Association noted that in 2019, 90 per cent of residents had some form of cognitive impairment and almost

all of these folks needed extensive help with bathing, eating, toileting, and being able to mobilize. Most residents also had neurological, circulatory, and respiratory conditions that required close monitoring and 10 or more medications per day.

Residents of LTC live communally in shared spaces. This is their home. They share meals, attend religious services, and participate in recreational and entertainment activities. Together. More than half of the province's current LTC homes are scheduled to be re-built by 2025. Homes with standard or ward rooms where residents share sleeping quarters and bathrooms with two or three other residents contribute to many infectious disease outbreaks, not just COVID-19.

The majority of workers in residential care homes are unregulated health workers. There are many studies that note that the ratio of professional to non-professional staff is an important indicator of health care quality and results in more positive health outcomes. Many workers in

residential care homes are employed on a part-time or casual basis. For some, this is their choice as they are women with family responsibilities. But mostly, this is the nature of the health care industry, particularly in the aged care sector. Still other health care workers hold down a full-time job and one or more part-time jobs, to make ends meet. During SARS, working in more than one facility facilitated its spread. The same is true of COVID-19.

The greatest protective factor to date in our counties, and many other northern and rural counties, is that we have had virtually no community spread of COVID-19 and we have room to physically distance. Health care workers are not being exposed to COVID-19 in our community and so they are not bringing the virus to work to share with residents, patients and colleagues. All visitors and non-essential personnel are also barred from long-term care. As of the beginning of the May long weekend, there are 189/626 LTC homes that are in outbreak in Ontario and 82 homes have resolved

their cases. The Greater Toronto Area, in particular, has borne the majority of the cases and deaths from COVID-19 both for residents and staff.

It is worth noting that many seasonal residents have been living in our communities for weeks without contributing to community spread of COVID-19. Additionally, many LTC homes in Ontario and across Canada are managing to keep COVID-19 at bay and most outbreaks have resolved, even in communities with significant COVID-19 spread.

Good technique with hand hygiene, use of masks, rapid isolation of staff and residents who are sick, and restricting non-essential visitors, all play a role in protecting our elders. These same measures are good for you.

**Dr. Diane Duff, PhD, RN**  
**Minden**



# Highlander news

## Calling out COVID-19 to protect public health

Submitted by Kristina Nairn,  
Public Health Nurse,  
HKPR District Health Unit

Phones are an essential tool in the fight against COVID-19. For weeks now, Health Unit nurses and other staff have worked the phones on days, evenings and weekends. Initially, it was answering hundreds of your questions/concerns. Recently, our focus has shifted to doing follow-ups and regular check-ins with people and places affected by the coronavirus.

There are two main types of calls that the Health Unit is currently doing.

The first is case and contact management, a strategy that's been used for years by public health to trace and track other diseases, including tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections. What's new with COVID-19 is the size and scope of our case follow-up, and the ever-changing definitions and directives to follow.

Think of case and contact management as assembling a giant jigsaw puzzle. With accurate, up-to-date information, we know who needs to self-isolate, as well as any of their close contacts, to contain the spread and exposure to COVID-19.

This is how it works. Health Unit staff like me will follow up with people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Over the phone, we discuss their symptoms, how to self-isolate for 14 days, and what extra supports they need to follow the rules, including arranging to have someone get groceries for them while they're in self-isolation.

Another part of case/contact management is following up with others who were in close contact with the person who has COVID-19. They could be partners, children or others who live in the same home; friends or neighbours; or co-workers. By tracing these contacts, we can discuss with them any exposure or symptoms they

may have, and which precautions they need to take (like self-isolating) to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The other type of call we're doing is medical surveillance. This involves Health Unit staff speaking daily by phone with those in self-isolation due to COVID-19 and their close contacts, ensuring they're staying home and doing alright. During these daily calls, we'll check their symptoms/conditions aren't getting worse and that they continue to have the supports they need. Health Unit staff get to know these individuals very well through these daily contacts, which continue until they are cleared from self-isolation.

Our phone conversations aren't limited to individuals. Health Unit staff also work closely with hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes, municipalities, homeless shelters, group homes and other venues to help with planning and monitoring related to COVID-19. We offer guidance, resources

and support as needed.

Normally as a nurse, I work with vulnerable populations and agencies that support them. Now that I'm doing COVID-19 response, I use that same approach, not just explaining how to self-isolate, but helping identify barriers for people like getting food, paying rent and dealing with emotional impacts of these changes on their lives and what's needed to improve their situations.

It's important for me to help people in whatever way COVID-19 is affecting their lives. Working directly with individuals or community partners is rewarding. Prevention is such a critical tool, and the people I call or work with want to do whatever they can to protect their health and promote the well-being of friends, neighbours, clients and the entire community.

Protection, promotion, prevention: this is public health at its best.

## Community can't be cancelled in the Highlands

Submitted by Jennifer Wanless-Craig

There has been some good news recently, as governments are beginning to ease some of the restrictions enacted to combat the spread of COVID-19. But for businesses in the Highlands, this progress has been negated by the current friction between full-time and seasonal residents.

With the official kickoff to the summer cottage season now behind us, Ontarians are eager to use their cottages, but officials are asking them to stay home amid fears of straining resources. So, while we may soon be able to open our doors, we may not have the customers to keep them open.

But though times are tough, there is plenty we can still do to stay positive and make adjustments that help ourselves and our business community through this time. I believe our community is worth fighting for.

have many ventures on the backburner. My main business with my husband is Artech Studios, where we create glass artwork that we sell here and all over the world. We also offer glass-blowing classes and workshops, and have a retail boutique, which we can't run right now due to social distancing.

So, while the store is closed, we've pivoted to set up a bike rental and repair service from our shop. For anyone else looking to pivot, online is a great place to start. Maybe now is the chance to set up an eCommerce store easily with Square. Start small with a virtual storefront for teaching a skill or selling products for curbside pickup or delivery.

These uncertain times offer hidden opportunities. Move outside your comfort zone. Break out of the mould you created for yourself and branch into a new type of work, opportunity or experience.

together. This is happening to everyone, here and all over the world, and our various levels of government are working hard to make sure we all come out the other side stronger.

We all have a role to play, and we're all better when we work together. We should be banding together to help our friends and the greater community. I've been told ideas are my superpower, and so I've been connecting with business owners in the area, discussing the ways they can adapt to the times. In one instance, I brought together a local restaurant and brewery so they can team up to offer craft beer with takeout food orders. We all have different skills and strengths, and helping each other now will mean more opportunities later.

### Time for sharing

This is a difficult time, and it's okay to be scared, sad, worried, anxious. But there is a whole community out there willing and able to help support you.

With schools closed, why not reach out to other parents for their homeschool ideas. Or

when did you last have the time to read a book? Now, you have time to not only read but also create a book club online or outside at a safe distance.

Gym's closed? There are plenty of trainers offering online workouts, and may soon be able to meet in-person outdoors as well. Want to learn to dance, to play an instrument, paint, craft, DIY? There are highly skilled professionals offering lessons and tutorials via FaceTime or Zoom.

We should take advantage of the warming weather, as well as the technology at our disposal, to help us take care of our friends, families, neighbours and selves.

We don't know when this pandemic will end, but we do know it will end. Meanwhile, constraints are never comfortable, but they can spark incredible creativity, which the Highlands has in spades. No one knows what the future will bring, and we can't wallow in what might have been. But if we push forward in new ways, we'll emerge stronger.

I'm here to brainstorm ways to pivot your business, help you create an online store, and/or share tips as a homeschooling mom; send me an email at [info@artechstudios.ca](mailto:info@artechstudios.ca).

### Challenge breeds opportunity

As an artist and serial entrepreneur, I always

### Strength in numbers

It's normal and understandable that people are feeling stressed right now, but it's important to remember that we're all in this



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## HHLT Presents Discovery Days - Online!

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### "My Backyard" Challenges - Be an outdoor super sleuth!

The theme for May and June is "Backyard Birds and other Flying Critters." Share your photos and findings on our Facebook page, or email [admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca](mailto:admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca)



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### Videos

#### May - Bird Box Installation

Watch Thom Lambert as he demonstrates building a bird box. Then, use plans to build your own.

#### July - Whip-Poor-Wills at the Bathe Farm

Listen for these special birds with Dave Bathe as he explores his farm. Learn more about them on our website.



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# Highlander news

## COVID-19

Follow The Highlander on Facebook for the latest updates:  
Facebook.com/TheHighlanderOnline



The Haliburton County Public Library is planning for reopening but will not yet offer curbside pickup services. *File photo.*

## Libraries plan for reopening No curbside pickup yet

By Joseph Quigley

The Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) is planning for reopening but staff are uncertain how it will unfold.

The province has declared that libraries could begin offering curbside pickup May 19 as part of the first phase of its reopening plan. However, HCPL announced it is still developing the service and it is not yet ready to launch.

“Developing a curbside pickup service that is safe for staff and patrons is a large endeavour and we are working on a way to safely provide this service. However, there are many unknowns, and we will provide this service only once we can do it safely,” HCPL said in a Facebook post. “We miss all of you. But we also want to make sure that when we can increase our services, we are keeping our patrons, our staff, and our communities safe.”

The library board discussed the reopening process during its May 13 meeting and what will eventually be required, such as personal protective equipment, additional cleaning supplies and plexiglass shields.

Library CEO Bessie Sullivan also said protocols will be needed for maintaining distance, computer usage, and possibly locking down books for some time after use.

However, she said there is not yet much provincial guidance on what libraries will have to do and uncertainty around what

additional funding there might be due to the situation. She also said there is uncertainty about how much decontamination books will require due to COVID-19.

“I still feel like we’re in a great abyss of non-information,” Sullivan said during the meeting.

Councillors on the board spoke to municipal willingness to help. Since local library buildings are owned by municipalities, capital expenses would have to go through them.

“What we are basically prepared to do is take our guidance from the library board and the County,” board member and Highlands East Coun. Cec Ryall said. “It’s going to take all of us to make this work.”

Warden Liz Danielsen said municipal CAOs are working on the issue and the municipalities would need to figure out if they would bear individual costs or if it would be shared with the County.

Board member and Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said it is important to collaborate and ensure costs can be accommodated in municipal budgets.

“We want to be careful that we don’t have a splintered approach,” Moffatt said.

Vice-chair Andrea Roberts thanked staff for their efforts in keeping libraries going with online services.

“Thank you for adapting, to try to keep the library services going in these strange and unusual times,” Roberts said.

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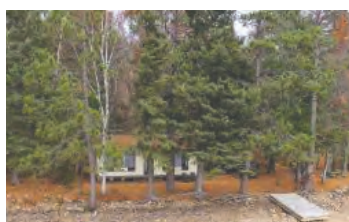
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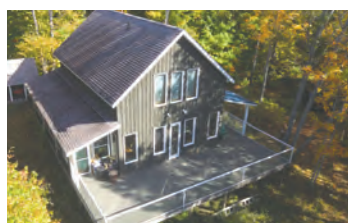
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# Highlander news

## Minden Hills records large 2019 surplus

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills has an estimated surplus of more than \$900,000 at year end 2019, CAO and treasurer Lorrie Blanchard told the May 14 committee of the whole meeting.

She told council it was “a very significant number” and the largest one they’ve had. She added, “of note, every single department experienced a surplus in 2019.”

She said that more than half of it, or \$503,480, is attributable to unspent wages and benefits.

“For various reasons, we were not able to either hire the staff that council had approved for us to hire, or vacancies that had occurred that we were not able to fill, or positions that we were successful in filling but they just didn’t happen in the timeframe that we had hoped and the timeframe we had budgeted for them to start,” Blanchard told councillors.

In addition, there was \$86,700 from supplemental taxes, amounts retained from school boards and write-offs; \$184,700 in additional gas tax top-up and legacy funding; and \$137,600 in bank interest income, for the remaining surplus of \$409,000.

Blanchard said the savings represented 10.72 per cent of the 2019 levy.

In her report, she also provided a summary of potential capital projects, mostly roads and landfills, but also water and sewer and property. For example, she said council could spend the money to remove or renovate the old fire hall in the downtown. She said another idea was reducing the amount of the Minden arena project loan, or



Staff suggested one thing the township could spend part of its surplus on is removing or renovating the old fire hall. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

apply to value-added items there.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she’d like to see compliance with accessibility prioritized. “I think we could do something with our downtown, which makes it accessible,” she said. She added they could help downtown businesses and look at what other downtowns are doing.

Coun. Bob Carter said he felt the township was going to be criticized for having a nearly 11 per cent surplus. He said he understood why it happened, including projects not proceeding, as well as hirings. He wanted to know if the projects would be done.

He added, “I think it’s very, very important for us to recognize that this isn’t found money. This is taxpayer money and putting it towards a list of projects that might be somebody’s favourite or might be ‘nice to haves’ or

something like that, I don’t think that’s a valid thing to be doing.” He said the money would be better spent on emergencies or forecasting need into 2020 and 2021.

Coun. Ron Nesbitt agreed, saying, “it is taxpayer money. It should go to stuff that needs to get done, not happy projects.”

“How it affects our tax increases is also an important issue,” Sayne added. “Make sure we’re not increasing our taxes if we have this kind of reserve from the previous year. Make sure it goes to where we intend it.”

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said that “a lot of people in our community during this pandemic are without work. Money’s tighter. So, perhaps we can offset what would have to be a tax increase in 2021 with some of this money to try to help out.”

## County residents encouraged to BounceBack

### COVID-19

By Lisa Gervais

To help Ontarians navigating the difficult realities in the wake of COVID-19, the Ontario government has announced an expansion of online and virtual mental health supports, including the Canadian Mental Health Association’s BounceBack program.

BounceBack is free of charge to help people experiencing mild to moderate anxiety, stress and other mental health challenges associated with the pandemic, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) said in a media release.

Grounded in cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), BounceBack is a guided self-help approach that is a proven, effective way to help people aged 15 and up who may be feeling low, stressed out, worried, depressed, irritable or angry.

BounceBack participants receive telephone coaching, skill-building

workbooks and online videos to help them overcome mild-to-moderate symptoms and gain new skills to regain positive mental health.

BounceBack offers different guided self-help workbooks that include titles such as Understanding Worry and Stress, Overcoming Sleep Problems, Changing Extreme and Unhelpful Thinking, Why Do I Feel So Bad? and 10 Things You Can Do to Feel Happier Straight Away.

BounceBack is not a crisis service or counselling program, but a life-skills course that helps participants develop coping techniques so they can overcome challenges now or in the future. BounceBack coaches are extensively trained in the delivery of the program and are overseen by clinical psychologists. The main responsibilities of BounceBack coaches are to foster skill development, provide motivation and monitor progress. BounceBack telephone coaching is available in more than 15 languages.

To receive telephone coaching, clients must either be referred by a health care practitioner (family doctor, nurse practitioner), or they may self-refer as long as they’re connected with a primary care provider. It’s important that primary care providers maintain responsibility for their clients’ overall well-being during their time in the program as BounceBack coaches are not counsellors or therapists.

“We’re living in an unprecedented time amid this COVID-19 pandemic, and we’re thankful that the provincial government recognizes the effect this widespread uncertainty can have on everyone’s mental health,” said CMHA H.K.P.R.’s Chief Executive Officer, Mark Graham. “We encourage everyone in our community who may be struggling at home to access BounceBack or any of the other expanded mental health services the government has announced.”

To learn more about BounceBack, visit bouncebackontario.ca or call 1-866-345-0224.

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# Highlander news



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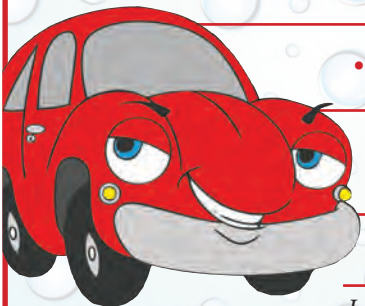
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## Cocaine bust

Haliburton Highlands OPP arrested and charged four people with trafficking cocaine after executing a search warrant at a Mountain Street property in Dysart et al.

OPP said they seized cocaine and Canadian currency. The bust was the result of several months of investigation aimed at drug trafficking in the Haliburton Highlands.

"The Ontario Provincial Police are actively pursuing criminal activities involving individuals and organized crime in our communities," police said in a press release. "We will continue to investigate and prosecute those individuals who choose to engage in this behaviour."

All four suspects were released on undertakings and are scheduled to appear at court in Minden Sept. 2.

## Detachment closing

The Ontario Provincial Police announced on Friday, May 15 that it's closing its OPP satellite detachment in Coboconk, effective May 20.

In a media release, the OPP said the detachment, at 2820 County Road 48, "is no longer required or being used."

They went on to say the area "will continue to receive the same high standards of policing services" from its host detachment, the City of Kawartha

Lakes, at 3028, Highway 35, Lindsay.

They said that for emergencies, the public should call 9-1-1. For other police matters, they should call 1-888-310-1122.

The public can also use the OPP's online reporting tool to report less serious incidents, or contact the City of Kawartha Lakes Detachment at 705-324-6741.

## Fraudsters active

As COVID-19 continues, members of the OPP Anti-Rackets Branch, Health Fraud Investigation Unit (HFIU) say increasing health care-related scams are targeting unsuspecting, innocent victims to extort money and, in particular, personal information.

They said some websites use sophisticated malware to trick people to supply personal information, which can be used to fraudulently bill for healthcare services and commit identity theft. They said fraudsters are also attempting to extort money from victims, asking for upfront money before providing a service or for an administrative fee.

They said people can prepare themselves by: being wary of companies that claim cures and prevention for COVID-19; researching before providing your Ontario Health Card number, version code or other personal information. Never download an attachment from an email or

website with which you are unfamiliar; even if a website or email appears to be from a familiar organization, the source could be spoofed. No one should be subjected to surcharges such as additional technical charges or sanitizing costs if you attend a physician's office and verify who is calling if you receive a phone call requesting your personal information

## Safe boating tips

With Safe Boating Awareness Week underway, the OPP is partnering with the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) to remind boaters and paddlers about the main do's and don'ts for getting through a safe boating season.

They advise people to wear a life jacket; be wary of the dangers of cold water immersion; and take a safe boating course.

As for the don'ts, they include: not taking your boat out if you've consumed alcohol or drugs, or take your boat out unless both you and your vessel are fully prepared.

They said that during the weeklong safe boating campaign, members of the OPP Marine Program will join marine partners across Canada as they conduct enforcement on waterways and educate boaters and paddlers about staying safe. (OPP news compiled by Lisa Gervais and Joseph Quigley)



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# Highlander news

## Councillors punch idea of counting garbage bags

By Lisa Gervais

Visitors to Minden Hills' waste disposal sites won't be getting a new landfill pass that tracks the number of garbage bags they drop.

Councillors rejected a recommendation from staff to make a change at the May 14 committee of the whole meeting. They are expected to formalize the decision when they next meet May 28.

Public works director Travis Wilson said it's now a bit of an "honour system." He said households are allowed three bags per week, but there is nothing stopping them going back, or to another landfill site, in the same week, thus dumping more than permitted.

"It is impossible for a site attendant to remember who has attended the site each week and there is no method of cross referencing who has attended each site," Wilson said. He added that in order to ensure users stay within weekly bag limits, most have to go once a week, which is time consuming and an undesirable task for some.

Staff suggested a new waste pass be printed with numbers that would be hole punched by site staff to help track how

many bags of garbage have been disposed of by the resident.

Wilson conceded it was difficult to determine what the reduction in waste transfer/landfilling costs would be or how much increased tipping fee revenue would be recovered from users paying for additional bags of waste. However, he said they could encourage residents to make fewer trips to the landfill.

"If every household in Minden reduced their trips to the landfill by just two visits per year, 23.27 tonnes of CO2 emissions could be prevented (the equivalent of taking six vehicles off the road for an entire year)," Wilson said.

Coun. Jean Neville said she saw a lot of problems with the proposal, particularly now when the township is trying to limit contact between landfill attendants and the public due to COVID-19.

She said she only generates one small grocery bag a week, while others are bringing theirs and their neighbours. "So, they're going to be passing their cards back and forth." She added she'd already had several emails about garbage being dumped on the side of the road, and new punch cards would exacerbate this. She also



Residents will get new dump cards this summer. They will be a different colour and advertise the new hours. However, they won't have a punch option for the number of garbage bags. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

thought there'd be a backup of vehicles with the hole punch system.

She asked what other municipalities are doing, since "We seem to throw more obstacles in the way than anybody else and I don't see that this is necessary myself."

Coun. Bob Carter asked why they would change anything with no data to show savings or increased revenue. He added COVID-19 isn't going away any time

soon. As a visitor to Ingoldsby waste disposal site, he anticipates it would cause congestion. Nor does he want people storing garbage that could attract vermin.

"I applaud the effort but I see this as a solution looking for a problem."

Deputy-Mayor Lisa Schell thought the timing was off with social distancing. She added, "has it (excessive dumping) really been that big of an issue?"

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# Highlander news

## Minden Hills news

### Arena update on value-added items

CAO and treasurer Lorrie Blanchard updated council on the so-called value-added items associated with the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena renewal project.

She said future estimated costs total \$440,143.20. Of this, she said \$131,856 would be funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, with the balance of approximately \$310,000 to be determined by council.

The original budget for the project was \$12,494,570. An additional \$250,000 was approved by council in December 2019, increasing the budget to \$12,744,570.

Blanchard said builders MBC have advised that based on completed tenders and items that remain outstanding, a project surplus is unlikely.

She said staff will be seeking direction from council regarding the approval of any added value items, as well as the source of funding.

### Apartments for Minden one step closer

Ocean and Echo Investments Inc. is one step closer to having full approval to build five apartments on top of the former ambulance bay in downtown Minden.

Planner Ian Clendening is proposing that



Council met via Zoom on May 14. Photo by Lisa Gervais

council allow the rezoning to pave the way for the one and two-bedroom units. The bylaw would rezone it from the Village Commercial (C4) Zone to the Village Commercial Exception Four (C4-4) Zone.

### Road tenders up for approval

Director of public works Travis Wilson is recommending council award the contract for construction and demolition disposal services to Miller Waste. He is further recommending Miller Waste provide

transport and disposal using a 53-foot trailer. Wilson said the unit rate would be \$103.96 per metric ton.

Wilson further recommended that Mid-Western Line-Striping get the pavement marking job for the township. He asked council to waive the procurement policy and single source the job. He wants council to approve the rate extension for the estimated sum of \$10,730.48 inclusive of HST.

The public works director wants the calcium chloride, or dust suppression, job to go to Miller Paving. Again, he wants a single source for supply, delivery and application. He said the cost is \$0.2475/L

for supply and delivery and \$0.2633/L for the supply, delivery and application, both exclusive of HST.

His final ask was for roads project management software. He wants Microsoft Project with an maximum price of \$5,160 exclusive of HST. He would like the roads and environmental reserves to be used to cover the unfinanced costs associated with the purchase in the absence of a departmental surplus.

Council will make formal decisions at its May 28 meeting.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

## INFORMATION PAGE

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A reminder that all Township facilities remain closed to the public, until further notice. Administrative call answering services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts or email [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca).

Please provide your name, contact information (phone and/or email) and a clear and brief message regarding the reason for your call.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

**We are asking the public to restrict inquiries to Township priority requests only and please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as Staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.**

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**Please do not call or email the various Departments or their related extensions or submit inquiries through the Minden Hills website Contact Us form.**

If you are aware of anyone who is not adhering to the Government's order which prohibits organized public events and social gatherings of more than five (5) people, or who are not practicing appropriate physical distancing; you are encouraged to contact your local police department or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or online by visiting [opp.ca/reporting](http://opp.ca/reporting).

For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to: [www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/)

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The first Household Hazardous Waste collection event will be held at the Scotch Line Landfill on Saturday, June 6th from 8am to 11:30am. New drop-off procedures are in place. Please visit our website or call 705-286-1260 for details.

#### Virtual Council Meetings

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be conducted virtually via web conference; and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings are held virtually, starting at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council office, 7 Milne Street. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**May 28** - Regular Council Meeting  
**June 11** - Committee of the Whole Meeting

During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of paramount importance. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. 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 our website at [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/).

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

#### DISCLAIMER : The information provided on this page is considered current and valid on as of May 15, 2020.

While the Township of Minden Hills works diligently to provide the public with the most current information regarding service provisions and reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that, due to the rapidly evolving nature of outbreak, information can, and may, change on a daily basis. The public is strongly encouraged to refer our website at [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) for current and up-to-date information. Anyone unable to access the website can call 705-286-1260 or email [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca) for assistance.

#### Requests for Tender

- RFT # ENV 20-03 Irondale Landfill Site Cap and Closure Construction.** The Township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents to complete landfill closure works at the Irondale Landfill. Submission deadline is May 27, 2020 by 12:00 noon.
- RFT # RDS 20-03 Reconstruction of IGA Road.** The Township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents for the reconstruction of IGA Road. Submission deadline is May 27, 2020 by 12:00 noon.
- RFP #FIRE 20-01 Rapid/Initial/Wildland Attack Truck.** The township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents for the provision of a multipurpose 4x4 rapid attack fire apparatus with pump-and-roll capabilities. Submission deadline is May 29, 2020 by 12:00 noon.

Please visit [www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/) to view the tender documents and for complete information on how to submit bids.

**For breaking news, videos and community events, visit [THEHIGHLANDER.CA](http://THEHIGHLANDER.CA)**



# Highlander sports



Jessica Byers and her teammates at the Oshawa Curling Club. Photo via Facebook.

## Decorated curlers earn parting gift from club

By Joseph Quigley

Graduating student Jessica Byers said she would not be the person she is today without the Haliburton Curling Club.

Byers and fellow student Dustyn McCready-DeBruin each earned \$500 bursary awards from the club for their efforts over the years, announced May 10.

Byers said she began curling with the club in Grade 5 and it meant a lot to her to receive the bursary after all her years there.

"I'll be going to post-secondary, so any contributions to help with that is obviously very appreciated," Byers said. "I was just happy with myself and was grateful for the opportunity."

"It means a lot. The curling club has really supported me since I joined in Grade 4," McCready-DeBruin said. "It just means a lot as they're still supporting students as they move to a different stage in their life."

Byers and McCready-DeBruin are both alumni of the club's youth curling program and spent their high school years volunteering there, coaching younger curlers.

"I've always enjoyed helping kids because I was a pretty shy person," Byers said. "It's nice to see if you keep trying, you'll get to a point where you're more confident and you can see they're successful and happy."

Club director Wanda Stephen said after not awarding the bursary last year as there were no graduating students from the club, they felt comfortable giving out two awards this year. She said Byers and McCready-DeBruin stood out amongst applicants.

"They've been so committed to the youth curling program at the curling club. They

come every week, several times a week, to help with the youngsters," Stephen said. "All the adults really, really love having the younger curlers curl with us."

She added the youth program is still going strong, with 40 kids involved and 17 high schoolers.

Byers said she became passionate about the game because of its strategy, friendly competition and social atmosphere. She added it was good club members were supportive when she started into adult leagues.

"I was very lucky to have those members of the club appreciate having kids out there because not every club is like that. It felt good to show the product of the youth program," Byers said.

"It's a really close knit community and it just feels great to be apart of it," McCready-DeBruin said.

That experience would help Byers and McCready-DeBruin lead decorated high school curling careers. Byers had second and fourth place finishes at provincials, two all star nods and a COSSA silver. McCready-DeBruin also achieved strong results on the boys' side, with fourth and sixth place finishes at provincials and COSSA gold and silver.

Now, Byers and McCready-DeBruin have their sights set on varsity curling. Byers has a spot secured at Humber College, where she will be studying interior design. McCready-DeBruin plans to play at Dalhousie University, where he'll study marine biology.

"I'm just grateful for all of them. I know they're super supportive of me," Byers said of the Haliburton club.



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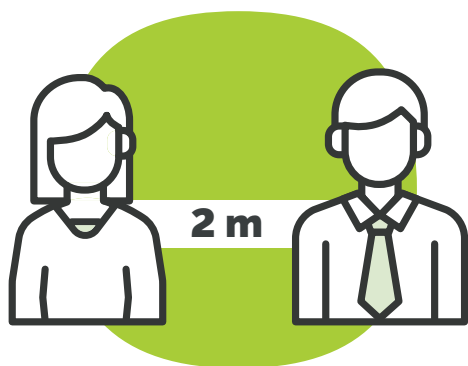


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# Highlander outdoors

## Health unit advises social distancing from ticks, too

Keeping a safe distance from others during a pandemic also has some merit when it comes to avoiding blacklegged (or deer) ticks that can spread Lyme disease, the health unit says.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit urges people to be extra watchful for blacklegged ticks. This type of tick may carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, an illness that can lead to recurring arthritis, neurological problems, numbness or paralysis if left untreated.

"With blacklegged ticks present in much of southern Ontario, including Northumberland County, Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, it's important to take precautions wherever and whenever you're outside," said Richard Ovcharovich, manager of health protection with the HKPR District Health Unit. "Just like mosquitoes, blacklegged ticks are another pest to avoid at this time of year."

Blacklegged ticks will attach themselves to a passing person or animal, and then feed on the host's blood. The longer a tick feeds, the greater the risk it can spread Lyme disease to a person.

To avoid blacklegged ticks and reduce the risk of Lyme disease, the Health Unit suggests you:

- Apply bug spray containing DEET on your skin and clothing
- Wear closed-toe shoes, long-sleeved shirts and pants

- Pull socks over your pant legs if possible
- Stay on marked trails when walking in a nature area
- Keep ticks away from your property. Cut grass short and trim bushes/branches to let in sunlight

- Check yourself for ticks after being outside. Shower as soon as you can to wash off any ticks. Put your clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes to kill any ticks that may be attached

If you notice a tick on your body, remove it as soon as possible. A Health Unit video can show you how to do this.

If using a tick removal product, follow manufacturer's directions. If using finely-tipped tweezers, grasp the head of the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull it slowly, straight out. Immediately after, wash the bite area with soap and water, or alcohol-based sanitizer.

Seek medical attention if a blacklegged tick has been attached for more than 24 hours or looks like it's been feeding for some time. You should also see a health care provider if you have symptoms of Lyme disease like a skin rash, fever, headache and muscle/joint pain. If detected early, Lyme can be treated successfully with antibiotics.

NOTE: During COVID-19, call your health care provider first to ask how to get care. If you are self-isolating for any reason due to COVID-19, call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 or the Health Unit at 1-866-888-



A blacklegged tick. Photo courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control.

4577, ext. 5020 for more guidance.

In 2020, the Health Unit is no longer accepting ticks for testing. Previously, this was done for surveillance purposes only, but ongoing surveillance testing is no longer required across the province this year because blacklegged ticks are known to be present throughout Ontario. This change does not affect medical testing for ticks that can be ordered by doctors for their patients.

The Health Unit is encouraging people to use the free eTick website (etick.ca) to identify any ticks they encounter. Submit a photo of the tick on the eTick website and, within 48 hours, you will be notified if it is a blacklegged tick which is the type that may spread Lyme disease. The result is not meant to provide medical advice, but can

help people determine if they wish to see a health care provider.

If people still want to have a tick tested for the presence of Lyme Disease, the Health Unit can direct them to private labs that can test the tick for a fee.

Federal regulators have recently approved permethrin-treated clothing for sale in Canada that is designed to repel ticks. This may be another option for people to protect themselves against tick bites.

"We encourage people to get out and enjoy the outdoors," said Ovcharovich, "but do it safely and responsibly by keeping in mind pandemic precautions and reducing your exposure to blacklegged ticks that may cause Lyme disease." (Lisa Gervais)



Black bears are coming out of hibernation and are hungry. Photo by Tammy Nash.

## Hungry bears on move

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reminding the public to exercise caution as bears begin to come out of hibernation this spring.

In a press release, the province of Ontario said black bears waking up from hibernation are faced with a scarcity of natural food sources, leading them to look for food in garbage cans and bird feeders.

You can prevent bears from visiting your home and neighbourhood by:

- Storing garbage in waste containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Putting away bird feeders for the spring (you can offer birds natural alternatives, such as flowers, nesting boxes and fresh water).
- Cleaning food residue and grease from outdoor barbecue grills after each use.
- Keeping pet food indoors.

The release went on to say that bears that enter your community are not necessarily a threat, but it is important to know who to call if you encounter a bear. For non-emergencies, the province operates a toll-free Bear Wise reporting line (1-866-514-2327). The line is open 24/7 from April 1 to Nov. 30.

If a bear is posing an immediate threat by exhibiting threatening or aggressive behaviour, remain calm and call 911 or your local police department (705-286-1431). (Lisa Gervais)

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# Highlander travels

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**Editor's note:** Since moving to Haliburton County in 2016, one thing I've learned is that County residents are adventurous. As much as we like to hunker down, we also like to travel. I guess you could say we prefer to have roots and wings. With many of us now locked down by COVID-19, *The Highlander* thought it would be a good idea to run an armchair traveller series. Editor Lisa Gervais is kicking it off this week with a story she wrote after hiking to Everest Base Camp. If you have a story you want to tell about a favourite trip - or repeat destination, please send to editor@thehighlander.ca (Stories should be no more than 1,000 words and photos of JPEG, 300-dpi or better for quality purposes).

## A trek to the roof of the world

By Lisa Gervais

I am slowly, steadily making my way along the Everest Base Camp trek when Nic, who is trudging behind me, suddenly gasps for air.

Her panicked partner, Paul, calls out to our Nepalese guides. They rush to Nic's side, along with Brisbane doctor, Simon Arndil.

They examine Nic and find she is now okay. Nic tells them she had a stomach cramp and simply lost her breath - not hard to do at nearly five kilometres up with about half the oxygen at sea level.

As Nic struggled, I felt panic overcome me. My vision seemed to shimmer and for the first time, I realized how dangerous trekking at altitude can be.

I forced myself to calm down . . . breathe in through my nose, breathe out through my mouth.

We all began to walk again, towards Lobuche, where our camp that night would be pitched at 4,930 m amongst the Khumbu Glacier moraine.

### Yeti Airlines

On our Yeti Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Lukla, where the trek begins, our stewardess offers us a mint and cotton for our ears as the small, twin propeller aircraft takes off, providing amazing views of the Eastern Himalaya. We experience a rather hairy landing on a very short airstrip at 2,800 metres and are awe-inspired by the huge, snow-capped peaks surrounding the village.

We are soon joined by throngs of people along a well-marked trail; local porters and dzopkos (a yak-cow crossbreed) carrying supplies for the villages higher up and trekking parties.

We head downhill, passing Buddhist stupas, chortens, prayer flags and prayer wheels, through villages with pretty stone houses and flowers, shops and terraced fields of potatoes and buckwheat. We come to a suspension bridge and make the first of many crossings of the Dudh Kosi, a raging river that flows from the highest peaks.

### The trek

Our Nepalese guides wake us up early by bringing tea to our tents, followed by a hot bowl of washing water. We pack and head to our mess tent for breakfast. We then walk for a few hours before a hearty lunch and a few more hours' walking before we are back in the mess tent for afternoon tea, followed by another wash and then dinner. Most nights we are tucked up in bed early after a vigorous day's walking.

The pace is slow and steady as we make our way up. We are advised that the best way to avoid altitude sickness is to go slow and to drink plenty of liquids, hot liquids preferably, and we endeavour to drink three litres a day even though it means we rarely



Editor Lisa Gervais and her Nepalese friends at base camp. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

sleep through the night as we need to get up and use the toilet.

We hike through pine forest and cleared areas reveal terraced fields and a variety of crops, while spectacular mountain peaks unfold above us and seem to hover above the tree-line as they rise above the deep river valley. We pass Mani Walls, carved with "Om Mani Padme Hum" (Hail to the jewel in the lotus).

### Namche Bazaar

"No, they don't have cars," the woman with the New Zealand accent explains via mobile phone to someone on the other end of the world.

However, they do appear to have internet everywhere. In fact, I send an e-mail from Gorak Shep, at 5,288m, where the proprietor of the internet café uses a petrol generator and satellite dish to ensure communication with the outside world.

At Namche Bazaar, we run into Willie Benegas, an Argentinian living in the USA who is a professional Mt. Everest guide. At the time, Willie had climbed Everest eight times and this season will make his ninth attempt.

We ask him about the danger and he shrugs it off saying: "Flying into Lukla is extremely dangerous. You're playing the odds all the time."

He concedes the commercialization of Everest but believes it is the low budget expeditions that account for the accidents.

We wind our way up to Thyangboche Monastery where we arrive in time for the Buddhist monks' afternoon chant. The light is dim and there is a rank smell of trekkers' socks but the deep, melodic chant invades my chest.

At Dingboche, at 4,360m, the snow arrives with a vengeance, covering our tents. Our Nepalese guides thwack the sides to knock the snow off as we huddle for warmth in the mess tent, only venturing out to the toilet tent. We are now getting just 60 per cent of the oxygen we would at sea level. We are losing our appetites, not digesting our food or sleeping very well. The conversation in the mess tent inevitably turns to altitude sickness. There are now eight people on Diamox, a drug used to treat acute mountain sickness. We retire to sleep, our sleeping bags crunching on the

snow and ice. The nights are about -20C. I am wearing just about everything I have packed but still shiver. I can't get my feet warm.

At Gorak Shep we find a tiny village teahouse, where we gather around a potbelly stove and enjoy steaming cups of hot chocolate. Outside the snow continues to fall, covering everything, including the yaks. Tomorrow is the big day.

### Everest Base Camp

We awake to 360 degree views of snowcapped mountains: Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, Tawatse, Ama Dablam, Kantega and Thamserku, Khumbli and Kongde Ri.

We set off early, the Khumbu Glacier to our right as we slowly ascend and descend over rocky terrain.

Hour after hour, I concentrate on walking slowly and steadily, breathing in through my nose and out through my mouth, and carefully placing each step, only glancing up occasionally to see Everest poking her head through her sister mountains.

And, then, a sea of yellow tents appear in the snow ahead and then a second camp of multicoloured tents further on.

We pass a tent advertising an Everest Base Camp German bakery and, after 10 days' walking from Lukla, we are here.

The camp itself is nothing special, just a bunch of tents pitched on icy, rocky ground. But the view is extraordinary. We can see the Khumbu Icefall, where Sherpas each year install fixed ladders and ropes so climbers can make their summit attempts.

I reflect on the effort it has taken to get here and marvel at how these people will stay at this very inhospitable place for months in their quest to climb Mt Everest.

In less than an hour, we are on our way back to Gorak Shep, struggling the last few kilometres as a wicked head wind blows up the glacier. We arrive, exhausted, about 5 p.m.

The next four days are a blur as we rapidly descend back to Lukla with all-day walks.

Near the end, we celebrate our ascent with our team of 23, under the leadership of Harka Rai. We sing and dance together and distribute our tips. Before we know it, we are on a Nepal Airlines flight back to Kathmandu, Everest this time on our left, and we bid her thank you and goodbye.



# Highlander reads

**Editor's note:** This is the first installment of a series entitled Harp on the Water. It's written by Hope Thompson, who lives in Algonquin Highlands. Thompson writes for theatre and television and has had plays produced in Toronto, Vancouver and Los Angeles. She recently wrote for the CBC's *Baroness von Sketch Show* and is currently working on a collection of crime stories. Her series will run over the next eight weeks.

## Instalment 1: The Faceless Lady

Harp on the Water

Spruce County Police Detective, Harry Harp, panted up the crisscrossing path that led from the dock to the top of the point. He was tall with dark eyes and at 47, had a creased forehead, giving him a quizzical look. Three weeks earlier, he had relocated to Spruce County, grateful for the escape from Toronto and the bitter aftermath of his failed marriage. For his first case in Spruce County, Harp had chosen a business suit but could already feel his dress shirt clinging, damply, to his skin.

Mistake number one, he thought.

Trotting behind Harp was Constable Terry Becker. A tanned local, he looked enviably comfortable in his cargo pants and short-sleeved cop-issue shirt.

Nimble leading the trio up the path was Frank Gill. He looked to be in his 70s and was wearing work pants held up by suspenders over a checked shirt. About forty minutes earlier, Gill had called the police station in town and told the desk clerk that there was trouble at the Calvert place. He had met Harp and Becker at the boat launch to ferry them across the lake. During the boat ride, Gill explained that the Calverts lived off-grid. They also didn't have a phone. Gill's place was across the lake from the point and he'd woken to the sound of screaming.

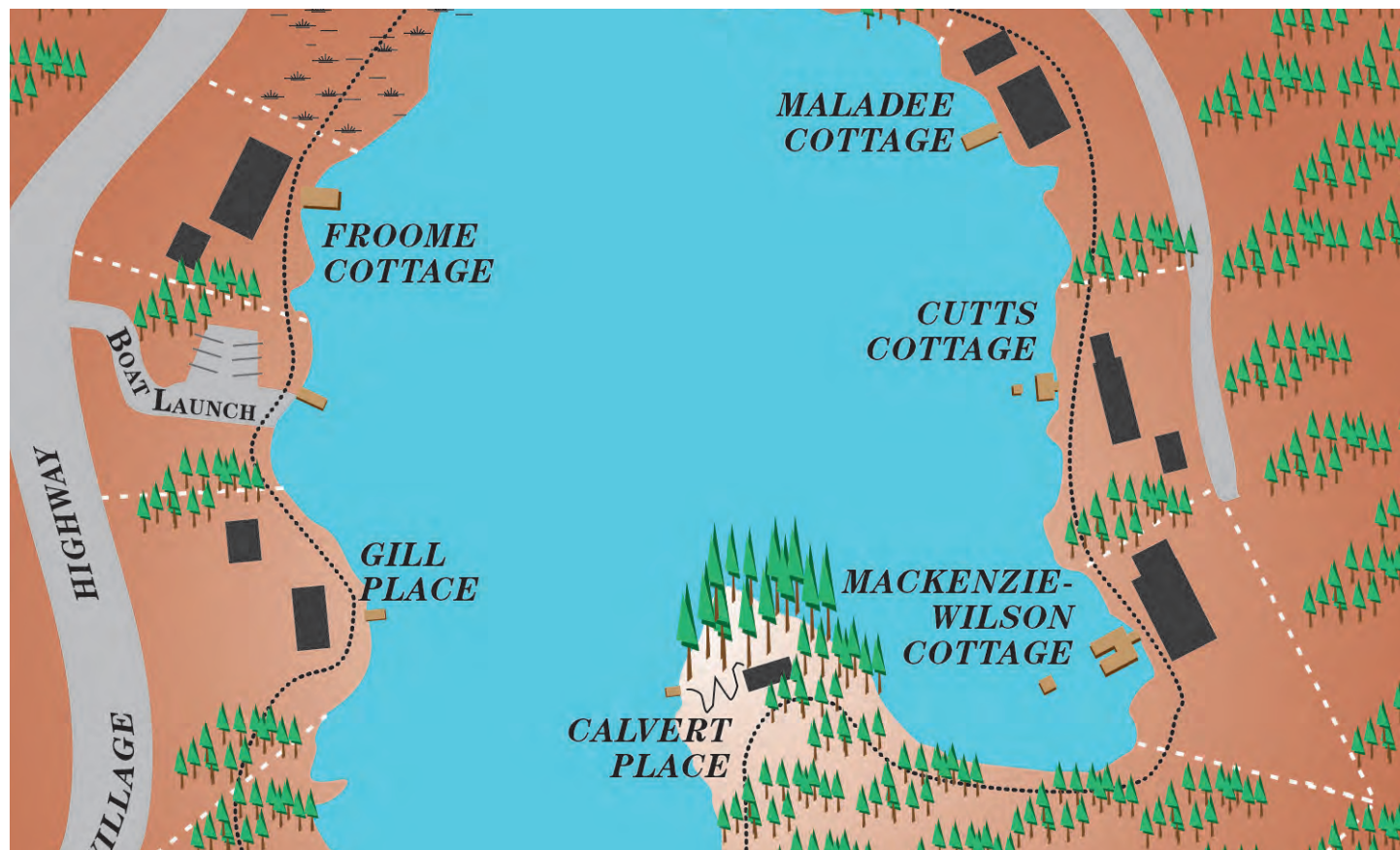
The path from the dock ended in front of a wood-sided cottage. Two rotting chairs stood in front of it and Harp noticed that they were turned away from the lake, as if purposely ignoring the view.

That's odd, Harp thought, catching his breath.

But there wasn't much to see, anyway. A wall of trees blocked out the view of the lake, and, he guessed, hid the point's inhabitants from prying eyes below.

Frank Gill stepped forward and knocked on the front door of the cottage, then without waiting for a response, pushed open the door. Harp and Becker followed him into a narrow room. The detective adjusted his eyes to its dim interior, lit by a single wick lantern and smelling strongly of dust and kerosene. The main feature of the room was a long display shelf of natural objects—a turtle's shell, birds' nests, a pair of deer antlers, varieties of dried leaves, desiccated berries, a piece of shelf fungus, the abandoned skin of a snake. At the far end was a small kitchen with a woodstove, cupboards and a length of counter. Across from the room's only window was a pair of threadbare chairs and a sagging sofa. Sitting on the sofa was a woman and her eyes were fixed on Harp.

Frank Gill closed the door behind Harp and Becker. "Grace," he said gently. "These men are police. They come to help—about Ida." The woman wiped her eyes with a piece of cloth she pulled from her shirt pocket. It was then that Harp noticed something in her hair.



An illustration of the scene of the crime in Harp on the Water. Submitted by Hope Thompson.

Pine needles?

She was wearing faded cotton pants smudged on the knees like she'd been kneeling in dirt and her flannel men's shirt was caught with burrs.

"Ms. Calvert, I'm Detective Harp and—"

Cutting him off, she said, "My dead mother is in her bedroom." She gestured to a narrow hallway then added, "They finally got what they wanted."

Harp said, "They?"

"The cottagers!" She cried. "They hate us—." Her face crumpled into tears.

Frank Gill stayed with Grace while Harp and Becker walked down the hallway to a closed door. Gently pushing it open, they were met with the smell of floral perfume, mothballs and blood. Ida Calvert lay on her bed under a flowered eiderdown, her grey-hair fanned out over her blood-soaked pillow. Liver-spotted hands were folded over her chest. Serene, almost, except that something had struck the woman's face with enough force that her features—eyes, nose and mouth—were gone. Bits of bone mixed with wood chips and dirt lay scattered around.

"Becker?" Harp said.

The constable looked up and Harp noticed he'd lost some of his tan.

"Walk around the place, check the doors, windows, make note of anything out of order."

The young man nodded.

A moment later, Harp was alone with the faceless woman.

To the right of the bed stood a chest of drawers and on it, was a collection of combs and lotions. The curved vials and tubes looked like they'd been sitting there for decades, grease darkened with dust and time. His gaze followed back over the woman's thin body to the left of the bed where a side table had been placed. A glass of water stood next to a flashlight. Harp positioned himself between the wall, the side table, and the woman's bed then raised his hands over his head and swiftly brought them down towards the woman's missing face.

He frowned, thinking.

The room had one small window. Taking a step towards it Harp banged his knee against the sharp corner of the steel bed frame. Cursing, he gripped his kneecap and hobbled to the window. From the flakes of varnish in the corner of the frame, it was clear that it hadn't been opened in years.

Harp looked back at Ida Calvert, his brain turning over.

After his inspection, Harp returned to the cabin's main room. Grace Calvert stood at the counter ladling water from a bucket into an aluminum coffee pot.

"All we ever wanted was nature and quiet," she said and pushed her hair back from her face. Her features were smooth, even patrician and Harp felt himself strangely drawn to her.

"I just never imagined they'd go this far." She placed the pot on the woodstove.

"You say the other cottagers—hate you?"

A mosquito buzzed around his head.

"Because we're different. We're not like them. We don't race around in boats screaming our heads off and blowing up firecrackers—" She squished shut her eyes. When she opened them, anger had replaced her tears. "That's why they hate us. That's why they killed my mother!"

Harp tried to loosen his tie then thought better of it. "For the record, where were you last night, Ms. Calvert?"

At that moment, Harp noticed movement from the corner of his eye and turned his head. A scene unfolded through the front window as if a movie director had yelled, "Action!"

From the east side of the point, Becker ran into view waving dirt-covered hands. From the west, Spruce County Coroner, Boyce Williams, followed by two assistants, paraded up the path. And at centre stage, Frank Gill sat on a swing hung between two pine trees. The old man was swinging back and forth like a child.

Harp blinked.

Behind him, Grace Calvert was speaking. "I was in the forest, Detective. Sleeping. I walked to the village to buy a newspaper and when I returned, my boat was gone. They do that to us."

"Wait—the forest?" Harp turned to her.

Grace sighed. "With no boat, I had to walk around the lake. It became dark—so I lay down. I feel quite safe in the woods. At least you can trust the animals."

Just then, the door burst open.



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## Seniors seek long-term financial support

By Joseph Quigley

Seniors advocates are welcoming a \$500 one-time payment from the federal government but are seeking more support to ensure long-term security.

The government announced May 12 that seniors eligible for the old age security pension would get a \$300 payment, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the guaranteed income supplement (GIS).

But the Canadian Association for Retired Persons (CARP) said although these are positive, they do not address the organization's concerns with how COVID-19 has hit retirement security. The organization is advocating for measures such as waiving mandatory registered retirement income fund (RRIF) withdrawals and eliminating the withholding tax on registered retirement saving plan (RRSP) withdrawals this year.

"The official statement of the supports today for seniors are welcome, but they don't directly address many of the concerns relayed to the government on retirement security and access to liquidity," CARP Chapter 54 Haliburton Highlands president Jon Dannewald said. "We're looking to have as many tools as possible to maximize cash flow and protect our retirement. A one-time payment is welcome, but it's not a solution."

The federal government also highlighted other help it has provided during the pandemic, including a payment through the GST, as well as funding for community organizations providing seniors programming. In the Haliburton area, that's included the likes of the Central Food Network, Rotary Club of Haliburton's Good Food Box and SIRCH Community Services, each receiving between



Seniors are looking for more long-term financial support due to COVID-19. Above, MPP Laurie Scott and MP Jamie Schmale address seniors at a seminar in 2019. *File photo.*

\$3,000-\$5,000 through the New Horizons for Seniors Program. The government has also lowered RRIF withdrawals by 25 per cent.

"The Government of Canada will continue to monitor and respond to the health, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19. We stand ready to take additional actions as needed to support all Canadians, including seniors, and stabilize the economy," the prime minister's office said in a press release.

Dannewald said he does not know if the government will be receptive to CARP's proposals. CARP has said stock market plunges have hurt retirement savings and rising costs for things such as groceries will hurt seniors in the long-term. Dalhousie

University and the University of Guelph have not changed their forecast of a two to four per cent increase in grocery prices for 2020, but said in a March 31 update factors such as more safety practices and online purchasing could drive costs up over time.

"Our costs are going up but our retirement income is not," Dannewald said.

But Dannewald said other government measures have helped ease the burden, such as the province keeping hydro rates to off-peak pricing. He added local programming is also helping, such as food banks, which the local CARP chapter has donated to.

"Locally, I think we're in pretty good shape," he said.



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**June 18**





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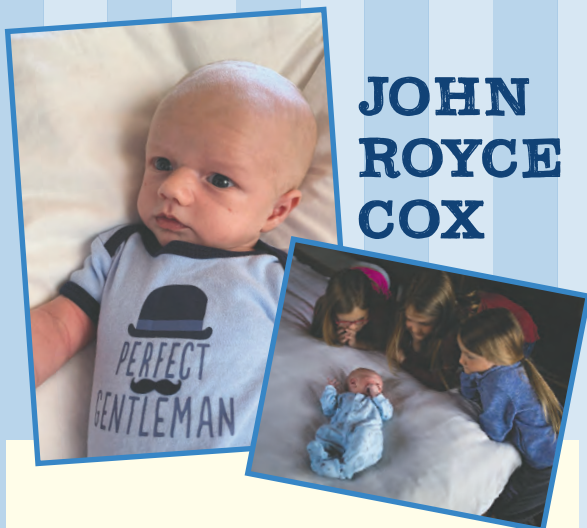


# Highlander classifieds

## HOME & COTTAGE

Handyman for Home and Cottage.  
Call Doug 705-854-0325

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Wes and Karen Lytle are delighted to announce the safe arrival on April 15 of their first grandson, John Royce Cox, son of Allison and Joe Cox and baby brother to Kinley, Aliyah and Everly.

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Call 705-457-2900 or email sales@thehighlander.ca



# Highlander classifieds

## HELP WANTED

CLEANERS needed Tuesday to Friday for residential and commercial properties. NO WEEKEND WORK. Must have own vehicle. Call 705-854-0436



## SUMMER MAINTENANCE

Private campground requires a **SUMMER MAINTENANCE PERSON**

**Duties include:** perform general maintenance, assist with various projects, cleaning park grounds and buildings, operate small grass cutting equipment and assisting with special functions. Must have own transportation. Previous experience and asset. A valid "G" Class Drivers licence and a good driving record is required.

Please send your resume to [neca.bod@gmail.com](mailto:neca.bod@gmail.com)



## Township of Algonquin Highlands requires an AIRPORT COORDINATOR

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from experienced, qualified persons for the Airport Coordinator position. Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Airport Coordinator is responsible for the daily, weekly and monthly maintenance activities.

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

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Monday June 8, 2020** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay, Administrative Assistant  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
1123 North Shore Road  
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1  
Email: [dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca)

## FOR SALE

### 2012 WILDWOOD DLX 37 REDS TRAILER



Mint condition park model trailer with rear entertainment dual facing slides (REDS), floor to ceiling fireplace, lazy-boy recliners, futon, queen bed, full size fridge, high ceiling with fan and fresh water holding tank. Price includes expansive decks, shed and Broil King BBQ if staying in its current Park. \$29,000. Call Rob 289-200-5061

## FUNERAL SERVICES

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE GORDON A. MONK FUNERAL HOME LTD.

#### REGARDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY CONCERNING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

We at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. recognize the seriousness of the State of Emergency declared by the Ontario Government and the Ministry of Health. As of today, public gatherings, services & receptions at our facilities will be suspended until further notice.

Our firm is still operating to the best of our ability in order to provide service to our families in their time of need. We will discuss options and address any concerns with each family until the crisis is over.

We are working diligently to keep the funeral home sanitized, so it will continue to be a healthy & safe environment for our families that are in need of our services.

In order to comply with the mandate at present time, we ask that if you need our assistance and/or require our services, please feel free to contact us at the funeral home and make an appointment, either by telephone or email.

We appreciate your understanding in this trying time.

Sincerely,

Kirsten L. Monk &  
Barry A. Cray



127 Bobcaygeon Rd, P.O. BOX 427, ON K0M 1K0  
• Phone (705)286-2181 • Fax (705)286-6661 • Toll Free 1-888-588-5777  
• [info@gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@gordonmonkfuneralhome.com) • [www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

## NOTICE

### Junction Service CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Peter Collins  
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[www.beamcanada.com](http://www.beamcanada.com)  
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## FOR RENT

Room for rent in Minden. Parking, Satellite, WiFi and all expenses included. Also 2 commercial/residential properties for rent in Minden, Call Joseph 705-306-0979(TFN)

Furnished room for rent in large house, share kitchen, livingrm, diningrm. 5 mins. to Minden. \$800 incl. Avail. Immed. Suits mature adult. References required. 1st and last. Dave 705-455-2050

## HAVE AN OPINION?

Send your letters to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)  
(300 Words Max)

## OBITUARIES



### Marianne (Fraser) Smith

AUGUST 16, 1946 – MAY 15, 2020

It is with sadness we announce Marianne's passing into the arms of her LORD Jesus Christ in the early morning on Friday, May 15, 2020. She was surrounded by the love of her family. She will be deeply missed by Don, her devoted husband of 51 years, her daughters Allison Killins (Thaddeus), Jennifer Petkovic (Peter) and her grandchildren Jonathan, Samantha, Thomas and Ryan.

She will be missed by her brother Douglas Fraser (Ramona), sister Judith Coates (Stan) and sister-in-law Ruth Fraser.

Marianne was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Florence Fraser, her brother Jim Fraser and grandson Benjamin Petkovic.

Marianne impacted countless lives, including aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and dear friends. She had a strong faith which influenced every aspect of her life.

Special thanks to the wonderful doctors, nurses and support workers who provided such compassionate care and support.

A private family service will be held. A celebration of life is planned for a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Marianne's name to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Foundation, the MS Society of Canada or Compassion Canada would be greatly appreciated.

## RADIO



For information and a list of stores selling bingo sheets go to

[WWW.CANOEFM.COM](http://WWW.CANOEFM.COM)

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Three games are played each Tuesday Night**



# Highlander advisories

## COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

**Re/Max Professionals North** Open for business in Haliburton County. All precautions being met through strict Covid-19 guidelines. 705-457-1011.

**Abbey Gardens** Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**The Cookhouse Restaurant – Haliburton Forest** Open for takeout and some groceries. Follow @haliburton\_cookhouse on Instagram for daily specials. Order by calling 705-754-1729. Menu at haliburtonforest.com/amenities.

**Haliburton Forest** Open for gas and propane Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Trails open for day use hiking, biking, running. Buy pass at haliburtonforest.com.

**Master's Book Store** Open with careful Covid-19 precautions. Continuing with curbside pickup. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 705-457-2223, mastersbook@bellnet.ca, mastersbookstore.ca.

**South Algonquin Dinner** Open for take-out daily from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Call 705-448-1168.

**Walkers Heating & Cooling Systems** Open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. for phone and email inquiries. No walk-in appointments. walkershvac.com. For emergency service, call 705-457-2375. Full services and annual maintenance appointments to resume on May 19th.

**Russell Red Records** Open for curbside pickup and free Haliburton delivery Thursday – Sunday. russellredrecords.ca.

**Hilary's Trim'n Floor** Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., curbside pickup and delivery available 705-448-3394.

**Minden 50s Diner** Open for takeout Weds – Sat 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Call ahead to order. 705-286-2626.

**Louie's Car Care & Detail Centre** Open. 705-455-3691.

**Lakeview Motel** Open for "essential travellers". Ccall to see if you qualify 705-457-1027. lakeviewhaliburton.ca

**Rebel Elixir Coffee Roastery** Local fresh coffee. oliver@web.net to order and arrange curbside pickup.

**Canadian Tire** Open.

**Buckley Electric** Open. buckleyelectric.com

**Kegel Heating & Cooling** Fully operational and following all new health and safety regulations. 705-341-9170. kegelheatingandcooling.ca.

**Castle Antiques and Cafe** Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for curbside pickup. 705-457-1155.

**Emmerson Castle Building Centre** Open Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**The Country Bakery** Open Friday – Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Minden Electric** Open 705-286-2946. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Baked and Battered** Open for takeout. bakedandbattered.com. 705-457-BAKE.

**W. Everitt's Enterprises Limited** Open by appointment only Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call 705-754-9074. **Norley Pit** Open by appointment only Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call 705-854-1648.

**Total Site Services** Open 705-457-9558. totalsiteservices.ca.

**Casey's Water Well & Geothermal, Inc.** Open. 705-457-9558. caseyswaterwell.ca.

**Rodco Enterprise** Open. 705-457-1224. rodcoen.com

**Minden Haliburton Hearing Service** Open by appointment only. 705-286-6001.

**Highlands Storage** Open for storage needs.

Limited onsite office hours. Call 705-489-3925, or email info@highlands-storage.com or highlands-storage.com.

**Maple Avenue Tap & Grill** Open for take-out Wednesday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Call 705-457-1100.

**The Hot Shop** Open for bike repairs. Call 705-446-9522.

**Subway Minden and Haliburton.** Open for take-out 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Mill Pond Restaurant** Open for take-out from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Check menu on Facebook or Instagram.

**Haliburton Highlands Food and Beverage Showcase** at Wintergreen on Father's Day has been cancelled. Please send donations in support of fresh-water wells in India to Diane Dawson (cheques made out to H.A.V.E.).

**The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House** Open for take-out Wed – Sun 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Call 705-489-1939. Menu at thepeppermill.ca.

**Stoughton Electric** Available for plumbing, electrical and septic work and emergencies. 705-447-2211 jason@stoughtonseptic.ca

**McFadden's Meat Market** Open.

**Soloway's Outlet** Delivers to homes with Purolator. 705-448-1007. streetmeattoronto.com

**Glecoff's Family Store** Open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Curb-side pickup, delivery, or in-store with social distancing. 705-457-2715.

**Wintergreen Maple Syrup and Pancake**

**Barn** Maple syrup and preserves available by appointment. 705-286-3202. wintergreenmapleproducts.com.

**Highland Timber Mart** Open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sunday closed. Gooderham 705-457-2012, Harcourt 705-448-2268.

**Garbutt Disposal** Still accepting construction waste. 705-286-1843.

**Minden Animal Hospital** Open Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call 705-286-2919 to pre-book your appointment.

**Cordell Carpet** In-store traffic by appointment only. Open for curb side pickup with 24 hour notice. Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 705-457-2022. cordellcarpet@bellnet.ca

**Paws at Killara Station** Open for doggy day care and care with conditions. Call 705-854-0055 or email info@killarastation.com.

**Fresh at Killara Station** Pre-order your eggs and chicks. Call 705-854-0055 and pay online or honesty box.

**Contact North | Contact Nord Services** available by phone, e-mail, text, Zoom and Facebook. Contact Robin 1-855-699-6330 or muskokahaliburton@contactnorth.ca.

**John Fountain Electronics** Open by appointment only. Call 705-286-2536.

**Neighbours Helping Neighbours** Volunteer group picks up groceries or takeout food, provides a friendly call or email, or helps with urgent chores. Email Bonnieroe08@gmail.com or call 705-286-2414.

**Hyland Taxi** Reduced hours. Sunday -Thursday 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Friday - Saturday 7 a.m. – 12 a.m. If transportation is needed outside hours, arrangements must be made the day before by calling 705-457-1777.

**County Automotive** Open for repair only. Drop off only. Call 705-457-1411 or email countyautomotive@hotmail.com.

**Generator Solutions** Temporarily closed to public but staff still available at monica@generatorsolutions.ca or telephone 705-286-1003 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

**Bernstein's General Store** Not open to walk-ins. Call Marty at 705-457-1777 or email bernsteinsgeneralstore@gmail.com to order for curbside pickup. FedEx drop offs available by appointment only 705-457-1777. FedEx pickups – you will be called to arrange curbside pickup **Lockside Trading Company** Free virtual interior design and online shopping at lockside.com. Open daily 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 1-888-0484 or by appointment, or email shop@lockside.com, 24/7.

**Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast** closed until July 1. Taking reservations into the summer and beyond. 705-286-4922, sunnyrockbb.ca.

**Sew What!** Free washable fabric facemasks for anyone who needs them. Call or text 705-457-8764.

**Edilicious** Teamed up with Nourished to offer a falafel meal deal on Saturdays. Delivery available. Contact Nourished at 705-775-0525 to order.

**Step of Grace Conditioning Studio** Open with on-line training. Call 705-457-6749 or 416-707-1966.

**SIRCH** Free frozen take-out meals Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 2 Victoria Street, Haliburton.

**McKee Security** Open for business with enhanced protective tools for employees and public. Call 705-457-2156.

**Northern HVAC.** Open for business and fully operational within the HVAC spectrum with new regulations for public safety. northernhvacco.ca. 705-489-2001.

**Transat Travel** Working remotely and can access calls and emails. pcc22ha@transat.com or 705-457-3290.

**Royal Lepage Trillium Team** Working from home and checking phone messages and emails regularly. trilliumteam.ca.

**Haliburton Dance Academy** Livestream classes. info@haliburtondanceacademy.com.

**Minden Wine Store** Closed.

**Minden Subaru** Open by appointment only. Service: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Sales: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 705-286-6126.

**County Sign & Display** Closed to walk-in traffic but continuing to produce and supply signage. countysign@interhop.net. 705-286-6650.

**Haliburton Legion** Closed. Contact office Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 705-457-2571.

**Up River Trading Co.** Open from 8:30 a.m.

**Haliburton Auto** Closed.

**Tails and Trails** Offer doggy daycare and pet sitting. Open with regular hours. Call (705) 935-8245 to find out what measures they are taking to avoid human contact.

**Highlands Medical Supplies** In-store personal shopping no longer available. Available to take your orders by phone or email. Pre-paid orders can be delivered or via "Pick-Up Box". Call 705-457-9355 (Mon - Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.), info@highlandsmedicalsupplies.com. Weekend/after hours: 705-455-2705 (urgent only.)

**Hawk River Construction** Open for business but closed to public. Payment, statements and invoices through email or mail.

**The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre** Closed to face-to-face client interactions. Staffed regular hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Friday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and available by phone or text (705-457-4673) or email (hope@haliburtonpregnancycentre.ca). If anyone (including non-clients) needs diapers, formula or baby clothing, contact them and arrangements will be made for pick-up.

**Stone 21 located at Pinestone** No longer offering takeout.

**West G Pizza & Grill** Open for take-out and delivery after 4 p.m. Call 705-754-9141.

**Abbey Gardens Food Hub** Open for retail shopping and take-out food only. Pre-orders welcome by calling 705-754-4769 or abbeygardens.ca/shop-online/.

**AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet** Special takeout menu. Open 6 days a week. Call 613-876-4639 or email amanda@ampmoutdoorgourmet.com. ampmmoutdoorgourmet.square.site.

**John E. Francis Fuels** Office closed but operating business as usual by phone or email. Invoices will be mailed or emailed, not delivered by drivers.

**McKeck's** Open for take-out and online ordering. Mon-Sat from 12-7 p.m. Menu at mckecks.ca/ menu. Call 705-457-3443.

**Hudson Henderson Insurance Brokers** Open for appointments not walk-ins from Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Pet Valu** Haliburton store operating with reduced hours Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m, and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**WRD Cottage Rental Agency** Open as usual but working remotely. Call 705-457-9434 or email to fran@ontariocottagerental.com.

**Molly's Bistro Bakery** Open 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wednesday - Sunday. Takeout or frozen carry-home cuisine. Call ahead for order. 705-268-6988.

**Fleming CREW Employment Centre** Providing service via phone and email. Office at 49 Maple Ave closed to public. Call 705-457-2020 or email flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca.

**Courtney @ Bruce's Barbershop** Closed until further notice.

**Pine Grove Point** 4445 Elephant Lake Road, Harcourt. Open Sun - Thurs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri - Sat 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Variety Store open for essential needs and the Pizza & Snack Shack open for take-out orders.

**Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre** Closed. Posting images from current exhibition on Facebook.com/railsend.

**Riverview Furniture** Open with extra safety precautions. Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 705-286-3167. riverview-furniture.com

**Lacey's Hair Design** Closed. All appointments will be postponed. To rebook call 705-457-9888. or click the Phorest link on Instagram page.

**Nourished** Offers healthy, delicious, fresh and frozen food options. Wed - Sat 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. for takeout/delivery. 705-306-0526.

**The Beer Store** Minden and Haliburton locations will be closing at 7 on Fridays. No longer accepting empties.

**Century 21 Granite Realty Group** Available only through appointment. Call 705-457-2128 or email info@century21granite.com.

For a free listing or any changes, contact admin@thehighlander.ca (25 words max)



# Moving the Highlands



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**IN-TOWN HOME - \$299,000**  
Close to the curling rink, arena, cultural centre, and downtown amenities - this house is the perfect location! 3 bdrms., 2 baths and attached garage. This spacious family home awaits its new owners. A large kitchen/dining area with walkout to the back yard, a great rec room, workshop and a huge laundry room. Check it out before it is gone!



**FABULOUS HOME/ COTTAGE - \$459,900**  
A beautifully renovated 3 bdrm., 2 bath home or cottage sitting on a lovely landscaped corner lot. With 101 ft. of frontage and sand beach on Benoir Lake, you have everything you need. Oversized double garage. With a one of kind Bunkie, your guests will never want to leave. Location of this home or cottage is fabulous - you are 3 minutes away from Algonquin Park's High Falls trail and the property sits on a 3-lake chain that gives you over 34 miles of boating and fishing. Close to snowmobile and atv trails. This property has it all.



**HOME WITH ACREAGE - \$385,000**  
Looking for a home with acreage, privacy and a gorgeous pond? This beautiful property starts with a driveway lined with trees that leads to a spacious home with detached garage and loads of storage. Two bedrooms on the main floor with a third bedroom in the unfinished basement. The house has loads of windows to let the sunshine through, and a large sunroom facing the forest. The acreage is a mix of forest and open spaces and the back of the acreage is a gorgeous pond. Sit, relax, and take in nature. There are trails throughout the property so go and explore!



**PRIVATE FAMILY HOME WITH ACREAGE - \$659,000**  
Large 4 bdrm. 2 bath home situated on a beautiful, private 90 acre parcel of land. Acreage backs onto Marigold Lake. The spacious, well-built home has a large livingroom great for entertaining plus a separate family room with granite fireplace, breakfast nook and full dining room. 3-bay garage comes with 14' ceilings and the middle bay has a 10' door. The spacious loft upstairs is almost finished and ready to use. This property has so much to offer.

No Cost | No Commitment  
PROPERTY EVALUATIONS  
FEATURE LISTING



**NEWLY BUILT HOME - \$525,000**  
Newly-built 3 bdrm. Home or Cottage with deeded access to Halls Lake is the perfect way to get the lakefront without lakefront prices! The quality-built home is open-concept with a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace with wood insert, large sliding doors to the deck, hardwood floors and beautiful vaulted ceilings. The deeded access across the quiet dirt road offers a fabulous sand beach and access to one of the area's more popular lakes - deep, clean and excellent boating.



**UPSCALE LIVING - \$649,000**  
This exquisitely built home is newly finished in the finest of details. Quartz countertops in kitchen, open concept, illuminated mezzanine, Napoleon propane fireplace, propane outlet for BBQ, insulated/encapsulated/heated crawl space, walk-around deck,, 3/4" brushed Birch hardwood floors. Location can't be beat - close to both Minden and Kinmount for amenities and attractions/events. A quiet community with excellent walking/skiing/snowshoeing, atv and snowmobile trails within walking distance.



**OUTSTANDING ACREAGE - \$695,000**  
Your playground awaits! Words cannot describe this 730 acre parcel of land. A huge pond, a babbling creek, miles of road and trails in every direction, and the best part.....Birchy Lake! All completely within the borders. It even backs onto the snowmobile trails. The perfect property for naturalists, atv and snowmobile enthusiasts, or hunters. You won't believe this property.



**AFFORDABLE COTTAGE - \$259,900**  
Don't miss this opportunity to get affordable waterfront! This seasonal, 3 bdrm 1 bath cottage has been well maintained, sits on a well treed lot, has a trail directly off the back yard leading to a gorgeous sand beach! Waterfront is deeded access, sharing with other owners - room for your dock and excellent swimming and boating a 3-lake chain.



**LODGE & CAMPGROUND \$1,149,000**  
Ray's Place is a combination of motel rooms, cottages, camp sites, trailers and bunkies. Catering largely to atv and jeep enthusiasts, the 131 acre property sits on the edge of an official trail system in Haliburton County. On the property - kilometers of trails, a mud bog, inground swimming pool, playground and extensive grounds. Ray's Place is the host to several special events attended by hundreds each year and has an excellent reputation for being the place to be! A lovely 3 bdrm/3 bath brick home provides living quarters.



**RE/MAX  
PROFESSIONALS  
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# BOW RIDER BLOWOUT SALE!

## LARSON LX205 2019



Mercruiser 4.5L 250Hp, Trailer, Coloured Gel Sides, Snap In Carpet, Seadeck Matting On Swim Platform, Tonneau And Bow Cover, Tilt Steering, Stereo

MSRP \$69,459  
**NOW ONLY**  
**\$52,995+tax**

## LARSON LX 160 2019



Yamaha F90 HP, Trailer, Tonneau and Bow cover, Ski Bar, Tilt Steering, Stereo, Snap In carpet, Coloured gel sides

MSRP \$42,895  
**NOW ONLY**  
**\$34,500+tax**

## RINKER QX 18 IO



Mercruiser 4.5L 200 hp, Tonneau and Bow cover, Bimini Top, Snap in Matting, Tilt steering, Stereo

MSRP \$47,800  
**NOW ONLY**  
**\$41,500+tax**

## RINKER QX19 OB



Yamaha VF175, Bimini top, Tonneau and bow cover, snap in carpet, tilt steering, Hydraulic steering

MSRP \$63,500  
**NOW ONLY**  
**\$51,995+tax**

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