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The Highlander

Thursday **January 7 2021** | Issue 472

INSIDE: YEAR IN REVIEW PAGE 14

FREE



Constable Christopher Darling of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment keeps an eye out from his police cruiser. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

OPP putting dent in local drug trade

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

By Lisa Gervais

Minden councillor Jennifer Hughey, who used to live in Toronto, says she's never seen anything like the drug bust she witnessed on Bobcaygeon Road the night of Nov. 12, 2020.

Hughey, who lives on the road, described the scene in a recent interview with *The Highlander*.

"There were three police vehicles at the

end of a driveway with no lights on. One of the SUVs had a drug dog. The police marched two-by-two with the dog in the front, very covertly down the road. There was another car parked at the end of the Minden Bible Church road. They just converged on [an alleged drug house] and there was a lot of dog barking."

Hughey said following the initial police action, which involved eight to 10 officers that she could see, police were on scene for hours and the house and adjacent garage lit

up as it was searched.

"The feeling of us on the street, who have seen things going on for about two-and-a-half years, is maybe this time it'll be done, but we don't feel extremely confident," Hughey said.

On that night, Haliburton Highlands and City of Kawartha Lakes drug cops executed a search warrant at the house and said they found cocaine and fentanyl. They also located cash and stolen items. They arrested and charged five Haliburton

County residents as well as a suspect from Ajax and one from Toronto. The charges included possession and trafficking of drugs as well as possession of property obtained by crime. Those suspects have now begun their slow march through the court system.

The year 2020 was a busy one for drug busts in the County. Between Jan. 1 and Nov. 29, 78 people have been charged with 304 offences. By contrast, 2019 saw 23 people charged with 99 offences.

Continued 'Project' on page 4



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Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing CAO Hope Lee. File

Housing to undergo major changes

By Kirk Winter

Big changes are coming to the operation and governance of the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation (KLH).

The nine-member board, including Haliburton County CAO Mike Rutter, treasurer Elaine Taylor and vice-chair Coun. Brent Devolin, approved the HCS Housing Solutions report, six months in the making.

The consultants' report recommends an additional senior management position to lighten the workload of CEO Hope Lee, the addition of tenant representatives to the governing council and the ability for the housing corporation to carry short-term debt that would allow it to continue to build more geared-to-income housing across its service region.

"KLH is a fully evolved mature organization with a clear strategic vision, an engaged board, a reputation

as a credible and progressive partner, a knowledgeable staff and is financially viable in the long-term," said lead HCS consultant Judy Lightbound in the report.

With that in mind, she was not looking for "wholesale changes" but rather improvements that would better prepare KLH for growth in the future.

Her first recommendation was to split the CEO position, currently held by Lee, into two jobs with the second position being a housing service manager. Lightbound said by bringing in a second individual the "workload will be better aligned moving forward."

Lightbound also recommended that the governing board managing KLH become more diverse by including a representative of tenants in Kawartha Lakes and one from Haliburton.

Her final recommendation suggested that KLH look at a debt management strategy to understand what its debt

capacity might be to fund projects in the future.

Lee said treasurers for Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County are working together to produce a report by the second quarter of 2021 that will contemplate debt limits for KLH and what that might look like.

Kawartha Lakes CAO Ron Taylor backed Lightbound's recommendations saying, "Any debt taken on by KLH would be good debt because it will generate income that will later pay for the debt. We run a really good operation (KLH) and we need it to expand and grow."

KLH chair Pat Dunn said there was much discussion about hiring the additional manager. "But the feeling of all nine board members was it's time. The system currently only works because of Hope Lee and the entire board supported the hiring of the new person."

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Highlander news



Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden remains shuttered after the holiday break.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Teachers' unions concerned about January shutdown

By Kirk Winter

Premier Doug Ford's announcement of temporary closures of all publicly-funded schools in Ontario beginning January 4, 2021 has raised the ire of Ontario's three largest teacher federations.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) bemoaned what they considered to be a lack of consultation regarding the closings, a poorly thought-out return of elementary students to in-person learning while the province is still locked down and a lack of detail and inherent inequalities regarding virtual learning.

On December 21, Ford and Education Minister Stephen Lecce temporarily closed schools beginning January 4, 2021 with all students at all grades transitioning to virtual learning. Elementary students are scheduled to return to in-person learning on January 11, while secondary students will not return to brick-and-mortar schools until January 25.

In an open letter to parents Jan. 3, Lecce said schools are safe and COVID cases in them are minimal. "We will continue and enhance testing in schools ... we will do whatever it takes to ensure our kids can continue to learn." The province hopes that this closure will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 which is currently spiralling ever higher, particularly in southern Ontario.

Liz Stuart, president of OECTA, which represents Catholic elementary teachers, believes the decisions to close schools "is long overdue."

However, Stuart wonders where the consultation was between the province and the education workers in the lead-up to this decision being made.

"The province should have been engaging the education community in this decision," Stuart said, "and there has instead been no prior consultation and few details of what this closure is going to look like."

Sam Hammond, president of ETFO, which

represents all public elementary teachers in Haliburton, was baffled by the provincial decision to bring elementary school students back to school on January 11, while secondary students are being asked to stay home until January 25.

"The plan to reopen elementary schools in the midst of a province-wide lockdown doesn't make sense. These new provincial restrictions will not be effective unless every possible action is taken to prevent COVID-19 transmission in elementary schools when they reopen. It's time to do what is urgently needed, not what is politically convenient," Hammond said.

Hammond agrees with Stuart that the lack of planning by the province for this closure is unfortunate.

"Had this government made its decision earlier, boards, educators, families and students could have been better prepared for the transition back to virtual learning beginning January," Hammond said.

Harvey Bischoff, President of OSSTF, which represents all public high school teachers in Haliburton, added his voice to the other leaders who criticized the lack of consultation.

"Once again, despite this announcement's significant impact on Ontario's publicly funded school system, there was no prior consultation with organizations representing frontline educators," Bischoff said. "This will lead to unnecessary flaws in implementation that could have been addressed in advance, and could have led to better decisions made in the best interests of Ontario students."

Bischoff also reminded Ontarians of the inherent inequalities Hammond noted regarding virtual education. "Sadly, the government has not adequately mitigated the fact that many students and families do not have access to the technology or reliable internet connections that would allow access to online learning. This demonstrates a clear failure on the part of the Ford government to address the inequities created by relying solely upon online learning solutions for students."

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Highlander news

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

Project Imperial kicks off year of major busts

Continued from page 1

The first major bust of last year was in the wee hours of Jan. 30, 2020, when police used choppers and dogs to raid six locations in the County and GTA, seizing 400 grams of cocaine/crack cocaine, two grams of fentanyl, 13 guns and more than \$12,000. They also located stolen property. Thirteen Haliburton County residents were charged at the time and three from the GTA.

Dubbed Project Imperial, the OPP said it was the culmination of a nine-month investigation into trafficking cocaine into the Haliburton area from the GTA. They said they also identified a significant property crime network directly linked to the accused.

One eye witness to a bust in Carnarvon said she was awakened before dawn to the sound of a helicopter. When she went outside to investigate, the woman [who asked not to be identified for safety reasons] said she saw a home along Highway 35, just north of the village, being swarmed by police.

The busts continued from then with major warrants executed across the County.

Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander, Liane Spong, said, “There has been an emergence of increased drug availability in Haliburton County over the recent years and to tackle that the solution required a team approach aimed at gathering intelligence and actioning projects across multijurisdictional boundaries.”

She said the community street crime units (CSCUs) that are tackling the drug trade combine the organized crime enforcement bureau, the community drug action team and the detachment-based street crime team.

“We’re actually putting a really big dent in it,” Spong said. “It’s boots-on-the-ground police work that it’s coming down to, digging out that information, spending countless hours making linkages down to the GTA in several regions.”

Based on local police statistics, the drugs of choice locally are cocaine (74 occurrences and more than 678 grams seized), followed by crack cocaine (26 instances and 704 grams). Cannabis ranks next.

The drugs are coming from the GTA with activity from Durham to the Kawartha Lakes area, Douro-Drummer, Bradford-West Gwillimbury, Essa Township and Trent Hills.

Spong said, “in the past, police agencies may not have had the same capability to work together, creating silos, however today’s advancements afford the ability to work with other police agencies across the province and beyond. And the OPP provides an integrated service delivery model whereby we work across multiple OPP detachments and OPP bureaus in developing coordinated approaches to investigations as crime knows no borders yet can have profound local impacts if not addressed in such a way. So, our local CSCU team taps into expertise across the province and works hard to pull it all together.

“Even our local members are involved in search warrants and seizures. Not just in Haliburton County, but other areas on joint projects and from there we have been executing search warrants, making huge seizures, and where the dent starts to happen, it’s hitting the distribution source much higher up in the chain.”

Major OPP drug activity in 2020

- Nov. 12, 2020 - Bobcaygeon Road, Minden Hills. Five Haliburton County residents charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine and fentanyl.
- June 30, 2020 - motor vehicle stop. Three Haliburton County residents allegedly found to be in possession of cocaine and fentanyl. One was further charged with possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime.
- May 28, 2020 - Mountain Street, Dysart. Police seized more than eight ounces of cocaine and more than \$7,000 in Canadian currency. Three County residents charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine. Two of them were the same people charged in a May 13 raid.
- May 13, 2020 - Mountain Street, Dysart. Four Haliburton County residents charged with trafficking cocaine.
- April 9, 2020 - Hutchings Road, Dysart. Police seized several ounces of cocaine, valued at \$23,000, a small quantity of crystal meth, and \$7,100 in Canadian currency. They also took four restricted firearms, and one prohibited firearm, a stolen side-by-side UTV valued at \$5,500. Four County residents charged with various offences.
- Jan. 30, 2020 - Project Imperial - a nine-month investigation into trafficking cocaine into the Haliburton area from the GTA. Also identifying a significant property crime network directly linked to the accused. Police recovered stolen property taken from residential and commercial properties in the County. Major bust with helicopter and dogs. Seized 400 grams of cocaine/crack cocaine, two grams of fentanyl, 13 weapons and more than \$12,000 in cash. Stolen property, including generators, power tools and solar panels. Thirteen County residents charged.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY	ITEM	2020 YTD	2019
	OCCURENCES	28	31
	WARRANTS	11	18
	WARRANT SERVICES	5	2
	PERSONS CHARGED	78	23
	CHARGES	304	99

Source: OPP.

SEIZED DRUG SUMMARY	DRUG TYPE	2020 YTD		2019	
		OCCURRENCES	QUANTITY	OCCURRENCES	QUANTITY
	AMPHETAMINE/SALTS/DERIVATES/ISOMERS/ANALOGUES			1	
	CANNABIS (MARIHUANA)	24	19g; 6264 items	6	3303g
	CANNABIS (PLANTS)	20	2409 items	1	9 items
	CANNABIS RESIN (HASH)	1			
	COCAINE	74	678.17g	34	147.35g
	CRACK COCAINE	26	704g	1	0.50g
	FENTANYL	8		8	31.80g; 1 item
	HYDROMORPHONE	15		5	
	METHAMPHETAMINE (CRYSTAL METH)	2			
		4		7	512.30g
	OTHER	14		4	42 items
	OXYCODONE (PERCODAN)	1	1 item	4	4 items
	PSILOCYBIN (MUSHROOMS)	2		2	
	TOTALS	191	1401.17g	73	3994.95g
			8674 items		56 items

Source: OPP.



An officer holds handcuffs in front of a cell at the Haliburton OPP detachment.

Highlander news

Drugs and property crime

There is also a strong correlation between drugs and theft. Nearly every major bust finds not just drugs but stolen goods. People are stealing to sell items for drug money, or swapping stolen items for drugs.

Spong said, “They [police] do a lot of work where they are focusing on the local drug activity and related property crime and from there trying to link the distribution chain back to the source and it’s working really well.”

She added that in every investigation, they learn a little bit more about who is involved, the supply routes and distribution chains. “Our team is incredibly busy having to connect all the dots across the County and the GTA.”

The detachment commander vows there will be more to come.

“Haliburton County is on the map. I think the messaging is loud and clear. If you’re going to engage in that type of illicit activity in the County it’s going to be found out and we’re going to take significant action to curb that.”

Spong emphasized the OPP are not alone in the war on drugs. She says justice and enforcement is just one pillar in the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy. The others are harm reduction, prevention and education and treatment.

“It is complex. It is deep-seated. We know it’s related to so many more things than just local people using. It has that deeper sense of being linked to overall social determinants of local health, there’s poverty, addictions, mental health. It goes across so many different facets and organizations. All these other areas play a role.” (Lisa Gervais)

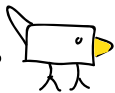


Haliburton Highlands Detachment Commander Liane Spong. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Next week: More on the link between drugs and property crime

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County's hunt for family doctors continues

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The County is looking for ways to improve its physician recruitment program after finding some success this year.

Council reviewed the program Dec. 16, about a year-and-a-half since it came into being. The initiative led by recruiter, Cheryl Kennedy, saw dividends this year, with two new emergency department doctors joining Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS).

But a staff report identified several gaps in the existing program – from housing to moving expenses, to the need for a better memorandum of understanding for the roles and responsibilities between the County, HHHS and the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

"This program is really finding its feet now and is seeing some good success," Coun. Carol Moffatt said. "We need to be honest and admit there's been challenges and frustrations with the various parties ... If we can really, clearly lay out who does what (and) when, so that everyone knows what their responsibility is for this program, it should smooth things out a little bit."

Other proposed changes are expanding the recruitment efforts to include nurse practitioners and rural generalists, providing moving expenses and aiding in recruitment at out-of-County clinics if they service a significant number of County residents.

CAO Mike Rutter said a major hurdle is the lack of housing. Rutter said staff investigated purchasing a temporary residence for potential recruits but found



Medical students visited Haliburton in the summer of 2019 through the Rural Ontario Medical Program. The County is expanding its doctor recruitment program. *File photo.*

renting to be more cost-effective, estimated at under \$10,000 annually. He said staff would bring options to council in the first quarter of 2021.

"It makes sense to pursue this because it's a constant struggle to find places. There aren't quality places for those short-terms that come up," Coun. Andrea Roberts said.

The report also proposes a media event for when a new physician signs a return of service agreement – a guarantee for them to work in the County for a certain number of years, which has a \$25,000-per-year financial incentive.

"It's an opportunity to celebrate the success," Rutter said. "But also, a story,

for the community to get to know new physicians that are relocating here."

Council voted to receive the report and direct staff to incorporate changes to program documents.

"You've had some success and we're fortunate to have you working for us," Warden Liz Danielsen told Kennedy.

NEWS BRIEFS

More money for townships

On Dec. 16, 2020, MPP Laurie Scott announced \$574,000 in funding for Haliburton County municipalities.

She said it's additional provincial assistance for municipalities as part of Phase 2 of the Safe Restart Agreement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As we continue on the path of renewal, growth and economic recovery, our government is supporting municipalities so they are able to provide the critical services community members rely on," Scott said.

The County of Haliburton is getting \$287,000, Dysart et al \$95,000, Minden

Hills \$81,000, Highlands East \$56,000 and Algonquin Highlands \$55,000.

Residents stuffed the cruiser

The public helped the OPP collect 2,349 bags of food, weighing more than 12,300 pounds, for food banks in Wilberforce, Haliburton and Minden during this year's stuff a cruiser event.

Haliburton Highlands detachment commander Liane Spong said an additional \$3,442.75 of monetary donations were made.

This far surpassed 2019 totals of 869 bags

of food and \$952.

"The generosity of the people of Haliburton County was overflowing as was the OPP truck," Spong said.

"The Haliburton Highlands OPP would also like to thank the community and members for dropping off toys at the detachment which were provided to deserving families."

She also thanked participating grocery stores: Haliburton Foodland, Todd's Independent, Wilberforce Foodland, Minden Valu-Mart and Dollo's Foodland.

In addition, both off-duty members and auxiliary members volunteered their time to assist in the promotion and collection of donations.

Spong said for the 2020 year, it was

uncertain how the annual event would go with COVID-19. She added that to ensure safety and physical distancing, the detachment negotiated the loan of a brand new 2020 OPP truck so donations could easily be dropped into the bed of the truck to reduce contact.

"The generosity of others shone through in a year that has seen people across the County and across the country struggle with uncertainty as we face a global pandemic," Spong said. It was wonderful to see the people of Haliburton County come together to raise much-needed food supplies, cash, and toys for our local food banks to help families here within our communities. We thank you." (News briefs compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Highlander news

Ice control school wants green light

By Lisa Gervais

The owners of the car control school held at the Minden fairgrounds and community centre every winter have asked the municipal emergency control group to rethink its decision to not allow them to operate this year due to COVID-19 closures.

President and chief instructor, Ian Law, made a delegation to the Dec. 17 Minden council meeting.

He said while they understand the decision was based over safety concerns during the pandemic, "we believe the (control group) was not in full understanding of our concern for public safety and the safety protocols we have in place to minimize transmission."

He added he was not sure they know exactly what the school does.

He said the bulk of their work is training drivers to be safer on winter roads. The course includes classroom sessions and skills building driving exercises to help students understand techniques in how to control or regain control of their vehicles in limited traction conditions.

He added the majority of their clients come from government agencies, including Health Canada and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

"This winter, York Regional Police had requested dates to train some of their officers at our winter driving course," he said.

Law said they take their COVID safety protocols seriously and have run their car control courses in the GTA with strict protocols in place. He said they have reduced the number of participants to ensure social distancing in the classroom. Everyone must wear masks at all times and sanitization stations are set up and utilized often. They have hired a dedicated COVID



The ILR Control School has shared the Minden fairgrounds. *File photo.*

coordinator whose sole job is to ensure everyone complies with the protocols. He added that vehicle windows must remain open at all times and they have the option of running the exercises with the instructor outside of the vehicle.

In Minden, he said, they can run courses with no direct local contacts at all.

Mayor Brent Devolin, who sits on the emergency control group with Deputy-Mayor Lisa Schell and some senior staff, said he knows what the school does and its COVID protocols.

However, he said with construction at the community centre and now COVID, no one has been able to use the community centre. He added the emergency control group is keeping an eye on lockdowns continuing

in parts of the province, which is why they have stuck to their decision.

"But that doesn't mean the dialogue can't continue, that elements of this can't be further discussed. And as circumstances change in the province, and with respect to our municipal facility, this doesn't mean that all is lost for a season," he said.

Devolin added he would love circumstances to change so they can open the facility in January or February. He said they also can't pick and choose who gets to use facilities. "It's like picking your favourite child. We can't make decisions on one without respect for the others."

"I think that the decision that we've made for the moment holds."



Fresh snow ... fresh air

Beau, Frances and Annie Gilmour enjoy a day cross-country skiing on the Glebe Park trails Jan. 5. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

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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.

It takes a community

In late 2015, a public health nurse told Dysart et al councillors there was a serious drug problem in the County.

She told them people who use drugs were shooting up in and around Head Lake Park and disposing of their needles in garbage bins, putting municipal staff and the general public at risk.

Shortly after her delegation, two drug needle boxes were installed in Haliburton village, so those using fentanyl, heroin and cocaine intravenously had a place to properly get rid of contaminated needles.

Our County also learned in 2016 that we had the second highest use of doctor-prescribed opioids in the province.

In response, the local health unit and several other agencies joined forces as The Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy, to develop a way to combat the misuse of opioids.

They operate on a four-pillar approach: harm reduction, prevention and education, treatment and justice and enforcement.

Has the drug strategy been successful?

The Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre on Highland Street in Haliburton has more than 50 patients being treated for opioid addictions with substitution drugs such as methadone and suboxone. There's a needle exchange program and the drug needle boxes. Police can now administer naloxone

for overdoses.

The new Youth Wellness Hub hopes to encourage young people to steer clear of drugs.

There are treatment options, although we are told there is never enough money or staff and we are hampered because we are rural and remote and people face long waiting lists for local and out-of-town treatment options.

From what we have found out, the local OPP are doing a good job of cracking down on an increasingly sophisticated drug trade but the courts are slow to prosecute with COVID-19 adding to already existing backlogs.

In other words, there have been some gains but there is more work to be done.

Also worrying is a more organized and sophisticated illicit drug ring that is operating between the GTA and Haliburton County involving not just drugs but property crime.

Some will say there has always been drug use in Haliburton County and we are no different than other counties our size across the province and country. That might be true but is simply not good enough. We should expect more of ourselves.

Drug usage is a complex and deep-seated problem. As a community, we have to move beyond judgement of users. We have to ask

ourselves why this is happening, and seemingly, increasing. Rather than building a multi-million-dollar treatment centre, as one local family doctor suggests, perhaps we need a community where people can have decent paying jobs, affordable housing, and public transportation to help break cycles of isolation, poverty, despondency and addiction.

But, at the same time, how do we convince a well-off professional in the community who has used cocaine for years to stop?

It's not a pretty issue. We wouldn't want a drug problem to get in the way of promoting Haliburton County as both a tourist destination or a place to move during a global pandemic or as an alternative to the GTA.

However, if it takes a village to raise a child, it certainly takes a community to tackle a drug problem. The first step, as always, is admitting that we have a problem.

The Highlander has been looking into the drug problem in the County over the past year and today launches a Highlander Investigates series on the front page.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

The COVID-19 infodemic

"In the age of information, ignorance is a choice" (attributed to Donald Miller, American author).

Never in history have we had such abundant and accessible information. The internet at our beck and call providing answers to any question we may ask. Yet many people choose to be uninformed or misinformed. To share myths and theories and spread harmful views, rumours and personal perspectives with dangerous ramifications.

Gossip in a town can have hurtful outcomes; gossip on a global scale via social media can cause mass hysteria, paranoia, a call to arms, misguided actions with harmful outcomes.

Each of us has a responsibility to not spread baseless stories about our neighbours. And we have a responsibility to not share untrue information on the internet.

Fighting the COVID-19 infodemic is considered as important as wearing PPE, vaccinating, and developing treatments for COVID-19.

At the World Health Organization's Virtual Global Infodemic Conference in December, a petition was created that encourages stakeholders to promote access to health information and to reduce harms from health misinformation. This global movement starts with a call to journalists as a key stakeholder group that can immediately reduce harm caused by the infodemic. All journalists are asked to sign the call to action and encourage colleagues

and readers/audiences to do the same.

If you want to support this critical movement to encourage responsible and accurate health teaching, you can sign the petition found at: Infodemic response call for action signature Survey (surveymonkey.com)

This call to action will remain open for signatures until Feb. 14, 2021. You can help reduce the harm of COVID-19 gossip.

Information hygiene is as important as hand hygiene. Misinformation is guilty of undermining the scientific and medical instructions that are critical to public safety. Misinformation and disinformation are harmful. They contribute to the growing mistrust of governments and officials who are making decisions for the health of society. Protecting the health of community is our government's job. And if someone in the government employ contributes to misinformation, that is particularly damaging.

Recently, many Canadians were guilty of spreading a rumour that our government is "putting patients into COVID concentration camps." Unfortunately, by not outright disputing this claim, an elected official was responsible for insinuating it may be factual. Commenting on this episode, University of Alberta professor Timothy Caulfield said, "Misinformation in a public health crisis can lead to hospitalization, financial loss and adverse impacts on health and science policy ... When we have politicians making irresponsible statements, you're really contributing to a public health crisis."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appealed to us: "There is a tremendous amount of noise and harmful

misinformation about [the pandemic] on the internet ... We need to hold together and resist people who would sow chaos within our communities ..."

A pharmacist in a Wisconsin hospital, an admitted conspiracy theorist, destroyed 500 precious doses of coronavirus vaccine because he thought they weren't safe.

"In the age of information, ignorance is a choice." Ignorance means lack of information. The root of the word is ignore, which paints a picture of someone willingly refusing knowledge. Denying new facts and knowledge to educate and inform is akin to refusing to grow. Ignorant people are problematic for the well-being of society.

Learning to refer to trusted sources of information that provide evidence-based policies is responsible for individual and public health. Resources available on government and medical websites provide the same consistent instructions repeated, reconfirmed, and regularly updated. You can corroborate facts by cross referencing them. Use FactCheck.org and Snopes.com or Google. If you are not sure whether something you read is true, then avoid sharing it. How about checking its accuracy before claiming to know that this new tidbit is safe to share?



By Dr. Nell Thomas

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

What should we do?

Dear editor,

Regarding long-term care homes in Canada, we should:

- Immediately introduce unannounced inspections at least twice yearly by trained persons with no affiliation to any long-term care home companies, groups etc.
- Take the for-profit out of long-term care.
- Make funding as part of the transfer payments to provinces and territories as healthcare (similar to hospitals).
- Increase job training, security, and funding to comparable with the private sector.
- Increase minimum staffing to a ratio of residents to staff that allows for proper required care in all areas (doctors, nurses, PSWs, specialty medical personnel, housekeeping, janitors, kitchen, administration, aides, etc.)
- Full-time staff as much as possible (so staff are known by the residents at one facility).
- Increase the number of hours of care per resident to four hours per day.
- Increase the funding for food per resident to more than the present \$8 per day.

This can and should be done. Who will step up? PM Trudeau et al?

I am sure that most people have now realized that our LTCHs are not what they should be. Are most staff doing the best they can? Yes, I believe so, but no one can stretch the funding and the supplies if it is not provided. Corporations are making a lot of money off the care of those who need care. Dividends are being given to shareholders and the residents still do not have sanitization as required, staff as needed, and PPE to keep them safe.

This is a national tragedy that need not happen, but we have warehoused the elderly, the infirm and the disabled therefore saying this is the best we can do. It is not.

We are all to blame. Write a letter, forward mine if you see this, call/email your MPP, do something.

Lynda Williams
Haliburton

Protect them or lose them

Dear editor,

Having had some time to think about how to respond to recent letters to the editor railing against the Shoreline Preservation Bylaw, some analogies came to mind.

We understand that we wear masks during a pandemic to protect each other, the community as a whole, other people's livelihoods etc. Yet, some people believe that this is an insult to their personal freedom.

We obey the laws of the road to protect not only ourselves, but everyone else on the road.

We pay taxes so that we can all share the benefits of publicly-funded health care, road maintenance, infrastructure projects and sewage treatment.

Information about protecting lake water quality has been available for years.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tammy Nash captured this image of a barred owl at the back of her property in Algonquin Highlands.

Many local organizations have promoted the importance of deep rooted, native vegetation to control erosion, absorb phosphorus that inevitably gets washed into the lake from septic systems, even when they are operating as designed.

And yet, some people don't understand that what they do to their property affects the whole lake. We have been warned that blue-green algae will result from elevated phosphorus levels as well as warming waters due to climate change.

Who wants to sip wine by the water's edge looking at blue-green algae floating by? Who can enjoy their cottage knowing that they, their children and their pets could

become ill or die from the toxins that blue-green algae can release?

The proposed shoreline bylaw is designed to protect that which we come to (or live in) Haliburton County to enjoy: our beautiful, clear lakes. Protect them or lose them.

Susan Hay
Haliburton

Town Christmas tree

Dear editor,

Thank you to all the families and kids that brought and hung decorations for the

Haliburton Village town Christmas tree. They really add to the festive look of the tree this year.

If you would like to come into town and remove your decorations to keep them for next year please do so before Jan. 11.

We thank Kim Emmerson for donating the tree and the Dysart fire crew for erecting it. Thank you also to Anthony and Juliane vanLieshout for having it on their property and providing the hydro for the lights.

It really added to the spirit of main street this year.

Jim Frost
Haliburton and District Lions Club

Editorial opinion

ENVIRONMENT HALIBURTON!

Healthy lakes need a strong shoreline bylaw

Terry Moore
VP Environment Haliburton!

The current debate about the County's draft Shoreline Preservation By-law highlights different and often conflicting understandings of the relationship between ecologically-healthy shorelines and a sustainable, increasingly tourism-dependent, local economy.

For a very long time, the image of pristine Haliburton lakes and streams, that attracted generations of seasonal residents to become so attached to "our little piece of paradise," was an accurate reflection of the on-the-water reality.

But development pressure on Haliburton shorelines is rising and has accelerated this year during the COVID-19 pandemic as city residents scrambled to find places to shelter in less crowded and safer conditions.

This increased pressure is happening in a context where our natural shorelines have already been reduced to the point that only eight of 60 lakes assessed under the 2014-2018 "Love Your Lake" project were found to have sufficient natural vegetation to support healthy lake water quality.

The best available science supports a goal

of maintaining, or re-establishing, a 75 per cent natural vegetative cover within a 30m setback from the water's edge.

Many Ontario municipalities have adopted this standard to minimize chemical and nutrient contamination of lakes. Native plants have deep root systems which absorb phosphorus, nitrogen and other substances that leach from septic beds, lawns, roads, etc. into ground and surface water. Natural vegetative buffers also provide essential habitat for wildlife to maintain the biodiversity that keeps our shorelines healthy.

Some members of EH! are directly or indirectly connected to local businesses and workers, some of whom make their living in the landscaping, arborist or building industries. We are acutely aware of their concerns about current and future job security. However, research and numerous discussions with experts active in surrounding municipalities, like the District of Muskoka, indicate that bylaws, similar to the one under discussion in Haliburton, do not negatively impact jobs or the local economy.

Some businesses may need to alter a

number of their practices and procedures, but neighbouring jurisdictions, such as the Townships of Muskoka Lakes and Lake of Bays, have found that companies in the building and landscaping services sectors have continued to flourish after the creation of bylaws similar to the one being discussed here.

In addition, there are over 5,000 shoreline properties across the 60 lakes assessed under the Love Your Lake project, that need to have a significant portion of their shorelines re-naturalized, to protect lake water quality. This represents a huge business opportunity that will be enabled by a strong bylaw and associated educational efforts by the County and the townships.

Re-naturalization is also being strongly promoted by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations as well as a wide range of community organizations with ecological mandates, including EH!

We applaud County staff and council for listening to concerns raised about some aspects of the draft bylaw and making amendments to accept site plans drawn by non-professionals and minimize the potential confusion, duplication and overlap

with lower-tier municipal bylaws.

However, we strongly encourage everyone to support the essential core element of the draft bylaw - a clear, firm-but-fair permitting and enforcement system for projects that can have a significant negative individual and/or cumulative ecological impact. An after-the-fact, complaint-based enforcement regime is insufficient and will not protect our shorelines and related lake water quality from further decline.

Blue-green algae blooms on a growing number of lakes in the County these past few months should be taken as a reminder that immediate and decisive action needs to be taken. Blue-green algae blooms are not just unsightly, but can be deadly to pets, humans and other animals who come into contact with the toxins released into the water. A robust bylaw can help minimize the risk for both tragic and costly outbreaks in the future.

A strong Shoreline Preservation By-law represents good environmental, public health, and economic policy at the same time.

Tiny homes mean big things for County

It was encouraging to hear Haliburton County Council has embarked on an investigation of allowing so-called "tiny houses" to be built within our county.

Recent changes to the Ontario Building Code have allowed municipalities to consider smaller footprint houses within their jurisdictions. The minimum permitted under the revised provincial regulations is 188 square feet or 17.5 square metres. While perhaps adequate for a single person, that footprint is quite small ... but that is the minimum ... there is no reason it has to be built as small as possible. Housing standards set by local municipalities must conform to the minimums set out in the code. As a result, dwelling footprint sizes vary across the province. It has been suggested that the "average" house is a little over 1,000 square feet in size, which places the tiny dwelling minimum at one-fifth the average.

There are many reasons for supporting the minimum size of houses. Smaller size means lower construction costs. Many people have

been squeezed out of the housing market by the high cost of new or resale homes. There are also those who would like to reduce their environmental footprint and a smaller house does that, both in the amount of material and energy consumed in the construction process and in the operation of the home. It is easier to heat and cool.

Others are looking for more economical ways to develop housing for those with lower incomes. Tiny houses provide shelter at a lower cost, meaning more homes could be built and more people could be accommodated. As well, it has been shown that the solution to homelessness and all the ills associated with living on the street is not surprisingly, to provide people with a place of their own. When homeless people are given shelter they can call their own, their lives improve, they take greater pride in themselves and their self-esteem is enhanced. Tiny houses can provide the bridge out of the circle of poverty and into a more productive and healthy lifestyle.

Smaller footprint accommodation also increases the options for those looking for a place to call home. While the new designs one sees online and featured in television make-over shows glamorize the idea, the smaller footprint and the lifestyle that goes with it, is not for everyone. Those with a consumerist mentality will have little space for all their "stuff." A smaller house means getting rid of non-essentials and, as some of the county councilors pointed out, the result could be a tiny house, surrounded by storage sheds and a garage, chock-a-block with all the "essentials" they just can't do without. This seems unlikely however, as many who have chosen a smaller footprint will already be committed to getting by with less stuff.

There will always be a segment of society that wishes to build larger dwellings. There is no reason they couldn't continue to do so. But there is also a growing group of the population looking to live a less acquisitive lifestyle, and prepared to enjoy it in a much-

reduced space.

By lowering the minimum footprint for a dwelling, Haliburton County municipalities will open that opportunity to people eager to try that option.

That fact was proven last year when Highlands East was accidentally placed on a list of Ontario municipalities which had changed their building bylaws to include tiny houses. The meeting was told, "the phone was ringing off the hook," as inquiries flooded in when the list went public. County Council appears to be moving in the right direction on this change. Let's hope it continues on this path.



By Jack Brezina

HAVE AN OPINION?

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



Highlander news



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HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE • INVESTMENTS • GROUP

The Interview: Laurie Scott

By Lisa Gervais

Q. How has COVID drastically changed your work life this year?

A. As an MPP, I'm pleased to serve my constituents. What the pandemic has done is changed the way I'm serving them. Whenever possible many things are done by phone, through email, and we're all more familiar with virtual meetings.

All these changes have been implemented so that I can continue to serve the community in a way that also protects all of us from the spread of the virus.

I personally very much miss things like the annual seniors seminars I hosted jointly with MP Jaimie Schmale, the community fundraising dinners, the fairs and farmers markets where the community would gather together and celebrate one another and the community. Most of all, I miss the people.

Q. What do you think COVID has revealed about your riding...discuss one positive thing and one negative thing.

A. COVID-19 has really highlighted the community spirit that exists in every corner of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. From the very beginning of the pandemic, people here have really come together and shifted to support one another as the need arose.

Initially medical facilities faced the risk of running out of ventilators, PPE and other medical supplies. Manufacturers and small businesses right across HKLB shifted and adapted to produce what was needed. Some donated PPE and any other surplus supplies to front line health care workers and wherever it was most needed.

People checked in on their neighbours, donated to food banks and delivered groceries and medication to seniors and others in need.

We showed how nimble we are, that we can adapt and are resilient. And while I know we're all struggling with fatigue and frustration because we've had enough of the changes resulting from the pandemic; we must all continue to remain vigilant if we

hope to safely reach the end of this global health crisis.

Q. Your government started strong in the polls but has slipped of late. Some say the province was opened too quickly for economic reasons. Others say you have snuck in Bills under the guise of COVID that will do harm to the environment for years to come.

A. Under the leadership of Premier Ford, Ontario has been championing the needs of our municipal partners as well as those of the provinces and territories.

A real demonstration of this cooperation and collaboration can be seen in the recent announcements of funding for our municipal partners. The additional funding announced Dec. 16, 2020 builds on the financial support provided earlier this year. The money being provided to our municipalities will ensure they have the resources needed to provide the services people in the community need and rely on. It is possible because of the cooperation and partnership of all three levels of government.

The pandemic has forced us all to do things differently, and that includes how legislatures and municipal councils conduct their routine business. At Queen's Park, the changes implemented were to enable the Legislative Assembly to operate safely, primarily to ensuring and allow for physical distancing to adhere to health and safety guidelines.

Debates continued in the legislature, voting and other similar work was adapted to follow the best practices. Legislative committees continued to hold public meetings and consultations on proposed legislation with members of the public participating both virtually and in writing.

Throughout the pandemic the decision-making process the province has included extensive input and consultation from public health command table.



Minister of Infrastructure and Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott. File.

Q. What are you most proud of in the past year. What do you wish you could take back/do differently?

A. It should come as no surprise that the launching of the provincial broadband strategy has been a priority for me personally, as well as the province. Although broadband is federally regulated, the pandemic has really highlighted for many what we in rural Ontario already knew, that the digital divide is an issue, and action needs to take place. So rather than waiting for the federal government to move forward with action on their promises, Ontario has taken real steps to close that digital divide. Not only did we launch the action plan, but as announced in Minden ahead of the last provincial budget, we doubled the funding to help connect unserved and underserved communities across Ontario.

Q. What do you think 2021 has in store for Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock?

A. I'm looking forward to 2021 with a great deal of hope. We've already seen the arrival of one vaccine, with at least one more waiting for Health Canada approval. And while the vaccination is a light at the end of the tunnel, we cannot be complacent, after 10 months we all know what to do to stop the spread of COVID-19. We must remain vigilant to ensure we keep our numbers down while the vaccine is rolled out. I'm optimistic that in 2021 we'll continue to see the different levels of government working together to make things happen for our shared constituents. I'm also confident that HKLB, and the province will not only recover from the pandemic but will also see economic growth as well.

COVID-19: Free public notices for local businesses

With many businesses either temporarily closed or making changes to their hours and operations during the COVID-19 lockdown, The Highlander can help get the word out to your customers and the rest of the community.

If you have updates on business hours and operations, please email them to admin@thehighlander.ca. They will be posted free of charge in the paper and online. To save space, please keep messages to 25 words.

If you would like to place a larger ad to let people know you are open (or closed), please email sales@thehighlander.ca.

NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF DR. KRISTY GAMMON

Dr. Kristy Gammon and the Haliburton Family Medical Centre are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Muriel Charles to the team. Dr. Gammon will be retired from her practice March 1, 2021 and Dr. Charles will be joining Dr. Gammon as a locum physician January 4, 2021 until she officially assumes the care of many of Dr. Gammon's patients March 1. She cannot accommodate all, so some will be assigned to another provider at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre. If you are already a patient of one of our nurse practitioners, and were rostered under Dr. Gammon, you will remain under the care of the nurse practitioner, but will be rostered to another physician on our team.

Letters have been mailed out to Dr. Gammon's patients outlining this practice change. Please feel free to call Kim Robinson at 705-457-1212, extension 368 with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Charles!

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HOME • LIFE • INVESTMENTS • GROUP • BUSINESS

Ron Reid remembered for reaching out

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the pandemic socially distancing and isolating people, Ron Reid set out to reconnect.

The long-time, Minden-based volunteer's children said Reid called and emailed others throughout COVID-19. He messaged friends from across his life, even those who he had not talked to in years.

At one point, the 73-year-old could not sleep and got up at 4 a.m. to finish a letter to a former boss. That was two days before he passed suddenly due to a heart attack Dec. 10.

"He was always there for people," Reid's son, Simon Reid, said. "If somebody needed something, or if he saw there was a need for someone, he would always be there to volunteer and help."

The elder Reid became a well-known figure in the community. The biologist first moved to the County for a temporary position at the Dorset Research Centre in 1976. But he would go on to spend the rest of his life in the area.

Reid's early days in Minden came with some struggle. His farmhouse burned down - right around Christmas - just two years after he arrived. The family with two young children lost everything, but Reid's daughter, Jody Berringer, said the community response inspired him in the years to come.

"The community just came out and gave a lot," Berringer said. "Because of how much the community gave, I think that was a really big driver for him to continue to give back."

He acted as a long-time chair for the Help A Village Effort (HAVE), helping them secure hundreds of thousands in grant funding. The charity helps provide clean drinking water and sanitary facilities for rural villages in India, including more than 1,200 wells since the organization was founded in 1982.

Reid also volunteered and headed a variety of other causes, including the Minden Food Bank where he co-ordinated the Christmas basket program, and the Garlic Festival.

"His positive and happy attitude was really



Volunteer Ron Reid with granddaughters Quinn and Avery. Reid is being remembered after his sudden passing Dec. 10. *Photo submitted.*

able to attract other people to want to help out," his other son, Matt Reid, said. "He just made people feel good about helping out and that would get more people involved."

"It wasn't about what he could achieve. It was about what was needed and how he could help get there," Simon Reid said.

But despite a busy volunteer life, he made time for family.

"He was always there for us," Simon Reid said. "Playing and helping and encouraging and making us think we could do what we wanted to do, be what we wanted to be."

Berringer described him as a passionate environmentalist, working as a research

scientist for the provincial government and installing solar panels at his home.

Reid also enjoyed gathering syrup from dozens of maple trees, planting gardens and farming cows and rabbits on a small scale.

"They were modern-day homesteaders," Simon Reid said of his parents. "He always threw himself wholeheartedly into his hobbies."

The community responded to Reid's passing with an outpouring of support and grief. A virtual visitation was held Dec. 16, with a larger celebration of life planned once the pandemic is over.

"Basically, everybody we talked to said,

'your dad just called me, we hadn't talked in years, he called me up and we had a great conversation,'" Matt Reid said.

During the virtual service, the Reid children said their father's example was one to follow.

"Dad will be forever in all our hearts, as the indomitable spirit he always was. He undoubtedly made the world a better place in so many ways, but perhaps most by being open to connection," Simon Reid said. "Next time you think, 'I should reach out,' pull a Ron Reid. Just pick up the phone, jump in the car, and just show up. I'm sure you'll make someone's day."

Stamp leaves a mark on West Guilford Recreation Centre

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Carol Stamp has been part of the heartbeat of West Guilford for more than 40 years.

As a member of the West Guilford Recreation Centre board since 1979, Stamp has been part of organizing all kinds of events - dances, fundraisers, Christmas concerts and Canada Day celebrations. Serving in various capacities including president, Stamp has seen many events develop over the years.

But after those decades volunteering, Stamp decided to retire and hand in her resignation, acknowledged at the Sept. 28 board meeting.

"I haven't been going to meetings for a little while, so I just thought it was time,"

Stamp said. "They've got some younger, newer people with good ideas and I think they'll do okay."

She said she started with the board due to her interest in dancing. She credited Clarence Bain with getting monthly dances started and said her involvement blossomed.

"My husband and I loved to dance ... We got on the dance committee, so it just went from there," Stamp said. "(Bain) got younger people involved. The focal point of the community really - they held everything there ... It really was a place to meet and greet and keep up with everybody in the community."

She was also there when the centre began organizing Canada Day celebrations, which began in 1980 at her suggestion and has continued to this day with her help.

"I had an idea about starting Canada Day. So, I just thought, there wasn't much for the kids. We had a meeting and everybody on the board at that time thought it was a good idea. So, we had a full day of it," she said. "At the time, it was the day when the whole community got together."

Mayor Andrea Roberts recognized Stamp at the start of the Oct. 27 council meeting.

"You made that community hall what it is today," Roberts said of Stamp. "The community of Dysart appreciates all you have given to that hall and to that area."

Her fellow board members also recognized Stamp in the minutes of their Sept. 25 meeting.

"Her commitment to the community has been admirable and has set the bar for those who follow. We thank her for her dedication

and are sad to see her go," the board said.

Stamp said she didn't serve on the board expecting to receive praise.

"I just did it because I enjoyed doing it and I wanted to have something for my family, my extended family and my neighbours to have a place for the community, to keep it up."

"Most people do it because they like their communities," she added.

Today the hall sits empty, the pandemic preventing its usual assortment of events. She said it is a challenge, but she thinks the centre is in good shape, with a strong board and municipal support.

"Right now, things are kind of down," she said. "But hopefully, when this is over, we can all get back using our centre."

2020 year in review

JANUARY

RE/MAX Professionals North relaunched
RE/MAX Professionals North announced it was opening a new brokerage in Haliburton County following the suspension of RE/MAX North Country Realty Inc. Dec. 31, 2019. The company announced Jan. 3 that plans were underway to open a new brokerage in the Haliburton and Muskoka region, where North Country previously operated. The move came after the Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO) suspended North Country's registration after discovering a shortfall in the brokerage's real estate trust account, where consumer deposits are held.

County gets new fire chiefs

Haliburton County got two new fire chiefs in January. Former Algonquin Highlands fire Chief Mike Cavanagh left the township for a job in Peterborough. He was replaced by Jonathan Wilker, who had been working in the Ottawa Valley. Meanwhile, Minden Hills hired a new fire chief, Nelson Johnson, who had been working in Nunavut. He took over for interim fire Chief Mike Bekking.

Library review

Consultants suggested the County consider cutting library branches which are failing to meet provincial guidelines. Sudbury-based KPMG Canada presented a draft organizational review to council Dec. 18 - reported in the Jan. 23, 2020 *Highlander*. The report outlined how the municipality is doing in service delivery. Although most County services are on par with provincial standards or guidelines, it identified libraries as lagging behind.

Snowmobiles off some Haliburton roads

Snowmobilers are no longer allowed to drive along the streets of Haliburton's downtown core. Dysart et al council passed a new snowmobile bylaw Jan. 28, 2020. The bylaw restricts snowmobiles from driving on Highland Street between Cedar Avenue and Dysart Avenue, as well as Maple Avenue between York Street and Mountain Street. It also formalized \$200 fines for rulebreakers per offence.



Minden Hills fire chief Nelson Johnson. *File photo.*



The Canadian National Pond Hockey championships. *File photo.*

FEBRUARY

OPP bust GTA-County cocaine ring

Thirteen Haliburton County residents were charged with drug-related offences following a major OPP drug probe over the past nine months. Dubbed Project Imperial, the investigation culminated in several raids in the early morning hours of Thursday, Jan. 30 - targeting the trafficking of cocaine to the area from the GTA. Police from Haliburton and the City of Kawartha Lakes executed six warrants in the Haliburton Highlands, Oshawa and Scarborough, using helicopters and police dogs. They also had assistance from their Tactics and Rescue Unit and Emergency Response Team.

Youth Hub officially opens

The Haliburton Youth and Wellness Hub celebrated its official opening Feb. 6. Dozens of people toured the centre on Dysart Avenue, which offers youth recreation and a variety of walk-in health services. The location is aimed at ages 12-25 and acts as both a social gathering space and centre for services for mental health, addictions and counselling. It also features social supports, helping youth with employment, income and housing.

Dogs seized from Minden property

Neighbours and advocates were relieved after officials removed 11 hunting dogs from Minden properties during an animal welfare investigation. Officials removed the dogs Feb. 14, due to the owner not complying with orders relating to standards of care, according to the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Fourteen dogs were initially chained to insulated dog houses on an uninhabited property, according to the property owner. The ministry said the dogs were brought to humane societies, although three dogs were unaccounted for.

HHHS criticized over Highland Wood

Highland Wood staff, management and families severely criticized the local health services' handling of the facility's emergency evacuation last year. Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) released a draft action plan Feb. 21, which details its ideas for improvement in the wake of the feedback. The criticism came during stakeholders' sessions Dec. 9 and 10, to address what happened after HHHS

relocated residents Feb. 7 due to serious roof leaks at Highland Wood.

MARCH

Shoreline preservation bylaw

County council said it was planning to take its time to "get it right" on a draft shoreline preservation bylaw after concerned associations overflowed its chambers Feb. 25. The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations and the Haliburton County Home Builders Association came out in force for their respective delegations to council on the draft bylaw, which would restrict development and activity within 30 metres of shorelines.

Flooding strategy announced

With a low Gull River in the background, Ontario unveiled its flooding strategy in Minden March 9. Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, John Yakabuski, was joined by Infrastructure Minister and MPP, Laurie Scott, and Minden Hills Mayor, Brent Devolin, at a podium set up at the entrance to the town's Riverwalk. Federal MP, Jamie Schmale, was in the audience as were councillors and staff of Minden Hills council. Yakabuski said Ontario's Flooding Strategy was developed after extensive public consultation and the advice of Doug McNeil, the province's advisor on flooding.



The province announced a flooding strategy in Minden. *File photo.*

COVID hits the County

With the provincial government ordering movie theatres to shut down over the COVID-19 pandemic, Highlands Cinemas owner Keith Stata was worried about the future of his Kinmount-based business. He was also concerned the crisis could extend for months and didn't know how he would make ends meet. The Ontario government said March 17 it was also closing restaurants with the exception of takeaway, and bars.

Critical stage for COVID

Haliburton County was entering a critical stage in the coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team said. As of March 26, there were no confirmed COVID-19 cases in Haliburton County. However, there had been cases in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Muskoka, "and we should all assume there are cases in Haliburton that have not been picked up yet," he said. Haliburton would get its first confirmed case April 1.

APRIL

Assessment centre opens

Six people - including two Haliburton Highlands Health Services employees - were screened at the County's new COVID -19 assessment centre March 31 as it officially opened for business. The tent is in the parking lot of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team building. The centre remains in place, now operating out of a trailer on site.

Mask-makers swing into action

Haliburton seamstress April Martin was busily sewing face masks as her contribution to the local fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Martin, who runs a home-based business called Sew What!, said she was providing them for free to anyone who wanted them. She said she was also willing to share her pattern with other home-based sewers in the Highlands. Across the County, other sewers swung into action.

Show must go on

The Haliburton County Folk Society did not let COVID-19 stop it from sharing music as it kicked off a live-streamed concert series from the Dominion Hotel April 11. Albert

2020 year in review



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The 50s Diner in Minden briefly opened during lockdown. *File photo.*

Saxby performed in the empty facility, broadcast live on the society's Facebook page.

Dog attack victim returns home

With a procession of vehicles, signs, and cheers, Haliburton welcomed Sadie Lester as she returned home from treatment at SickKids Hospital in Toronto April 17. Lester was the six-year-old critically injured in an attack by two Saint Bernard dogs April 12 in Dysart et al, according to the family. She was airlifted to Toronto, requiring extensive treatment and surgery, including over 400 stitches. Her mother Lindsay Lester also suffered non-life-threatening injuries in the attack.

Home Show cancelled

For the first time in 43 years, Haliburton did not have a home and cottage show. Glenn Scott and Dave Taylor, who manage the show, along with Kent Milford, president of the Haliburton Curling Club, where it is held, announced April 23 that COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of the 2020 event. It was slated for May 29-31.

MAY

Lee Gauthier remembered

Kelly Gauthier called her aunt Lee 'Aunty Oz' because of their shared love of the movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. "It was our favourite movie," Kelly said. "There's no place like home ... and Lee was my home, so I referred to her as Aunty Oz." Lee Gauthier, who died peacefully via medical

assistance in dying (MAID) April 30, is being fondly remembered by friends, family and colleagues.

Realtors doing fine in COVID

Haliburton County realtors were feeling optimistic about the future despite the challenges COVID-19 had thrown at them. "The last few weeks have really, really, woken up," said Andrew Hodgson of Century 21 Granite Realty Group. "We're busy right now." Andrea Strano of RE/MAX Professionals North added, "it's definitely not business as usual, but just in the last couple of weeks, it's been more of a normal pace for us, so that's positive."

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.

Remembering Sinclair Russell

Jan Scott-Wood said her cousin, Ronald Sinclair Russell, was out in the bush foraging a couple of weeks before he passed away and told her he felt "absolutely great. I live on Twelve Mile, and he walked through the woods looking for wild leeks. He had his knife in his pocket to collect them. And he came up and had a cup of tea with us. We just sat and had a real nice visit, because I'd been away all winter in Florida. He said 'I feel really good,'" Scott-Wood said on May

26 as she and cousin, Wendy Connelly, helped to clean out Russell's apartment. The two said Russell got an infection, which contributed to his passing May 23.

50s Diner defies order

Minden 50s Diner owner Jason Lake ignored provincial orders May 29 by allowing sit-down customers to return to his restaurant. However, the protest was short-lived with the local eatery reverting to takeout later in the day. Lake said, "we had nice, positive conversations with OPP and the Health Unit. They didn't shut me down. We are continuing with takeout."

JUNE

Different high school awards

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School celebrated its athletes with a virtual awards ceremony beginning June 4. With the pandemic preventing the usual in-person ceremony, the school opted to highlight teams and players over two weeks, from June 4-19. A video highlighting different teams and players was posted each weekday. Coach and teacher Janice Scheffee began the ceremony and said it gives athletes and coaches a chance to reflect on sporting successes.

Cemetery review

Dysart et al plans to examine its cemetery rules in response to a viral video calling out caretakers for alleged mistreatment of a grieving mother. Dulce Acero posted a video from the Evergreen Cemetery June 13, in which she tearfully describes being confronted by two caretakers about items she and others were leaving on the grave of her son Phoenix Acero, who died in 2017.

Still Standing to come to Minden

The excitement was palpable June 18 as members of Minden Hills Council gave two thumbs up to allowing the CBC television show *Still Standing* to film in the town in 2020. The show's story producer, Shayla Howell, and executive director, Anne Francis, made a virtual delegation to a special council meeting.

Breaking out the books

Anne-Marie Borthwick was the first person to pick up an order of books as the Dysart et al library branch began curbside pickup June 25. County library CEO Bessie Sullivan said all of their available timeslots were filled for their first day of the service. Patrons could order a book order ahead and pick it up in front of the library branch while keeping distancing.



Still Standing's Jonny Harris came to Minden. Photo via CBC.

*Year in review compiled by editor Lisa Gervais.
 We will cover the last six months of 2020 in next week's Highlander.*

Highlander arts

Authors says it's taken 13.8 billion years to write book

By Lisa Gervais

Former Algonquin Highlands resident, Carol Kilby, says it's taken her almost a decade to write the book she's titled *Evolutionary Dancer. Out, In, and on the fringe of the Church*. However, she jokes, "some might suggest, it's taken 13.8 billion years to write."

The reference is to the story of the Universe, which Kilby shared with visitors to the Gaia Centre for Eco-Spirituality and Sustainable Work when she and partner, Paul Irwin, lived there for 16 years. They had a labyrinth set up in the woods on the property with stations marking key moments in the universe story, from the Big Bang to present day.

Kilby and Irwin moved to Algonquin Highlands in 2004 after retiring from ministry in the United Church of Canada. In 2015, the United Nations Year of Sustainability, they opened the Gaia Centre.

The non-profit charitable organization hosted workshops, retreats, and events bringing teachers to the County.

Retiring again, the couple moved to Scarborough in May, 2020.

Kilby said the genesis of the book came from when she was invited to take part-time leadership at Kinmount United Church.

"I took the teachings from the new science and earth-based spirituality with me. The open-minded congregation and I entered into an experiment in evolutionary spirituality. We looked for daily wisdom

relevant to the climate crisis, in not just one holy book, but two, the second being creation itself.

"We tackled unusual topics such as, 'will we evolve for shifting times?' and 'I spy with my evolutionary eye' and 'becoming evolutionary elders for adventurous churches,'" Kilby said.

She said the response to these gatherings was so rich, she'd go home and write them down.

"We were discovering how the old sacred story of the Hebrew-Christian Bible and the new sacred story of the Universe from modern science made for powerful dance partners. But more than being compatible, they were stronger and more relevant for our times together than apart. That was the discovery that became the book."

She said readers can expect lots of stories.

"In the first section, stories of the teachers, artists, mystics, shamans, yogis, and others whose strange ideas challenged the beliefs, ideas, and assumptions that I'd learned in what has been basically a Christian culture, up to now."

She added there are original stories from Grandmother Universe, her inner storyteller. Kilby said she emerged, much to her surprise, as she led folks through the woodland cosmic labyrinth at Gaia Centre telling the story of the Universe – its origins, evolutions, and becoming conscious in the human ones.

In the second section, the stories



Carol Kilby has finished authoring a book. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

come from the Sunday conversations in Kinmount. She said there are discoveries about bible stories and "readers will see that the environmental crisis is driving not only the evolution of consciousness but the evolution of religion and the emergence of a new kind of human – one who lives in mutual relationship with Mother Earth."

In the last section, she said readers will

find samples of inter-spiritual evolutionary rituals they used.

"And many will be surprised they can be used whatever one's path – be it out, in, or on the fringe of the church."

Kilby anticipates the digital version will be available at Amazon.ca in late December and the print book sometime in January 2021.

INFORMATION PAGE

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

A Message From the Minden Hills Fire Department

Heaters - fire safety advice

People have been killed or injured in their homes using gas and paraffin portable heaters. These accidents can be avoided. Accidents most frequently occur as a result of gas leaking when people are assembling appliances or changing cylinders or cartridges. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is butane or propane stored as a liquid under pressure. A small leak can produce a large volume of highly flammable gas. The gas is heavier than air so that it collects near the floor or ground and can be ignited at a considerable distance from the source of the leak. If escaping gas is ignited in a room or other space there may be a fire and an explosion.

Remember

- Turn off portable heaters before going to bed.
- Always follow the manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions.
- Keep the heater clean and well maintained.
- Ventilate the room in which the heater is being used.
- Make sure that a permanent safety guard is fitted.
- If a heater is to be used in one place for a long time fix it securely to a floor or wall.

- Whatever type of heater you use, **do not**
 - move a heater while it is alight or switched on;
 - stand or sit too close, your clothing may ignite;
 - place a heater too close to furniture, bedding or curtains;
 - air or dry clothes over a heater;
 - place heaters where they are likely to be knocked over;
 - leave a portable heater on if young children or animals are left unattended;
 - use flammable adhesives, cleaning fluids or aerosol sprays near a heater;

In the event of a fire

- Close the door to the room where the fire is burning.
- Get your family and yourself to safety outside the building.
- Call the Fire Department by dialling 911.

LPG and paraffin portable heaters are an expensive way to heat rooms. They are also a major cause of condensation so be sure the window is open a little. Remember that every gallon of paraffin burnt produces 10 pints of water.

Notice – 2021 Budget Deliberations

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting via web conference scheduled for

January 14, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
705-286-1260 ext. 505
tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca

(Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

January 14 – Budget Standing Committee Meeting
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/ 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/.

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

Water and Sewer Accounts

Please note that any balance outstanding on your water and sewer account at December 31st was transferred to your tax account.

If you pay your account by telephone or on-line banking or at your bank, any payments received at the Township office after December 31st will be up-loaded to your water/sewer account. It is your responsibility to make your payment to the appropriate account – utility or taxes.

Any payments made on your utility account after the balance is transferred to taxes, will result in a credit on your utility account until the next quarterly billing, and will only be transferred to taxes upon written request, subject to an administration fee of \$25.00.

Please ensure your on-line or telephone banking payments are made to the appropriate utility or tax account.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 705-286-1260, ext. 501 or by email at water-sewer@mindenhills.ca.

2020 Tax Information

Council passed By-law #20-63 to suspend late charges on all 2020 tax installments until the first day following December 4, 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a reminder that the 2020 property taxes were due on December 4th. Interest was added effective January 1, 2021 to all tax amounts outstanding as of this date.

You may pay your taxes via telephone or on-line banking or pay at your financial institution. Please allow three (3) business days for payments to be received by our office.

Payments can also be made by cheque and mailed or put in our secured drop box at 7 Milne St. located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp. Absolutely NO cash is to be put in the drop box. Please make cheques payable to the Township of Minden Hills.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax department at (705) 286-1260 and press option "3".

Winter Parking

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots.

Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

Highlander outdoors

Snowmobile association grooming for a cause

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) is bringing a dash of pink to its trails with a new grooming-based fundraiser for the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation.

The HCSA is launching a new initiative to donate \$1 for every hour one of its groomers is used. The machine will frequent the club's biggest trail, the Rail Trail, with the foundation logo in tow throughout the winter.

The charity provides financial support to breast cancer patients.

HCSA vice president John Enright said the donation should amount to about \$500, based on historical use.

"We felt it was our time to give something back," Enright said. "Snowmobile clubs are always sort of looking, scrounging, scraping. So, here was an opportunity that we thought up ourselves to donate to this exceptional organization."

Charity director Suzy Stenoff said they appreciate the donation, especially given the pandemic curtailing fundraising efforts over the past year. The organization has a snowmobile focus and many clubs have done charity rides for it, but she said none have done a fundraiser like this.

"We are so thrilled to be a part of this," Stenoff said, adding the club does a lot of work with trail maintenance over a year.

"Myself, running a charity, I know how much work it is and how hard it is. So, to have this extra layer on for them, it's spectacular they've been able to do this for us."

HCSA volunteer Liz Jesseman is a breast



The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is fundraising for the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation using its groomer. Left to right: Tom Nicholson, Margo Ross, John Enright, Cole Finlay, Liz Jesseman. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

cancer survivor who has raised money for the foundation for years. She said she knows how expenses can wrack up when receiving treatments.

"It's just an amazing organization," Jesseman said, adding praise for the donation. "It's a great thing to do. For all

women and snowmobilers."

Stenoff said there is also added value in the promotional aspect of the HCSA initiative.

"Having an extra fundraiser like this benefiting our charity is very amazing and will go a long way," she said. "Beyond that, the extra exposure, even letting people know

we are here, that we are a charity."

Enright said the HCSA plans to make this initiative a regular feature, supporting and spotlighting different small charities in the years to come.

You can donate to the foundation at kellyshiresfoundation.org.



www.highlandstorm.org
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Highlander community



NOTICE OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT VACANT LAND AT HIGHWAY 35 & COUNTY ROAD 21 (PLOZA2020049)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Official Plan & Zoning By-law. The site specific amendments apply to property located west of Highway 35 at County Road 21 (see Key Map below).

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The subject property is presently zoned Highway Commercial (C1) and is located within the Service and Business Area designation of the Township's Official Plan. The proposed amendments would re-designate and re-zone the property to allow for 30 medium density dwelling units in the form of 15 duplex buildings whereas residences are not otherwise permitted within existing Zoning and Official Plan Designation. The proposed amendments would designate the land for the intended residential use and provide site-specific exceptions to the proposed Residential Type Two (R2) Zoning to allow for 1.3 parking stalls per dwelling, for a total of 40 stalls, of which 2 provide for accessible parking; to permit a 135m. (443') fence (noise barrier) measuring 2.8m. (9'2") in height to be located along the east property line; to permit a setback from the High Water Mark of 21.3m. (69'11"); and, to allow a lot frontage of 179m. (586'5").

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendments. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendments during the Public Meeting.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING – PLOZA2020049

Date: THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting and can be accessed by:

Computer or smart phone at the link: www.tinyurl.com/y25erzac
Passcode: 8Ju6t\$SDrV

Telephone by dialing: 1-647-374-4685
Webinar ID: 811 7298 6145
Passcode: 5968513761

To view the meeting without speaking to Council, the proceedings may be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/JWjJe2bE8W4>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or at such time as the Township offices re-open and is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclending@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext.506).

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the official plan amendment is adopted or the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the official plan amendment is adopted or the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclending@mindenhills.ca.

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

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

DATED this 6th day of January, 2021
Ian Clending, Planner
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0

Please note: paper submitted to the Township is being held for three (3) days before opening. If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.



NOTICE OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT MULTIPLE PROPERTIES ON SUMAC TRAIL (PLZBA2020074)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Zoning By-law. The site specific amendments apply multiple properties on Sumac Trail representing parts 1 through 9 of Plan 19R-5289 (see Key Map below).

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The subject lands are presently zoned Shoreline Residential (SR) with areas occupying the front ~ 40m. (130') of the lands zoned Hazard Lands (HZ). The proposed amendments would remove the Hazard Lands (HZ) zoned areas to allow for the future development of the four (4) properties subject to the application in accordance with the proposed Shoreline Residential (SR) zoning.

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendments. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendments during the Public Meeting.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING – PLOZA2020049

Date: THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting and can be accessed by:

Computer or smart phone at the link: www.tinyurl.com/y25erzac
Passcode: 8Ju6t\$SDrV

Telephone by dialing: 1-647-374-4685
Webinar ID: 811 7298 6145
Passcode: 5968513761

To view the meeting without speaking to Council, the proceedings may be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/JWjJe2bE8W4>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or at such time as the Township offices re-open and is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclending@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext.506).

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

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE DECISION of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclending@mindenhills.ca.

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

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

DATED this 6th day of January, 2021
Ian Clending, Planner
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0

Please note: paper submitted to the Township is being held for three (3) days before opening. If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.



Highlander community



BIA rewards local shopping

The Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) awarded \$1,500 in gift certificates to Terry Upton for its annual Buy In and Win contest Jan. 5. Upton filled in the winning ballot at Master's Book Store. The certificates can be split between any BIA business. The contest ran between Nov. 20 to Dec. 23, offering a ballot anytime someone shopped at a BIA store. Left to right: Brandon Nimigon, Luke Schell, Upton, Nelly Ashworth, Clay Glecoff. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*



Constructing a better future

Fowler Construction donated a \$5,000 cheque to the 4Cs food bank just before Christmas. Pictured, from left to right, Ron Bain and Nick Biljetina of the food bank, Kelly Miles from Fowlers Construction and Dave Ogilvie, Joan Lauchan and Judy MacDuff from the food bank. *Submitted photo.*

BUSINESS ADVISORIES

COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

Transat Travel – Operating remotely, contact by email: linda.coneybeare@transat.com or phone 705-457-3290.

Cordell Carpet - Open for curb-side pickup. Monday to Friday, 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Email cordellcarpet@bellnet.ca. Call 705-457-2022. cordellcarpet.ca.

Algonquin Outfitters – Full details of operations can be found at algonquinoutfitters.com/covid-19-dec-28-2020/ and for Haliburton store at algonquinoutfitters.com/store-location/haliburton/ Offering curbside pickup and rentals as well as online sales at <https://algonquinoutfitters.com/> or call 1-705-457-3737 for local service.

Outdoors Plus – Open but can only have 1 person in the store at a time. Currently keeping regular hours Mon-Fri 8-6 Sat 8-5 Sun 8-3. This can change quickly, call store to make sure we are available 705-457-3113.

Tim Hortons – Minden and Haliburton are open for drive thru and walk-in take out. 12597 Highway 35, Minden & 5003 CR 21, Haliburton.

Riverview Furniture – Locked doors but still open 7 days a week. Offer curbside and delivery as well, you can email or call anytime to set up a virtual appointment info@riverview-furniture.com or 705-286-3167.

Buckley Electric – Open. Serving Haliburton County. Call 705-286-1134 or email info@buckleyelectric.com.

Abbey Gardens Food Hub – In-store shopping available. Call/shop on-line for curbside pick-up. Wednesday to Saturday 10am – 6pm. 705-754-4769 or abbeygardens.ca/shop-online/.

Minden Hills Rent-All - Open by appointment for sales and service of Stihl and Cub Cadet products. Also the renting of Equipment and Party products. Call 705-286-3047.

Kubota North – Open with curbside pick up and drop off. Call 705-645-1175.

The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre – Remains available to our clients, using text / telephone 705-457-4673 and email hope@haliburtonpregnancycentre.ca.

John Fountain Electronics – Hours of operation, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 9.30 am / half hour those mornings for curb-side pickup.

Up River Trading Co. - uprivertrading.com is open for business and we're doing curbside pickup in Minden and Haliburton on request. Call us at 705-286-1015. Our cafe remains closed during lockdown.

If you have updates on business hours and operations, please email them to admin@thehighlander.ca. They will be posted free of charge in the paper and online. To save space, please keep messages to 25 words. If you would like to place a larger ad to let people know you are open (or closed), please email sales@thehighlander.ca.

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Highlander classifieds

NOTICE

Aggregate Resources Act Form 2 - Notice of Public Information Session

I, J.G. Stewart Construction Ltd of:
2-1118 Brodie Drive Severn, Ontario L3V0V2

Hereby give notice that all documents related to an application to convert the existing Haliburton Pit Licence to a new Quarry Licence are available digitally on request and can be obtained by emailing or calling Bill Kester (ph: 519-500-8146 / em: bill@summitagg.com)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in place of an in-person Public Information Session, the applicant will be available from January 26th to February 22nd, excluding weekends, to discuss details and answer questions related to the application. Please email or call Bill Kester (ph: 519-500-8146 / em: bill@summitagg.com) to arrange a time for a phone call or virtual one-on-one meeting.

The purpose of the applicant's availability via conference call or virtual one-on-one meetings is to present to the public the details of the application for a Category 2, Class A, Quarry Below Water.

The location of the proposed quarry is:

Part Lot 23 and 24
Concession 4
Municipality of Dysart et al. (Geographic Township of Dysart)
County of Haliburton

Aggregate Resources Act Form 1 - Notice of Application for a Licence

I, J.G. Stewart Construction Ltd of:
2-1118 Brodie Drive Severn, Ontario L3V0V2

Hereby, give notice that an application has been made for a Class A, Category 2 Licence to excavate aggregate from a Quarry of 65.5 hectares, located in:
Part Lot 23 and 24, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Dysart, Municipality of Dysart et al, County of Haliburton.

The Application is to convert an existing pit licence to a new quarry licence and maintain the existing Annual Tonnage Condition of Unlimited tonnes.

Digital copies of the detailed site plan and reports for the proposal are available on request and can be obtained by emailing or calling Bill Kester (ph: 519-500-8146 / em: bill@summitagg.com)

Any person(s) wishing to object to this application must send, in writing, their objection with reason(s) to the **Applicant** and to the office of the **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** at the addresses below. Note: E-mail submissions are acceptable however they must contain the objector's complete postal mailing address where a response can be delivered. **E-mail objections which do not contain a postal address will not be considered acceptable**

The Applicant:	MNRF:
ATTN: Bill Kester PO Box 86 Petersburg, Ontario N0B 2H0 bill@summitagg.com	ATTN: Katie O'Connell a/Aggregate Resources Manager Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Integrated Aggregate Operations Section. 4th Floor S, 300 Water Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 3C7 ARAApprovals@ontario.ca

The last day on which objections may be filed with the **Applicant** and **Ministry** is: the **22nd day of February, 2021.**

Note: All information in respect to this application including written objections, the names and address of any objector(s) is available for public review for the purpose of this application under the Aggregate Resources Act. In submitting a written objection an objector consents under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to its disclosure for purposes of the application.

Revised 2020/09/12

HELP WANTED

North Steel is hiring welders for full time work with benefits available. Experience is required. Email scott.alexander@northsteel.ca or call 705-457-6670

North Steel is hiring an individual for steel work, cutting, steel layout and running shop equipment. This is not a welding position willing to train someone with a great work ethic. Email scott.alexander@northsteel.ca or call 705-457-6670



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Highlander classifieds

An important message for our readers

In case of disruptions during the COVID-19 lockdown here's how you can stay informed without leaving your home:

1. Read or download the full edition of The Highlander FREE online at thehighlander.ca.
2. Sign-up at thehighlander.ca to get The Highlander delivered FREE every Thursday to your inbox.
3. Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheHighlanderOnline](https://www.facebook.com/TheHighlanderOnline).

Stay in touch with
The Highlander for

- Updates on event cancellations
- Health Unit updates
- Municipal and county information
- Local news as usual

You can also email us with information for the public, including closures, cancellations, store hours and announcements, etc. Send your email to admin@thehighlander.ca.

TheHighlander

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Kenneth Grant Jones

(Retired employee of Abex Industries, Lindsay)

Born on November 25, 1932 and entered into rest at Kingston General Hospital on December 30, 2020.

Son of the late Arthur and Maude (nee Frazer) Jones and predeceased by his beloved wife Marjorie (nee Eager) (1988). Beloved partner of Elois Somerville for 25 years. Dear father of Robert (Beverly) of Ardoch, Lori (Randy) of Winnipeg, David (Tammy) of Chatham, Donna (Clare) of Haliburton, grandfather of Jacquie (Andrew), Chantel (Tyler) and great grandfather of Raylan, Blackley, Logan, Mya, Bentley and Read. Predeceased by his brothers and sisters; Pete, Leonard, Hilda, Helen, Everett, Ruby and Dick. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

In keeping with Ken's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of his life and interment will be held at a late date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



DAN VERBAAN

It is with sadness to report the passing of Dan Verbaan on December 21, 2020 at the age of 32. Beloved son of Julia Moore and Art Verbaan, elder brother of Michael, partner of Shelbie and devoted father to their daughter, Aubrie. Loved grandson of Sonya Holliday-Rhodes and Dr. Anthony Holliday-Rhodes and additional grandfather Victor Disik. Special mention to Uncle Nick (Holliday-Rhodes) for soliciting prayers for Dan and family of Pastor Ralph and his flock. Special mention to Paul Reng (pre-deceased) for all his earlier support of Dan. Thanks to Aunt Isabella and Uncle Billy (Scotland) for the wonderful times they gave Dan when he stayed with them. Thank you to Uncle Chris (Holliday-Rhodes, predeceased) for entertaining Dan and his brother when they visited grandma when they were young, by playing games with them and teaching them soccer. Stay Safe!

NOTICES

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

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.



Laura "Buddy" Plouffe (Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully surrounded by her family at Haliburton Hospital on Wednesday evening, Laura "Buddy" slipped into her Lord's arms in her 35th year. Cherished daughter of Brian and Dianne Plouffe. Loving sister of Leanne (Kyle) and Lindsay (Fadi). Lovingly remembered by her nephews Isaiah, Asher and by her niece Hannah, and her aunts, uncles, cousins, her many friends at Community Living and the West Guilford Baptist Church Family. Buddy was actively involved in the Special Olympics Bowling and Softball. Her parents Brian and Dianne wish to thank the Community Living Residence Staff for all their love and support that they have given Buddy over the last eleven years.

Private Visitation & Celebration Of Life

A Private Visitation and Celebration of Life will take place at WEST GUILFORD BAPTIST CHURCH on Monday morning, January 4, 2021 at 11 o'clock. Unfortunately, we are not able to Livestream Buddy's Service. Buddy's Service will be videotaped to be shared on Wednesday January 6, 2021 on the West Guilford Baptist Church YouTube Channel. Please see the following link <https://youtube.com/channel/UCJx9HQBuqJht4ZM-2VzQ> As an expression of sympathy, donations to Community Living Haliburton County or to West Guilford Baptist Church would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



SOLUTIONS FOR JAN 7

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65	S	L	E	E	T				66	S	P	R	Y		67	C	A	R	D	

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Highlander puzzles

Drawing a Blank

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 -----
- 5 Unique-to-you fig.
- 9 Six of one, ___ dozen of the other
- 14 "Am ___ late?"
- 15 Nair alternative
- 16 Mineral water town in France
- 17 Countertop flour boxes
- 19 -----
- 20 Verdi's "___ tu"
- 21 Zero's rhyming opposite
- 22 Like Olive Oyl or Twiggy
- 23 -----
- 25 Oscar-winning actress Berry
- 26 "Isn't ___ bit like you ..." (Beatles lyric)
- 27 Limerick's land
- 28 CBC's "Quirks and Quarks" subj.
- 31 "Copy that"
- 34 -----
- 37 Surgery prep area
- 39 Chat, '60s-style
- 40 Walk on tiptoe, say
- 41 -----
- 44 Non-exact figs.
- 45 Facebook revenue sources
- 46 Slain sibling in Genesis
- 47 Crank (up)
- 49 '70s pop singer Leo
- 51 -----
- 55 Become frayed
- 57 Worn rugs?
- 58 Lead-in to Cat or Caps
- 59 -----
- 60 Very white-tie
- 62 China's divided neighbour
- 63 "___ my wit's end"
- 64 Money in the pot
- 65 Cold November rain, maybe
- 66 Still zippy
- 67 -----

Down

- 1 Weightlifter's bulge
- 2 Big name at the arcade
- 3 Part of a G&T
- 4 ___ polloi

- 5 Debit machine brand
- 6 Steel plow pioneer John
- 7 Great Fire of Rome starter, some say
- 8 When ties are undone, for short
- 9 Comedy club disrupters
- 10 Lavigne with a "Sexiest Hair on a Canadian Musician" award
- 11 "I am woman hear me roar" dedicatees?
- 12 Speckled babe in the woods
- 13 "Toy Story" boy
- 18 Elisabeth of "Leaving Las Vegas"
- 22 Cake maker Lee
- 24 Oldish teen drama set in Calif.
- 25 Root word meaning "horse," oddly
- 27 Send by clicking "send"
- 29 Hair of the dog?
- 30 Old school desk liquids
- 31 Paws for a Cause org.
- 32 J-Lo's beau
- 33 Where dudes get duds
- 35 "Battle of the Brians" skater
- 36 Lacking skill
- 38 Only did for fun
- 42 Cab company's foe
- 43 Behaviour type noted by Santa
- 48 Richie's mom, to the Fonz
- 50 "If ___ Falls" (Bruce Cockburn song)
- 51 New dad's handout, traditionally
- 52 Yoga pose
- 53 Sch. band member's rental
- 54 Sniffed (out)
- 55 Verbal finger-wags
- 56 Private getaway?
- 57 Spineless sort
- 60 Quick hellos?
- 61 ___ La Biche, Alberta



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		1	4		9	2		
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

9	8	1	2	5	7	3	4	6
5	6	2	9	3	4	1	8	7
7	3	4	1	6	8	2	5	9
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56	S	E	I	N	E			57	N	O	R	W	E	59	G	I	A	N
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63	W	A	G	E	R			64	R	A	N	G		65	S	K	O	R



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RE/MAX
COLLECTION®

Stunning year-round waterfront home or cottage. This 3 bdrm/3 bath home offers spacious living and high-end finishing's. A well-appointed kitchen with quartz countertops and large island for incredible prep space. Living room features a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and soaring windows for big lake views. Four-season sunroom with slate flooring opens to deck and large, landscaped level yard for all your entertaining needs. Large master bedroom with a dream 4 piece ensuite. Main floor laundry, ample parking, double detached garage and much more. Enjoy a fun-filled day along the sandy beach area with a safe and gradual walk into deep clean swimming. **\$1,675,000**

COMMERCIAL

The Lakeview Motel



One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living quarters with 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel. **\$1,950,000**

Highway 118



This 2-unit duplex home with a solid rental history. Main level consists of 2 bdrms, 1 bath, large living space and separate laundry facilities. 2 bdrm, 2 bath lower level unit with open concept living, dining and kitchen. Separate entrance, parking space and single carport. This home is perfectly situated on 0.87 acres close to the town of West Guilford and a short drive to Haliburton Village. Large lot, perfect for entertaining outdoors. Great investment property. Rent both units or live in one and rent the other to help pay the mortgage. **\$419,000**

Williams Landing



Fractional ownership is stress free. Pack your personal items, groceries and enjoy your holiday at the cottage. Own this fully furnished 3-bedroom, 2 bath cottage with 9 others. Bright open concept living space, pine flooring and propane fireplace. Williams Landing offers 4 shared docks, sand beaches, stunning hiking trails all on 47 acres and more. Annual maintenance fee includes everything from cottage and yard maintenance, electricity, water, sewers, cottage cleaning, internet, and phone. Enjoy Haliburton's pristine Kashagawigamog Lake 5 weeks of the year. **\$59,900**

Chandler Point



Experience the freedom of fractional ownership in Chandler Point on beautiful Kashagawigamog Lake. A fully furnished, 3 bdrm/2 bath cottage steps from the beach and outdoor activities. Bring your personal items and groceries to enjoy a maintenance free cottage life. Chandler Point offers a boat dock, canoes/kayaks for use, a playing field and campfire site located on the point to take in amazing views. Annual fee includes property taxes, maintenance and contribution to a reserve fund for ongoing improvements to the cottage and land. Allotted 5 weeks use through the year and shared with 9 owners. **\$55,700**

Vacant Lots



30TH LINE
\$69,900 4.99AC

WANTED - VACANT LAND

We have a set of buyers looking for a building lot within 10-15 minutes of Haliburton. If you're thinking of selling - contact us today!

Call Linda to learn more about why NOW is the time to sell