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The Highlander

Thursday **February 11 2021** | Issue 477

INSIDE: SHORELINE BYLAW EXPLAINED PAGE 11

FREE



Chamber: reopening requires planning

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is calling for the province to take a coordinated approach to reopening the economy.

The local chamber joined the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) Feb. 5 in asking the premier for a coordinated effort to ensure society reopens from COVID lockdown in a way that provides both individual safety and economic stability. They asked the province for a readiness plan for hard-hit sectors and regions, proper advanced notice and clear guidelines.

The province announced Feb. 8 that most of Ontario would remain under a stay-at-home order until Feb. 16, delayed from the expected Feb. 11.

Haliburton chamber executive director, Amanda Conn, said the forewarning is positive, but the government must ensure its updated opening guidelines are clear.

"No business owner out there – as much as they want to get their business open again – wants to put the community at risk," Conn said. "They want to do it in a safe way and have the communication."

"Knowing that it's coming on the 16th gives companies and businesses time to properly prepare," she added. "We all need to see the revised framework that they're going to put out."

Premier Doug Ford said though

Continued 'Goal' on page 2

Drug abuse an issue for county youth

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburtonian Abe Churko said he got a close experience with youth drug abuse locally at a friend's birthday party.

He said everyone except him took a bit of "molly" – a slang term for a type of ecstasy.

Although he went to sleep at 2 a.m., he awoke four hours later to discover his friends still dancing. The party had not stopped.

"At the time, I found it pretty funny," Churko said. "But you look back, definitely not healthy for you. The thing is, even with hard drugs, if you do them sometimes (occasionally), it can be sustainable. Some people, they try for a few times and they're gone off the deep end."

Across Canada, illicit drug use is more prevalent among youth. The 2017 Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey found a higher proportion of youth reported experiencing harm due to their illicit drug use – five per cent of youth aged 15-19 and 10 per cent of young adults aged 20 to 24 –

than their counterparts 25 and older (three per cent). The same study found cannabis use more prevalent among youth ages 15-19 (19 per cent) and 20-24 (33 per cent) than adults 25 or older.

Nurse practitioner Kelsey Young previously worked part-time at the Haliburton County Youth Hub as a counsellor. She said it is hard to gauge the state of youth drug use in the area – there are not local hard stats for it – but it is part of the substance abuse picture. Especially for cannabis.

Continued 'Cannibis' on page 17

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Highlander news

■ OPP NEWS

Traffic stop leads to assault

Haliburton Highlands OPP arrested and charged two people in relation to a police investigation in Minden Hills following a traffic stop Feb. 6.

Police said at approximately 7:13 p.m., an officer was conducting speed enforcement in the area of Highway 35 near Chambers Road. They said a vehicle was pulled over for travelling at a high rate of speed.

They demanded a roadside breathalyzer test and said the driver, upon failing the test, was placed under arrest for operation while impaired-blood alcohol concentration (over 80mg). They said the male resisted and attempted to flee from the officer. Meanwhile, a male passenger left the vehicle and became physical with the officer. Police said a Taser was deployed and the driver fled while the passenger was subdued.

"What was most certainly a dangerous situation for the officer resulted in her being able to take control of one of the two males. The officer was not injured. The driver was located the following afternoon," a Feb. 9 press release stated.

As a result of the police investigation, a 32-year-old Oshawa man and a 33-year-old Mariposa Township man are facing multiple charges. They were released on an undertaking and will appear in court on April 7, 2021 to answer to the charges.

Crackdown on snowmobilers

OPP conducted RIDES on snowmobile trails in the County this past weekend.

Four Highway Traffic Act charges were laid in Algonquin Highlands for failure to change ownership, fail to have valid permit, fail to display trail pass and improper muffler. On Feb. 6, there were charges in Highlands East for fail to wear a proper helmet and improper muffler. In Dysart, OPP charged another snowmobiler for improper muffler.

"Overall, many snowmobiles were stopped in all townships this weekend from Friday night throughout Sunday in 14 RIDE programs. The Central Region SAVE team were also patrolling the area. Visibility of OPP was high," Commader Liane Spong said. (Lisa Gervais)



The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is calling for a co-ordinated reopening approach. *File photo.*

Goal to avoid more lockdowns

Continued from page 1

the top priority is public health, the government is considering the severe impact of COVID-19 on businesses. "We have been listening to business owners, and we are strengthening and adjusting the framework to allow more businesses to safely reopen and get people back to work," Ford said.

The chamber provided a list for the government to consider in reopening, including fulsome communication, evidence-based decision-making and more rapid COVID testing.

"Even as we continue supporting our families and community today, we must also begin considering the future to ensure businesses are prepared," Haliburton chamber president, Andrea Strano, said.

The province has not confirmed what colour-coded restrictions Haliburton will be under Feb. 16. But district acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill said he would assess the area as an "orange" zone under previous protocols, and businesses could review those. Conn said businesses need ongoing support, even after they can reopen. She added connectivity remains a significant hurdle.

"Some people don't always completely qualify for as much as they really need," she said. "Not everyone is going to get their business up and running because the government said, 'okay, you can open your doors now'."

The OCC released its Ontario Economic Report Jan. 28, highlighting the pandemic's impact over the past

year. Forty-eight per cent of survey respondents in the Muskoka-Kawartha region said they had let go staff. Half of respondents in the area said there was enough economic activity for them to thrive, while 37 per cent said they could not thrive.

Only 20 per cent of small business respondents across Ontario expressed confidence in the economic outlook.

"Our small business members are the least confident in the province's economy, as they continue to face unprecedented liquidity constraints, increased costs, and reduced revenues," Strano said.

"We want to make sure that we're reopening in a safe manner," Conn said. "So, we don't have to keep experiencing these lockdowns."

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Highlander news



The Highlands East fire department is planning to use GoFundMe money to buy ice rescue equipment and do training, four years after the funds were raised. *File photo.*

Highlands East spending ice rescue funding

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East firefighters will finally get equipment and training for ice and water rescue, utilizing community GoFundMe money raised four years ago.

Council approved the purchase of equipment and training for a five-person crew Feb. 9, using the more than \$18,000 set aside from a 2017 GoFundMe. The move comes after the announcement of the permanent closure of the Ontario Fire College (OFC) on March 31, cancelling an approved ice and water rescue course there. The course can now be offered in-house.

Highlands East had waited for years for an approved course from the OFC, which was put on hold after a 2017 inquest into two deaths during ice and water rescue courses. The OFC planned to offer a new course in early 2020, but the pandemic sidelined that. The college has not offered classes since the pandemic began.

"Ice rescue is not a guarantee to alter the outcome of the initial emergency, but it may just stop someone from making a poor decision and try to assist while ill-equipped and uninformed," Fire chief Chris Baughman said.

The 2017 GoFundMe started after cottager Bob Bell died when his snowmobile went through the ice on Dark Lake.

Highlands East's fire department currently lacks the qualifications to offer ice rescue and can only do shore-based work. Dysart et al is also in the training stage, but Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills are already trained, according to a report from Baughman.

Baughman estimates the Highlands East firefighters would be trained by late 2021 or early 2022.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall asked about the makeup of the initial group of trainees.

"We're such a diverse municipality and we have quite a few fire halls," Ryall said. "Are we going to be looking at a composite group of people here that will draw from different fire halls?"

Baughman said it would be based on whoever is available 90 per cent of the time, and a person's size to ensure the equipment – including suits – could fit the most number of people.

"It's going to be a real pick and choose throughout the whole municipality to get the right group of men and women," he said.

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Concerns over fire college closure

By Lisa Gervais

An Ontario government decision to close the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, effective March 31, should be of concern in Haliburton County, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt indicated during a Feb. 4 council meeting.

"There's a little bit of fuss out there," Moffatt said. "There was no consultation by the province to any organized group about it."

She said while online training for firefighters can be easily handled, there is concern about what practical training is going to look like "because there's two sides to fire training."

She said some are saying it is "downloading by stealth ... because someone's going to have to pay for it."

Moffatt said the province has suggested there are going to be some regional training centres but she's also heard talk of mobile units.

She said she reached out to other mayors in Haliburton County about the issue but had only heard back from Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts as of Feb. 4.

However, she said there are questions such as, "are there any concerns about liability if there are any delays in training and meeting standards, safety of firefighters, and most importantly, our continuing service to the public by fully-trained fire personnel?"

She said the situation is "kind of a stay tuned."

She also questions whether local townships should be doing something, such as passing resolutions opposing the closure.

"The impacts are unknown. There could be budgetary impacts at a time when we're just talking budgets but they remain unknown. Whatever they do get set up could come back to bite us later in the year."

"It's on the radar, much conversation to be had, it could be a done deal, it might not be a done deal."

Outgoing Algonquin Highlands fire chief, Jonathan Wilker, said it is being



Algonquin Highlands mayor, Carol Moffatt, has expressed some concern about the closing of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. *File.*

talked about by chiefs.

He said in his opinion, "I wouldn't be surprised if this gets pushed back also, based on past history when they tried to push the same thing forward."

Highlands East council passed a resolution Feb. 9, in support of a resolution from the Township of Augusta, asking the province to reverse the decision.

New fire chief

At the meeting, it was also announced that the township has hired a replacement for Wilker, who resigned earlier this year.

Moffatt said they've hired Michael French, who will start in a couple of weeks. She confirmed that French is the former fire chief for the Rama Fire and Rescue Services.



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Highlander news

Dysart opts against review of ward boundaries

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council opted against exploring ward boundary changes this term despite the population disparities between them.

Staff presented a report Feb. 9 on the boundaries in response to council questions at a previous meeting. The municipality could make boundary changes through a bylaw appealable to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. Staff recommended a consultant oversee the process if council went forward with changes.

The municipality has a disparity in its wards, with its most populous Ward 2 (3,886) having more than twice the population as Ward 1 (1,608) and Ward 3 (1,873), according to 2018 voter population counts. But councillors indicated it was not an issue they wanted to tackle at this time.

"We have an awful lot on our plate," Mayor Andrea Roberts said. "Unless we had a glaring issue, I wouldn't suggest this is something we would make as a priority right now."

Clerk Mallory Bishop reported the topic was last raised after the 2014 election, and the council then felt a boundary review was not needed. But even in 2014, Wards 1-4 exceeded a 25 per cent deviation from the ward population average, a maximum threshold generally used by Elections Canada.

Bishop also noted "effective representation"

as set out by a Supreme Court of Canada ruling states that population should not be the only factor in determining boundaries as geography, community history and minority representation also deserve consideration.

Coun. John Smith said the same Supreme Court ruling states that "relative parity of voting power" is of prime importance. He argued this is an issue Dysart should take on.

"We need to act on this," Smith said. "The approach of kicking this can down the road is just perpetuating a problem that hasn't just existed for a year or two."

But no other councillors were interested in pursuing change. Coun. Larry Clarke said the municipality should hold off with a new census coming up, given the impact of the pandemic causing more people to permanently move to the area.

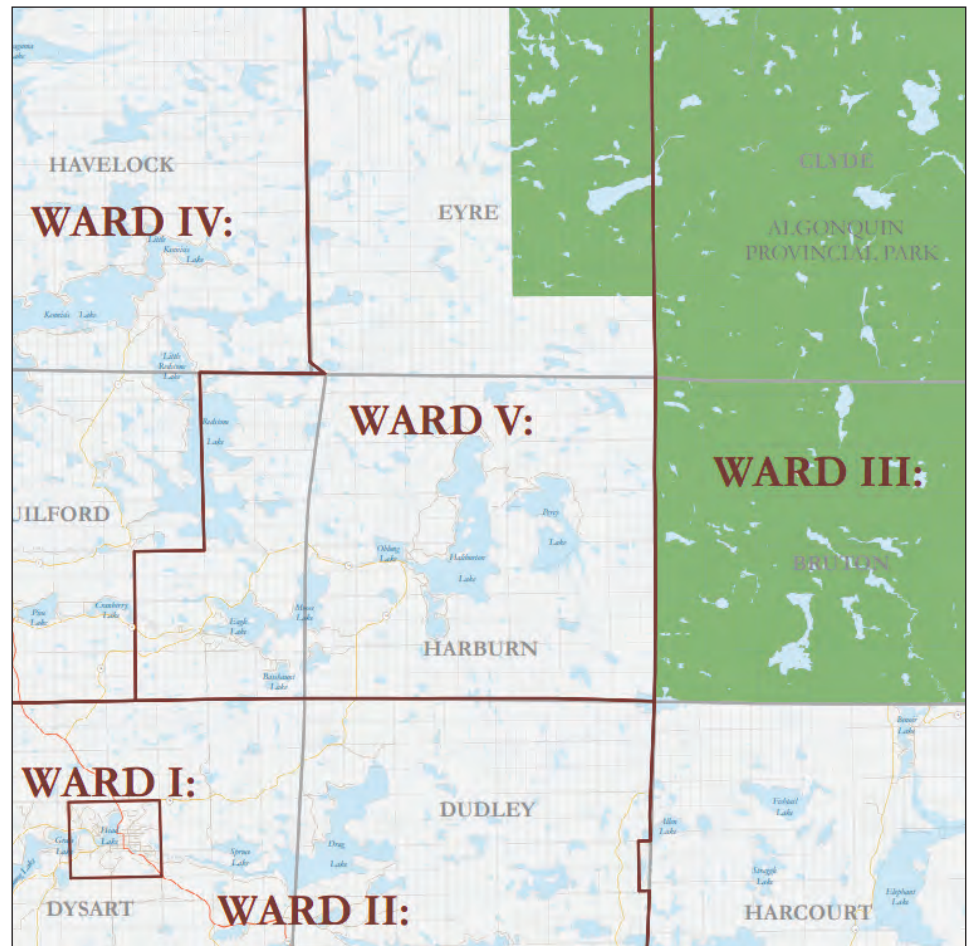
Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy said the ward structure stems from the geography of the original Dysart et al amalgamation.

He added County decisions could impact the township's ward structure.

"The other elephant in the room is County council has to determine whether we're going to move forward with amalgamation," Kennedy said.

"You might only have one vote here in Dysart in the future if that goes through."

Council committee of the whole voted to receive the report as information.



Dysart's current ward structure is based on geography but is unbalanced by population.
Photo via Dysart et al.

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Algonquin Highlands exploring indoor composting

By Lisa Gervais

Algonquin Highlands council is supporting in principle a household organic waste diversion pilot project.

They heard a presentation and received a demonstration, from environmental coordinator, Melissa Murray, at their Feb. 4 meeting.

Murray is recommending council work with Food Cycle Science, the Canadian company behind a product called the FoodCycler. It is an electronic, bread-maker sized, indoor, compost alternative.

"The unit dries and grinds food waste into a dry, odourless, nutrient-dense by-product that is significantly reduced in weight and volume from its unprocessed state," Murray said in a written report.

She said it is an alternative to backyard composting with an added comfort level for those afraid of attracting bears and other wildlife.

She added the main reason for a program such as this is to cut the amount of methane gas at landfills, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. She said the FoodCycler does not generate methane gas. "In the Township of Algonquin Highlands,

corporate GHG emissions primarily come from decomposing organic waste at the landfills (79 per cent). Addressing GHG emission from decomposing waste has the greatest potential to help the township meet its GHG reduction targets (12 per cent for waste by 2030)," she said.

Murray said up to now, the township has relied on backyard composting but "many people are hesitant to even consider it because of this fear [of bears]."

She said staff became aware of the FoodCycler in the fall of 2020. They have been trialing it at the township office and in their homes "with very positive results and feedback."

Working with FoodCycler, Murray said staff would like to get the unit in 100 homes for the trial. They would also like the township to subsidize the cost. She said with a municipal discount of \$50 per unit (to provide incentives), the price tag would be \$200 plus taxes and shipping. Overall, she is asking for an initial \$7,000 investment, including \$5,000 in subsidies, \$1,500 to purchase five units for the township and \$500 for promotion.

Mayor Carol Moffatt said she loves the

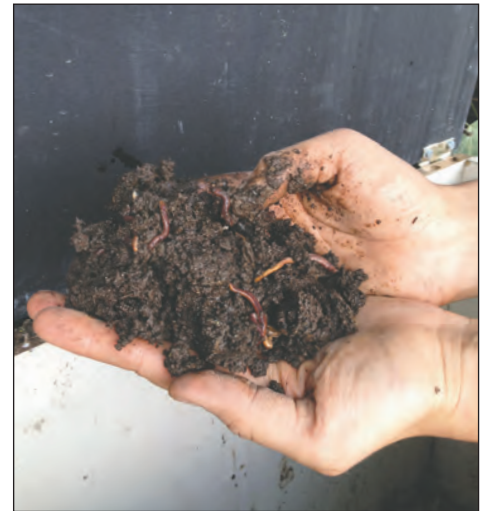
idea but was struggling a bit with the subsidy. She also wasn't sure about a COVID-friendly practice of shipping direct to homes.

"We need to find a way that we can ensure the accountability of the subsidy if council wants to go in that direction ... how do we ensure that taxpayers' dollars, if they're going to be used for a subsidy go to Algonquin Highlands taxpayers and not to anybody else."

Coun. Lisa Barry asked about involvement by other municipalities. "I think we would eventually look to bring others on board," Moffatt said. Murray added this was the first stage of the project, "let's try it out with some keen people and go from there."

Deputy warden Liz Danielsen asked for more details. She said some people won't be able to afford it even with the subsidy and wondered how they could measure whether usage impacted GHG emissions at the landfill.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux was enthusiastic, saying "I didn't think that there ever would be a silver bullet to the problem of composting in bear country and you might have just found it."



AH council discussed composting. Flickr.

She said subsidies are effective, but also impossible to control. "The question becomes to what degree can we tolerate the lack of control of that." She added they could use a study to gauge effectiveness.

Council voted to move forward with more detailed exploration and include the project costs in its planned budget talks for Feb. 22-23.

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HEALTH NEWS

First vaccines at Highland Wood

Residents of the Highland Wood long-term care home in Haliburton received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 8.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) said the first resident to receive the vaccine was Nancy McElwain, who was an ICU nurse during her career in health care.

"She was known for her dedication to her patients during her career, and as a resident at Highland Wood, she continues to watch over the nursing staff daily to ensure they are doing a good job," HHHS said in a media release.

HHHS added it's hopeful that residents of Hyland Crest will receive their vaccines this week.

They added the HHHS team is also continuing to work on vaccination processes for healthcare workers, as well as working with community partners on broader community immunization strategies.

Hyland Crest staff, residents COVID-free

HHHS has confirmed staff and residents at Hyland Crest all tested negative for COVID-19 after a declared outbreak.

HHHS announced Feb. 6 staff had all tested negative, after announcing the same

for residents earlier in the week. The testing round came after two essential caregivers – individuals close to residents who provide care but are not staff – tested positive, resulting in an outbreak declaration Jan. 31.

"This is a tremendous relief for everyone, but it does not lessen the need for vigilance with infection prevention and control measures," president and CEO Carolyn Plummer said.

Outbreak protocols remain in effect.

COVID rates declining

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, said he is encouraged by the declining COVID-19 rates in the district.

In a media scrum Feb. 3, he noted daily case counts in the district had fallen to about 10 or fewer per day. Haliburton has had one new case since Jan. 30.

"The restrictions are working, and it's especially these stay-at-home orders," Gemmill said. "When there's no control, it just spills out. With these restrictions, we're putting our thumb on the end of that garden hose to keep the cases from happening."

However, Gemmill said numbers will undoubtedly rebound when restrictions relax Feb. 16. He said people still need to be cautious.

"It does not mean in any way the risk out there is diminished," Gemmill said. "I'm

still strongly encouraging people to stay at home."

First variant case

Gemmill announced Feb. 10 that the district had its first case of a COVID variant strain, situated in the Port Hope area.

Gemmill said the exact variant is not confirmed, but he expects it is the more contagious U.K. Variant. The neighbouring Simcoe-Muskoka District has had an onset, with 128 cases as of Feb. 8.

Gemmill said the case is already in isolation. But he said variants will become more common – and one could become the dominant strain.

"It was pretty much inevitable," he said. "These variants are going to be more and more prevalent as time goes on."

HHHS gets cash for infrastructure

The province is providing \$700,000 to HHHS through its Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund.

The province announced Feb. 5 HHHS would get the funding to replace a boiler and a pump. The funding is in addition to the \$22,000 HHHS received in October to replace an X-Ray and cafeteria air conditioning units.

"Maintaining hospital infrastructure is



Highland Wood nurse, Sue Long, administers the first Moderna vaccination to resident, Nancy McElwain, on Feb. 8. Also pictured is HHHS President and CEO, Carolyn Plummer. *Photo submitted.*

important to the operation of our small hospitals," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott said. (*Health news compiled by Lisa Gervais and Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.*)

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)

Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

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Give credit where it's due

While the Haliburton County community is relieved that no residents or staff have so far tested positive for COVID-19 at Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden, some have questioned whether the health unit was overly alarming in pronouncing it an outbreak Jan. 31.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) confirmed in a media release Feb. 1 that the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit had declared the facility to be in outbreak. HHHS attributed that to two positive cases among essential caregivers - who are not staff.

Caregivers are a type of essential visitor who are designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident. Examples include supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making.

If you look at Public Health Ontario websites, the health unit was technically correct in declaring it an outbreak.

However, it wasn't really until Feb. 3 that acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, suggested it was more of a "situation" at Hyland Crest. He said it was distinct from larger spreads in other long-term care homes affecting staff or residents.

He also elaborated that the two essential caregivers who tested positive had no symptoms and were not ill.

However, as asymptomatic people can still spread the virus, he said they couldn't take any chances.

It was only late on Feb. 3 that the public was informed no residents had tested positive and late on Feb. 6 that it was announced no staff had tested positive - as of now.

What this meant is that residents and their families, and no doubt staff and their families, were left in a fearful state for the better part of a week. It might have been good had the initial release been done jointly by HHHS and the health unit to explain some of the fine detail, for example, that it was visitors, that they had no symptoms, and that it was considered more of a situation than an outbreak.

Of course, hindsight is 20:20 but what we have to keep in mind is that the health unit exercised extreme caution and it is hard to fault them for that. Along the same lines, we can do nothing but praise HHHS for having so far kept COVID-19 away from residents and staff at its two long-term care homes, Hyland Crest and Highland Wood.

While it seems like years ago now, it was only in the late winter and early spring of last year that Pinecrest Nursing Home in

Bobcaygeon was in outbreak, costing 28 lives.

Here in Haliburton, we have had zero cases among residents and staff. Zero.

Looking around Ontario as of Feb. 8, 2021, 213 homes were in outbreak, compared to 413 that were not. Since April 24, 2020, there have been 21,234 cases, 14,809 residents and 6,425 staff. There have been 3,680 deaths, mostly residents but 11 staff.

While in some ways, we are lucky to live in a rural setting not a hot spot, we have to give credit where credit is due. It is because of the work of management and staff at HHHS that our long-term care homes have remained COVID-free with the exception of the two essential caregivers.

And we know from talking to family council members that this scare has only seen management and staff double down even further with COVID-19 protocols.

And for that, we thank them all on behalf of our frail, elderly and vulnerable loved ones.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

Pandemic fatigue

This enemy is microscopic but lethal nonetheless. About staying home ... There are soldiers on the front lines fighting this. They are taking risks on behalf of others who are protected at home. If you stay home, the burden of COVID-19 drops. When the volume of people afflicted is decreased, your odds of staying well are increased. This also increases your odds of getting surgery or treatment for other medical conditions in your time of need. When our hospitals are burdened with COVID-19 patients, we have no room to manage other sick patients.

One of *The Highlander's* letter writers questioned whether the cure (asking people to stay home) was worse than the ailment. Interesting perspective. You would not question whether this was sensible if the enemy was visibly armed soldiers. You would not step in front of enemy fire because you justify that action to save the economy. If these were bullets and soldiers you would wisely hide at home to protect yourself and family, accepting this was sensible. Accepting the sacrifices of decreased economic activity, personal financial loss, rationing of food, and compromised daily life.

The numbers speak for themselves. Should everyone step out and go back to work? The result is a cost of lives, increased acutely unwell patients overburdening

hospitals coping with only the sickest of patients, leaving small hope of addressing any other medical cases. What we do well in medicine is triage. Every decision is made with consideration of risk and benefit ratios. When I order an X-ray, I balance risk of radiation to you, versus benefit of information gained. In the emergency department we balance wait times for stable patients to manage acutely ill ones. Who can wait for cancer treatment and who needs that hip replaced? An acute hip fracture trumps a chronic arthritic hip. We have not stopped this critical decision-making during COVID. We are simply postponing the things that reasonably can wait.

Globally, as of Feb. 9, there have been 106,008,943 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,316,389 deaths (WHO). In Canada, there are 804,260 cases and 20,767 deaths, with 65 reported deaths in the past 24 hours and community transmission leading the spread.

In Singapore, there are strictly imposed stay-at-home-orders. The population is 5,878,283 with a population density of more than 8,000 people per sq km. They report 59,721 cases and 29 deaths since January 2020. Spread is via sporadic cases with no community transmission. No lives have been lost in health care workers and no restrictions on surgeries or medical

procedures are required. Because of initial adherence to stay-at-home orders and tracking social behaviours, Singaporeans now enjoy their usual lifestyle activities.

Following the US national NPI (National Provider Identifier) adherence scores that are used to track pandemic fatigue shows a pattern of increased community transmission and volume of COVID cases when adherence drops. They report the behaviors that had the largest drop in adherence from early April to late November 2020 were: remaining in residence except for essential activities or exercise; having no close contact with non-household members; not having visitors over; and avoiding eating at restaurants.

A large study (analyzing data from 175 countries) reveals the worldwide effects of social and behavioural factors on COVID-19 case numbers. They concluded that cancelling public events, imposing restrictions on private gatherings and closing schools and workplaces had the most significant reduction in COVID-19 infections.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

CORRECTION: In the article "Connecting through a community cookbook" in the Feb. 4 edition, the phone number provided to submit for the cookbook was said to be "705-448-228." In fact, it is 705-448-2285. *The Highlander* apologizes for the error.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Bell 'nightmare on Adelaide Street'

Dear editor,

Re: Bernie Davis, 'Bell: Let's you and us talk about 'it' - January 28, Issue 475.

This letter is right on. I've been dealing with Bell email issues (inaccessible) and Internet (requested six months suspension but was charged anyways) and a host of other problems since I moved Nov. 3, 2020.

As Bernie Davis says, "Everyone has their Bell story." I have been saying this for months now.

I have been on the phone with them almost every single business day since Nov. 3, purchased mobile phones on their instructions to retain Sympatico email service (wrong again) and frankly, almost went postal and/or became an outpatient at CAMH. I was on the phone one recent Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. solid-unresolved.

Don't be intimidated publishing an opinion about the 'Nightmare on Adelaide Street' (Bell's Toronto Headquarters), it is all unfortunately true.

The absolute blatant indifference of their call center/customer service staff is staggering, and should be exposed continually until somebody actually pays attention. Just think how bad it must have been when Bell had a monopoly.

And it's not over yet. I have a \$260-plus credit that takes over two months (two full billing cycles) to even issue a cheque for and I know based on my experience with Bell this is still not the end of it. I'm betting they'll screw it up in the billing department. Another day or month lost to the astronomical black hole of Bell customer service. Different cubicle, different nightmare.

I would advise Bell clients (from a former client) who have the fortitude, to complain to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC), who basically refer you to the Commission for Complaints for Telecom-television Services (CCTS), both 'soul- deadening/bleeding pursuits (switch in the government for Bell here).

Better yet, have a glass of wine and enjoy the beautiful winter.

Phil Worthington
Haliburton

Fiscal restraint

Dear editor,

Councillors, are you listening? [Feb 4, 2021 Highlander editorial and story].

Councillor Bob Carter, I believe, is on the right track when he calls for a hiring freeze and cutting roadworks and I hope other municipal councillors are listening.

We all know that the federal and provincial governments have spent and will continue to spend billions of our dollars to fight COVID-19.

As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, they will be introducing various programs to repay it all. As in the past, it will be in the form of program cuts, downloading of

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tammy Nash recently captured this image of two deer in her yard in Algonquin Highlands.

programs and tax increases that will affect every one of us.

As municipalities and school boards work on their budgets, they need to keep this in mind. Many of their residents have been hit hard by COVID-19, financially and are just holding on. Living costs have gone up in all areas of our life, food, energy, etc.

Councillors have a responsibility to us as ratepayers to hold costs where they can and not look at increasing them. Dealing with it starts now with councillors, such as Bob determining what is necessary and what is nice.

Focus on what we must do, not what we would like to do, at least until we know how we are going to pay back the billions we owe.

Councillors for years have had it easy, as during boom times it is not hard to govern, now it is going to be tough. They can earn their money now by making tough decisions. Next year is an election year and you will be judged on your actions today. Act wisely.

Peter Willmott
Dorset

Powerpoint bylaw

Dear editor,

Haliburton County Warden, Liz Danielsen, has lamented the spread of misinformation concerning the proposed shoreline bylaw.

Danielsen points to the Haliburton County Home Builders Association's estimate of

\$750K to enforce the proposed bylaw.

However, all the fact-checking seems to be somewhat one-sided.

For years, the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (CHA) has been telling a story of the impact of algae blooms on Three Mile Lake (TML) in Muskoka, which indeed has an issue with blooms.

The presentation to County Council March 27, 2019 has many references to TML. So, is this one of those scenarios that if you tell a story frequently enough it becomes the truth? It would appear so. It has been suggested to my members of County Council to have a look. That apparently has not happened.

Thus, we have a bylaw proposal that is essentially based on a powerpoint presentation. TML Association is a very active group, a "Love Your Lakes" partner and looks for ways to safeguard their environment and members.

TML had their first bloom in fall 2005 and they have reappeared a number of times. Other lakes in Muskoka have had issues as well. The common trait seems to be climate change. Very warm and windless late summers, early fall seem to be the contributing factor.

The TML area was heavily logged in the late 1800s, early 1900s. It was and still is prime agricultural land. Studies have been done on the lake with comparisons to Dickson Lake in Algonquin Park, which has no structures on its shores.

In 2006-2007, a study was done by Dr. Patterson from the Dorset MOE. There was a slide presentation but no follow up. The

MOE wrote a 200-page report on what was happening to those lakes but has refused to release it. This despite requests by TML to all levels of government for the data. TML has enlisted the help of Mr. John Klinck, chair of The District of Muskoka. Mr. Klinck has written to the MOE requesting the release but to date has not received a response. Bureaucracy.

The CHA has presented information about property values in these areas. TML, according to CHA's information, has property dropping in value anywhere between 30 and 50 per cent. In fact, it dropped so low, according to the CHA, it impacted the mill rate for Muskoka. They claim their data is backed up by the Canadian Real Estate Board.

Has anyone thought to ask to see that data? TML certainly has not seen reduction in their property taxes, never heard the mill rate story. According to a study done by Lakelands Real Estate Board their property values have not declined. It would appear that no one from Haliburton thought to contact Muskoka County to determine if this is true or not.

There is no question we need to look for solutions to environmental problems but essentially expropriating private property is simply wrong.

I do not want to be under the thumb of some civil servant watching over every move. There are bylaws in place that are not enforced. The townships and County are complicit in many of these issues.

Murray Adam
Algonquin Highlands

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I think The Highlander is an exceptional weekly publication and I rely on it to know what's going on in the community! I enjoy reading about the goings-on with council, special events, community concerns, the arena project, etc! Grabbing The Highlander at the local grocer is the way I start every weekend! Thank you for producing such a quality paper every week!

- Kelly Mathews

Highlander news

Shoreline bylaw: what you need to know

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The County’s draft shoreline bylaw has generated concern and confusion within the community.

The bylaw was tabled by council Jan. 27, with the municipality planning to have an outside consulting firm take on the process.

The move came after public outcry against the bylaw – from builders, landscapers and property owners concerned about its scope and the impact it could have on business.

“Haliburton County needs a workable bylaw that will serve to protect water quality but at the same time does not diminish individual property rights,” Brightwood Landscaping said in a Facebook post. “If the bylaw is adopted as currently written, most projects will never occur.”

On the other side of the debate are groups such as the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (CHA), concerned about lake health, who note natural shorelines are important to protect water quality and prevent algae-blooms.

Why a 30-metre setback?

One point of pushback has come against the proposed 30-metre setback from shorelines – already present in the existing shoreline tree bylaw and County official plans.

But the setback has precedent in the municipal planning world. The province recommends a minimum 30-metre non-development zone from water bodies within the Precambrian Shield, where Muskoka and Haliburton are situated, “irrespective of whether or not they are at capacity for shoreline development.”

“Cottagers and lake residents are encouraged to provide as great a setback as possible to minimize the impact of development on lakes,” the province said on its website.

The reason for the setback is to protect wildlife habitats and create a vegetative buffer to filter out and prevent potentially harmful substances from running off into water bodies, including sediment and phosphorus.

County planner, Charlsey White, said there are planning and development policies in Ontario that have included the setback since the mid-1990s.

“The 30 metres represents not only an area to provide for flood protection and nutrient management; it is the recommended living zone to ensure species life cycle health, mobility and habitat protection,” White said.

Julia Sutton is a local environmental consultant. She said protecting the ribbon of life on the water’s edge is important. She added though there are other ways to do that – such as limiting pesticides and fertilizers – having a natural buffer is key.

“If you have natural vegetation, because of the root systems, they just take up phosphorus and carbon more easily,” she said.

Those contaminants can lead to more blue-green algae blooms, which the CHA has said could significantly decrease property values. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks confirmed algae blooms in six Haliburton lakes between October and November, with another two probable cases they could not personally test. None of the six confirmed showed levels of toxins above the drinking water standard.

But that provincial 30-metre recommendation is not codified. The Ontario Building Code requires a 15-metre clearance from septic systems and any water bodies to prevent pathogens from entering there. The province notes municipalities can set out greater setbacks.

Other municipalities have gone in different directions. The Lake of Bays varies between a 20-metre or 30-metre setback based on the water body. The Township of Muskoka Lakes also varies based on lake type, with four different categories.

Stephen Fahner heads Northern Vision Planning and was a long-time planner at Muskoka Lakes. He helped create bylaws for shoreline tree prevention and site alteration in 2008, which created a 15-metre “no-touch” setback and a regulated area stretching between 15 and 60 metres.

Fahner said the bylaw aimed to protect lake health and rein in development. But Fahner said Muskoka Lakes avoided much permitting and there were few requirements in the 15-60 metre zone.

“My understanding is very, very few permits issued by the municipality. Literally, I think you can count them on one hand in any particular year,” Fahner said.

He said their bylaw attracted little opposition and has become well-understood in the area.

“Twenty metres has been the standard here in Muskoka for many, many years,” Fahner said. “As I know, that’s been quite well accepted.”

What developments are allowed and disallowed?

The current draft of the bylaw forbids people to destroy or injure most natural vegetation within the 30-metre buffer, with exemptions. It also encompasses the tree bylaw already in effect which forbids destruction or injury of most trees within the same buffer. But it establishes a permitting system to allow for some development. There is also a long list of exemptions to allow a wide variety of minor development or maintenance along the shoreline. Many of the exemptions already exist in the shoreline tree bylaw.

As it stands, the bylaw is also being grandfathered in – meaning existing developments will not have to be altered or renaturalize. Existing vacant lots made using setback would be exempt from the 30-metre zone, White said. Property owners could also still mow existing shoreline lawns – though White said they would be encouraged to naturalize part of it.

The bylaw would establish a permitting

What’s allowed under the new bylaw

- Any work done by a municipality or government body
 - Cutting trees to supply utilities, with a permit*§
 - Cutting trees within five metres of a building, or three metres of a building within the setback *§
 - Cutting trees and removing vegetation to create a driveway up to five-metres wide
 - Cutting trees and removing vegetation to create path to the water up to five metres wide
 - Cutting trees on a municipally-owned road allowance to make a path to the water
 - Cutting of removed damaged and dead trees*
 - Cutting or removing dangerous trees
 - Pruning for tree health
 - Pruning for views
 - Cutting trees less than five centimetres in diameter *§
 - Cutting trees by a surveyor for survey purposes
 - Cutting trees to comply with, or as permitted by, a site plan
 - Landscaping and gardening that does not alter the grade (slope)
 - Removing up to five tonnes of vegetation for landscaping and gardening that does not alter the grade**
 - Maintaining an existing landscape, beach or driveway
 - Removing vegetation or trees to install a septic tank
 - Removing vegetation or trees to install building foundations
 - Regrading around a foundation, building or septic system for which a permit has been issued
- * On steep slopes, cutting/removal is permitted, however stumps must be left in the ground.
**Alternate measurements like volume or area under consideration.
§ Not permitted adjacent to fish habitats, or on municipally owned road allowances.

process for larger developments, including fees - though they have yet to be defined and the County has indicated it would not charge them in the first year. They would also require a site alteration plan.

Another point of contention is the requirement for a “qualified person” - defined as someone qualified for specific technical work or an environmental consultant approved by the director - to certify some site alteration plan. Builders have expressed concern about the costs this could add to projects. But White said she expects the clause would only apply to fewer than 10 per cent of shoreline developments.

“It is to ensure when building on steep slopes, areas of unstable soils or where alterations to drainage are proposed to occur, that a qualified person has designed the build to meet minimum provincial requirements,” White said.

How would the bylaw be enforced?

The County budgeted about \$115,000 in its draft budget presented Jan. 11 for shoreline preservation and enforcement.

White said a current bylaw contract will remain in effect and staff will propose two new positions, one permanent and one on contract. The Haliburton County Home Builders Association has questioned the figure and said they believe more than two staff would be needed.

“Enforcement and permit review in the first year is expected to be higher than the five-year average as a bylaw would be new and as public education is completed,” White said.

White said ticketing would only be a “last resort” and would be enforced similarly to the tree bylaw already in effect.

“The County goal is, and will continue to be, working with property owners, but also to ensure bylaw compliance and remediation if a violation has occurred,” White said.

What happens next?

County council voted Jan. 27 to prepare a request for proposals and have a consultant oversee the bylaw’s development, including a future public consultation process.

The move delays the bylaw’s implementation. The consulting firm will make recommendations for council to consider. The cost for this has yet to be determined.

Council has previously indicated it does not want to do public meetings on the bylaw during the building season and wanted to implement it beforehand. With the delay, the bylaw may not come into effect this year.

Fahner said the Muskoka bylaw helped hold the line on lake health there. But he added other factors such as climate change warming lakes are an issue.

“Some people say we had an algae bloom on a lake that we never had before, or we’ve had them more frequently,” Fahner said. “Some people tend to point to development and say that’s the cause, whereas I think climate change is a big factor in that.”

Sutton said Haliburton’s bylaw does not make shoreline development impossible. She added there is an opportunity for landscapers specifically to do more species removal and renaturalization work.

The bylaw “doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy your waterfront. And in terms of building and landscaping, it doesn’t mean people can’t do anything,” she said.

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Highlander news

Diversion key to expanding life of Scotch Line

By Lisa Gervais

With an estimated lifespan of 10-12 years at the Scotch Line landfill, manager of waste facilities, Tara Stephen, told Minden Hills council Jan. 28 diversion will be the key going forward.

Council approved an updated draft design and operations report for the landfill, now submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for approval.

The township has been working on the report to remedy the final outstanding compliance issue of leachate seeps on the south slope and redesign the transfer station layout to accommodate increased traffic and waste volumes.

In the short-term, the report calls for adjustments to operations while the new transfer station is constructed and includes:

installation of solar power, construction of new access roads that will be paved or hard-topped, acceptance of textiles, application of final and interim cover where required, and allowances for new diversion programs.

In the long-term, it outlines how the site will operate once construction of the transfer station is complete, and how landfilling will occur in new phases of the site. It further adds a leaf and yard waste composting pad to allow for on-site composting of brush and leaves and the option to distribute the processed material to the community. It also adds a second scale in the new transfer station and redesigns the transfer area.

Stephen said the township is looking at \$1.59 million in capital costs over the next couple of years and an extra \$100,000 in operating costs over the next few years. Money is in the proposed 2021 budget. She

said if the MECP seeks changes costing \$10,000 or more, the department will come back to council.

Stephen said in her report the updated plan gives the site a 10-12-year lifespan.

Coun. Bob Carter asked, "Are we actively looking at ways that we can either utilize more of the site or use some other techniques to expand this beyond that timeframe?"

Stephen said they are, although they are restricted by geography. She said it may not be possible to physically expand the site further than the current footprint.

She said the key is diversion, or limiting the amount of waste on site.

"Right now, we have an extremely low diversion rate. We're in the 30 to 40 per cent range for waste diversion. There is a lot of opportunity there for us to improve on that and the more ways we divert from

landfill using our waste diversion programs, the longer that 12 years gets," she said.

Coun. Jean Neville said she still wants the township to look into transferring waste outside of the township.

"I'm concerned. Ten to 12 years is not very long." She added it was a lot of money to put into 10-12 years.

However, public works director, Travis Wilson, emphasized the transfer station will extend well beyond that timeframe.

Stephen reiterated that they are creating opportunities for increased diversion in the plan.

"Once we start investing in these diversion opportunities and educating the public about them, that's when we're going to start to see the lifespan of our landfill increase," she said. She added if the public improves its habits, the life could extend to 15 to 20 years.

Gull Lake cottagers fear for wetlands in rezoning

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills Council heard concerns about a wetland in front of four properties, whose owners came before the township Jan. 28 seeking rezoning.

Planner Ian Clendening said the ask was to remove the existing hazard land zoning, implemented by the former Lutterworth Township in 1992, to shoreline residential.

He told a public meeting that the planning department had a lot of public input, including from the Gull Lake Cottager's Association.

"The predominant concern identified in those comments is the protection of the wetland and highlights the excellent work of Paul Heaven, who has worked with the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust to do extensive mapping," Clendening told council. He said Heaven had identified a wetland in the flooded land area of the subject property.

However, Anthony Usher, representing

the landowners, said they've interpreted the hazard land zoning as a long-standing planning error.

Further, in their opinion, Heaven's mapping had not been recognized by the planning system as of yet.

"My clients now have these properties on the market," Usher said. "The township has inadvertently put a red flag on these properties and on these properties alone. That red flag will be obvious to any buyer doing due diligence and checking the zoning bylaw. The hazard zoning may not actually make any difference but like a quarantine sign, it scares people off," he said.

He concluded that, "The existing erroneous zoning harms my clients. Fixing the error will help my clients and it will not harm Gull Lake or its wetlands in any way."

Mike Thorne, lake steward for Gull Lake, said he and his membership opposed the rezoning for a number of reasons.

He said the water body fronting the properties had been a shallow marsh supporting birds and aquatic species for at least the last 40 years. He said it was the only water body on Gull Lake that is naturally protected from motorized boat wakes, making it ideal for loon nesting. He also spoke of ducks and turtles and fish.

Thorne said in his opinion, the designation was not a mistake but to protect the wetlands. He added he believes it's an unevaluated wetland, which is an approved methodology by the Minden office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and it is a valid designated unevaluated wetland.

Thorne said the issue was also about supporting lake health from development. He said there needed to be further studies before re-designation.

Mayor Brent Devolin said a significant report would come to a future council meeting before a decision is made.

Murdoch Road access

Although a staff report is pending regarding year-round signage and maintenance options, councillors voted Feb. 1 that the municipality will maintain an historic public access to Gull Lake at the end of Murdoch Road.

The site is used by people to put ice fishing huts on the lake in winter and then to remove them.

However, it had been in dispute since the location traditionally used was actually on private property.

In arguing access not be closed on township land, deputy mayor Lisa Schell said, "that access to Gull Lake has been there for decades."

However, councillors acknowledged the need for better signage and that the township do any maintenance, not members of the public taking it upon themselves.



Local Initiatives Program

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Final applications due March 15, 2021



Congratulations to Don Lewis of Eagle Lake winner of our customer/community give away. Don won \$2500.00 and a matching donation to a local charity of his choice. Don chose The Minden and Haliburton Food Banks to receive each \$1250. A big thanks to Don and all of our customers for choosing Debler Well Drilling



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Highlander business

Highland pets welcome reopening of groomers

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Pet groomers are welcoming the province allowing them to reopen Feb. 4 after weeks of being shuttered due to the provincial lockdown.

The province is allowing them to provide appointment-only, curbside-style service for pets in need of care for issues that would cause an imminent vet appointment. Groomers were closed after not being considered essential in the latest lockdown, which began Dec. 26.

Prettypaws Pet Boutique and Spa in Dysart is one of the businesses reopening. Owner Christopher O'Mara welcomed the news.

"Grooming is completely essential to the health and welfare of animals," O'Mara said. "Being forced to close has put our clients at heightened risk of preventable issues. Allowing groomers to reopen will alleviate the stress of grooming appointments on vet offices."

The provincial move came after mounting pressure from groomers and municipalities alike. Some larger municipalities such as Mississauga had announced they would not send bylaw officers to ticket groomers.

Dysart et al did not follow suit, which O'Mara disagreed with.

"They are unmoving in their interpretation of the regulations despite the overwhelming

response to the contrary from other municipalities," O'Mara said. "Dysart is not a friendly community for small businesses."

Dysart municipal law enforcement officer, Robert Mascia, said the emergency operations centre reviewed it, but the municipality opted not to go against provincial rules.

"We just followed the rules that the province had put out," Mascia said. "It's good to see the local businesses will be allowed to open up."

O'Mara said the salon has worked curbside since May when it could reopen. He said there is no operational difference now compared to then, other than screening dogs for issues that would cause a vet appointment. He said although he disagrees with the "essential" terminology, grooming is necessary. He added the business has safety measures with enhanced cleaning and screening.

"We are doing everything that every other business that has been allowed to open curbside is doing," O'Mara said. "If not more."

He said he has experienced a loss of approximately \$34,000 in cancelled bookings with lockdown rules – and the provincial support is not enough. The province created a grant starting at \$10,000, going up to \$20,000, to help small businesses experiencing lost revenue due to the shutdown.



The province allowed Prettypaws Pet Boutique and Spa and other groomers to reopen Feb. 4. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

"Does not even come close to covering our losses," O'Mara said. "2020 and 2021

are going to be very difficult years for us financially."

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PHOTO CONTEST

The Highlander is looking for your best photos for inclusion in this year's The Highlander Handbook.

We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submissions will be printed on this year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi).

Please limit 3 entries per person. Deadline April 5, 2021 – by 5 p.m. Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email. Send entries to editor@thehighlander.ca

Highlander health



Christina Black and April DeCarlo with one of Hyland Crest’s mechanical cats. File.

Student fundraising for robocats

By Lisa Gervais

Lynda Williams wants to find furever homes for 25 mechanical cats. The Dysart et al resident has set up a GoFundMe to raise the \$5,500 she needs to put 10 cats in Hyland Crest in Minden, 10 in Extendicare Haliburton and five at Highland Wood. Williams, 70, is studying gerontology on-line through Laurentian University and has done practical hours in long-term care in the County. A retired teacher, hospice volunteer, and essential caregiver to a 93-year-old mother, she has seen the robocats in person during her practicum and done a lot of research on the benefits of having the mechanical felines in long-term care homes. “They have been researched well and

found to be something that is really helpful,” Williams said. She said they started being used to assist residents with dementia but “they are good for anybody, really.” She said LTC home residents who have had pets prior to being moved into facilities particularly enjoy them and with the COVID-19 lockdowns, it can be Godsend to someone who does not have local family able to visit them as essential caregivers. One thing Williams noticed during her placement is that therapists would bring cats with them because there were not enough of them at the various homes in the County. They can cost in excess of \$200 with shipping. “They had to take them from there to there to there,” said Williams, which sparked her idea for the unique GoFundMe. As part of her studies, she peer-reviewed seven different research articles on the effectiveness of robocat therapy. “You can see in the research of people who have used then how effective they are. I just felt I wanted to do something for this part of the community. We can go out, wear a mask, go to the grocery store but so many people can’t go anywhere, or even have visitors.” She had found an Ontario distributor of the made-in-Florida cats. Now, all she needs is the money to purchase them at gofundme.com/f/life-like-Cuddly-cat-Companions-for-LTC-residents.

Province offers paramedic expansion

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The County could be getting up to four additional community paramedics thanks to a three-year funding boost from the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Department of emergency services director, Tim Waite, told County council Jan. 29 that the ministry seeks to expand the program. It wants to address the rising demand in the long-term care sector and help those waiting for beds. To achieve this, the ministry proposed the funding and asked the County to submit a budget and proposal. “This is really good news,” Coun. Andrea Roberts said. “Especially in an area like ours, a rural area, where transportation is an issue. The community paramedic program is a great way to get the service to the

people as opposed to people having to get to the service.” The program, which began in Haliburton County in 2017, does safety checks on at-risk people, providing weekly or monthly care. The new positions would be offered as temporary contracts completely funded by the province. Waite said the province is processing the application and there is no guarantee yet the municipality will get the dollars. Roberts asked about the logistics of the proposal and handling the extra staff. Waite noted there is an additional vehicle in this year’s County budget but there may be an additional department staff person needed to facilitate the new paramedics. Warden Liz Danielsen said Waite should do a deeper drive to ensure there will not be any limitations on what work the paramedics can do. She added based on a presentation she attended at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, the province is considering community paramedicine seriously. “It’s good to see that they’re putting funding in place for it,” she said. Coun. Dave Burton asked what might happen at the end of the three years, raising the possibility that the municipality might have to then cover the costs. “The hopes would be after three years they see it’s successful and they want to continue it,” Waite responded. “There is the risk that at that time, the funding could discontinue.” He added there is language in the provincial collective agreement to lay off the individuals at the end of the term. Council voted to receive the report as information. A further report will come to council if the province approves the initiative.

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Highlander health

Residents pass declaration to fix long-term care

By Lisa Gervais

A Jan. 29 Zoom town hall meeting brought Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes residents together to share stories and ideas on how to fix long-term care.

"We have known there have been problems with the long-term care system for years," said Bonnie Roe of Haliburton, co-chair of the new Haliburton-CKL Long Term-Care Coalition.

She added, "COVID-19 has really shed a tragic light on the crisis, the issues across our communities and across our province and throughout Canada."

At the meeting, participants unanimously supported a list of measures they feel are needed to fix long-term care in Ontario, including:

- Putting long-term care under the Canada Health Act to ensure public funding and applying national standards;
- Increasing staffing to ensure at least four hours per day of direct care per resident immediately, not in 2024; raising wages of front-line workers; improving workloads, working conditions, and conditions for care; increasing infection prevention and control and nurse practitioner expertise in care; and enhancing specialized expertise in LTC leadership;
- Reinstating thorough annual Resident Quality Inspections of all Long-Term Care homes, with consistency in

enforcement when inspections yield rule violations, including unannounced inspections;

- Changing the culture of long-term care to being more attentive to the value of elders, and increasingly resident and rights-based, including ensuring consistent implementation and safe expansion of the government of Ontario's long-term care essential caregiver (visitor) guidelines;
- Exploring new models of care including from other countries that will make Long-Term Care feel more like home such as the Butterfly Model of Care and other income-inclusive models; and
- Ending using private sector, for-profit companies for new nursing homes in Ontario.

Mike Perry, whose late mother Mary was a resident of a nursing home in Lindsay, is the Kawartha Lakes co-chair of the coalition.

Perry said he was "thrilled" residents affirmed specific, concrete measures.

"This is about how we as a society value and care for our elders. We want local voices to be part of the solution provincewide and to make sure we support our frontline workers while working to fixing things. With so many people coming together and on the same page, there really is room to keep working with some hope," Perry said.

The meeting included a presentation by



More than 50 local residents from across Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes came together online Jan. 29 and unanimously passed a declaration detailing changes to fix long-term care in Ontario. *Submitted photo.*

Cathy Parkes of Canadians 4 National Standards.

She said the new coalition, "represents an important part of Ontario and hopefully all rural communities will follow their lead. We need to hear more from regions outside of major cities in Ontario, as long-term care affects the whole province. The awareness and dedication of this local coalition will help boost awareness for much-needed reform in long-term care," Parkes said.

Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition, was also a guest speaker. She said the percentage of LTC COVID-19 deaths in Canada is the highest in the world.

More information is available online at: ltcneedsyou.ca; email: hckllongtermcarecoalition@gmail.com; or call Bonnie in Haliburton (705-286-2414) or Mike in CKL (705-934-2704) to get involved.

INFORMATION PAGE

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Notice – 2021 Budget Deliberations

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 4th Round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Special Meeting of Council via web conference scheduled for February 16, 2021.

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

Family Day Weekend

Minden Hills Council and Staff wish everyone a Safe and Healthy Family Day Holiday Weekend.

Please enjoy the holiday responsibly and within current Provincial guidelines. Administration Offices and services will be CLOSED on Monday Feb 15th.

A Message from the Fire Department

Each year, Minden Hills Fire & Rescue responds to fires that are caused by improper disposal of hot coals or ashes from fireplaces, wood stoves, pellet stoves, grills or mobile fireplaces designed for use on decks or patios.

The fact is that coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to start a fire for many days after you think the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

To be safe, simply treat all ashes and coals as hot, even when you think they had time enough to cool.

To properly dispose of ashes or coals we recommend the following:

- If possible, allow ashes to cool in area where fire was, fireplace, fire pit...
- When it is time to dispose of the ashes, transfer them to a metal container and wet them down.
- Keep the metal container outside your home and away from any combustibles until the refuse is hauled away.
- DO NOT place any other combustibles in the metal container.
 - DO NOT use a combustible container.
 - Keep fire extinguisher on hand.

Landfill Safety

With a higher winter population than normal, traffic at our waste sites is busier than usual. Please drive slowly and only attend if absolutely necessary.

Waste Reduction Tip

Plastic bags are one of the most expensive and difficult to recycle materials. Use reusable bags whenever possible to reduce plastic waste!

(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:

February 16 – Budget Standing Committee Meeting
February 25 – Regular Council Meeting
March 11 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.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.minden hills.ca/council/.

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

Highlander investigates



The district tobacco control officer said the pandemic has made it more difficult to address vaping. Photo by Lindsay Fox via Flickr.

Cannabis, vaping use increased

Continued from page 1

"I would say one of the major things specifically within the community would be cannabis," Young said. "Cannabis is known to be harmful for developing brains. So, the fact that it's legalized isn't necessarily a bad thing from a systemic view but it has increased our youth rate in cannabis use."

Churko said cannabis use is prevalent locally - even before legalization came - though the drug still remains illegal for people under 18.

"A lot of kids start smoking pretty early, and lately, over the past few years, some kids are starting to do hard drugs," Churko said. "I would say most kids have tried weed at least by the end of high school."

Young said youth drug use is a complicated issue and there are four primary reasons they do it: to feel good, to cope, to do better at a task, or curiosity, when surrounded by other people using it.

Churko said he has seen drug use emerge in social situations like parties before the pandemic. He said ecstasy gained popularity locally after it emerged at one party, and cocaine has always been around the community.

"People start because they see older people doing it and they either want to be cool or they heard about it so much, they want to feel what it feels like," he said, adding drugs like weed can help people cope with bad home situations.

He further said there is not much awareness of youth drug use in the community.

"I feel like it's happening under everyone's noses," Churko said. "Everyone just sees doing drugs the same as drinking

alcohol. It just starts so early they just see it as the same thing."

Vaping at issue

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit tobacco control officer, Lorne Jordan, said there is another drug that is a significant problem amongst local youth: vaping.

Jordan called it an "epidemic" in local high schools in October 2019, after he had doled out more than 40 charges with fines around the time. He said they made significant progress in education after that, but the pandemic curtailed those efforts.

"COVID just sucks all the oxygen out of the room. Made it impossible to carry that message forward," Jordan said. "It's not like the problem went away."

Jordan said he has had fewer vaping complaints to address from schools since they re-opened in September. Still, he said COVID restrictions may be impacting those totals.

"I don't think it's indicative of the fact less students are vaping," Jordan said. "Hopefully, people will start to come back to it and understand it's not a consequence-free behaviour."

Vaping has several short-term health risks and unknown long-term risks. Jordan and others in the public health sectors have called for more restrictions. The province implemented some July 2, limiting most vape products to specialty stores which are restricted to ages 19 and older.

Jordan said those rule changes are positive but do not go far enough.

"We had a very tough act that was watered down by the Ontario government when they

took office," Jordan said. "They listened a little too carefully to the vape lobby and not enough to the science."

Addressing the problems

Young said it is important the community recognizes the risk of drug use and that places like the youth hub can go a long way to addressing the issue.

"It allows us to provide some preventative care for substance use," Young said.

"Provide information, provide counselling ... Providing recreation spaces in order to allow for youth to engage in activities that don't involve illicit substance use."

She added for those youth coping with bad home situations, the youth hub also has resources to help address some of that instability.

Churko said better education is important, versus youth receiving charges or criminal punishments for use.

"If you charge someone like that, they're not going to learn their lesson. They're just going to get more mad at the system," Churko said. "Educating parents, probably. Letting them see the warning signs. What these drugs looks like and what your kid would look like."

Young said harm reduction is also crucial, as well as not stigmatizing users.

"Ostracizing and judging them is not the way to get them the help that they need. In fact, it can often have the opposite effect," Young said. "Open and honest conversations with youth so that they're involved. It's not coming from a 'we-know-better-than-you perspective.'"

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NEXT WEEK: Man overcomes 33-year addiction

What's on

WHAT'S ON

Land Trust Discovery Days (February)

For the month of February, participants are invited to share any interesting photos or observations of animal tracks or signs. These can be shared as a comment to the Land Trust's weekly Discovery Days 'My Backyard' Facebook post or can be emailed to their office at admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca - include 'My Backyard' in subject line' - to be shared on Facebook from there. In addition to posting photos, participants are invited to visit haliburtonlandtrust.ca where they will find printable or viewable brochures, tracking information, videos and other educational materials related to animal tracks and signs. Video links have also been posted to their Facebook page.

Feb. 11- March 25 (Thursdays - 4:30-5:30 p.m.)

Online Zumba (Zoom) with certified instructor, Joanne MacLeod. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The program is open to all genders and experience levels. 18-plus. It's offered by the Township of Algonquin Highlands. Drop-in programs are by donation. For more information and to give a donation, call the Dorset Recreation Centre at 705-766-9968.

Feb. 13-15 - Kids virtual ice fishing derby (up to and including 16 years of age). Register before Feb. 15. Cost \$3 per child. Fish with your family, take a picture with your catch or with your family enjoying the outdoors. Email your photo with your catch by Feb. 16 to recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca. Great way to celebrate family free fishing weekend. Lots of great prizes, curbside pickup will take place by appointment at the Dorset Recreation Centre. Follow provincial guidelines and make sure the ice is safe. For more information or to register visit algonquinhighlands.ca/visitors/activities-calendar.php or contact the Dorset Recreation Centre at 705-766-9968.

Feb. 15 - Registration deadline for the snow sculpture contest - Algonquin Highlands / Dorset: Build a snow sculpture with your family, no matter how big or small as long as it is made out of snow, it can even be a snowman. Take a picture and email to recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca Prize is a \$25 gift card. Registration accepted online algonquinhighlands.ca/visitors/activities-calendar.php or by calling 705-766-9968.

Mondays - Haliburton County Public Library has a new story studio for grownups. Every Monday at 4 p.m. [started Feb. 8]. See their Facebook Live or YouTube. Listen to a chapter at a time of *The Blue Castle* by L.M. Montgomery of Anne of Green Gables fame (including a quick review in case you missed the previous chapter).

Saturdays - Online story time, a spot for families to gather and enjoy story time together. Every Saturday at 10:10 a.m. on Facebook Live and YouTube.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. - Maker

Breakers on Facebook Live and YouTube

Feb. 16 - Harry Potter: Decorated Spoons

Feb. 17 - Coptic-Stitch Bound Book

Feb. 23 - Harry Potter: Painted Rocks and Wands

Feb. 24 - Leather Book Cover

You can borrow Makey Makey kits from the library for a one-week loan. Computer required but not included.

Fridays - Learn hints and tips about using your computer, tablet, or smartphone: a different topic each week. Coming up: Friday Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 at 2p.m. Contact rmuir@haliburtonlibrary.ca for details.

Book clubs and writing groups

Algonquin Highlands Writers Circle: Alternate Saturdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Contact brenda.peddigrew@gmail.com

Wilberforce Library Book Club: Last Wednesday monthly at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Maureen at wilberforcebookclub@gmail.com



Winter fun carries on

People got out and enjoyed the winter recreation available at Glebe Park this past weekend, including snowshoeing, tobogganing, and skiing.

Top: Heidi Eicher, Tim Sodo and Teo enjoy a day out snowshoeing on the trails at Glebe Park Feb. 7. Middle: Carolyn Ellis and Mac Ellis set out to cross-country ski. Photos by Joseph Quigley.

HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT?
Contact admin@thehighlander.ca

What's on

Sir Sam's looks forward to ski hill reopening

By Lisa Gervais

Chris Bishop has worked just about every winter weekend for the past 42 years.

However, the owner of Sir Sam's Ski/Ride has had 17 weekends off during COVID lockdowns.

That's about to end with the Haliburton County ski hill poised to reopen Feb. 17.

"Very strange," Bishop said of the year that's been, adding he's excited about the reopening but also very conscious about what is going on in the world with the pandemic.

He said they've done everything asked of them in terms of public health and safety protocols and now it's up to customers to respect the rules to keep everyone safe and healthy to have an enjoyable skiing or snowboarding experience for the remainder of the winter.

The Eagle Lake ski hill has been making snow, on top of Mother Nature's base, to extend the season well into April and recoup a bit of the financial losses that began in March 2020. As it stands now, their usual 80-day season has likely been slashed in half. On Dec. 26, 2020, they had to lay off 90 staff.

Bishop said some of the federal relief



Sir Sam's Ski/Ride has been making snow at the Eagle Lake ski hill. *File.*

efforts, such as wage subsidies and business loans, have helped but "financially, it's terrible," not just for Sir Sam's but all Ontario ski resorts.

Since finding out the resort is reopening, Bishop said they'd had a lot of calls but the recording pretty much tells people everything they need to know. He said the public is anxious to get back on the slopes.

"For some people it's a real passion,

whether curling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing. It's a passion. If you can't do it, you have pent up frustration."

Due to protocols, they will be limiting the number of people on site; people have to wear face coverings when in public spaces, such as in lift lines, on the lift, and in the chalet. There is one designated door to access the restrooms and numbers are monitored. There is limited capacity

in the upstairs of the chalet for food and drinks just like at any restaurant, with six feet distancing and the wearing of masks when moving around. There are sanitation stations at every door. Staff are wearing PPE.

Bishop said, "We're doing everything we can. We ask people to respect the rules and follow them."

See sirsams.com for more.

BUSINESS ADVISORIES | COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

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

Cordell Carpet – Open for curb-side pickup. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email cordellcarpet@bellnet.ca or call 705-457-2022 or 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 algonquinoutfitters.com or call 1-705-457-3737 for local service.

Outdoors Plus – Open but can only have one person in the store at a time. Currently keeping regular hours Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 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.

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 online for curbside pick-up. Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 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 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. / 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.

The Haliburton Real Estate Team – In Business as (UN)Usual. We're here to help you buy or sell. Call Linda at 705-457-6508.

County Automotive – Open by appointment only. The office is closed to customers at this time. Drop off your vehicle only. Call 705-457-1411 or countyautomotive@hotmail.com.

Parker Pad & Printing – Open 8.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. Monday-Friday. We can process all orders via phone, email and digital upload. Drop off/pick up location in front vestibule. 705-457-2458 or tracy.stoughton@parkerpad.com.

Fleming CREW Employment Services – All in-person services suspended until further notice. Offering appointments virtually and by phone. Please call, email or visit website to book appointment. 705-457-2020 or flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca or www.flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca.

Taylor Carpet One – Huntsville – Our showroom is closed but we are still open for curbside, Mon to Sat 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call 705-789-9259 or visit taylorcarpetonehuntsville.com.

Country Rose Flowers & Garden – Accepting prepaid orders by phone for pickup or delivery. Open Mon-Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 13513 Hwy 118 W Haliburton, ON 705-457-3774.

Lakeview Motel – Open, however business not as usual and we are accepting essential workers only. Call 705-457-1027 for information.

Riverview Furniture – Open offering curbside and delivery. Call or email 705-286-3167 or info@riverview-furniture.com

Wintergreen Maple – Open by chance or appointment (curbside) anytime your schedule allows. Call 705-286-3202.

Subway Minden & Subway Haliburton – Open 7 days from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for takeout and remote order pickup only.

Glass Eagle Studios on Blairhampton Road – During the lockdown we will be open to sell our honey. Call Tom at 705-286-3628.

Contact North – Haliburton – Take advantage of online workplace and skills training, high school, post-secondary

programming with support from Contact North in Haliburton. Help available at 1-855-867-9528 or www.studyonline.ca.

WRD Cottage Rental Agency – Still taking bookings and accepting cottage rentals for this 2021 Summer season. Call 705-457-9434.

Walkers Heating & Cooling – Open for 24/7 emergency service. Office closed to the public but we can be reached by calling 705-457-2375 or by emailing info@walkershvac.com.

John Francis Fuels – We continue to provide essential services but our office is closed. Contact us at 705-286-2738 or office@johnfrancisfuels.ca.

Studio Rose – Open. Our website has many things for pickup or shipping. Call 705-286-3383 or 705-754-5099 or at studiorosepottery.com.

Troy Optical – Open, please call for appointment. 705-286-0727 or troyoptical.com.

Highlands Storage – Available. Call 705-489-3925 or email info@highlands-storage.com for on-site office's business hours.

The Parish & Strano Real Estate Team – Open. Call 705-457-5485 for a no charge property evaluation.

Lockside Trading Company – Online shopping, curbside pick-up, delivery. Youngs Point & Haliburton open Mon-Sat. Contact lockside.com or shop@lockside.com or 1-888-714-0484.

Highlands Printing and Publishing – Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Email mountainside_farm@hotmail.com or call 705-489-2036. Not open for walk-ins.

Algonquin Cookhouse – Open takeout only, Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays. Harcourt, E Trail, 705-448-8868. Find us on Facebook.

Delancey Sports – Open Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Curbside, online and delivery options. Call 705-455-9938, email info@delanceysports.com or visit delanceysports.com.

Wind in the Willows Spa & Boutique – Open – curbside pick-up Tuesday-Saturday. Online shopping at haliburton-spa.com.

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.

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
HEALTH SERVICES

Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Temporary Full-Time and Temporary Part-Time staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.56 /hr - \$48.05/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.17/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earn \$22.25- \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

- The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,
- The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or
- The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and
- Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

The **Caregiver Support Aide** earns \$18.50/hr. S/he provides support to our PSW's in relation to specific activities of resident and patient daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. Assists our PSW's with dressing, meal service and nourishment, assists with personal grooming, changing linens etc. Registered graduate of grade 12 or equivalent maturity and experience, with a willingness to register in a PSW certificate program and complete it within three years.

Observers/screeners earn \$14.50/hr and work on an as needed basis in 4 hour, 8 hour, or 12 hour shifts depending on Patient/Resident needs. The Observer is an unregulated health care provider who is primarily responsible for the close observation of patients whose behavior poses a risk to his/her safety or the safety of others. The Patients/Residents you are observing are often elderly people who are living with dementia or other conditions that impact their memory and judgment. As a Screener, you act as a greeter and screener at facility entrances in Minden and Haliburton locations, to ensure anyone who enters is well. Minimum Grade 11, or equivalent, from the Ministry of Education (Ontario) with a demonstrated working knowledge of spoken and written English and experience working in a health care setting, security, related social service, or educational field will be an asset.

There may be many who have worked related fields and training on site will provide the basics you require for a temporary role.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca • Fax: 705-457-4609



Township of Algonquin Highlands requires an Administrative Assistant

(Maternity Leave Replacement – 14 month Contract)

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking to fill a 14 month maternity leave vacancy for the position of Administrative Assistant. Reporting to the Treasurer, the Administrative Assistant provides effective and efficient administrative support and assistance to the Treasurer, Clerk, Fire Chief and Operations Manager.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the full job description.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021 to:**

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has an exciting, permanent opportunity available as a member of the Long Term Care home teams that serve a substantial area surrounding both Haliburton and Minden. HHHS includes LTC homes in both Minden (Hyland Crest) and Haliburton (Hyland Wood).

This casual physiotherapist will report to and work in collaboration with the LTC home, Directors of Care. The Physiotherapist helps our residents reach optimal function by developing, implementing and supporting established treatment programs. He supervises our Physiotherapy Aides and provides oversight to them, providing guidance and counseling on therapeutic issues. Changes or progressions in treatment are made based on ongoing assessments and evaluation.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful candidate will possess a degree/diploma in Physiotherapy and be registered with the Board of Directors of Physiotherapy to practice in Ontario. The preferred candidate will have working knowledge of rehabilitation, orthopedics, and neurology. Membership in the Canadian Physiotherapy Association is recommended. Current CPR certification is also a requirement. Two to four years of experience in Long Term Care and/or Acute Care settings is preferred.

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND RESUME TO:

Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609

PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER: 2021 - 05

Haliburton Highlands Health Services thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are contacted by HHHS regarding a job opportunity or testing, please advise if you require accommodation. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.



POSITION AVAILABLE

• Warehouse/delivery person, with current drivers license • Retail/wholesale environment, Minden area.

For further information contact 705.286.1628



Shepherd Environmental Services is HIRING Vacuum Truck Driver / Operator

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6798 Hwy 35, Cobocok, ON



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PLEASE SEND RESUME TO
svick2033@aol.com



Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice.

TAKE NOTICE that Council will begin its 2021 budget deliberations during a **Special Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021** commencing at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

Council will continue its 2021 budget deliberations during a **Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021** commencing at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Council Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 10th day of February, 2021.

Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: (705) 489-2379 x333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

Stedman's Mall is looking for Janitorial Cleaning Service. \$15.00 / hr part time approx. 4 nights a week after 6 p.m. Please contact Sam at 416-294-9260

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



Haliburton County Council is seeking members of the public to join the HALIBURTON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Andrea Bull, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 or at abull@county.haliburton.on.ca. The application process will close on February 15, 2021.



Youth Wellness Hub Employment Integration Program

INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT WORKER

Full time/ 35 hours per week

The Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Worker provides individualized, intensive vocational and educational supports and services to help youth clients with mental health concerns find and maintain meaningful employment / education and training.

- Successful completion of a post-secondary diploma or degree in social services, human resources, employment counselling or a related field, is required

- Minimum of one year related experience in the mental health and/or employment field is required

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for more details. Send resume by Monday February 15th to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager
marys@pointintime.ca

or

Point in Time, Centre For Children, Youth and Parents
69 Eastern Ave. Haliburton, ON K0M1S0

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- **An individual for CNC Plasma Table Operator.**

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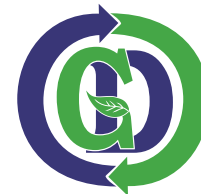
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Highlander classifieds

OBITUARIES



Raymond "Ray" Sisson

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Sunset in Highland Wood Nursing Home in Haliburton on Tuesday evening, February 2, 2021 in his 98th year. Beloved husband of Norma Sisson (nee Hague). Loving father of Kristine (Ila) Sisson, Carla Jane Sisson (d.), Karlene Cooney, Neilson Sisson (Judy) and Darren Sisson (Debby). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Andresa (Tao), Sascha (Michael), Aleatha (Wyatt), Bryan (Kim), David (Nancy), Donna, Jaiden and his great grandchildren Lotus, Phoenix, Quest, Eros, Sydney, Makenzy, Riley, Alex, Zoe and by his great great grandchildren Noah and Madelyn. Predeceased by his Parents Sarah Jane Barnum and Mark Sisson and brothers Andy, Brant, Carl, Calvin, Holly, Max, Don and by his sisters Ina, Ida (Sarah), May, Vivian and their spouses. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Ray worked in Hay & Co Lumber Mill in Kennisis Lake and the Cooperage in Eagle Lake. For many years he worked with Ronald S. Sisson Builders as a carpenter and as a farmer for many years. He loved his trips to the Yukon, western movies, eating at the Mandarin and gardening. Ray would talk to anyone sharing his little antidotes and would always make time for others

Private Visitation & Graveside Service

A Private Visitation & Graveside Service will take place. Interment St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Maple Lake in the Spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Highland Wood Resident's Council would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



In Loving Memory of

Donna Marie Johnson (nee Matheson)

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, in her 92nd year.

Donna is predeceased by her husband and the love of her life Les and is also predeceased by her 2nd husband Cecil.

Dear mother of Diane and David Dollo, Wayne and Judy Johnson. Loving nana of Kelli (Michael), Jaime (Sonja), Nicki (Lawrence), Sarah (Wade), Mitch (Karen), great nana of Connor, Shae, Noah, Max, Nikolas, Benn, Alexius, Ty, Sofie, Jace, Jade, Jaz, Mackenzie, Wyatt and Miles. Sister of the late Christine, Jean and George. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at Hyland Crest for the loving wonderful care they have provided for Donna for many years.

It was Donna's wish for cremation and Private Family Arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highland Health Services Foundation - for the Hyland Crest Residents Council or the Minden Food Bank 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.



WANTED

Steel Minn Toy Oil Trucks, preferred in original shape. Call Larry 705-454-2839

Looking to buy old snowmobiles in any condition. Also any old snowmobile memorabilia such as helmets, snowsuits, manuals. Call or text 705-879-5306

Looking to buy 3 Wheel Golf Push-Pull Cart. Electric with remote. Call John 705-286-2798

FOR RENT

2bdm self-contained main floor apt available, non smoking, no pets. Utilities included. Private deck. Maple Lake area. References req'd, seniors welcome. \$1,100/month Call 705-854-3758



Elda Hunter

(Resident of Gooderham, Ontario)

Peacefully at Highland Wood Nursing Home in Haliburton on Wednesday February 3, 2021 in 100th year. Beloved wife of the late Jack Hunter. Loving mother of Murray (Sandra), Larry (Julie) and Keith (Barb). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Jeff (Nanci), Tim (Allison), Colin (Kim), Jamie, Tanya (Chad), Trisha (Meghan), Devin (Karla) and by her great grandchildren Shaina, Natalie, Macie, Nick, Ryan, Keanna, Kailey, Colten, Trafford, Faith, Jack, Paisley and by her great great granddaughters Kinslee and Annalee. Dear sister of Marion (Roy), Ray (Joyce) and Dorothy (Ted). Predeceased by her daughter-in-law Wendy. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Elda worked as a Stenographer for Hunter Lumber for many years. She cooked in many lumber camps over the years. She enjoyed Church and socializing and most of all her family.

Private Visitation & Graveside Service

A Private Visitation & Graveside Service will be held. Spring interment Gooderham Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



In Memory of BILL TIMMS

Who passed away February 5, 2020

God looked around his garden
and found an empty space.

He then looked upon the earth
and saw your tired face.

He put his arm around you
and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful
for he only takes the best.

Fondly remembered and greatly missed by his
wife Elva Timms and family.

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Highlander puzzles

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Keep Cool

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Total creep
- 4 "Anything ___?"
- 8 Puts in the hole
- 14 Scent of a teen boy, maybe
- 15 Schmuck
- 16 "You ___!" ("Amen to that!")
- 17 Good news celebrant
- 19 Attribute, as responsibility
- 20 Mel who voiced Bugs Bunny
- 21 60% of the "corps humain"
- 23 Popeye prominence
- 24 Russian royal, once
- 26 Trans-Canada and Alaskan: Abbr.
- 28 Ending with jack or kick
- 31 1979 hit "___ Really Going Out With Him?"
- 33 Cost of one for the road, maybe
- 36 Used the flat side of a crayon, say
- 39 Gutless Cutlass
- 42 Gone kerflooey
- 43 "Do ___ Diddy Diddy" (1964 song)
- 44 Attack dog's verbal cue
- 45 Like one "once bitten"
- 47 Turkey's capital
- 48 "Of a certain age," actually
- 49 Camel's watering hole
- 51 Santa sack item
- 52 Frat VIP
- 54 One who dupes a dealer
- 57 Love, to Luigi
- 60 ___ Tire (Goodyear seller)
- 62 Feed, as computer data
- 66 ___ Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland
- 68 Allow to chill ... and what you'll find seven times in this puzzle
- 70 All 'roided up
- 71 Ex-rapper in "Law & Order: SVU"
- 72 Extra-gentle treatment, briefly
- 73 Bicycle's 12, 18 or 27
- 74 Scrapes by, with "out"
- 75 Boo-___! (triumphant cry)

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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| 17 | | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | | | | |
| | | | 24 | | 25 | | | 26 | 27 | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | | 32 | | | | | 33 | 34 | 35 |
| 36 | | | 37 | 38 | | | 39 | | | 40 | 41 | | | |
| 42 | | | | | | 43 | | | | 44 | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | 46 | | | | 47 | | | | | |
| 48 | | | | | 49 | | | 50 | | | | 51 | | |
| | | | 52 | 53 | | | | 54 | | 55 | 56 | | | |
| 57 | 58 | 59 | | | | 60 | 61 | | | 62 | | 63 | 64 | 65 |
| 66 | | | | | 67 | | 68 | | 69 | | | | | |
| 70 | | | | | | | 71 | | | | | 72 | | |
| 73 | | | | | | | 74 | | | | | 75 | | |

- 4 Lengthy heroic tales
- 5 Côte Saint-___ (Montreal suburb)
- 6 Cow boys?
- 7 Levant of Rebel News
- 8 Grammar book "Woe ___"
- 9 Pamby preceder
- 10 Hide-covered homes
- 11 Realm of the three Rs: Abbr.
- 12 Baptism or Bar Mitzvah
- 13 One of twelve at A.A.
- 18 Where to find London or Paris: Abbr.
- 22 Muttered agreement
- 25 Swedish band First ___ Kit
- 27 Like an mad hen, idiomatically
- 28 "I didn't ___ be born"(teen's retort)
- 29 Shoulder wrap
- 30 Flavourful
- 32 Fixes what ain't broke?
- 33 Slangy "ticket," from an old coin name
- 34 Gestating, after "in"
- 35 "To whom ___ concern"
- 37 Noble title in France
- 38 Busy season in Vieux-Québec
- 40 Cdn. armchair athlete's chan.
- 41 Water___ (dental brand)
- 43 Wallop with a paddle
- 46 Sault Ste. Marie, to locals, with "the"
- 47 Quick-wink link
- 50 Liable to get one's wish
- 52 Singer Cockburn
- 53 Doled (out)
- 55 Revolting people?
- 56 Chris Cuomo's network
- 57 Descriptive wds., in grammar
- 58 Pick-___ (refreshing drink)
- 59 '60s TV role for Ron Howard
- 61 "... blackbirds baked in ___"
- 63 "Such a shame"
- 64 Sch. near Beverly Hills
- 65 Computer freeze fixer
- 67 CFL gains
- 69 "Caddyshack" prop?

Down

- 1 Part of a pre-race diet
- 2 Leap named for a Norwegian figure skater
- 3 "It's ___-vu all over again"

SUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | C | H | E | R | | 5 | M | I | L | L | E | | 10 | T | E | A | 13 | S | | | |
| 14 | F | I | X | E | | 15 | S | T | E | E | L | | 16 | D | R | U | M | S | | | |
| 17 | L | E | A | S | | 18 | W | I | N | G | B | E | A | R | E | R | | | | | |
| | | | 19 | S | A | 20 | V | | | 21 | D | O | O | R | | 22 | O | N | S | | |
| 23 | M | A | P | L | E | 25 | L | E | A | F | W | A | 27 | G | | | | | | | |
| 28 | V | I | E | T | N | A | M | | | 29 | S | T | E | | 30 | R | 31 | N | | | |
| 32 | I | R | R | | | 33 | T | R | A | 34 | S | 35 | H | | 36 | L | A | U | | | |
| | 37 | W | A | V | I | N | G | L | U | 39 | N | 40 | A | T | I | C | | | | | |
| | 41 | A | T | O | | | | 42 | S | O | B | A | D | | 43 | N | 44 | E | | | |
| | 45 | R | E | I | 46 | K | 47 | | | 48 | B | R | A | 49 | I | D | E | R | | | |
| | | | | | 50 | R | U | N | A | 51 | W | A | Y | T | W | A | I | N | | | |
| 53 | O | R | C | | | 56 | G | O | S | H | | | 57 | E | A | N | | | | | |
| 58 | G | A | R | 59 | D | E | N | W | A | 60 | K | 61 | E | | 62 | N | C | 63 | O | 64 | S |
| 65 | R | E | T | A | L | I | A | T | E | D | | | | | 66 | N | E | A | T | | |
| 67 | E | S | C | S | | | 68 | T | S | A | R | S | | | 69 | A | S | K | S | | |

ROYAL LEPAGE

HALIBURTONLIVING.CA



ANOTHER COTTAGE WAS
JUST SOLD
STRONG MARKET. LET'S TALK!



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705-286-1234 ext.223
Cell: 705-306-0491 • margieprestwich@live.ca

SOLD IN 11 DAYS!!



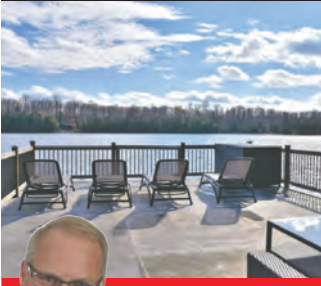
- Executive home, immaculate high-end finishes
- Marble and hardwood throughout
- Walk-out basement
- Close to Minden and Haliburton

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OR BUYING IN 2021?
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- Year-round municipally maintained road.
- White Lake is one of the cleanest lakes and low density.
- Private 1.3 AC lot w/gated drive & 125 ft of clean shoreline.
- An amazing floating boat house included



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- Sunroom with Murphy bed for extra sleeping
- Lovingly renovated with a rustic cottage look
- Metal roof, drilled well, newer windows & doors
- Located on year round municipal road
- Public access to Clear Lake a short walk away



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- Stunning "dry stack" Granite Landscaping, Geothermal Heating & Cooling
- 2008 Built Architecturally Green Energy Efficient Designed
- 6000 sq ft, 5 Beds, 5 Baths, 2-30x40 Winterized Shops and a Studio
- Visit www.1342barry.com For Additional Information on This Custom Home



\$799,900 GREEN LAKE

- 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 1816 Sq Ft 4 Season Home
- 1.22 Acres, 255 Feet Frontage, Sand Shoreline
- Sunset Views, Skylights, Screened Room
- Year Round Road, Close to Amenities
- Double Attached Garage, Shed



\$649,900 HIGHWAY 35

- 3 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom, 1892 Sq Ft Open Concept Home
- 1.34 Acres, Wheelchair Accessible, Ample Parking
- Hardwood Floors, Several Walkouts, Great Room with Stone Fireplace
- Master with Ensuite, Walk in Closet, Fireplace and Walkout to Porch
- Ideal Location for a Home Business



\$3000/MONTH COMMERCIAL LEASE

- High Exposure Corner Commercial Building, Buy or Lease
- 2000 Sq Ft, Large Paved Parking Lot, Many Possibilities
- 12 Office Spaces, 2 Washrooms, Utility Room, Kitchenette
- Forced Air Heating, Air Conditioning, Town Water & Sewer
- Close to Town and All Amenities



\$999,900 LITTLE KENNISIS LAKE

- 120 ft of Clean Deep Waterfront with Panoramic Views
- 1900 sq ft 2+1 Bedroom, 2 Bathrooms
- Insulated/Heated Garage with 2 Rooms and Bathroom
- Extensive Lakeside Decking, Lakefront Deck Areas with Dock
- Many Upgrades, Comes Furnished Ready to Enjoy!



\$949,900 KUSHOG LAKE

- 2.5 Bedroom, 4+1 Bathroom, 2300 Sq Ft Living Space
- 1 Acre Landscaped Lot, Clean Shoreline, 2 Lake Chain
- Year Round Road, Numerous Upgrades, Panoramic Views
- Attached Heated Garage, Detached Double Garage
- Self Contained Bunkie, RV Parking Pad With Hydro and Water



\$849,900 MINDEN LAKE

- 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1260 sq ft Home Close to Amenities
- 155 Ft Frontage, Clean Sandy Shoreline, Ample Parking
- Lakeside Deck with Gazebo, Dock Setup, Sunny Exposure
- Partially Finished Basement with 2 Extra Bedrooms/Office
- Numerous Upgrades in 2019 - Reflects Pride of Ownership



\$699,900 HIGHWAY 118

- 3 + 1 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, 1860 Sq Ft Home on 31.5 Acres
- 1768 Sq Ft Insulated Workshop with Extra Large Garage Doors
- Large Master, Recreation Room with Stone Fireplace & Wetbar
- Double Attached Garage with Breezeway Featuring Hot Tub Room
- Pond, Creek, Endless Possibilities to Run a Business

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Evaluation
and receive a
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Nicholls***

"One phone call to
the office! Chris
James contacted. We
agreed on an asking
price. Within a week
I got an offer!! I
Accepted. **SOLD!!!**
THANK YOU"

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Bacon Road

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