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The Highlander

Thursday **February 25 2021** | Issue 479

INSIDE: COVID BUSINESS ADVISORIES PAGE 19

FREE



Fire, ice ... and beer

With the lockdown over, Boshkung Brewing in Minden and Haliburton Highlands Brewing near West Guilford both opened their doors and patios to the public. People enjoyed drinks using newly installed fire pits at both businesses. See additional photo on page 18.

Laurie Pettes, Catherine Nealon, Randy Nealon and Mark Pettes on the patio at Boshkung Brewing. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

Residents reach for the Starlink

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When Joe Mukherjee got his first email that the Starlink internet service was touching down in Haliburton, he wasted no time in ordering the service.

The Haliburton Lake resident had waited for months for the opportunity. As someone doing video calls for his job, he sought better service, struggling with slow speeds using other providers. He made it work by paying for separate connections for himself and the rest of his family.

The satellite service from U.S.-based SpaceX seeks to use Starlink to deliver better speeds in remote areas across the globe. Days after receiving it, Mukherjee said it is living up to that promise, with his download speeds going from less than 0.5 megabits per second (Mbps) to 150 in one test. Starlink said users can expect between 50-150 Mbps consistently.

"Big difference, there's no question," Mukherjee said. "I'm really optimistic this will be a game-changer. Not just for me, but I think my community at large."

Starlink announced it was available in Haliburton Feb. 3, but only in a limited supply. Mukherjee is one of the first in the County to receive it. SpaceX declined to respond to questions on service availability.

Starlink does have its issues, Mukherjee said. There are intermittent stoppages – about two or three times on average in every 30 minutes, lasting between three and 15 seconds. He said that will not impact most things, though

Continued 'Devolin' on page 2

Addiction services seek funding

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Four-County Crisis short-term case manager, Andrew Hodson, is busier than ever working during a pandemic.

As part of the local mental health crisis response program, his job takes him all over the region. Demand for mental health services is up across the province and Four-County Crisis is no exception, with Hodson's caseload up more than 25 per cent.

Hodson said he helps people from all walks of life dealing with a wide range of issues, including drug addiction. He said Haliburton is not immune to the problem, with many types of hard drugs being used and becoming more readily available over the years as opposed to being imported from the city.

"It's a harrowing landscape," Hodson said. "I see it having tentacles into housing, into health care, into mental health, relationships ... Because there are so many paths to lead into these situations, I think we need that many paths out. I think options are great – I

don't think there's a one-stop solution."

Hodson is one of many in the sector working to address addictions in Haliburton and beyond. But local providers say finding funding to improve their work can be challenging.

Jack Veitch is the manager of community engagement and education at the district branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and works with Hodson. He said CMHA offers a range of successful programs to help those suffering from addiction but they are short-staffed.

Continued 'County' on page 15

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Highlander news

NEWS BRIEF

Haliburton and Minden hospitals get more money

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has received an additional investment of \$607,000 through the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to address important capital projects to improve operation and build capacity, MPP Laurie Scott's office said.

In a news release, they said the funding will support a variety of projects including:

- \$40,000 for additional repairs to the hospital roof at the Minden site;
- \$142,000 for an LED lighting upgrade at the Haliburton site;
- \$425,000 to support the replacement of three existing boilers with two new high-efficiency oil-fired boilers as part of a facility energy assessment at the Haliburton site.

"These important upgrades and repairs will help our local hospital improve operations and support capacity building to ensure residents of Haliburton and surrounding areas have access to quality health care services," Scott said.

She added the new funding is in addition to the \$722,000 HHHS received through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) in one-time funding from the Ministry of Health for the 2020-2021 year.

The HIRF investment was used to replace boilers and pumps at the Minden site and replace the X-Ray and cafeteria split duct air conditioning units at the Haliburton site.

HHHS President and CEO, Carolyn Plummer, thanked the LHIN and ministry for its support.

"This recent investment supports additional infrastructure upgrades that are necessary to help support the best possible environment in which to continue providing top quality care for our patients, residents, and clients," she said.



Haliburton Lake resident, Joe Mukherjee, stands next to his Starlink installation, getting high-speed internet service using the satellite-based service. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

Devolin: more details needed

Continued from page 1

does generate pauses in live video calls.

"I hope it gets better so I can do video all day, every day," he said, adding he is optimistic with SpaceX launching more satellites in the months to come.

The service is not inexpensive. The satellite hardware is \$649, in addition to a \$129 per month and \$65 shipping to Haliburton. There are no data caps.

But for County residents waiting years for better internet service, Starlink could be a more imminent hope. The County, both independently and through its place with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), has been working on telecommunications infrastructure

projects. EORN secured \$213 million in funding last summer to improve cell coverage through Eastern Ontario. That project is going through a procurement process.

County Coun. Brent Devolin serves on the EORN board and said they are open to all technologies, including low-orbit satellites. However, he said details are still scarce on Starlink and its capacity.

"We all want connectivity. We're like in the desert and we want a glass of water," Devolin said. "The problem with some of the promotional stuff - there's been a lot of bravado and not enough detail."

Devolin told County council Nov. 25 he was excited by the proposals coming forward for EORN's cell gap

project. He said if all goes well, there would be an announcement coming in March.

But going forward, Devolin said demand for connectivity will be unlimited.

"All the available technology, going forward, we're going to need them all."

But Mukherjee said he could not wait any longer after reaching out to anyone he could about improving his service. He said it could be many years before projects such as EORN's can make a difference for him.

Starlink "is for areas like us," Mukherjee said. "Situations where it's very difficult, very expensive for the incumbents to provide a comparable service to a metropolitan area."

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Highlander news



Places for People is proposing to turn Lakeview Motel into an affordable housing development after owners Holly and John McDonald put it on the market. *File photo.*

Dysart considers plan to turn motel into housing

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council expressed concerns with a Places for People proposal to turn Lakeview Motel into a new affordable housing development.

City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) housing program supervisor, Michelle Corley, presented to council Feb. 23 about the proposal to rehabilitate the motel into 15 affordable housing units, including 12 bachelor suites. As part of the CKL-Haliburton affordable housing program, Corley sought approximately \$45,268 from Dysart in waived building fees and exemptions.

But council delayed approval for staff to review the plan further. Mayor Andrea Roberts said they only have about \$10,000 that could be used for affordable housing in the 2021 budget under economic development.

“Very large contribution. We don’t have any reserves for that,” Roberts said.

The proposal is part of an overarching Affordable Housing Target Program, spurring development with government incentives. Corley said the project is also contingent on a \$150,000 interest-free forgivable loan from the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative.

The project is separate from an affordable build Places for People is also proposing on Wallings Road municipal land, which Dysart council provided in-principal support for.

Coun. John Smith said the Wallings Road project is more aligned with the municipal vision. He said he takes issue with converting the motel, given the need for summer tourism accommodations.

“I struggle with, on a conceptual level, how this really advances the wellbeing of

our community,” Smith said.

Roberts said they cannot get into that philosophy and council’s responsibility is to examine what Dysart’s contribution should be.

The Lakeview Motel went on the market in November, with its owners planning to retire.

Coun. Larry Clarke said he was concerned about whether the development would provide for locals versus being taken up by people from outside the community through the housing program, which has a waiting list with both County and CKL residents.

“To have it targeted for people looking for affordable housing, that are not going to be part of our economy here, to me is a concern,” Clarke said.

Corley said people on the waiting list often choose communities they are familiar with, but it is not a guarantee.

She further said council should keep in mind they plan to have a quarterly intake, with more projects to come. The County aims to create 750 new affordable units within the next 10 years.

“We are really trying to work hard toward meeting and achieving these targets,” she said. “There’s the hope we can eventually have a plan within budgets or other planning and development policies that when it comes to affordable housing, there’s kind of a clear standard on what incentives could be offered.”

Roberts said she wants to get clarification from staff around the equivalent residential unit (ERU) calculation. The development is requesting an exemption for adding seven additional ERUs, amounting to \$32,900.

Council voted to receive the report. Roberts asked staff to bring it back to the next committee of the whole meeting March 9.

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HEALTH UNIT NEWS

Local vaccine update

With more COVID-19 vaccine shipments expected this week, the local public health agency will be initiating vaccination clinics for the next group to be completed under the provincial vaccine distribution plan.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU) said in a Feb. 22 media release that it is expecting to receive more than 4,500 doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week, as well another 1,700 doses of Moderna.

The Moderna vaccine will be used to provide the second dose to those residents of long-term care and high-risk retirement homes who had received their first dose last month.

The Pfizer vaccine will be used to vaccinate staff of long-term care and retirement homes, essential caregivers in those facilities, and health care workers in area hospitals. Persons receiving home and community care, as well as other members of the community who are 80 years of age and older are scheduled to be vaccinated next, possibly beginning in March.

Paid sick days

The HKPRDHU indicated its support for COVID-related paid sick days at its Feb. 18 meeting.

Acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, said the board should write the prime minister and premier asking the governments to collaborate to implement and fund policies and programs to ensure paid sick day benefits.

"Remaining at home during this

pandemic has clearly demonstrated its effectiveness at reducing the spread of COVID-19," Gemmill said.

However, he said stay-at-home orders and self-isolation are difficult for people who do not have sick benefits. He said research suggests more than 30 per cent of workers in Ontario - temporary, part-time, contract, and on-call - don't have sick day provisions.

He added some of these jobs may have high risk exposure to COVID-19. Grocery store workers, workers providing personal care to elderly, children and people with acute or chronic health conditions, and workers in delivery, hospitality, retail, food production and cleaning services have been deemed essential during this pandemic and have potential exposure to coronavirus without the protection of paid sick days, Gemmill said.

COVID call centre

Gemmill discussed how busy the HKPR COVID call centre was in 2020.

The call centre received 18,089 COVID-19 related phone calls and made 16,799 outbound calls to cases and contact, Gemmill said.

The call centre was established to support phone calls and emails for those who had questions related to COVID-19. It opened for business Feb. 4, 2020 and remains open. The purpose of the service is to: support health education; provide information; provide referrals for assessment; conduct case and contact management; provide lab results on COVID-19 to local residents; and provide medical surveillance to those needing public



The health unit in Haliburton. File.

health guidance.

"The call centre received inquiries from health care providers, schools, hospitals, long-term care homes, community agencies, correctional facilities, child care centres and the general public," Gemmill said.

He said topics included: infection prevention and control; screening and testing support of employees and the general public; masking; assessment of symptomatic children and adults; and screening and referrals for assessment.

Draft 2021 budget

Gemmill introduced a draft 2021 budget of \$20,597,756, approximately \$53,000 higher than last year.

Haliburton County has been asked to provide \$509,859 of that budget, up from \$463,508 in 2020, by provincial mandate.

The health unit receives 75 per cent of its overall funding from the Ministry of Health with Haliburton County, Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County chipping in the remaining 25 per cent.

(Board of Health news compiled by Kirk Winter)

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Auroras say Wigamog listing a 'surprise' to them

By Lisa Gervais

The owners of the Wigamog Inn in Haliburton say they have not given up on the property despite it being put on the market.

A listing has gone up for the Kashagawigamog Lake property with an asking price of \$4 million. It is being sold by agent, Rose Basir, of Royal LePage Signature Realty in Toronto. According to the listing, the property is being sold by the mortgagee in possession under power of sale.

The site is 1701 and 1741 Wigamog Rd. in Dysart et al, comprising just over 40 acres of land and 13 structures.

CEO of the Aurora Group, Ravi Aurora, told *The Highlander* on Feb. 23, there was not much he could say because of an ongoing legal battle.

However, "it was not listed with our approval and it was not put up for sale by us," he said. "We're obviously not going to take this lightly. We've been on it since the day we noticed that it even came up because it was a surprise to us, too."

"All I can say is that we'll have this all fixed in a short order of time, and then we will just pursue whatever legal avenues that we decide to go with for the repair of the situation."

Aurora said he was hopeful of updating the community as of the week of March 1.

The Auroras purchased the Wigamog

on March 3, 2016 announcing big plans for it, and the Pinestone, which they had purchased the previous year. They are also working towards a gas station, fast food outlet and convenience store on County Road 21 near the entrance to the Pinestone.

Their announced plans for the resort included reopening the inn and The Moose Bar and Grill. There was also talk of a new residential development, with 180-plus units of condos, townhouses and detached homes. However, to date, nothing has been done at the site.

Aurora said those plans have not changed but he admitted they have been slowed and it's been a challenge and "COVID hasn't helped."

He added that the situation at the Wigamog had no bearing on operations at the Pinestone, which he confirmed had come under the Choice Hotels brand. He said they had spent \$3 million there since taking it on, including roofs, the driveway, installing LED lighting, purchasing golf carts and updating golf equipment as well as new kitchen equipment. He said they next plan to renovate rooms.

He said they've had no return as of yet on that investment and ultimately, they need the revenue to drive their plans.

Informed about the listing last week, Dysart et al Mayor, Andrea Roberts, said in her opinion the sale is "good news."

"I hope it does sell and that whoever buys



The Wigamog has been placed on the market but the Aurora Group says they are working to remedy that situation. *File.*

it doesn't just let it sit and fall into further disrepair. We need a developer that can remove the old buildings which will be very costly, and create something for that property that is realistic for Haliburton and fits the needs for our area," she said.

Aurora acknowledged the Aurora Group

also has some work to do in regaining the community's trust.

"I know it's going to be a tough battle to gain that confidence again but we are very determined ... Our intentions are fully to complete and move forward with everything we have planned."



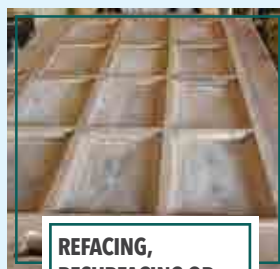
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Highlander news

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Budget approved

Council gave final approval to a 2021 budget bylaw with a 1.16 per cent increase to its portion of the tax rate at a Feb. 23 meeting.

That equates to \$3.41 on a residential assessment of \$100,000, according to treasurer Barbara Swannell.

She said the Feb. 12 increase stems from \$50,000 in additional insurance costs, \$50,000 more for brushing and added parks and recreation items totalling \$25,000.

New rail trail event

The Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) are inviting people to explore Haliburton with a new annual fall bicycle event.

FoRT chair, Pamela Marsales, pitched a "Climb, Ramble and Roll" event for the second weekend in September. She said it is a family-friendly, non-competitive biking challenge with a route that includes the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, Gould Crossing and the rail trail.

It would be FoRT's first fundraising event, with money going towards ongoing efforts to develop the rail trail as a linear park.

"An opportunity to show how routes that are in and around our community can be connected," Marsales said.

She said it would be pandemic safe, with no gatherings or contact.

Council voted to receive the report and direct staff to assist as appropriate.

"I'm sure it will be a very successful event," mayor Andrea Roberts said. "People will be looking forward to doing something fun like that in September."

Ward boundary push fails

Coun. John Smith pushed for a ward boundary review but did not get support.

Smith was the lone councillor to support the idea. Dysart's five wards have disparities, with its most populous Ward 2 (3,886) having more than twice the population of Ward 1 (1,608) and Ward 3 (1,873), according to 2018 voter population counts.

After councillors said they did not want to take it on Feb. 9, Smith said he reached out to Watson and Associates between meetings. According to Smith, the



FoRT chair Pamela Marsales. *File photo.*

electoral review consulting firm said they have dozens of reviews ongoing despite the pandemic and could complete one in Haliburton within three to four months.

"Every vote matters and every vote should be equal in value," Smith said.

But nobody else supported the idea for this year. Coun. Walt McKechnie said it should be left to the next council and there is enough business on the municipal plate.

Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts expressed

concern about the unbudgeted cost and the staff time needed.

Deputy mayor Patrick Kennedy said although he would not oppose a review, the possibility the County will push for amalgamation needs consideration.

"It isn't strictly about numbers. It is about geography, it is about culture, it is about history," Roberts said. "We have to do what's best for Dysart here and what works for our workload and staff."

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AH to set 3.89 per cent tax rate increase

By Lisa Gervais

Algonquin Highlands ratepayers will see a 4.98 per cent levy increase in 2021 following two days of council budget talks Feb. 22-23.

Treasurer Jean Hughes said it equated to a \$273,000 increase. She added that \$134,000 of that, or nearly half, is going into reserves for future projects.

On average, it amounts to about a \$12.50 per \$100,000 assessment increase for residential taxpayers, or a 3.89 per cent tax rate increase.

The township began budget discussions with a starting point of a 4.19 per cent levy hike.

However, deputy mayor Liz Danielsen said she would be comfortable with increasing the levy by a small amount to top up reserves.

“I would like to see us increase the levy ... I think we’re in a good position to be able to add another one per cent,” she said.

Hughes had earlier asked councillors to consider creating an infrastructure reserve.

She singled out adding money for the Dorset Tower (\$40,000), docks and landings (\$40,000) and the asset management plan (\$54,000) to land council where it did.

Mayor Carol Moffatt told *The Highlander*, “councillors chose to raise the levy rather than cut projects or services, and the increase wasn’t made or taken lightly. There’s a lot of growth in the county and AH is feeling the impact of that. The



Algonquin Highlands held two days of budget talks Feb. 22-23. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

community is changing quickly and we need to stay ahead of that.”

The budget will be passed via bylaw at the March 18 meeting.

Hughes added in her budget report that during the past year, the township faced many challenges due to the pandemic, including facility closures, staff layoffs (particularly for parks, recreation and trails), program cancellations for residents and training and conference cancellations for staff, some project deferrals, and various staffing vacancies for longer than anticipated.

She said as a result, the township realized a significant operating surplus at year end and it had been transferred to the various department reserves to fund future capital projects.

Hughes said the township also received an additional \$91,400 in OMPF funding for 2021 and realized reduced policing costs (two per cent) to save an additional \$23,000.

She said the 2021 budget reflects new expenditures, including hiring a communications coordinator for a one-year term at an estimated \$30,000. They’ll hire

seasonal operators for public works and maintenance, estimated at \$60,000. An added seasonal trails position to assist with increased patronage is estimated at \$30,000.

Hughes said various projects planned for landfill locations, plus increased costs for haulage, have resulted in significant increases for the waste division overall, approximately \$80,000.

The township also plans to spend \$6,000 in improvements at Elvin Johnson park and greenspace improvements and rear entrance maintenance at Oxtongue Lake Community Centre (\$7,600).

BREAKING NEWS

Just over a year ago, Haliburton County real estate watchers had only one question on their mind. What happened to Jacquie Barry?

They’d gotten used to Ken and Jacquie Barry working together – and they’d seen them both in their ads: *Out Standing in Their Field*.

But then... Jacquie was gone, and Ken was left *Out Standing in His Field* all alone. Where did Jacquie go? Had she moved to the Big City? Had she found someone else’s field to be *Out Standing* in? It turns out that with her previous work experience and Human Resources background, she was lured to a management position in the retail sector, so she said her goodbyes to real estate but not to her hubby Ken!

Fast forward...Good news: Jacquie is back in the saddle and they are reunited in real estate once again.

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Ken was born and raised in Haliburton County and has worked in real estate for over 30 years. There isn’t a lake, woodlot or backroad that Ken doesn’t know. This means he’s the perfect guy to find you the perfect buyer for your home or cottage – or scope out a great location for your dream home.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

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

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

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

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

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Address underlying drug issues

Today, our two-month *Highlander* Investigates series into drug-related issues in the County comes to an end.

For those who have not followed, it is available in *The Highlander* archives commencing January 7, 2021 (thehighlander.ca)

The installments began with a look at how the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is tackling a much more sophisticated illicit drug trade in the County. We found that 2020 saw increased drug activity as well as a number of large busts. We reported on the link between drugs and property crime over the past few years. We went on to reveal that while the OPP is aggressively targeting the activity, the courts have not been as robust as no one arrested and charged in 2020 was convicted. In fact, there were repeat offenders during the course of the year.

From there, we shifted to looking at the opioid problem locally. We discovered that COVID-19 has contributed to increased use and resulted in overdose deaths in the health unit region.

We also heard from a long-time user, who highlighted some of the challenges people who use opioids have in getting help in

our rural and regional setting. She spoke of single mothers living far down County roads struggling with issues of addiction brought on by numerous challenges, including isolation and poverty.

From there, we shifted to youth drug use, finding out that many students begin with marijuana usage prior to the legal age of 18.

We also heard from a man who has overcome a 33-year addiction to cocaine and other drugs.

Today, we look at solutions, including resources for people who use drugs and are still struggling.

Our intent was to shed light on the problem. It was to generate a conversation. It was aimed at eliminating denial. Some in this County would not want a drug problem to interfere with its promotion of the area as a clean getaway for out-of-towners, whether tourists or potential seasonal and full-time residents.

And while some would say our drug problem is no worse than any other town of our size in Ontario, or Canada, we are challenging the community to collectively want more than that. We should want change.

How does that change come about? Not

just acceptance but looking at the underlying issues.

Our County is somewhat unique in that we have people living in multi-million-dollar homes and cottages on waterfronts while others live in poverty, in ramshackle homes down County backroads. Talk to service agencies, including food banks, and they can attest to some of the deplorable conditions. This is driven by a number of factors, but part of the problem is attributable to an economy that creates not enough well-paying jobs, or too many seasonal jobs. Cycles of poverty go hand-in-hand with depression and despondency which can lead a person to self-medicate.

We hope the public has read the stories of people such as Anne and John Buffalo Killen and come away with more empathy. And we hope that those in positions of power and policy-makers have made notes.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

Countering 'vaccine alarmism'

It is reassuring that on the COVID-19 Government of Canada vaccine safety data page there remains 957 total adverse events (0.078 per cent) out of the 1,221,539 total doses administered. Of those, 817 (0.067 per cent) of total doses were non-serious.

Continued safety monitoring of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in the US confirmed that severe allergic reaction following vaccination is a rare event, with rates between 2.7 and 4.7 cases per million. When compared to the hospitalization and death rates from COVID-19, the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risk of anaphylaxis, which is treatable with immediate administration of epinephrine.

So, the benefit of vaccines outweighs the potential risks. And there are no side effects that come close to the effects of COVID-19. Yet we are hearing a lot of myths, nonetheless. Here are some of the more common ones circulating.

MYTH: The vaccines were rushed and so we do not know if they are safe.

TRUTH: There were no skipped steps to producing these vaccines. Rapid does not mean rushed. How did we get these vaccines so quickly? Because there has been unprecedented collaboration and investment from governments and specialists around the world. Also, these vaccines were produced during a pandemic, meaning tens of thousands of patients were available to provide data. Normally it would take years to accumulate the needed

cases to evaluate whether a vaccine is safe and whether it works. Instead, more than 70,000 patients were studied over a few months in randomized controlled trials (RCTs), the gold standard for establishing safety and effectiveness data for vaccines and medications.

All the components in the vaccines are tested in multiple steps to be sure all ingredients are safe and are in the correct amount. The manufacturing has constant oversight to ensure consistent high quality of every ingredient.

MYTH: The vaccines can change DNA.

TRUTH: The current vaccines using messenger RNA cannot turn into DNA or communicate with your DNA. What mRNA does is give the instructions to the body to make a protein that is part of the virus. This has no relation to your own genetic code (DNA).

MYTH: There is no point in getting the vaccine because we still have to wear a mask and stay six feet apart anyway.

TRUTH: The evidence so far suggests that a full dose of the vaccine and the recommended waiting period after the second shot effectively eliminates risk of death from COVID-19, nearly eliminates the risk of hospitalization and drastically reduces an individual's ability to infect someone else.

MYTH: The vaccines cause infertility.

TRUTH: As per the lead scientists with the WHO, there is no vaccine that can cause

infertility.

MYTH: COVID-19 vaccine can give you COVID-19.

TRUTH: No, it cannot. But it could save your life.

MYTH (maybe): A vaccinated person might still be able to infect someone else.

TRUTH: It is possible to become infected even after you are vaccinated, but just as with any other vaccine, the illness you would then experience would be very mild. In the case of COVID-19, that would be similar to having a mild cold. The scientific evidence indicates that a vaccinated person has a very small chance of infecting someone else with a severe case of COVID.

Right now, we are at a critical stage in winning this fight. We need to use all our tools in our toolbox: Double mask, stay six feet apart, avoid groups indoors, sanitize until your hands are raw and do not let the virus hop a ride with you because that gives it a chance to mutate, spread faster and become deadlier. Now is not the time to take your foot off the pedal.

Tell your friends and family that your doctor is looking forward to getting her vaccine. It is safe. It is highly effective against serious disease. And it may save your life.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION? Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Bravo COVID corner

Dear editor,

Responding to the piece written by Dr. Nell Thomas on "Understanding the variants." (Covid Corner, Feb. 18 issue). Bravo. Dr. Thomas clearly, and refreshingly, explains the science of COVID-19 and updates us on vaccines. This information seems to get buried in the daily, constant media reports that seem to focus on bad behaviour and argument. Perhaps we could focus on using common sense and consideration for others as we adjust to practising new habits during this evolving time. Love your paper.

Lynne Panzini
Paudash Lake/Ajax

COVID and curbside

Dear editor,

I'm an avid subscriber to your online publication which I find very enlightening and thoroughly enjoy reading. We are very familiar with Haliburton as our brother and sister-in-law have a residence there.

I recently wrote a letter to the CBC and our local newspaper, *The North Bay Nugget*, about seniors and technology challenges with COVID curbside ordering.

It seems we have to rely on our cell phones for our day-to-day dealings as it seems more and more people are getting rid of their landlines.

Perhaps your readers share the same situations/problems I've experienced. Curbside shopping seems to be ongoing for us and may not let up if our COVID numbers continue to rise. I'm getting the sense people are fed up (granted), however we must abide by our medical health unit's guidelines or we'll be faced with dire consequences. We must social-distance and not venture out of our regions/homes etc. People don't get it. They think they can do whatever they want and not adhere to what must be done. Stay home.

Craig Anderson
North Bay

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Phil Carrol took this photo of a barred owl at Beech Lake.



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 news

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ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Arts centre foundation seeks support

Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation president, Daniel Manley, is making his rounds of all five municipalities seeking letters of support for grant applications.

He attended the Feb. 18 Algonquin Highlands council meeting, and the Feb. 24 County council meeting.

The foundation is seeking to build a 350-500 seat main performance hall; a black box studio with 150 seats; and lobby space with concession and liquor service.

Manley said the arts community has outgrown its existing spaces. He said it would complement the area's current growth, and help the economy by attracting full-time residents and businesses. He added a new centre could entice "Casino Rama-style" events.

He said this year they plan to continue community outreach; fundraise for an estimated \$75,000 for a feasibility study and business plan and get letters of support and apply for grants from places such as the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canadian Heritage, and OMAFRA.

"We don't want to go into this blind. We definitely want to see if this is feasible to build? Will this actually work or will it just be collecting dust?" he said.

Both councils gave the foundation a general letter of support. Manley is speaking to Minden Hills council Feb. 25.

Surveillance cameras discussed

County director of IT, Mike March, presented a report on surveillance cameras for the township.

March recommended a system for the Stanhope administration office to monitor the public entrance and reception area in the event there should be an incident compromising the security of the public and, or staff.

He suggested two cameras, with an option to expand to eight. He said signage should be installed on the exterior wall next to the main entranceway. He added the system would cost the township \$3,000.

CAO Angie Bird said it's a good idea "because we've had a number of incidents. It has unnerved staff. That feeling doesn't go away completely. The world is changing. This will just build on the health and safety aspects we're starting to already put in place," she said.

Councillors indicated they liked the idea and it was scheduled to be discussed during budget talks Feb. 22-23.

Septic reinspection plans

Council voted to complete inspections not done in 2020 in this year's septic reinspection program, as well as making the planned 2021 properties voluntary for this year.

Greg Moore of the building and bylaw



AH Council met via Zoom Feb. 18. Pictured is Mayor Carol Moffatt pre-COVID. File.

enforcement department said contractor, WSP Canada, has indicated that despite COVID-19 it hopes to complete the five-year program within a five-year timeframe. He added that so far there had been no cost-overruns.

Deputy mayor Liz Danielsen was the one who recommended blending two of the proposed options.

Mayor Carol Moffatt said, "we have made the commitment to see this through so I don't disagree that if we could do a little bit of both that might help us move along a little bit."

Council must also still finalize details for this year's virtual septic social, which the majority of councillors want.

New chief not worried about closure

Although council passed a motion deeming the pending closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst "irresponsible and short-sighted" while asking for reconsideration, its new fire chief, Michael French, said he is confident that other options can fill the void.

French said there had been no consultation and the decision came as a surprise. He added it will impact them as it was an opportunity for local firefighters to get low-cost training and socialize with peers.

However, he said he was told during a Feb. 18 webinar there will be more opportunities for training within the local area "which is good."

"I think we can feel quite comfortable based on what I've seen so far here for Algonquin Highlands. We're very well prepared."

He said existing County training is probably better than what is offered at the college. Other options could include partnering with Lake of Bays in Huntsville.

"I think we're in very good position if it (the college) isn't saved."

Moffatt said she had been concerned about cost implications but felt reassured by French's opinion.

Ski trail news

Council endorsed a request for a memorial plaque for Mike Temple at the Frost Centre ski trails.

It came after a letter from Stella Neilson on behalf of other volunteers.

Neilson said Temple, along with his wife, Rossene, helped with others to work at the trails. Neilson said a similar honour had been bestowed on Ted Koehler.

"We would like to place a similar memorial to Mike beside Ted's."

Director of parks, recreation and trails, Chris Card, also told council the trails are now an official training trail for the Canadian Ski Marathon which is being hosted virtually this season. In addition, he said ski revenue was up 418 per cent this January compared to last year.

Household hazardous waste days

Council also green-lighted the household hazardous waste days for the coming year. They will be held on:

- May 22 at the Maple Lake Landfill 1-4:30 p.m.
 - June 26 at the Dorset Transfer Station 1-4:30 p.m.
 - September 11 (Labour Day weekend) at the Dorset Transfer Station 1-4:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 7 at the Oxtongue Lake Landfill 1-4:30 p.m.
 - Oct. 9. (Thanksgiving weekend) at the Maple Lake Landfill 1-4:30 p.m.
- (Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

Highlander business

WORKING MOMS

There are a small number of stay-at-home moms in Haliburton County who combine raising children and running a business. Carolyn Alder speaks with some of them.

Having it all by changing the expectation

By Carolyn Alder

In a corner of Sarah Matusiak's home is a small desk with Rubbermaid bins stacked underneath full of wool and needles for knitting and crocheting. One could say this is Matusiak's office, however the young mom of two boys says most of her creating is done elsewhere.

"Knitting and crocheting is the most accessible. I can knit when I have a newborn nursing or sitting with my boys. I can pick it up, do a few stitches and put it down again. In the summer, I actually take my knitting outside with me while the boys play in the sandbox or I'll knit while we go for walks."

Matusiak smiles as she recalls how she learned the art of knitting. She says her grandmother taught her to knit a scarf when she was seven by using green plastic needles.

"It's a very special memory I hold very dear. My mom taught me to crochet when I was nine. But it wasn't until 2007 when I started really getting serious about knitting and crocheting and wanting to learn different styles."

Matusiak moved from Ottawa to Minden with her husband in 2016 when her firstborn son was an infant.

“We came here so my husband could work with the family business, Gull River Plumbing. I sold my business, a paint your own ceramics store called Mud Oven. Being a businessowner with a storefront is all-consuming. I had to choose between the business or being home with my son so I chose my son. It freed us up to move out of the city which was something we always wanted to do.”

Matusiak says she started her Etsy shop, Rainbow LuxeDesigns, to help offset the cost of the materials to do what she loves.

“Art has always been my thing. It’s something I feel very passionate about. When I go too long without being able to create, I don’t feel like myself. I love to knit. There is something special when someone makes something, you can feel the love in it.”

Matusiak says she mostly sells accessories, such as hats and headbands at the moment even though she's mostly drawn to creating sweaters and other garments.

"I have all these designs in my head but not a lot of time to really make them happen because they take a while."

Matusiak says her two sons are her main focus, especially since she is home schooling her oldest this year.



Sarah Matusiak and her children out for a walk in the woods. *Photo submitted.*

“They always come first so that’s why it would take me six months to build up stock (for the online store). I feel like it’s a matter of accepting it’s not necessarily going to be

what in my mind how big I want it to be, it just has to be what it is now. I think we can have it all if we are willing to change the expectation.”



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Highlander environment

EH! packs them in for lake algae bloom talk

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Environment Haliburton! (EH) attracted hundreds of people Feb. 9 for a discussion on blue-green algae blooms.

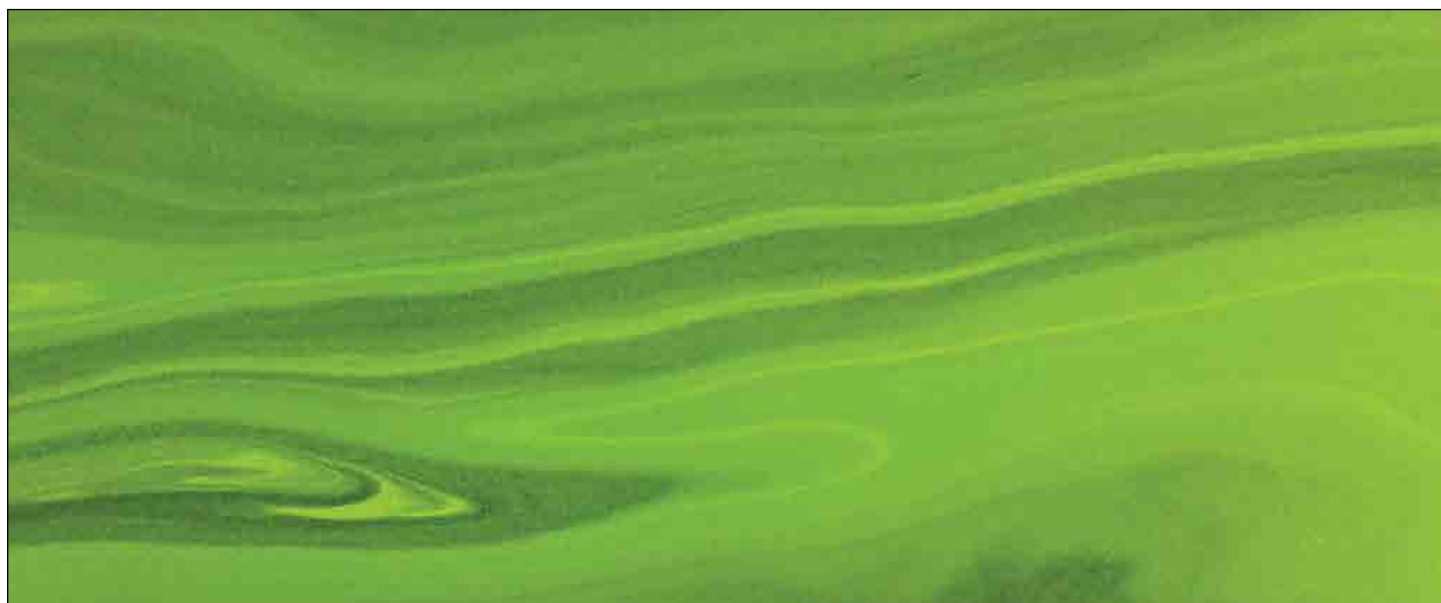
Dr. Elizabeth Favot, an assistant lake stewardship coordinator with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, spoke to blooms and her research into how they form. The discussion also featured additional commentary from ecosystem management professor, Barb Elliott, and environmental scientist Dr. Norman Yan. Approximately 300 people registered for the session.

Favot said blooms can be caused by several factors, including nutrient runoff such as phosphorus reaching lakes, shifting lake levels and climate change. She said more research is needed to account for some lakes experiencing blooms without many changes in nutrient levels.

"Nutrients are of course critically important to support blooms, but in terms of the drivers or triggers, they are not always the entire story," Favot said.

The presentation comes after the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks confirmed blue-green algae blooms in six Haliburton lakes last fall, though none showed toxin levels above the drinking water standard. However, Favot said a precautionary approach is normally used to assume they are producing toxins given some uncertainty around what conditions lead to toxins.

The presentation highlighted every aspect of blue-green algae, more technically



Environment Haliburton! hosted a discussion on blue-green algae blooms which attracted hundreds of people. *File photo.*

known as cyanobacteria. Favot discussed how blooms are becoming increasingly common in Ontario and how they can create toxins that are potentially deadly if consumed.

Favot said although nutrient runoff is a significant factor, there are other reasons for the increase, such as climate change causing temperature and conditional changes in lakes which can help blue-green algae thrive. Her doctorate examined the causes of blooms in the approximately 26 per cent of lakes globally with a low phosphorus concentration.

"Even if nutrients have not increased, blooms can still occur in a modern climate,"

Favot said. "Climate change is lowering critical nutrient thresholds for blue-green algae blooms to occur."

But Favot said from a management perspective, people should utilize terrestrial plants to filter nutrient runoff.

"What we can do to mitigate them is relatively straightforward," Favot said. "We need to keep nutrient concentrations in lakes as natural as possible."

Elliott agreed. Speaking to a question about the importance of natural shorelines, Elliott compared shorelines to a Jenga game, and how taking away natural parts from shorelines repeatedly can make them unstable.

"I liken it to death by a thousand cuts," Elliott said. "When we make those changes, it just creates the potential for there to be more impacts because of that activity. We have to try to keep it as natural as we can."

Although about 300 people registered, only 100 people watched live due to technical issues with Zoom, the online platform used.

"It is a shame there was a wrinkle in our Zoom plans," EH! President Susan Hay said. "I'm sorry for those who joined late because you couldn't get in earlier."

The full presentation is available on the EH Youtube channel.

Planet Haliburton delves into eco-socialism

By Lisa Gervais

Ecosocialism and the Green Party of Canada is the topic for the next Planet Haliburton.

Terry Moore said the CanoeFM show will feature Dimitri Lascaris on Feb. 25, from 6-7 p.m. and be rebroadcast Feb. 27, 7-8 a.m.

"This episode of Planet Haliburton features a conversation about eco-socialism, COVID-19, climate emergencies and the Green Party of Canada," said Moore.

Moore added that two of the eight candidates to replace Elizabeth May as Green Party leader in the fall of 2020

campaigned as eco-socialists. One of those candidates, Lascaris, finished a close second to the winner, Annamie Paul, on the eighth and final ballot, with 42 per cent of the vote.

In this conversation, Moore said he and Lascaris will discuss what eco-socialism is, how it factored into the leadership campaign, as well as what it may mean for the future of the Green Party of Canada.

Planet Haliburton episodes can be streamed off the CanoeFM website (canoeFM.com/planet-haliburton/) and downloaded from all major podcast platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



Terry Moore hosts Planet Haliburton. *File photo.*



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Highlander investigates

New addictions clinic arrives in the Highlands

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has partnered to bring rapid access addictions treatment closer to home.

HHHS launched a new Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic through its mental health services offices in Minden, starting as a one-month trial Dec. 1 and continued into the new year. It offers quick access to treatment for those dealing with substance abuse, primarily alcohol and opioids.

A RAAM clinic was previously available to locals in Peterborough since 2018, on a drop-in basis. But HHHS mental health services program manager, Beverlee Groves-Foley, said the distance proved too difficult for some.

"We've had many clients that needed the service but could not transport to Peterborough," Groves-Foley said. "There's no public transit and it's quite costly to get people there ... And so, with the increased need in the community, we want to ensure the community had access."

The service is available two half-days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in partnership with Fourcast Addiction Services and the Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC). Support workers are available, as well as an addictions specialist at the PRHC through telemedicine. The clinic uses a harm reduction model and can offer assessments, opioid substitution

therapy, counselling, and withdrawal management, with follow-ups arranged with primary care providers. Self-referrals are accepted.

"Our clients locally will be able to get a better, more comprehensive level of support in that area," HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer told her board Jan. 28. "We're happy to have it available locally."

Groves-Foley said RAAM is typically a drop-in model so people can access the support whenever they are ready. But for now, they are scheduling appointments to arrange transportation.

"Transportation is such a challenge for most people," Groves-Foley said. "The goal would be eventually having a drop-in model, but we'll have to see how that works in Haliburton County."

The clinic has been working well so far, she said. She added that there may be a perception it is mostly for opioid users, but most people using the clinic are doing so for alcohol.

"Alcohol is a large challenge for many people which affects their lives," she said. "We do see a lot of clients that are looking to reduce their use."

Groves-Foley said the hope would be to eventually have a space for it at the Haliburton hospital as well.

"It's been a long time coming and I'm so pleased that it's here," she said.

People can contact HHHS mental health services at 705-286-4575.



Haliburton Highlands Health Services has started a new addictions clinic in Minden.
File photo.

INFORMATION PAGE

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden ON K0M 2K0 Phone: 705-286-1260
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Summer Student Employment Opportunities

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

Both positions are for a 16 week period from May to August with the rate of pay being \$14.25/hour, pending 2021 budget and grant funding approval.

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

RFR# RDS 21-02 Aggregate and Material Rates

The Township is seeking bids for aggregate and material rates for a four (4) year term (2021-2024).

The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/tenders for more information or to download the Request for Rates documents.

Landfill Access Passes

Landfill Access Passes for Minden Hills residents will be distributed in the Spring Interim Tax Bill. Please ensure you open your bill and save your Landfill Access Pass. If you have already received your tax bill, please watch for a second mailing containing your access cards.

Waste Reduction Tip

Take the "pantry challenge"! Find creative recipes on the internet to use up staples in the cupboard before you go shopping.

A Message from the Fire Department

On a cold winter day, the last thing you want is for your furnace to stop working. Unfortunately, furnaces can malfunction when they're needed most, simply because the vent is blocked with snow, ice, or frost. There is a good reason why many furnaces shut off when their vents are blocked – it's a built-in safety mechanism. Without proper ventilation, carbon monoxide can build up inside the house, the consequences of which can, at worst, be fatal. As a result, many furnace manufacturers design their units so that they shut off automatically when the vent becomes blocked.

Check on your furnace vent during and after heavy snowfalls, and clear snow away from the vent's opening if it builds up. If you do notice a mound of snow blocking your furnace vent, clear it away by hand – don't use a shovel or a snow blower, as either could cause damage to the furnace vent pipe.

Notice – 2021 Budget Deliberations

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 5th Round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Regular Meeting of Council via web conference scheduled for February 25, 2021.

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

(Virtual) Council Meetings

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

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

February 25 - Regular Council Meeting

February 25 - 2021 5th Draft Budget Deliberations

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.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process.

Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

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

Highlander investigates

County has 'invisible army' offering support

Continued from page 1

"We need five Andrew (Hodsons). We need to have a whole, big-structured approach. We need more and more support within the community, so it's not reliant on one, fantastic employee," Veitch said.

Veitch highlighted the provincial government's promise of \$3.8 billion over 10 years toward mental health. But he said finances are an issue locally – with no baseline funding or cost of living adjustment for nine years.

He said that \$3.8 billion should go beyond just hospital settings and larger centres, adding those in positions of power might not understand how much distance can make accessing care difficult.

"Sometimes think, 'oh well, Haliburton County, we got a support out there. They're in Wilberforce, they can get to Minden'," he said. "Not realizing that's a heck of a hike if you don't have a car.

"Let's make sure these dollars are rolled out in community mental health care in our rural communities, where the need is clearly there," Veitch added.

Unifying care

Minden's Dr. Nell Thomas said the pandemic has brought increased struggle for her patients dealing with addictions. She said the impact on drug supply lines has made people turn to more dangerous substances.

She further said with rural doctors dealing with COVID, there is not as much time to address addiction.

"I know that a couple of my patients that I was holding their hand and maybe inching toward them getting to rehab, I have not seen in (months)," Thomas said. "We all know those folks with addictions are suffering and being lost."

But Thomas does have a vision for a solution. She said current care approaches are often too siloed and collaboration can be difficult in a rural setting. She said if the funding existed, she would like to build a new local medical centre that could bring more providers under one roof, improving ease of access. She further said a stronger, team-based method is necessary.

"I attend conferences and I see just how many different organizations and agencies exist. I'm floored at all the different acronyms," she said. "Spits and spurts and not a truly cohesive approach. My vision would be to have a team, representing

social work, counselling, crisis, medicine, nursing, public health. I have patients that are going into (emergency rooms) far too often."

But she said the funding is not there for such a thing, particularly given Haliburton's relatively low population. As is, she said it is difficult connecting people with different treatment options.

"Very frustrating for the doctors, in general, trying to get resources for patients because of the waitlists," she said. "Because of the hoops you have to jump to get people connected is time-consuming and frustrating."

Marg Cox is the executive director of Point in Time and sits on the CKL and Haliburton County Poverty Reduction Roundtable. She said there are some links to the stresses of poverty and substance abuse, though added drug abuse impacts people of all economic circumstances.

"We know that people that are experiencing poverty are experiencing huge stressors in terms of daily living and trying to pay their rent, put food on the table," Cox said. "Throw COVID on top of it and we know folks are under a great deal of pressure. And we know that when people are under pressure, they're more likely to turn to substances."

She said the issues creating poverty – which the roundtable focuses on – would have downstream impacts on substance abuse as well.

"There would be a very good reduction in terms of substance use if people had adequate incomes, adequate housing, good food to eat and less stress related to poverty," Cox said.

Help in the legal system

Thomas said she believes in a "carrot, not the stick" method when dealing with substance abuse in the justice system.

"You can lay charges around in circles. You can have a very short-term response to that, but you're not going to have a long-term solution by using legal means. It's really about providing alternatives and space and realistic options for people."

Veitch and Hodson both echoed the sentiment. However, they highlighted the successful collaborations they have with police and the justice system for court diversion, intervening to help those struggling with mental health or addiction issues.



Four-County Crisis case manager, Andrew Hodson, said drugs in Haliburton are a "harrowing landscape" and he needs more help in his role. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

"We're there ready in the court system," Hodson said. "As opposed to a fine or some sort of punishment, we can encourage that person to engage with addictions support, engage with mental health support ... I've stood in court beside people – literally – after six months of help. And speaking to the judge on behalf of their own recovery, these are powerful, powerful moments where people have recounted their gratitude for having an opportunity to turn things around."

Veitch said punitive measures have not been an historically successful way to stop repeat offences.

"How can we still create this level of accountability and reduce recidivism?" Veitch said. "It's creating all these fantastic court partnership programs, where there's still a level of accountability for the offender. But there's also a level of treatment and care and support."

Beyond the need for increased resources, Hodson said it is vital that the community care for those suffering from addiction.

"We need to develop something for

Haliburton, from Haliburton," he said. "I ask people, 'what on earth got you through that (addiction)?' What I hear, it's not what you'd expect. You hear things like, 'my Mom never stopped loving me. My probation officer, ladies at the food bank, always treated me with dignity. Never made me feel like a second-class citizen.'

"That is everything. We can build all the buildings and develop all the medications we want to develop. If we don't have that community that makes people feel loved – and there's a place on the table waiting for them – I don't know where we go."

But he said there are plenty of people in Haliburton – from police to churches to human services to parents – ready to lend a helping hand.

"Are we perfect? Of course not, but there is an invisible army of people in this County offering their support," he said. "I've seen so many remarkable cases of recovery in this community and it's heart warming. Those stories just don't make the headlines, but they are out there."

Addictions resources

- Four County Crisis: 24-hour, free, confidential crisis support. 705-745-6484, toll free 1-866-995-9933, cmhahkpr.ca/programs-services/four-county-crisis/
- Connex Ontario: Information and referrals for addictions and mental health services. 1-866-531-2600, connexontario.ca
- FourCast: A community-based addictions treatment provider with an office in the County – 1-800-461-1901 or fourcast.ca
- CMHA HKPR – Provides mental health services throughout the four-county area including Haliburton. - 705-748-6687, info@cmhahkpr.ca
- John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and

- Haliburton: A non-profit, multi-service organization working with at-risk youth and adults - 705-328-0472, johnhoward.on.ca/kawartha
- Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic: Expedited, barrier-free treatment and counselling for those struggling with addiction. – Available Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Minden Mental Health Services Office, 705-286-4575.
- Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre: Methadone treatment, with a Haliburton clinic available. 1-877-937-2282, oatc.ca
- Victoria and Haliburton Alcoholics Anonymous: A fellowship where members share recovery experiences,

- providing support to anyone with a drinking or drug problem. 705-745-6111, district82aa.org
- HKPR District Health Unit: Provides free harm reduction supplies and resources for health and addictions – 1-886-888-4577, hkpr.on.ca
- PARN (Peterborough AIDS Resource Network): Provides free harm reduction supplies – 705-559-6328, parn.ca/harm-reduction/
- Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents – Identifies needs and provides support services, including counselling, for youth and parents. 705-457-3492, pointintime.ca.

Highlander sports

Hockey storming back after second lockdown

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Highland Storm returned to the ice Feb. 19 to begin a second session after withstanding another pandemic-induced lockdown.

The Storm announced an eight-week session Feb. 17, running until April 17. It will use a similar format to the one done in the fall, with enforced health protocols and teams only made up of local players, with no travel.

Storm president, Jason Morissette, said more than 90 per cent of players and families from the first session were willing to play again.

"It's a good opportunity to get out and be able to do something they've been away from for a while during the lockdown," Morissette said. "Outlet for the kids to be able to go exercise and do something that's fun."

The continuation is possible due to the district being an "orange" zone, midway within the province's COVID-19 response framework. With that comes a new protocol that only one person may accompany a player to watch, though people can still help their children get dressed before leaving for the duration of the game or practice. People from outside the district's health unit also cannot enter the arena.

"We're going to follow all of the safety measures we did in the first session, which went well," Morissette said.

Still, the remainder of the season is in a precarious position. If cases spike and the district get moved to a "red" zone or back into lockdown, hockey would be disallowed. Morissette said that will probably mean the end to the season, even if restrictions were lifted afterwards.

"The logistics of it would be very challenging," Morissette said.

At coaches' request, Morissette said the organization will do more four-on-four play as well where possible, instead of only three-on-three.



The Highland Storm returned to the ice Feb. 19 after a hiatus due to the lockdown. *File photo.*

"Allow more kids to be on the ice each shift, rather than kids waiting on the bench," he said.

"It represents a little bit more of a challenge to the players that are sort of higher skillsets."

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association recognized the efforts of its volunteers to keep the game going in the pandemic as

part of its Thank A Volunteer Week running Feb. 22-28.

"Volunteers all over the province have found new and creative ways to offer some form of hockey," executive director, Ian Taylor, said. "It speaks to the love they have for our game and the benefits it provides our children."

Morissette said it is worthwhile to help

youth mental health, which the pandemic has taken its toll on. He urged the community to follow protocols to minimize risks and keep the season going.

"We're excited kids do get the chance to get back onto the ice," he said. "The number one priority is trying to keep everybody healthy and safe."

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Highlander sports

Haliburton curlers return to the rings

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

County curlers are rocking the ice again as the Haliburton Curling Club reopened its doors Feb. 17 for its first session since the Dec. 26 lockdown.

The club ran for several weeks in November and December with a limited slate of approximately 100 curlers, three nights a week, with COVID safety restrictions in place. It is the only curling club in the County which is operating amidst the pandemic.

But the lockdown put a premature halt on the winter 2020-2021 schedule. Still, president, Kent Milford, said they were able to carry on with the lockdown lifted.

"The only comment we've heard is people are just glad they've got an opportunity to get out and do something," Milford said. "Relieve some of the boredom and stress and other things we've all faced over the last year."

The sport is not the same this year. Health precautions mean the social gathering aspect cannot be as robust. Travelling for bonspiels is also out. The lockdown also forced a schedule change, though Milford said they reorganized it by picking up

where they left off.

"No one's overly concerned this year in making sure we have an even schedule or even some sort of competitive schedule," Milford said. "It's just to get some exercise, have some fun, have a little bit of social activity."

Board director, Wanda Stephen, said the first day back went well.

"There was a great, big, sigh of relief from the crowd that was here, saying, 'Yay, we made it'," Stephen said. "Because there are a lot of clubs that didn't reopen."

Milford said the club is in a financially stable position. But a major fundraiser – the Haliburton Home and Cottage Show – was cancelled in 2020 and is doubtful again for 2021.

"Our strategy is we're preparing for a show, so if we can have one, the logistics are in place," Milford said. "It is difficult for me to see how we can have a show this year with the number of people we would normally have."

The club was allowed to curl thanks to the district staying in an "orange" zone under provincial COVID-19 protocol. But if case numbers worsen in the district, pushing that colour to "red" or "gray," the club would have to halt.



Curlers returned to the rink at the Haliburton Curling Club. *Photo submitted.*

"Just hoping we can make it to the end of April without any shutdowns," Stephen said.

Milford said the curling sessions have remained COVID-safe, with no cases associated with the rink. He said they will follow whatever public health asks of them

– and members are willing to work through those hurdles.

"Curling is really an integral part of the community," Milford said. "As long as we can keep them safe, and they wanted to do that, then we felt it was important to continue."



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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.

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 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. 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

HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT?
Contact admin@thehighlander.ca



A winter's brew

Aiden McKnight and Stephen McNulty have a drink by a fire pit outside Haliburton Highlands Brewing Feb. 20. The business dug out three of the pits in the snow. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

T-shirt sales support local food bank

By Carolyn Allder

The Haliburton food bank recently received a \$1,000 donation thanks to two local moms and some black T-shirts.

Kirsten Rae and Kelly Kay, the KayRae real estate team with Century 21, started selling support your local girl gang T-shirts last month with all proceeds going to the food bank.

We were thinking of ways to raise money that would be COVID safe but still effective, Rae said. We came up with T-shirts. It's something that would be fun and people would like.

Rae said the initial response was overwhelming and the first order of the black T-shirts sold out a few days after the campaign started. More have since been made and are being shipped.

The 'support your local girl gang' is a fun take-off of the slogan babes supporting babes, Rae said.

T-shirts with uplifting messages are popular right now, she said, and 'support your local girl gang' signifies "supporting a local charity, using local realtors and supporting local businesses, Rae said.

Kay added they chose to focus on donating to the Haliburton food bank because of the local need.

With COVID we feel a lot of people may be out of work, so the food bank may have a higher number of people using it than in the past.

Rae said they plan to donate the next thousand dollars raised to the Minden food bank.

To get a shirt, go to kayraerealestate.ca



Kelly Kay, Judy MacDuff and Kirsten Rae. Photo by Carolyn Allder.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to editor@thehighlander.ca



BUSINESS ADVISORIES | COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

Transat Travel – Temporarily closed, please contact Transat Travel Peterborough 705-748-5750 or email Jill or Marj at pcchc@transat.com.

Cordell Carpet – Open with limited numbers and back to regular hours Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 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/store-location/haliburton. Offering curbside pickup and rentals as well as online sales at algonquinoutfitters.com or call 1-705-457-3737.

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 takeout. 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 pickup and drop off. Call 705-645-1175.

The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre – Open for appointments Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. call or text 705-457-4673 to schedule your appointment.

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.

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.

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 – We have cautiously reopened following protocols, however appointments are encouraged Monday to Friday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday 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 – Our doors are back open with Covid protocols in place. As always, we offer curbside and virtual shopping. Call or email 705-

286-3167 or info@riverview-furniture.com

Wintergreen Maple – Open by chance, appointment and curbside. We are open all weekends (retail only) in March & April 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 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 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 – Open Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Still offering online shopping, curbside pick-up, delivery. Contact lockside.com or shop@lockside.com or call 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-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 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 – We are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Online shopping at haliburton-spa.com.

Country Magic – Open under strict provincial guidelines. Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eco-Choice Pest Control – Open for curbside pickup only or virtual browsing at info@ecochoicepestcontrol.ca or call 705-457-1500.

Northern Expressions – Open for in-store shopping, Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Bernstein's & FedEx – Pickup and drop off – Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday call 705-457-1777 for your shopping needs.

Rails End Gallery – Open for in-person visits and shopping. Wednesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Next Exhibition opens February 27 with a Zoom reception and timed viewing in person. railsendgallery.com



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or call 705-457-6670



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires four (4) Seasonal Flagperson/Labourers

The successful applicant will have experience in traffic control and be able to perform heavy manual labour duties in an outside environment.

The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$17.65.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 7, 2021.

*We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.*



Township of Algonquin Highlands Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

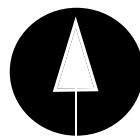
We are seeking to fulfill the following positions;

- One (1) Seasonal Trail Technician/By-law Officer
- Two (2) Seasonal Student Trail Technicians
- One (1) Stewardship Youth Ranger Team Lead
- Four (4) Stewardship Youth Rangers

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

Please submit your resume and cover letter by
3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 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



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At the Royal Canadian Legion, Haliburton, Ontario

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The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires an ENGINEERING STUDENT
For the period of April 19th to August 27th

The successful applicant must be currently attending a civil engineering program, proficient with Microsoft Office Suite, familiar with Total Station Surveys, ArcGIS, AutoCAD and have a valid G drivers licence. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required.

The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$22.03.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 7, 2021.

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

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

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

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Carmen Otto Lee

(Life member of North Entrance Masonic Lodge # 463, Haliburton)

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, in his 93rd year.

Beloved husband of Dolores (nee Sisson) for 64 years. Dear father Joan Stethem (John), Carol Lee, Jim Lee (Lorraine) and Joe Lee (Aileen). Loving poppa to Robert (Melissa), Richard (Madie), Carmen (Matt), Mathias, Isaac, Connor, Shannon and great poppa to Amelia and Elsie. Predeceased by his brother Roy Rowbotham. Uncle to Barry (Kyna), JT (Heidi) and Lexie (Evan). Fondly remembered by his family and friends.

A Private Family Visitation and Service was held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Monday, February 22, 2021. A Celebration Graveside Interment Service and Masonic Service will take place in the spring at the Essonville Cemetery, Essonville.

Memorial Donations to the Parkinson Canada or to the Extendicare Proud Pioneers would be appreciated by the family.



Thank you

On behalf of our family we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the staff at Highland Wood, Dr. Heyes and Dr. Gilmore for the wonderful care that you have provided in caring for our dad, Ray Sisson.

He was the last one in a long era and will be missed deeply.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone

- The Sisson family

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1	G	I	L	D	S		6	P	A	Z		9	S	C	R	A		
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Oh, You Beast!

by Barbara Olson

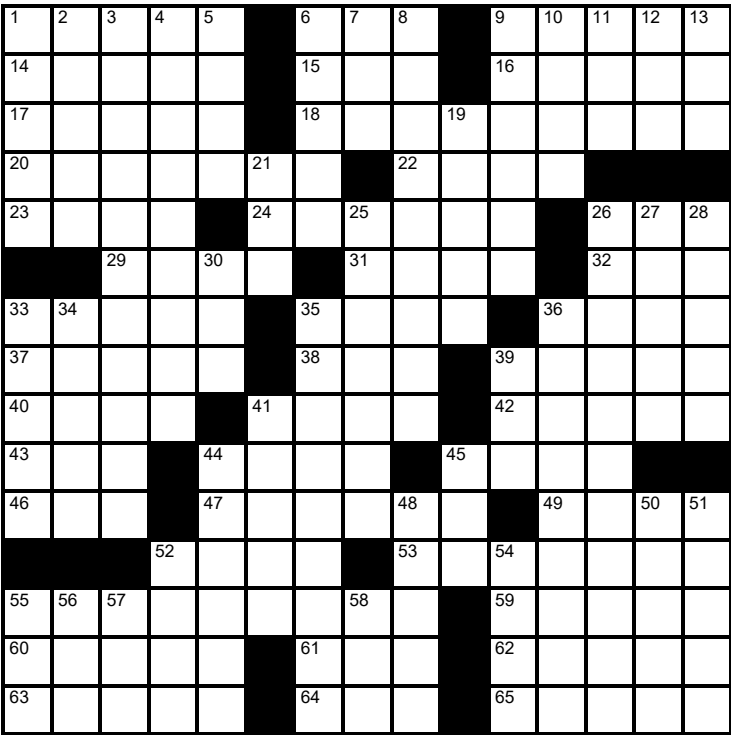
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 ___ the lily (adorns unnecessarily)
- 6 La ___, Bolivia
- 9 "Take a hike!"
- 14 France's longest river
- 15 Big British record label
- 16 19th c. author Virginia
- 17 "We're ___ own now"
- 18 Stupidly stubborn
- 20 Flies by the seat of one's pants
- 22 Go-getter's feeling
- 23 Principal bldgs.?
- 24 Metallic blue
- 26 Past its shelf life
- 29 Engrave a gravestone
- 31 Mirror-cracking
- 32 "___ Mine" (George Harrison book)
- 33 The Honeydrippers' "___ Love"
- 35 Halloween prankster's projectiles
- 36 Some diag. scans
- 37 Works by painter Emily
- 38 "___ willikers!"
- 39 Mountain's "backbone"
- 40 Kitchen extension?
- 41 Classical guitarist Lina
- 42 Spam container, perhaps
- 43 Victoria to Vancouver dir.
- 44 Bitty bit
- 45 Mouth-puckering
- 46 Mountain in B.C.'s Sun Peaks Ski Resort
- 47 In the centre of
- 49 Room in "una casa"
- 52 Seeing things, in poetry?
- 53 G'day sayers
- 55 Moving very stealthily
- 59 Language from which "pyjamas" is derived
- 60 Canadian pasta sauce brand
- 61 Not well
- 62 "Can ___ little help over here?"
- 63 Put back in the sty
- 64 Strategically shy
- 65 Off ___ (sporadically)

Down

- 1 Shines, like Rudolf's nose
- 2 Neither Doric nor Corinthian, architecturally
- 3 Highly courageous
- 4 Pharmacist's workplace
- 5 Talks for the flocks: Abbr.
- 6 ___-Bismol
- 7 Boucherville buddy
- 8 Followed a slalom course
- 9 Showing slickness in a sport?
- 10 Barbeque briquette
- 11 Fishing pole
- 12 Alexander Keith's quaff
- 13 Produced in a plant: Abbr.
- 19 Reality TV's "___ Kitchen"
- 21 First person in Düsseldorf?
- 25 Visibly alarmed
- 26 Mentally vacuous
- 27 Pamplona pal
- 28 Neuter
- 30 Some baseball fly-catchers: Abbr.
- 33 Bloodhound's lead
- 34 "... his wife could ___ lean..."
- 35 Overly "endowed" with self-love
- 36 It makes a difference to a math student?
- 39 ___ de Janeiro, Brazil
- 41 The-lights-are-on-but-nobody's home type
- 44 Moron, to Bugs Bunny
- 45 R-V lineup?
- 48 "Sorry to say..."
- 50 Precipitated
- 51 Like David Suzuki, ancestrally
- 52 Steve Martin/Lily Tomlin film "All ___"
- 54 Sunni rival sect
- 55 Subj. of "The Last Spike"
- 56 "___ you kidding?"
- 57 Change in a coffee shop jar
- 58 "Xanadu" band, for short



SUDOKU

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	7				6			2
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				3			2	5

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

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36	S	H	A	D	E	D		39	P	U	T	40	T	41	P	U	T
42	K	A	P	U	T		43	W	A	H		44	S	I	C	E	M
45	T	W	I	C	E	46	S	H	Y		47	A	N	K	A	R	A
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			52	B	M	O	C		54	N	A	55	R	C			
57	A	M	O	R	E		60	K	A	L		62	I	N	P	U	T
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70	J	U	I	C	E	D		71	I	C	E	T		72	T	L	C
73	S	P	E	E	D	S		74	E	K	E	S		75	Y	A	H



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LUXURY

Little Kennis Lake



Perched on top of a Canadian Shield cliff with gorgeous lake views. 3-bdrm, 2.5 bath home/cottage has the perfect marriage of modern style with log cabin coziness. Bright, open concept main floor living. The chef of your family will love this kitchen. Large, lake-facing second floor mezzanine master bdrm and 4 pc ensuite. Double detached heated garage with loft. Plenty of opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Haliburton scenery from five different decks and large floating dock. You will get true full-year enjoyment from your very own lake house. **\$1,200,000**

Salerno Lake



4-bdrm, 2 bath cottage is designed for the whole family to enjoy. 102+ft of frontage. Bright open concept kitchen and dining room. Living area features a beautiful stone, wood burning fireplace. Massive 3 season enclosed screen porch with fantastic lakefront views. Many recent upgrades. Level backyard with ample space. Lakefront firepit with a low sloping terrain and stairs to the waterfront. Shallow entry to deep diving off dock. **\$749,500**

Kashagawigamog Lake



Imagine waking up every day to the beautiful view of Lake Kashagawigamog. Year-round waterfront living without paying lakefront taxes! This 3-bdrm, 2 bath home is located across the road from Haliburton's most popular Lake. Large open concept kitchen. Spacious living room finished with a granite fireplace. Excellent swimming for all ages with nice sand shoreline and wetslip boathouse across the road on municipal lands. **\$679,000**

Negaunee Lake



Built in 1992 and situated on a year-round municipal road. The cottage features 3 bdrms and 1 bath, open concept kitchen, living rm and dining area with large picture windows. Many upgrades have been completed including new roof and siding. Outside the stairs lead you down to the waterfront and dock. Shoreline is rock and sand mix. Beautiful views of the undeveloped forest across the lake. Public access and boat launch for Miskwabi Lake is just a few minutes away. **\$489,900**

NEW LISTING

Kashagawigamog Lake



This cute and cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home. Located in the heart of Ingoldsby. Many recent improvements include, flooring throughout, windows, drilled well, new propane furnace and many more. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry and granite counter tops. The beautiful Haliburton room with stunning lake views. Great aluminum docking system and excellent swimming and fishing across the road. **\$479,000**

NEW LISTING

Drag River



Charming 2-bdrm, 1 bath seasonal cottage. Large wrap around deck to enjoy the stunning riverfront views or the beautiful scenery Haliburton County offers. Large eat-in kitchen finished with white cabinetry and ample natural lighting. Large unfinished walk-out basement. 250ft of frontage on Drag River and ample privacy. Excellent canoeing, Kayaking and ample swimming. **\$399,000**

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