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The Highlander

Thursday **April 1 2021** | Issue 484

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS WITH COLIN AND JUSTIN

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Vaccinations marching on

Dozens of people arrived at the Haliburton Highlands Health Centre for the last day of its vaccination clinic March 30. Local vaccinations are due to shift to the A.J. LaRue Arena and the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in the coming days. The health unit has vaccinated more than 23,000 people in the district to date.

Colleen Ward gives a thumbs up after receiving her vaccine. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

Victim speaks out on impaired driving

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Marena Wigmore said there was no way she could have avoided a collision with an allegedly impaired driver when she was driving home March 19.

Haliburton Highlands OPP said it responded to a scene on Kennis Lake

Road around 3:12 p.m. Both involved drivers sustained minor injuries. Police officers arrested and charged a Huntsville man with impaired operation of a motor vehicle and refusing to comply with a demand.

Wigmore said the other vehicle drove head-on into her, in the wrong lane.

“I’m pretty angry. There was nothing I could have done,” Wigmore said. “There was no reason for it to have happened. It was completely avoidable. Now, I have to deal with injuries that I have and losing time off work.

“He’s really lucky he didn’t kill me,” she added.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden May 5. Wigmore said the collision destroyed both vehicles.

She said the emergency response was fantastic.

“They got there pretty quickly,” Wigmore

Continued ‘OPP’ on page 2

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Marena Wigmore said her vehicle was destroyed in the collision March 19. *Photo submitted.*

OPP ask people to be on lookout

Continued from page 1

said. "Which was great for me, because that was probably the scariest part for me, was waiting."

Wigmore said impaired driving is a problem in the area. She added she is glad the incident did not turn out worse.

"Any number of my co-workers come down that road. One of them is pregnant, several of them have small kids. What if it had been one of them?" Wigmore asked.

"Impaired driving remains the leading cause of criminal death in Canada," Haliburton Highlands OPP said in a press release. "If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive."

OPP also responded to a complaint on Eastern Avenue in Haliburton March 27. Police said a woman drove onto a lawn and collided with a tree. They charged a Maynooth woman with impaired driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and operation while impaired with a blood-alcohol concentration of 80-plus. She is also due in Minden court May 5.

OPP asked for people to continue calling 911 to report impaired driving. Police said signs include quick acceleration, erratic braking, turning abruptly or illegally and drifting between traffic lanes.

Wigmore said she intends to pursue a civil lawsuit against the driver who struck her. She added she hopes the courts might prevent him from driving

for good.

"This man should never drive again."

Police busy with collisions

Haliburton Highlands OPP reported responding to two other vehicular incidents over the weekend.

Police said they charged a 42-year-old with careless driving March 26 after responding to a single-vehicle collision into a hydro pole on Twelve Mile Lake Road. The pole was heavily damaged and required replacement.

Later that day, officers responded to another collision where a pickup truck struck a deer. The driver did not report injuries, but the truck sustained more than \$2,000 in damages.



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Andria Cowan Molyneaux and her team at ACM Designs are redesigning an interview room at the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment. *File.*

Creating a comforting space for victims of crime

By Lisa Gervais

A former Toronto police officer is now using her design expertise to help victims of crime and the people investigating them.

Andria Cowan Molyneaux of ACM Designs is currently working on a "passionate project" to redesign the soft interview room at the detachment in Minden.

ACM Designs is donating the \$15,000 project.

They have created a storyboard and are now working to complete the space.

"After 22 years of policing in Toronto, a large portion as an investigator, I remember how uncomfortable, non-functional and unwelcoming those spaces are," Cowan Molyneaux said.

"I think they rarely get a line in a budget and I remember sitting on furniture that someone dropped off because they were throwing it out.

"It is difficult enough for a victim to tell their story in a comfortable space, let alone one that looks like an afterthought.

"Then you add the detective's experience, trying to write notes during the interview on whatever they can find as a tabletop or sit in a chair that you can barely get your firearm into."

She and detachment commander, Liane Spong, were on the same page.

"The OPP promotes the use of a soft interview room as a means to make the sharing of difficult, often embarrassing or traumatic stories less challenging," she said. The commander added one of the steps in ensuring trauma-informed care and a victim-centered approach to investigations is that the room "will have a more comfortable environment to help make the process easier."

Cowan Molyneaux said the overall intention of the project is to make the very important space feel safe and comfortable for the victims and witnesses retelling their stories and making the same space

functional for the investigators while they are conducting those interviews.

First, they used the science of colour to help them with picking the right hue and that took them to blue. She said the colour blue makes people feel safe even though it is a cool colour. Next, they looked to the outside and the beautiful countryside and by using browns were able to create a serene complimentary colour scheme.

She added the space is pretty small and they were limited with furniture options. Two things they knew were that the textiles had to be able to be cleaned and very durable and that the investigators are usually wearing all their use of force options when sitting in the chairs taking notes. She said the seating for the detectives is generous and swivels so that they can reposition during the interviews without being imposing.

"We actually had them come into the studio and try the chair out," Cowan Molyneaux said.

She added the acoustics were extremely important in the project because generally speaking, the interviews are video and audio recorded and the furniture plan had to support that critical element.

The designer said many other people and companies are saying thank you to our first responders, and this is ACMs way.

"Everyone at ACM Designs played a role in this project and even had to consent to criminal record checks. They were committed to making a difference for both the officers and victims."

Spong had a huge thank you for the ACM team.

"They worked with our crime unit to meet specific needs in relation to the acoustics during an interview. I think it is a wonderful testament to the talent and compassion found within the County of Haliburton Highlands. We thank Andria and her team for greatly enhancing our safe place for victims and witnesses."

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COUNTY NEWS

Rail trail research

The Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) seek to partner with the County to fulfill a grander vision for the trail as a linear park.

FoRT presented to County council March 24 about its research into the concept. It offered ideas such as improved wayfinding, safety and a shuttle service. FoRT is also planning to have a website showcasing its research and is applying for a grant from the Haliburton County Development Corporation for a public engagement process about wayfinding.

Founder Pamela Marsales said it would take time to roll out the research, which includes reports about untapped cycling potential, health and nature, and economic development. She said she wants to work with the municipality going forward.

“What we’re asking today is to go through that journey together collaboratively, not as you versus Friends of the Rail Trail and community advocates crying to be listened to,” Marsales said.

Council voted to receive the report and Warden Liz Danielsen said the discussion would be referred to the rail trail working group.

Coun. Carol Moffatt said the initiative needs to be enfolded into other processes, such as the destination management plan and a new economic development department.

“To support anything now before those things get underway makes it into a silo, which we’re trying to avoid,” Moffatt said. “There’s absolutely a role for this work in both of those processes.”

Service providers want say

Haliburton County service providers banded together during the pandemic and want to



The Friends of the Rail Trail presented to County council about future planning for its namesake. *File photo.*

help municipal recovery planning.

The Haliburton County Service Providers Network (HCSPN) presented about its efforts collaborating through the pandemic. The conglomerate - made up of representatives from organizations in the health and social service sectors - discussed how it came together to help the community. Their initiatives include mask distribution and launching a central website for COVID-19 information.

The HCSPN said it would make itself available to assist in pandemic recovery planning. It also wants to be a key stakeholder in the County’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

“We’re looking for engagement and

we’re looking for participatory processes where we can contribute,” Haliburton Highlands Health Services vice president of community programs Stephanie MacLaren said.

Council spoke positively of the organization’s efforts and voted to receive the report.

“I know we’ll have lots of opportunity to have more discussions as we work together,” Danielsen said.

Roads contracts

Council approved more than \$2 million in road contracts.

Council voted to provide \$1.55 million

for a contract to Markham-based Miller Paving Limited for surface treatment work. The contract includes County roads 5, 10, 12 and 13, with a total length of 22.1 kilometres. The bid was the lowest of four received and fell 2.4 per cent under budget. It is subject to Algonquin Highlands approval as a joint tender.

The County also awarded a \$758,548 contract to Bracebridge-based Fowler Construction Company Ltd. for hot-mix asphalt on County roads 3, 7 and 8 for a total of 5.2 kilometres. The contract was the lowest bid and fell 39.3 per cent below budget due to a decline in unit prices. (County news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter).

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Maple Syrup season is underway and we are boiling down sap when the weather permits. The trails are walkable and you are welcome to walk the sugar bush on a self guided tour...just call ahead to let us know when you are coming and the number of people, (max 5) and we can open the retail for you also. We will be open Easter Weekend, Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. 9 to 4 p.m. We will keep you posted on the website when we are boiling. For now, just call 705-286-3202 if you need product and we will meet you at the barn at your convenience. Happy Safe Spring!

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County jumpstarting electric vehicle stations

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The County of Haliburton is preparing to install electric vehicle charging stations throughout the municipality.

County council reviewed a proposal from its climate change co-ordinator March 24 for seven or more stations spread in all four townships. The proposal included options for municipal ownership using grant funding or paying a service fee for chargers owned by service providers. Council voted to keep both options open and provide information for lower-tier townships to decide later.

Coun. Brent Devolin said they might need to do both options to meet future demand.

“This metamorphosis ... it’s going to happen in the next couple of years, faster than most people are foreseeing,” Devolin said. “The need is coming.”

The County is included in a federal grant funding application for the project. The municipality could either pay an annual service fee of \$3,300 per dual-port station with no upfront cost, with stations owned by Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation. The County could also own stations itself using federal grant dollars to cover up to half the up-front costs, which could be \$15,000-\$25,000 per station, plus ongoing annual service fees of \$500-\$1,800.

Coun. Andrea Roberts said it is something Dysart et al has wanted to do.

“We weren’t ever able to do this on our own financially,” Roberts said. “I totally agree the time is now to start working on something like this.”

The proposal is not definite on locations, though recommends one dual-port station at each township office to be used for future municipal vehicles. Director of planning, Charsley White, said those hook-ups could be reserved for municipal vehicles during the day and then utilized by the public in off-hours and weekends. Other ports are proposed for mostly public use at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Dysart library.

Climate change coordinator, Korey McKay, said she would recommend an hourly fee to incentivize people to move vehicles.

Presently there is only one public charging station in Haliburton County at the Rhubarb restaurant in Carnarvon, meant for Tesla vehicles.

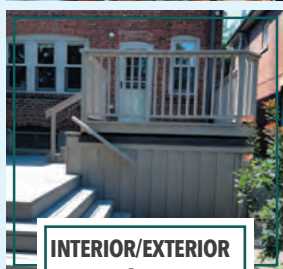
If the initiative is approved, installation could happen in the summer or fall of 2021 for provider-owned chargers, or between September 2021 and 2023 for County-owned.

Council opted to present options to lower-tier townships given they would contribute to the costs. Warden Liz Danielsen said discussions there should happen as quickly as possible so the initiative can proceed.

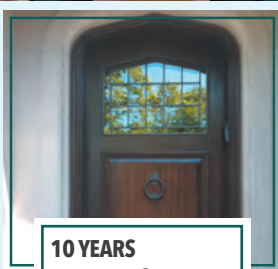
“It’s an exciting direction for us to be taking,” Danielsen said.



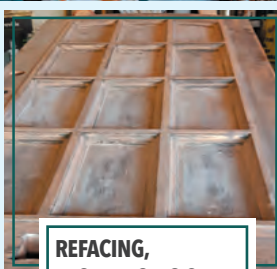
The County of Haliburton is planning to install several electric vehicle charging stations throughout the municipality. *Photo via Flickr.*



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Highlander news

Dysart approves Kennisis shoreline rezoning

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council approved a controversial rezoning of an “open space” property on Kennisis Lake March 23.

Council voted to rezone the property owned by the Rieger family from open space to waterfront residential (WR). The zoning is intended to be used for a cottage development closer to the shore on the 2.9-acre property, though with a 30-metre setback from the high-water mark.

But the application garnered several letters of opposition, including from the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association (KLCOA). It argued development through any further rezoning of open space or environmentally protected areas could harm water quality.

“We have clear evidence that the water quality in our lakes is declining as indicated by the increase in levels of nutrients that we have been measuring,” the KLCOA

said. “Additional development beyond the current approved zoning WR areas will put further pressure on our lakes and on our effort to maintain good water quality.”

Municipal staff said the property was municipally-owned but sold in 1988 while maintaining its zoning. Planner Jeff Iles said the lake is not designated as at capacity or highly sensitive. Staff reported that based on site evaluation, they do not believe the project would impact ecological features.

Agent Kim Roberts of Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting appeared on behalf of the applicant. She said the lot owner intends to accommodate more of her family and five grandchildren.

“We’re able to keep it in a way that’s respectful of all the sightlines of the lake, that keeps the shoreline naturalized,” Rogers said. “The goal here is not to build a mega cottage to rent out on Airbnb.”

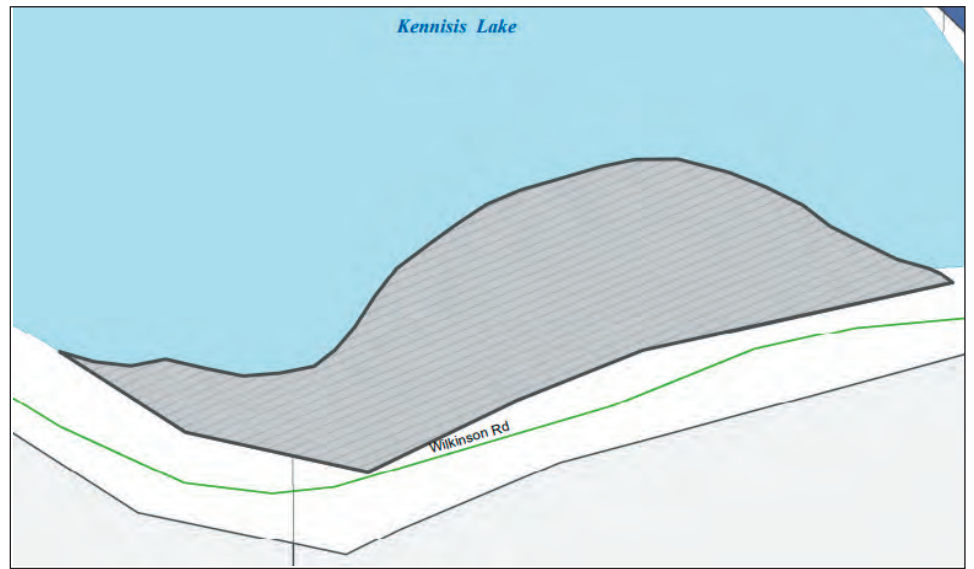
Other letters repeated environmental concerns. Some opposed the change based on community use of the area.

“This is one of the few remaining quiet bays without any cottages on Kennisis Lake

“I would suggest there’s not a single lot on Kennisis Lake that will meet the standards that this lot will have to meet.”

John Smith

Dysart et al councillor



Dysart et al council gave approval to a controversial rezoning of an open-space property on Kennisis Lake. Photo via Dysart et al.

where the community can kayak, enjoy the quiet space, fishing,” Maggie Stoklosa and Kamil Mokosinski wrote.

Iles said the municipality has considered the property developable in official plans since 2001.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said there is a misunderstanding about the history of the property and that just because it was designated open space, does not mean it was not intended for land development.

“You can still kayak through Back Bay,”

Roberts said. “We’re not controlling the water; we’re controlling the land use.”

Coun. John Smith said the council erred in 1988 and could have kept the land under public ownership. But with the land sold, it made sense to allow for the rezoning. He also said the site plan agreement was rigorous.

“I would suggest there’s not a single lot on Kennisis that will meet the standards that this lot will have to meet,” Smith said. “That’s a very positive aspect of it.”

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Well done, U-Links

Over the past year, like many of you, I've attended numerous online meetings and events. I love the platform because I can cover these events from home. I hate it because you don't get the personal touch and hours behind the screen are mind-numbing. I find them challenging when my internet, or my host's, isn't up to speed. Council meetings, for example, are often paused for 10 minutes so that someone who has dropped out can re-connect or call back in by phone.

I attended the virtual U-Links celebration of research this past Saturday, March 27 and I can honestly say it was the best online presentation that I have seen to date. The folks at Trent University in Peterborough really strutted their stuff in a seamless two hours that attracted more than 100.

The introductory speakers were brief. Three students were chosen to share their research projects with the entire audience. Then there were three sessions of breakout groups whereby attendees could pop into a research project of their choice and listen to a short presentation from the student before being able to ask questions.

There was not one glitch in the entire operation. My only complaint - and it is

a mild one - is that I wish the breakout sessions were longer than 15 minutes because I had to pick one, and maybe two projects at most, to pop into.

I was disappointed by that aspect since, as usual, I was overwhelmed by the number of very good projects that students from Trent and Fleming College worked on with Haliburton County organizations.

There was a decided focus on the environment in a lot of this year's projects.

Lots of people popped into the 'benthic' presentation. Benthics are aquatic, spineless organisms that live on the bottom of water bodies. The use of benthics as an indicator of water quality is now used throughout the world. The students looked at a number of County lakes.

Other topics included: biodiversity planning and protection in The Land Between; Planet Haliburton radio show ideas; a Kennis Lake history book; a number of projects with the Land Trust, including GIS database migration and development, and bird, frog, moss, dragonfly monitoring; natural shoreline stabilization and shoreline stewardship and blue-green algae mitigation strategies. There was research into a composting

project at Abbey Gardens.

There were also a few social service-type projects, including sustainable procurement and factors securing employment in Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes as well as diabetes and dental decay.

It wasn't just the technology that blew my mind (and I have to say, I liked the mid-way mark stretch). The work the students do with County partners provides valuable information every year that can lead to real change in the Highlands to make this a better place to live, work and play.

So, we congratulate the U-Links team, including committee members, faculty and students for the work they continue to do and offer kudos to the first-ever virtual celebration of research, the 30th, for tackling the challenges of delivering students' finding in a pandemic world - and aching it.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

Phase 2 vaccine candidates

Ontario has announced the anticipated Phase 2 vaccine rollout from April to July, 2021. This phase includes mass vaccination to approximately nine million residents, targeting: adults 60 to 79, in five-year increments; high-risk congregate (shared living) settings (such as shelters, community living); individuals with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers; those who cannot work from home and at-risk populations.

Vaccines will be provided through mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies, primary care doctors' offices, site-specific clinics, mobile teams, mobile sites and public health units.

To find out if you meet the criteria you can review the Ontario vaccine website for a more detailed list of who's eligible. I offer the following description of candidates here:

HIGHEST RISK: organ transplant recipients, hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients (bone marrow or blood cell, used for leukemia and lymphoma patients), people with neurological diseases (stroke, MS, traumatic brain injuries, cerebral palsy) that affect breathing, cancers of the blood system diagnosed within the past year, kidney disease.

HIGH RISK: obesity (body mass index greater than 40), treatments that suppress immune systems such as chemotherapy or some rheumatological or psoriasis medications, intellectual or developmental disabilities (Down Syndrome).

AT RISK: immune deficiencies (diseases affecting bone marrow, lymph nodes, spleen, thymus), stroke, dementia, diabetes, liver disease, cancers, respiratory/lung

diseases, spleen diseases, heart disease, high blood pressure, mental health disorders, substance use and addictions, anemias, pregnancy, disabilities and immunocompromising conditions requiring direct support.

PRIMARY/ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS FOR: organ transplant recipients, hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, people with neurological diseases with damage to lung function, blood cancers diagnosed within the last year, kidney disease with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) under 30. **PEOPLE WHO WORK AND LIVE IN GROUP SETTINGS:** supportive housing, developmental services or supported independent living, emergency homeless shelters, homeless populations not in shelters, mental health and addictions group settings, homes for special care, violence against women shelters and anti-human trafficking residents, children's residential facilities, youth justice facilities, Indigenous healing and wellness facilities, provincial and demonstration schools, farm workers who live in group settings, including temporary foreign workers, bail beds and Indigenous bail beds, adult correctional facilities.

CAREGIVERS IN THE FOLLOWING SETTINGS: developmental services, mental health and addictions group settings, homes for special care, children's residential facilities, Indigenous healing and wellness facilities.

ESSENTIAL FRONTLINE WORKERS WHO CANNOT WORK FROM HOME: school staff, police, fire, compliance, funeral, special constables

and other workers responding to critical events, childcare and licenced foster care workers, food manufacturing workers, agriculture

and farm workers, high-risk and critical retail workers in grocery stores and pharmacies, remaining manufacturing labourers, social workers, lower-risk retail workers (wholesalers, general goods), transportation, warehousing and distribution, energy (propane, hydro), telecom (data and voice), water and wastewater management, financial services, waste management, mining, oil and gas workers.

COMMUNITIES AT GREATEST RISK: Black and other racialized populations, hot spots with historic and ongoing high rates of death, hospitalization and transmission.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

Provincial booking system: [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine); phone 1-888-999-6488;

Follow the prompts to see if you are eligible and where you can receive your vaccine.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena – 55 Parkside St., Minden – clinic dates will be added to the provincial booking system in the coming weeks. Clinic appointments begin the week of April 5.

A.J. LaRue Community Centre – 728 Mountain St., Haliburton – clinic dates will be added to the provincial booking system in the coming weeks. Clinic appointments will begin the week of April 12. Clinics will end in this location June 12.

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Kevin K. Pepper calls this image Transition from Winter to Spring in the Highlands.

LETTERS

Rational information appreciated

Dear editor,

Trusting the Science by Dr. Nell Thomas. I would like to thank Dr. Thomas for this informative article. Like many people I had wondered about how much “science” was behind Canada’s decision to delay the second dose of vaccine in the interest of getting one dose into as many arms as quickly as possible. It was reassuring to read that Britain had taken this approach with excellent results. It is this kind of calm, rational information that helps carry us through these uncertain times.

Leslie Brown
Horseshoe Lake

Where is Grass Lake?

Dear editor,

It seems few people know of Grass Lake in Dysart. Not *The Highlander’s* reporter who wrote the March 25 front page story about recent firefighter ice rescue training on what he termed Head Lake.

I had a clear view of this training event from my Grass Lake home. Not township

staff that put the Grass Lake sign beside Green Lake on Hwy 118 near West Guilford, when it should have been on Gelert Road at Grass Lake. As a result, more than once shipments to my house have gone looking for me in West Guilford.

Maybe another reason few know of Grass Lake is the micro-sign for Grass Lake Road. It’s so easy to miss, especially at night, that I cannot blame my visitors for missing it. But reporters and township staff surely know of the real Grass Lake, it’s just hidden for some reason. So, let’s not perpetuate the problem on the front page of the paper.

John Cowan
Grass Lake Road, Haliburton

What's Sunshine List worth today?

Dear editor,

I read your article on the Sunshine List with interest.

If I’m remembering correctly that list has been around for quite a long time and the figure has always been \$100,000 ... anyone above that salary being noted.

I Googled it and it was started in 1996. It

would be interesting to know what the 1996 \$100,000 would be worth now. It seems to me that the \$100,000 amount should be updated.

It seems like a lot of money for this area, and for those of us who are older.

Wilma Thomson
Haliburton

Haliburton's inconvenient truths

Dear editor,

I find it impossible to square the logic when thinking of the polar opposite positions taken by local government (and enviro-alarmists) on Haliburton’s “no issues here” waste disposals (both septic and household) versus their sheer doomsday panic about our shorelines.

On the one hand, everyone’s garbage and septic pump outs are “no cause for alarm” when taken to one of our official sites - which by their very nature, places everyone’s waste in only a few centralized locations.

We all know that groundwater is all connected and moves unpredictably as it sees fit and in many cases, finds its

way into our waterbodies. “Spring fed lake” terminology ring a bell? It seems reasonable to me to assume that the more you concentrate above a water table - the greater the risk.


Yet our everyday waterfront cottager activity on each of our 600 lakes, being so thinly spread out over thousands of kilometres of shorelines - is now so suddenly dangerous to lake health that a paradigm shifting overly punitive shoreline bylaw is urgently advocated to bring us under their total state control.

Another inconvenient truth against the bylaw is the fact that our lakes overall have the lowest concentrations of phosphorous and nitrogen compared to other regions in Ontario. Also, our water clarity is outstanding.

In addition, our lakes are for the most part stable in these key measurements over decades of monitoring. Congratulations to all for keeping our lakes so pristine.

These inconvenient truths do not justify the shoreline bylaw. Past time to cut to the obvious, the County has a weak case and their government over-reach is becoming more obvious by the week.

David Hopkins Howe
Minden Hills



A harmless
coffee break
can do more
harm than
you think.

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Walk-Ins Are Not Accepted

To book an appointment or see if you are eligible:

Visit: www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine
Or call: 1-888-999-6488

Haliburton County

Minden: S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)
Haliburton: A.J. LaRue Community Centre (728 Mountain St.)

Northumberland County

Cobourg Community Centre (750 D'Arcy St.)
Campbellford: Trent Hills Emergency Base (50 Doxsee Ave.)

City of Kawartha Lakes

Lindsay Exhibition (354 Angeline St. S)
Fenelon Falls Community Centre (27 Veterans Way)

Don't see any open appointments?

Please check back as more clinic appointments are being added.
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www.hkpr.on.ca

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Highlander news

Businesses give thumbs up to provincial budget

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local businesses are welcoming more supports in this year's provincial budget in the face of uncertainty about the year ahead.

The Government of Ontario released its budget March 24 and spotlighted its business support. That includes measures such as a second round of Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBSG) payments, providing 120,000 small businesses with an automatic benefit of between \$10,000-\$20,000 each. A new grant, the Ontario Tourism and Hospitality Small Business Support Grant, will also provide businesses in that sector \$10,000-\$20,000 after it was excluded from the first OSBSG.

Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce president Andrea Strano said other supports, including a job training tax credit, a task force for inclusive economic growth and \$4 billion in broadband funding over six years are welcome.

"Ontario's 2021 Budget means supports for the hardest-hit sectors and communities including right here in the Haliburton Highlands," Strano said. "Initiatives that will create a strong economic rebound related to tourism, training, and vital infrastructure."

Other measures included in the budget towards economic development included pausing property tax reassessments for a year and \$100 million for a tourism recovery program to launch later this year.

Oakview Lodge and Marina owner Greg Hebert said the hospitality sector was overlooked for the OSBSG, since many could remain partially open in the first lockdown. But he said the industry still felt the hit of fewer travellers and the grant is welcome.

"It's been a long-time coming and for the people in the accommodation sector



The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce welcomed new business supports in this year's provincial budget. *File photo.*

specifically, it's been a bit rough," Hebert said.

Strano said there is uncertainty for the sector with the possibility of a third lockdown due to rising COVID-19 cases. But she said there is cause for optimism with more people moving to the area permanently.

Chamber executive director Amanda Conn said the budget does a good job addressing the hardest-hit sectors.

"There would be people out there that would say we need a bit more, but I think it does a decent job," Conn said.

Hebert said the budget does not seem to be missing anything major but expressed concern about the \$38.5 billion projected deficit.

Still, he said given the government support coming from loans and tax deferrals, it might take until 2022 to find out which businesses survive and which will not.

"That's when we're going to start seeing people getting squeezed," he said. "By the end of next year, that's when we're going to find out who lived through this thing."

Warden reacts

County warden Liz Danielsen said the budget's economic recovery programming, along with more funding in the broadband and long-term care sectors, have been identified as key priorities by the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus.

She said the deferral on property tax reassessments also ensures stability and helps residents as they readjust from the pandemic's impacts.

The budget promises \$1 billion in additional financial relief for Ontario's municipalities. Another \$50 million is being added for municipal modernization.

"Continuing to commit to modernization funding for all municipalities will enhance efficiency and should create a reduction in costs over the long term," Danielsen said.

However, Danielsen said the budget lacked enough new funding for human and social services to meet demand. She also expressed concern about the debt load.

"There is little doubt that we will all be facing challenging years ahead," she said.

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Work on arena continues

Minden Hills Council, at its March 25 regular meeting, approved two new contracts for the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre.

One was for the design of the snack bar area.

Director of community services, Craig Belfry, said in order to continue to work towards operationalizing the new facility in a timely manner, staff contacted Parkin Architects, which designed the building.

They gave staff a price of \$13,535 plus HST to design and develop the snack bar.

The department has \$60,000 in its budget for the works.

Belfry said Parkin has also suggested the township budget between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for mechanical and electrical depending on the scale of the food services being offered.

He said the remaining budget of \$46,465 will be allocated to millwork, doorways, counters, and equipment.

"Once the design phase of the project is complete, staff will bring forward a report to council to award the contract for the construction phase of the project. In addition, a report will be brought forward regarding the operational options for the snack bar," he said.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell reminded Belfry that council had already expressed a desire for an air fryer for french fries and other foods as opposed to a deep fryer. She said it would be cheaper, cleaner and safer. Mayor Brent Devolin also mentioned the health benefits. Belfry said he was aware of council's will. He added he was hopeful of having the snack bar up and running for the fall.

Council also awarded the contract for floor sealing to McDonald Brothers Construction.

The cost is \$13,722.61 plus HST. Belfry said it would come from more than \$21,000 remaining in a floor sealing budget as a contingency for the project.

Belfry added after getting pre-approval at the March 11 committee of the whole for office and lobby furniture, staff had ordered the items from Staples Canada. He said they

could get the furniture in four weeks and community services department staff are looking forward to getting into their new office space. "Very happy that things are progressing well there," he said.

In an interview after the meeting, Devolin said the township hopes to open the gymnasium and walking track portion of the building as early as June. He added the plan is to put in arena ice at the end of August and also have the community centre available for early fall. He said that all depends on what happens with COVID-19 and provincial regulations.

Devolin said the use of the S.G. Nesbitt facility as a vaccination centre this spring and summer will not affect their plans.

Water watchdog gives township perfect score

The Ontario Clean Water Agency's Natalie Baker said they had found no issues with either the Minden or Lutterworth Pines drinking water systems during 2020

inspections.

"I'm happy to report that both systems received 100 per cent inspection rating," Baker said.

She noted the Minden system does not have additional required sampling but Lutterworth Pines does. She said it needs additional testing for uranium. The maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) is 20 micrograms per litre. However, she said the operations team uses specialized filters that are changed prior to the half way point.

She noted Lutterworth Pines also has to be checked for sodium. While there is no MAC, she said an aesthetic objective set by the health unit is 200 milligrams per litre. She said OCWA must report anything over 20mg so the information can be given to local doctors who have patients on sodium-restricted diets.

Devolin said growing up in a family of educators, any time you get a report card of 100 per cent it's a good day. He added there is capacity within the systems to accommodate new growth. *(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*

Highlander arts

Radio Playhouse coming to a wireless near you

By Lisa Gervais

An upcoming Canoe FM show will not only allow theatre folks to get back in the saddle after a one-year intermission but provide a different kind of experience for listeners.

The Haliburton Highlands Arts Council's Kate Butler said Canoe FM Radio Playhouse will air its pilot April 7 from 6-7 p.m.

From there, the plan is to continue the first and third Wednesday of every month, even post-COVID.

Butler said listening to radio dramas used to be an important piece of entertainment in people's daily lives.

"I think that in the last while, with everyone spending so much time on Zoom, and other similar programs, people are looking for a bit of a different kind of experience. Radio theatre really encourages you to slow down and be present with a story as it unfolds. No matter our age, human beings love to be told a story," she said.

Meanwhile, Rita Jackson said as on-air hosts and community theatre performers, she and her husband, John, have been discussing radio theatre for a number of months.

At Christmas, they were involved in Charles Dickens reading of *A Christmas Carol* on Canoe and said they knew immediately it was a program to pursue.

"With unanimous support from the Canoe program committee, and enthusiastic support from the local theatre groups, Canoe FM recognized it would be an exciting fit in its diverse and expansive program schedule," she said.

Jackson, who has been involved in singing and community theatre every year for 25-plus years, added "my heart and soul missed this outlet so much. When all the Haliburton Highlands theatre groups gave a rousing yes to this opportunity, I knew that they all felt the same. I can confidently speak for the whole Haliburton Highlands theatre community when I say it is very cool."

Butler said Highlands Summer Festival,



A file photo from a past Rural Rogues Production. Pictured are Kate Butler, Phyllis Johnson and Victoria Bingham. File

Highlands Little Theatre and Rural Rogues Productions are looking forward to this "whole different kind of exciting opportunity."

Butler said the local troupes will be involved in one of the shows every month while Canoe has purchased radio plays for the second monthly offering.

The first two plays in the pilot are *Quotation is a Suitable Substitute for Wit*, which Butler wrote, and *Too Much Doubt*, which Michael Clipperton and Butler penned together.

"Both plays are inspired by Haliburton County mysteries," Haliburton Highlands museum director, Butler, said.

She said *Quotation is a Suitable Substitute for Wit* was inspired by a story she came across even before she started working at the museum. It was an account of a woman who had vanished from Eagle Lake in 1892 while visiting her daughter and her daughter's family.

"There was no evidence as to what had

happened, so I decided to let her enjoy an adventure. To say much more would be to give too much away, so people will just have to tune in."

Too Much Doubt was inspired by another mystery – this one with its roots in 1917, when Jack Laking, the son of the owner of the Laking Lumber Company disappeared along with the company payroll, on Drag Lake.

"It's important for listeners to remember that these are plays and creative works inspired by historical events, especially since both mysteries remain unsolved to this day," Butler said.

Butler said each theatre group has a slightly different mandate, so they'll be presenting different types of pieces, "which will make the show really exciting, as there will be such a variety. After the shows air, they'll also be archived on the Canoe website, so listeners will also be able to check them out at their leisure (or catch-up if they missed a show)," Butler said.

She said doing radio plays is different.

"Radio theatre is a totally different way of performing, because, of course, everything has to be communicated through sound alone. That's meant the scripts have gone through an editing process to ensure that everything is as clear as possible in the absence of the visual.

"We needed to think carefully about cast size and structure to ensure that we could adhere to current COVID guidelines and keep everyone involved safe. The plays actually don't feature narration. We've decided to let the characters speak for themselves but there will be sound effects, thanks to Ron Murphy, the wonderful head of production at Canoe."

Butler added while the show was spurred into action by the current situation, it will continue long after the pandemic is over and live theatre is happening again.

"Because it's a whole different way of connecting with audiences and sharing stories."

Almost time for another 6-Minute Escape to the arts

By Lisa Gervais

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands and Haliburton Reads & Writes committee is inviting anyone curious about the arts to save May 14 in their calendars and join them for their upcoming 6-Minute Escape on YouTube.

Spokesperson Kate Butler said building on the success of last fall's inaugural event, the committee is delighted to host its second video premiere on the theme of transformation.

Butler said audiences can join in the multimedia extravaganza from anywhere in the world.

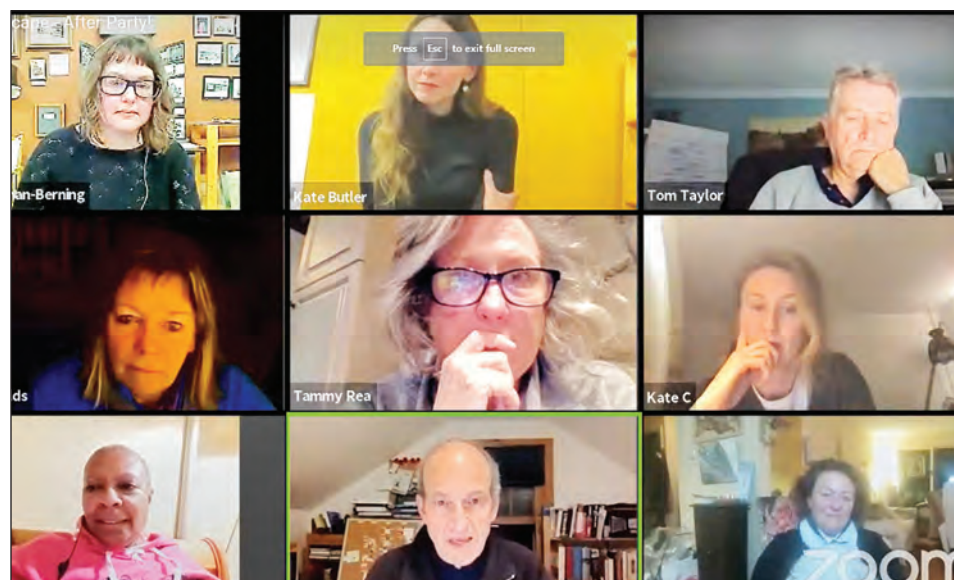
"This season's collection will feature an entertaining mix of visual art, music and literary performance," she said. "Each short video will allow viewers to experience firsthand the transformation of each artist's

creative practice."

Marie Gage of the Haliburton Reads & Writes committee said: "The past year of lockdown, restrictions and uncertainty has affected us all. The Readers & Writers Committee of the Haliburton Highlands Arts Council hopes the creative imagery you will experience will lift your spirits and allow you to escape into another dimension."

Organizers added the 6-Minute Escape will remind viewers that new experiences are waiting for us, while at the same time helping to raise much-needed funds to ensure support for the vibrant cultural community in the Highlands.

Visit youtu.be/9wtKHmqMzbU on May 14 at 7 p.m. There's no cost to attend the launch but any donations would be greatly appreciated at gofundme.com/f/6-minute-escape.



An image from the first 6-Minute Escape. File photo.

Highlander education

U-Links focuses on environment

By Lisa Gervais

Finding a way for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) to monitor dragonflies and damselflies on its properties caught the interest of student Ryan Hill, who partnered with the Land Trust for his U-Links research project.

Hill was one of a number of students who presented their work at the U-Links virtual celebration of research March 27.

“Basically, they were interested in beginning the first steps for starting their own monitoring program for dragonflies and damselflies,” Hill explained in one of the breakout rooms.

He said his work focused around finding what had been seen on and around their properties; what species would be possible to see; what monitoring protocols are out there; and what recommendations he could make for them starting their own program.

Hill said he concluded, “If HHLT had the resources, the best approach would be to use a program similar to the Illinois (dragonfly and damselfly) survey which uses a protocol that was developed for monitoring butterflies.”

The Land Trust’s Greg Wickware complimented Hill for his “great work.” He added, “The HHLT has many volunteers who are interested in participating in our long-term monitoring program. Training the volunteers will be a top priority.”

U-Links program coordinator, Amanda Duncombe-Lee, said themes of environmental stewardship and sustainability featured in this year’s U-Links projects.

“While the COVID-19 pandemic has been dominating the news and our thoughts, it’s especially important to maintain our focus and commitment to environmental monitoring, research and advocacy,” she said.

The more than 100 people heard numerous presentations, including Samantha Dunlop, who worked with The Land Between on biodiversity planning and protection. She looked into municipal policies.

Mystaya Touw spoke on shoreline stewardship, using the Love Your



Ryan Hill talks about dragonfly and damselfly research. Photo by Lisa Gervais

Lake program as a case study. She said concerns included water quality, septic systems, blue-green algae, invasive species and development. She said one impediment was limited time at the cottage, but said that could be countered by focusing on ‘no mow’ lawns and natural regeneration.

There was also a Benthic Program Overview by Kiera Schweighardt and Leanne Matthews.

Samuel Duah collaborated with Abbey Gardens to look into food waste composting. He said one hinderance was the fear of attracting bears and other wildlife. He found people would support a centralized composting facility, especially if it had a drop-off centre with flexible hours.

In its 30th year, Duncombe-Lee said it was “amazing” to see the community come together every year to mark

the accomplishments of students, and community partnerships.

She honoured the students for juggling full course loads and part-time jobs along with the stressors of a pandemic. She was also “proud” of staff and the U-Links management committee. She thanked the Haliburton community for its participation with Trent University and Fleming College students over the past 30 years.

Jim Blake, co-chair of the U-Links management committee, paid tribute to Leopoldina Dobrzensky during his opening remarks, calling her “our local hero of community-based research.”

See the U-Links website for more information ulinks.ca.

If you have a project idea, contact U-Links, before June 30, 2021, at admin@ulinks.ca or 705-286-2411.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Haliburton trustee wants staff vaccines

As far as Gary Brohman is concerned, staff working in Haliburton schools are essential workers and he cannot understand why the province has not made the vaccination of teachers, administrators and support staff a priority.

At the March 23 Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) meeting, Brohman advocated forcefully for staff vaccines.

“This has been on my mind for a long time,” Brohman said. “The ministry stand that staff vaccines will be given as soon as possible is not acceptable. How poor a statement is that? The vaccines could come too late. It could be summer. School staff are frontline workers and unfortunately the health units and the ministry do not see it that way. That is simply not good enough.”

Brohman asked his fellow trustees what they could do to make this issue a priority with the province. The Haliburton trustee wondered why firefighters are receiving their vaccinations ahead of teachers “when educational staff are face-to-face with kids every day. These people should be getting their vaccinations now. As soon as possible is not good enough. As a former educator this decision sucks.”

TLDSB deputy chair David Morrison applauded Brohman’s intent saying, “educational workers are on the frontline every single day. The province holds up the school system as a very safe place to be while at the same time expressing caution about COVID variants of concern. This topic has been brought up with the minister (Education Minister Stephen Lecce) on a weekly basis at our videoconferences. The minister says he is pushing for change but a change will only come if supply increases.”

Trustee Louise Clodd added, “We all feel the same way (regarding staff vaccines) and I would like to send a note to the Ontario Public School Board Association to have them continue pushing for this.”

The board asked Clodd to do that at the earliest possible opportunity.

(School board news compiled by Kirk Winter)



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Highlander health

A driving force behind County's vaccine effort

By Joseph Quigley

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) volunteer driver Bill Elliott said plenty of people need a lift to get to a medical appointment – including vaccinations.

Volunteer drivers have begun transporting people across the County to get vaccinations and had done that for approximately a dozen people as of March 29, according to vice-president of community programs Stephanie MacLaren. HHHS offers transportation services for adults with disabilities and people 55 and over.

Elliott said the process has gone smoothly so far, whether passengers go into the clinic themselves or he helps them.

“It’s an ageing community and there are a lot of remote areas,” he said. “A lot of elderly don’t drive or don’t like driving a long distance.”

Most people in the County are bound to book an appointment for a vaccine in the coming months. The process is underway for people aged 75 and older and priority groups such as healthcare workers, including volunteer drivers themselves. The province has planned for vaccination for all people 60-79 between April and July, with people younger than that starting in July.

MacLaren said they expect transportation demand might increase, but they have no way of knowing for certain.

“While there is a higher percentage of people in the community who are in the lower end of the age bracket of the senior’s population, their needs with respect to transportation assistance may be less as well,” she said. “It is certainly our intent to be as responsive to the need in the community as it emerges.”

She added HHHS has maintained a strong contingent of volunteer drivers, even with demand decreased throughout the pandemic due to fewer in-person appointments.

“HHHS volunteer drivers have stayed stalwart in their dedication to our clients and community, with many necessary medical trips still occurring. We are seeing this level of dedication in the vaccination response as well. Volunteers are eager to support in whatever way they can,” she said.

Ron Roberts is one of those drivers and said he has been doing the task for 11 years. He said he is glad to be able to help others.

“There are wonderful people in our area and volunteering is very important. The people I’ve met have paid back for every hour of volunteering I’ve done,” Roberts said. “I’m just happy to be here for them.”

The program has had to adjust amidst the pandemic. Passengers and drivers must remain masked, distanced and pass screening questions, MacLaren said. Drivers must also disinfect their vehicles after every trip.

Elliott said the vaccination clinics have



Haliburton Highlands Health Services volunteer Bill Elliott is ready to help people get to medical appointments, including COVID-19 vaccination clinics. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

been well-organized and he is happy to help people through them when needed.

“The patients that I took felt really

comfortable going in and out and that was a good thing for me,” Elliott said. “To me, it’s all about the patients.”

HHHS BOARD NEWS

Help for residents without doctors

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has partnered with the Virtual Family Physician Network to launch the Haliburton County Virtual Primary Care Clinic in late April 2021, president and CEO Carolyn Plummer told the March 25 HHHS board meeting.

She said the clinic will provide primary care to patients in Haliburton County who currently do not have a local primary care provider.

Services will include acute and episodic care, chronic disease management, and other services normally accessed through a family physician, and will also connect patients with local and regional services such as specialists.

“The County’s unattached patients will be able to receive ongoing care at this clinic with a consistent physician and the clinic will work with Health Care Connect and Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team to transition patients to a local family physician as they become available,” Plummer said.

Plummer said it’s a fundamentally different model. She said it has been implemented with great success in other communities with similar challenges with primary care capacity, such as Peterborough, Midland, and North Simcoe.

“The model is specifically intended to fill a gap and will downsize if local capacity exists – it is not competing with local resources in this regard.”

She said the clinic will operate for two half days per week initially and increase incrementally depending on need. Specifics on how patients can book will be rolled out in the next few weeks in a community-wide outreach and awareness campaign.

Vaccine update

Plummer said vaccination clinics are continuing locally, now shifting to people aged 75 and older.

She said The Ministry of Health is also now allowing residents to be vaccinated in any community, and is no longer limiting clinics to residents with local postal codes.

She noted community vaccination clinics at the Haliburton arena and Minden recreation complex are expected to begin in April as more vaccine becomes available.

She said thanks to the Minden and Haliburton Rotary Clubs, paper copies of the vaccine consent form have been distributed throughout the community for those who do not have access to a computer, internet, or printer.

“It is important to note that some clinics are obtaining consent on site through an electronic method, while others require the paper form to be completed. Either way, it is helpful for anyone wishing to

receive the vaccine to review the consent form in advance, in the event they have questions – and to help ensure the vaccine clinic process and experience takes place as smoothly and as quickly as possible.”

She said the province has now also extended the interval between the first and second vaccine doses to four months.

There is a FAQ at hhhs.ca.

Ontario budget impact

Plummer said the March 24 provincial budget will have an effect on HHHS. She said some highlights included: additional funding for small hospitals to address their unique funding challenges; money to support ongoing efforts to improve long-term care; additional supports for mental health and addictions; and COVID-19 vaccination clinic and ongoing assessment centre funding.

“HHHS will be participating in information sessions to learn more about the budget; more details about specific investment amounts will be shared as they become available,” Plummer told the board.

Ultrasound services moving

Plummer said ultrasound services are moving back to the Haliburton site after a temporary relocation to Minden.

“This change will provide easier access for patients, more space for the clinic to operate, and will allow us to maintain the originally re-purposed ultrasound space to support safe workflow in our Haliburton Emergency Department,” she said.

The new ultrasound space is now being prepared, and the move will be taking place over the coming weeks. Patients will be advised of the new location as appointments are booked.

Still in deficit

HHHS is now receiving reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenses on a monthly basis, which has significantly improved cash flow, Plummer said.

She said funding for eligible expenses up to the end of November 2020 has now been received.

Money has also flowed to cover lost revenues for long-term care, she said.

As a result, up to the end of January 2021, the operating deficit is \$530,000, of which \$275,000 is attributed to other lost revenue due to COVID-19 related service closures in hospital and community programs, while \$255,000 is related to some unanticipated one-time costs as well as ongoing staffing pressures resulting in increased costs for overtime, sick time, and benefits.

The board next meets on May 27 via Zoom. *(HHHS board news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*

Highlander environment



There was a Fridays for Future event in Minden prior to the evening session. *File.*

Moore says stakes couldn't be higher in federal climate plan

By Lisa Gervais

Terry Moore and David Robertson of the newly-minted Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN) said during a webinar March 19 that the Liberal government's climate action formula is a recipe for failure.

In their presentation, Canada's Climate Action Plan: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, the two dissected the Dec. 11, 2020-released document for members of Environment Haliburton!, Climate Action Muskoka and SCAN.

The federal Liberals said their 'A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy' plan would get Canada to Paris 2030 climate targets. However, after reviewing it, modelling appendices and related policy initiatives, Moore and Robertson said they would not.

They said the document contains an impressive-sounding list of 64 climate initiatives along with accompanying building blocks, but the approach is "worrying."

For example, Robertson said the overall philosophy is one of dealing with climate change, as opposed to treating it as a climate emergency. He added it commits to the "same old

model of economic growth" relying on market players responding to price signals and that the oil and gas industry has to be protected.

He concluded the plan won't reach targets as it contains a fatally-flawed carbon pricing system, suffers from glaring and alarming omissions, such as a failure to promote renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, but instead fossil fuel hydrogen.

Moore added it is a case of "too little, too late" and "not enough, soon enough."

For example, he said a recently-ended energy retrofit reached fewer than 1 in 10 households and a 2019 promise of planting two billion trees had gone nowhere.

He spoke of a "soft" target of eliminating internal combustion cars by 2040 but no hard rules. By contrast, Robertson said Norway has said no more internal combustion engines by 2025.

Moore also lamented a lack of expected emission outcomes, saying "if you don't measure it, you can't manage it."

Robertson said there would have to be a "huge" reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to reach targets and the plan does not contain those.

The two went on to point out a flawed carbon pricing system in which "there's too much room to game the system."

Quoting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as saying, "no county would find 173 billion barrels of oil in the ground and leave them there," they concluded that the Liberal government has adopted a fossil first climate plan. However, they said a climate first choice is what's needed.

Their alternate plan would call for: rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure, including transportation and buildings as well as industrial systems. They said those changes would have to be unprecedented in scale with deep emission reductions in all sectors.

Their formula is fossil fuel phase-out plus hard caps plus clean renewables and electrification to meet Paris 2030.

By contrast, they said the Liberal formula is carbon pricing plus hydrogen plus CCUS (carbon capture, utilization storage) and nuclear.

Moore concluded, "The question is can we mobilize enough people to reject fossil first and help pull us back from the brink of climate chaos? The stakes could not possibly be higher."

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Highlander sports

Spring showers finish off 'frustrating' ski season

By Joseph Quigley

Warm weather and spring showers brought the alpine season to an early end March 29 as Sir Sam's Ski and Bike announced its hills were closing.

The ski hill announced its "most challenging season" was ending as the weather had deteriorated its snow base. It also said season pass holders who did not get full value would be able to forward a credit for next year.

The business planned to remain open for Easter weekend. Owner Chris Bishop said the hill could only open for 35 days this winter due to COVID-19 lockdowns and weather, whereas a normal season would be 80. He said it was a "frustrating" year, with snow resorts across the province upset about being unable to open for weeks after putting COVID-19 protocols in place. Ontario was the only jurisdiction in North America to close them this winter.

"The bottom line, it has a serious effect on your cash flow. We'll figure out a way to get through to get open for next year," Bishop said.

Bishop estimated spending about \$50,000 on safety measures. He added things such as online ticketing would outlive the pandemic at the hill.

The government has provided some support, including a second round of payments under the Ontario Small Business Support Grant in its 2021 budget, which could mean up to \$20,000 for businesses



Sir Sam's closed its ski hill March 29 as warm weather and rain melted its snow base. *File photo.*

such as Sir Sam's.

"Those things help," Bishop said. "But it doesn't make up for hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue."

The business saw plenty of encouraging support across its social media feed.

"You did everything right," attendee Rory

Gilfillan said. "This season drove home the value of a family-owned and operated hill. As I mentioned before, your hill and more importantly, your people are the animating part of our kids' lives."

Bishop said he is now readying for mountain biking in the summer and expects

his property's trails and camps to be popular.

"We just want to thank all of the customers that came this year," he said. "Hope to see some of them this summer – and obviously, we look forward to a longer ski season next winter."

INFORMATION PAGE

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(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:

April 8 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 29 – Regular Council 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.

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for qualified individuals to join our team in the following positions:

Building Inspector
Casual Operators for Community Services
Summer Student for Community Services
Summer Students
for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca for more information and how to apply.

CANCELLED Notice: Public Meeting Fees and Charges

Please take notice the **Public Meeting**, scheduled for April 8, 2021, regarding proposed changes to the Township's Comprehensive **Fees and Charges** By-law is cancelled.

Waste Reduction Tip

Spring is around the corner! If you are cleaning out your closet, you can drop off textiles (in good and poor condition) in the donation bin at Scotch Line Landfill.

Request for Tenders

**Request For Proposal
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for the provision of One 4x4 Crew Cab, Chassis with Dual Rear Wheels and Aluminum Dump Box with Snow Plow.

Submission Deadline is April 6, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Visit www.mindenhills/tenders/ for more information and to download the tender documents.

Notice of Hydrant Flushing

Please note that mandatory Fire Hydrant flushing will be performed throughout the Minden Water Distribution System between:

April 5, 2021 to April 19, 2021

During this period please allow your water to run for 2-5 minutes to clear any discolouration through the home plumbing.

Easter Weekend

Minden Hills Council & Staff wish everyone a Safe and Happy Easter Holiday Weekend.

Please enjoy the holiday responsibly and within the Provincial guidelines.

The Administration Offices and services will be CLOSED on Friday April 2nd and Monday, April 5th.

Waste Sites on Holiday Hours

Minden Hills waste sites will follow Holiday Monday hours of operation on Easter Monday, April 5th. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for hours of operation, or check the back of your landfill pass.

A Message from the Fire Department

Having a babysitter can give you peace of mind and allows you to leave your child with someone you trust. Be sure your babysitter knows about fire safety and what to do if there is a fire.

Babysitter Training

Many places offer babysitter classes and can be online training or in a classroom setting. Some schools and hospitals give training. These classes teach how to care for children, provide first aid and CPR training and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Show the babysitter your home escape plan and make sure that the babysitter understands the fire safety plan. If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure the babysitter is knowledgeable about kitchen safety. If the smoke alarm sounds make sure your babysitter knows to get out and call 911.

Remember always leave the phone number where you can be reached, cell phones make this easy and ensure that the babysitter knows the address of the home.

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Making an end to the rainbow

Camexicanus has begun after-school programming at the Haliburton museum, offering local children an array of activities. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, they made their own small pots of gold with egg cartons.

Top: Darian Maddock helps Nasime Wiso with choosing a colour. Bottom left: Grace Wilson holds up a piece of "gold" – good for a hug for whoever she gives it to. Bottom right: Sullivan Brind works on his pot of gold. *Photos by Joseph Quigley.*

Highlander events



Lighting the world blue

Water Ambassadors Canada (WAC) lit up landmarks across the country blue March 22 for World Water Day. Landmarks included the CN Tower, Calgary Tower, Vancouver City Hall and the Head Lake Park fountain in Haliburton. Left to right: WAC founders Barry Hart and Heather Alloway, alongside Ursula Devolin, holding Badger, and Barry Devolin. Photo by Joseph Quigley. .

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Highlander events



The Haliburton Lions Club recently donated \$1,000 to Sick Kids and \$2,000 to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation in lieu of the cancelled polar bear challenge for this year. Pictured are Lions Tina Hadley and Jim and Marilyn Frost presenting the big cheque to Lisa Tompkins, director of the HHHSF. *Photo submitted.*

Time to jump in the lake for a good cause

By Lisa Gervais

Century 21 broker of record, Brandon Nimigon, will be jumping into cold spring water May 1 to do his part for charity.

Nimigon said all of the proceeds from his Go Jump in the Lake Challenge will go to SIRCH.

Meanwhile, his colleagues in Coboconk will also be taking the plunge.

Dean Michel said the second annual fundraiser takes place at 2 p.m. that day with proceeds going to the Wellness Centre project in Coby.

He said that unlike organized polar bear dips that happen in one central location, this event promotes social distancing and takes place off each participant's dock or waterfront location of their choice.

In 2020, Michel and Jennifer Bacon created a fun campaign to raise funds and awareness. More than 20 people braved the cold spring water, raising upwards of \$15,000 for their community.

Nimigon said Dean and Bacon challenged him to compete this year which he was happy to accept.

"Of course, I wanted to support something more local and I know SIRCH had a tough year with COVID. The challenge was whoever doesn't raise the most money will not only have to jump in the lake but stay there for 60 seconds."

Michel said Coboconk and area money is going to the new Wellness Centre, which will provide a hub for community health in the Northern Kawartha lakes. It will include more doctors, after-hours care, physiotherapy, dental, a community meeting space, and other complementary services that will benefit both full-time and seasonal residents.

For more information on the challenge, contact Dean Michel at 416-889-2963 or dean.michel@century21.ca.

For more information about the Wellness Centre, contact Jennifer Wilson, general manager of the Coboconk, Norland and Area Chamber of Commerce at 705-454-1110 or chamber@coboconknorland.ca. You can also visit, coboconknorland.ca/Wellness_Centre_Info

To join the challenge as a participant or donor, visit kawarthalakeside.com.



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SPRING CAR CARE



Local dealers have six spring tips. Photo via unsplash.

Leaving winter in the dust

By Lisa Harrison

With spring upon us, you'll need to give your vehicles more than the usual amount of tender loving care.

This winter, as always, was tough on your ride.

Ice is traditionally a major factor, requiring plenty of salt treatments, and it seems deep potholes have turned up everywhere. Auto maintenance and repair shops are seeing their business increase to prove it.

A lot of people are bringing in their cars, SUVs, vans and trucks for repairs to tires, rims, ball joints and tie-rod ends.

Shops recommend following a six-point checklist for clearing away winter's effects and preparing your vehicle for warmer weather.

- Start with an overall service inspection to identify winter wear and tear.
- Have all fluids checked and topped up and change the oil if it's time.
- Change your tires when the temperature reaches a relatively steady seven degrees. Winter tire material wears down more quickly in warm weather and summer tires function best above that temperature.
- Have the brakes serviced to remove winter debris such as mud and stones.

• Wash the car well or take it in to be detailed to remove road salt.

The liquid salt is really hard on vehicles as it eats the metals. Areas that are most affected include rocker panels, wheel wells and doors.

• The final step is rustproofing, but wait for summer weather – the hotter, the better.

When it's done, head for a dirt road and kick up dust, which will help the coating adhere better. Wait a few weeks before washing the vehicle, and avoid automatic washes that target the undercarriage as this will damage the undercoating.

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Highlander classifieds

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The Community Services Department is looking for Casual Operators to join their team. Casual Operators are responsible for the operation and maintenance of facilities, parks and cemeteries. Non-union.

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Please visit:

mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities for full posting details and job description.

How to Apply:

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Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a Public Works Supervisor (Stanhope Yard)

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from experienced, qualified persons for the Public Works Supervisor position. Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Public Works Supervisor is responsible for the daily planning, supervising and coordinating of staff, operations and projects as assigned.

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, April 9, 2021** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
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We are looking for energetic people to join our team on the lumber sales desk. Responsibilities include customer service, inventory control and product merchandising. Candidates should have a good general knowledge of building products and have effortless keyboarding skills.

Please submit your resume to either:

cleve@emersonlumber.com
or ryan@cottagecbs.com

**EMMERSON LUMBER LIMITED-HALIBURTON
COTTAGE COUNTRY BUILDING SUPPLIES- CARNARVON**



Employment Opportunities @ Abbey Gardens

LUNCH COUNTER

Working at the Lunch Counter in the Food Hub, this role will include working at the lunch counter, preparing food, providing customer service, and promoting local food. It may also include the occasional Hub retail shift.

Full time May - September.
Weekend availability required.

Resumes can be submitted to ashley@abbeygardens.ca

RETAIL CLERK

Working on site in the Food Hub, the Retail Clerk will be responsible for creating and maintaining retail displays, serving retail clients, managing inventory, and some kitchen prep. The retail clerk will be mindful of quality assurance as well as assisting in reaching sales targets.

Full time May - October.
Weekend availability required.

Resumes can be submitted to susan@abbeygardens.ca

Full job descriptions can be viewed at abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Temporary Capital Project Inspector

The successful applicant will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in construction supervision, coordination and administration. They must have a valid G licence and reliable personal vehicle.

The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE Local 1960 position is \$30.42.

For complete responsibilities and requirements of the position visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than April 16, 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.



WE'RE HIRING!

ASSEMBLY & PRODUCTION WORKERS

Heat-Line is a Canadian owned and operated company that since 1988 has dedicated its resources to the development of advanced heating cable solutions.

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- Follow production guidelines and specifications.
- Operating and maintaining machinery and production line equipment.
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- Reporting any issues to the supervisor/manager on duty.
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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



BAKED & BATTERED IS GEARING UP!

We're looking for a few new team members to help us make summer of 2021 a memorable season.

Available positions include counter/waitstaff, bus/stock/runners, and back-of-the-house fry cooks and prep.

If you're interested, send your resume to colby@bakedandbattered.com.

CARPENTER HELPER WANTED

- Apprenticeship Available
- Benefits
- Send or Drop off Resume

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SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SIRCH Community Services is a charitable organization in Haliburton County with a variety of programs and social enterprises that contribute to community health. Come join our team:

- School's Cool Instructors
- SIRCH Bistro Assistant
- Videographer
- Social Media Assistant
- Thrift Warehouse Retail Assistants Haliburton & Bancroft

For complete job descriptions please visit our website: www.sirch.on.ca/category/help-wanted

To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to info@sirch.on.ca



We are looking for applicants to join the Cordell carpet team!

We are looking for enthusiastic, organized, people with interest and background in interior decorating.

Please drop resume off
in person to Cordell Carpet
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Has COVID got you imagining a different way of life? Our busy Haliburton Village practice is looking for a lawyer to practice in association, part or full time.

We'll take care of admin, support and marketing to provide a steady workflow so you can focus on your area of practice. Our century-home office in downtown Haliburton is perfect for working and meeting clients, complete with parking and kitchen facilities.

Work is available in real estate, wills and estates, corporate law, litigation and family law. Please contact bram@lebolaw.ca for more information.



LEGAL ASSISTANT or LAW CLERK

We're looking for an intermediate to senior legal assistant or law clerk to join our office in Haliburton Village.

You should have a minimum of 10 years experience in Real Estate and/or Wills and Estates. Experience with Unity and Teraview is preferred.

Compensation competitive.

Can be full time, or part time with regular hours.

Please contact Cathy Smith at office@lebolaw.ca.



HALIBURTON HOCKEY HAVEN

Sports Camp is looking for a DISHWASHER/CLEANER

We are looking for an energetic person able to handle a wide range of tasks from dishwashing to cleaning, in accordance with COVID-19. Protocols we have put in place to ensure camp cleanliness for staff and campers. This person should be able to handle dishwashing for a large number of campers three times a day, as well as general cleaning of the dining hall and other camp areas. Participation in camp sports/games is optional as opportunity's will be present during down time.

To apply go to camphockeyhaven.com
for full job description or email
mitchell@camphockeyhaven.com



HALIBURTON HOCKEY HAVEN

Sports Camp is looking for a HEAD CHEF

Head Chef wanted at Haliburton Hockey Haven Sports Camp, position runs early June to Labour day weekend.

Please contact mitchell@camphockeyhaven.com
for details or call 905-717-1000

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Email sales@thehighlander.ca
or call 705-457-2900

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

Dave Lavergne's Landscaping seeking help for the upcoming season. Flagstone, retaining walls and stairs. Machinery work as asset but will train. Competitive rates. Call Dave, 705-457-5839 send resume to: davelavergne@hotmail.com

C-Fix Solutions Local contractor looking for help. Wages based on experience call 905-259-7324

Individual required with carpentry, staining & painting skills. Approx 30 hrs/week. Own transportation a must. Please call John at 705-455-2818

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.



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WANTED

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**VOLUNTEER
INCOME TAX** / SCHEDULE FOR TAXATION YEAR 2020

Starts Friday March 5th until Friday April 23rd 2021

At the Royal Canadian Legion, Haliburton, Ontario

Time 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Everyone Must WEAR A MASK and Social DISTANCING

Please make sure your phone no. is on your forms.



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

For breaking news, videos
and community events visit
THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Highlander classifieds

FOR RENT

Brand new large 1 bdrm apt, s/s full kitchen, propane fireplace, very bright. Own entrance, 3pc bath, plenty of storage. Hot tub, water access & shared laundry. 5 min. to Minden \$1,400./month, first & last, all inclusive. References required, available June 1st. Call 705-455-2050

Room for rent in shared house. Walking distance to Minden, all inclusive Call Joe at 705-306-0979

1 bdrm shared accommodation. Large bath, kitchen, living space & dining area. Hot tub, water access & shared laundry. 5 min. to Minden. \$800./month, first & last. Mature working individual. References required. Call 705-455-2050

SOLUTIONS FOR APRIL 1

1	G	E	T	S	5	B	L	U	R	9	S	A	D	A	13	T
14	A	S	O	U	15	A	C	N	E	16	C	U	R	B	S	
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28	G	O	T		30											
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NOTICE



Minden Hills Hazardous Waste Event Days

Based on your feedback, we've enhanced our household hazardous waste events to include alternate locations, extended hours and a weekday event.

Sat. May 29	8am-2pm	S.G. Nesbitt Arena
Fri. June 25	9am-3pm	Minden Fair Grounds
Sat. June 26	8am-11:30am	Scotch Line Landfill
Sat. Sept. 11	8am-11:30am	Scotch Line Landfill
Sat. Oct. 9	8am-11:30am	Scotch Line Landfill

Attendees must present a valid MH Waste Site Access Pass.

Leaking containers and containers with unidentified fluids cannot not be accepted at events. Please place leaking containers into a sealed container and apply a label.

For a full list of accepted materials, please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill.



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

ADVERTISING HERE WORKS

“ We noticed a 60% increase in sales and visits after placing our ad with The Highlander! New customers both locally and from within the GTA came in as a direct result. That kind of reach would cost considerably more than the cost of one ad. We will definitely continue to advertise in The Highlander.

TheOccurrence

Highlander classifieds

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FOR SALE

Antique (70 yrs) solid walnut drop-leaf Dining Table. Hidden leaf in centre. Perfect condition. \$500.00. Also, Teak Dresser. 5 drawers and side cupboard with 2 shelves. Perfect condition - \$200.00. Pictures of both available by e-mail. Call 705-286-6856.

Real Estate Investor selling portfolio of properties, Minden & Bracebridge area. Call Joe at 705-306-0979

Moving / downsizing sale - 2 large corner cupboards, 1 large wardrobe, 1 bedside table, all Mennonite solid pine wood. 1 small vintage solid wood dressing style table w/drawers, 1 wash stand, 1 small dresser w/drawers. 1 - 14ft trampoline like new with new netting. Call Sharon 705-286-0917

WANTED

WANTED SHOP RENTAL

- Min 500 sq ft, separate entrance, to use for spray paint and refinishing.
- Clean (as dust free as possible)
- Bathroom / Sink (for washing brushes and equipment etc.)
- Heated. Overhead lighting preferred.
- Sufficient power.
- Call Marcella at 647-856-9078

Highlander puzzles

Gimme the Lowdown

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords


Across

- 1 Understands
- 5 Last line on an eye chart, for many
- 9 Assassinated Egyptian leader
- 14 Not worth ____
- 15 Bad marks in high school?
- 16 Fire hydrant sites
- 17 Dive in au naturel
- 19 Give ____ of one's own medicine
- 20 Sergeant played by Steve Martin
- 21 Like a green cherry
- 23 Francophone's "soul"
- 24 Screening for Olympic athletes
- 29 Head for
- 31 "Don't bother, really"
- 32 P.M. periods, in classifieds
- 33 Say suddenly, with "out"
- 35 "You're ____ and don't even know it!"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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51			52							53		54		
		55								56	57			
58								59	60	61	62			
63								64				65		
66								67				68		

Down

- 1 One who rambles on and on
- 2 Edmonton CFL player, pre-team name change
- 3 Biffy
- 4 "I'm ____" (comment from a goner)
- 5 Howl like a wolf
- 6 Digital readout, for short
- 7 Verse opener?
- 8 Public esteem
- 9 '70s fad diet akin to the Atkins
- 10 Tax fraudster's fear
- 11 Pop by unannounced
- 12 No-show
- 13 Prufrock creator's inits.
- 18 Auction gesture
- 22 Maiden name intro
- 25 "Come ____!" (call from the second floor)
- 26 Unlikely genre on The Family Channel
- 27 Agreement between nations
- 28 Cash register button in most of Canada
- 30 Old Greek coin
- 34 Blabbermouth's trait
- 36 It's worse in Québec?
- 37 Having the smartest answers?
- 38 Railroad tie coating
- 39 "Hi and Lois" boy
- 40 Swiss painter Paul
- 41 "ER" characters
- 45 Rubber-stamped
- 46 How the frail fight
- 48 Elementary subtraction word
- 49 P.E.I./New Brunswick's Confederation ____
- 50 Dips served with guacamole
- 52 Will Millar was an Irish one
- 53 Tartare, on a menu
- 57 Scrutineer's concern
- 58 "Deck the Halls" syllables
- 60 180 degree turn, slangily
- 61 A Gabor, when doubled
- 62 Buddhist discipline



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

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

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22	S	L	Y	S		23	C	O	N	24	V	E	R	S	I	25	26
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30	D	I	S	C	U	S		33	S	I	N	G				35	G
36	I	T	A	K	E			37	T	M	C		38	39	I	C	O
40	N	I	L					41	S	U	P	E	42	R	V	I	S
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57	58	F	A	T	S	O				59	P	R	O	P	O	S	I
60		A	H	E	A	P				61	D	E	N		62	R	E
63		M	A	S	T	S				64	A	D	S		65	E	S



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Kim Barnhart
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COMMERCIAL

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NEW LISTING

Halls Lake



Well maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage or home with gorgeous lake views. Lovely landscaped terraced lot with two cabins at water's edge. Main cottage features a large kitchen, dining room & fantastic screened porch overlooking the lake, cozy living room and main floor laundry. **\$689,000**

SOLD!

Minden Lake



Stunning year-round 2-bdrm home or cottage. 104 ft of frontage on Minden Lake. Fully renovated home now provides a calm and comforting cottage atmosphere. Bright open concept and pretty lake front views. Drink your morning coffee while enjoying the views across the lake of the white-water rapids from your large deck. Partially finished lower level. **\$665,000**

LISTED TO SOLD IN ONE DAY!

Haliburton Lake



It's the stunning BIG lake views you have been dreaming of! This traditional 3-bdrm cottage offers open concept living. 3pc bath, spacious kitchen with walk-out to lakeside deck. Unfinished basement. Private dock with deep clean water, excellent swimming, and miles of boating. 115ft of frontage. Wood fired sauna. Start enjoying the beauty Haliburton Lake has to offer in this fully furnished cottage! **\$559,000**

SOLD!

Archie Street



Conveniently located in a quiet neighborhood. Bright and spacious 4 bdrm, 2 bath home with many recent improvements. Large kitchen and open concept dining and living area. Four-season sunroom that leads to a large deck. 20 x 28 garage. Large family room with a propane stone fireplace. A short 3 minute walk to all of Minden's attractions and amenities. **\$439,900**

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HIGHWAY 35
0.59 AC **\$79,900**
NEW LISTING

HIGHWAY 35
0.83 AC **\$79,900**
SOLD

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