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# The Highlander

Haliburton County's Independent Voice

Friday **4 November 2011** | Issue 5

**FREE**  
 5,000 printed



Three of the many ghoulish creatures who dropped by the Minden Community Centre on Halloween night. / Gavan



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS**  
 Readers are reminded to turn their clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. Daylight savings time officially ends at 2am Sunday.

## Fourth man charged

27-year old Toronto man charged with first degree murder

By Terrance Gavan

Toronto police arrested a fourth suspect on October 31 for the murder of Minden's Ryan Kennedy and the attempted murder of another local man. The arrest was made on the basis of a warrant obtained by OPP officers in charge of the homicide investigation.

Nathaniel Cain, 27 of Toronto, has been charged with murder and attempted murder and remains in custody. He appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay on November 1.

Three other men, all from Toronto, were charged earlier with murder and attempted murder and also remain in custody. Tin Wai Hong (27), Mason Gillard-Gatza (19), and Raphael Guerra (26) are scheduled to reappear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay, on different dates this month.

It is not known at this time if the police are looking for more suspects.

## Highlanders mourn loss of founding father

By Jack Brezina

Ross was one of those individuals for whom retiring to the Highlands was not enough. He and his wife Lois needed to be part of the community.

From offering his services in the municipal sphere to serving on committees, to being a volunteer at numerous events, Ross found great satisfaction in helping to make his community a better place for everyone.

Ross was first elected to Snowdon Township council in 1994 and served as Reeve until the amalgamation of the three municipalities of Anson, Hindon and Minden, Lutterworth and Snowdon under the name of Minden Hills in 2000. He then served as Reeve of the newly amalgamated municipality

until 2005. A diagnosis of prostate cancer and then a stroke took its toll, requiring him to retire from public life, but it did not quench his interest in the wellbeing of the community and his fellow citizens.

Ross founded a prostate cancer survivors' group which met regularly to provide support and education for those battling the disease. He also helped form the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group for survivors and their caregivers.

He maintained his interest in the community by being a part of numerous committees, including the advisory board of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. He was also a founding member of the Minden Cultural Centre Foundation.

His contribution to the "Cultural Corner" in Minden was recognized in 2009 when he was presented with the inaugural (and what is now known as) the Bill Lambie Arts Alive Minden Award. He continued to be a member of the Cultural Centre Advisory Board until his death.

Ross was an active member and former President of the Canning Lake Property Owners Association and a member of the Lochlin United Church.

He was a long-term employee of Sears Canada where he worked in various departments of the company: credit, catalogue, retail operations, and human resources in three provinces, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Continued on page 3

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# County news

"Minden and Haliburton County have lost one of their most stalwart citizens, in the passing of Ross Rigney, 76."



Continued from page 1

He retired as Vice President of Public Relations and Government Affairs at the Toronto head office and then moved to the Highlands.

He is survived by his wife Lois, daughter Susan Wright (Jerry) of Pickering, and David Rigney (Pamela) of Scarborough. Ross was grandfather of Jennifer and Christopher Wright, and Alexander and Nicholas Rigney, brother-in-law to Mary Buck (Lorne), Dr. Roy Riddell (Helen-deceased), Julian Pristanski (Pat), Lorna Pristanski (deceased), and Donna Riddell. He will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home in Minden on Friday, November 4, from 3:00 until 7:00 pm. There will be a service at the Minden United Church on Saturday, November 5 at 12:30 pm, with a reception following. Interment at the Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery.

Memorial Donations can be made to Prostate Cancer Canada, The Heart and Stroke Foundation or to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

## "Winter warm-up" a cure for shivered souls

Jerelyn Craden - Special to The Highlander

Warm up, fill up, have fun!

Shivering at last year's Santa Claus Parade in Haliburton Village, BIA Event Coordinator/Promoter, Jerelyn Craden, had an idea.

"We need a place where people can warm up, fill up (with food and hot chocolate), and have fun immediately following the parade," said Craden, to no one in particular.

Flash forward: On Friday, November 25, right after the Santa Claus Parade in Haliburton, the first "Winter Warm-up!" will be presented at the Haliburton Legion by the Haliburton Village BIA, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 and the Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

Carla Watson, Legion President, is thrilled. "Winter Warm-up is great for the whole family, and we're happy to be a part of it," said Watson.

"We're excited about giving the community a great, fun winter warm-up experience," says Rosemarie Jung, BIA Administrator.

Hot chocolate, a spaghetti dinner, free prizes and special musical guests are on offer at the post-parade fete. In addition, Mrs. Santa will be on hand to tell Christmas stories to kids.

Just \$5 for kids under 12, \$7 for adults. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

For more information contact:

Jerelyn Craden, BIA Event Coordinator/Promoter at (705) 457-2532 or Rosemarie Jung, BIA Administrator at (705) 457-4041.

## The weather

**Friday**

high 4° low -5° & Sunny



**Saturday**

high 6° low -8° & sunny



**Sunday**

high 10° low -1° & cloudy periods



**Monday**

high 11° low 6° & cloudy with showers



**Tuesday**

high 9° low 2° & variable cloudiness



**Wednesday**

high 10° low 4° & rain



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# County news

## Popples invent a brand new way to donate

45th Wedding Anniversary bonanza for Hospital



Left to Right, Resident Dr. Alison Charlebois, RPN Megan Shaw, Sheila and Don Popple, Emergency Physician Dr. Greg Karaguesian, and RN Pat Hardie pose with the new ECG machine.

By Stephen Patrick

When Don and Sheila Popple were planning their 45th wedding anniversary party at their home on Drag Lake, they wanted to make sure their long-time friends and colleagues wouldn't think they had to bring any presents.

Don is the long-time President of Curry Motors, as well as Campaign Co-Chair with the Haliburton Health Services Foundation. So Don and Sheila thought, well, instead of gifts, why not make it a fundraiser for the hospitals?

With entertainment by Jazz Kitchen, food by Rhubarb, and beer and wine donated by Don and Sheila, perhaps it's no wonder that an amazing \$14,206 was raised. And where does the money go?

Well, \$5,000 was earmarked for a much-needed new ECG machine. The rest will be put towards the purchase of new x-ray machines.

On Friday, the Popples got their first look at the ECG machine. Nurse Pat Hardie explained: "When patients come into emergency, and have any kind of suspect symptoms relating to the heart, we give them an ECG, which is like a snapshot in time, and it tells us what is going on with the heart, and we then either go running down the hall saying come quick, come quick, or we relax and look for other symptoms."

"We use this technology every single day in 'emerge' and also for our resident patients. There's no question that we've already saved lives because of it."

You could tell how pleased the hospital staff was to have the apparatus. And after the presentation, Don Popple couldn't resist a typical joke: "Don't you think it's ironic that we've managed to raise all this money for heart patients by feeding people free food and free booze?"

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3.24/kg

**1.47** /lb.

SAVE 1.52 /lb.

**4 lb. Average**

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**2.47** /lb.

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**1.47**

SAVE 1.52

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SAVE 5.02

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**.97**

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# Editorial opinion

**NOTE: Publisher Bram Lebo and Editor-in-Chief Stephen Patrick have different points of view when it comes to the reporting of police activity and charges. We invite our readers to join in this debate: please write us at [letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca](mailto:letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca) to share your views.**



## Let the light shine in

By Stephen Patrick, Editor

Newspapers exist to inform the public of the events that take place in their community. We are here to let you know what's going on in your town, village or country road. We celebrate innovation, we mourn the deaths of the old and young, we go to gallery openings, Rotary fairs and hospital board meetings, we watch and photograph buskers busking and hunters hunting. We provide commentary on a wide range of topics – we offer weekly points of view and editorials on all manner of subjects we think are of concern to you, our readers.

And yes, we report when we can on the other side of life, more specifically on those who have run afoul of the law. For example, we continue to report on the horrific case of murder and attempted murder some two weeks ago on South Lake Road. We report the names of the accused, and whatever else we can glean from the bare-bones OPP reports and our own research.

Nobody disputes our right and our duty to report serious criminal charges when they are laid in this community. Nobody also disputes our obligation to follow up on the court cases involving the accused, even when said follow-up requires serious diversion of staff and budget.

But when it comes to reporting the names of those charged with impaired driving, public opinion, and the management of this newspaper, are divided. Our competition has maintained since the early 1980s that they would not report impaired driving charges on the grounds that careers and lives could be seriously affected by such publication, and that if the accused were to be found not guilty, the stigma would remain. They also maintained, rightly, that it was very difficult to follow up on every single case of impaired driving.

For three and a half years, I took a different tack, and insisted on reporting all OPP charges that were released publicly. My concern with selective publication was that it gave newspaper editors and proprietors far too much power over what public information to print and what to ignore. When newspapers decide, essentially on a whim, that one impaired charge won't be reported, but another impaired charge will because perhaps there was an accident involved; or that the accused had been convicted before; or no, we can't report that, because, hey, she's just a kid, just made one mistake, comes from a nice family, plays basketball with my daughter, goes to church regularly, etc. etc., then, to my mind, we have a big problem.

Would those who think it's unfair to report all these charges deny the right of the OPP to publish them on the web as well? Would we like the OPP to have the power to say, okay, you there, you only blew 0.5, you're safe, but you over there, you blew 1.4, you're charged? Or, maybe it's you, say, who narrowly missed wiping out half a hockey team by a couple of centimeters when you ran that stop sign after a couple of beers; you get off too because no actual damage was done?

In my view this is far too much power to give to simple newshounds, editors, publishers or OPP constables. Also, my certain experience has been that this power can and has been abused.

And there's another essential point: impaired driving claims approximately four lives each and every single day in Canada. Our former local OPP community officer, Mark McMaster, was convinced that the publication of impaired driving charges in Haliburton County was an important deterrent. And indeed, I've been told a number of times by friends that when they were unsure of whether or not they might be impaired, whether they should take the chance, the thought of being in that week's paper made them put their keys away.

Professor Robert Solomon, National Legal Director for MADD, told me yesterday that there was no solid evidence to back up the deterrent claim – that it was all anecdotal – but didn't deny that in a small community, common sense would tell you that it must have some effect, “on the one third of impaired drivers who are social drinkers, are solid citizens, and who might make that one mistake. The tragedy is that 16 to 25 year olds make up only 16 percent of our population, but account for 33 percent of impaired driving deaths. Whether or not they care is hard to judge.”

We'd like to hear more about this issue from our readers, young and old, parents, police and health care workers. Are we really delivering a public service, or are we just contributing to town gossip?

## It is not for us to judge

By Bram Lebo, Publisher



In any legal contest between the individual and the State, the individual is seriously outnumbered. The State has at its disposal practically limitless resources — police, crown prosecutors and legions of faceless civil servants cranking the gears of justice. The individual has basically his bank balance and, if he's lucky, a good lawyer who overlooks it.

This imbalance is the origin of our presumption of innocent until proven guilty, a cornerstone of our laws which goes back to Roman times. When the State has so many resources at its disposal and the citizen few, fairness dictates that any case against that individual be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. We've all too often seen cases of innocent people being locked away, usually because of an error in how these principles have been applied.

In Canada, fortunately, this is a rarity and the presumption of innocence is usually taken seriously. This critical principle does not, however, extend to the media or the rest of us, and therein lies the potential for trouble.

While police, judges and prosecutors generally understand the presumption of innocence, the rest of us tend, quite naturally, to operate under a different presumption: that where there's smoke, there's fire. Our natural curiosity, sometimes our schadenfreude, compels us to take interest in who's gotten themselves into trouble. In the process, we do exactly what the legal system is designed not to do; we jump to conclusions without having all the facts.

That might still be harmless, were it not for the impact the uninformed opinions of neighbours, friends, employers and colleagues can have on a person's life. Ostracism and collective scorn are features of First Nations and other justice systems precisely because they are so effective, often worse than prison to the person punished.

The problem with publishing charges is that charges are often proved false — some people are indeed completely innocent, caught at the wrong place at the wrong time. On the night of the recent murder in Minden, police had another suspect in custody and interrogated him for several hours. It's possible that had police been unable to contact his alibi, he too would have been charged with murder and now subject to our collective disgust and visceral loathing.

There have also been cases — many cases — of people being accused of heinous crimes without evidence, including the whole

“false memory” scandal of the 1990s which resulted in child abuse charges being filed against many innocent people. The courts found that therapists had been leading their patients to develop elaborate stories out of vague notions; the police, as is their duty, laid charges against the suspects. Families and communities were destroyed by suspicion, fear and accusations.

It took judges, who are of course trained to evaluate charges, to clear up the mess. But by then the damage had been done. Once published in a newspaper, criminal charges take on an air of legitimacy and tend to fuel all kinds of groundless speculation, or worse — retaliation. News stories often remain online, following a person forever.

It's not an easy call. Citizens have a right to be informed about events in their communities, and it's our job as a newspaper to do that. But we have to understand the power of publication and its impact on the individuals and families involved; the likelihood that the mere act of publication will lead many to draw potentially incorrect conclusions.

A charge is, after all, an allegation — not a fact — and we are in the business of facts.

Which brings us to the final objection to publishing the names of persons charged: it often isn't newsworthy, in the sense of information of sufficient import to our understanding of the world and current events that it bears publication in a newspaper. Sometimes, for example, when a person in a position of trust or authority is charged with a crime, putting their character or competence into question, the public is enlightened by knowing about it. Other times, perhaps including acts of mere selfishness or stupidity, like impaired driving, publication serves not to inform but merely to serve our baser instincts to gossip and delight in the misfortune of others.

There is a middle road, and that is to restrict publishing the names of persons charged with crimes to those cases where the public interest is served by knowing, and to wait until a preliminary hearing, a process in which a judge determines if there is sufficient evidence to have a trial, has been held to ensure there is at least passing validity to the accusation.

A responsible newspaper would in most cases take both of these measures before potentially ruining the lives of people who are, under the law, presumed innocent until proven guilty.

# TheHighlander

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## Tell us your Opinion

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[letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca](mailto:letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca)



# Letters to the editor

## Re: Your editorial, A puzzling decision

Dear Editor:

“Vaz you dere Charlie?”

This is a quotation from an old vaudeville act that seems appropriate in this circumstance. If you wish to criticize council you should at least attend the meeting.

I am afraid you have not gotten your facts straight, so let me recap.

I am not a reporter and don’t keep notes so will have to rely on my memory.

The Agenda for the October 11th meeting states that Donna Gagnon was to appear before council at 10:45 a.m. She arrived quite a bit earlier and as a courtesy was taken early.

She showed a proof of the 2012 calendar of events and explained they were making changes to accommodate more advertisers. She was asked about the advertisements and said they were needed to cover the cost of printing. Councilor Andrea Roberts mentioned that they had had several complaints from tax payers about advertising in the tax bills. Reeve Murray Fearrey mentioned that the councilors had had several complaints about the calendar and that they had neglected to include several important events - particularly the Rotary Carnival which is held on the same date every year.

After a short discussion, Donna left.

Council then proceeded to discuss the insertion of this calendar in the tax bills. The following comments were made:-

- Since this was commercial advertising, should taxpayers’ money be used to send it out?
- Would taxpayers on receiving this construe this to be an endorsement of these advertisers?
- I believe the clincher was when it was stated that if they included one brochure they could not refuse the other non-profit organizations the same privilege. (I know that some councilors had already been approached to have additional brochures included.)

This was discussed as to the size of the envelope and the cost that would be required. It was suggested that maybe the Arts Calendar could be included with the Destination Guide. At no time in their discussion was the complaint of an advertiser mentioned.

As to your comment that maybe this was political payback, I am sure that Janis Parker is very embarrassed by this statement and you have given a major insult to the present councilors.

Remember that there are only four members of the former council on this council.

As I recall, Janis did not have to “fight hard” as you put it to get the brochure included. She brought it up and showed a copy. It was discussed. There was some reservation about it, but council agreed to give it a try.

I think that you owe an apology to the present council.

Bill Beatty,  
Drag Lake

## Re: Cherry is the Pits

Dear Editor:

I have to take exception with only one phrase in this most excellent “critique” by Terrance Gavan, namely “borderline racism.” There is absolutely NOTHING “borderline” about Mr. Cherry’s racism!

As a French Canadian (and a human being), I can testify to this man’s frequent and completely racist and misogynistic rants. For many years now I have become almost apoplectic with rage whenever Don Cherry’s face appears on my TV screen, so I mute the sound and look away.

Thanks you so much for very eloquently putting my feelings in print, Terrance!

PS: It’s truly great to see Stephen Patrick “back in the saddle.”

Sincerely,  
Dr. Rene Benoit  
Haliburton

## Why must residents travel for dialysis?

Dear Editor:

We went to Peterborough this past week to see a friend and she is coming along real good. In fact, I think she would like to come back home to Minden where she has lived all her life, but she cannot.

She is on a dialysis machine three times a week and would have to travel to Peterborough or Lindsay for these treatments, which take up to three and one-half hours. We have found there are many friends and others from Haliburton County who must travel to have this treatment many times a week.

Yes, I hear there are a few who can take the treatment in their own home, but very few.

I am writing this letter in the hopes of getting some answers as to why we can’t get dialysis treatment in at least one of our local hospitals. Is it too expensive both for the machine and or persons to operate them or is this something that has just never been inquired about because we have been ignorant as to the number of persons that need this treatment?

Maybe we - the community - should start a drive to raise money to get such a machine or machines to save people from traveling, as well as being able to remain in the County of Haliburton as a full-time resident.

I am hoping the editor of your paper can scratch up something in the editor’s column to bring this matter to the attention of our politicians, our hospital(s) board and residents in general.

Thank you,  
Richard (Dick) Schell  
Minden

# The Outsider — Makin’ Bacon

By Will Jones

You’ve heard the joke about how many elephants you can get in a mini, yes? Well if not, don’t worry, it’s not very funny anyway.

Here’s another one for you, though. How many pigs can you squeeze in a rental car? And, before you ask, yes they were full-size pigs and no, it wasn’t an SUV or pick-up, far from it!

The answer is two, just about, so long as you saw one of them in half.

That wasn’t very funny either, was it? Then again, the fellows at the abattoir just about laughed their blood-soaked aprons off when I turned up to collect my freshly killed pigs in the aforementioned, rather compact rental car.

“In there! HAAAAHA... Really? HAAAAHA...” guffawed a burly chap holding half of a 200 pound pig.

“You need a bigger car. Or a smaller pig!” quipped his sidekick (who was also laden with a hefty load of unbutchered pork).

But, with some gentle persuasion and the help of a saw to chop the second porker into quarters, we managed to load my beloved but now very dead pigs into the car.

Little Z wasn’t overjoyed. Sitting in his seat in the rear of the vehicle, he was now confronted by two trotters, two ears, a snout and the ominous but rather vacant expression that I imagine most pigs adopt on being cut in half. “Daddy, think it’s smiling?” he asked tentatively, his brow furrowing and lip quivering slightly as he spoke. “Yes,” I boomed with an

overconfident smile. “He’s really looking forward to us eating him!” I’m sure Z saw straight through that.

And so it was that the wife, child and I, plus our two not very talkative companions wended our way home for what was to be a mammoth evening of hog molestation.

But perhaps I should back up a little to explain. When living in the city I yearned to have the space to grow my own food; everything from chives to chickens, mustard greens to Muscovy ducks and parsley to, you guessed it, pigs.

And so, on coming to Haliburton, I leapt wholeheartedly into that quest. I’ve grown vegetables, reared and dispatched chickens, and now, thanks to the help of some lovely friends in Gelert, raised big, fat, hairy, healthy pigs.

That said, they were for eating and so off to the abattoir they went. But I’m no fool if not an enthusiastic one, and the chance to butcher them myself was not something to be passed up. And so, here I was driving home from Lindsay, with my two year old sharing the back seat with 350 pounds of unsliced bacon.

Back at the ranch, I extricated the pigs from the rear of the car and hosed down the interior to remove the blood and gore - it’s OK, it’s just a rental; or should I add ‘sorry Curry’s!’ - and heaved the large and evermore daunting carcasses into the garage, where my ad hoc meat processing station had been set up.

“They’re quite big, aren’t they?” said the wife, drastically understating the situation.

“Pigs still smiling, Daddy,” said Little Z, looking on from a distance. But, you gotta’ do what you gotta’ do, and with a wink at Z, I set to the task of chopping up our hogs into rather more bite-sized portions.

Five hours later, with the little chap long tucked up in bed, the wife wielded the knife and sliced the last chop. It was gone midnight as I tied the knot on the butcher’s paper-wrapped slab of flesh and the two of us fell into bed, blood stained, exhausted but rather proud of our first foray into butchery.

I’ve taken these things from the experience, too. In addition to having a freezer packed to the gunnels with lovely, if slightly raggedy, cuts of home grown pork, I now have the utmost respect for the likes of Norm (of Smoke House fame), Mr Coneybeare and all you hunters who butcher your own meat.

And, I guess I have some explaining to do to Curry Motors!





# Dysart et al

## Two yes, two no to Arts Council calendar

By Will Jones

Following the decision by the Municipality of Dysart et al not to send out the Arts Council events calendar in its 2012 tax bill mail-out, The Highlander has contacted the other municipalities to get their response and see if they'll be following suit.

The result is that two councils have agreed to send out the event calendar, while one will not. But who is and who's not? And why did they say yes or no?

For all of the political infighting and upheaval in Minden Hills, the councillors agreed that the events calendar would be included in next year's tax bill mail-out and that supporting the arts is important to the municipality.

Reeve Barb Reid stated: "I'm happy to report that Minden Hills approved the 2012 Arts Calendar for insertion in the Minden Hills tax mailing." She explained that council felt, that as the County does not send out tax bills, and so doesn't reach every home, it is up to the lower tier of local government to do what they can to support industry, especially one as important and revenue, generating as tourism, of which the arts is a big part.

"The reason for our decision is that we believe we need to support our major industry – tourism," said Reid. "It is our number one industry in the County so is of importance to residents of Minden Hills, too. The tax bill is the only direct-to-home vehicle and therefore is the only way a message can get directly into every home in our municipality. It is a great way to reinforce the message about our vibrant and important cultural economy."

Looking forward to next year, Reid gave

a clear signal that there would be no change of heart: "We are committed to working with the Arts Council to evolve the calendar next year, to incorporate important information about the Municipal Cultural Plans, which are in development in Minden Hills."

Contrary to the Minden Hills decision, Highlands East Reeve, Dave Burton, does not think it is something his residents will miss.

"We did put it in once but it wasn't something that people here particularly wanted, and so we haven't included the calendar in the mail-out since."

Burton stressed that the Highlands East municipality doesn't offer this service to local events or organisations, and so he didn't see how or why he should do it for a county-wide initiative such as the Arts Council.

Additionally, Burton explained that Highlands East sends out a municipal newsletter with its tax bills, so adding further material to the mail-out would push the cost of postage up, something that he wouldn't want to do.

On the topic of the Dysart et al decision, Burton stated: "I don't think there is any particular conflict of interest for the council with what the Arts Council includes on its calendar – and what it is mailing out to its residents – but I do understand the municipality's decision to stop sending the calendar in the tax bill."

Algonquin Highlands Reeve, Carol Moffatt, was away at the time of writing this article but her deputy,

Barb Reid

Minden Hills

*"The tax bill is the only direct-to-home vehicle and therefore the only way a message [the Arts Council events calendar] can get directly into every home in our municipality. It is a great way to reinforce the message about our vibrant and important cultural economy."*

Liz Danielson stepped in to say that the municipality would be sending the calendar in its 2012 tax bills.

"Yes, it will be going out in the tax mail-out," she said. "There was no discussion as to the suitability of its content and council was more than happy to support the Arts Council."

Danielson explained that the initial request from the Arts Council was for feedback on the look of the calendar, but staff at Algonquin Highlands took one step further and put a resolution on the agenda to include it in the mail-out, too.

She said: "Including the calendar in the Algonquin Highlands tax bill would add no extra cost to the mail-out and so there was no debate as to whether it should or shouldn't be included at all. We are pleased to be able to support the Arts Council's request and pleased to send out the event calendar with our tax bills."

Commenting on the decisions of the other municipalities in the county, Dysart et al reeve, Murray Fearrey, said:

"What other municipalities do or don't put in their tax mail-outs is their business, but from a Dysart point of view, we don't believe there is any place in the municipal mail-out for private enterprises to advertise."

Additionally, we have so many messages that we are trying to get to the attention of residents – recycling and such – that they tend to get lost if there is a proliferation of other papers in there."

Continued on page 7

Dave Burton

Highlands East

*"We did put it in once but it wasn't something that people here particularly wanted and so we haven't included the calendar in the mail-out since."*



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# Algonquin highlands

## Brian Lynch focuses on airport, waste, roads

By Jerry Grozelle

Brian Lynch is among the candidates running for the vacant Ward 3 seat on Algonquin Highlands council. He has previous council experience and he believes he has a lot to offer the people of Ward 3.

“I have been on council before,” Lynch said. “I have an interest in the community and I believe in the community.”

The timing of the by-election is better for Lynch, who was too busy to run in the official elections last fall. He is the controller for the Honda and Hyundai dealerships in Huntsville. “We had a major expansion a year ago,” he said. “That’s why I didn’t even consider running last year. I was way too busy.”

“My boss is pretty supportive. He said I could have the time off that I need to do this job and I have good staff that can fill in if I’m away for a day or two.”

The most visible issue on Lynch’s radar is the Stanhope Airport. “I don’t see why a township the size of Algonquin Highlands needs an airport,” he said. “If the airport can be revenue neutral, I would support it. If not, I would look at the disposition of that asset. Having said that, I don’t believe in fire sales so I wouldn’t give anything away.”

And he has some other issues on his wish list.

“I think waste management is a big issue for the township and I think we need to continue to look at that on an ongoing basis,” says Lynch. “Not that the current council isn’t doing that, but I think it’s an issue that needs to be first and

foremost.

“My third issue is roads. A lot of our ratepayers are seasonal residents and that’s almost the only thing they see as the value for their tax dollars. We have to demonstrate to that part of the electorate that we are spending their dollars wisely, that we’re distributing the funds in an equitable manner.”

Lynch says a multi-year plan should be developed to give everybody a good return on their dollar.

“I have excellent support from my family,” Lynch says. “My campaign manager is my wife. We’ve been here since ’99 and we are not planning on going anywhere in the foreseeable future. We live on Livingston Road, on Hardwood Lake, which is in Ward 3.”

Lynch believes he brings many skills to the council table. “I have a lot of experience in financial planning and in budgeting,” he says. “I worked as a property manager and a finance manager for a children’s mental health centre for a number of years. In that role I had to negotiate with the provincial government for funding, so I understand the provincial grant process, which is very

important for all municipalities as far as going after special grants.

“As a controller, I deal with budgets every day and a big part of a councilor’s duty is to control expenditures. I also have considerable experience in the human resources sector, so staff management has always been something I’ve had to deal with.

“I think one of the biggest things I would bring, though, is the devotion to negotiation rather than confrontation.”

He says that negotiations with other municipalities, other levels of government and various ministries is essential.

His family is pretty much grown. He has two daughters and one son, as well as twin grandsons. His son lives in the community and his daughters live in Kitchener and Toronto.

Lynch says he has a keen interest in the community and he would listen to constituents. He won’t make any promises to solve any problems unless he is certain he can follow through. “I won’t make a promise that I can’t deliver on,” he says. “I believe I can work with the Reeve and the other three council members



Continued from page 6

In response to the decisions of the four municipalities, Donna Gagnon, coordinator for the Arts Council, said: “We are very happy that Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands are supporting the calendar, the Arts Council and the work that we do. Many of their taxpayers are members of the Arts Council – both individuals and companies – so there is a lot of support in both municipalities.”

Gagnon went on to explain how important the calendar is to the Arts Council and its members. She stated that because there is no central events-announcement device in the County, this is one of the methods that the Arts Council uses to disseminate information about members’ events to the greater public.

With regards to the decision of Dysart et al, and the ongoing refusal by Highlands East not to send out the calendar, Gagnon said: “We are disappointed with their decisions but we abide by those decisions and have no wish to create any dispute with them.”

The Highlander wishes to thank Wanda Robinson for her production assistance with Issues #3 and #4.

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# Algonquin Highlands

## Patti Scheffee – woman in motion

One of 7,000 Canadians picked to commemorate Rick Hansen

By Terrance Gavan

A quarter century ago, Rick Hansen rolled his way across Canada on his Man in Motion World Tour. I met and interviewed him twice for The Manitoban when he was snowbound in Winnipeg for five or six days.

I remember Hansen had piercing eyes that could stop a bus. He was well spoken. He was intelligent. He was extraordinarily strong. He had an affinity for making people feel that they were part of the team.

Like most visionaries, he was high empathy, low pessimism. In short? He could out-Carnegie Andrew.

And if he liked you? His post-chat handshake required three days of ice and a tensor bandage.

His quixotic quest to raise funds for spinal injury research – Rick was the victim of a freak accident – raised awareness not only in Canada, but worldwide.

Hansen's Man in Motion roll is a rather distant memory now, but one Haliburton resident remembers vividly Hansen's iconic grip and glide.

Patti Scheffee remembers seeing Rick Hansen rolling down the highway on her television set. She remembers watching him during stops at small towns and big cities. She recalls being very impressed with both the man and the cause.

"I was a teenager and I remember watching Rick Hansen on that Man in Motion tour and I remember thinking how brave he was," says Scheffee.

In 1992, that tour and the memories of Hansen bubbled to the top of Scheffee's psyche.

"My dad fell off a ladder back in 1992," says Scheffee. "He didn't break his neck but the fall left his discs compressed and he became a quadriplegic. We were estranged at the time he fell, but he lived another six years."

During that time she came to know her father a bit better. Not all the wounds were healed, but her dad's debilitating injury did bring her squarely back to that Hansen tour. And



Patti Scheffee / Terrance Gavan

to another man confined to a wheelchair, another man reliant on four wheels and beholden to ramps, widened doors and wheelchair friendly spaces.

Rick Hansen was not just rollin' for a cure, he was seeking recognition for the cause: access, the right to become a functioning member of the workforce and society.

Many steps to wider public wheelchair access in Canada have been taken, ironically, by people in wheelchairs. People like Hansen and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, paralympians, students, your brother, your mother, your dad.

They fight and rectify a hidden problem: access to a wider world.

And it made Scheffee think, while watching the daily struggles of her chair-bound father, just what Hansen had accomplished during that Man in Motion Tour.

Last summer she was watching television and she saw an ad asking for volunteers to participate in the 25th anniversary of Man in Motion.

Scheffee was moved again. She thought, heck, why not become a part of it?

"I believe it was back in July... wait, I write everything down," says Scheffee. "It was July 14th. I put the idea away and then came back to it a few days later."

The Rick Hansen anniversary application came with a rather intimidating rider. The application had to come with an essay. Scheffee wrote about her dad.

"I thought I'd never be picked," says Scheffee while fighting back emotion that causes her voice to crack, just a bit. "My story was just what I have overcome."

Scheffee runs a daycare near the high school here in Haliburton. Her story is about struggles, hope and the will to carry on, despite circumstance. "My father died just two weeks before my husband left," explains Scheffee. "I learned never to give up. I taught my kids, my two boys, to be the best you can be. I tried to teach them to be compassionate; and to never give up. Ryan is 22 and Cole is 20. I bought this house on my own."

She says she tries to instill that same granite ethic into the kids at her day care. "We pick up litter with the kids when we go for walks," says Scheffee. Scheffee believes in the power of hands' on volunteerism. She believes in community.

That's why she's running relay with a medal in Oshawa at exactly 8:09 am on Saturday, Nov 5.

"The medal is being passed by 7,000 people across Canada and I can't believe I'm one of them," says Scheffee. "The run started in August and ends in May. We run for 250 metres, but my friends want me to walk. They say I'll get to hold the medal longer that way."

Actually each runner gets to keep a replica medal, a toque and a commemorative jacket.

She has to be at Oshawa City Hall at 6:30 am. Scheffee was born in Oshawa, but moved to Haliburton when she was 9. Her two sisters and her mom will be cheering her on. She'll stay with one of her sisters on Friday night.

She's running because she can.

She'll be remembering her father. And Rick Hansen's good fight for access, and research.

Call this Hansen reprise 'Research in Motion.' Copyright be damned.

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# Senior highlanders

## Aging Well

Pain-free feet key  
to healthy and  
vibrant lifestyle



Dear Penny,

"Sometimes my feet are so sore and achy it's hard to even walk; and it also makes me feel very tired. I only wear flat shoes or wedgies so I don't think there is anything much I can do about it but I thought I should ask. What do you think? Should I get those things to stick in my shoes?"

Wobbly Wilma

Dear Wobbly Wilma,

How you treat your feet may have a direct bearing on how the rest of you feels.

If everything but your feet feels like a million, there's an appreciable decrease in your available energy. It's hard to hobble your way through the time of your life.

The way you choose to dress your feet has a great deal to do with how your feet treat you. A lot of women's fashionable footwear - including flats - seem solely created to cramp your style. It's important to know that your foot has bones, muscles and ligaments that accomplish three main functions: to distribute your body weight evenly so no part of your foot is under excess strain; to give spring and elasticity to your step; and to break the shock when you walk, run or jump.

While you say you wear only flats, the shoes you choose must still be safe, sensible and allow for good foot function, so your feet can do what they were meant to do and not get sore in the process of carrying you around. Anything that interferes with the foot's ability to accomplish its three main functions is bound to cause trouble.

Here's what you need to know about shoes.

When your heel is raised more than 1 1/2 inches above the forefoot, as it often is in wedgies, your body weight is thrust forward which puts tremendous pressure on the front half of your foot and disturbs the balance of weight distribution. The result can be sore feet or worse.

Continuous pressure of this kind can lead to bunions, calluses and pain. It's possible your wedgies are part of your problem, so stick with real flats for a while and see if that makes a difference.

When it comes to flats, not all are equal. Be sure the sole has some traction and even more important, look for flats with a soft sole and heel. A rubber or crepe sole and heel are best because they give you a soft "heel strike" when you walk.

You'll find that your feet treat you better when you quit wearing hard soled shoes and opt for soft ones. Running shoes with their spongy, rubber soles are especially comfortable for that reason.

Choosing your shoes wisely is a good way to look after your feet. Soft gel inserts may provide some additional comfort because they cushion your feet as you walk and soften the heel strike. If you want to try inserts, be sure your shoes are roomy enough to accommodate them without cramping your toes.

Exercising your feet is important too. I'll address foot exercises in another column.

Readers, if you have any other questions—about your mobility, your comfort, or just about getting through your day more safely and easily, I want to hear them. For real-life answers you can use, reach me at: penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca

*Penny Brown is a retired physical and occupational therapist specializing in geriatric care. Author of her bestselling book, The Fitness Myth, she focuses on safety, mobility and quality of life.*

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# Highlander arts

## Woodland recipes

Will Jones – Gourmand

This is the first of a new regular monthly feature which attempts to delve into the recipes of the region and season.

In Recipes from the Woods we will print gourmet dishes and hunters' specials, dainty treats and hearty feasts. The only rule for the featured meal ideas is that they highlight a relatively local ingredient that is in season at the time of printing.

Sounds like a tasty idea, doesn't it?

The thing is, you folks out there probably know a lot more about the local flora and fauna; what tastes good, and when to find and use it, than all us journalists.

So, if you have a recipe that you think deserves to be shared with the local community, drop us a line. Emails can be sent to willjonz@hotmail.com or write to Recipes from the Woods, C/O Will Jones, 710 Mountain Street, PO Box 1024, Haliburton K0M 1S0.

This first recipe has been provided by long-time resident of Haliburton and the village barber, Bruce Sawyer. Bruce has been hunting since he was a boy and this is his hunt camp special that, when cooked with the quantities listed here, will feed 20 guys after a hard day out in the bush or on the lake.

Feel free to scale down somewhat to suit your needs, or to try it with moose, if there's no bear in the larder!

Bear Necessity	
Ingredients	15 carrots
1 hind quarter of bear	20 potatoes
2 jars of Italian seasoning	Salt and pepper to season
Half a bottle of red wine	Two cups of water

One good helping of the barber's secret ingredient

First, remove the fat from the bear roast. Bruce warns: "if you don't you'll have enough to grease a tandem truck when you're done!"

Next, inject the roast liberally with the secret ingredient – that's maple syrup but don't tell him I told you – and put it into the roasting pan.

Peel and chop all of the potatoes and carrots and scatter them around the roast.

Pour the Italian dressing over the bear and add the half bottle of red wine and two cups of water to the pan; season and cook for four hours on a medium heat.

Bruce says: "The cooking time depends on the size of the roast, but this is a recipe that can stand being in the pot for a while, that's why it's good for hunt camp. Basically, it is better overcooked than under-done. I always say, 'if you think it's done, give it another half hour,' then the meat will just fall off the bone."

Serve your bear with the potatoes and carrots, plus any other veggies you fancy. In hunt camp it's usually a big bowl of salad. Oh, and a rum and coke, of course!

## State of the Arts

# Works of art spun from the detritus of revolution

Victoria Ward



"Let me end my life free. When I am dead let this be said of me: 'He belonged to no school, to no church, to no institution, to no academy, least of all to any régime except the régime of liberty,' " said painter Gustave Courbet.

The French realist – along with Victor Hugo, Honoré Daumier and Charles Baudelaire, just to name a few – was influenced by the turbulence of political and economic upheaval in the 19th century.

Culminating in the violent Paris Commune of 1871, the uprisings were reactions to the widening gap between the rich and poor and the waste of public money being spent on waging seemingly endless and fruitless wars.

Throw in the industrial revolution and you have a fairly crazy period of instability. It was a time to be bold, audacious and move out from the sidelines of life where most artists sit. We are generally a marginalized group, and have been throughout history.

Today, there is also a widening gap between the rich and the poor. Universally unpopular wars are being fought on our behalf and with our money; a technology boom is turning our working lives upside down.

Instead of the tyrannical monarchs of 19th century Europe, we have banks and corporations who are dedicated to helping their shareholders and not their employees or their customers. Just look at what is happening to RIM.

Who are our Courbets and Hugos today? Perhaps the long lens of history is required to create them. Michael Moore is a prominent figure and reluctant spokesperson for the Occupy Wall Street movement, but he is considered more of a journalist than an artist. I think of him as a very fine filmmaker.

If you look a little closer you see art everywhere.

In Greece, murals rather than graffiti are

showing up on walls throughout the city. These are thoughtful paintings that reflect the frustration of a society whose tenuous grasp on order is falling away.

Spontaneous performance art is springing up throughout the movement in London. A man dressed as Jesus arrived at St. Paul's Cathedral with a sign that read: "There was a reason I threw the money changers out of the temple." When Pete

Seeger appeared for a march in New York it became a gigantic sing-a-long. Beautiful, inspiring videos are being created on a daily basis. There is even a "Getting Arrested" app you can download in case you are carted away by the boys in blue.

In many ways, the general conduct and organization of these movements are allowing a culture of its own to evolve. Culture and its art will happen in any kind of circumstance, but they are more likely to be successful if they are bred in a heroic way.

An artist, like a reluctant hero, is given a chance in these kinds of circumstances to step up and fill a void.

I have always felt a kind of smugness about my decision to move here, because for me it seemed like an act of defiance. I'm no revolutionary but I believe that my choice of time over money has resonance. My decision initially inspired looks of utter disbelief in my fellow artists, but over time I became the envy of my peeps as their studios were being gobbled up by condo developers. Now the rest of the world has caught up to this fact too: a gazillion dollars does not make one talented or innovative. And perhaps we should try to live a little more modestly for the planet's sake, if nothing else.

As I sit and survey my own patch in the County, I can't help but think that just being here makes me part of the change that is being felt everywhere. Being rural is our own kind of 'occupation', and we should begin to define ourselves as such.

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# And finally



Patient News Publishing donated \$10 for every one of its employees who dressed up for Halloween last Monday, to Team Northern Lights and Breast Cancer Research. Karen Frybort (purple hair center of picture) accepted a check for \$450 from event organizer, Sharon Rowden. "They look really good don't they?" said Frybort, who is Team Northern Lights captain. "The money goes right to the Princess Margaret Hospital." / Photo by Terrance Gavan

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# Sports opinion

Pardon the Eruption

## Time to end fighting in hockey

Hey Bettman? Can ya' drag that albatross into the 21st century?



By Terrance Gavan

The day Wade Belak died. I arrived home from work. I switched on TSN and I paced the hardwood for an hour. I cried a bit. How to deal with that? And how to ignore the trend? Derek Boogaard, Rick Rypien and Wade Belak all died last summer.

Three tough guys. Enforcers who made a living in the National Hockey League trading punches and throwin' down. They were modern day gladiators. The victims, this off season, of the "thumbs down." Suicide and drug overdoses. The NHL is fiddling while Rome burns.

Nero's not overseeing such swift justice. So who's wearing the Emperor's Robes in this arena farce? Gary Bettman? The Owners? Or collective apathy?

It's all of the above. The NHL is the only professional sports league in the world that allows fighting. No wait. It's the only organization in the world that supports man to man combat as an intrinsic part of its paradigm. Bare knuckled fighting was banned from the sweet science – boxing knuckleheads, but I love the alliterative nuance – in 1889. (John L. Sullivan fought and won the last sanctioned bare-knuckle fight in 1889 against Jake Kilrain)

Know why they outlawed such foolishness? Way back before John Ferguson or Eddie Shack's granddaddies were born? Because bare-knuckled fighting is considered dangerous

and deadly. Now, I'm pretty sure that this is fairly obvious to most upright walkers with an indentured IQ that exceeds oh, say 32.5.

I once watched two bare-chested drunks at the Toronto Zoo popping haymakers over an ice cream cone. They were in front of the baboon cage. While everyone was watching the fisticuffs I turned to the baboons. Two adult males ran to the back of the enclosure, sat down, and covered their eyes. You draw your own conclusions. Me? I took away a notion that even baboons are smart enough to regard bare-knuckled interaction as intrinsically base. And stupid.

So me and baboons and a majority of small children do not find punch-ups aesthetically pleasing. I happen to teach kids on a ski hill. I know for a fact that kids think fighting is dumb. I'm thinking then that maybe, just maybe, adding the Marquis of Queensbury to a professional sporting event may not be a good idea. You know... in the long run.

That kind of logic has never impressed the suits, general managers, macho rug beaters and the lumpen proletariat in the National Hockey League Players Association. I would name Gary Bettman in this screed but what can I say? He's just an inheritor of a long tradition who's still drinking the Kool-Aid baby.

They likes them their fights up top in the rarefied air of the upper echelon board rooms at NHL HQ! Yes they do. "Puts butts in the seats!" Bupkis!

I'm sorry. Have I offended anyone yet? Well, feel free to take a swing. You know. Because that's how we settle things in the hockey universe. I have been arguing for the eradication of fighting from all levels of hockey for – hmmm – most of my career as a sportswriter and editor.

I bet you already know some of the names I've been called. The string of epithets usually square around that most indelicate of four letter words – which I happen to use a lot in my own day-to-day shuffle – followed by charming slanders that include but are not limited to: f-ing (w)ag, pansy, (m)aggot, know-nothing, slug, f—er (redundant), a—hole, idiot, treehugger, bunnyhugger, leftist, commie, liberal, pussy, sap, and moron. Here are some of the rare japes I've heard over my three decade crusade against fighting in hockey.

"You don't know! You've never played the game."

Yes I have. In Sandy Hill on outdoor arenas when it was -30 F. I have never been so freaking cold in my life. I found basketball when I was 9 years old. Indoor courts.

I've been in three basketball fights. Sucker punched. The guys were all ejected. But? It still freaking hurts. I can't imagine doing it for a living. Wade Belak, Rick Rypien and Derek Boogaard did just that.

"We need fighting to control the cheap shots and the 'rats.'"

Here's what we know about that. It never dissuaded Ken Linseman. And controlling cheap shots? That's why they pay referees. Just spitballin' for Schlitz and Giggles.

Here's my favorite: "Hockey's a fast game and guys need to let off steam. If there's no fighting? They'll start using their sticks."

Well. I'd offer an explanation. But let's face it. That's just wavy-gravy crazy. And so unfathomably stupid on so many levels that I wouldn't even know where to begin. That line? Sounds like a conversation that Snooki and Pauly D might dippy-doodle-dandy into on an episode of Jersey Shore.

Here's the final "Cherryista" cringe-inducing apology for fighting in the NHL: "No one gets hurt in a hockey fight."

Now. I spent my summers on a ranch in the Interlake, so I'll attempt to put this as gently as I can. That's the kinda' offal stuff that oozes and spurts from the north side of a south-bound Bull.

"No one gets hurt in a hockey fight."

Heard it?

Yeah. Yes you have. Me too.

Wade Belak. Rick Rypien. Derek Boogaard.

"No one gets hurt in a hockey fight."

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# Sports news



## Hawks hockey already mapping the future

By Terrance Gavan

Cut night.

Not the most popular item in a coach's agenda book. It's tough at all levels. But it's heart-wrenching in high school. Probably tougher yet to be a hockey coach in a small town.

Like Ron Yake and Bruce Griffith, who coach the senior varsity Hal High Red Hawks shinny squad. Haliburton is hockey crazy. The kids all grow up here knowing that Matt Duchene, the Colorado Avalanche blur, played hockey for the Red Hawks. Not that long ago.

And for 28 hopefuls that showed up at Dysart et al Arena last Wednesday, and four tryouts before that?

A spot on the Hawks roster is something they've all aspired to since tyke. They all knew that Wednesday afternoon they'd be the recipient of some news. How they handled that news is part of a great big learning curve; part of high school; part of an ongoing maturation process.

If you've never been cut from a competitive team?

Continued on page 14

Aspiring Red Hawks participate in some three-man drills during the final tryout camp on Wednesday afternoon at Dysart Arena. / Photo Terrance Gavan

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Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its annual Business & Community Achievement awards. Contact Kendra at 705-457-4700 or [Kendra@haliburtonchamber.com](mailto:Kendra@haliburtonchamber.com). Deadline is Nov 18.

Communities in Action and Rural Transportation Options are undertaking a survey about transportation needs and choices in Haliburton County. Help improve transportation by sharing your opinions. Surveys can be accessed through CAP sites, or in paper format at municipal offices and libraries, or online at <http://app.fluidsurveys.com/s/transportationsurvey/>.

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## We look at the season ahead for Hal High hockey

Continued from page 13

You cannot possibly know how it feels to walk into that room. Nervous with anticipation, promising yourself that you'll handle the news like a man. And you won't know what it feels like to be a coach. In that room; face to face with an expectant high school player. I was a 4'10" freshman at St. Pius X high school in Ottawa and my favorite sports were basketball and football.

Pius was an all-boys school and consistently ranked top five in the Ottawa Carleton Board in every sport. Later, I went back as an assistant basketball coach. So I've been on both sides of that table. It's no fun. No fun at all.

Later on at Carleton University I hung around the Ravens basketball training camp until I was among 13 bodies remaining on a roster judged number four in the nation. That roster had room for only 12 souls.

Coach Patty O'Brien was not comfortable with the whole one-on-one thing.

For me? That harsh hoops news came by way of a roster of 12 posted outside the coach's room of the Carleton Ravens Nest. I wasn't on it.

So I went to Patty's room on my own — not to confront him but to console him. He looked at me and said, "Gav... what can I say... you surprised us all... it came down to you and Grant; and Grant's six-two."

I looked over at Patty — we were good friends and I was a mature student of 26 — and laughed. "Coach, he's 18 and couldn't box out my grandmother and she's six feet under. And the kid doesn't see the floor." Then I smiled, shook his hand, and nudged him in the ribs with my elbow.

Then we both laughed. We were both stubborn Irishmen. We were and remain good friends today.

See I thought I had forgotten all that. But it sticks.

Ron Yake was late coming out of the dressing room area last Wednesday evening. I recognized the look on his face. "Not your favorite night of the year Ron?" I said. More of a statement than a question.

"No, no, it's never fun... especially when you've



Coach Ron Yake diagrams a drill for his players on Wednesday afternoon. / Photo Terrance Gavan

got a group like we had this year," sighed Yake.

Wednesday (Nov 2) was cut day, the fifth practice for a burgeoning young group of Red Hawk hopefuls. About 28 players were there for all five practices. Four goalies were in the mix.

The team will be dressing two goalies, six defensemen, and nine forwards each game. This year the crop of talent was so impressive and of such high caliber that coaches Yake and Bruce Griffith really could not make any final decisions.

So what they've done is give five players — three forwards and two defensemen — some options and told them to go home and sleep on it.

Some of the younger players were cut. Two goalies, seniors Andy Elia and Zach Harrison are back between the pipes. Two younger goalies Brayden Frost and Jordan Hamilton have been told to come back next year. "I've told both those young men that they are the future," says Yake.

The other five players on the bubble have been told that they would be rotating in and out of the line-up and would not be dressing every night. "They would," says Yake, "be a part of the final roster. But they will rotate in and out."

The Hawks lost Ian Bottum, Scott Griffith, Drew Paul, Mark Vasey, Ashton Hailey, Chris Judge, Keaton Gadway and Brandon Yake from a roster that traveled to the OFSAA playdowns last year.

That's a ton of talent.

Yake says that eight of the nine forwards and four of the six defensemen have already been named to the starting unit.

Five players have that decision to make. The five, if they all chose the option, would be rotating to fill the three spots and would not play every game. Of course with the new and vigorous head shot rules being implemented one might assume a looming threat of suspensions over even accidental head shots. And of course nagging injuries do take a toll as the long season wears on.

So we won't find out — because of deadline restrictions — until next week if the five players will choose to stay on with the Hawks.

We can tell you that the first Hawks home game is slated for the afternoon of November 24 at Dysart et al Arena.

Yake and Griffith are both hoping that a large number of fans, both from the high school and the community will be there to take a peek at the new look Hawks.

We have been to three of the try outs and spoiler alert: this team is small, but extremely quick.

They are booked in for The Maxwell Classic in Whitby and they return to the St. Peter's high school tourney as defending champs.

Come on out Thursday afternoon on Nov 24. It's

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