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The Highlander

Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper

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MNR holds open house for Clear Lake proposal

Landowners and users peeved by mid-week, mid-winter meeting and plans to restrict access

By George Farrell

It was a disillusioned, small group of landowners and users who came away from an MNR Open House held at the Stanhope Firefighters Community Centre on the evening of February 16.

The open house was held in regard to the pristine recreational area known as the Clear Lake Conservation Reserve, a 1307 hectare tract which is located in the vicinity of Big Hawk and Little Hawk lakes. Landowners and users who attended the open house objected to the MNR's Preliminary Management Statement (PMS) regarding the Clear Lake Reserve specifically, and to the proposed addition of the Dawson Ponds and Plastic Lake Conservation Reserve, which is located near St. Nora Lake.

According to Peter Hewitt, acting spokesperson for the recently-established Friends of the Clear Lake Conservation Area Heritage Trails Association, the PMS, should it be implemented, would mean a serious decrease in accessibility for property owners and users in the area.

The Friends group had a meeting on February 14 to outline and to document their concerns. They strenuously objected to such PMS proposals as the restriction of access to authorized trails only. They are also objecting to planned stipulations that Land Use Permits will no longer be issued, trail grooming will no longer be permitted, and no new trails will be allowed.

While the PMS approves hiking, walking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing activities, those activities, according to the Friends document, will be severely restricted if trail grooming is no longer allowed. Cottagers and user groups have been doing the grooming themselves. The document also outlined restrictions on fishermen, who will no longer be able to cache boats to access remote lakes. Restrictions



Taking a ride at the Frost Festival in Haliburton last weekend. More pictures on page 22. Photo by Terrance Gavan

on ATVs and snowmobiles was also outlined, and those restrictions are a major concern for hunters who have been using the area for years.

The implementation of the PMS as it stands would also affect trappers like Lyle Sawyer. "I have a designated

"Put your comments in the mail" just does not cut it."

Peter Hewitt,
Friends of CLCAHTA

government zone in the area and I have to catch a certain number of beaver every year or I lose my zone," he said. "If they take away my access by snowmobile or boat how am I going to trap?"

Also of concern to the Friends was the way in which the

MNR went about contacting the various user groups, and the timing of the open house.

"The open house was announced on February 9," Hewitt said, "which didn't give anyone much time to respond. Also, holding the open house on a Thursday in the middle of February doesn't take into account the many users and cottagers who are either away on vacation or who work in the city. Are people supposed to cut short their vacations and leave work early from the city in the middle to the week in order to get up to this open house to voice their concerns?"

According to Hewitt, "the MNR wanted a low profile to push this through. It's the same methodology they used near Buckhorn, but the residents there fought it. We want to form a workable plan for everybody and we want to develop a campaign where all the user groups are fully informed and given enough time to voice their concerns. We've only had four or five days to work on it and there are not a lot of people

Continued on page 2

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Or contact: Marlene Vohra
Executive Assistant to
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Phone (705) 467-2627
mvohra@hhhs.on.ca

MNR plans get frosty reception

Continued from page 1

available to come to this open house on such short notice.” The MNR posted the information regarding the open house in the local newspapers recently and informed the Clear Lake Cottage Association of the meeting. Robert Lee, who owns four cottages on Clear Lake, said, “I’m concerned with boat and four wheeler use. I don’t want to lose any rights we already have.”

Jim Nighswander, a professor at Trent University who attended the open house, said that the Clear Lake area was important because of its isolated stands of old growth forest and the unique attributes of Blackcat Lake, which due to its depth is never oxygenated at the bottom.

“I’m in favour of an educational component to the area with appropriate signage,” he said.

Mike Turner, District Planner for the Bancroft District of the MNR, said that the open house was “all about getting feedback from users and interested parties, and we’re looking to coming away with comments.”

Craig Dodds, who is the Planning and Information Manager for the Bancroft District and who was instrumental in drafting the Preliminary Management Statement concerning the Conservation Reserves said that, “we informed the Clear Lake Cottage Association and sent out letters to those addresses that we have. There’s a 45-day comment period, so people have time to voice their comments.”

Peter Hewitt thinks that 45 days is not enough time to organize. In a document posted the day after the open house, he stated on behalf of the Clear Lake Heritage Trails Association that, “We intend to take further civic action in an attempt to convince our local MNR officials, local leaders and provincial senior leadership that they must listen to the rational concerns of the public on these issues before enacting legislation. MNR direction to ‘put your comments in the mail’ just does not cut it.”



Concerned owners and users at the recent MNR Open House look at areas of proposed restricted access around the Clear Lake Conservation Reserve.
Photo by George Farrell.

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Dysart et al

Highlands' new bike club sets wheels in motion

Paton says Glebe Park is perfect location

By Terrance Gavan

Haliburton's bike guru Blake Paton is an ambitious guy, and that's a good thing, because the wheels of committees traditionally revolve with the alacrity of an exercise wheel driven by an elderly hamster. Apologies to our good friend Jim Blake, Chair of the Dysart Glebe Park Committee, who is heading the effort looking into the feasibility of entrenching mountain bike trails in Glebe Park.

"The Haliburton Mountain Bike Club (HMBC) is holding its first meeting today (Feb 23) at 7 pm in room 11 of Haliburton's Fleming College campus," says Paton. "Everyone is welcome to attend. The goal is to organize a club that will formally maintain and develop bike trails located in and around Glebe Park near the Village of Haliburton in the coming season."

For his part, Jim Blake cautions that it's early days, and that the Glebe Park Committee will have to complete due diligence in assessing the working plans for the park. Paton on the other hand is pedaling hard downhill and he's hopeful that a Haliburton-centred alternative to the myriad and wonderful trails at Sir Sam's Ski and Bike will be high on the committee's to do list this spring.

"Cyclists have enjoyed cycling on various trails in Glebe for decades, but the trails have never been identified and mapped," says Paton. "The area holds great potential for mountain biking, but it needs a group to organize and extend the trails. Trails close to the village would be a great benefit to residents and businesses alike."

"Dysart council recently recognized the economic and cultural potential and passed a motion allowing cyclists to begin organizing to develop this key public facility."

In an appearance before council on Feb 13, Blake outlined some of the considerations and constraints that have to be

considered before the committee can offer its blessing.

"Mountain biking already happens in the park," said Blake. "The trails have been created naturally over the years but there is no formal system or route so far. The parties in the delegation would form a club and gain insurance under the guidance of the International Mountain Biking Association. They would also be willing to take responsibility for the maintenance and signage of the trails as well as any further trail development."

Paton adds that Chico Racing, an organization that brings hundreds of riders to Haliburton County biannually as part of its *Crank The Shield* mountain bike race, has also offered to work with the local group to provide professional expertise and in-kind support for trail development.

"Always looking to promote the park and attract new users"

Jim Blake,
Glebe Park
Committee

"Reeve Murray Fearrey welcomed the idea," wrote *Highlander* reporter Will Jones. "But asked that Blake hold discussions with other local operators of mountain bike trails first, in order that businesses would not be adversely affected by any new trails."

That suggestion was aimed directly at Sir Sam's Ski and Bike. Paton says the Glebe Park trails would not interfere or draw business from Sir Sam's popular downhill and cross-country operation.

"I'm pretty confident that it will go through," says Paton. "I know it's only at a subcommittee stage, but I can't see it not succeeding. It would be an important addition to Haliburton. Important for the downtown area and it's something that can help (increase tourism) in the fall and the spring shoulder seasons."

He adds that Chico Racing, which has already put \$350 into the coffers to help with club start up costs and liability insurance for members, is also interested in holding time trial races there at some future date.

"I've competed in

Bracebridge, where they have much less to work with, and the Chico Racing series can draw 300 riders to a weekend event," says Paton. He says the Nordic clubhouse and existing Nordic staging areas make Glebe Park a natural site for Mountain Bike events for both recreational and elite competitors.

"This does not cost the municipality anything, because our club is willing to do all the trail work," says Paton.

Several Nordic club members already volunteer for pre-season trail work and Paton says that trail-clearing for mountain bike season would add to the Nordic track upkeep.

And while he realizes that Sir Sam's Ski and Bike have to be considered in the overall equation, Paton says that recreational riders and a number of local kids already utilize the Glebe trails for mountain bike exploration. Paton's plan is to provide a modicum of organization, insurance and safety to the existing trails.

"Some of our local kids just can't afford a pass at Sir Sam's, and some of them don't have a ride to the hill," says Paton. "It's two different types of trails and the really nice thing is that riders would be able to ride there [Glebe] at any time."

Paton urges all interested riders to show up tonight at Fleming College for the inaugural session. "There will be a membership drive and the hope is once we get everything going through the municipality, we'll be able to begin with upgrades to the trails, all at no cost to the municipality."

He adds that Sean Ruppel of Chico Racing, the guy who organizes virtually all of the mountain biking events in Ontario, is interested in the idea. "[Rempel] wants to help us get going for single track events," says Paton. "He even sees the potential of the area to hold Ontario Cup mountain biking events. We have great facilities here, big staging area, parking and the great building."


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Editorial opinion



The weather's warmer – but just wait for the McGuinty chill

By Stephen Patrick

As I write this today, Wednesday, February 22, 2012, the snow is dripping off the roof, the temperature is plus 2, the expected low is just minus 4, and the steep street outside is awash in spring runoff. It must be late March, right? Early April?

This has been one of the warmest winters on record, playing havoc with the sledders (although we have more snow than most jurisdictions to the east and south of us). The conditions are stretching the patience of our accommodators, restaurateurs, and the myriad other businesses that rely on winter tourism, and on the regular presence of winter cottagers.

But last Saturday, another beautiful and even crisp day, the feeling at Haliburton Village's Frost Fest, in Minden's Family Day celebrations, at Dorset's Snowball Winter Carnival, was buoyant, positive, and filled with down home country charm. We had guests up for the weekend and they loved the warm and welcoming ambience of the Frost Fest, the ponies, the sled dogs, the maple syrup. Corny? You betcha!

Later in the morning we headed up to McKeck's for lunch; at 12:30 there were maybe 20 people in the pub. By 1:15 the lineups stretched out the door and down the block. "A service tsunami," Manager Karen Frybort called it, with a happy grin.

Retail merchants reported a good, but not spectacular weekend, but the events in both Minden and Haliburton proved once again that if the event — and the marketing, and the weather — come together, this county has great economic potential, and not just as a tourist destination. We have something almost akin to a special character in the Highlands; how to market it, how to focus it, how — yes — to brand it, is the challenge.

And we'd better get going. If you weren't anxious about our provincial and national economies before, the dreaded report by economist and bureaucrat Don Drummond was enough to make you want to pull the covers over your head for the next five years or so. If implemented — one huge 'if', I realize — the changes in our health care system alone could be simply massive. Our local hospital autonomy, such as it is, could be at permanent risk, for starters.

But for now, let's continue to bask in the crazy weather, cheer on our terrific Bantam and Midget Highland Storm teams as they start their semi-final all-Ontario runs, and remember that warm and fuzzy feeling we collectively produced all over this county last weekend.



By Bram Lebo

It's ours to fix

The *Globe and Mail* started a feature series this week, looking at the impact of Caterpillar's locomotive plant closing on the lives of its 700 workers in London, Ontario. Caterpillar bought the plant two years ago and recently demanded up to 50 percent wage cuts from employees, locking them out while they contemplated the humiliating and, it now seems, disingenuous offer.

The workers did not bow down fast enough, and so Caterpillar is bowing out. It's found cheaper workers in Indiana and will add the wage difference to the \$4.5 billion profit the company had last year. When you earn that kind of money, every little bit helps, even the \$5 million in taxpayer money Canada foolishly handed over last year as an incentive to the "job creators". Indiana, you can be sure, is only a pit stop until a pool of buck-an-hour workers can be found somewhere else.

On one level, there is nothing wrong with this behaviour. Indeed, it's been the mantra of the corporate world for years that the purpose of companies is to "maximize shareholder value", and what better way to maximize value than by cutting costs? Why would you hire somebody locally at \$20 an hour when you could outsource that job for \$10? Your answer might be that it's the right thing to do, but then you're not thinking like a shareholder — you're thinking like a member of society.

Yes, society: that complicated mess of rights and responsibilities we construct to make the world (we hope, we try) a better place. So annoying sometimes, yet somehow fairer and more satisfying to so many more people than a winner-take-all economy.

Arguably one of the greatest achievements of society in the twentieth century was the creation of the middle class. For the first time in history, one wage-earner could support a family in relative comfort with access to healthcare and education. But this advance did not come about by accident or by any magic of market economies, which had existed off-and-on for thousands of years without leading to the establishment of a middle class. Rather, it was the result of decades of struggle and two interacting forces that met at the turn of the last century.

The first was a newly-empowered working class who, responding to oppressive working conditions, demanded decent remuneration, working hours and workplaces. The second force was government, which under pressure from voters enacted regulations on working conditions, progressive taxation, and tariffs to level the playing field.

China was always a cheaper place to make clothes — even in 1900. The reason clothes were made in the West until recently was because, until recently, there were tariffs. Tariffs are essentially taxes on manufacturers which eliminate the savings from producing offshore. Do they result in higher prices for consumers and lower profits for companies? Absolutely. They also result in jobs, meaning people can afford higher prices which pay their neighbours' wages.

Starting in the 1970s, societal forces have been under systematic attack. Free trade, among other policies, has made it impossible for workers to compete. Now it is Asian women who are locked in factories and working obscene hours. The last remaining block to be knocked down is that of collective bargaining power. Queue the Drummond report.

Let the market sort things out? If you want to know what a pure market economy looks like, read about fruit pickers in 1930s California. It's all in the *Grapes of Wrath* — John Steinbeck knew a thing or two about human nature.

As I said, you can't blame companies for wanting to maximize profits: it's their job. But you can blame our politicians and governments for putting in place conditions that let them do that job without considering the net benefit or loss to society. When an economy doesn't work for the majority, changes need to be made to balance things out. The economy, after all, belongs to us; not to some nebulous concept of the free market or shareholder value, but to we, the people.

Scandinavia is worth a look for anyone thinking about how we can build a stronger economy, not just in GDP but in quality of life for everyone. With some of the most-regulated economies in the world, high levels of income redistribution and strong social contracts, the Scandinavian countries also have some of the highest levels of entrepreneurship, not to mention excellent education and healthcare. It seems that, on a national scale, five million people earning decent wages add up to more than a few overpaid CEOs. Nobody on earth reports being happier than the Scandinavians, high taxes and all — imagine that!

But don't bother telling that to Caterpillar — that's exactly what they're worried about.

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Tell us your Opinion

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Letters to the Editor

Don't mess with a legend – or his widow

Dear Editor:

As one becomes older and hopefully wiser, one tends to avoid conflict, but as a musician and great admirer of Sharon and RD Lawrence, I feel compelled to respond.

Let it be known, first, that I have shared the stage with Councilor Brigitte Gall and carry great respect for her. I believe we share a mutual musical respect and I don't envy her position at this time.

As artists, we all carry within us the meaning, intent and ways to express our creations and visions. Some of us will accept nothing less. I believe Sharon's actions may be the result of this.

All to often, those who are famous, whether big or small, find their names, likeness or creations used or altered in a manner they find taints this vision, destroys it's true meaning, and are required to defend it. I have the utmost admiration for

Sharon in her efforts to defend her late husband's name and vision. I don't believe it is a matter of ownership as Gall states but mere respect.

Sharon Lawrence should be swimming in gratitude, not a pool of muck. She and RD deserve much better.

It appears to be a lack of respect for the name and life's work of RD Lawrence. If the above were practiced with great sensitivity to Sharon's position, an understandable one, perhaps we may again enjoy this wonderful gift without the high price of altering his name or vision. Sharon's efforts to accept nothing less are nothing less than noble. As stated, "don't mess with a legend". I'd like to add "or his widow". Only she truly knows... his visions and desires.

Sincerely,
Sheri Hawkins
Minden Hills

Icy roads: a rebuttal to Mr. Braithwaite

Dear Editor:

Icy sidewalks, roads, parking lots and driveways are a problem just about everywhere during this winter's different and unusual weather with many rainy days followed by temperatures below zero.

We all enjoy living on Windover Drive in Minden's lovely new neighbourhood. The property developers clean the road and our driveways frequently, spread sand (we don't want any salt) and try whatever they can to improve these difficult conditions.

Therefore, Mr. Braithwaite, we would like to point out that they are hard working individuals, highly committed to doing a good job. They certainly never ever sit on their backside and complain! If you would know them, you would never have written this and we hope you will apologize.

Johanna Herzog Bareiss
Minden
On behalf of the residents of Windover Drive

Minden Ice Racers say thank you

Dear Editor:

Despite the cancellation of the first annual Paul Sheppard memorial races on Family Day Monday, the Racers from the CASC-OR Magnum Ice Race Championship did not give up on the idea for raising funds for the community they have enjoyed for nearly four decades.

Over the regularly scheduled races on Saturday and Sunday, they brought with them over the weekend a half truckload of food items and raised, along with a \$300 donation from the Minden Kin Club, \$965 for the Minden Food Bank.

I think that there is sufficient interest to make this an annual endeavor. Way to Go Guys!

Andy Hughes
CASC-OR Ice Race Director
Gelert

The Outsider — A wing and a cluck

Did you hasten from the warm sanctuary of your home, shrugging on heavy coat, fur-lined boots and trusty toque, to collect your copy of *The Highlander* as soon as it hit the streets?

Are you back now? Ensconced in your armchair by the fire, cup of tea in hand, ready to peruse the pages of your favourite newspaper? If you are, spare a thought for the Outsider.

I'm currently folded somewhat untidily into the few square inches of cabin space that your average air carrier allots to economy class passengers nowadays.

Yes, I'm at 35,000 feet, enduring seven hours of pure hell, otherwise known as flying back to Blighty to see my folks.

I'm looking forward to three weeks vacation but for now my life is akin to that of a factory farmed chicken.

I was going to equate my predicament to that of a caged tiger but I figure the tiger would have more room, and it'd cut a rather more dashing lope around its enclosure than I do as I stagger clumsily down the central aisle of this aging 707.

Back from a brief trip to the rear of the plane, a horrifying sight greets my eyes as I reach my seat — or rather my 28 by 18 inch internment space: Little Z is laid across it and his own seat too, and he's smiling sleepily at me. Fabulous! Not only did I pay handsomely to be cooped up in this giant metal culvert pipe with windows, but the tiny space that I paid so much to be cooped up in has now been taken from

me by the little guy who refused to sleep all the way to the airport and who forced me to listen to nursery rhymes for the full three hour drive.

As Z closes his eyes I gesticulate (quietly but assertively) to my lovely wife about my problem.

"He's got my seat," I hiss, pointing sharply at the boy.

"Where am I meant to sit?"

She looks at me, then at him, then back at me.

"Doesn't he look peaceful," she purrs, stroking his hair as he begins to snore softly.

I realize that argument, via words or pointy sign language, is futile and I stalk sulkily back to the rear of the plane, getting uncomfortably close to numerous other inmates as we pass in an aisle narrow enough to make the skinniest broiler chicken feel plump.

I stand in that space at the back of the plane: the bit where the emergency exit doubles as a queue for the bathroom. Every minute or so I inform another set of enquiring eyes that I'm not waiting for the loo, before going back to staring out of that tiny little window in the exit door.

The window's shape, oval-ish, makes me think of staring down the toilet bowl. My hunched position is quite reminiscent of that too, but the view, thankfully, is less one-too-many-beers, more wow-ain't-the-world-beautiful-from-up-here. I do worry where that little island we just passed over would end up if someone flushed, though!

Mountain biking in Glebe Park

Dear Editor:

I have great difficulty not only with the headline of the article "Mountain biking coming to Glebe Park" in your February 16 edition but also with the content.

All council gave permission for was for Jim Blake to continue talking with the mountain biking group with an eye to developing additional mountain biking trails in the Highlands at Glebe Park. This is a wonderful idea on the surface, but when looked at a little closer, it is problematic for the area and existing operators. I only know of one operator who has invested serious capital in building a mountain biking business in this area, and that is the Bishop family of Sir Sam's ski and bike establishment.

They should be commended for their effort in building a year-round tourism destination for this area. They have been hard at it, building a critical mass of local and destination traffic of mountain bikers who support their facility. Why not give that effort the time needed to get established and build a profitable business, before they have to confront local competition located on tax-supported public land?

Yes competition is good for business, but I would submit that the next few years are not the time to create competition for something that is under development. If you are a mountain biker, why not support Sir Sam's efforts at this time?

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

Funding from HCDC, not Trillium

Dear Editor:

Thanks, Terry Gavan, for your coverage of the Halistoria launch — and great pics. One small error: our funding is from the HCDC, not Trillium. HCDC has been consistently supportive of the Conjurors' activities. Trillium, not so much.

--

Fay Martin
Minden



By Will Jones

When an airhostess offers me the fold down seat next to the door, I realise that I must have been hunched in the window for some time. I wonder what films I could have watched. Then dismiss the thought, as the films in my own special version of economy-airline hell are all at least two years old. And factory farmed chickens don't get to watch TV so why should I!

Gee, I think I'm getting to enjoy my purgatory, in some kind of masochistic, empathy-towards-poultry kind of way.

As I realize this, the hostess pushes the food trolley past. Yes! The torture is being ramped up to the next level.

I bundle back to my seat, fold Little Z in half, so fitting him neatly into his own seat without waking him, and pull down the folding table just as my tray of assorted gruel is delivered.

Hot food unwrapped, roll buttered (read steel-hard butter substitute pressed into cardboard-tasting bread) and orange juice poured: Little Z wakes, stretches, kicks and upturns my entire dinner into my lap. Oh joy. Just another four hours till we land.

And so, if you are ensconced in that comfy armchair beside a roaring fire reading this, I'm very jealous.

So jealous in fact, that I hope your dog wakes from his fireside nap, bounds over to say hello and knocks your tea off the arm of the chair right into your lap!

Letters continued

The boomers are coming

Dear Editor:

The success of the Granite Cove condo project leading to the new Granite View development is long awaited good news. The affordable housing project slated to begin this spring in town makes for three major housing projects on the go. Could this mark the beginning of some growth years for Haliburton?

I believe it does.

Statistics Canada data from the 2011 census show Dysart et al led the county in population increase between 2006 and 2011, growing 8 percent. That compares to overall Canadian growth of 5.9 percent. For the most part Haliburton's growth is coming from southern Ontario, while a large percentage of Canadian growth is from immigration.

Global warming is a reality and while much it is a horror, Haliburton County is uniquely situated to benefit from it. May, June, September and October are already beautiful months and we are now seeing many gorgeous days in April as well.

Canada's population is aging and Haliburton is a magnet for the elderly. Retired people can travel anytime and will prefer Haliburton in the shoulder seasons as opposed to the summer crowds. Canadians lost billions in assets from the financial crisis even as their real estate holdings increased billions. With six million people living in the GTA, how many of those now facing retirement will trade a million dollar home for Granite View's \$250,000, pocketing \$750,000 to supplement retirement? Multiplying that by 20 more years of boomer retirement guarantees continued long-term growth for Haliburton.

Get ready Haliburton, the boomers are coming.

Peter O'Connor
Haliburton

'They committed treason on themselves'

Dear Editor:

There is absolute truth to what Margery Cartwright has written about the power some men feel they should exert over the women in their life. I wholeheartedly agree this is wrong and has to stop. I applaud the wonderful work she has contributed to this cause. In this case, Mr. Shafia was definitely using his demented view of his right under Islam to carry out these murders.

There is no denying the evidence from the tapes presented by the police in court of this man talking to his wife in the car. To quote, "They committed treason on themselves. They betrayed humankind. They betrayed Islam. They betrayed our religion. They betrayed everything."

This was not a jealous man, nor one out of his mind, murdering his kids because of some relationship gone bad, or something done to him by someone else. This guy actually believed he had Islam's grace to fix this affront to his honour, and several Islamic leaders have come forth to vehemently deny this has anything to do with the Koran. Shafia planned this out in detail, with his second wife and son, convincing a mother and son his view was right. How can this be justified as simply a power trip by one guy, using religion as an excuse?

Canadians who take the life of their partner and possible their children, in my opinion, are not in their right mind. Their emotions are seriously damaged, but I cannot think of any story recently where the Canadian killer used his honour and God as an excuse. Jealousy, loneliness, despair, anger, but not honour. The whole system, school, children protection agencies, police, and even the boyfriend of one, failed these four victims. Hopefully something was learned here.

Ted Cumber
Gooderham

Quakers and Mennonites are the great 'peace' churches

Dear Editor:

In the editorial of the January 19 paper, you strongly criticized mindless submission to government, quoting, as the Minister had, Paul who in Romans 13 stated "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities."

This statement concerns only the ordinary, every day duties of a government concerned to make an ordinary social life possible (e.g., pay the fine you got for speeding; pay your taxes; do not steal). Such laws penalize the offender in a manner considered suitable by the authorities.

As ML King says, a law seen as unjust by many of the population invites, and properly, non-compliance.

The first group refusing to comply with the quotation from Romans was the early Christians. Within a few years of its writing, the Roman emperor (or the Roman Senate) decided that the Emperor was a god. Naturally, the Christians in the empire did not believe this. When required by law, in court, in front of a judge, to burn incense as their acceptance of this law, usually they refused. Such people, non-conforming to the security of the state, were executed, usually thrown to the lions in a state spectacle.

You ask what about the Jews? Before they had sought admission to the Roman Empire, they explained that their belief in one God precluded any of the taxes they paid being used to support worship of, or belief in, the many gods of Rome. When the Romans realized that Jews and Christians differed in several ways, the Christians were law-breakers subject to penalty.

There have been countless examples since of an unjust law not being obeyed by conscientious people.

In the early part of the 1700s in Portugal, Jews, Muslims and Protestants suffered death/torture by the Inquisition. Weekly attendance at Mass by all those able to go was required and kept track of.

Not taking communion was noted also and invited attention of the authorities. A painful death was coming

quickly for the non-conformers.

Queen Elizabeth of England and her advisors were not quite that ruthless. Her government was happy to tax the rich Catholic families who refused to attend and participate in Anglican services.

The two great peace churches have been, and are, the Quakers and the Mennonites. Members do not serve in the military: they are commonly much despised for their stand. They believe that wars settle nothing and cause much hardship and many deaths. Such a stand requires great courage when most of us are conformists.

The Quakers in England did all they could to publicize and to alleviate conditions in prisons. Elizabeth Fry and others made real changes in overcrowded, inhuman hellholes.

In the 1800s in the US, the Quakers were the only ones who publicized the facts of the Indian wars. The Indians were butchered so whites could have their land.

No sensible person can deny that every religious group (or those of no religion) have people working for peace, justice and compassion in our day.

Thank you for drawing my attention to Mohammed Ali's costly protest against the Vietnam War. I remembered that only one member of congress, a woman (!) voted against the Vietnam horror. Time has vindicated their stand. Might we say that such persons or groups are a badly needed conscience for society in our day? I hope so.

A related question — can anyone tell us why the American population is so morbidly concerned with the religion of potential candidates? After all, there are good and bad in all!!

No one discusses the intelligence, the honesty, the international experience or the compassion of a candidate. So often the successful one carries a Bible to church on Sunday morning! The media then assume they have the proof they seem to need that here walks an upright man!

Marion Sedgwick

Repeat after me: Haliburton Highlands

Dear Editor:

As long as I can remember in my 35-year tenure as a Camp Director or a Bed and Breakfast owner in this community, there has been much confusion about where exactly we live, work, run our camps, cottage, or welcome our visitors. Today's economy drives us to be smarter, more technology-conscious, understanding that daily we have an opportunity to speak to the world about where we live, work and play. Question is... are we doing this well?

The confusion starts on the home front. I believe our area needs a more meaningful, true identity with consistent, clear language. For Tourism purposes we need to be the "Haliburton Highlands".

When I ask someone where their cottage is, the response is "Haliburton". When questioned further I learn their cottage is on a lake near Dorset. How confusing is that?

If tourism is our number one employer, the language of our area and brand must be consistent. Where do you live? Where is your cottage? Where do you work? What is your favorite place in Ontario to visit? Consistently the answer must be the "Haliburton Highlands" if we are to prosper. Everyone who lives in the Haliburton Highlands, whether a senior, a child, a teen, a business owner or a front line retail staff [person]: YOU are the ambassador who can help.

When talking with friends and family, incorporate the "Haliburton Highlands" into the conversation (every conversation, every day). It's easy: "We are having a beautiful day in the Haliburton Highlands! What are you

doing this weekend in the Haliburton Highlands?"

When asked where you live, the best response is "in the Haliburton Highlands" first, and then say the name of your village or township. Residents who have strong roots in the community will find this change difficult.

Those producing products to be sold locally and possibly beyond Haliburton County's political borders should make sure signage or promotional material always toots the "Haliburton Highlands" horn! Event planners preparing promotional pieces, posters, grant requests or maps must be sure the title of the piece clearly says "Haliburton Highlands" and sports the Haliburton Highlands logo. Politicians or event leaders should be sure the message of the "Haliburton Highlands" [with the accompanying smile] comes through in every public presentation. Materials created to inform and promote all have a place for the words "Haliburton Highlands".

Very importantly, it will take practice when we talk among ourselves. We can help each other by the little reminders of how important it is to consider our language. We all clearly know how much fun it is to live, work and play in this beautiful area we refer to as the "Haliburton Highlands" [she says with a smile and a twinkle in her eye].

Sally Moore
Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast
Located in the Haliburton Highlands, between Minden and Haliburton Village

Letters continued

Federal government's frightening 'lawful access' legislation

Dear Editor:

Please find attached a letter sent this week to our MP, Barry Devolin

Dear Mr. Devolin,

I am the daughter and granddaughter of career military men who, for two generations, have served this country to protect our rights and freedoms. As such I have traveled and lived throughout the world and been exposed to many different cultures and styles of government. I have always been incredibly proud to call myself Canadian.

Now, as a result of the proposed 'lawful access' legislation, not only do I find myself compelled to write to you to express my profoundest objection to this government mandated invasion of privacy but, if this legislation is passed, I will, for the first time in 53 years, be ashamed to call myself Canadian.

How could I possibly be proud to be a citizen of a country whose political leaders are taking us, step by insidious step, towards a police state? I have seen with my own eyes the results of similar sweeping government powers in countries where citizens suffer from oppression at the hands of their leaders. This kind of legislation is the first step on a very slippery slope! Too much hyperbole? I think not, given [Public Safety Minister] Vic Toews characterization of those who disagree with the proposed legislation as siding with child pornographers. Rubbish!

The ability of a government to violate the privacy of its citizens at will, with no restrictions (not even a warrant), accountability or transparency scares the living daylights out of me and I will be encouraging everyone I know to speak out in a similar fashion against this truly frightening piece of legislation! I consider the right to vote be a tremendous privilege and have voted in every single election since I was old enough to do so. Please help to preserve the rights and freedoms of all citizens of this country and vote against the totalitarian 'lawful access legislation'.

Sincerely,

Lesley English
West Guilford



Jim O'Connor and Leora Berman receive a \$1,500 cheque from RBC Security's Beth O'Connor. The money will be put toward the Eco Innovation Centre which will be located inside the former home of the Standard Chemical Company on Donald Road.
Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Don't cut tourism department

Dear Editor:

Late last year, County council decided to reorganize the Economic Development and Tourism Marketing Department and eliminate the ED part. It decided to focus on Tourism Marketing and the plan was that when Department Head Bob Smith retired, a marketing person would be hired. With the current economic environment, this was a very timely idea and many of us were excited to hear this.

In January's draft budget discussions, there was a seven-to-one show of hands to take \$80,000 out of the tourism budget (it wasn't a formal vote). There now seems to be confusion among County councilors whether that show of hands was to just reduce the overall tourism budget (which I firmly disagree with) like other departments, or to specifically eliminate the job.

So here's the thing: someone in the tourism department has to continue to report to County council and continue in a leadership role. If the County cuts the "top job", the only person left to do the admin and coordination work will be the Tourism Coordinator. This would mean that less time and effort will be put into actual marketing. This is unfair to the Tourism Coordinator and, as tourism stakeholders, we'll all suffer from reduced tourism marketing efforts. The tourism budget has already taken an \$80,000 hit.

This is not the time to scale back efforts. This county only has tourism, so why would they cut out the job that could help us? We don't need one less person working on tourism development; we need that job to be retained and an

experienced marketing development person hired to fill it. We need a champion who will develop packaging, strategic alliances, partnerships, new media initiatives and so on. We need someone to work on stretching this County's season beyond July and August. Cutting a job from the county won't do this. It's a step backward.

We're all in the tourism business, directly or indirectly. Everything we do is tied to tourism. Every job, business and service in this County exists because of tourism. We have to take the time and effort to make Council aware of the obvious.

If you believe that cutting the tourism department from three to two is wrong, email your concerns to whichever County councilors you know and make sure you copy it to Carol Moffatt, the Chair of the Economic Development Committee and the other members of the committee. If enough of us respond, Carol Moffatt will have to address it at the next County council meeting on February 22, or the next Economic Development meeting on March 14.

Once this job is permanently eliminated from the County budget we'll never get it back. We can't afford that.

Kindly,

Dale & John Rider
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Minden Hills

Pan Am buzz gets louder Whitewater event on the Gull closer to fruition

By Terrance Gavan

It's not every day that Minden Council greets a three-time Canadian Olympian and a Canadian Champion.

James Cartwright, the Olympian in question, and Claudia Van Wijk, the former Canadian whitewater champion, were at Minden Hills' Feb 9 council meeting to unveil plans for the Minden Whitewater preserve, the proposed site of the 2015 Pan Am Games whitewater competition.

Jim Taylor, the President of Whitewater Ontario, came with a six person delegation that included Van Wijk, Cartwright and John Clarke, the Minden Whitewater Preserve manager.

Taylor told council that planning for the Pan Am event is underway, and there was a palpable hum in the room as the delegation extolled the virtues of Minden's hidden jewel on the Gull River.

Cartwright, a high performance Canadian coach now, said that his first introduction to the Gull River "was like my Hockey Night in Canada, and after seeing it, my dream was to come to race the Gull in a World Cup event."

Van Wijk and Cartwright both have kids racing for Canada today, and Van Wijk is a world-renowned presence on the whitewater stage. After only two years of paddling, at age 13, she won the Canadian women's slalom title — a title she held until she stopped racing 10 years later. She won a bronze medal at the 1982 Worlds. Van Wijk and her husband now own and operate both MKC and Owl Rafting on the Ottawa River; she is a driving force behind the Pan Am bid.

"I was the commentator at the 1995 team trials for CBC Sports," says Van Wijk. "It's a fantastic site [the Gull] and I

was a competitor in 1988 when it started."

"The Gull is world-renowned, and it truly is a world class facility," says Cartwright. "It's one of the most televised sports at the Olympic Games because it's a controlled course. And the Gull lends itself to that [television coverage and exposure] because of the big drops."

Minden Hills has approved an expenditure of \$100,000 toward the Pan Am Whitewater bid, a capital amount that will be spread over four years. The Pan Am reciprocal deal includes an agreement to split infrastructure funding: Minden pays 44 percent and gets 56 percent in additional funding. That guarantee could produce approximately \$225,000 in total site upgrades. With a little luck, spending could even exceed that 56 percent reciprocal cap.

Community Services Director Rick Cox — the Minden liaison with the Pan Am group — told Council at the Jan 26 meeting that those upgrades could include campground additions, additional washroom facilities, and a number of other park improvements including timing and scoreboards. Cox is enthusiastic about the opportunity, figuring that it's a great legacy project for the Preserve.

And speaking of legacies, Van Wijk reminds Council that, "our children are the national team of today. We want to work together for the Pan Am Games, but really to grow the sport here in Minden and Ontario."

"We don't have a club here [Minden], and we'd like to change that, and get future champions involved at the local level."

Cox says the \$100,000 Pan Am whitewater site guarantee is a great investment for both Minden and Whitewater Ontario.

James Cartwright
Canadian Whitewater Olympian

The Gull is world-renowned, and it truly is a world class facility.

Summer ice gets reprieve Council won't break commitment to camp

By Terrance Gavan

There will be summer ice at SG Nesbitt Arena this year. But it's on life support for 2013.

The summer ice program was not included in this year's original budget, but a commitment to Camp Hockey Haven, and the ramifications of renegeing on summer ice in 2012 had council backpedaling on the decision at a recent Minden Hills council meeting.

"Through the 2012 budget process, in order to achieve the reduced staff complement incorporated into the draft budget, one service cut reduction that has been tabled is the elimination of the summer ice program," said Community Services Manager Rick Cox in a prepared presentation to council on Jan 26.

"The SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena was built in the early 1970s for a three-season ice program. Despite recent upgrades to reduce energy requirements, establishing and maintaining good quality ice in July and August requires significant consumption of hydro. The facility does not have a 'warm floor' capacity to prevent frost build-up below the ice floor, so an extended ice season year after year will have a debilitating effect on the concrete pad."

More worrying is the humidity build up inside the building, which might lead to problems with mould. "Adding the summer ice program back into the 2012 work plan would require that one additional student be added into the complement," said Cox. "The summer ice program has been a success story in terms of revenue growth, with a 100 percent increase in revenue in 2011 versus 2010."

But Cox added that it's a drain on staff and costly to maintain.

Cox told council that Camp Hockey Haven — run by Troy Binnie — would suffer irreparable damage if Council was to follow through on the decision to eliminate the ice this season.

"It is unlikely that he will find another rink to host his program this summer, so the decision to eliminate summer ice for 2012 will be extremely detrimental to his business, if it does not destroy it outright," Cox told council. "Mr. Binnie is undoubtedly examining his options for bringing legal action against the Township, and I would expect him to pursue those options."

Cox added that there would be legal costs involved, and even if the municipality won, costs to defend against the lawsuit could be considerable.

Because the current generator is not equipped to keep the ice frozen, Cox said that Council would have to consider implementing an upgraded backup generator at the facility, at a net cost of approximately \$80,000.

"We have made a 2012 commitment to Hockey Haven," said Deputy Reeve, Cheryl Murdoch. "What I'm saying is that we should honor that commitment and get someone in to look at the building. The summer ice is growing revenue. Where are we going to find the money doing other things in that arena?"

Cox replied, "There's no way I could find a comparable revenue stream for that building in one year."

"There is a reason why other regions don't do summer ice," said Reeve Barb Reid. "They have concluded that there is a net drain on budgets."

In the end, the commitment to Binnie and Camp Hockey Haven won out over financial and staffing commitments. For this year at least. Council agreed to summer ice in 2012, allowing for increased rates for rental and a bump in summer rates for all users.



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Sustainable living



Seed exchange sows interest in heirloom varieties

Composting toilet for demonstration purposes only — worm composter a big hit

By Will Jones

The second annual ‘Seed Thing’ was held at the home of Kaarina and David Blackie on Friday, February 10 and a throng of over 30 folk gathered for potluck and a chance to share and swap seeds, stories and ideas about living a more sustainable life.

The event was arranged by avid gardener and environmentalist Kaarina Blackie, to bring together likeminded folks and encourage the repopulation of heirloom veggie varieties throughout the gardens of Haliburton County.

“We want to explore how to live and grow with greater resilience,” said Blackie. “We want to lessen our reliance on outside sources and learn how to maximise the potential of what we can successfully grow and harvest from our own gardens, whether they are big or small.”

The evening began with the potluck and, once everyone was so full that they couldn’t move, Kaarina asked husband David to bring out the composting toilet.

Not to use!

This was the first of a number of demonstration projects shown at the event. The simple box-and-bucket loo, which only needs a handful of sawdust thrown in after every use, saves on trips to the house and produces wonderful manure — humanure, to be precise — for the garden.

Next up was the solar cooker, a device that can be fashioned from cardboard and tin foil and which will heat food by harnessing the power of the sun. The vermicompost bin that followed was a big attraction. This super clean, non-smelly composter for household food waste uses worms — red wigglers — to break down the food into luxurious compost for the garden. It can be kept indoors and is easy to empty

(and retrieve the worms) when full. All you need is a large Rubbermaid, some worms and away you go.

Sebastian Renel then spoke about a group of individuals who have gotten together to help each other build hoop houses. So far, four have been built and there are two more due to be constructed this spring.

David Bathe gave a short talk about the Haliburton Grain CSA [Community Supported Agriculture], too. He told of the investigations he’s undertaken to understand the chemical balance of the soil in which he will be growing grain and the organic methods by which the grain CSA will enhance the fertility of the soil.

“The soil in Haliburton County may be a bit rocky but it is actually good for growing in,” he said. “You may be surprised to hear that its make-up is good for nutrient retention, you just have to find out what nutrients are in it and what you need to do to boost fertility. Then, with a bit of work, you can start to get some great results from your soil.”

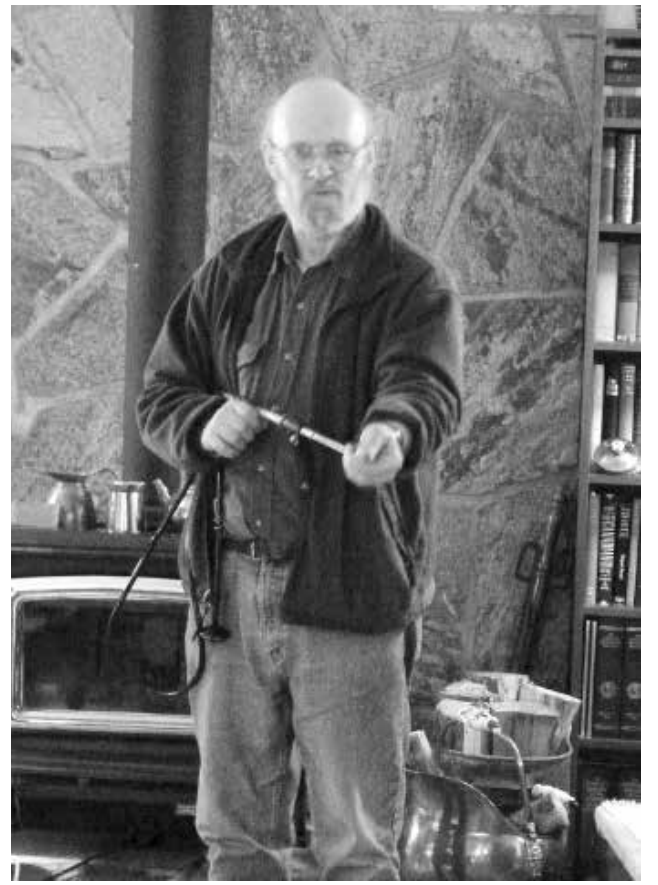
Bathe also put a plea out to the community. He asked if anyone has or knows someone who has a grain huller, either the abrasive or impact variety, new or antique. The grain CSA would be very interested to talk to you if you do.

Damien Deveau has taken another approach to growing: he told of his work growing mushrooms on logs. The process of cutting, wetting and seeding the logs with mushroom spores is relatively simple. All that is required is a little bit of patience, as is the case with most gardening.

Finally, with the room fully warmed up and chattering excitedly about all things green and gardening, Blackie brought out her extensive collection of heirloom seeds and bade others to share, swap and sample.

There were over 30 varieties of tomato seed, beans, melons, rapini, radishes, lettuce, cauliflower, brassicas, peas and many more veggies, plus a selection of herbs and even flowers.

Guests with seeds brought them to the table and swapped or gave them away, while telling the surrounding throng growing tips, and most importantly, ways to best harvest and dry seeds from this year’s crop.



Above left: Kaarina Blackie (2nd from left) shares her seeds. Above right: Eric Lilius with his trombone sprayer. Bottom: A DIY composting toilet is easy and inexpensive. Photos by Will Jones

“The importance of growing these heirloom varieties can’t be understated,” said Blackie. “If we don’t continue to grow them they will eventually be lost and we’ll have far fewer types of vegetable to choose from. But that’s not the only reason to grow heirloom varieties. They also taste so much better than the standard, mass-grown veggies. This alone is a great incentive to get out there and plant heirloom seeds.”

And so it was that seeds were swapped and shared, with everyone taking away a selection that will be sure to create great interest in the garden this summer and provide a wonderfully tasty bounty, come harvest time.

Highlands East

Free sanding and plowing to stop

The following is a summary of the Feb 14 meeting of Highlands East Council

Deer Creek bridge repairs get go ahead

Highlands East Council received a delegation from Steve Clark of Greer Galloway Group, who laid out the options for the repair or replacement of Deer Creek Bridge. Clark outlined the problems with the current dilapidated bridge, which included severe de-lamination of the steel support girders; extensive rotting of wooden beams; worn asphalt on the bridge deck and numerous smaller items. He told how his inspection had found that the bridge was, in his opinion, in need of replacement and then set out the options available to council.

Clark said that council had a range of options, from doing nothing to performing extensive repairs and even replacing the bridge with a corrugated, arched culvert. He recommended the culvert as the best option.

Clark went on to explain that the next step was a detailed design, including a cost analysis. CAO and treasurer, Sharon

Stoughton-Craig, asked, "How long will it take and how much will it cost to get the project shovel-ready?" Clark estimated around two weeks and a figure of approximately \$6,000.

"And the figure for the total project?" asked Stoughton-Craig. "Less than \$200,000, probably \$150,000 to \$180,000," responded Clark.

At this point, Reeve Dave Burton interjected, asking whether the municipality could off-set some of the cost by providing materials such as gravel for the project. Clark said that his firm was more than happy to work with Highlands East to see where local materials and township labour could be used in order to reduce costs.

Council then took a vote and resolved to authorise Clark and Greer Galloway to advance the project by completing detailed designs for the arched culvert crossing and getting the project to a shovel-ready stage.

Plein Air festival gets council funding

A Brush with the Highlands, the county's

prominent plein-air arts festival, has been given a boost by Highlands East Council.

Speaking at the February 14 meeting, festival organiser Tracey Lee Green told of the event's success through its first three years in existence and asked for continued support from council.

"In our first year we had 27 artists participating, in our third we had 47," she said. "They come from as far afield as Windsor and Thunder Bay and they stay on average for five days in local accommodation. And, during the event, over 300 works featuring the area are painted," she said.

"In addition, their work is now being featured in publications in the GTA and elsewhere, which promote art and painting. We are really getting known as a wonderful place for artists to come and be inspired. Highlands East is on its way to becoming a painting Mecca."

Green then explained that while she had raised a considerable percentage of the cost of running the festival herself, she still required funds for the art show awards, to the tune of \$1,300.

"Council provided this sum last year and I'm hoping that you'll be able to do this again for the 2012 event," said Green.

Councillor Joan Barton questioned Green on the fact that she'd previously said that the size of the donation requested from council would diminish year on year, when in fact it had stayed the same.

"I did say that but I have expanded the festival each year and I don't want to raise the cost to participating artists because they already pay a fee to enter and for their accommodation during their stay. I don't want to discourage them from coming," said Green.

Council deliberated and then passed the resolution to grant Green \$1,300, as requested

Snow removal to stop

Roads Superintendent Earl Covert told Highlands East Council that sand reserves are running low and that his team is finding it increasingly difficult to provide adequate

snow plowing and sanding to the numerous private business currently serviced by the municipality.

Covert said, "We started out a few years back clearing the car parks of a couple of businesses, but as owners caught wind they asked for a similar service. It's now got to the stage where we can't provide everyone with a good level of service without fear of sand running out."

Covert then asked council for a decision as to whether he should continue to plow and sand all private business premises or do none at all.

Councillor Joan Barton expressed concern about the practice, stating, "People sand and plow for a living. We shouldn't be depriving a local resident of income by subsidising these businesses with a free service. The private sector should employ others in the private sector to do this kind of work."

Reeve Dave Burton agreed and called for a resolution to cease sanding and plowing private business premises from now on.

Fire department lifesavers congratulated

EMS chief Bob English has written a letter of congratulation to the Highlands East fire department, for their life saving efforts when confronted with an individual who had collapsed outside of the Scotiabank in Wilberforce on January 27.

Finding the man with no vital signs, volunteer fire fighters used the defibrillator to revive the man, who had had a heart attack, before he was rushed to Haliburton Hospital and then on to Toronto.

Fire chief Bill Wingrove read out the letter to Council at its February 14 meeting. In it, English praised the force for its quick thinking and making a good save. "You don't often get a save and your department did a great job," read Wingrove.

He then went on to say that he'd also received a call from the wife of the heart attack victim. "She thanked us for our work and said that her husband is still weak but recovering well and that they are coming back to Haliburton tomorrow," stated Wingrove.

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Highlander adventures



Winter camping A higher sense of wilderness

By Erin Lynch

To many people, pitching a tent close to a frozen stream as snow heavily falls may not be the ideal camping experience. But to a seasoned winter camper like Highlands resident Bob Davis, it is just that.

"I don't care for hot weather and bugs so it's a beautiful time," says Davis, who expects to be out a total of two weeks this winter.

An avid outdoorsmen, Davis has always been interested in long-distance canoe trips. Being in touch with the wilderness throughout the seasons is just an extension of his connection to nature. Thirty years ago he was attending a Wilderness Canoe Association meeting at the now-defunct Frost Centre when he was introduced to Craig MacDonald, the guest speaker. MacDonald was displaying his extensive snowshoe collection. Sharing his knowledge and experience of winter camping, MacDonald spoke of using traditional winter camping methods that native people and voyageurs had used for many years. Native families had lived quite comfortably in winter. MacDonald questioned, "Why winter camp and be miserable?"

It was then that Davis and MacDonald began to cultivate a bond that revolved around experiencing this quintessentially Canadian winter tradition.

Davis had already attempted winter camping using an exposed lean-to, heated by an open fire. However the fire would melt the snow and the embers would sink down below the entrance. Davis says the only way to feel any warmth was to shovel the entire camp area right down to the ground, an onerous undertaking, so that the fire wouldn't sink.

MacDonald's advice was to have a tin stove

in the tent. "It's a better way to go. You don't freeze," says Davis.

As a ranger in Algonquin Park, MacDonald has been working in wilderness backwoods recreation for 44 years. He spent nearly 30 years researching and documenting the Nastawgan, Temagami's traditional network of summer and winter travel routes. He has also studied the history, language and culture of the Anishinawbeg or Ojibway people who lived there for many generations. Having conducted what he estimates as 500 interviews with native elders, he accumulated hundreds of pages of field notes which enabled him to create a historical map of Temagami and to gain information on traditional wilderness living.

In a conversation from his home in Dwight, MacDonald, now 65, told *The Highlander* that recreational winter camping became popular 30 years ago. MacDonald scoffs at the trend to use hollowed snow shelters called Quinzhees.

"Quinzhees are a disease," says MacDonald. "You need heat to stay warm. It's not about extra sleeping bags. We are not animals. You can only live without heat for four or five days. It's not sustainable. Even the Inuit would be nowhere if they ran out of oil for their Quilliq [a traditional lamp used for light, cooking and heat]. They wouldn't survive."

MacDonald says he enjoys winter camping, and pushing his body's limits, but comfort is also important.

MacDonald describes camping in weather as cold as -57C on the Caribou River when his eyelids froze together, and how he had to dip portions of cheese into his tea so they wouldn't break his teeth.

MacDonald has for years sold and manufactured winter camping equipment



Top: Winter travellers move in a line. The first person is the trail breaker.
Above: A winter camp in Algonquin Park. **Photos by Bob Davis.**

for the extreme outdoor winter enthusiast. He sells trail sleds, snowshoes, Egyptian cotton tents, tin stoves, mitts, moccasins and ice chisels. You can't find a catalogue on the Internet, yet online winter camping and wilderness chat groups throw his name around continually.

MacDonald recommends that if you are interested in winter camping you should go with a commercial operator or an experienced person. "Don't go out by yourself," says MacDonald.

Many people think a good sleeping bag is the most important item. Davis says he is famous for having bad sleeping bags. But his winter camping companions never complain as he is often the first to wake up and put wood on the fire. Both Davis and MacDonald agree that a good tent and tin stove are very important. This allows you to string a clothesline inside and dry wet clothes each night.

In the past, Davis and his family made a semi-permanent winter camp north of Maple Lake on some Crown land. The group would go in by moonlight almost every weekend with family and friends. They did this over a six-year period.

Over the last 30 years, Davis and MacDonald have winter traveled numerous times together, working at establishing winter trails in Algonquin Park. The two have crossed the park three times, sometimes going several hundred miles on snowshoes, pulling sleds.

Davis and MacDonald recently explained the hard work of winter traveling to *The Highlander*. The group walks in a line. The first person is the trail-breaker who has the

most challenging job, especially if there is deep powder snow. The trail-breaker will start off at the front and then move to the end of the line after half an hour so the work is shared.

Davis describes a typical day of getting up at 6 am, starting a fire, making breakfast, packing gear, making a lunch and then starting to haul. At midday you stop and have a fire, putting on a pot of tea. Davis emphasizes that drinking enough liquid is very important.

"It's not that you are sweating, but you lose hydration through your breath," says Davis.

"After lunch it takes two hours to pitch camp which includes cutting wood and sometimes cutting poles for a tent from a thicket of balsam. A winter camp needs to be sheltered from the wind and clear of nearby standing dead timber. For water, snow is not melted, but a hole is chipped in the ice. Once camp is set up, everyone begins to slow down. Some recline while others take turns preparing dinner which can include baking bread," says Davis.

These two resilient men embody the frontier spirit, and embrace the hard work that winter camping demands due to the extreme weather conditions.

"I love the feeling. It's bracing and refreshing. I love winter," says Davis.

"When you camp in winter there is a higher sense of wilderness. You can really observe nature. Moose will come up right beside your tent. Unlike living in a cabin there is an acoustic connection with the outside: wolves howling, owls hooting. These are sounds that you hear in winter. And the skies are stunningly beautiful," says MacDonald.

County news

CUPE on the march for long term care workers

By Stephen Patrick

"We don't want another Action Plan," says Candace Rennick, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario.

"We want action, and we want it now. For years the Liberal government of Dalton McGuinty has been promising a legislated standard of care of 3.5 hours of direct care per resident, per day. Right now the average is around 2 to 2.5 hours of care, depending on the patient's needs. That's simply not good enough. Many new residents coming into long term care are 85 years of age or older, and often very frail. They deserve a minimum standard of care of 3.5 hours."

Rennick was speaking at a media advisory held in Minden recently. Earlier in the day she had spoken with Haliburton MPP Laurie Scott in Lindsay, where she was given what she described as a very sympathetic reception from the former nurse. "I know she'll take our concerns back to her caucus – but we also know that the chances of the Tories raising the standard if they gained power are not very high."

The minimum standard of care is an average number – the actual amount of care each patient receives depends on what's called their 'acuity levels', or in other words, the severity of their overall medical condition. CUPE maintains that a raised minimum standard would mean less 'assembly line' feeding of residents, more time to help them get going in the morning, and generally more time to connect on a one-to-one basis. At the moment, in many long term care facilities, personal support workers have well under 10 minutes to get patients

awake and ready for breakfast, which often includes dressing, lifting (with another PSW) and toileting. "Most of us perfectly healthy people don't get going that quickly in the morning," says Rennick.

The CUPE executive was joined at the media advisory by Dorothy Winterburn, a frontline worker at Hyland Crest in Minden. "Our patients want and deserve dignity – and right now the care we're giving, particularly in for-profit facilities, is compromised. In many for-profit facilities we know that the money is going into profits, not into care. Here in Minden at Hyland Crest, our standard of care level is about 1.58 hours of care per resident. And that's not good enough."

Still, an independent survey conducted in Hyland Crest and Highland Wood homes recently found a family satisfaction rate of 99 percent, one of the highest in the province. Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO Paul Rosebush commented, "I think this should be attributed to the excellent, caring staff we have at these facilities."

This push by CUPE comes at a time when the provincial



Left Candace Rennick and Dorothy Winterburn on right Photo by Stephen Patrick

Liberals are under serious financial pressure. Nevertheless, the government has made any number of commitments since 2003 to improve the situation, but real change hasn't happened. What the future will hold for LTC facilities, now that the entire health system is under intense scrutiny as a result of the Drummond Report, is anybody's guess, but Rosebush is certain of one thing: "Change is coming: you can count on it."

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Three snowmobilers charged with impaired driving

Early last Friday morning, local officers of the Ontario Provincial Police stopped two snowmobiles as they were leaving the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs Trail and heading on to Kashagawigamog Lake Road. Both snowmobiles initially attempted to flee, but were stopped. Officers determined that both drivers had consumed alcohol.

As a result, both snowmobile operators were arrested for impaired driving. Brittany Porter, 25 of Haliburton, and Ryan Porter, 27 of Highlands East are charged with impaired driving and are scheduled to appear in

Minden court on April 4.

Then on Saturday, an OPP RIDE program roadblock was set up on North Shore Road, at the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs Trail B in Algonquin Highlands. Numerous snowmobiles were checked for proper documentation and their drivers assessed for consumption of alcohol.

Robert Montgomery, 51 of Whitby was charged with driving under the influence on Saturday evening. The accused will appear in court in Minden on April 4 to deal with the charge.

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Highlander arts

Sue Gleeson blends art and medicine

By Terrance Gavan

Sue Gleeson
Rails End Gallery
Finding the Pathway Home
Feb 4 to March 5

She is a family doctor, a life coach, author and artist.

Sue Gleeson (MD) is either in the thralls of a classic mid-life crisis, or a victim of one of Oprah's Aha! moments.

We jest, because the artist, Sue Gleeson, as we learned last Saturday at the Rails End Gallery, is clearly a wild card. She remains eclectic, delightful, grounded and pretty decisive about who she is, and what she does.

She is an artist who is able to blend several careers, and a medical practitioner who believes that healing should not be centered only in the rather sterile and sedentary confines of a medical office.

Her art is raw and poignant, like her take on life. She speaks with authority on why she feels a healing power in art. Not as literal as aspirin, or a well-placed scalpel, but she believes that art, given the chance, can enliven one's soul and open a pathway to a more peaceful life.

In her Rails End biography, Gleeson alludes to the magic of art and how it works to fulfill some inner yearnings for restorative peace and inner tranquility.

"For me, my paintings are not so much 'stand alone' works of art as they are an illustration of how expressive arts can work to repair and restore us," says Gleeson. "It is my fondest hope that my paintings will bring you clarity, inspiration, and joy."

She is a Nia instructor, a Bigger Game workshop facilitator



Sue Gleeson talks about her art at the Rails End Gallery. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

and the author of two books. She is also a graduate of the Expressive Arts Program at Fleming College, Haliburton Campus. And that's why she treats the Rails End Gallery as her home; she feels a kinship with this place, because it's where she was given wings of expression.

She also retreats occasionally to a small cabin at the Bonnieview Inn, where she writes, shuts out the world, and finds solace in life.

And so, what makes Gleeson tick and what brings her joy? Well, her daughter and her husband were both in attendance for her inaugural show and she took obvious delight in their presence. Her laugh is self-confident and friendly and she is at ease in a crowd. She is, one realizes, the type of GP we'd all like to have, given our druthers.

She says that half her day is spent downstairs in her medical office, and the other half is spent upstairs working as a life

coach. So what does a life coach do?

"People come to me as a life coach," says Gleeson. "They don't know who they are, and they don't know why they're here. And nobody else knows either. So they're pretty miserable and my joy is to lead them out of that. To help them discover who they are."

The art? That came serendipitously.

"One day when I was coaching a Bachelor of Fine Arts student, I had a picture in my mind's eye that looked a lot like [one of her display paintings hanging in the Rails End] and I said to her 'I think I could be an artist,' and she said, sure what kind of art?" laughs Gleeson. The arts student asked her what she liked and they soon had the answer; she told Gleeson what she had gleaned. "You want to do acrylic abstract," said the fine arts student. Shortly after, Gleeson began her sojourn into the world of art.

"She came over to my house and brought everything, including a big canvas, and she mixed for me and I

remember I started painting, throwing, crying, screaming and laughing all at the same time, for about two hours and it all came out.

"After that I did about 50 paintings that first year. I didn't even know that was there, until that student got me going."

She says she fell in love with the Highlands during her first year at Haliburton School of the Arts.

"I remember the principal caught me skipping down the hall to one of my classes," laughs Gleeson. And truly, that's what Gleeson brings to her art: joy, reckless abandon and freedom's brush. She finds release through art and it is evident in every stroke on canvas.

You might even say that life coach Sue Gleeson got 'coached' by one of her students. More to the point, Gleeson found the Haliburton Highlands and then found her artistic chi.

State of the Arts



By Victoria Ward

Awkward middle age. This is a term we bandy about in my household that references those years between nose rings and hearing aids. Unless you work in the financial industry or have a secure job with vacation pay and a pension, then you are probably like a lot of people in this age group: maxed out, unemployable, without family resources and you get

bizarrely sleepy after dinner.

When I was young I wondered why they replaced Sean Connery with Roger Moore in the James Bond films.

Now I understand: Sean was getting too long in the tooth for the job. Of course Roger was no spring chicken, and if you look closely at those 70s Bond films you can see his girdle.

Regardless, we all get to that Wednesday time of our lives and begin to see the truth in things about ourselves and others. In the arts, middle age is the most desperate time because in this country a lot of funding is geared toward emerging and senior artists. In fact if you just stick around and make it to your sixties you will probably be in less competition for subsidies, because by that age most have quit. Sticking around, however, is a tall task indeed.

Right now we are bearing witness to an exodus of full-time professional artists to academia. It is a flight of such measure that funding now seems to flow toward university professors and MA and PhD candidates and away from working artists.

Shaken, not stirred and middle aged

A recent discussion with a funding officer at a granting body revealed that in fact they see funding artists with tenure at a University as an irreversible trend. Artists who find the idea of returning to school in order to get funding outrageous are slowly being drowned out by this tide of scholarship fever.

What is a working, aging artist to do then? Many things apparently. Retool your practice, rejuvenate your career in some way, adapt with a state of art software program, teach, and change what you're doing to suit the trends of the day. No one wants to admit that perhaps being a working artist who spends 40-60 hours a week on their art might just mean you're obsolete. Or perhaps you've been obsolete for years and you've just been too busy to notice.

And who doesn't love youth and its exuberance, rebelliousness and tight thighs? And aren't those kids cute the way they use social networks to plan their events and overthrow governments? If I had to do it all over again, perhaps I might not have even done this art thing. Camping out with a laptop in some kind of subversive occupation now seems totally romantic to me, the way living life as an artist once did.

Perhaps politics is the new art: the idea that involvement should rule the day. Or are we witnessing a trend toward devolving funding that would eventually leave the arts without spontaneous creativity and flexible implementation? Academia is great and all but doesn't it also breed a kind of insular thinking? Can you really be truly independent within these institutions? Correct me please if I am wrong about this, but many of our greatest artists, thinkers and inventors never

even received a Bachelors degree.

I would think that independence for an artist would be a prerequisite for making great work. Without the fetters of bureaucracies and narrowly-defined subsidies, an artist can be obliged to no one. Obligation has to be the death of innovation and innovation today is certainly suffering. This isn't just happening in the arts, you see it in scientific research, medical research — any activity that demands time, diligent study and most importantly, creating something that was never there before.

Are we stifling our innovators with bottom line considerations, moral considerations and cultural sensitivities? Perhaps as a culture we have hit a kind of awkward middle age; maybe we seem a bit stagnant. We love our iPhones but are appalled at how they are made. We want to do something about the environment but still shop at big box retail centres that keep prices low by selling way too many things that will end up in a landfill or the oceans. We care about our health but rely too heavily on drugs. We want to change but think we can't.

I have lots of hope though, because if you look at those Bond films, they made it a continuing practice of changing the Bond to stay a certain age, suit the current era while keeping the formula intact. The key is to remain focused, not change everything you are doing to fit in; adapt to the world around you in a way that rings true, and keep your mind open. Just look at our Bond today: the super-rugged Daniel Craig, with stunning acting chops and definitely no need for a girdle. And he's in his 40s.

Senior highlanders

Aging Well Exercises for swollen ankles



By Penny Brown

Dear Penny,

Why do my ankles swell? Some days are worse than others but I swear sometimes I look down and I can't believe those are my feet. I feel like I must be standing in somebody else's shoes. Why does that happen?

Fat Ankles

Dear Ankles,

There are many reasons for swollen ankles. Sometimes ankles swell as the result of an injury, trauma or sprain. But there are other possibilities too.

Swollen ankles may be due to a localized circulatory problem in the legs, causing a buildup of fluid (called edema). It can be caused by heart disease that affects the whole body or by conditions involving the kidneys or liver. Any of these are serious conditions and should be treated by a doctor.

Joint diseases such as arthritis can also affect the legs and ankles and result in swelling or pain.

Some people are sensitive to salt and retain fluid when their sodium intake is too high or their medications are not exactly right for them. After a proper assessment, a doctor may prescribe a salt-free diet or "water" pill to help.

Obesity is another possible cause and weight loss will have the happy side effect of decreasing the swelling in your ankles.

Because there are so many possibilities, it's important to have a doctor examine you for the cause of your swollen ankles. If the underlying cause is a serious one, you will need appropriate treatment.

That said, many perfectly healthy older people have occasional swelling of the ankles that is of little consequence. And there are a variety of easy exercises you may find useful.

Working the big muscles of the lower leg helps circulation and may decrease the swelling, with little other treatment required. One good exercise is to hold onto a table or back of a chair, and rise to your toes. Lower slowly, and repeat several times.

Marching in place is a good exercise too. A little music helps remind you to raise your knees high.

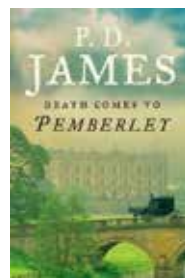
Another exercise is deep knee bends—but given your age, please do not overdo it. In other words, there is no need to make those knee bends deep. A few inches down and then up are all you really need.

Here's another one: lie on your back with your feet against a wall and shift close enough to the wall so you can rest your feet on it. Keep your feet raised in that position for 30 minutes or more. It's an excellent position to help decrease the swelling of legs and ankles.

Of course, walking is the best exercise of all because it uses your big leg muscles to pump the blood, gets your heart pumping too, and contributes to overall health and well being.

Whatever the reason for your swollen ankles, see your doctor and have the problem assessed. All being well, your doctor will probably agree that regular, careful exercise is a good thing as we age. Go for it!

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, write to penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca.



Haliburton County's Hot Reads



The following are the top 5 fiction and non-fiction titles as requested at the Haliburton County Public Library for the week of February 20-26.

HCPL's TOP 5 FICTION

1. *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James
2. *Zero Day* by David Baldacci
3. *The Accident* by Linwood Barclay
4. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
5. *Before I Go To Sleep* by S.J. Watson

HCPL's TOP 5 NON-FICTION

1. *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
2. *The Wealthy Barber Returns* by David Chilton
3. *From This Moment On* by Shania Twain
4. *The 17 Day Diet* by Mike Moreno
5. *Currency Wars: The Making of the Next Global Crisis* by James Rickards

While not much has changed in our top fiction and non-fiction lists in the past week, the one exception is *The Accident* by Linwood Barclay. Barclay is one of Canada's most prolific and popular crime-thriller writers and *The Accident*, his latest, has been constantly circulating at the library since it was released last year. This novel's popularity has been furthered by the fact that it was recently nominated for the Evergreen Award, a literary award in which library patrons determine the ultimate winner.

Other 2012 Evergreen Award nominated titles, such as *Various Positions* by Martha Schabas and *Under the Afghan Sky* by Melissa Fung, have also soared in popularity. Rest assured, the library has multiple copies of each of the Evergreen titles on hand in order to ensure that everyone can read them and later participate in voting for their favourite this fall.

Library News

Library yoga at the Dysart branch continues each Monday afternoon from 4-5pm and has been extended until Feb 28! Whether you are a beginner or an advanced yogi, drop by the library with your yoga mat for an energizing yoga session. Entrance is by donation to the Friends of the Library. See you there!

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Highlander food

Haliburton Gold Spicy Surprise

By Will Jones

Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association
Wild Game Dinner
Saturday, March 10
\$30 per person or \$50 per couple

Local food can be defined in many ways, but here in Haliburton County it doesn't get much more local than a fish caught from the lake on your doorstep.

The county is lucky to have countless, wonderfully clean lakes and rivers, which are home to both native and stocked species of trout. And, this wealth of tasty fish is partially due to the immense amount of work that the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association does. The HHOA has been harvesting lake trout eggs, raising trout and restocking our lakes for 12 years now. Since 2000, the association has stocked 450,000 fish into local lakes. This year the number will surpass half a million fish.

The HHOA works closely with the MNR to collect eggs and stock lakes, ensuring good fishing, and good eating, for everyone. It also raises trout for other areas including the Lake of Bays. However this work all costs money, and the association is always in need of more funds to continue its good work.

With this and the thought of a tasty meal in mind, the HHOA invites you to buy a ticket to the Wild Game Dinner. Go along; try something different, from trout and salmon to moose, beaver and elk. This is local food just as the forefathers would have eaten. Enjoy.

Serves 2
Two lake trout fillets
(Haliburton Gold or any other variety)
One spicy chorizo sausage
125 ml whipping cream
50 ml of brandy
Frying oil
Up to 200 ml of stock or water

Lake trout are renowned as a tasty fish, but don't discount using rainbows or speckled trout because they all taste wonderful and this recipe is a great way to get the best out of all kinds of fish. Just one word of caution; the chorizo might overpower the subtle taste of a fish like pickerel.

Gently place the two trout fillets into a frying pan coated with a little oil and fry for a couple of minutes.

Chop 12-14 rounds of chorizo (as many as you want) and drop them into the pan, too. Fry for two more minutes, turning the chorizo constantly to allow the oil and spice to infuse the trout and pan, but ensuring not to burn the chorizo.

Remove the trout fillets when they are just cooked and keep warm. Add the brandy to the frying pan, being careful not to set it alight. Gently scrape the fried bits off the bottom the pan, stirring them into the chorizo/brandy mix. Add the cream and stir until it is nicely warmed. Add stock or water to thin the sauce a little if it seems too thick.

Plate the trout and pour over the chorizo cream sauce. Serve with mashed potatoes and boiled, buttered cabbage or any favourite veggie of your choice. Wash down with a glass of white wine or a flavoursome beer.

New resort offers home cooking, tranquility

By Stephen Patrick

When the brochures were ready and the renovations done, inn manager Scott Martin had a brainstorm for marketing his property: invite a few local bigwigs (and some ink-stained hangers on) to a deluxe dinner and let them help in the effort to spread the word.

And so the bigwigs – and *The Highlander* – spent an evening last month at the Agia Maria Inn and Resort to enjoy a great meal and inspect the extensive renovations. Sameh and Shareen Salib purchased the lodge, formerly the Hunter Creek Inn, in 2011 and straight away gave it a new name; it translates to Saint Maria — perhaps to honour its tranquil location on the Gull River, just south of Minden.

Tranquility is something the new managers, husband and wife team Scott and Penny, know well. Scott is a trained chef

with years of experience in Canada and the Windward Islands of the Caribbean, a famously quiet and beautiful location; in addition to managing the property, Scott prepares all of the meals from scratch, using local ingredients wherever possible, while Penny bakes desserts and serves the guests in the dining room overlooking the Gull.

Renovations — there are 15 rooms and private cabins — have been substantial, with many units offering Jacuzzis and fireplaces. A common area with a large TV and pool table is well-used by guests, as is a children's playhouse. Lately the Inn has played host to sledders and ice racers heading to Minden.

The Agia Maria is open year-round for guests and visiting diners. They also provide private catering and can accommodate weddings, parties and other functions.

For more information, give Scott or Penny a call at 705-286-0606.

Dominion Hotel cleans up its act

By Will Jones

"It's just like putting gas in your car," says chef and Dominion Hotel proprietor Shawn Chamberlain. "You put in clean fuel it runs well, but put in dirty fuel and it will still run but you'll have problems with the engine."

This automotive analogy is Chamberlain's way of describing 'clean cuisine', a new way of looking at the age-old challenge of eating healthily. The chef goes on to describe it as 'more of a lifestyle than diet'. "Clean eating means using ingredients that are as close to their natural state as possible; meaning no processed foods," explains Chamberlain. "Meals are simply made, with natural ingredients that are free of chemicals or preservatives. Watch out for excess sodium, fat and sugar; the objective being to eat good quality, healthy, nutritional meals that taste great."

"Clean eating is more a lifestyle than a diet. It's all about cooking and eating food that's healthy, nutritional and tasty."

Shawn Chamberlain
Dominion Hotel

Since beginning to research clean cuisine a while back, Chamberlain has been so impressed with the all-round benefits that this common sense change can make that he now cooks and eats to clean eating ideals in his own home. And what's more, he'll soon be offering a clean cuisine menu at the Dominion Hotel in Minden.

"We'll have a choice of menus in both the bar and restaurant from the start of March," he explains. "I'm not taking away the regular favourites and I wouldn't want people to think I'm looking down my nose at them if they want to eat burgers and fries, but for those who want to try something different and really healthy I'll be adding a new range of dishes, a clean cuisine menu that I've created from scratch."

A sneak preview reveals that this isn't some freakish health fad but a tasty alternative. On the menu, which is slated to include 12 dishes, guests will be able to try appetizers such as warmed brie, honey and nuts served with apple and pita bread, or smoky southwest black bean soup (a delectable dish that this journalist had the pleasure of sampling); main courses include a salmon fillet stuffed with shrimp, dill, goat cheese and grainy mustard, served on basmati rice, or a New

York steak with sautéed mushrooms and onions.

"We can create wonderful meals that everyone will enjoy, using the freshest of ingredients and avoiding excess salt or refined sugar," says Chamberlain. "I'm currently perfecting a chilli and when I offered a taste test to locals in the bar they loved it. They couldn't believe there was no sugar in it, when in fact the sweetness came purely from red pepper and caramelised onions."

There are challenges for Chamberlain, though. Bringing these new ideals into the hotel kitchen means training chefs to make sauces from scratch and guiding them away from using refined seasoning. It also means coaching the wait staff to be able to talk with authority about the new menu to customers, and it involves sourcing high quality ingredients for a cost that will not break the bank.

"From devising the menu to retraining and providing a commercially viable product, clean eating has been a challenge but it's one that I believe is really worth it," says Chamberlain. "I now eat cleanly myself and in the few weeks that I've been doing it exclusively I have lost weight and I feel tremendous – more energetic and lively, more healthy."

"And that's the key. Eating healthily, eating clean, makes you feel better; put good fuel in your body's engine and it'll run better and longer. That sounds like a good thing to me."

Talking to Chamberlain about clean eating, one can see that he is convinced of this culinary ideal. Pop into the Dominion Hotel, sample a dish and make up your own mind.

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Highlander sports

The Iditarod – scene two, take two

Hank DeBruin and his blue-eyed hellions are off running

By Terrance Gavan

Hank DeBruin is heading back to the Iditarod.

He's taking his sled and 16 of his lovely Siberian Huskies to a necessary and inevitable date with destiny.

His destiny. His dogs' destiny. A winter's dance for a Winterdancer.

Already a legend among Canadian dogsledders, Hank DeBruin is entering his second Iditarod for the long run... the full haul.

Hank DeBruin is back, because his first run was cut short by a phone call from a race official. Damnable red tape. Hank knows that both he and his dogs still had lots of run left when race officials pulled the plug arbitrarily on the last sled back in the 2010 Iditarod.

Siberian Huskies are lovely, lovely dogs, but Hank and his wife and business partner Tanya McCready will be the first to tell you that they are slow in comparison to some of the mixed breed power hounds that propel sleds in today's Iditarod. Slow but stoic, and as Hank will tell you, full of pull. And darn it, they could have finished that race. Hank says so. And we believe.

Because Hank is a musher who last year finished the even more grueling Yukon Quest, with those slow, but spectacular Siberian yowlers.

"I should never have answered that phone," Hank told us, back in 2010. He told me again at a fund raiser in Carnarvon this year. Long memories those mushers.

He wrote a book about his first Iditarod, adding to the already massive historical log surrounding the world's most iconic race. The race covers over 1,049 miles in 9 to 15 days from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska.

It always begins on the first Saturday in March. The Iditarod began in 1973 as a bragging rights event, but has evolved into today's multi-national, high performance race. The fastest time was logged last year by John Baker who mushed to the win in 8 days, 19 hours, 46 minutes, and 39 seconds.

And you may ask, after eight and a half days, do seconds really matter? The answer, dear readers, is a definitive yes.

The route itself duplicates a cross-country run taken by some sledgers with behinds like anvils who were asked to transport a lifesaving vaccine back in February, 1925. A diphtheria epidemic threatened the isolated city of Nome. The lives of many children hung in the balance — especially at threat were Inuit children, who had no previous contact with diphtheria, and therefore no immunity to it.

The only way available to save the children was to transport the medicine 674 miles across land from Nenana (near Anchorage) to Nome, using dog sleds. Twenty teams of mushers and over 100 dogs delivered the valuable cargo in

about five and a half days.

No GPS, no thermal gear, no Goretex, no Twitter and no computer uplinks back then. Just dogs, bearded nut cases, blue eyed Baskervilles, that precious vaccine and we assume, some prayers.

Stories, a lorry load of stories abound.

A book on the Iditarod — *Race Across Alaska* by Libby Riddles — led Hank and his wife Tanya McCready to invest their lives, a business and their old-age bonus on a passel of blue-eyed freaks of nature. That would be the dogs. Not Frank Sinatra's extended family. Yes, Tanya and Hank's Winterdance Dog Sled Tours business grew from a wispy dalliance with fluffy dreams honed to a canine's tooth edge through a solid and entrenched investment in a business paradigm that is not so much MBA template as a way of life.

Raising Sibes is not for the weak-willed, or wobbly-kneed. And starting a business based on a very short seasonal window, with two kids extant and two more on the way, was probably not a proposition that conferred a big chance of success for two novice dog aficionados.

But now, 12 years in, four kids down, 150 kenneled, howling Sibes later, Hank and Tanya and their kids Dustyn, Logan, Jessica and Michaela have weathered some storms, doffed some sweat, overcome some hard times, completed a Yukon Quest and darn nearly finished the Iditarod.

Along the way, they have entrenched their business in the rugged Haliburton Highlands and have brought some fame, Rick Mercer, and world-wide attention and renown.

Not bad for two relative newcomers to the sled dog scene.

And now, they're in it again, prepping for another wide ranging tromp through the tundra. In fact, Dustyn and Logan are skipping school right now, doing homework on the road, watching old sitcoms and helping Hank and Tanya's brother, Ward McCready complete the 6,000 mile drive to Anchorage.

"They hope to be in Whitehorse by Saturday and they'll rest and run the dogs for a day before getting back in the truck to Anchorage," says Tanya, who will be heading to the race herself — by plane — in time for the race start.

She says it's all just a tad whimsical. "We were living in Guelph back in 1993 when Hank read the book and we bought our first Sibe, Colt," smiles Tanya.

Colt must have been one helluva dog. Because since inviting that old aqua eyed-charmer into their household, Hank and Tanya have never had to question the direction of their now abundant lives.

They just followed that lead dog... to Haliburton.

And destiny.

Hank DeBruin and his Siberian Huskies are on their way to Anchorage. Photo by Terrance Gavan



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Highlander sports



Hot action around the Campbellford net as Storm Bantam Captain Curtis Ballantyne (7) passes to forward Brayden Roberts (18) at the goalmouth. **Photo by Terrance Gavan**

Storm Bantam A's turn away Campbellford three straight

By Stephen Patrick

The Floyd Hall Insurance Highland Storm Bantam A's swept their quarterfinal series with the Campbellford Colts in three straight games last weekend. The Colts were fast, strong, and aggressive but a combination of hot goaltending and the Storm's ability to engineer fast breakouts from their own zone were more than enough to win the series in decisive fashion.

Game one in Minden Friday night was a disorganized affair, possibly because the Colts had just finished a tough, six-game series, and the Storm hadn't had a competitive game in over a month. The Storm opened the scoring five minutes into the first period on a goal by Braydin Hollows, assisted by Nick Thompson and Mac Rider. The Colts retaliated half a minute later, and in another 30 seconds Brayden Roberts, assisted by Noah Dollo and Connor Gadway, got it back. The Colts promptly returned the favour, and just one minute later went ahead 3-2 to finish the first period.

Devon Upton scored for the Storm just seconds into the second period, assisted by Thompson and Ryan Hill. Curtis Ballantyne made it 4-3 halfway through the period,

unassisted, and three minutes later the Colts came back to make it a tie-game once again.

But that was it for the Colts, as the Storm scored two more in the second, Blake Wood from Ballantyne, and then another by Dollo, unassisted. The third was scoreless until Flood got an empty netter in the last minute. Still, this was a much closer game than the 7-4 score would suggest, and Storm players were keenly aware that they'd have to play better in the Campbellford cow barn the next night.

And they did, pulling out a nail-biting 2-1 victory. The Colts outshot the Storm 36-12, so guess who got the first star? As one parent put it, "Logie gets the number one, number two, and number three stars tonight." Goaltender Logan Churko had a simply great game, although the Storm team, forwards and defense, also did a good job in limiting the Colt's close-in chances. Here's how it went.

After a tense, fast, but scoreless first period, the Colts managed to lift one over a sprawling Churko at 7 minutes in to take a 1-0 lead. But with under three minutes left in the period, Joseph Patrick tied it up on a pretty passing play from his line mates Hollows and Ethan Cooper. Action was fierce in the third period when, five minutes in, Flood made

it 2-1 on a bullet from the blue line, with assists going to the hard-working duo of Upton and Tyler Casey. Despite a ton of chances, Churko and his up-front buddies managed to shut the Colts down, and the Storm were up two games to none.

In Haliburton the next day, the Storm expected a fired-up Colt squad to make a last ditch effort to keep their playoff hopes alive, and the visitors didn't disappoint, coming out fast and hard, and scoring the first goal before the game was a minute old.

But just five minutes in, the Storm took over with three goals in just over two minutes, the first by Blake Wood, and the next two on beautiful shots by Ballantyne, all unassisted. In the second, Dollo scored from Upton and Flood, Ballantyne completed his hat trick, assisted by Patrick, and finally Hollows scored, assisted by Ballantyne to make the final 6-1.

The Storm Bantam A's were, frankly, very happy to get out of this series in three straight, and look forward to their semifinal against the Twin Centre Stars from the Southern Counties League just northwest of Kitchener. Times and dates TBA.


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Highlander sports

Seven weeks out and glad to be back

By Terrance Gavan

The Haliburton Hurricane Matt Duchene is baaaaaacccck! Just in time for an Avs run at a playoff berth.

And just in time to prevent Avalanche Coach Joe Sacco from developing a stress-related ulcer. "The Avs made the news official after [last] Saturday's practice at the MTS Centre," Denver Post beat writer Adrian Dater reported last weekend. "Duchene will skate at left wing on a line with Paul Stastny and Milan Hejduk."

"Being out and not being able to contribute has been tough," Duchene said. "I'm looking forward to the game. It's an important time of the year and being in a playoff race like this makes it even more exciting."

Duchene, who has been skating regularly for about three weeks, said he's okay with his knee and anticipates no problems on his return.

"First and foremost, I want to thank our training staff for their help, support and assistance. And thanks to my friends and family for their support during this long recovery," Duchene said.

Avs coach Joe Sacco had been playing Duchene with Stastny and Hejduk before the injury. He's a natural centre, but Duchene has found success in the past playing on the wing with Stastny.

"Matt brings speed and skill to our lineup, and hopefully, he can come back and get in a good groove, but he's been out a while and I'm sure it'll take a little time to get used to things again," Sacco said.

After that first game in Winnipeg, an Avs loss, Duchene had an opportunity to chat a bit with Dater.

"I felt really good. I might be actually in better shape now than when I left," Duchene told Dater after Colorado's 5-1 loss.

Duchene played 18 minutes, 6 seconds in the game, skating with Stastny and Hejduk.

"Though Duchene appeared quick on his skates and made a couple of pretty passes that could have resulted in goals, he failed to put a shot on net," said Dater.

"We were close, we had some chances and I would have liked to have gotten a few more shots on net. I was looking to pass too much tonight," Duchene said. "It was my first game back. I wish I could have made a bit more of a difference out there, but I left it all out there. That much I can say for sure."



Matt Duchene Photo by Terrance Gavan

Storm Peewee A's move on

Submitted by Karena Crofts

Dr Ed Smolen Family Dentistry's Peewee A's played the third game in their series against the Centre Hastings Grizzlies, on Saturday Feb 18 at 5 pm in Haliburton. Down 2-0 in games, this was their last chance to advance.

The Storm boys put forth a valiant effort but this was to be the end of their playdown road, with a 4-2 loss. Our two goals were scored by Matt Wilbee and Chris Thompson.

Now we move on to the Muskoka-Parry League playoffs. Dates and times to be announced.

Red Hawk sports round up

Submitted by Judi Paul

Basketball

The Senior Boys Basketball team traveled to Petawawa to compete at the 28-team Falcon Classic. The Hawks lost their first game to Bayridge from Kingston, then won three straight over St. Lawrence, Cornwall, and host team Fellowes High, to earn a berth in the consolation final. They lost to Engelhart 50-43 in the consolation.

Special mention to Damon Flatman, who had two 25-point games and averaged 17.4 points per game over the tourney.

Snowboarding

The Red Hawk snowboarding team competed in the Kawartha championships held at Sir Sam's. The team captured first and third place overall in boys and girls categories. Both Jessica Bishop and Greg Foster took firsts in Level 1 and Level 2 individual events.

Hockey Boys

The Boys Red Hawk hockey team had a 5-goal output in the last nine minutes of play to defeat the Fenelon Falls Falcons by a score of 6-2. That drove their record to 11-0 on the season.

Basketball Juniors

The Junior Boys Red Hawk basketball team lost 50-33 in their first-round playoff game against Thomas A. Stewart. Hunter Smith led all Hawks' scorers with 12 points. Del Meyers and Cory Proctor added six apiece, while Jadon Bull notched five points and five assists. Game MVPs were Angus Sullivan and Jordan Nimigon.

Senior Hoops

The Senior Boys basketball team finished the season with a tough loss to the Lakefield Tigers. The team played strong defense, holding the Tigers to 36 points, but were only able to put up 21 of their own.

Damon Flatman finished with 9 points, and Zach Cox had 8. Congratulations to Flatman, Denver Smith, Austin Lloyd, and Dylan Smith on four years of Hawk's basketball.

Skiing

The Nordic ski team competed on their home course at Glebe Park, and the senior girls team triumphed to become COSSA champions. Excellent performances were turned in by Jillian Mayhew, who finished second; Christine Darlington, third; Brigitta Hicks, fifth; and McKenzie Hill, seventh. All four girls qualified to race as individuals and as a relay team at the OFSAA Nordic Championships.

Volleyball

The Senior Girls volleyball team played in the Kawartha qualifier and they came just short of making it to the Kawartha tournament.

Girls Hockey

The Varsity Girls hockey team traveled to Lindsay and beat the Weldon Wildcats 2-0. Sam Tallman netted both goals and Jillian Mayhew and Connor Marsden had a combined shutout in the 2-0 win.

Wrestling

The Red Hawk wrestlers competed well at Kawartha with 14 of our wrestlers placing in the top four of their weight class to advance to COSSA. Special mention to Kawartha champions Lily Coneybeare, Liz Toth, Kayla Gardiner, and Keith Burley.

Curling

The Girls Red Hawk curling team finished an exemplary curling season while demonstrating great sportsmanship.

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- the right of anglers and hunters to continue to use the pre existing trails with their ATV or snowmobiles to access remote locations.
- The right to groom snow on these pre existing trails for the benefits of skiing, snow-shoeing, hiking and other recreational uses.

The friends of the Clear Lake (Conservation Area) Heritage Trails Association (FCLHTA) are holding a public meeting to gain support for the above concerns.

Date: Saturday March 10, 2012

Location: West Guilford Community Centre, County Rd 7 West Guilford ON
Time: 10:00-12:00 PM

For further information contact the Clear Lake (Conservation Area) Heritage Trails Association through Major Peter W Hewitt (retired) 705-754-0521 mpihewitt@sympatico.ca or Professor Mike Brook McMaster University michaela.brook@gmail.com

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Highlander sports



By Terrance Gavan

A young player, a caffeine drink, and one crazy lady

Pardon the Eruption

We wrote last week about the Fenelon Falls Arena, while extolling with vapid whimsy on the sweet din and murmur of our own Dysart Barn here in Haliburton.

Both the Bantam and Midget Highland Storm teams swept their quarter final series in Haliburton on Sunday. The old cow palace was hopping for both games, and the din was, as ever, delightful, delicious and delovely.

We caught the Bantam Storm game (won 6-1), but missed the Midget game (Storm won 7-5), because we had to dart down the freeway to Minden for the annual Family Weekend Chili tasting derby, held in the community centre above the SG Nesbitt shrine.

Thus what you are about to hear dear readers is merely an account of what I could glean from that midget contest. So, we'll make it short and sweet.

The Storm held a 6-0 lead in the second period and the game ended 7-5.

Thus you may be assured that fans on both sides were – how shall we place this with the proper amount of subtlety – going BONKERS in the Dysart stands.

Somewhere in the midst of all this sturm, drang and shinny upheaval, a woman left her seat in the visitors' section of the stands, treaded lightly down the clapboard steps to the penalty box, and dumped a beverage – not Gatorade, but one of those caffeine-laced pick-me-ups – all over Storm forward Ryan Hunter, who also plays for the Haliburton High Red Hawks.

That much is undeniable. We may groan and creak about the give and take, and what may or may not have transpired to assist this little sally forth into inanity.

It matters not who said what, whether the player and fan exchanged phrases, or whether the woman in question was in the throes of a sugar rush or a demonic intercession.

These are all secondary to the inappropriate showering of a player sitting in a protected area.

The woman was extracted from the stands and banned to the parking lot where she continued to stomp, stalk and schlep passers by and anyone else who might be within earshot. She chose to have words with several Bantam Storm players who were only on their way to Subway. They inquired as to her mental state and asked if they could call 911.

Now, pouring a hot drink, or a cold drink on a young hockey player – or on anyone for that matter – is strictly defined as assault.

Do I think the woman should have been led away in handcuffs?

Damn right. Now I know that local OPP Sgt Mike Landry and all my good friends in the Highlands' constabulary are all very busy people, but in this case I think they should have been called to the scene and that crazy lady should have been handcuffed on the spot and delivered to the cop shop for an interview.

It's assault, cut and dried, and it's an offence that at least needed to be logged.

Crazy people in general need to be tracked. And crazy hockey fans need to be tracked double quick, double time, because, well, for the same reason that postal workers are not allowed to own weapons in certain parts of the United States. Remember what Eddy Murphy said? Whatever happened to crazy? As in no excuse Mrs. Double Double.

The very idea that a grown up might act thus has us

flummoxed.

The added knowledge that she carried this obtuse behavior to the parking lot – at a time when most normal adults would have been hunched down in the back seat of their soccer mom Dodge Caravan – is an indication of exactly how out of touch with reality she was.

And we wonder, just what kind of message she delivered to the kids playing the game, kids who are already receiving mixed messages regarding peripheral bad acts from serial crazies like Don [sic] Cherry and other retributive buffoons and oafs that dwell on the ersatz fringes of the loopy NHL Enforcers' Club.

The loopy lady illustrates perfectly what's wrong with minor hockey and why it was long ago eclipsed by rep league soccer as the leading participation sport in Canada.

Parents go to a soccer game with no hyperbolic expectations about their son or daughter becoming the next Rinaldo, because most Canadian soccer moms and dads could not distinguish between Wayne Rooney and Lionel Messi in a two person line up.

But a crazy portion of moms and dads with a 50 inch LED and a subscription to the Jets Channel think that the kid in the baggy pants with ankles dragging ice is the next Matt Duchene.

Here's what we need to do with crazy hot beverage lady.

Get her to court, get her before a judge, ban her for a year from her son's hockey games and interdict her access for life from Tim Horton's and the arena concession stand.

Oh, and lock her in stocks at center ice for about half an hour.

I've got some old tomatoes in the bottom of my fridge.

Hawks stingy and stunning season

Yake wins scoring title and defense rock solid

By Terrance Gavan

On the heels of one remarkable season, comes another.

Last Thursday the Red Hawks varsity hockey team beat Adam Scott Lions 10-4 in the final game of their Kawartha Hockey League season.

It's their second straight season without a league loss. And in the tough, Talladega tumble of Kawartha League action, that's an accomplishment and a half.

But not by halves did this squad skate their way to two straight perfect seasons. At the beginning of the year, watching this team take shape, after losing so many seniors to graduation, no one could have guessed that the youngsters would gel into a complete unit so quickly.

A large share of the credit must go to two coaches, Ron Yake and Bruce Griffith, who managed to inculcate a system that highlighted speed and took advantage of twin senior goaltenders, Andy Elia and Zach Harrison. Elia, Harrison, and blueliners Greg Clements, Zach Boice, Tanner Hamilton, Andrew Murray, Chris Hall, Drake Montgomery, and Michael Nelson, finished the season with the best goals-against average in the league.

Brett Yake won the league scoring title with 20 goals and 15 assists, or 35 points in 12 games, finishing a full five points ahead of his nearest competitor, Holy Cross's Cam Milligan, who finished the season with 12 goals and 18 assists.

Hawks Jordan Howe finished third in scoring with 11 goals and 18 assists. Ryan Hunter was tied for fifth in scoring (10 goals and 12 assists), while Nate Feir (18 points – 6G, 12A) and Aaron Hillier (17 points – 8G, 9A) finished the season seven and eighth respectively.

The Hawks earned a bye in the first round of quarter final games that went on Tuesday afternoon.

Cobourg West beat Thomas A Stewart 6-5 in the quarters and will now play the Hawks today and Monday in a two game semi-final showdown.

Never boring, never pat, the Kawartha Hockey League has decided to go with that two-game, full twist format this season.

Haliburton travels to Cobourg West on Thursday for the first game and the teams return to the Dysart Barn for the second game at 7:15 pm on Monday night. The Hawks have not faced Cobourg West in league or exhibition action this season and Yake said that it matters not, because the Hawks have never funneled their game strategy to the opposition.

"They don't know our team and we don't know them, and I

actually prefer it that way," Yake told us on Tuesday evening. "We have a balanced attack and a pretty solid all-round game so we're looking forward to it."

And if you're wondering how a two-game series works, you are not alone. The four semi-finalists play two, and if a team wins both it's headed to COSSA.

However, if either of the two series ends in a split, they head right into a five minute, sudden-death, three-on-three overtime. If it's still tied after that five minute overtime, the teams go to a three man shootout and that's followed by a sudden death shootout.

And that's exciting for the fans in the stands, but we can only imagine the toll it takes on coaching staffs.

In the other semi-final tilt, Holy Cross – who beat Adam Scott 9-4 in the quarter finals – meets Cobourg's St Mary's on Thursday in Peterborough; that series ends in Cobourg on Tuesday afternoon.

Look for updates on our website – over 25,000 views and growing – this Thursday evening.

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FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT - for rent in Minden. Close to all amenities. No smoking/no pets. References required. First and last month rent. Available immediately. (705) 306-0157

3 BEDROOM HOUSE, downtown Minden, first & last required. No smoking, newly renovated. References required. \$700/month + utilities. Call evenings (705) 286-2900.

FOR SALE

YORK ELECTRIC FURNACE - new, still in box. Good for 1800 sq ft. Bought new \$1200 will sell for \$800 OBO. Phone (705) 754-2914

PNEUMATIC AXLE LIFT, heavy steel, safety lock, \$300 or best offer, call (705) 754-5943 or email gaj4758@gmail.com.

SEA LOUDSPEAKERS (Danish) home theater series, 5 pieces, approximately 7x8x9 front ports, black \$350 or best offer, (705) 754-5943 or email gaj4758@gmail.com.

SNOWMOBILE SLED, best offer, call (705) 286-1145.

SMALL SQUARE HAY BAILS 2nd Cut Alfalfa Cut Brome \$3.00 each, call Mary (705) 738-3687

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PREPARATION at the Haliburton Legion starting Tuesday, Feb 21 from 9am to 2pm; last day is April 23. At the Wilberforce Legion, starting Feb 22 from 2pm to 3:30; last day is April 25. Open to everyone.

FOR LEASE

RETAIL/COMMERCIAL SPACE available downtown Haliburton. Various from 500 - 2500 sq.ft. Joe Sebesta, 705-457-98

FOUND

READING GLASSES Gelert Road. Call 705-2453

To place your classified ad call Heather TOLL FREE - 1-855-425-6397 or email classifieds@haliburtonhighlander.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack & Jill for *Mar. 2/2012 - 8pm*
Jon Petch & Cassandra Driver
 at The Junction in Peterborough

Final Call For Entry
Haliburton Art and Craft Festival
July 27, 28, 29, 2012
Deadline to apply: Feb. 24, 2012
 Go to www.railsendgallery.com for application guidelines. A celebration of fine craft and art; painting, wood, clay, glass, fashion, leather, fibre, heritage craft, book arts, metal, sculpture, jewelry and more! Presented by Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre in Head Lake Park, Haliburton Village

THOSE OTHER MOVIES
 Thursday, March 8/12:
MONSIEUR LAZHAR
 MONSIEUR LAZHAR, Canada's Oscar entry, is a touching film about the relation between a new teacher and his young students who are struggling with the loss of their late teacher. Beautifully acted, sensitively directed, "the film is a small, quiet drama that sneaks up on you and delivers an impressive emotional wallop." French with English subtitles - 92 Min - Rated PG

Coming next....
 Thursday, April 12/12: THE DECENDANTS
 Thursday, May 10/12: MY WEEK WITH MARILYN
 Thursday, June 14/12: THE ARTIST (To be confirmed)
 Saturday, May 5/12: Doc(k) Days - A one day documentary film festival
 2 shows - 4:15 & 7:15 - Tickets \$8.00 at the door
 Northern Light Pavilion, Haliburton High School
 More info: www.haliburton-movies.com

Last Week's Sudoku Solution

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

This Week's Crossword Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | I | M | | E | C | R | U | | O | P | R | A | H | |
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| A | L | O | E | | I | N | N | | | L | E | S | S | E | R |
| R | E | T | R | A | C | E | | A | I | R | S | | | | |
| | | | | L | E | A | R | N | S | | | F | R | O | |
| R | E | P | A | I | D | | E | N | T | A | I | L | E | D | |
| A | W | A | R | E | | A | V | E | | R | O | U | S | E | |
| S | E | R | E | N | A | D | E | | T | E | N | E | T | S | |
| H | S | T | | | S | A | L | O | O | N | | | | | |
| | | | I | T | E | M | | D | R | A | S | T | I | C | |
| T | R | I | V | I | A | | A | D | O | | C | A | S | H | |
| H | E | R | O | N | | O | M | E | N | | R | U | L | E | |
| A | D | O | R | E | | N | E | S | T | | A | P | E | S | |
| T | O | N | Y | S | | O | N | T | O | | P | E | S | T | |

Fleming College

Glassblowing - Introductory Workshop, Sat, Feb 25

CPR /First Aid, Fri-Sat, Mar 2-3

Ontario Building Code General Legal Process 2006, Mon - Fri, Mar 5 - 9

Ontario Building Code House - 2006, Mon - Fri, Mar 12 - 16

Ontario Building Code Part 8: On-site Sewage Systems, Mon - Fri, Mar 26 - Mar 30

Fall Protection, Sat, Mar 31

WHMIS, Sat, Mar 31,


Adobe PhotoShop - Workshop, Sat, Mar 31

Chainsaw Operator, Mon-Wed, Apr 23 - 25

To register or for more information please call 705-457-1680 www.flemingcollege.com

Highlander events

February 2012



Parker Pad & Printing Ltd.
(705) 457-2458

February – 23, 24, 25 and 26

- Go snowmobiling – Give it a try tour. Location Wigamog Resort. For more information call Alana Britten (705) 955-0328 or email tourbooking@digitalvideo.ca Must be 18+ and have valid drivers license.

February – 24

- Monthly fish and chips luncheon at the Minden Legion. Price \$8.00 plus tax
- Winter Carnival at J.D. Hodgson School. We invite you all to join us at our Winter Carnival. Time : 9.00am – 12.55pm
- Coboconk Legion Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a luncheon of Salisbury Steak or Liver and Onions. \$7.00 includes coffee and tea. Everyone welcome.

February – 25

- PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION.** The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, Haliburton will be holding its annual public speaking competition in the Haliburton hall. Four levels of competition open to all students Grade 1 to Grade 12. Time : 1.00pm sharp. For more information call Brian Hambly (705) 754-3319

February – 25

- SILENT SPORTS FOR SENIORS -** Snowshoeing with the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Location : Dahl Forest, 1307 Geeza Road, Haliburton County. 1.00pm – 4.00pm For more information please contact Land Trust to pre-register (mandatory for \$12.00 snowshoe rental) at (705) 454-8107 or admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca

February – 26

- Kinmount Winterfest 2012 : Pancake Breakfast, Country Raffle, Free Skate, Chilli Contest, Downhill Dash, Hockey Skills Competition, Scavenger Hunt, Kids Game Races and Games, Face Painting, Indoor Games, Maple Taffy on Snow, Sleigh Rides, Dog Skiijoring and demonstration. Cost : Adults \$5.00, under 12 \$3.00, Preschoolers free for Pancake Breakfast; Chilli Contest \$4.00; Chuck a Puck \$2.00. For more information contact (705) 488-2961

February – 26

- Family Fish Derby on Pigeon Lake. The Firemen's grill will be set up for food and beverages. All proceeds will go to the Minden

February – 27

- Parent-Child Mother Goose at Haliburton OEYC Starting Monday February 27th from 10-11am. For parents and children (newborn to 2.5 years) learning rhymes, songs and stories together. Join us for 10 one hour weekly sessions. Enjoy a friendly and relaxed morning of fun and learning! Please register with OEYC at (705) 286-4625 or (705) 457-2989. Offered in partnership with Point In Time.

February – 28, 29

- PICKLEBALL :** Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Minden Community Centre. 9.00am – 12.00pm. Equipment supplied, bring court/ running shoes. For more information call Doug (705) 489-3850

Fire Department Equipment Fund. Entry Fee - \$20.00 (\$10.00 for 10 and under) Start Time - 8.00am Weigh In - 2.00pm 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes. For more information call Minden Fire Department (705) 286-1202

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO ANNOUNCE?
Email details to louise@haliburtonhighlander.ca by Mondays at noon.

MINDEN & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 3TH AT 1 P.M.

AT THE
MINDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE
PARK STREET, MINDEN

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE
RACHEL GAGNON
"INVASIVE PLANTS"

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OF CHOCOLATE TREATS

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AND COUPLES \$18.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL LIZ AT
705 447 0151

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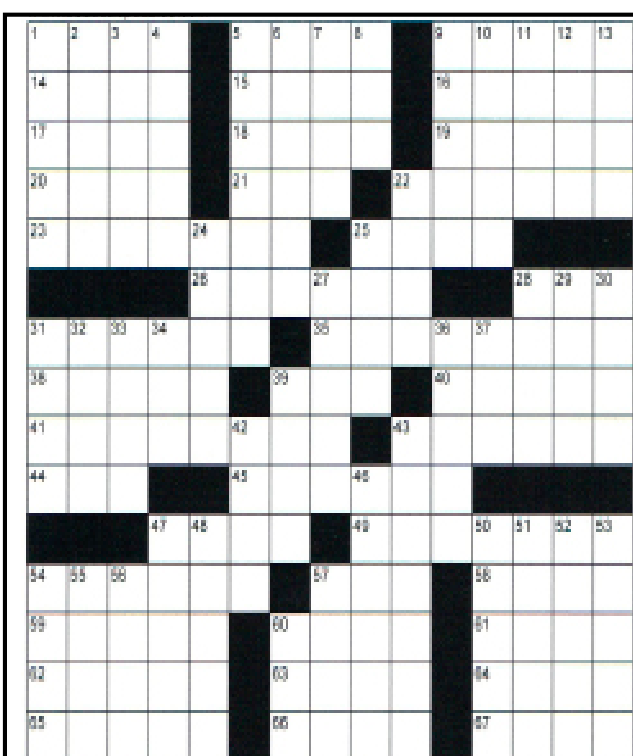
Last week's solutions are on page 20

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

Highlander life



Haliburton residents and visitors took to the ice last weekend to take part in the Frost Festival in Head Lake Park. The event featured ice fishing demonstrations, broomball, snowshoe sports, an Art Attack from Rails End, pony rides, dog-sledding and a big old-fashioned hayride. And those wonderful maple syrup sticks courtesy of Bill and Ann Beattie's Sugar Bush. **Photos by Terrance Gavan**



DOWN

1. Curse
2. Large spoon
3. Dolt
4. Parking timer
5. Tempted
6. Eye part
7. Harness strap
8. GI's club
9. Different
10. Printing machine
11. Baseball scores
12. Teen skin problem
13. Listen to
22. Shopping aid
24. E.T., e.g.
25. Novelist ____ Rice
27. Make merry
28. Chimney part
29. Coffee break
30. Keats poems
31. Foolhardy
32. Flock females
33. Role
34. Right you ____!
36. Ring
37. Charged atom
39. Eve's mate
42. Adrift
43. The Raptors' city
46. Strangest
47. Off-white
48. Prongs
50. ____ metal
51. Brownish gray
52. Small landmasses
53. Trunk
54. "All ____ Jazz"
55. Decorate anew
56. Strong metal
57. So be it!
60. Singer Yoko ____

ACROSS

1. Slender
5. Light tan
9. Actress ____ Winfrey
14. Walk in water
15. Nays
16. Cease-fire
17. Revise
18. Group of three
19. Hair coloring
20. Medicinal herb
21. Rural hotel
22. Inferior
23. Go back over
25. Televises
26. Memorizes
28. To and ____
31. Gave back
35. Involved
38. Knowing
39. Park or Madison (abbr.)
40. Wake up
41. Love song
43. Articles of faith
44. FDR's successor
45. Cowboy bar
47. Article
49. Extreme
54. Insignificant matters
57. Fuss
58. Money
59. Long-legged bird
60. Prophecy
61. Reign
62. Worship
63. Robin's abode
64. Orangutans
65. Stage awards
66. Wise about
67. Annoying person



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Highlander life



As a result of an anonymous donor's generous gift of \$3,000, the SIRCH volunteer meal committee has been able to upgrade the kitchen at the Haliburton United Church. New wiring to accommodate four large stew pots, new countertops, and a spanking clean paint job are some of the upgrades. Jane Van Nood, group coordinator, says this will allow them to prepare more, larger sized meals. Right now the ladies produce between 40 and 60 meals every other week, and the kitchen renovations will allow them to produce some meals for their hospice clients as well. From left, back row, the volunteer SIRCH Chefs: Sandra Daoust, Mary Fox, Peggy Cassils, Cathy McIlmurray and Jane Van Nood. In front: Diane Smith and Ruth Fletcher. **Photo by Stephen Patrick.**



Sandra Edmunds's home made chili recipe bested some red hot chili pepper dishes from SIRCH, Ti Amo Italian Diner, Canoe FM, the Rotary Club, Molly's Bistro and the Riverside Pub and Restaurant last Sunday at the Minden Community Centre. **Photo by Terrance Gavan.**



Last year, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation raised \$95,000 during its Holiday Heart Fundraiser, and now five state-of-the-art cardiac monitor defibrillators have been purchased: three for the Haliburton facility, and two for Minden.

Volunteer Jim Mitchell poses as a heart patient with, from the left: Chief Nursing Officer Debbie Watson, lead nurse Mary Hamilton, HHHSF Executive Director Dale Walker and HHHSF Chair Peter Oyler. **Photo by Stephen Patrick.**

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