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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Highlander

Thursday **2 May 2013** | Issue 81

FREE



Photo by Mark Arike

Shuyler's Island resident Dave Godward looks at the damage to properties on Horseshoe Lake caused by flooding. See story on page 14.

Flood victims demand answers

Water levels expected to recede in two weeks time: Parks Canada

By Warren Riley
 Contributing writer

They came for answers, not rhetoric. A continuous salvo of questions was thrown at government representatives who tried to give flood victims reassurance the situation was under control. At the end of the night, several hundred residents obtained some information at a Community Information Forum held at the Minden Hills Community Centre on April 29.

"Whose fault is it that this happened?" asked one resident. "What is the government going to do to help us? I'm flooded out," asked another.

The first speaker to take questions was Jewel Cunningham, Director of Parks Canada Ontario Waterways (PCOW). The PCOW has the responsibility of governance for the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW).

Cunningham tried to give a sense of reassurance that her department

completely understood the gravity of the situation and was doing everything possible to answer questions for those affected by flood waters.

"It has been a challenging two weeks and we (PCOW) will try to be honest and frank," said Cunningham. "We acknowledge that there are various things where we could have done a better job or that we could have done something differently. I'm sure you have some very tough questions and that is why we

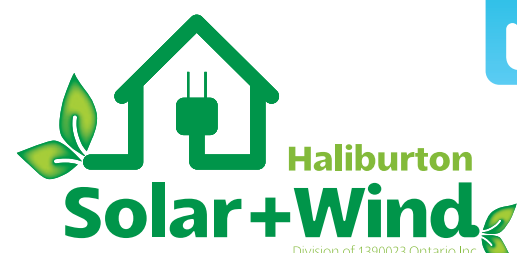
are here – to shed some light on a very difficult situation."

Before Cunningham could give an assessment of the situation, one resident wanted to know who holds the ultimate position of authority.

"So, there are no people above you?" he asked, to which Cunningham replied, "There are people above me for sure, but I really don't know how to answer that question."

See "Too" on page 2

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Highlander news

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Photo by Warren Riley

Several hundred home and business owners affected by recent floods attend the Community Information Forum on April 29.

Too little too late, say residents

Continued from page 1

Cunningham explained how the flooding situation happened and that Minden Hills had never experienced this magnitude of rain before. Another resident started to ask a question whereby Minden Hills Reeve Reid intervened.

"Can I ask that you please, please give respect? Let Jewel get through her presentation and then you can make your comments or ask your questions."

When Cunningham mentioned that water levels would recede to their normal high for the season in two weeks time and her department couldn't expedite the process, residents expressed their frustration and disappointment.

"That's awful," said one resident.

Cunningham continued to explain that structural engineers had determined, by means of a physical inspection, that the dams along the TSW system were not in jeopardy and were structurally sound. In addition, aerial inspections revealed that the infrastructures holding the water were "structurally and optimally sound."

Cunningham revealed that further 'data' would have to be collected, creating a scenario which would help the agency in preparation for this

kind of phenomena in the future.

"We would have to model a hypothetical scenario to really know exactly what and how that rain event couldn't 'think out' differently."

"Didn't your computer programs have the opportunity to do that?" asked one of the attendees.

Cunningham's response was drowned out by the vocal crowd.

Several additional questions were hurled at Cunningham.

"Four years ago, we wanted to know who controlled the waterways. You have Algonquin Power and two other ones. We tried to find out an answer. Does Trent Waterways or Algonquin, we asked. We ended right back in a big circle. Nobody gave us an answer. We want to know who makes the final decision on the waters of Gull Lake."

"The water is nine feet above normal on Mountain Lake and I'm real mad," said Trane DeMarjine. "My dock is under water; my shoreline is gone, my cottage property value will drop and I have no recourse. And I thought this meeting was to give me advice and real assistance with proper answers. It's been a waste of my time. I'm disgusted."

MP Barry Devolin was present and announced the provincial and "indirectly" the federal government

would match every dollar donated to the Minden Hills flood trust fund by a two-to-one ratio, as quickly as possible.

Devolin mentioned fundraising events that are currently in the works, including a golf tournament with Matt Duchene and Cody Hodgson.

"It's too little too late," said an audience member.

Devolin explained that the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) would provide interest free loans to businesses up to a maximum of \$25,000 dollars for those directly affected by flood damage.

HCDC general manager Andy Campbell said the funds could be accessed quickly.

"Fortunately we are locally-based and we can move fast," said Campbell. "The program we have put together can be deployed really quickly, anywhere between 48 and 72 hours."

Meanwhile, those in need of food and clothing items can go to the Minden Food Bank, located at 37 Bobcaygeon Road. The food bank has extended its hours of operation from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Donations of a variety of items will be accepted.

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Highlander news

OPP warn of flood scams

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

With the recent flooding disaster, people are quick to give.

But before you hand over your hard-earned money, the OPP are advising you do your research.

"Our key message is make sure you know who the money is going to and where it's going to," said OPP Const. Paul Potter of the Haliburton Highlands detachment.

Potter said the local detachment has received inquiries about Facebook pages and fundraising websites that have popped up since Minden declared a state of emergency.

"I can't research all of these and I might not be able to find out all of the information," he said.

"It's quite possible that some of these are legit, but there's also the possibility that they're not."

Anyone who would like to make a financial contribution is encouraged

to do so directly through the township.

"If you're donating to the township, you know where it's going," he said.

A group of Minden residents will be hosting a fundraising meeting for flood victims on May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Minden Legion. The event is open to groups, organizations, businesses and individuals interested in helping with fundraising initiatives.



Minden Hills councillors meet at the Minden Community Centre.

Photo by Mark Arike

Township waives fees for flood victims

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

The Township of Minden Hills is providing flood victims some relief by waiving landfill and building permit fees.

"The extensive flood damage that has recently occurred in Minden Hills has created an above average amount of waste materials that are entering the landfills," reported Ivan Ingram,

environmental and property operations manager, at an April 25 council meeting held at the community centre. "This amount is expected to continue to increase."

Ingram recommended the township allow residents to dispose of flood-related waste materials at the landfills – free-of-charge – for a period of three weeks.

Colin McKnight, interim chief

building official, recommended the township waive building permit fees for residents whose buildings have been affected by the flood.

"The waiving of the building permit fee would give some form of monetary relief to those that have been adversely affected by this flood event," said McKnight.

The cost to the township is unknown at this time.

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Editorial opinion

Getting answers

Many large corporations have communication officers and so do most government departments.

But when it comes to the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW), the search for answers seems to be more like a game of *Where's Wally?* Who does what and who's responsible for getting out critical information?

The TSW's website is more like a tourist information centre than a valuable resource. Sure, I can find charts that "would make the perfect holiday gift," details about the system's 44 locks and an online store. After several minutes of searching, I come across the contact page, which contains a contact form and general email accounts.

A water levels link redirects me to the Parks Canada website. For those who don't know, Parks Canada oversees the operations of the TSW. No names, but there's a general inquiries line. As of press time, I have a message out to someone who is responsible for "external relations."

A week ago I left two urgent messages for the acting manager of canal operations – but those calls weren't returned.

The people of Minden Hills deserved answers faster than they got them. The township and the County of Haliburton have done their best to get information out, but Parks Canada and the TSW have come up short.

Even Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid seems to agree on that.

"It's really telling [that] our local media can't find someone to talk to," Reid told The Highlander. "I don't think anyone is satisfied with the way things have gone. We need to improve the operational decision making."

Reid said she had a hard time understanding how the TSW could raise water levels to 137 per cent (37 per cent above full) without consulting with the township.

"We were not really fully engaged in a conversation with the TSW about the consequences of some of the decisions they were making."

Where was local MP Barry Devolin in all of this, when Minden declared a state of emergency? In Vancouver to greet Korean War veterans.

"When I left Friday night (April 19), this wasn't a crisis yet," said Devolin in an interview at SIRCH's Hike for Hospice event.

"In hindsight, if I had known Friday what I knew by Monday, I wouldn't have gone," he said. "But I didn't know on Friday. I feel bad about that."

Having said that, Devolin admitted he would have been back in Ottawa by Monday even if he cancelled his trip. Is this supposed to make us feel better?

"We're stuck there; we had two confidence votes this week. I have responsibilities in Ottawa. I would have liked to have been here Tuesday and Wednesday to see what was going on, but the practical four hour drive when I have to be in Ottawa didn't allow me to be here."

Devolin said he wouldn't have been able to intervene, despite what the public might think.

"Some people have implied that things would have been different had I been here. That's not true. I don't know what I would have done."

The local MP firmly believes the warm rain and the winter meltdown caused the "100-year flood."

But Barry's not an expert and even he won't deny that.

At an April 30 public forum, the community finally received an update. But that's almost two weeks after the water started overtaking the town.

It's time to open up the lines of communication. Flood victims need answers so they can begin to rebuild.

Matthew Desrosiers returns next week.



By Mark Arike

Did the Kennisis dam damn Minden?

Of course it's about the Trent.

The reality of the TSW coming home to roost has our MP in knots, and not only because he's trying to assuage constituents angry that he was in Vancouver as Minden was under water. In one of several press releases issued this week, impotent bleats putting one in mind of a lamb headed for market on the back of a flatbed truck, Barry Devolin calls for a "new water management strategy," a full five years after a report paid for by his own government recommended exactly the same thing. In another, he advises Mindenites to ask for extensions on their tax filing deadlines.

Passport clinics *and* tax advice? We are so spoiled.

One thing Mr Devolin is right about is that the flooding wasn't caused by how the Trent-Severn Waterway is *managed*. In all probability, it was caused by what the people who manage the Trent have to work with.

That 2008 report, *It's All About the Water*, describes in detail the aging infrastructure that is the TSW. The recommendations include spending \$170 million over 10 years to fix crumbling dams and water courses. To put that in perspective, it's about the same as three F-35 jets, a new wing for one of Toronto's hospitals or half of what it costs to cancel a power plant.

It's not a huge sum considering the billions of tax and tourist dollars generated by communities connected to the TSW. Nevertheless, the feds studiously ignored the study. To be fair, their Liberal predecessors had also let the Trent go to seed, but at least they didn't lay off staff.

Now we see the consequences of neglect.

Heavy rains were forecasted days in advance. Had the TSW more personnel, or had it brought on summer staff earlier in recognition that climate change is moving spring forward by several weeks, it would have been able to deploy resources faster to remove logs (yes, logs, like in 1895!) and let water exit the system ahead of the rain. Maybe.

Or maybe not, because according to a source familiar with the TSW, Parks Canada is sitting on a report that assesses the safety of dams in our area. It designates several dams, including

the one on Kennisis Lake, as unsafe and in need of replacement.

That may be why Kennisis was the only lake in the Gull River watershed that didn't pass 100% capacity last week. Did Parks Canada remove logs from Kennisis, sending flood waters down to Minden, because they were concerned the dam couldn't hold the excess rainfall? Were the properties around Horseshoe Lake then sacrificed to prevent further damage to the town?

Take a look at the Parks Canada website and you'll see what I mean. Water levels go up on Kennisis, but before they reach 100 per cent they drop about four inches. Kennisis is a huge lake; four inches there can swell to a lot more when it reaches the Gull River.

So it may be that had Parks Canada followed the 2008 recommendations and upgraded the TSW dams, Kennisis Lake could have been filled beyond 100 per cent, thereby sparing the cottages further south, and Minden. Or it may be that with a full complement of staff, the TSW would have been able to open dams below Minden well in advance to mitigate flooding — remember, the heavy rain was expected and the late ice was plainly visible.

One thing is certain, were Parks Canada to truly modernize the TSW properly, to the point where dams and water levels could be managed from a single control room, water flows would be far more predictable and even. That they haven't made this investment, while billions have been spent on bits and bables across the land, demonstrates exactly what importance the federal and provincial governments place on our economy and our population: not much.

The TSW did the best with what they had. Problem is, they didn't have enough. Not enough money to secure infrastructure and not enough people to run the system. Most Highlanders have known of these inadequacies for years. It's nice to know our MP is finally coming around.

Having trouble accessing our website? It's been acting up in the last week or so and we have an expert working on it. We expect the problem to be fixed by Monday.



By Bram Lebo

<p>HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER</p> <p>TheHighlander</p> <p>Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited 195 Highland Street Box 1024, Haliburton Ontario K0M 1S0 705-457-2900</p>	
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<p>Office Manager, Ashley Campbell ashley@haliburtonhighlander.ca</p>	
<p>Audited Circulation 7,312 (June - August 2012) Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association</p>	
<p>Contributing writers: David Spaxman, Doug Pugh, Erin Lynch, George Farrell, Lisa Harrison, Warren Riley and Will Jones</p>	
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Letters to the editor

Time for a class action suit

Dear editor,

I agree with Alan Gordon that the flooding was not an act of God but the result of conscious decision making by the Ministry of Natural Resources and others associated with the provision of water to the Trent Severn Waterway.

The Trent Valley Authorities, and I guess now Parks Canada, have bragged for years that they flood the lakes to 103 per cent. Yes, that is right; they deliberately overfill the lakes in the spring, flooding the properties on these lakes, causing uncontrollable damage.

Over the years I have seen sections of shoreline 50-feet long and 10 to 15-feet wide collapse into the lake, taking mature trees with them. Cottages that were at one time well back from the water are now very close.

People complain about the low water in the late summer or fall; however, it is the high water that does the real damage.

Consider what is more important: locking through a 16-foot fishing boat and flushing the sewers in Peterborough or someone's house in Minden. We are all responsible since we have let them get away with it!

I would think that the people of Haliburton County pay more in taxes than any revenue derived from the Trent Severn Waterway. Should we not have any rights?

I think maybe it is time for lawyers. Perhaps a class action lawsuit against Parks Canada or the individuals who are directly responsible for controlling the water levels in the lakes.

Bill Beatty
Drag Lake

Flooding caused by mismanagement

Dear editor,

Our devastating flood of 2013 is the direct result of the mismanagement of Parks Canada/the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW).

All the feeder lakes were at full capacity at a time when they should have been at their lowest levels. When the snow pack melted and spring rains came there was no place for it to go, therefore creating this unnecessary error for the flood.

Any lake not affected by the TSW had no problem (Jim Beef Lake, for example).

It's time for the federal government to get to the real reason for this disaster and hold to account those at Parks Canada and TSW responsible. Someone in charge of an important water system is totally incompetent.

My profound sympathy to those impacted by this flood.

G. McCluskey

Letters continued on page 6.

Tell us your opinion.
Send your letters to the editor to
matthew@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Photo of the week



Photo by Mark Arike

A couple of Canada geese check out the repair work at the Independent Gas Bar.

Special soft stones

I never imagined that life on the river could be a nerve-racking affair. In fact, I imagined it just the opposite: a stress relieving glide through life with naught but the dabbling of waterfowl to send ripples through the neighbourhood. However, the events of the last week or so have proven a tad too exciting for me and altogether heartbreaking for many others in our locality. My thoughts go to those in Minden and surrounding areas who have had their lives turned upside down by the floods, but I hope that the tale of my own 'flood defence' might bring a weary smile to their lips for a moment at least.

You see, just like everybody else I awoke on the Friday morning to find water levels had risen dramatically. And, living on the banks of the Burnt, I was a tad nervous. My plan: go plant a stick in the mud to mark where the water had risen to. I can't think what good this did, other than satisfy me that I'd poked a stick in the mud, but I kept watch on it for the next 24 hours, studiously moving it back to the high water mark as the water crept higher.

At one point my lovely wife asked me how much the water had risen. "Up to there," I

said, pointing authoritatively at the stick.

"From where?" she inquired.

Hmm, I didn't know. I'd moved the stick.

The waters still rose and so I decided to take precautionary action. Pressing Little Z and a couple of his young buddies into action, I instructed them that we were going to dig sand. They shrieked and cheered as they sprinted off to find brightly coloured plastic shovels, and, when I got to the sand pile with a wheelbarrow, bags and my own decidedly dowdy coloured shovel, they were merrily building sand castles.

"The sand needs to go into the bags," I explained. This was not so much fun but they persisted in shoveling, which was good until I realized that one little guy was busy making a collection of something off to one side.

"Wha'cha got there?" I asked, foolishly.

"Special soft stones," was his reply.

I bent down and picked one up. I gave it a squeeze. It was indeed soft. It was also then that I dropped it, recognizing that it was a cat turd. It seems we were filling sand bags with what our cat, Mackinaw, had been using for a toilet.

It had crossed my mind that she'd been fussing around us while we worked, but she'd disappeared now so after scrubbing small boys hands clean and taking a break for lunch, I resumed filling bags. That was when, out of the corner of my eye, I swore I saw one of the sandbags move. Not fly through the air or anything but just twitch.

I stood back, stretched my back – it was reminding me that manual labour was not my day job – and watched the bag. Sure enough it twitched again.

"What the..." I stammered.

The bag answered me with a muffled "miaow."

Mackinaw, who has always had a penchant for small spaces, must have crawled into a bag while we were filling them, only to have another shovel full of sand dumped on her before I tied the bag. She shot out and across the backyard when I poured the contents of the bag onto the ground, only stopping when her feet met with the flood waters. A feline shriek and deft leap onto the fence after which she shot me a look that said no amount of treats would make me her best friend again

for a while.

The cat stalked angrily around the backyard as I completed filling sandbags and placed them against the basement walkout. I was careful not to turn my back on her, not knowing whether she was more annoyed at getting her feet wet, being buried alive or having her sandy litter box disturbed.

The water rose steadily for the rest of the weekend, and I duly marked it with my stick. I figured I'd started something now and I meant to finish it even if my lovely wife thought I was slightly crazy.

Thankfully, the waters of the Burnt didn't rise anywhere near to a height where they might have done damage to my house. I feel incredibly lucky in this respect and my heart goes out to everyone affected by the flooding. I'll see you when the clean-up efforts start: just as soon as I've got rid of my sandbags full of special soft stones.



By Will Jones

The Outsider

Highlander opinions

Eye on the street: *How should flood victims be supported?*



Kendra Kellett

Minden

In terms of business people we need to shop local. Do not be afraid to walk a little further to make a purchase and show your support.

Lindsey Snelgrove

Haliburton

The government really needs to help. We, the business people, need to get together and do some fundraising to help the many victims of this flood.



Scott Jarret

Haliburton

Maybe a fundraiser to help with the immediate relief, especially for those that need assistance now.

Rhoda Warham

Carnarvon

A nice crock pot of tasty stew and some immediate stuff like meals, laundry and a good shoulder to cry on.



Marie Gage

Shuyler's Island

Fundraising, fundraising, fundraising. Every dollar can be turned into three. This way we can help residents. Unfortunately, it does not help the cottagers.

Photos and interviews by Walt Griffin

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Doug Colbourne split the \$500 jackpot, he took home \$250. Doug is from Minden and purchased his BINGO sheet at the Minden Valu-Mart.

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Time for TSW to be held accountable

Dear editor,

Kudos to Alan Gordon for his letter to the editor in the April 25th edition of The Highlander. It's right on!

The Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) should be held responsible for their

mismanagement of the water flow.

In my opinion, perhaps the affected homeowners in Minden should look at lawsuits.

**Former Kennis Lake Resident
Bill Vermeersch**

The great Minden flood of 2013

Dear editor,

Many of us in Minden sit in water these days because so many jurisdictions and levels of government have failed to communicate. Wherever something could have been done, nothing happened. Our politicians give us a lot of merry-go-round finger pointing and say the soothing things we like to hear: sweet words they feel will get them re-elected. None, not one, speak with fire in their bellies or have the courage to take a stand or have the sand to take responsibility and actually do something. Do something that will help those among us who have been underwater for nearly two weeks and need help now. Finger pointing is all we get or relayed responses through secretaries from bosses who are in Ottawa or otherwise indisposed and/or unavailable, invisible and unreachable.

Calling in the army would help, with

their battalions of young people who could fill and distribute sandbags around the clock, perhaps dike the river wherever it would do most good. A temporary bridge could be slapped across our river in a matter of hours – good enough to allow 50-ton tanks to cross. The army could provide short-term housing, emergency rations, medical care, transportation, enable accessibility anywhere, engineer personnel who can fix anything, disperse giant generators to alleviate power outages and sump pumps capable of quickly moving great volumes of water.

No, none of that. Instead we have ineffectual leaders who prefer to be 'correct', speak with no passion or real conviction, say what wants to be heard but make no firm promises, and speak a lot but say nothing.

**Fast Eddie Burke
Minden**

If your last name starts with 'R' we might be calling you next.

Because everyone has a story.



Highlander news

Minden Hills looks towards disaster relief funding

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

It's unknown at this time just how long it will take for the funds to start flowing in to Minden through the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP).

That's just one piece of information Minden Hills councillors and members of the public gleaned from a presentation provided by Stephen Seller, a representative from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"Municipalities should go through insurance first, because anything that's insurable we won't cover," Seller told councillors at an April 25 council meeting. "Final payments are made to municipalities based on actual eligible costs."

Seller explained that the township had 14 days from the time of the event to apply to ODRAP, which means the application is due May 9.

"I'd encourage you to use as much of that time as possible," he said. "We want to get as good of a grip on the situation as we can."

A portion of the township or all of it can be declared a disaster area by the minister for the purposes of ODRAP, said Seller. The reeve has the power declare a state of emergency.

The ODRAP program is "designed to assist municipalities, individuals, farmers, small business, and non-profit organizations get back on their feet after a natural disaster."

"It's intended to restore property back to pre-disaster condition and does not always provide full cost recovery for damages," he said.

The program is divided into two components – public and private. The public component addresses costs incurred by the township, such as overtime hours and required supplies. The needs of homeowners, small business people, farmers and non-profit organizations fall under the private category. Eligible costs could include emergency evacuation and shelter, and structure damage.

On both sides, it's council that has to make the request to the province.

"Individually, homeowners don't apply to ODRAP, the municipality applies."

A maximum of 90 per cent of eligible costs will be covered on the private side.

"Only essential, private property will be covered by ODRAP," he explained. "That's a hard message to deliver and a hard message to receive, but it's what the program is based on."

Only principle residences are covered

under the program in the private category. "Seasonal residences, cottages and such are not eligible under this program. It's designed to help people who have lost the roof over their heads."

The township must submit a preliminary estimate of the damages in order for the process to move forward.

"It's preliminary and it's an estimate. It's not passed in stone. What we ask is please don't pad it."

Through ODRAP, receipts will be reviewed against program criteria before funds are reimbursed.

"If it's above and beyond the township's capacity to deal financially with it, you can ask for some advance funding."

Receipts must be reviewed by the township's auditor and the provincial auditor.

"At the end of the day, myself or one of my colleagues always has to sign on the dotted line to say that all of these costs are eligible. That's a responsibility we take very seriously."

Seller pointed out that on the private side, fundraising is an essential part of the program.

"To do that, council would be required to establish a disaster relief committee. These committees are made up of volunteers and they are appointed by council."

He advised council think of five "movers and shakers" who could form the committee.

"The further we get away from the event the further things are from people's minds."

The province can provide funds in the amount of two-to-one for what the local committee is able to raise.

Seller said the township should give serious consideration to their needs and think about their available resources.

In a phone interview, Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid said Linda Jeffries, minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, assured her that rough damage estimates can be adjusted after the application has been received.

"She understands the situation," said Reid, adding that the township hasn't yet been able to identify everyone affected by the flood.

Anyone seeking financial assistance through ODRAP is asked to register through the township office. A private property damage assessment form is available on the township's website at www.mindenhills.ca.

For more information contact the finance department at admin@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-1260.



Photo by Mark Arike

Relay for Life chair Aggie Tose proposes to move the 2014 event to Minden.

Relay for Life sets sights on Minden

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Haliburton County's Relay for Life event will take place in Minden Hills in 2014.

At an April 25 meeting held at the community centre, councillors showed their enthusiasm for bringing the event to the town.

"It's unanimous," said Reeve Barb Reid, following a presentation by event chair Aggie Tose. "We would be delighted to have the event in our community."

For the past seven years (following this summer's event), the fundraiser has been held at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Tose proposed the event be relocated to the Minden Fairgrounds for

June 13-14, 2014.

"This move provides many opportunities for change," she said. "It's an opportunity to identify new partners and offer our current partners a new venue, plus it will allow our committee members to grow, revitalize and build this event to new levels."

Tose told councillors she would like to alternate the event between Haliburton and Minden. If that happens, she said Minden would stand a good chance of hosting the event's 10th anniversary.

"That would be one heck of a party," she said.

Over the past seven years, the local event has raised over \$1 million for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Minister invited to flood zone

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

MPP Laurie Scott has invited Linda Jeffrey, minister of Municipal Affairs of Housing, out to her riding to get a first-hand look at the damage flood waters have caused.

"I would ask you to commit to visiting my riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-

Brock to tour the areas that been severely impacted by recent flooding, specifically Minden Hills and Burnt River," wrote Scott in an open letter to the minister.

Scott offered to give Jeffrey a personal tour of the area, and asked she meet municipal officials and residents directly affected by the event.



INFORMATION PAGE

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359
Minden ON K0M 2K0

Telephone: 705-286-1260
Fax: 705-286-4917 www.mindenhills.ca

In case of emergency please Dial 9-1-1. For all other municipal emergencies please call 1-866-856-3247

FLOOD UPDATE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

The Township continues to be in a state of emergency and are asking residents who have been directly affected by the flood to please complete the attached Private Property Damage Assessment Form. This information will assist the Township in its application for provincial funding for assistance. Please note - This form is for registration purposes only and is not the ODRAP Claims Form. Permanent and seasonal residents are encouraged to complete and return the form.

Residents may access the form at:

- The Townships website www.mindenhills.ca or;
- The Township of Minden Hills Office located at 7 Milne Street between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday

The Private Property Damage Assessment Form must be completed in full and returned to:

- The Township of Minden Hills Office, 7 Milne Street between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm or;
- Faxed to 705-286-6005 or;
- Emailed to admin@mindenhills.ca or;
- The Township of Minden Hills drop box after hours

The deadline for completed forms is Monday May 6, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

For more information please contact the Finance Department at admin@mindenhills.ca

The Reception Centre at the S. G. Nesbitt Community Centre is now closed. Water sample pickup and drop off for Minden will resume its regular schedule Tuesday and Wednesdays at the Minden Public Library. Please contact the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit at 705-457-1391 for more information.

Flood Related Waste

Residents can **dispose of the following flood related materials FREE of charge** from Friday, April 26 to Sunday, May 19, 2013 at the following locations:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Scotch Line Landfill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular household waste, including food • Construction material | Municipal Pit, 763 Bobcaygeon Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnable materials, including wood or brush only at this location | Ingoldsby, Irondale, Ironmine Landfills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnable materials, including wood or brush • Regular household waste, including food |
|--|---|---|

Please note that non-burnable construction waste may be disposed of at the Scotch Line or Irondale Landfills only. The hours of operation for each Landfill will remain the same and the hours of operation for the municipal pit site will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, 7 days a week. Green Landfill cards must be shown at all sites as well as the 911 address for any flood-related material/waste. Clean up Kits will be available soon.

Building Permits

The Township of Minden Hills will be waiving the building permit fees for those residents whose buildings have been affected by the flood. Please contact the Building Department at 705-286-1260 ext. 211 for further information.

Donations

As of Thursday April 25, 2013, the Township of Minden Hills established a trust fund to help facilitate the generous community support for the flood victims and their recovery. Monetary donations only, can be dropped off in person or mailed to: The Township of Minden Hills, 7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0, 705-286-1260 ext. 200

Donation details can be found on www.mindenhills.ca. Cheques are to be made payable to "The Township of Minden Hills" and ensure correct mailing address is also included as a tax receipt will be issued. The Township Office is the only location community donations will be received. Please note that this is the official trust fund for flood victims and that the Township will ensure that these funds will reach those most affected. The Township is unable to accept non-monetary donations, so please do not drop off used items of any kind at any of the Township facilities. The Township would like to recognize and thank the community for their overwhelming response to support these residents.

The Township recognizes and appreciates the significant impact this flood emergency has had on residents in the affected areas. The Township understands that many residents, both permanent and seasonal are anxious to return to their homes. Please be alert for safety hazards that may exist. Please be advised that water levels remain unstable. The Township continues to encourage residents to exercise care and caution.

Meetings and Events

May 7

5:00 pm, Cemetery Board meeting, Minden Arena Scout Hall

May 9

9:00 am, Committee of the Whole meeting,
Minden Council Chambers (public session 10:00 am)

10:00 am, Public meeting for a proposed zoning bylaw amendment & proposed amendment to the Official Plan, Minden Council Chambers

Cultural Centre

Is currently open regular business hours.
Visit www.mindenculturalcentre.com
for programming updates

Medical Clinic Information

The Haliburton Family Medical Team is providing primary coverage at the Minden Hills Medical Clinic. Please contact the clinic at 705-286-2500 for additional information.

Highlander news



Photo by Mark Arike

The Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library on Maple Avenue.

Library wins award, increases circulation

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

One award, one nomination, a circulation increase and a new strategic planning process were among the highlights for the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) in 2012.

The HCPL's 2012 annual report was received by county council at its April 24 meeting.

The HCPL received the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence for its Celebrity Reader column at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference. The library also was nominated as non-profit business of the year by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

HCPL chief executive officer Bessie Sullivan reported the strategic planning

process began early in the year with support from the Southern Ontario Library Service and the final plan will be completed this year.

"The process of strategic planning indicated clearly that the role of the public library has changed," Sullivan advised.

"We are no longer merely in the book industry, but rather we have become the vehicle to facilitate the reading and information-seeking world. Our spaces are used for collaboration and creativity, our services for meeting the recreation and research needs of the public, and our partnerships for maintaining existing services and bridging any potential service gaps."

The HCPL's total audited expenditures were \$806,759. The county levy was \$643,700. Grants totalled \$143,707.

By year-end, the HCPL was connected with

more than 40 strategic partners, enabling the library to offer a wider variety of services and avoid duplications of services provided by other agencies. These include Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library, whose fundraising efforts provided enhancements for all eight library branches; for example, large-type-format books and a new portable library tent.

Overall circulation increased by three per cent to 138,756 items and the library added 6,532 items to the catalogue for total holdings of more than 49,000 items, still below the provincial standard of a minimum of 60,000 items for this population.

Programming included a summer children's schedule with events attracting 660 children and their caregivers, book club hosting at several branches and the launch of an online

book club. The portable library travelled to five events and had 636 visitors.

The HCPL participated in the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School co-op program with two successful placements and will continue to participate.

The library also worked with Highlands East and Fleming College on a new sustainable library building project in Wilberforce, which began this week.

"Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) will continue to identify gaps in service and strive to maintain strengths to ensure that the standard of service meets the expectations of the people of Haliburton County," Sullivan summarized.

Complete audited financial reports are available on the HCPL website.

Hike Haliburton Festival on track

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

The county's 11th annual Hike Haliburton Festival will be organized again this year by Yours Outdoors and funded in part by a provincial grant.

The Yours Outdoors proposal for \$15,375 plus HST was accepted by county council at its April 24 meeting.

"The potential for growth is significant

given the success in 2012 with an increased marketing campaign," staff reported. Key 2013 goals include increasing corporate sponsorships.

Celebrate Ontario funding of \$11,200 for the event has been approved by the Ministry of Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

This year's festival will take place Sept. 19-23.

Side-by-sides still banned on Rail Trail

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

A request to allow side-by-side off-road vehicles for one event on the Haliburton County Rail Trail has been denied by county council.

The Haliburton All-Terrain Vehicle Association (HATVA) will host a Deep Woods Safari event May 18-20, including an "easy ride" along the Rail Trail. Some

participants may bring side-by-side vehicles, currently banned on the trail. HATVA requested the same one-time allowance that is made available to the Enduro bike event.

Councillors denied the request at their April 24 meeting, citing their 2012 decision to freeze Rail Trail use until rules can be better enforced, and stating the Enduro event is a pre-existing use.

GOT A NEWS TIP WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Call The Highlander at 705-457-2900 or e-mail matthew@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Highlander news



Photo by Mark Arike

Gas Bar closes for 'scheduled maintenance'

Those looking to fill up at the Independent Gas Bar will have to go elsewhere until May 10. "We are currently in the process of performing some scheduled maintenance at the Gas Bar in Haliburton that will allow us to better serve our valued customers," stated an email from the public relations department at Loblaw Companies Ltd. Repair work began on April 29.



Photo submitted by Barrie Martin

Junior Rangers at the Frost Centre.

Township takes on teen rangers

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

In 2012, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) announced the closure of its historic Ontario Ranger summer employment program for teens and replaced it with the Stewardship Youth Ranger day program.

The Frost Centre in Algonquin Highlands was one of the locations for the original overnight program, and Rangers helped with maintenance of the township's Haliburton Highlands Water Trails, hiking trails and ski trails programs.

At council's April 18 meeting, parks, recreation and trails manager Mark Coleman announced discussions with the Minden MNR office have apparently averted the loss of Ranger manpower.

Coleman said the department discussed not only this potential manpower loss, but also the confirmed loss of traditional revenue from MNR payments in lieu of taxes on Algonquin Park following a reassessment last year.

The MNR has now selected the township as a paid management partner for the new Ranger program in the Minden area since the township co-manages the largest portion of Crown lands for public recreation within Haliburton County.

Coleman reported the township would receive \$29,500 to cover wages, training and operational expenses for one crew – one team lead for 12 weeks and four Rangers for eight weeks – with no additional expenses incurred by the township.

Councillors agreed the program will benefit the township and authorized the agreement.

"I think it's an excellent opportunity," said Coleman. "Actually, we may get more out of it in the long run because we have so many crews dedicated five days a week instead of just two to three days the way those programs

used to operate in the past. So we may do a much better job in staying on top of our trail maintenance."

"But we've been growing as well, in terms of public usage of our areas and our trails, so the added help will be significantly desired."

Coleman said the crew will need a vehicle, and suggested the township lease one for staff so the crew could use a township vehicle. Councillors advised a vehicle could be found internally instead.

The original Ontario Rangers program evolved out of the Ontario Forest Ranger School, built in the 1940s and now known as the Frost Centre. While the school was discontinued, an overnight program for teens called Junior Rangers continued to provide natural resources stewardship training.

The concept was so popular CBC Television based its first colour show on it. The Forest Rangers, a fictional Junior Ranger adventure series, aired from 1963 to 1965 and gained popularity as far away as Norway and Australia.

Junior Rangers evolved into the Ontario Rangers employment program for 17-year-olds. In 2012, citing organizational restructuring and budget reductions, the MNR closed both this program and its Stewardship Council Ranger program despite strong protests from former rangers.

The replacement Stewardship Youth Ranger employment program accommodates students who turn 17 this year. They'll work in natural resources management in various Ontario locations; for example, MNR will directly host crews in the Bancroft and Balsam Lake areas.

Rangers will work with partners in their own communities and may be able to earn high school co-op credits.

Crew positions have been posted on the township website and the MNR website.



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Highlander news

New Friends for Oxtongue Lake

Documentary will highlight Group of Seven's local connections

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

A new initiative in Algonquin Highlands will support the Oxtongue Lake community. Council supported the project at an April 18 council meeting.

Area residents and businesses have formed The Friends of Oxtongue Lake in response to plans by retired CBC producer Bob Hilscher to create a documentary about the Group of Seven's connection to the region. The documentary is slated for release in 2014 and may draw more tourism to the region.

At the meeting, councillors reviewed the letter of request for support from the group's co-chairs, Christopher and Jan Wood.

According to the Woods, Hilscher has family connections to Oxtongue Lake and recently discovered many paintings by A.J. Casson, Tom Thomson and other members of the Group of Seven painted around Oxtongue Lake and

in the Algonquin Highlands area. The Red Maple by A.Y. Jackson, now at the National Gallery, was reportedly painted from a sketch made on the Oxtongue River.

Casson stayed at the Blue Spruce Resort during his visits to the area over more than 30 years. An outdoor mural of his Oxtongue River painting was mounted at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre last year.

The Friends' mandate is to "explore avenues to promote the Group of Seven's love of Algonquin Highlands and Oxtongue Lake," the Woods wrote. "This could include site locations, interpretive

trails and tourist experiences inspired by the paintings of the Group of Seven. We would like to work closely with the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre Committee to enhance and display our rich heritage."

The Friends hope, with financial support from the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), to create a portable storyboard to be used at community

events as a fundraiser for future initiatives and eventually install it permanently at the community centre.

They are also working with Blue Spruce Resort to create and install three outdoor plaques at the locations of Casson's painting views of Oxtongue Lake.

Reeve Carol Moffatt reported draft recommendations coming out of the township's municipal cultural planning (MCP) project will include self-guided tours along trails in the township. These

will require signage, and some of the Friends' project signage will need to be installed on public property.

Moffatt said she and Wood, also a member of the MCP committee, had discussed developing consistent signage at a committee meeting the day before.

"They [the Friends] are willing to have that for some consistency so that if anything comes out of the cultural plan that involves any of these self-guided trails, we already have the template for some signage."

Ward 2 councillor Lisa Barry had also attended the meeting and said her impression was "there are hard-working individuals in Oxtongue" who want to apply for funding opportunities beyond those available to the community centre as a municipal entity.

"So this is a way for them to apply for funding privately versus through the municipality for great community projects," said Barry.

"Yes, and if there's an opportunity for other funding through the township, then we'll collaborate on that funding, for sure," Moffatt agreed. "It's great to see it coming to fruition because it is a good project."

So this is a way for them to apply for funding privately versus through the municipality for great community projects.

Lisa Barry
Ward 2 councillor
Algonquin Highlands

Accessibility upgrades on the way

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

Algonquin Highlands continues with its drive to identify and bid for funding opportunities.

The township has received approval for \$25,000 for washroom accessibility upgrades at community centres from the New Horizons for Seniors program, according to a parks, recreation and trails department staff report at

council's April 18 meeting.

Additional applications have been submitted for \$17,000 from the Haliburton County Development Corporation's Community Capacity Building Fund for work at the Dorset Lookout Tower, and for \$6,500 from the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund for various physical fitness/active living programs.

Swimming lesson fees on the rise

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

It will cost you more to get swimming lessons in Algonquin Highlands this year.

At its April 18 meeting, council approved a staff recommendation to raise fees for three Life Saving Society courses. The decision was made to cover increased costs.

Bronze Star lesson fees will rise from

\$68.90 to \$70.50 (10 hours); Bronze Medallion lesson fees will go up from \$179.58 to \$197.95 (20 hours); and Bronze Cross fees will rise from \$138.00 to \$161.23 (20 hours).

The changes will cover increased costs for manuals and examinations as well as shipping costs not factored in previously.

No changes are proposed to Red Cross Preschool and Swim Kids fees.



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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Highlander arts

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On May 4, we invite everyone to come to our store for product demos, samples, raffles and giveaways.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., we're going to demo a TopChips chipmaker. If you like to snack or have chips with your meals, this chipmaker is for you. Come in and see it in action. It's quick and easy to use, and of course, we'll have some for sale if you want to take it home.

Chipmakers are just a part of our huge product lineup. We carry high-quality kitchen and bath products to fit every need. Whether you're looking for a nice pressure-cooker or pizza stone, or maybe that gadget to make life easier in the kitchen, we've got it.

If bath time is more your thing, then pamper yourself with our wide selection of spa-quality products. We promise you won't be disappointed.

But don't be fooled by our name. While we specialize in kitchen and bath products, we've got a wide selection of groovy items for sale that might surprise you. You'll have to come check it out for yourself. And if we don't have what you're looking for, we'll source it for you!

It wouldn't be a party without refreshments. We'll be serving delicious Sticklings Bakery organic carrot cake and our new Kyoto coffee, which is a fresh-roasted, organic and free-trade blend.

While you enjoy the coffee and cake, take a tour around our store and see what we have for you. You could end up walking home with more than you bargained for. With every \$10 purchase, we'll give you a free gift! If you spend \$30 in the store, we'll enter you into a draw to win the following:

- Krups water kettle, valued at \$120
- Emil Henry pizza stone, valued at \$55
- Danesco gift basket, valued at \$50

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This year has been a success thanks to you, our customers. We hope you'll come out and join the party with us on May 4.



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Photo by Mark Arike

Bowlers cheer on their fellow teammates at The Fast Lane in Minden.

Bowlers raise \$2,500 for arts program

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Artists and other members of the community helped raise over \$2,500 for the Artists in the Schools program at an April 27 bowl-a-thon held at The Fast Lane.

About 20 bowlers participated in the fifth annual event, which was organized by the

Arts Council~Haliburton Highlands. Local MPP Laurie Scott made an appearance to throw the first ball and congratulate the organization for coordinating the program.

The Artists in the Schools program provides arts-based educational experiences to students in all five of Haliburton County's elementary schools.



Photo by Shawn Chamberlin

The recent Canadian Blues Legends series concert raised \$725 for flood victims.

Concert-goers support Minden

Despite the Bobcaygeon Road and the bridge being closed to traffic due to the recent flood, people still packed The Dominion Hotel on April 27 for a night of blues. The recent show, which was part of the Canadian Blues Legends series, featured the talents of Lance Anderson, Mike Sloski and local act Stan Russell. Concert-goers not only enjoyed the entertainment, but they also contributed monies to the township's flood relief fund. After a bucket had been passed around, a total of \$725 was collected. Anderson donated a portion of his album sales to the cause.

Highlander arts

What's Up Sweetness and Strength

I remember that when I was a kid growing up in England we had cans of Lyle's Golden Syrup in the kitchen cupboard. We used it to spread on toast. The logo on the green and gold can depicted a dead lion, with a mass of bees swarming out of its stomach. The caption underneath the logo said, "Out of the strong came forth sweetness." The bees had made honey in the lion carcass.

It's a rather macabre thing to have on a can of syrup, but the caption and logo have stayed with me. The basic message that 'goodness can come out of adversity' is a universal mantra, and that message became very real with the recent floods and evacuations along the Gull River in Minden.

My folks who live along the Gull were the last people to be evacuated from Invergordon Avenue because they wanted to roll up and protect their carpets before leaving. This left them with no time to gather clothing.

Although they're now safely ensconced at our house in Gelert, they were tired and stressed after the move. Dad had his usual afternoon nap while mom and I went for a walk with the dogs. It was a beautifully bright and warm afternoon, which was hard to reconcile with the flooding.

After walking along the Rail Trail for a while, mom and I sat down at the edge of the swollen Drag River and talked extensively – like we hadn't done for years. The sun beat down upon us, the dogs played at the water's edge and we talked about everything and nothing. It was a wonderful experience that wouldn't have happened had it not been for the flood. It's not that we don't see each other on a regular basis, but the flood and the evacuation strengthened our bond.

When we got back from the walk dad was awake, looking and sounding significantly better than before, and ready to take on the world again. They both slept like lions that night, but the following day it became apparent they needed some clothing from their house and were also worried about the contents of the freezer, because of course the

power was turned off at the main.

Before I became aware of announcements requesting residents not to go back into their homes, I had posted on Facebook asking for anyone with a boat to take me down the Gull to my parent's place. My request was answered by Will Jones, my colleague at The Highlander, who offered himself and his canoe. I checked with authorities and they advised me strongly against taking any kind of boat on the river as the current was so strong. I relayed this message back to Will and thanked him for his offer, expecting things to end there. However, he got back in touch suggesting we use hip waders. I thought that might work and Will arrived shortly with two sets of waders and two big backpacks.

We drove to Minden to brave the mighty Gull and waddle our way down Invergordon on another brilliantly sunny day. We made it to the house without incident. It doesn't have a basement and fortunately the water line was still a foot below the threshold.

We retrieved the appropriate clothing and took some still-frozen meats from the freezer. We locked up, and with crammed backpacks trudged to the safety of dry land. I felt like a shipwrecked Sherpa.

Later in bed, just before sleep took hold, I wondered if Will, also being English, ate Lyle's syrup when he was a kid. I also reflected on the logo and the caption. Because of the flood sweet things had happened; relationships with Will and my folks had grown stronger, and I hoped that other people who had been evacuated might also find strength through adversity.

Because this is an arts-based column you might be wondering what any of this has to do with the arts. Well, consider this: the cumulative experiences and personal stories of the flood are adding significantly to our history and to the fabric of our culture; and the photographers and writers have been very active in documenting it all.



By George Farrell



Photo by Mark Arike

Workshop participants take a break from creating to enjoy lunch.

Celebrating the School of the Arts

They spent a day together in the name of art. On April 27, artists and students worked together to create, celebrate and support Fleming College's Haliburton School of the Arts at the first ever "Live Art Here" fundraiser. The event brought in over \$14,000.

Charity BBQ DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013 FROM 10AM - 4PM

A minimum \$3 donation gets you a hot dog or hamburger, a drink and a bag of chips.

"I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease five years ago," says Landon. "I love to volunteer and have been proud to help raise money for Crohn's and colitis research by helping out at M&M Meat Shops Charity BBQ Day, as well as participating in CCFC's Gutsy Walk for the past four years."

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Age 13

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Photo by Mark Arike

John Proctor and Dani Stahle lead hikers in a memorial walk at the Hike for Hospice.

Hike for Hospice rakes in over \$22,000

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

It's an annual event that brings the community together while raising funds for a program that supports those facing a life-threatening illness.

At this year's Hike for Hospice, over 100 participants took to the outdoors and raised over \$22,000 in pledges for SIRCH's Community Hospice program.

"Hike for Hospice is the main fundraising event for our hospice program and was very successful again this year thanks to the support of our wonderful community," said event organizer Dale Bull, adding that all funds raised stay in the Highlands.

The morning event, which started at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, included a five-kilometre hike on Head Lake Trail and a one-kilometre walk around the school's track.

Local drummers John Proctor and

Dani Stahle led a memorial walk around the track, which was followed by a short ceremony that saw participants place flowers on a display. Garry Swaggeman then read a short poem to commemorate those who have passed on.

Local MP Barry Devolin and MPP Laurie Scott attended the event to congratulate organizers and volunteers.

"It takes volunteers to make these services possible and it also takes dollars," said Devolin before the walk. "It's [hospice care] something we hope we never need in our own family, but it's nice to know it's available."

"SIRCH provides a great service,"

said Scott. "This means so much to the people you serve in Haliburton County. You deserve a great big pat on the back."

The hospice program currently has approximately 60 volunteers. Many volunteer hours have been spent at

the palliative care unit, which was established at the Haliburton hospital in November of 2011.

"There's been about 200 volunteer hours already with over 100 volunteer visits

since the inception of that palliative care program," emcee Greg Roe told participants.

In the past three years, the hospice program has served over 90 families.

This means so much to the people you serve in Haliburton County

Laurie Scott

Haliburton-Kawartha
Lakes-Brock MPP

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Highlander events

Community honours A.J. LaRue

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

He didn't formally play the game, but Haliburton's A.J. LaRue became a local hockey legend nonetheless.

As a fitting tribute to LaRue's significant impact on regional hockey and the community, the newly renovated Dysart Community Centre in Haliburton was rededicated as the A.J. LaRue Community Centre on April 27.

LaRue, who was known as Albert to his family and Ab to his friends, would have been 100.

LaRue's son Scotty spoke during the ceremony and unveiled the new sign as his wife Emily and their children, grandchildren and more than 130 attendees, including MP Barry Devolin and MPP Laurie Scott, looked on. Dysart et al reeve Murray Fearrey was master of ceremonies. Emily's historical review of LaRue's life and the arena was displayed in the upper hall.

Attendees also included winners of the 1970-71 Ontario Junior D championships. It was the Haliburton Huskies' first Ontario Hockey Association win, made possible by LaRue's creation of an indoor rink so local kids could learn and practice hockey year-round.

LaRue's impact went far beyond the sport. All speakers, including players, a coach and other family friends, warmly told great tales about their friend and mentor.

"Ab was such a kind and generous man," recalled championship team member Bob Woodcock. "He wanted a championship team not for himself, but for the players and for the community."

"When Ab LaRue and the gang put together this building, that was something that opened the doors for me... and I will be eternally grateful for Ab," said championship team member Ron Stackhouse, choking back tears.

Scotty thanked attendees and said his father would have been both surprised and honoured.

"He never accepted the word 'no'," said Scotty. "That would make him more determined to overcome the obstacles in his way. The concern for the youth of his



Photo by Lisa Harrison
Scotty LaRue remembers his father, A.J.



Photo by Lisa Harrison

Attendees view a history display at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre rededication.

community was always front and centre. He always wanted to keep them busy, whether it was Scouts, baseball, hockey, any activity at all, he was involved."

LaRue was born in West Guilford and settled in Haliburton. A hard worker, he

eventually became an entrepreneur, creating ventures that greatly benefitted the community, including a school bus line.

Seeing the need for a year-round rink, LaRue agreed to spearhead creation of the Dysart Arena in 1965 and then arranged for a hockey school, which created an economic boom. Scotty also helped further his father's efforts, and served as the team's manager.

Perhaps the best summary of the day came from Woodcock.

"An arena has a

tremendous impact on a community," he said. "It's not only a place for recreational activity, but also a meeting place where lifelong friendships are made between players, coaches and parents."

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Shares are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis so don't delay!

Contact Cara at 705-754-GROW or cara@abbeygardenscommunitytrust.ca to reserve your share.

Highlander events

Food for Thought Going with the grain

By Will Jones
Contributing writer

It was a Sunday afternoon and the room was packed. People crowded around the central table, eager to view the three amateur cooks and one professional chef demonstrating their recipes. Handmade buckwheat noodles, no knead bread and pizza dough, and wheat crackers; all were being prepared, their respective chefs giving a running commentary of method and ingredients. And then, best of all, the dishes were cooked – some in an outdoor cob/clay oven – and we all got to try them.

The event was a meeting of the Haliburton Grain CSA (Community Shared Agriculture) – a group of 60 locals who have come together to grow, harvest and above all eat locally grown, pesticide-free grain crops. The CSA is in its third year and the enthusiasm for it could be plainly seen at the cookery demonstration, held at the Spectrum Healing Arts Centre near Minden. The CSA's shareholders have each chipped in \$55 in return for their share of this year's harvest, which come fall will include Red Fife wheat, buckwheat, oats, barley and soya beans. The anticipation was already evident at the cookery demo, and the crops haven't even been planted yet.

But, even with all of this enthusiasm, the goal of the CSA and its founder David Bathe, is more than growing a few acres of grain.

"We want to offer a new business opportunity to one or more local farmers," says Bathe. "We want to be able to pass over the responsibility of growing and harvesting the crops to a farmer, in the knowledge that we'll be able to buy local grain, grown without the use of chemical pesticides or fertilizers in the future." Bathe has talked to farmers about his quest, but until recently hadn't been able to talk in the volumes of grain that they'd need to grow to make the venture profitable. However, discussions with Abbey Gardens and a newly established animal feed producer have paid off and both parties are hopeful of sourcing pesticide-free grains from the local farmers in the future.

"We have identified a good local market; one that combines the smaller requirements of the CSA with bigger operations who want tonnage of 'organic style' grain," says Bathe. And, the market will only get bigger as the burgeoning local food movement becomes stronger.

Bathe has seen first-hand the potential of the pesticide-free grain market: first travelling to Ottawa to visit Castor River, a farm currently growing 20 acres of grain for sale at farmers' markets in the form of flour and rolled oats. Then, at the Northern Grain Growers' Association spring conference in Vermont. With funds provided by the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), he went on these fact-finding missions and came back with the news that the local grain movement is blossoming both north and south of the US Border.

"There are so many examples of people making this type of pesticide-free grain production work in areas similar to Haliburton County," says Bathe. "Farmers who take advantage of the new market are finding bakeries clamouring for their heritage flours, customers paying top prices for local rolled oats... Opportunities exist and farmers that take on the challenge in Haliburton will see that there is a viable market for these crops right on their doorstep."

In the meantime, Bathe and the Haliburton Grain CSA are busy planning for the 2013 growing season. The 60 shareholders have paid their dues (there is a waiting list for next year already) and now that spring has arrived the fields will be ploughed and spread with manure and lime, ready for planting in June. And, there will be more events similar to the cookery demo to demonstrate the many things you can do with tasty local grains.

For more information about the Haliburton Grain CSA visit www.haliburtongrains.ca.



Photos by Mark Arike

Above: Students proudly hold up their full bags of trash. Left to right: Alec Stoughton, Alex Petrie, Kyle Cooper, Zak Shantz, Trevor Turner and Sam Longo. Right: Grade 7 students Kristie Clements and Nick Rowden gather garbage in Head Lake Park.

Youth take out the trash

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Grade 7 students from J.D. Hodgson Elementary school got out of the classroom and ventured outdoors on April 26 to help clean up Haliburton's Head Lake Park.

The annual initiative, which is spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Haliburton, ties in to Earth Day and

gives students the chance to take ownership of their community.

"We are very thankful to the students and the Municipality of Dysart et al for making this happen again this year," said club president Andrew Hodgson.

Following the clean-up, students were treated to a barbecue organized by Rotary club members and others.



JDH students engage with municipality

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

Two Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) co-op students paid a visit to Ms. Shantz's Grade 5 class at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School to talk about municipal government.

Dwayne Meharrie and Ula Swiezawska were joined by Dysart et al CAO Tamara Wilbee and clerk Cheryl Coulson on April 25 to present to the class. They engaged students with questions about the municipality, what its responsibilities are, and who works within it.

Both Meharrie and Swiezawska started their co-op with the municipality in Grade 11, but are now in Grade 12.

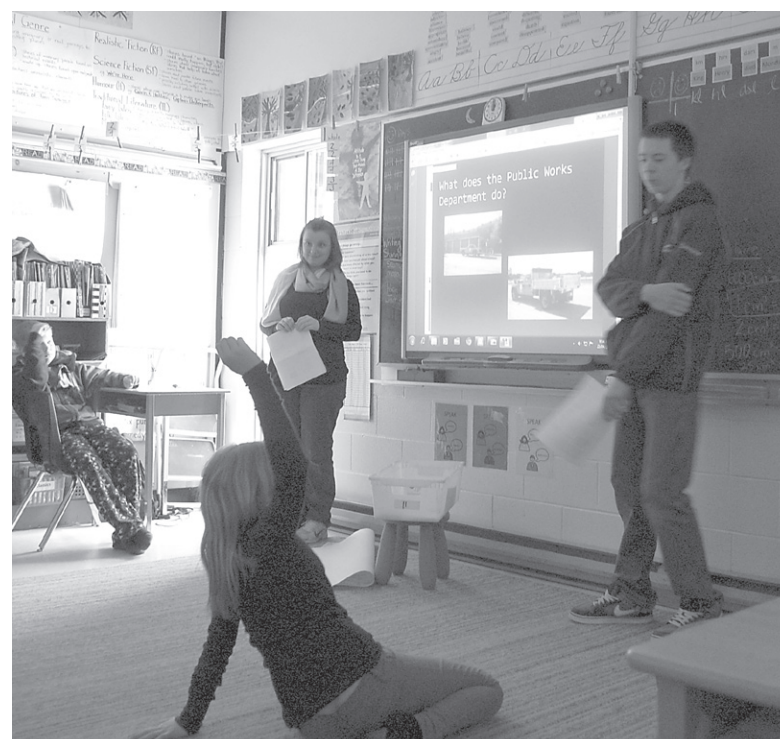


Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Ula Swiezawska and Dwayne Meharrie talk to Grade 5 students at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School about the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Highlander people



Photo by Mark Arike

Water continues to rush through the Horseshoe Lake dam on April 29. The heavy flow has caused significant damage to the whitewater course at the Minden Wild Water Preserve, according to site manager Russ Duhaime.

Flooding impact felt outside of Minden Village

Horseshoe Lake residents frustrated by lack of official communication

By Mark Arike

Staff writer

They don't live in downtown Minden, but their situation isn't any better.

Homes and cottages are flooded around Horseshoe Lake and residents in the area are baffled by what's going on.

"We didn't hear that it was going to be backed up," said Bill Brown, who lives on Quail Run. "We had to unhook all of our generators and lift them up or they would've been gone."

Soon after flooding in Minden began, a decision was made by the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) to flood the reservoir lake in an attempt to spare the town from further water damage.

Brown was able to act fast despite the fact he wasn't forewarned.

"I took my rock wall apart and stacked it on the dock or it would've floated away," he said.

Brown, along with Shuyler's Island resident Dave Godward, rescued several docks that

had floated away.

"Even my neighbour's bunkie was floating," recalled Brown. "Their main place is a write-off. We couldn't even put the pumps in because it's level with the lake."

Brown and Godward have been helping their neighbours as best as they can since flooding in the area began early last week. At its peak, the water over the causeway leading to Shuyler's Island was at 29 inches, said Godward.

Brown said he had over two feet of water in a shed that stores his garden equipment while eight inches of water found its way into Godward's boathouse.

Brown said that in the 75 years his family has owned property in the area, they've never experienced an occurrence like this.

"Historically, we've never, ever had a problem," he said.

Godward said he plans on seeking compensation for damages.

"I don't have insurance for this," he said.

"The Trent Severn [Waterway] consciously decided to flood Horseshoe Lake. That was a

deliberate action. They have to be prepared to accept the consequences of that."

Brown expressed concern for the safety of his fellow neighbours.

"I don't know if an ambulance or fire truck would even attempt to come in here," he said, adding that electricity was still running to homes.

Both acknowledged that Minden residents have been hit the hardest, however, they feel they were ill-informed.

"I think there should be an inquiry as to why this happened," said Godward.

Shuyler's Island residents Don and Marie Gage also say there's been a lack of communication about what the TSW has been doing.

"That has been extremely frustrating, as you sit in your house and you watch the water rise on both sides and you aren't getting a word on whether they're taking a log out or putting one in," said Marie.

Don added that even the township was unaware of why the water was rising in Horseshoe Lake.

"They had to phone the TSW to find out the TSW had put three logs in," he said.

After becoming increasingly frustrated, Marie got in touch with MP Barry Devolin's office to ask for help and information.

"I called Barry Devolin's office to say we need help up here and we need information, and I don't know why the Trent Severn isn't giving information."

The township, however, has done their part by getting in touch with residents and putting out updated press releases, she said.

The Gages attended Tuesday night's public information forum in Minden and were disappointed by what they learned.

"The answer is that it will take two weeks to move the excess water from the top of the system through Minden and downriver, and that is only if there is no new water added," wrote Marie in an email. "So it sounds like Horseshoe will be the last thing emptied..."

The TSW has "no intention of communicating as they go as that is not their job," she said.

Highlander sports

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Municipality of Highlands East

BUDGET NOTICE

Adoption of 2013 Budget

Council for the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to enact a by-law to adopt the 2013 Municipal Budget. Notice is hereby provided that a public meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4th, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, Wilberforce, Ontario.

Irene S. Cook, CMO Clerk/CEMC
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Highlander sports



Photo submitted by Angela Emsley

Nick Emsley joins other competitors on the podium.

Emsley places second in Ontario Cup

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Local cyclist Nick Emsley represented Haliburton well at the Ontario Cup Races in Uxbridge. The 14-year-old competitor placed

second in his category at the event, which took place last weekend.

"He had a couple of crashes, cracked his helmet and lost his glasses but fought to the end, only losing first place by 11 seconds," said his mother Angela Emsley.

A total of 28 participants were in Emsley's category while 564 were in the event.

His next race is a 60-kilometre marathon on May 18.

"He feels good and is looking forward to another race," said Angela.

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Special Meeting of County Council

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that they will convene a Special meeting of Haliburton County Council at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2013, for purposes of discussing a Site Plan agreement with regard to the proposed Tim Horton's on County Road 21.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held in the County Council Chambers located at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden. For further information please contact:



Jim Wilson, CAO/County Clerk
County of Haliburton

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of **Birgit Erika Brandt**

Passed away peacefully in Bracebridge Hospital, April 17, 2013, at the age of 68, succumbing to a lengthy battle of strokes and cancer.

She will be sadly missed by her caring husband and best friend Jere Pike, his brothers Nevil and David (deceased) and Dolores, Jere's daughters Stephanie (Greg) Yeoman, and Jennifer, her grandchildren Connor and Carley, her son Brian (Cheryl) Hansen, her Aunt Rita (Copenhagen). Also, she will be missed by her "family" of friends at the Minden Curling Club, and those in Bonita Springs, Florida, her second home. She is now at peace in the greatest home of all. She enjoyed the simple things in life, the beauty of the world through many wonderful cruises shared with family and friends. She was always thoughtful of those less fortunate. A special thank you to the caring staff at Bracebridge Hospital.

A Celebration of Birgit's Life will be announced.

In Birgit's memory, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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NOTICE



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Flood Relief Program

HCDC has developed a specialized loan fund to assist **BUSINESSES** in Haliburton County that have been impacted by the recent flood. Loans of up to \$25,000 are available at 0% interest for up to five years. The program will provide financial assistance with costs related to infrastructure, inventory, equipment, operations, or other areas of need identified by business owners.

Applications will be accepted immediately and treated as high-priority with the goal to provide assistance as quickly as possible.

In cases where a business demonstrates a need for financing beyond the limits of this program, HCDC will consider applications on a case-by-case basis. HCDC is also aware that our Municipalities are reviewing the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program, and the organization will consider the development of additional programs in partnership with the Municipality of Minden Hills and other relief programs.

For more detailed information please call 705-457-3555
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Highlander classifieds

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HELP WANTED

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EVENTS

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Alcohol Problems - call Alcoholics Anonymous - we care. 705-324-9900. (TFN)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) – every Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. in the Boardroom at the Haliburton Hospital. (TFN)

For all your announcements

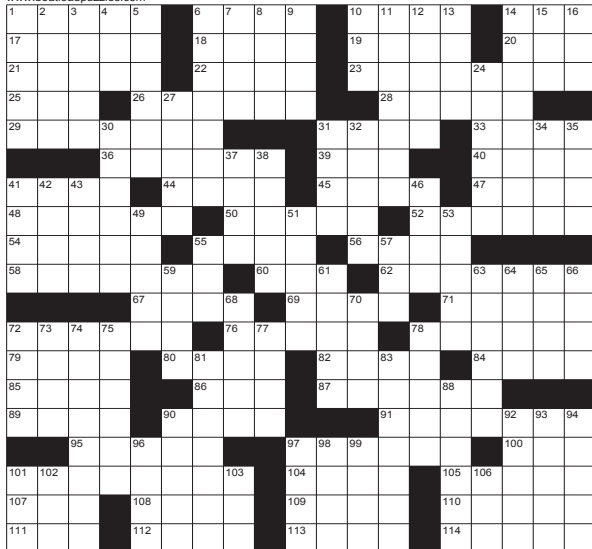
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Highlander events

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ACROSS

1. Remnant
6. Female voice
10. Openings
14. Sombrero, e.g.
17. Excuse
18. Wild pig
19. Revise
20. Before, poetically
21. Jousting weapon
22. Asian staple
23. Put up with
25. Highway curve
26. Horned animals, for short
28. Lassoed
29. Harpooned
31. Departed
33. Garden walk
36. President Ronald _____
39. Uno
40. Beige
41. Hero shop
44. Make over
45. Probabilities
47. Attention-getting sound
48. Deleted
50. Remain
52. In dreamland
54. Apple drink
55. Future sign
56. Prima donna
58. _____ address (opening speech)
60. Lease
62. Liberate
67. Risk
69. Mature
71. Christmas visitor
72. Panoramas
76. Midler or Davis
78. Macaroni and spaghetti
79. Docile
80. Ship's bottom
82. Buddhist monk
84. Experiment
85. Puts into service
86. "_____ Doubtfire"
87. Pass, as time
89. Move quickly
90. Locale
91. Divert
95. Foreigner
97. Soft wool
100. Luau garland

DOWN

1. Bargain events
2. Hold tightly
3. Remove suds
4. NBC's rival
5. Fashion's _____ Cardin
6. Condense, as a dictionary
7. Meat cut
8. Mexican snack
9. Unrefined metals
10. Receive
11. Embellished
12. Aviator
13. Pace
14. Migraine
15. Skill
16. Golf gadget
24. Revoke
27. Listened to
30. Gotten up
31. Fireplace fuel
32. Stopped
34. Birch or spruce
35. Camel's feature
37. Eve's mate
38. _____ Prize
41. Adorn
42. Pennsylvania city
43. "My Fair _____"
46. Hoard
49. Wear down
51. Sluggish
53. Hot sauce
55. "_____ the ramparts..."
57. Great wrath
59. Chore
61. Owner's proof
63. _____ Bunny
64. Initial bet
65. Amtrak depots (abbr.)
66. "_____ of Eden"
68. Reviewer Roger _____
70. Chime
72. Wall support
73. House (Sp.)
74. Green gems
75. Cuddle
77. Or _____!
78. Document
81. Distinguished
83. Singer with one name
88. Paper fastener

90. Framed (2 wds.)
92. Church table
93. Desist
94. Laid bathroom flooring
96. Knowledgeable about
97. So be it!
98. Certain star
99. Exits
101. Baseball stat
102. Chow down
103. _____ Moines, Iowa
106. Always, in verse



Last week's puzzle solutions

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

A	P	E	D	R	O	S	E	S	L	I	K	E
L	A	V	A	E	V	I	C	T	A	R	E	A
P	R	E	Y	E	A	R	L	Y	B	A	N	S
H	I	N	T	F	L	E	A	D	O	N	O	T
A	S	S	O	C	N	I	C	E	R			
N	A	P	A	R	A	C	E	C	A	R		
S	T	E	A	L	E	R	S	M	O	R	A	L
O	E	R	E	M	O	T	E	R	O	E		
D	E	R	A	I	L	N	A	R	R	A	T	E
A	S	S	U	R	E	P	A	I	L			
S	I	R	E	D	O	L	D	E	R			
R	I	O	T	S	T	O	S	S	S	I	D	E
I	D	L	E	E	A	G	L	E	T	A	I	L
P	E	E	R	L	I	M	I	T	A	N	T	E
E	A	S	E	S	N	A	P	S	R	E	S	T

Fun Fact:

Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.

MAY 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Kids Night – Lochlin Community Centre. Drop off 5-5:30 p.m., pick up 8-9 p.m. Evening includes crafts, dinner and a G rated movie. Minimum \$10 donation, all proceeds go to Relay for Life.	Cribbage (every Friday) - Community Care, 1 p.m. 705-457-2941.	Traditional Roast Beef Dinner - Haliburton United Church, 5:30 p.m. Tickets available by calling Robin at 705-457-1771.	
2	3	4	5
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Contract Bridge - (every Monday) - Community Care @ 1 p.m., 705-457-2941	Wii Bowling (every Tuesday) - Community Care, 9:00 a.m. 705-457-2941	Technology Workshop for Parents – HHSS 6—7:45 p.m.	Harvest Haliburton Video Premiere – Northern Lights Pavillion, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
6	7	8	9
OEYC Haliburton – Building Fine Motor Skills, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Minden & District Horticultural Society – Speaker Suzi Gabany (The Tomato Lady), 7 p.m. at Minden CC	Quilt Guild presentation by Susan Purney Mark – Stanhope Community Centre 1 p.m. 705-489-3751	Make a Mother's Day Gift – OEYC Minden, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Quilting Workshop – call 705-489-3751 for information Adult Volleyball – Dorset RC 6.30-8.30 p.m.
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
10	11	12	13
WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR LOCAL LEGION?			
Haliburton Branch (705-457-2571) Bid Euchre, Wednesday, 1 p.m. Bingo, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Meat draw, Friday, 4:30 p.m.	Bid Euchre, Tuesday, 1 p.m. Meat Draw, Wednesday, lunchtime Ladies Darts, Thursday, 1 p.m. Euchre, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Radio Club, Friday, 10 a.m. Fish & Chips, Friday from 5-7 p.m. Darts, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Open Saturday & Sunday from 12-5 p.m.	Wilberforce Branch (705-448-2221) Pool, every Friday, 1:30 p.m. Jam session, every Friday, 7 p.m. Meat draw, every Saturday, 2 p.m. Pancake & sausage breakfast, Sunday, 8-11 a.m. Bid euchre, Monday, 7 p.m. Fun darts, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.	

Send your
community event to
ashley@haliburtonhighlander.ca

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

Highlander technology



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents invites you to attend their *Annual General Meeting* on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Haliburton Curling Club, 730 Mountain Street Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm
RSVP 705-457-5345 by May 3.

MINDEN SENIOR SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB

Registration Date
May 8, 2013
Highland Crest Auditorium
9 am to 11 am

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Contact
Wayne Jones
705-286-3465

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NECESSARY.



TheComputer Guy Sharing your internet



By David Spaxman

Your neighbour comes up for the summer at his cottage and instead of paying for internet asks if he can “borrow” your internet connection, since he can pick up your wireless router from his house. The wireless signal is encrypted and you give your next door neighbor your network key so he can wirelessly connect just to check email, do banking, etc. But are they on your home network? Can they see where you are surfing (such as your bank site with pass codes)?

If you give someone access to your wireless access point, you have given them access to your home network.

They’re on it.

Now, what they can see depends on a number of things but to be blunt...

I hope you trust them.

It’s important to realize that a wireless connection, regardless of how your hardware is set up, is a connection to your network.

By giving your neighbor the password, you’ve given them the *encryption* password. As a result, the encryption is not affecting your security with respect to them at all.

The encryption prevents *other* people to whom you have not given the password from accessing your network.

But that’s all.

There are three basic risks in sharing your network:

- If you have computers that share files or a printer among themselves, your neighbor may be able to access them.
- There’s a *tiny* risk that depending on how your router routes traffic that your neighbour might be able to “see” that traffic. I call it tiny because routers typically do not route traffic to computers not involved in the

conversation.

- If your neighbour’s computer becomes infected with malware it might move to your machines.

To be honest, it’s the last one that scares me the most. The first two are all about your neighbour’s *intention*, which in most cases is probably honest and above board, and is at least something you can attempt to judge. The latter, however, involves your neighbour’s ability to keep their own system free of malicious software. That’s a risk I’d be reluctant to take even with the best of intentions.

As far as banking goes, your bank should be using https. Https encrypts the connection between your computer and the bank, so even if your neighbour was able to see your network traffic they would not be able to decode your banking conversation.

So, short of denying your neighbour access to your network, what can you do?

At a minimum, turn on the Windows or other software firewall on every machine you have on your network.

You should also check the terms of service with your Internet Service Provider (ISP).

It’s very possible, perhaps even likely, that they explicitly prohibit this type of sharing (you’re taking away a potential customer after all).

While it’s unlikely that they would detect that the connection was being shared with a neighbour, if they did, you could be penalized in some fashion.

Questions or comments email me at computerguy@haliburtonhighlander.ca
Happy & Safe Computing!

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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
TheHighlander

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Haven Haliburton
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Grades 4-6
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12 Dysart Ave

Bridge Haliburton
Fridays @ 3:30-5:30pm
Grades 7&8
Lighthouse Church

NEW: Acting Club
Fridays @ 6:30-8:00pm
Grades 7-10
Lighthouse Church

DROP-IN

The Bridge
Fridays 8-10pm
Grades 9-12
Lighthouse Church

CHURCH OF ROCK

Friday Nights
Please check out dates online
(Usually the last Friday of the Month)
Haliburton United Church

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Bill's wife Ginger convinced Bill to get into real estate. So in April of 1988, Bill joined Remax Haliburton Highlands Realty, which was founded by Norm Harrison and Keith Hill – and as they say, the rest is history!

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