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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM The Highlander

Thursday **February 16 2017** | Issue 275

INSIDE: FIRST QUARTER 2017 REAL ESTATE REPORT

FREE



The winning continues: Greta LaRiviere, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) board member, grabs the winning ticket in the Cash for Care Lottery early bird Draw. Bill Gliddon of Haliburton won \$500. Joining LaRiviere, from left, are Lisa Tompkins, lottery chair, HHHSF vice-chair and campaign co-chair; Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services; Murray Martin, HHHSF board member; Dale Walker, HHHSF executive director. *Photo by Mark Arike.*

County sees six per cent population growth

By Lisa Gervais

Better than average growth is expected to continue in Haliburton County, local politicians say following the release of population and dwelling counts in the 2016 census.

On Feb. 8, it was revealed the county's population has increased 5.9 per cent, or by 1,006 people. The national average is five

per cent and the provincial average 4.6 per cent.

The growth is largest in Minden Hills, at 7.7 per cent, followed by Algonquin Highlands (7.5 per cent), Dysart (5.3 per cent) and Highlands East (2.9 per cent).

"Haliburton County is experiencing a growth cycle," County Warden and Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin said in an interview. "We are in the right place at the

right time."

He credited it in part to tourism initiatives that have generated 55-plus million impressions in the last year.

"Our lakes and habitat are becoming more important to people," he said.

With the extension of Highway 407 to Highway 35/115 by 2020, the warden thinks that will spur even more growth.

"We are already seeing that the rate of

growth is accelerating. In the next 10 years, the growth along the Highway 35 corridor extending to Haliburton County will be significant," he said.

The census also reported that the number of homes and cottages being occupied year-round in the county has increased by 10.5 per cent, meaning an additional 810 dwellings are now being used as full-time homes. The number increased from 7,633

See 'Devolin' on page 2

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Bus takes wrong turn on Rail Trail

By Mark Arike

Bill Ross was out for a morning walk with his dog on Feb. 9 when he spotted something unusual.

A full-size, yellow school bus was on the Haliburton County Rail Trail—with no one in it.

"It was a double take," said Ross. "I came around the corner and I saw it just across the trail."

He lives a stone's throw from the trail, on Koshlong Lake Road in Donald, and also operates a pastry shop on his property. Ross snapped a couple of photos and posted them to his business's social media pages.

"It was more to let the snowmobilers know," he said.

The trail, which goes from Haliburton to Kinmount, is only open to sledgers from Dec. 1 to April 1. Several were riding the trail that morning.

A tow truck was called in to help



A tow truck arrives to get the school bus off the trail. Photo by Mark Arike.

move the bus, which was stuck in the snow. Once freed, the driver managed to get the bus off the trail and back on the road.

It turns out the bus was chartered by a school in Mississauga to pick up students at YMCA Wanakita, only a few kilometres down Koshlong Lake Road.

"The driver decided to take a break in Donald before heading up the road

to collect the group; not realizing of course that he was pulling onto the Rail Trail," said Cam Green, the camp's program manager.

The driver got stuck while trying to turn the bus, said OPP const. Tim Negus. An OPP officer showed up but was gone within minutes. There were no injuries and no charges will be laid.

Devolin says population increase brings challenges

Continued from page 1

(34.6 per cent) to 8,443 out of 21,113 (38.8 per cent)

With that comes challenges, Devolin said, such as the affordability of delivering services to the influx of full-time residents.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey agreed it's a good news, challenging news story.

"It is very positive that there has been 5.9 per cent growth in Haliburton County," he said in an interview. However, he said it is also "concerning" because municipalities have to provide things such as health care and transportation to these people.

He said in Haliburton, about one-

third of people make a full-time move into the village but two-thirds are moving to lakes and that means longer distances for ambulance calls, for example, which puts more pressure on the system.

"The challenge is, can you provide the services with the growth? I think we can."

Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt said, "We're pleased with the growth shown and are happy to have 165 more folks call Algonquin Highlands their home. This data, combined with our building department reports, illustrates that we're consistent in attracting permanent residents."

Addressing some of Devolin and

Fearrey's concerns, she added, "We don't want too much (growth) too fast, so as long as it's going up, we'll take it."

"Regardless of whether the growth is in young families or in seasonal folks moving up full-time, it's good news for the municipality and for the county. Construction means jobs, a new generation is always a good thing, and retirees bring experience and knowledge to businesses and volunteerism."

Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton said the township was disappointed that it received a lower percentage of growth than neighbouring municipalities, however, "we are still happy to see growth."

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Lack of charges not just a policing issue

Victim-blaming still a systemic problem, says YWCA director

By Alex Coop

With files from Lisa Gervais

Between 2010 and 2014, nearly 50 per cent of sexual assaults were categorized as unfounded in Haliburton County, meaning the investigator didn't believe a criminal offence occurred, but YWCA director Darlene Smith-Harrison says the problem isn't just a policing issue.

"The problem is much more complex," Harrison told *The Highlander*. "Being in a rural setting, everybody feels that they know everybody, and I've seen women come forward with their story and be shunned by the community."

The high unfounded rates across Canada, which was reported in a recent *Globe and Mail* investigation, are attributed to a number of factors including inadequate police training when it comes to interviewing victims.

The Y believes women every time, stresses Jen Cureton, the Y's director of philanthropy and communications.

"It's important for women to know that there is someone out there who will believe them, and that would be us and the other service providers we work with," she said.

Haliburton Highlands OPP did not comment for this story, but OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes has announced that they will review about 4,000 unfounded reports across the province, covering allegations made between 2010 and 2014. In the county, the highest number of allegations happened in 2014 with a total of 23, 10 of which were deemed unfounded.

These numbers puzzle Laura Proctor, executive director of Kawartha Haliburton Victim Services, who wonders how many of the unfounded cases in Haliburton were referred to victim services.

"Even if there are a lot of unfounded cases, victim services still should be offered to the individuals ... we can then provide them with counselling," she said.

Understanding what victim services can do and ensuring victims of assault are referred to them consistently is critical, says Proctor.

"It's not just throwing teddy bears at people and running away. It's providing a core service that makes the police's job easier."

Smith was pleased the *Globe* article referenced the work done by Lori Haskell, a Canadian specialist studying how the neurobiology of trauma factors into sexual assault cases.

"The timing of that initial interview is important ... often police are trained to get the information and do it in a way that's quick and efficient, but when someone has experienced life-threatening trauma, that isn't the moment for them to be able to communicate what exactly happened," she said.

Whitney Rickard, client services coordinator for Kawartha Haliburton Victim Services, says the high number of unfounded cases in the county is an eye-opener, but also points to the fact that some of their cases are 30 years old or more, making it hard for police to fully understand the story and lay charges. But she still encourages victims to come forward, no matter how much time has passed.

"Whether it was 50 years ago or now, our view doesn't change ... our supports are still the same," she said.

In Haliburton County and other rural areas, sexual assault victims looking for certain medical and forensic documentation usually need to travel to Peterborough or Orillia, says Smith, creating another layer of complexity to the high unfounded rates in Ontario, which is 34 per cent, well above the national average of 20 per cent.

A recently formed committee that includes the OPP, various victim and mental health services and the Y, is looking at ways to improve the coordination of referrals and make it easier for victims to access the resources they require. A full list of contacts for the Y's programs and shelters can be found at ywcapeterborough.org/contact/

Women who can't reach out directly because of a partner who is monitoring their telephone or Internet activity can text the Y at 705-991-0110. The Y's website can also clear browser history.



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The Highlander's Mission

To tell the story of
Haliburton County each week

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

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

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

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

Is census growth enough?

StatsCan released its first set of numbers from the 2016 census last week.

They were for population and dwelling counts.

There are another six releases to come.

On May 3, we will learn more about our age and gender breakdown and the type of dwellings we live in; May 10 is agriculture; Aug. 2 is families, households, marital status and language; Sept. 13 is a big one with income; Oct. 25 is immigration and ethnocultural diversity as well as housing and Aboriginal peoples and Nov. 29 is education, labour, journey to work, language of work and mobility and migration.

It is only after that last release that we will get a full picture of where Haliburton County stands as of 2016 compared to 2011.

However, the Feb. 8 release does point to two obvious trends in the county.

We are growing quicker than the provincial and national averages.

Haliburton County's growth was 5.8 per cent, compared to 4.6 per cent in Ontario and five per cent in Canada.

Secondly, the western half of the county is definitely leading this growth.

The population in Minden Hills grew by 7.7 per cent. Not far behind was Algonquin Highlands at 7.5 per cent.

Dysart et al was closer to the national average with 5.3 per cent growth while Highlands East is a concern, having grown

just 2.9 per cent since 2011.

The second trend – which no doubt leads to the above growth figures – is that more people are living here full-time.

The number of homes and cottages being occupied year-round in the county has increased by 10.5 per cent.

That means an additional 810 dwellings are now being used as full-time homes. The number increased from 7,633 out of 21,365 being occupied year-round (34.6 per cent) to 8,443 out of 21,113 (38.8 per cent).

Not surprisingly, Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands lead this trend too, with increases in dwellings occupied year-round of 14 per cent and 12 per cent compared to increases of eight per cent and nine per cent for Highlands East and Dysart et al.

One of the anomalies is that despite that 5.8 per cent growth, the number of dwellings has decreased 1.8 per cent county wide. It was worst in Algonquin Highlands.

We're looking into this.

AH's planner has spoken with StatsCan and they believe the drop in the number of total private dwellings was most likely because of the change in the municipal boundaries. They are looking at comparison maps from 2011 to 2016 as we write.

Reeve Carol Moffatt told us the 2011 population number has been revised and the land mass has changed so that makes her a bit curious about accuracy.

She's not overly concerned since that

count has historically gone up census over census and they know there were anomalies in the 2011 census.

She said they've had a lot of construction and have had numerous requests to write off taxes because of demolitions and new builds so that could be a contributor too.

So, while the overall growth seems cause for celebration, municipal leaders aren't popping the champagne corks just yet.

And neither are we.

Warden Brent Devolin and Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey are legitimately concerned about how municipal government is going to pay for services, such as health care and public transportation, for these expanded full-time residents.

We worry that 5.8 per cent growth is far too low to sustain the local economy and infrastructure. Highlands East, after all, drew only an additional 94 net permanent residents between 2011 and 2016.

What will happen to these numbers once the baby boomers start dying out in 10 years' time?

The news could be a whole lot worse, granted. And, we will be keenly looking at StatsCan's other figures as they are released to get a more complete picture.



By Lisa Gervais

Rippling through the community

Perhaps it's because I'm getting older but it seems death is more a part of my life now. Naturally, as you get older, you start to think about it more, mainly due to the fact that at some point you start to realize that you and everyone you care about are not immortal and they will not last forever.

I consider this more a fact of life than something that depresses me. In my mind, you don't start to live until you come to the utter realization that someday you're going to die. I'm actually thankful that I've spent decades wrapping my head around the biggest unavoidable dilemma we'll ever face. If you attack it with honesty, rationality and maturity it's not nearly as scary as we all make it out to be.

Still, no matter how you've been able, or unable, to come to grips with the big question, you are ultimately forced to deal with it head on when the time comes. Both on a personal and a communal level. And what's amazing about living in a rural place like this is how good we are as

a community in dealing with someone's passing. I see both maturity and reverence on a respectful social level. It's kind of weird but also weirdly pleasant how death ripples through small communities.

First comes the news itself. We see the notice at the post office or hear about it from a friend and immediately the rallying commences. This is step two. The condolences pour in but more so, the phone calls, messages and personal visits start happening as well.

While this may seem like simply a decent thing to do there's something in the collective rural character that makes people see beyond their own personal apprehension and discomfort. They get involved. They're sincerely there for each other.

Some will argue that this is just an admirable human trait, with no connection to where we live but I disagree. While basic human decency can be universal I think the proximity and closeness we see in small towns like ours extends to those trying times when death literally

rocks a community. I'm there to help you whether that means helping you shovel your roof or split your wood or to be by you when someone passes. The support is the same even if the tool utilized is different.

Anyone who's ever gone to a local service or ceremony to honour someone's passing comes away with an incredible feeling of closeness. This even surprised me the first few times I attended. I couldn't believe how the bonds were strengthened during the most difficult of times. Yes, the events in question may be sprinkled in despair but the overall feeling you're left with is one of thankfulness for living in an area where your neighbours and friends truly are there for you and the stark realization that no one ever really dies alone.



By Charlie Teljeur

Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca
(Word Count: 300 max)

Editorial opinion

weeWisdom

Music can change the world, part 1



By Anabelle Craig

*“I can’t keep quiet
For anyone,
Anymore.”*

These lyrics, sung by an a cappella choir of women who had just met at a rally in Washington D.C a few weeks ago, resonated with me. This song, “Quiet,” was written by Milck, a musician from Los Angeles, who wanted to express her feelings about abuse and how to stand up and not stay quiet anymore. This song became the unofficial anthem of the Jan. 21 Women’s March.

Songs like “Quiet” have been around for many years and in many countries. During wars and big political movements, musicians have written songs to spread the message of love and peace across the world. In many cases, the political views and the state of the world greatly influenced musicians such as Bob Dylan and Neil Young. These folk musicians wrote many songs dealing with such topics. But it isn’t just folk music that speaks of injustice. Hip hop or rap music is another genre that musicians use to express their feelings. The sophisticated poetry set to strong beats speak of the violence in inner cities and socio-political issues that they face. Musicians transform their empathy, concern, anger and other emotions into poetry and music to express their feelings about the world.

How can a song make you feel so connected to another person or to an event? How can music help you through nearly anything? How is it that it can show you how to express your anger and your happiness, help you get through a loss or celebrate a win? How can it send the message of hope to the world and overall just lift your morale? To quote Marilyn Manson, “Music is the strongest form of

magic.” Musicians, actors, and artists have the unique ability to influence people with their work. They can play the role of a warrior who turns his back on fighting and looks instead to peace. Sing a song about the beauty of compassion towards others or paint a huge picture of the pain that war causes. They are carriers of influence. The messages they convey through their art form directly impact their viewers and listeners in powerful ways.

Many scientists believe that music strengthens social bonds by increasing contact, coordination and cooperation with others. It gives us an oxycontin boost and strengthens our “theory of mind” and empathy. This increases cultural solidarity. Music brings people together by directly impacting neuro-chemicals in the brain, many of which play a role in closeness and connection. That is why groups of people who listen to the same music can feel such an intense bond.

Music has always been a part of me. It was there comforting me at a young age when my mother would sing songs of sad cowboys and lost love. It was there when I listened to my parents practice their instruments or we sang songs together on road trips. And every day when I play my beloved cello, I feel rejuvenated. Most of us hear music from the moment we are born, often lullabies, and throughout many of the most important occasions in our lives, from graduations to weddings to funerals. There is something about music that seems to bring us closer to each other and help us come together as a community.

*“You may say I’m a dreamer
But I’m not the only one
I hope someday you’ll join us
And the world will live as one” -
- Imagine by John Lennon*

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A bell can’t escape the sub-zero temperatures in Algonquin Highlands. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Red lights and shy lizards

Ladies of the night are much easier to spot than iguanas.

And by ladies of the night I don’t mean some species of pretty butterfly. I use the term in its most poetic bent, to describe, well, ladies of the night. You know the ones I mean. And I say that they are much easier to spot than iguanas because in Aruba they are, at least in the neighbourhood where we stayed on our recent vacation.

You see, when the Outsider goes on holiday he likes to do it a little differently. Why would I want to go spend a week in a luxury resort, having drinks brought to me by the pool and choosing meals from a selection of multiple restaurants each evening? Why, oh why, when I can book an Airbnb apartment at the wrong end of the island and find myself five minutes from Aruba’s legal red light district.

Now, in my defense, the description of

the apartment was a little misleading. It stated that the property was five minutes from Aruba’s national park, which it was. It stated that the apartment had its own private pool, which it did. It even stated that some of the best ‘undiscovered’ beaches were within a 10-minute drive, and you guessed it, they were. It did not state, however, that there was a street full of girly bars and ‘gentlemen’s’ clubs at the end of the road. I guess that’s what you call selective marketing. And, perhaps the same apartment is advertised with a whole different description on another website aimed at a different clientele.

And so it was that we struck out when it came to spotting iguanas but got quite good at recognizing the aforementioned working girls, while trying at all costs to avoid eye contact. This should have been easy but we quickly discovered that our favourite

of those undiscovered beaches was Boca Grande, a wild and windswept stretch of sand, pounded by the deep blue waters of the Atlantic ocean, about 15 minutes away, if we drove down ‘girly bar lane’. The road wasn’t called that but oh my, it should have been. Speeding through the partially pedestrianized streets of San Nicolas, a full 10 km/h faster than the 30 km/h speed limit, I wished for the blacked-out windows of my old Chevy truck. Instead, Little Z waved out of the rear passenger window of our little rental car as we drove past the ladies, and they chuckled and blew kisses back.

“Let’s stop and see if they want to come to the beach,” suggested Little Z.

His mother shut him down with a glare, which she then redirected at me, for what reason I am at a total loss to guess. Thankfully, once we were at the beach the

mood lightened and we had a great day on the giant swathe of sand that was visited by only one other couple. My guess would be that the island’s prison, which overlooks the beach, puts off most tourists: more fool them is what we say.

Sandy and sunburnt, we headed back to our apartment for a dip in the pool and a cool beer. I was really, really looking forward to the latter but, in one of my more wise moments, I opted to take the, how shall I put it, *other* scenic route home. The drive took a good half an hour, meandering through the national park. Still we didn’t see an iguana, and my beer was delayed, too, but more to the point, I didn’t have to run a single red light, if you know what I mean.

TheOutsider



By Will Jones

Highlander opinions

Eye on the street: What are your plans for the Family Day weekend?



Judy Vickery

Haliburton

I will be attending a pond party.



Louise Rowley

Haliburton

We're retired but just plan on relaxing.



Wendy Vargas

Haliburton

I'll be hosting a ball hockey event in the Sears parking lot in Haliburton from around noon to 3 p.m.



Erin Kernohan-Berning

Haliburton

I work at the library. We have frosty wintry family story time and crafts Saturday at Dysart library at 11 a.m. and Minden at 2 p.m.



Brittaney Ross

Carnarvon

Probably working and possibly seeing friends.

Photos and interviews by Lisa Gervais

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Highlands East passes budget

Highlands East council passed the municipality's 2017 budget on Monday.

Two minor changes were made to the draft budget, but it didn't affect the 2.4 per cent increase over last year's tax levy.

The amendments include an additional expense of \$15,000 for a road needs study and \$7,400 for the municipality's portion of an IT technician.

The municipality provided public notice of the passing of the budget a month ago, said clerk Irene Cook. *(Mark Arike)*

Phone scam circulating county

If you pick up the phone and the caller says her or she is a fraud investigator, put the phone down and report it to police.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP have received numerous calls from residents claiming they've gotten phone calls and emails from sources saying they are fraud investigators.

"These so called investigators claim that they are investigating frauds that are occurring from within your local branch and that staff at the bank are involved," says an OPP press release.

"They advise you not to call your local branch ... will then request and/or insist that you provide them with access to your computer and banking information such as passwords and account information and will claim that they can help protect you against fraud."

Police are reminding residents to never provide personal information to anyone they did not call themselves, and to call their bank directly if there are any doubts about an account or other banking matters.

More information can also be found at antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca. *(Alex Coop)*

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County in brief

Burton back in June

Highlands East council passed a resolution on Monday to allow Deputy Reeve Suzanne Partridge to continue to fulfill the reeve's duties.

Almost two months ago, Reeve Dave Burton ruptured the tendons and quad muscles in both his legs after slipping and falling on the ice at his home. He underwent surgery and has spent the past few weeks at the Haliburton hospital.

Under the Municipal Act, councillors cannot miss meetings for three months without permission from council. The resolution permits Burton to miss "three successive months and greater."

Burton is anticipated to return in June.

In an interview, he told *The Highlander* he would be going to Peterborough on Wednesday for rehabilitation. This was initially expected to last anywhere from three weeks to three months.

"I'm walking with a walker," said Burton on Tuesday. "I'm up and at it." *(Mark Arike)*

Fire calls nearly double in HE

Firefighters in Highlands East were kept on their toes last month with 31 calls, the majority of which were medical assists.

"Last month was crazy," Fire Chief Bill Wingrove told council on Monday.

This is a 45 per cent increase from January 2016 when there were 17 calls.

Code 4 calls—deemed life-threatening—are "going through the roof," he said, adding he believes this is because of the aging population.

Three of the calls were for structure fires and one was a motor vehicle collision.

Wingrove's monthly report is submitted to council for information only. *(Mark Arike)*

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Highlander news



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Col. Chris Hadfield. Submitted photo.

Col. Chris Hadfield coming to Lindsay

By Lisa Gervais

The United Way for the City of Kawartha Lakes – which also funds Haliburton County-based member agencies – announced this week that Col. Chris Hadfield will be presenting his colourful and inspirational keynote address at the Academy Theatre in Lindsay May 11.

Hadfield was raised on a corn farm in Ontario and grew up to be the first Canadian to command a spaceship, as well as the first Canadian astronaut to walk in space. He's a *New York Times*-bestselling author who became a YouTube sensation when he captivated the world through social media with his photos, stories and music while onboard the International Space Station in 2013.

"This is an amazing boost for our area," said Penny Barton Dyke, executive director of the United Way for CKL. "Col. Hadfield is internationally renowned and so inspirational. We are excited to have

his visit coincide with both the 150th anniversary of Canada and the 50th anniversary of our United Way. We are grateful to the three chairs committee and the sponsors that have made this fundraiser possible."

The committee's Barb Truax said, "Our goal is to host a successful and entertaining event to show our support for the United Way. The UW funded 11 agencies to help 30,000 people from our community last year. When the idea was spawned to find an outstanding and interesting keynote speaker ... Col. Chris Hadfield was our immediate first choice. He often speaks to much larger crowds and in much larger venues. We are just thrilled that he will join us here in Lindsay for an intimate evening in our beautiful, historic Academy Theatre."

Tickets to "Out of This World with Col. Chris Hadfield" are available now at the Academy Theatre box office 705-324-9111 or online at: academytheatre.ca

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Highlander news

Roads drive Minden tax rates up

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills ratepayers will see an average residential tax rate increase of 5.66 per cent after council passes its 2017 budget at its next meeting Feb. 23.

It's an increase from \$3.21 per \$1,000 in assessment to \$3.37.

A recommended freeze in water and sewer rates has been proposed and is expected to pass as well. These remained unchanged since 2015.

Contributing to the tax increase is higher OPP policing costs again this year (approximately \$100,000) and wages and benefits (up 1.7 per cent).

Of note, council will also take \$1.972 million from reserves to build its new fire hall this year.

Overall, Reeve Brent Devolin said it was a "defendable" budget.

"We're heading in the right direction towards sustainability," he said in an interview.

If one was to take away the increases in policing and contractual obligations, the reeve said the budget is in the "pretty tight range."

"We have obviously been playing catch up with roads after almost a decade. But most of our departments came in under a three per cent increase and we are building a \$2 m fire hall this year and basically paying cash," he said.

CAO and treasurer, Lorrie Blanchard,

said in a report that road expenditures have increased, compared to 2016, by 14.11 per cent. She said that since 2011, the roads budget had increased by 56.64 per cent.

There will be more money set aside for resurfacing, brushing, patching, safety

device costs and fixing up load restricted bridges.

The cultural centre budget is also up after sustaining heavy cuts in 2016.

The public was invited to comment on the budget at the Feb. 9 meeting and only Canning Lake resident Jim Mitchell,

who attended all of the meetings, spoke out. "You've done a great job under the circumstances," he said.

Councillor Pam Sayne said she was "very pleased council is focusing on infrastructure and it is a challenge going forward."

Paper, internet and telephone voting

Residents of Minden Hills will vote the same way they did last time around after council endorsed a paper ballot and Internet/telephone option at its Feb. 9 meeting.

In 2014, the township used traditional paper ballot and internet/telephone voting at a cost of \$58,425.38.

Clerk Dawn Newhook, in a report, said 73.9 per cent of voters used Internet/phone and another 26.1 per cent paper ballot.

While one might think the older demographic, those aged 60-90, would have used paper ballot, only 30 per cent voted using paper.

"One of the clerk's duties during an election is to ensure the voting process is as accessible as possible," Newhook

said. "Using the Internet/telephone voting method addresses provincial accessibility regulations and provides for a very accessible voting method as voters are able to vote from anywhere, anytime and from the comfort of their own home."

She noted there were no security breaches despite some initial hesitation amongst voters. The estimated cost for 2018 is \$63,000. Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch was happy to maintain the status quo as was Coun. Pam Sayne. "I do like the consistency," she said.

No to broadband grant

Minden Hills council is more interested in pursuing an Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) cell gap analysis project rather than the upcoming federal broadband grant.

County of Haliburton IT manager, Mike March, made a presentation to council's

Minden Hills briefs

Feb. 9 meeting. He said details of the program, titled Connect to Innovate, have now been released. It is a \$500 million, five-year program. One of its recipients could be municipalities but they would have to partner with a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) if deciding to proceed with a grant application.

In a written report, March said the EORN will not apply due a lack of interest from Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC) members. The county isn't applying either. He added the cost of partnering with Bell is high with no guarantee of expanded fibre increasing broadband service.

Reeve Brent Devolin said he didn't want to jeopardize the EORN project and added Connect to Innovate risked sizeable money with no guarantees. "We'll pass on this and put our efforts into the cell gap analysis," he said.

INFORMATION PAGE

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Meetings

PUBLIC WELCOME

Feb 23 – 9:00 am, Regular Council meeting, Minden Council Chambers

Mar 9 – 9:00 am, COTW meeting of Council, Minden Council Chambers

For Council Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca

Youth Softball Registration Week

(at the Minden Community Centre)

Monday March 6th 6-8 pm
Tuesday May 7th 1-4 pm
Wednesday May 8th 6-8 pm
Thursday May 9th 1-4 pm
Cost is \$40.00

Please note: Registrations will not be accepted after Friday March 31st

For more information please contact
Elisha:
705-286-2298
or eweiss@mindenhills.ca



Notice – Adoption of 2017 Budget

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, during its Regular Meeting on February 23, 2017, will consider adopting the following:

**2017 Budget for the Minden Cemetery Board,
By-law for 2017 Minden Water Rates
By-law for 2017 Minden Sewer Rates
By-law for 2017 Lutterworth Water Rates
2017 Estimates By-law.**

The Regular Council Meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk at 705-286-1260 ext. 205 or email dnewhook@mindenhills.ca

Employment Opportunities

The Community Services Department is seeking the following positions:

- Two (2) Summer Students – Parks Position
- Three (3) Summer Students (Heritage Interpreters) for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre
- One (1) Recreation & Events Assistant

Please visit www.mindenhills.ca for complete postings, job descriptions and application deadlines.

Council and Staff wish everyone a safe and happy Family Day Holiday The Administration Office will be CLOSED on Monday February 20, 2017

Important Tax Information

The 2017 Interim tax bills will be mailed on February 24th, 2017. If you have not received your bill(s) **prior to** the March due date, please contact our office.

The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments; March 24th and May 19th, 2017. This bill has been calculated using the 2016 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2016 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 13th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change.

Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

Payment Options and Procedures:

Your taxes may be paid via pre-authorized payment or telephone/internet banking services of the CIBC, Bank of Montreal, TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia or any Canadian Credit Union. Payment may be mailed to our postal address; if you require a receipt please provide a self addressed, stamped envelope. You may also pay your taxes by debit, cheque or cash in person at the Municipal Office, using the Pritchard Lane entrance.

Please note that if you use telephone or internet banking to pay your taxes, a separate account is required for each roll number. Your account is the 19 digit roll number found on your tax bill that starts with 4616. As we are now using automatic uploading of payment information, it is even more important that you use the correct account information. Any corrections due to incorrect account information will be charged a \$25.00 administration fee.

The Township will not be held responsible for any penalty or interest charges **resulting from inaccurate account information. Please ensure that you are using the correct 19 digit number, and that each tax account is paid separately.**

If you wish to pay by preauthorized payment, the Township offers three plans. Forms are available on our website or at the Township office.

Notice – Public Meeting Proposed Fee Changes

The Council of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to its Fees and Charges By-law and Scale of Costs By-law on February 23, 2017 commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street.

The proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-Law will apply to the following items:

- Rental rate increase for minimum 4 hour rental from \$40.00 to \$48.00 and each additional hour from \$10/hr to \$12/hr for the use of the Lochlin Community Centre.
- Change in the Tipping fees for Compaction Trucks and Bins to a rate of \$35.00 per cubic yard.

For more information please contact Ivan Ingram, Environmental and Property Operations Manager at iingram@mindenhills.ca or 705-286-1260 ext. 216

The proposed changes to the Scale of Costs By-law are related to the administrative services provided for the Sale of Land for Tax Arrears and include increases to:

- costs incurred to commence tax sale proceedings, from \$200.00 to \$250.00;
- authorize Extension Agreements, from \$200.00 to \$250.00; and
- costs for Public Sale that include payment into and out of Court of Surplus funds, from \$400.00 to \$500.00.

For more information on these fees please contact Jane Leavis, Tax Collector and Payroll Administrator at jleavis@mindenhills.ca or 705-286-1260 ext. 201

Highlander news



A deer crossing sign on Highway 121. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

More warning signs coming to crash hot spots

Working with MTO and MNRF

By Lisa Gervais

More signs warning motorists about vehicle-wildlife collision ‘hot spots’ will be erected in Haliburton County in coming months, local Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) say.

Last week, six deer were struck by vehicles and one by a snowmobile.

“I just received support, just before Christmas, from the MTO (Ministry of Transportation) to provide additional signage,” Staff Sgt. Richard Riopelle told *The Highlander* recently.

However, the detachment commander said he didn’t yet know how many signs are going up or how much they will cost.

Staff Sgt. Riopelle said the OPP and MTO are still gathering statistics around collisions in which there is less than \$2,000 damage. These do not have to be reported to police.

“We are still working on a process to review and consider this data,” Staff Sgt. Riopelle said.

They have identified a clear trend surrounding animal-related collisions involving more than \$2,000 in damages as they are reported to police, he said.

He said there are a number of variables that they are still reviewing before he can confirm the exact hot spots, for example, collisions not reported to police, travels patterns of the deer population and feeding considerations.

“As we continue to analyze the data, we are actively educating people on safe driving practices to help decrease the chance of being involved in an animal-related collision.

“Although we have identified a trend and

have secured support from the MTO for more signage, there is further analysis that has to be confirmed between the OPP, MTO and MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) before signage is posted and hotspots are isolated, which requires that we take into consideration all of the statistics and other considerations mentioned.”

“We will have more definitive numbers on this over the coming months.”

Tips to avoid deer collisions

Be attentive from sunset to midnight and shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions. Drive with caution when moving through areas known to have a large deer population. Remember – deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

When driving at night, use high beams when there is no oncoming traffic. They will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.

Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.

Brake firmly but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when the driver swerves to avoid a deer and hits another vehicle or loses control of their own vehicle.

Wear your seat belt. Don’t rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer.

Slow down, stay in control and stay alert.

Should you be involved in a collision with a deer, or any other animal, which results in personal injury to you or anyone else in your vehicle and/or where the vehicle damage apparently exceeds \$2,000, you must report the collision to police.



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Highlander news



Point in Time staff and board members gather in front of the June White building at their Haliburton office on Tuesday. Photo by Mark Arike.

Point in Time passes the test once again

By Mark Arike

Point in Time has once again earned a seal of approval from a national organization.

It's the second time the charitable, non-profit has been awarded a four-year accreditation by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation (CCA).

"Our stakeholders can be assured that we have undergone an extensive internal and external review process that measures our organizational practices against sector and industry standards," said executive director

Marg Cox.

Accreditation is a process that provides assurance from a respected third party that the accredited organization meets commonly accepted standards for good governance, management, and excellence in service provision, according to a press release.

The CCA recognized Point in Time's "quality in clinical services, client approach and a high degree of collaboration across programs." Clients interviewed commended the organization

for "consistently going above and beyond to support them in a timely way to best meet their needs."

In addition, the CCA says Point in Time is to be commended for "committing to and working to facilitate an organic approach toward youth engagement."

"By choosing to go through the CCA accreditation process, Point in Time is demonstrating its accountability to the community and its commitment to providing the highest quality programs and services," said CCA executive director

Barbara Wiktorowicz.

Point in Time was previously accredited in 2012.

The organization offers services to the community in three areas: family support, mental health and youth justice.

The CCA was formed through the partnership of five Canadian associations of community service providers, bringing together a combined 100 years of accreditation experience, according to its website.

County denies side-by-sides on Rail Trail

By Mark Arike

A few months ago, county council decided not to open the multi-use Rail Trail to side-by-side off-road vehicles.

But despite that conclusion, the Haliburton ATV Association (HATVA) is still trying to convince them to change their minds.

HATVA administrator Eric Christensen came before council on Jan. 25 to request council amend its bylaw. He also highlighted the investments his organization has made in the local trail system.

"We need the support of county council

to develop the tourism product we have and to stay current with an industry that is changing all over the world," said Christensen, while reading a letter signed by HATVA president Bob Johnson and himself.

He said people have expressed a desire to ride the trail with their side-by-side. These vehicles range in size (some are wider than an ATV) and can seat two to six people.

HATVA made a similar request in the spring of 2015, but council denied it based on a recommendation from Craig Douglas, director of public works. Douglas explained

that certain parts of the county-owned trail are narrow and forest vegetation is encroaching on the original cleared route. The trail is only two metres wide.

Side-by-sides are allowed on the shoulders of certain provincial highways and municipal roads. In Highlands East, riders can go on the IB&O trail from Gooderham to Harcourt.

Former Warden Carol Moffatt pointed out that council had a lengthy conversation about the topic after receiving Douglas's report.

"I would assume that the association

would have been informed about that decision," said Moffatt.

"Yes, this issue has been before us," said Warden Brent Devolin, adding he would speak to the mayor of the City of Kawartha Lakes to see what their plans are.

"I'm empathetic ... there are just some contentious parts of it that I don't see a solution in. I don't see any way to police access," he said.

Council received Christensen's presentation for information only. The trail will remain closed to side-by-sides for the foreseeable future.



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Highlander news



Haliburton Highlands
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Breakfast with the Warden

Tuesday, March 7th
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Guest Speaker: County of
Haliburton Warden, Brent
Devolin

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Heather says, "when I think about putting the customer first, I reflect on what I can do for them and how I can utilize all of the resources I have available to me because the success of our local businesses is important." For more about Heather and why she's a recipient of the Customer First – Employee Award, go to www.haliburtonchamber.com.

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Haliburton Highlands
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

County to give YWCA \$25,000

By Alex Coop

Haliburton County will likely support the YWCA to the tune of \$25,000, a Feb. 3 county budget meeting concluded.

Rather than have each municipality respond to the one-time request of \$5,000, county councillors agreed it was more appropriate for the county to do that and donate \$12,500 in 2017 and 2018.

Jen Cureton, director of philanthropy and communications for the YWCA, had arranged to meet all four townships and the county to ask for the one-time donation after the only shelter for women and their families in the county was closed from November 2015 to March 2016 because of a shortage of money.

"We will deliver that (\$25,000) through the county because much of these types of services fall under the county's mandate and that's the conduit and more normal place to do it," County Reeve Brent Devolin told *The Highlander* Monday.

The Township of Minden Hills pledged \$5,000 to be split over two years during a council meeting Jan. 26, but because of the

county's decision to include the \$25,000 in its budget instead, Devolin says Minden Hills' decision will probably be reversed.

"We're not undoing the resolution until the county formally says yes to its budget, but the minute the county does that then that comes off the table," he said.

Cureton visited Dysart et al Feb. 9 to ask for the \$5,000 and told councillors that the demand for their services last year was very high in Haliburton County.

They helped 124 women last year and responded to 1,209 crisis calls through their 24/7 crisis line, she said, and cited a woman who travelled 12 km with no shoes to reach their shelter.

"The reason we had to close for five months (was) because we were simply out of money," she said. "Our crisis line was still open and our counselling services continued."

Cureton added the shelter's closure wasn't publicized because they didn't want to deter women from accessing their other services.

"Whenever we raise money in Haliburton County it stays here," she said.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey said

penalties tied to domestic abuse are often not severe enough, but said he was confused as to why women return to abusive relationships.

"I do get frustrated when a woman is a victim and she decides to go back, I frankly don't understand that," he said.

Cureton explained many women in those situations are isolated and live in remote areas where they are unable to have access to a support system.

Sometimes women trade sex for shelter or firewood, and don't have a way out of the situation, she added.

After the meeting, Cureton said she was pleased with the announcement that the county would be providing them with the one-time \$25,000 donation.

"It's possible that not every municipality would have had the ability to do it, so it's nice that they (the county) stepped forward," she said.

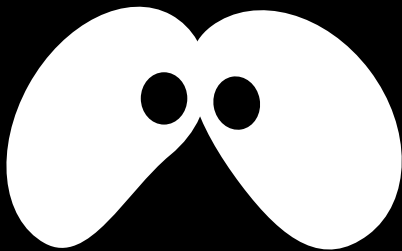
According to county CAO Mike Rutter, it is within each municipality's jurisdiction to provide the Y with additional funding if they so chose to.



Const. Matt Leach chases the puck. Photo by Alex Coop

Wilberforce Elementary squeaks out win against OPP

Hockey players from Wilberforce Elementary School forced a shoot-out against an experienced Haliburton Highlands OPP roster Feb. 10 at the Keith Tallman Memorial Arena, and won 18-17. The game, which was the first of three for the OPP, was organized to help raise awareness around youth homelessness and the national Push for Change campaign. Archie Stouffer hockey players will take on the police March 1 at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in Minden, while hockey players from J.D. Hodgson Elementary School will play at the A.J. LaRue Arena March 3 at 1 p.m. The majority of the students participating in each game are senior students who have some experience playing hockey. Admission to the games are free, but donations of food items, cash and winter items will be accepted, and will be donated to United Way and The Push for Change Foundation. (Alex Coop).



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Highlander arts

What's Up Fire & Ice: an event for the senses

Fire and ice. These are the essential and opposing ingredients that set the tone for a fun-filled winter activity on the grounds of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

The annual 'Fire & Ice' event is aimed at all the senses; sight, smell, taste, feel and sound. There will be the tangy, peaty aroma and smoothly sharp sensation of top-notch Scotch, the heady intake of fine wines and the palate-titillating taste of craft beer. The taste buds will also be activated and the drinks complemented by the gastronomic offerings of local establishments such as Molly's Bistro, Norm's Smoke House, Wintergreen Maple Syrup Shack and the Dominion Hotel. This fine pottage of tastes will be accompanied by the crackling sounds of a bonfire on the museum grounds, music to dance to, and the feel of snow underfoot.

If you're not already on sensory overload, you can participate in challenging winter games, or try to win a prize as the best dressed hoser. All this, and more, is being presented by the trio of talented women stirring the pot of this culinary and quaffing extravaganza. They are Ruth O'Connell, the curatorial programming assistant at the museum, Elisha Weiss, the community development coordinator and Laurie Carmount, the cultural centre coordinator and curator of the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

"Some of the specialty scotches being offered are Aberlour A'Bunadh, Talisker 10 Years Old Single Malt, Auchentoshan Three Wood Lowland Single Malt, Glengoyne 12 Year Old Highland Single

Malt, as well as a Tullibardine Sauternes 225 Finish Single Malt. The cognac is Martell Medallion VSOP," Carmount revealed.

"The food plates will be a surprise, but it's up to the restaurant owners to interpret the fire and ice concept," said O'Connell. "We're hoping for a variety, and people will be asked to vote for their favourite dish." The recipient of the people's choice will be awarded a certificate.

Weiss is responsible for organizing the three games. So, to whet the appetite, or to burn off some of the calories, you can participate in snowshoe relay, human sled races, and fire vs ice tug of war. Prizes will be awarded.

You should dress warmly for the outside activities, but in addition to the bonfire you can warm up in some of the heritage buildings. The Bowron House will be serving tea, coffee, and Baileys Irish Cream



By George Farrell

'Fire & Ice' will take place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 7-10 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the event, or in advance at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden. Tickets are \$25 which includes admission, food, and two drinks of your choice. Additional drinks tickets can be purchased for \$5 each. You must be 19 or over to purchase tickets. More info can be found at mindenculturalcentre.com or by calling 705-286-3763.

liqueur; and the Sterling Bank, which houses the museum, will be open for tastings of scotch, wine and beer. In the Common Room, there will be a display of vintage photographs of past winter carnivals.

The gallery will be open and there are two fine exhibitions presently on display. 'Eclipsed' features information on, and art by, Andre Lapine. 'Elements' showcases pottery, sculpture, jewelry, basketry and wood carving by five very talented local artists.

Arts in briefs

FoRT celebrates rail line history

The Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) is celebrating its 10th anniversary plus 100 years of railway history with two film screenings on Feb. 22.

The first film, titled "The Railway to Haliburton," provides an overview of the railway's history in Haliburton County. It was written and narrated by Leopoldina Dobrzensky, a local historian and author, and filmed in 2008 by Charles Taylor.

"Old Rails, Remembered Tales" captures local storytelling about life in railway towns along the line from Kinnmount to Haliburton Village. Personal recollections were recorded during FoRT's founding community supper at Camp Wanakita in 2007.

"I'd like to encourage local students to participate in this year's event by attending the screenings, then helping us to collect more railway stories from the community over the upcoming year," said FoRT chair Pamela Marsales.

The event starts at 7 p.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Admission is pay-what-you-can.

There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Seating is limited. Call 705-457-4767 to reserve a spot.

To learn more about FoRT and other upcoming events, visit friendsoftherailtrail.ca. (Mark Arike)



Art and Craft Festival deadline approaching

Are you an artist or artisan looking for a busy venue to showcase your talent?

The Rails End Gallery is accepting applications for the 55th annual Haliburton Art and Craft Festival in July. The deadline is Feb. 24 at 11 p.m.

"With average attendance of 7,000, this event is a great way to meet new customers, raise your profile and grow your art business," states a press release.

The juried show features 125 artists from across the province, including a few from Haliburton County. It takes place on the fourth weekend of July in Head Lake Park. To apply, visit railsendgallery.com. (Mark Arike)

Dysart commits \$50K to Rails End Gallery

They came prepared to make a speech, but Dysart had already made their decision.

Laurie Jones, Rails End Gallery curator, and its president, Susanne James, visited the council chambers Feb. 9 to ask councillors to continue their commitment of \$50,000 in 2017.

"We're one of the oldest organizations in the province ... it's quite an achievement to stick around for more than 50 years," James told councillors after listing the various exhibitions and programs the gallery offers, and how the funding from Dysart helps improve services.

Last year, the gallery had 8,000 visitors. "It's already in the budget," Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey said with a smile, to which James and Jones expressed a collective sigh of relief.

"Thank you very much, we really appreciate it," Jones told councillors. (Alex Coop)

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2017 Real Estate Report

Going cottage hunting in winter

By Mark Arike

Once the snow melts and spring arrives, cottage properties will be in high demand.

But if you can't wait until then and are looking to go on the hunt early, there are some things you should keep in mind.

You should start by doing your research and finding a realtor you are most comfortable working with, says Anthony vanLieshout, broker of record of Royal LePage Lakes of Haliburton.

"Make sure you find someone who understands what your expectations are," said vanLieshout, who has three decades of experience.

The winter season poses a challenge because the snow makes it difficult to get a good view of a property, and identify its pros and cons. He suggests requesting summer or off-season photos and talking to the neighbours. If it's a waterfront property, they would be an unbiased source who could tell you about shoreline quality and depth.

"Shoreline quality is important," he said. "Is it sand or rock? What's the depth? Is there weed growth? The privacy and the view is obvious regardless of the season,



A snow-covered home for sale in Haliburton. Photo by Mark Arike.

but all those other things are important characteristics for buyers."

One of the most common mistakes potential buyers focus on is what can be changed instead of what can't, said vanLieshout. For example, countertops can be altered but exposure can't.

For those hesitant to venture out to see a property they are interested in,

he recommends making an offer that is conditional upon a spring inspection. (The seller would need to agree to this.)

As a realtor trying to showcase these properties, he asks the seller for any off-season photos they might have and tries to obtain the neighbours' information for potential buyers to contact.

vanLieshout predicts "a very robust

spring market" this year with limited inventory.

"I think the earlier people can get into the market, the better they're going to be. I believe prices are going to continue an upward trend."

A variety of properties in the area can be found at realtor.ca.

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2017 Real Estate Report

County wants more secondary units

Planning ahead to create rental housing

By Alex Coop

To keep with its projected growth and development and to accommodate the increased need for affordable housing, Haliburton County's 2017 draft official plan (OP) is encouraging municipalities to permit the development of garden suites and secondary units.

The draft OP, a document highlighting municipal planning initiatives and development goals based on provincial recommendations, projects a county-wide population of 21,420 by 2036, which is a 26 per cent increase from 2011, and will largely be comprised of seniors over the age of 55.

A minimum of 25 per cent of new housing units across the county will be affordable, the document says, and should include various household types, such as larger families, seniors, and residents with special needs.

Secondary units like basement apartments, in addition to garden suites, which are one-unit detached residential structures containing both bathroom and kitchen facilities, will also help increase the decreasing stock of rental units in the county.

The rental supply has dropped from 1,070 to 910 between 1996 and 2006, according to the county's 2013 housing strategy.

"The policies we build today are for 20 years from now," County planner Charley White said about the draft OP, meaning if the county's annual population growth suddenly spiked in 2018, the law requires the county to have a housing supply that is ready to build in three years or slated for construction in 10.

"This document (draft OP) is proactive, not reactive ... some municipalities already (have) some of these initiatives on the books," White said, pointing to the various medium and high-density units being built in Minden and Haliburton.

County Reeve Brent Devolin says private developers are looking to build more condos and apartments in the area, and although current individual units cost around \$200,000 and \$300,000, the county is "on the cusp" of seeing more affordable apartments rise from the ground.

Short-term rentals, specifically waterfront short-term rentals, are not addressed in the draft county OP.

The increasing number of Airbnb listings in Haliburton County — a quick search reveals nearly 250 listings, most of them lakefront cottages — has frustrated some cottagers who find themselves living next to a revolving door of neighbours renting a cottage from irresponsible owners who



The rental supply has dropped from 1,070 to 910 between 1996 and 2006, according to the county's 2013 housing strategy. Photo by Alex Coop.

don't screen renters or hand out cottage kits.

Most cottage owners rent out their lakefront homes responsibly, says Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, and it's going to take time to come up with ways to identify, and prevent irresponsible cottage owners from disrespecting their neighbours and the environment.

"I know people are happy that the conversation is happening more, but nothing is going to be in place yet this summer," Moffatt said.

Highlands East formed a task group in December to research what other townships are doing about short-term rentals and identify specific concerns.

Zoning, environmental, health and safety, and parking are the primary issues so far, says the township's chief administrative officer Shannon Hunter, who is a member of the task group, alongside Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton, Deputy-Reeve Suzanne Partridge and Cottage Care Rentals.



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What's selling and sold



Photos from realtor.ca

In Town - Haliburton - 267 Riverside Drive

Within walking distance to everything in Haliburton Village, this spacious three-bedroom features a master bedroom with a walk-in closet and ensuite bathroom. Realtor Lisa Mercer says it's an ideal home for a family, with three large bedrooms and three bathrooms. Wood accents add charm and a lick of paint is all you need to make it your own. A detached, two-car garage adds plenty of storage or parking space and there's nearly an acre for kids and pets to roam. Appliances and a wood stove are included in the price of \$239,900.



Waterfront - Minden - 1016 Gainer Road

In this price range we start seeing the best of both worlds: 3,200 square feet of luxury living with five bedrooms (3+2) and four bathrooms (3+1), all within minutes of Minden Village. Year-round access and a well-treed lot on Mountain Lake make this property a four-season home or retreat. There's even a private, 400 square foot bunkie for guests so you can enjoy your visitors without having them underfoot. Broker Anthony vanLieshout loves the extensive docks and decking, as well as the two covered and screened porches with spectacular lake views. \$775,000.



Recently Sold Hunter Creek Estates, Minden

Listed at: \$96,500
Sold for: 100 per cent
of asking price
Days on Market: 146

Where else can you find a home for under \$100,000? Ok, it's leased land but your \$231 annual payment covers garbage collection and snow plowing. The buyers are getting two bedrooms, 980 square feet of living space, sunroom and detached garage. Appliances were included and it's all minutes to Minden. Realtor Bill Kulas likes Hunter Creek for its affordability, convenience and location. Obviously the buyers do, too.



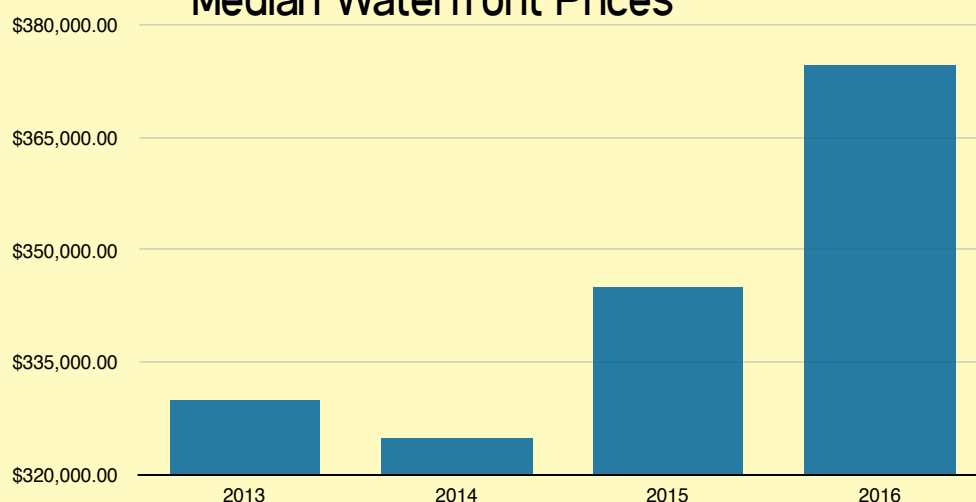
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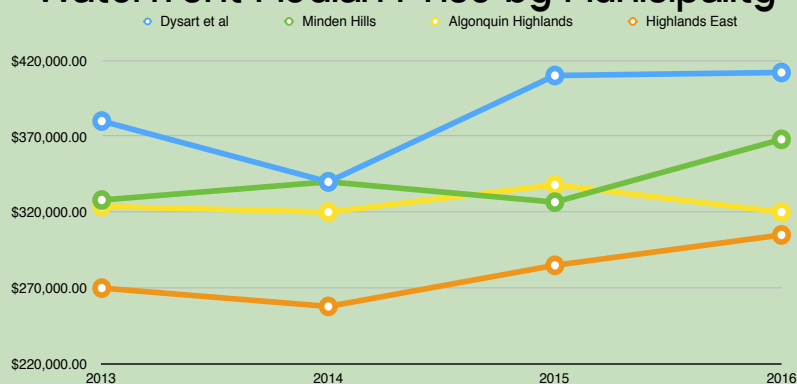
Are prices up, or down?

Median Waterfront Prices



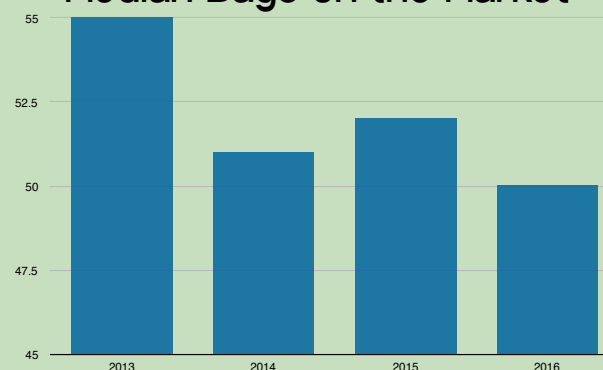
The Haliburton County real estate market is finally on the rise. After taking a hit in 2008, the region is starting to see an increase in property values for both waterfront and non-waterfront homes. On average, prices for waterfront homes and cottages are up by 8.3 per cent over 2015.

Waterfront Median Price by Municipality



Despite irregularities in the median prices, which are easily skewed based on higher end sales, the average sale price of improved properties has risen throughout the county.

Median Days on the Market



A good indicator of demand for properties is the number of days a new listing stays on the market. This year saw a dramatic reduction in days on the market. Buyers are interested in Haliburton County which means homes and cottages are selling faster.

For more information visit MarketStats.ca

2017 forecast

A strong 2016 property market resulted from increased demand, leaving fewer homes and cottages on the market than usual. Spring of 2017 is shaping up nicely and we expect continued strong demand combined with lower inventory levels. Under these conditions, we foresee a continued increase in property values for Haliburton County.

- Anthony vanLieshout



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2017 Real Estate Report

Get inspections before selling

By Lisa Gervais

Selling your home can often be a stressful experience, but Ian Myers of Myers Chimney has some good advice to help reduce the stress — at least where your solid fuel burning appliances are concerned.

“You should absolutely get any wood stove, fireplace and pellet stove inspections completed before you list your home for sale,” he says. “If the purchaser makes an offer, and as they often do, make one of the conditions that the system be compliant, now suddenly you must act fast, get an inspection and make repairs if you want to make the deal work.”

Myers said that if repairs or replacement are required, it also gives an “unscrupulous negotiator” an upper hand against you which is disconcerting.

If the wood stove is non-compliant, you can remove the stove and flue pipe, putting an \$8 cap over the chimney.

Ian Myers
Myers Chimney

“I had one unfortunate couple who were selling their home have someone try to convince them that the factory-built fireplace required replacing since there were distortions in the metal lining of the firebox. The purchaser was asking for a \$5,000 reduction in the asking price. In that particular model those plates were removable and worth about \$50 it was my pleasure to inform them,” Myers said.

If you do have the inspection beforehand, and find out the chimney requires replacing but don’t want to deal with it, just mention in your listing that an upgrade is required and the stress will be avoided completely, he added.

“If the wood stove is non-compliant, you can remove the stove and flue pipe, putting an \$8 cap over the chimney. This gives the purchaser a clean, open space to fantasize what wood stove they could have installed and most important you are removing the possibility of misunderstanding.”

Myers said if there are minor issues, and buyer and seller are sincere, a simple note and initial to the document will smooth over any rough edges to the contract.

“I always tell people that if an inspector recommends an expensive repair, they should consider getting a second opinion.

It has happened numerous times where another inspector will recommend a fireplace or chimney be replaced and I get called in to quote, only to find that the chimney or fireplace was compliant and that the inspector did not know what they were looking at. Not all inspectors are equal in their abilities.”

Not all inspectors are equal

“There seems to be a lot of effort put into convincing the customer of the grand skills of the inspector as opposed to developing skills as an inspector. Yes, I just said that. It is important for consumers to know that (non-municipal) inspectors have absolutely no authority.”

He said that in the case of a WETT-certified Inspector, they are there to interpret building code as well as manufacturers’ instructions as to the installation of their appliances.

“The parcel that we deliver is ‘good will’ in the strongest of terms. You should know as a consumer that there are different skill levels amongst those providing inspection services. Hiring an inspector (and not just for a wood stove) should be carefully considered. I would suggest you lean towards those that have technical knowledge and experience with the subject of inspection. As far as the inspection of wood stoves, fireplaces and pellet stoves is concerned, an inspector should bring to your attention those features of the installation that appear to be non-compliant that they have identified. What if they do not possess much in the way of technical knowledge or are a new inspector? In other words, their only experience is with inspecting. There are such inspectors. I personally feel that consumers would be better served by such inspectors if they were obligated to advise the customer that they are not a technician. In the very least, home owners should be informed of what has not been inspected, such as inside the flue pipe, chimney and attic area etc. The easiest way to mitigate this problem would be for inspectors (WETT-Certified or otherwise) to recommend a reputable WETT-certified chimney sweep with every wood burning inspection, since that would elevate the inspection from a Level 1 basic to a Level 2 — where the inside of the system is inspected and swept if required. When it comes to solid fuel burning appliances, what is unseen and not involved in a Level 1 inspection can often present the greatest hazard.”



A typical woodstove in Haliburton County. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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2017 Real Estate Report



Haliburton County is a surprisingly happening place that is attracting all kinds of people for different reasons. *File photo.*

What's making the Highlands hot?

Haliburton County has always been a less populated, more laid back version of cottage areas to the south in the Kawarthas and west in Muskoka. In the last few decades, the population has grown with retirees, cottagers, entrepreneurs and artists, to name a few. Together with long-time locals, they've created a surprisingly happening place that is attracting all kinds of people for different reasons. You will never be at a loss for something to do or new friends to meet.

Cottaging

The Highlands has the complete package for cottagers, with starting prices well below what you'll find in other areas like Muskoka. Our lakes and waterways are generally cleaner and many are still undeveloped. A dozen or so small towns and hamlets, plus hundreds of attractions scattered throughout the county, from art school to zip lines, provide convenience and enjoyment whatever the weather.

Many cottagers get involved in the community or their lake associations. The associations often take responsibility for lake stewardship and social activities and are a good starting point for getting to know people. Go a bit further and there are groups and activities serving nearly every interest, sports and events for every season.

Retirement

If you don't mind a bit of winter, Haliburton County may be one of the

best places in the world to retire. Roughly 30 per cent of the permanent population is over 65, a group that has spawned enough sports, clubs and advocacy groups to keep you busy every day of the year. The county has three curling clubs and three environmental groups; there are organizations dedicated to local food, quilting, gardening, hunting and fishing, health care, poverty, physical health and mental wellness – just for starters. It's easy to make friends, and newcomers can often find themselves at the centre of town life within just a few months. With two local hospitals, a health clinic and a decent supply of healthcare practitioners, Haliburton County is a place retirees feel at ease.

Young families

The biggest challenge for young families moving to the Highlands is employment. Being a seasonal economy, there aren't many full-time, year-round, well-paying jobs outside the public sector. But there are some, and many of those public sector employees will soon retire, leaving opportunities for younger people. For those with licences or willing to train, there's also a great need for tradespeople of all types.

But once employment is sorted out, the Highlands offer a rich family experience lost in most other parts of the world. Employers, for the most part, respect family time, and it's normal for working parents to be home for dinner or to have the flexibility needed for childcare

arrangements. The Highlands has a strong school system and 4,000 square kilometres of wilderness to explore. Community still means something here. And if hockey is something the kids (or parents) are interested in, this just might be the best place anywhere.

Entrepreneurs and professionals

It's never been particularly easy to make a living in Haliburton County – not 150 years ago, and not today. But with modern communications technology, working from the dock is a more attractive alternative than some non-descript GTA

business park. That lifestyle is drawing professionals who can practice from a distance and entrepreneurs who see opportunity in our growing economy.

For the latter the options are endless. Every year, a few existing businesses look for a buyer so the owner can retire. Those interested in starting a new business should take note of the revival in small manufacturing: intrepid business owners are putting technology and craftsmanship to work, and succeeding, building companies of one or two dozen employees and creating products for local use and export. Some examples are glassware, soap, furniture, cabinetry, water line technology, video production, marketing services and food.

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*not intended to solicit properties already listed.



Construction at the Drag Lake Dam's site continues. *Submitted.*

Drag Lake dam repairs on time and on budget

By Mark Arike

Two dams on Drag Lake are being repaired and all the work should be finished this fall, according to Darryl Whitehead, external relations manager for Parks Canada.

A construction access is being built in front of the South dam that incorporates culverts for continued water management during construction. When finished, crews will work on the temporary dam structure (coffer dam) in front of the North dam. These temporary structures will create a dry work space, giving the contractor full access for repairs.

Damaged concrete is being chipped away from the North dam.

The \$1.85 million rehabilitation project is coordinated in a way that allows one dam to control water while the other undergoes repairs, said Whitehead.

The entire contract was awarded to MTM-2 Contracting Inc. last year.

"The rehabilitation of the Drag Lake dams

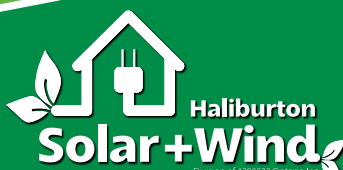
is part of the approximately \$50 million in investments into infrastructure across the Haliburton sector of the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site," he told *The Highlander*.

The project is expected to be on budget based on current forecasts.

There will be a break in construction this month, but next month the contractor will begin dewatering the area adjacent to the North dam before continuing to replace damaged concrete.

The dams are surrounded by property that is privately owned. Access across the dam and at the construction site will be restricted at this time. Following construction, the dam will only be accessible with the permission of the neighbouring landowner.

For updates on these and other projects, visit pc.gc.ca/tswInfrastructure. For questions or concerns, or to receive updates regarding this project, email ont.trentsevern@pc.gc.ca and include "Drag Lake Dams" in the subject heading.



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Highlander events

A celebration of life for Parker

A celebration of life was held Saturday night in Minden for Parker Simpson, the eight-year-old boy with local roots who lost his battle to cancer Feb. 8.

A sell-out crowd of more than 200 people attended a Valentine's dinner and dance at the Minden Community Centre to raise funds for Parker's family.

On Sunday, the little boy was laid to rest by family and friends in Kingston.

The night was organized by Brandi Hewson, Marita Bagshaw, Brianne Pockett, Courtney Wilson and Britney Rock.

Hewson told *The Highlander* while Parker's death is "heartbreaking," organizers decided to go ahead with the fundraising evening as the family still needs financial support.

The night featured a dinner, raffle ticket sales, an auction of donated items and a dance.

Hewson said the community "was beyond generous" in donating the amount of items that were up for grabs. (Lisa Gervais).



Right: Marita Bagshaw, Brianne Pockett, Brandi Hewson, Courtney Wilson and Britney Rock organized the Valentine's dinner and dance for the family of Parker Simpson.

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Highlander events



Forest poker run raises more than \$10K

The popular Snowmobile Poker Run returned to Haliburton Forest on Saturday (Feb. 11). It was the 27th year for the event that has raised more than \$200,000 for local charities, including this year's recipient: the Haliburton Firefighters Association. This year's event raised \$10,000. Participants rode the trails from shelter cabin to shelter cabin, collecting token cards. The shelters also provided a break opportunity. At the end of the day, the tokens collected were exchanged for a draw of a poker hand. Above: Mike Brunelle, Sheryl Robitaille, Tania Wray and Glenn Crawford, of Victoria Harbour, say it is a Valentine's Day outing. Left: LG Forest poker run 3: Phil 'the farmer' Brown and Nathan Brown work on a broken down sled. (Photos by Lisa Gervais).

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Highland Storm



Referee Brad Tait drops the puck during a Highland Storm Tyke game on Saturday in Haliburton Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Storm reports

JoAnne Sharpley's Source for Sports/Haliburton Family Medical Centre Peewees

On Feb. 10, the Peewees headed to Ennismore to play in their first playoff game. Both teams came out wanting to set the tone early. The first period was a battle back and forth with the Eagles scoring with three seconds left in the first to put them ahead 1-0. The Storm struck in the second with Kolby McGovern scoring, assisted by Nick Phippen and Kyan Hall. Two minutes later, the Storm put in another from Dylan Keefer assisted by Colin Glecoff. Before Ennismore could regroup, the Storm took advantage with another goal scored by Olivia Villamere assisted by Mathias Lee. The Eagles came right back eight seconds later to put one of their own in but the Storm finished out the second frame with one more goal scored by Keefer unassisted to put the Storm up 4-2 going into the third. The Eagles scored at the start of the third to bring them within one but the Storm netted another with Keefer scoring short-handed and Ty Mills scoring an empty-netter to seal the deal for the Storm, who went on to win, 6-3. Another amazing job between the pipes from Darian Maddock.

The Eagles headed to Haliburton for game two on Saturday. The Storm struck first with a goal by Keefer

unassisted. Despite the Storm playing short-handed multiple times, they retained the 1-0 lead going into the second thanks to excellent goaltending from Maddock. The Eagles managed to score a power play goal to tie it, but the Storm scored two in the second, short-handed 20 seconds apart, with Keefer tallying both, the first unassisted and the second assisted by Villamere. The Eagles scored another at the end of the second to make the score 3-2 going into the third. Both teams battled back and forth but the Storm struck eight seconds into the power play with a goal by Hall, assisted by Keefer. The Eagles tried everything they could but just couldn't net another with the Storm taking the game 4-2. Amazing goaltending by Maddock keeping his team in the game at all times.

On Sunday, the Storm headed back to Ennismore to play the Eagles to try to finish off the series with a sweep. The Eagles scored first on the power play but the Storm kept the pressure up and scored a power play goal of their own with Phippen putting it in, assisted by Keefer and Hall. The Storm weren't done yet with Keefer scoring assisted by McGovern. Then on the power play, the Storm struck once more with a goal by Hall assisted by Phippen putting the Storm up 3-1 going into the second. The Storm put in another power play goal scored by Hall, assisted by Phippen and Mills. Then Gage Hutchinson scored another for the Storm assisted by McGovern. The third period started with the Storm up 5-1.

Continued on page 32

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Highlander Storm



The Highlander's 3-Stars of the Week



Stats GP W
 3 3

Darian Maddock
PEEWEE

Friday, Feb. 10 was the Highland Storm Peewees first playoff game, as they headed to Ennismore to take on the Eagles. Though the Eagles got the jump on the Storm early, Maddock quickly took form and shut the door. Through three games, Maddock stood on his head, helping his team sweep the Eagles, picking up all three wins.



Stats GP G A
 2 1 1

Caleb Manning
NOVICE

The Highland Storm Novice team took on the Sturgeon Lake Thunder last weekend, looking to eliminate the team and move on to the semifinals. Though the Storm ultimately would prevail, it was on the back of the great defensive play throughout the series. Manning was able to chip in with a goal and assist, but it was the play by the entire Storm defensive unit that had the fans turning their heads.



Stats GP G A
 3 9 3

Dylan Keefer
PEEWEE

Last weekend, the Highland Storm Pee wee team was able to sweep their first round playoff series, as they met with the Ennismore Eagles for three games over three days. Keefer had quite the impressive feat, as he recorded a hat trick in all three games, ending the series with nine goals to go along with three helpers.

Local League Weekly Schedule

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Team TD Canada Trust- Practice- Haliburton @ 5PM-6PM

Team Rotary- Practice- Minden @ 5PM-6PM

Team Pharmasave- Practice- Haliburton @ 6PM-7PM

Team Canadian Tire- Practice- Haliburton @ 7PM-8PM

Team Home Hardware- Practice- Minden @ 7:30PM-8:30PM

Team McKeck's- Practice- Haliburton @ 8PM-9PM

There are no games scheduled for the Family Day Weekend. Action will pick back up February 22nd with the Initiation 1 and 2 practices in Haliburton.

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Storm reports continued

The Storm scored three more with a goal by Glecoff assisted by Phippen and Keefer, then two more for Keefer - one unassisted and the other assisted by Glecoff. The Storm swept the series and will move on to the semi-finals versus the Penetang Flames. *(Submitted by Ron Hall)*

Haliburton Timber Mart/Canadian Tire Novices

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the Highland Storm travelled to Fenelon Falls to face the Sturgeon Lake Thunder in game two of their playoff series. The Storm came out strong with fast skating and strong puck control, but unfortunately found themselves down by two goals late in the second period. With minutes remaining in the frame, Caleb Manning got the Storm on the board and brought the team back to life for the third period. Solid defence and strong offensive pressure kept the Storm on the attack

and Brechin Johnston netted two more goals late in the third, giving the Storm a 3-2 win. This put the team up 2-0 in the series.

Looking to finish off the series, the Storm hosted the Thunder on Sunday, Feb. 12. The Storm struck first in the early minutes of the game when McLean Rowden found the net putting the Storm up by one. The Thunder were not going to roll over and they too found the net, tying the game at one. The Storm continued to apply strong pressure on both sides of the puck, resulting in a couple of more goals for the Storm. The Thunder took advantage of some rebound opportunities and netted themselves a pair of goals, tying the game at three, heading into the third. The Storm were relentless in their puck control and fore-checking, stifling Thunder scoring opportunities and opening the door for the Storm. With some hard-fought puck battles, the Storm netted two goals in the third resulting in a 5-3 win. Goals were scored by Johnston, Austin Latanville and Josh Scheffee. Excellent defence by

Brady Burtch, Evan Jones, Manning and Parker Simms and superb goaltending by Chase Winder to seal the deal.

The team now advances to the semi-final round of the playoffs. The Storm will have to wait for their next match-up to be announced. *(Submitted by Janice Scheffee)*

Cottage Country Building Supplies/ Ridgewood Ford Atoms

On Feb. 11, the Highland Storm Atoms travelled to Wasaga Beach for the third game of the playoffs against the Wasaga Beach Stars. The Storm played hard but lost 10-4. Goals scored by Austin Boylan, Aiden Perrott and Avery Degreer.

The team is back in action for game four Friday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the A.J. LaRue Arena. *(Submitted by Amber Card)*

Tom Prentice & Sons Tykes

The Tyke team faced off against the Parry Sound Shamrocks on Saturday, Feb. 11. Everyone was ready for the game and all played their best. The defensive lines of Taylor Mulock with Matt Scheffee and Ethan DeCarlo with Zach Prentice kept the puck in the Shamrocks zone for most of the game. The forward lines were constantly shooting and passing the puck. Vanek Logan pulled out a hat trick with Evan Perrott getting an assist on one of them. Deagan Davison added to the lead with an unassisted goal. The final score was 4-1 Storm. The tykes will be ready for action on Friday, Feb. 17 when they face off against the Huntsville Otters at 6:40 p.m. in Huntsville. *(Submitted by Tamara Bain)*

Jet reports

The Bancroft I.D.A./ Red Eagle Family Campground midget B girls

The midget girls hosted the Ennismore Eagles on Saturday afternoon as they continued their provincial playdowns. The Jets opened the scoring late in the first period when Jordan Brownlee chipped home a rebound off a puck scramble in the slot to give Bancroft a 1-0 lead. Numerous chances to widen the gap on the scoreboard were generated by Bancroft ... but the Eagle tender stoned and stole all the Jets' attempts at finding the twine. The Jets could not build on their first period lead until late in the third period when Jamie Little potted another rebound tally off a goal-mouth scramble to give Bancroft a 2-0 lead. Katie Hoover turned aside all Ennismore chances securing the shut out win. The Jets host the West Northumberland Wild in Bancroft on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 4:30 p.m. *(Submitted by Dan Marsden)*



The Highland Storm Walkers Home Hardware intermediate team took on the Bancroft Jets Saturday in Haliburton. The Storm lost 4-3. Photo by Cindy Nesbitt.



Game of the Week

Friday, February 17, 2017

Atom Game of the Week

7:00PM @ A.J. LaRue Arena vs. Wasaga Beach Stars



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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Carol Duncan

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. In her 94th year.

Beloved wife of the late Ted. Dear mother of Heather and Laurel and loving grandmother of Troy, Skye, Paige and great grandmother of Dion and Cali. Dear sister of Lon and the late Max. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A Private Family Service will be held at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Extendicare Proud Pioneers would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

Douglas "Doug" Allen Ray

Passed away peacefully at home with his loving family by his side on Tuesday, January, 31, 2017, after a courageous 41/2 year journey against cancer.

Doug is survived by his wife and the love of his life Linda. Loving Dad to Shawna, Debbie (Carlin), Kaily, Jeff (Marilyn), Kevin (Lauren), Ando (woof!) and grandpa to Willow. Son of the late Isabel and Jim Ray, step-son of the late Richard Parisotto, son-in-law of Margaret and the late Peter Schepers, and John Heginbottom. Dear brother of Ruth (Glen) and Patricia (Patrick). Lovingly held in the hearts of his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 11:30 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Doug's Life at 2:30 pm. A Reception followed at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #636, 12847 Hwy.#35, Minden, Ontario. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Palliative Care Centre (HHHSF-PCC) would be appreciated by the family.



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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Robert "Bob" Jack Wiltshire

(Veteran of WWII RCAE, Retired Employee of GMAC, Member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch# 636, Minden, and Member of the Arcadia Lodge, Minden)

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest, Minden on Monday, February 6, 2017, with his loving family by his side. At the age of 91.

Beloved husband of Mildred Joyce Wiltshire (nee MacDonald) for 66 years. Loving father of Gary (Wendy), Tom (Melissa Caines), Wendy and grandfather of Jaclynn, Kellen and Shelby. Bob is predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law Alyce and Andy Mordison. Dear brother-in-law of Mary and Cameron McBain. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to join the family at the Zion United Church, East Road, Carnarvon on Saturday, February 18, 2017 for a Combined Masonic and Memorial Service to Celebrate Bob's Life at 11:00 am. Reception to follow in the Education Centre at the church. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Zion United Church would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

Bernice Murray

Passed away peacefully at South Lake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket on Thursday, February 9, 2017 with her loving family by her side, in her 86th year.

Beloved wife of late Stanley Warren and the late Jim Murray. Dear mother of Lynne (Garry) Penrice, Kim Burk (Royce Miller), Scott (Lilly) Rowsell and predeceased by her son-in-law Peter Burk. Loving grandmother of Cory, Lisa, Amanda and great grandmother of Synthia and William. Bernice is predeceased by her 4 brothers Austin, Jack, Ted and Ben. Lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Friends are invited to join the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, February 25, 2017 for a Service to Celebrate Bernice's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (Palliative Care Centre) (HHHSF-PCC) would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Position: Site Manager

Deadline: February 28, 2017

Apply: Please submit your resume and cover letter to Colin Leonard, Director
colin@kandalore.com

Camp Kandalore offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package.

www.kandalore.com



The Role:

The Site Manager is accountable for the overall maintenance and repair of the residential camp facilities and the supervision and management of the facilities staff.

The general duties include:

- Maintain grounds and ensure all buildings are in good repair. Identify and facilitate repairs where necessary
- Perform routine site checks and document deficiencies
- Prioritize daily repair schedule and complete repairs
- Maintain and regularly test the drinking water system as required
- Monitor the septic system and ensure it is maintained at all times
- Monitor and maintain the security of all buildings as well as the site
- Prepare the site for rental groups during the off-season

Experience and Qualifications

- A competent understanding of building construction, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing and septic systems
- Capable of training, supervising and support of facility staff
- A basic understanding of the Ontario Building Code
- An aptitude for the operation and maintenance of camp machinery, vehicles and tools
- General knowledge of landscaping
- Working knowledge of the drinking water treatment system. A current certification as a Small Seasonal Drinking Water Systems Operator is preferred.
- Fit to work in a rigorous and physically demanding work environment
- Valid driver's license
- Current police reference check

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Due to a retirement, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation has an exciting career opportunity for an experienced **Executive Director**. This position has the responsibility to accomplish necessary fundraising activities that support the needs of both Haliburton and Minden hospitals and health care facilities.

You will be creative and energetic with strong interpersonal abilities and willing to work with a variety of individuals and organizations.

Strong financial background with a related post-secondary education and good working knowledge of the community is a must for this opportunity.

If you are interested in working in our most beautiful and active community, then apply in confidence by 4:00 pm on Monday, February 20, 2017 to:

Peter E. Oyler, Chair of the HHHS Foundation,
via email at poyler@hhhs.ca

For further information on the HHHS Foundation, please refer to:
www.hhhs.ca/foundation

EVENTS

SWITZER’S, CANADA’S # 1
FIREARMS AUCTION

TWO SESSION LIVE AND ONLINE AUCTION

AT SWITZER'S AUCTION CENTRE, 25414 HIGHWAY 62 SOUTH, BANCROFT, ONT.

LISTINGS, PHOTO’S & REGISTRATION @:

www.switzersauction.com

CHECK BACK FOR REGULAR UPDATES.
GET YOUR CONSIGNMENTS IN EARLY FOR OUR APRIL 22ND SALE

SESSION ONE: ONLINE ONLY CLOSING WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22ND @ 7:00P.M. EDT, Military Cap Badges, Books, Accessories, Knives, Cloth Patches, Ammunition, Prisoner of War Tags..... Bidding Is Open Now!

SESSION TWO: LIVE & ONLINE STARTS 9:00 A.M. SAT. FEBRUARY 25TH. 9:00 A.M. EDT., COMPRISING OVER 400 NEW AND USED RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED HANDGUNS, HUNTING RIFLES & SHOTGUNS, ANTIQUE PISTOLS & RIFLES, MUSKETS, EDGED WEAPONS, ANTIQUE AMMUNITION

PARTICIPATE IN BOTH SALES WITH THE SAME BIDDER # AND PICKUP WEDNESDAY’S WINNINGS ON SATURDAY OR COMBINE SHIPPING FOR INTERNET BIDDERS

CONTACT US: info@switzersauction.com 1-613-332-5581 / 1-800-694-2609

EVENTS

Winterfest
In Minden Hills

THE TOWNSHIP OF
MINDEN HILLS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18th

WINTERY STORYTIME AND CRAFT 2:00pm-3:00pm
Minden Library
Come with your family to listen to some winter themed stories and then participate in a craft! No cost!

"CATCH THE CURE" FUNDRAISER 1:00pm-8:30pm
SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre
Hockey game, figure skating exhibition, public skate, chili dinner, silent auction, face painting, craft table, outdoor games, scavenger hunt and more. Participation by donation.
Check out : CatchTheCure.ca or [Catch the Cure 2017 on Facebook](#) for more info.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19th

SHINNY (ages 8-12) 10:00am-11:00am
SG Nesbitt Arena
All participants must wear proper gear. Cost \$2

SHINNY (KIDS VS ADULTS) 11:00am-12:00pm
SG Nesbitt Arena
All participants must wear proper gear. Cost \$2

ICE CAR RACING 12:00pm
Sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Minden
Fairgrounds

PUBLIC SKATING 12:00pm-2:00pm
SG Nesbitt Arena
Cost \$2

TRY CURLING! 2:00pm-4:00pm
Hosted by the Minden Curling Club
Curling Club
Equipment is provided, all you need to bring is clean indoor shoes. No cost!

FIRE & ICE 7:00pm-9:00pm
Cultural Centre
An evening of tasty food prepared by local restaurants, music, bonfire, outdoor activities (with prizes) and best of all a scotch, beer and wine tasting! Come dressed to be outside for a portion of the evening. This is an adult only event and tickets are \$25. Contact the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at 705-286-3763 for more information

MONDAY FEBRUARY 20th

PUBLIC SKATING 2:00pm-4:00pm
SG Nesbitt Arena
No cost! (today only)

SNOWSHOEING!

Friday February 3rd : **INTRO TO SNOWSHOEING!**
11:00am-12:00pm
Meet at Scout Hall parking lot (behind the arena). No fee

Friday February 10th: **HIKE SNOWDON PARK!**
11:00am
Meet in the parking lot (off County Rd #1). No fee

Friday February 17th : **INTRO TO SNOWSHOEING!**
11:00am-12:00pm
Meet at Scout Hall parking lot (behind the arena). No fee



Please note: All snowshoeing programs are dependent on the weather and snow conditions. Snowshoes and walking poles will be available. To register contact Elisha at 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Send your events to
heatherd@thehighlander.ca

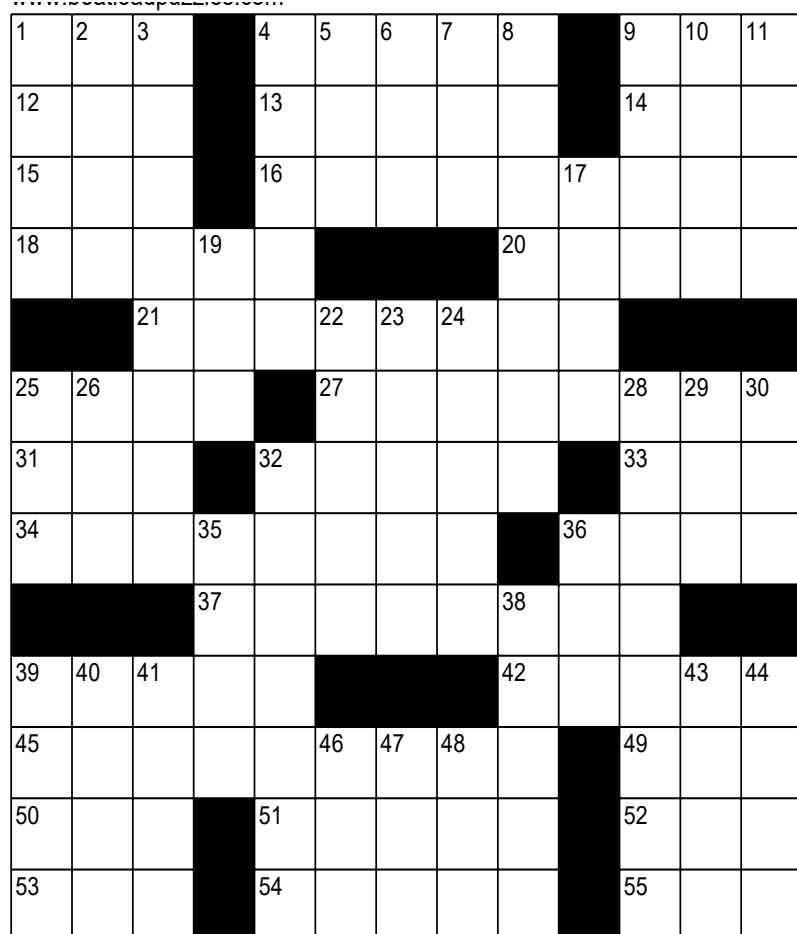
Highlander classifieds

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Recipe measure (abbr.)
4. Uncouth
9. Fury
12. Above, in verse
13. Racetrack animal
14. Toupee, slangily
15. Gosh!
16. Meaning
18. Fiery felony
20. Deposes
21. Disperses
25. Border on
27. Not absolute
31. Sedan or coupe
32. Smooths wood

33. Basker's desire

34. Literary exposition
36. Sharp pain
37. Fabric
39. Lasso user
42. More parched
45. Indistinguishable
49. Exist
50. Morning droplets
51. Wear down
52. Pen point
53. Curvy turn
54. Appraised
55. Briny deep

DOWN

1. Roman garb

2. Observer
3. High blood ____
4. Beijing's country
5. Director ____ Howard
6. Sculpture, e.g.
7. Compass direction (abbr.)
8. Spanish women
9. Spring flower
10. Litter's littlest
11. Omelet items
17. Clean furniture
19. Sept. follower
22. Characteristic
23. High-strung
24. Church leader
25. Pretend
26. Salad ____
28. Naples natives
29. Mover's truck
30. School subj.
32. Appetizer
35. Grace closing
36. Average
38. Ran in neutral
39. Be a passenger
40. Certain poems
41. Church seats
43. Cleveland's lake
44. Songstress ____ McEntire
46. Fin. fund
47. Army bed
48. Summer beverage

SUDOKU

Thinkin' of Sellin'? Bill's the one you should be tellin'!



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PREVIOUS WEEK'S ANSWERS

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Highlander classifieds

EVENTS

DRIVERS NEEDED for Hyland Taxi. G License for taxi is required. B, C or F License for 11 passenger van and bus. Call 705-457-9898

DELIVERY HELP. Valid driver's license. Part time and full time. Driving, heavy lifting, etc. Please bring resumes into Riverview Furniture, 92 Main St., Minden, ON.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS from Deep Roots Adventure - Feb 18 - Winter Camping - Mar 18 - Winter Survival See DeepRootsAdventure.com/upcoming-events/ for more details.

BLISS IN THE NORTH Energy & Chakra Group, Thurs. evenings @ 6:30 p.m. Learn about chakras & how energy works. Call Denise 705-457-7827 for info.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - WE CARE Meetings: Wednesdays, noon - 1 p.m., Sundays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria St., Haliburton. All welcome. 705-324-9900.

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Tuesday 7 - 8 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM - Haliburton Legion: Thursdays from Feb 23 to Apr. 20, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Wilberforce Legion, Wednesdays from Feb. 22 to Apr. 19, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

VON SMART exercise program for balance, strength, and flexibility. Minden on Wed. at 11 a.m. in the Hyland Crest Auditorium, and in Haliburton on Thurs. at 1 p.m. at Echo Hills. For more information contact Judy Webb at 705-286-5098 or Carol Browne at 705-457-4551.

LUNCH FOR THE BEREAVED, an informal get-together for those who are experiencing bereavement. Light lunch, no registration required. Fridays 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Haliburton: 1st and 3rd Friday at SIRCH, 2 Victoria St. Minden: 2nd and 4th Friday at Minden Legion on Hwy 35. For more info: 705-457-2941 ext. 2932

HELP WANTED

HELP, we need somebody!

The Wine Store in Minden is looking for casual, part-time help (approx. 15-20 hrs) with a flexible schedule to allow you to work around your busy life. Resume required. Call Colleen at (705) 286-1642. minden-winestore@hotmail.com



We're looking for responsible, hard working, dedicated employees for general construction work. Must have own transportation to Haliburton. Full time (44 hours/week). Wages dependent on experience. Please send application to dbeachli@bellnet.ca.

OBITUARIES



PROCHER, (TED) EDWARD JOHN, C.D. *IN ALL THINGS "HONOUR" ABOVE ALL ELSE.*

It is with profound sadness we announce the passing of our beloved, Husband, Father & Grandfather, Ted Procher on Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 at 4:15PM.

Ted is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Sandra, children Jason, Wendy & Kerry Drew, Grandchildren, Jack, Ava & William, his Mother-in-law, Sylvia Ring, also his brother, aunts, uncles, several cousins & their families. Ted was pre-deceased by his Parents, Bill Procher (1982) & Theda (Crowhurst) Procher (2015). Ted was born in Toronto on October 15th, 1943 and joined the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in January of 1962. After basic training, in Cornwallis, NS he was stationed at Shearwater, NS with Squadrons VS880 & HS50 as a Naval Airman. Ted served on ships, HMCS Micmac, Fraser & Bonaventure with his last posting in Summerside, PEI with Squadron VP415. After his Naval Service Ted returned to Ontario and became a member of Peel Regional Police Service. His last career, he said, would be a Consultant to Industry with respect to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods while residing in Brampton and Barrie, ON. Ted & Sandy retired to Wilberforce, ON in 2008 wherein Ted enjoyed fishing, all forms of boating and was an active member in the Wilberforce Royal Canadian Legion Branch 624. Cremation has been entrusted to Marshall W. Driver Cremation & Burial Service, Barrie, ON. Private Family Service with a Celebration of Life in March of 2017. In Lieu of flowers, if so desired, donations in Ted's memory may be made to The Hospital for Sick Children (Transplant & Regenerative Medicine Centre, Unit 6A) 555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1X8 OR York Regional Police Association Benevolent Fund, 600 Stonehaven Avenue, Newmarket, ON L3X 2M4

HELP WANTED



The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is seeking **Board Members** with expertise in social media, marketing, and finance. Please contact Mary Lou at admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca 705-457-3700

Land Trust Discovery Days 2017 The Reptile Road Show!

Scales Nature Park will provide an opportunity to get up close and learn about these unique creatures.

**Saturday March 18th
10:00am to 12:00pm
at Haliburton Fish Hatchery.**

Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700.

Adults \$15, children 12 & under \$10, family \$30.

TD Friends of the Environment
Media partner *The Highlander*

EVENTS

FLEMING COLLEGE
Red Cross First Aid-Standard
with CPR "C"
Fri & Sat Feb 24 & 25
Wed & Thurs March 2 & 3
Call 705-457-1680 to Register.

TRANSPORTATION

Haliburton County
Community Transportation Hub

Need to get somewhere? Don't have a ride?
We can help.

To find transportation options:
www.transportationhaliburtoncounty.ca
705-455-2665 or 1-844-771-RIDE (7433) toll-free

Volunteers Wanted!



Your Volunteer Community Radio Station

Is now recruiting on-air volunteers

Contact Janice at 705-457-1009

No experience required.

Listen live on the internet at www.canoe100.9.com



What's on

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2017 EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| EVERY TUESDAY Zumba Lite Classes at Dorset Rec Centre, 7 – 8 p.m. Every Tuesday until Mar 29. \$5/person/class, or \$60 for the entire session. Call 705-766-9968 Eurchre at West Guilford Community Center 7 p.m. For information, call 705-754-2464 Get Fit! Yoga Class , geared for ages 55+, but all ages and ability levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., now until Nov 29th. \$5 per class, taught by Ingrid Bittner. Registration required, contact ingridbittner@gmail.com or 705-783-1691. | | Drop-in Pickleball at the Dorset Recreation Centre, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Beginners welcome, some equipment provided, \$5/adults, \$2.50/youth or seniors, or free with membership. Adult Senior Skating , Noon – 2 p.m. at SG Nesbitt Arena in Minden \$2/person. Free Chair Yoga , 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. at Maple View Apartments in Wilberforce. Contact 705-457-2941 x 2922, or 705-448-3652 for more information. | | Don't forget today's edition of The Highlander 16 | 27th Annual Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival , Family Skating (or Dance) Party. Admission by donation, contact 705-766-9968 or recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca for details. Sound Sweetness , a shamanic sound performance. 5:30 p.m. at Rail's End Gallery. 17 | Catch the Cure , family fun day to help fund a cure for Angelman Syndrome. 4:30 – 8 p.m. at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. Admission by donation. Dorset Polar Plunge , 3 p.m. at Old Mill Marina, Main St., Dorset. Sign up at facebook.com/DorsetPolarPlunge 18 |
| Fire & Ice , 7 – 10 p.m., at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Games, bonfire, cognac & scotch tasting, wine & craft beer, food, and dance. Honey School at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, 1 – 3 p.m. Learn about bees and how honey is made, for kids age 6 and up. Free! 19 | Cardiff Chilli-Fest , 4 p.m. at the Cardiff Community Centre. Call Keith Plumb for more info or to register 613-339-3436 Family Day Ball Hockey Game , 12 noon – 3:30 p.m., in the parking lot of Sears Haliburton. Refreshments provided by Tim Hortons. All are welcome! 20 |  21 | Mother Goose program , at JD Hodgson school, Wednesday mornings from Feb 22 – Apr 26, 10 – 11 a.m. Register with OEYC 705-306-9099 Foot Clinic with Fran Gower, RN. Call for more information or to book an appointment 705-635-1229 22 | Haliburton County Historical Society meeting , 12 noon at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. Guest speaker: Linda Kay, retired justice of the peace. 23 | Battle of the Bands , in support of Haliburton Junction Skate Park. A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. To register your band contact amueller@dysartetal.ca 24 | Bluegrass in the Highlands Winter Festival , at the Pinestone Resort. Weekend Pass \$75, Friday night \$35, All day Saturday \$45, Saturday night only \$35. Call 705-447-2348 or 705-457-3604, bluegrassinthehighlands@gmail.com 25 |
| Art Lovers' STAYcation , Rail's End Gallery. A three day series of workshops for arts-minded adults. Cost ranges from \$10-20 per workshop, or \$125 for the whole series. Razzamataz Kids' Shows presents "Sakara", at Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, 2 p.m. 26 | OSPCA National Cupcake Day at the Minden Animal Hospital. Join us Monday for cupcakes (dog treats, too!), and raise money for the OSPCA. 27 | St George's Anglican Church 78th Pancake Supper , at the Haliburton Legion, 5 – 7 p.m., free, but donations will be accepted. Mike Ford in Concert, a bilingual concert presented by the Canadian Parents for French and the TLDSB. 6:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts theatre. 28 | <div> <div>MARCH</div>  </div> | | | Go Wild 4 Wildlife , Dinner & Concert to benefit the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary, featuring Carl Dixon and special guest Jeff Moulton. Pinestone Resort, 5:30 p.m. – 11 pm 4 |

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

HALIBURTON BRANCH

Monday bridge 1p.m.
 Tuesday dart league starting at 7 p.m.
 Wednesday bid euchre 1 p.m. start, bingo doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 7 p.m. - \$500 jackpot, \$1000 jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.
 Thursday general meeting second Thursday of the month starting at 7:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
 Friday meat draw - five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw ... Chester Howse, MC.
 Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
 Saturday 50/50 4 p.m. draw, tickets \$1 each from noon onwards

Sunday breakfast second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$6 per person. Occasional volunteers are needed.
 Upcoming events: Live entertainment featuring The Highlands Trio Saturday March 11th 4-7 p.m. in the Club Room. Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$6 prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary, \$5 cover charge for non-members. Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at (705) 457- 2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome.

MINDEN BRANCH

General meeting, first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. start

Ladies darts, Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.
 Euchre, Thursday, 7 p.m.
 Fish/wings & chips, Friday, noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.
 Mixed darts, Friday 7:30 p.m.
 Bid euchre, first Sunday of the month (except holidays), noon, \$12
 Sports fan day, Sunday, 12-5 p.m.
 Lunch menu, Monday – Friday, noon-2 p.m.
 Liver lovers' special, Tuesday noon-2 p.m. (full menu also)
 Meat draws, Wednesday lunch time.
 Watch for local posters and listen to Canoe FM, and Moose FM, for special events on Saturdays.

WILBERFORCE BRANCH

Friday Pool 1:30 p.m. Spaghetti dinner 5-7 p.m.

Jam session 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m., early bird 3 p.m. sharp
 Monday Bid euchre 7 p.m. beginners welcome.
 Wednesday Fun darts 7:30 p.m.
 Upcoming Events: Saturday, Feb. 25 - Ken McFarlane Lake Trout Ice Fishing Derby - \$15/ person, one fish entry, register at the branch before closing Feb. 24 or at the Wilberforce Bait Shop by 10 a.m. Feb. 25. Participants must be present to collect prizes.
 Saturday, March 4, Branch 624 presents hypnotist Adam Graeme at the Lloyd Watson Centre. Doors open 6:30 p.m. for the 7-9 p.m. show. Tickets \$10, in advance at the branch or at the door. Non-alcoholic beverages will be sold.



Featured Property

Sunnyside Street - \$249,900.00

5 Bedroom bungalow within walking distance to town
 Living room upstairs and finished family room downstairs
 Currently being used as a rental income property



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DON'T KEEP ME A SECRET!

What's on

Polar Bear Challenge returns

By Lisa Gervais

The Frost Festival makes its return to Head Lake Saturday with a much more promising weather forecast than last year's deep freeze, which forced cancellation.

The popular Haliburton and District Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge returns for its fifth year and Lions director Jim Frost said anything can happen.

"A couple of years ago, Ron Murphy from Canoe FM was in a swimsuit and just before he went into the water he bent down and mooned the crowd so he's always remembered for that," Frost said with a chuckle.

He added that the prize for best costume two years ago went to another Canoe FM team member who wore a "fantastic chicken outfit."

Once again, there are prizes for the individual and team with the most pledges as well as for best individual and team costumes. Of course, the real winners are the music therapy program at The Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto and the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, which receive pledge money.

More than \$30,000 has been raised to date, pretty much equally split between the two health care providers.

"The polar dip is coming along fine. Everything's in place. We've got the fire department helping, you know as far as safety is concerned," Frost said. "They are



Participants go for a splash in Head Lake during the 2015 Polar Bear Challenge. *File photo.*

the ones who clear off the ice and make sure the entry from the beach is really nice for all of the participants. Haliburton Lumber donates two really nice sheds for changing areas, for men and women, so

everybody's looked after."

He said they couldn't do it without EMS. The Dysart fire department will be back along with Stanhope and their wet-suited firefighters who go into the water on either

side of the beach "just to assist people ... and it gives people confidence," Frost said.

Pre-registration is from 10 a.m. to noon but Frost expects 50 to 60 people to take the plunge. He already knows there is someone from Canoe FM, the local Lions Club and the Woodville Lions Club as well as a team from Toronto.

The Lions are also involved with the pancake breakfast and barbecue.

Dysart et al recreation coordinator, Andrea Mueller, said: "The Frost Festival has something for the entire family to do. New this year is mini-putt on ice, bannock and S'mores over the fire and get up close and personal with the groomers from the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association."

The fun starts at 10 a.m. and festivities in the park continue until 3:30 p.m. Between 4 and 6 p.m. there is a lasagna dinner at the Haliburton United Church, which also has a takeout option.

Other activities at the Frost Festival include: curling on Head Lake, skating, art attack, frosty crafts at the library, snowshoeing and snowshoe games with YMCA Wanakita, broomball and hot chocolate with Youth Unlimited, horse-drawn wagon rides, pony rides, dogsledding, meet a horse ferrier and learn about the trade, meet the Canadian Mounted Games Worlds Under 17 competitors and tours of the fish hatchery. For more details visit dysartet.al.ca/haliburton-frost-festival.

Catch the Cure brings Minden together

Event has raised more than \$44,000

By Lisa Gervais

Every day, Tecwyn and Tathan McCutcheon and Harper Tiffin face debilitating seizures, sleepless nights and challenges making their bodies move the way they want to or getting people to understand them.

Their lives are filled with therapy appointments and speciality doctor visits out of town to combat the effects of Angelman Syndrome (AS), the rare disorder they live with.

But their determination to live life fully is supported by friends and even strangers in Minden.

Once a year, the town comes together to celebrate who the kids are, and where medical research to make their lives easier is going.

The fourth annual Catch the Cure is slated for the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre this Saturday (Feb. 18).

The kids' mothers — Bethan McCutcheon and Sue Tiffin — bring the event together.

"We first launched Catch the Cure to celebrate International Angelman Day in February alongside our friends in the AS community throughout the world," said Tiffin. "We definitely had no idea it

would grow to be as large as it is, or as well-attended and loved. That's a little intimidating, for sure, but we can't turn back now so we just energize each other, laugh a lot and make sure it happens each year."

The event is sponsored by the township and Minden Kin Club of Minden. Local businesses and volunteers are also key to pulling it off.

The day includes face painting, a craft and sensory table, a chili dinner, a bake sale, and a silent auction with almost 200 prizes, including autographed hockey jerseys, sports tickets, hotel and wilderness trip vouchers, and handcrafted wood furniture.

It's volunteer-run and people with AS from throughout Ontario — including Bracebridge, Ottawa and Toronto — come to be part of it.

"I love how the kids in this town get pumped and excited and want to be part of this day," said McCutcheon. "They will take this into their adult lives, this feeling of doing and being part of something that will impact others and know how good that feels."

The town is invited to a public skate, which this year will be attended by Paralympian sledge hockey player Graeme Murray. The Minden Figure Skating Club performs a show, and Highland Storm players face off in a hockey game against



Face painting is just one of many activities at this year's Catch the Cure in Minden. *Submitted photo.*

local school teachers. Outdoor activities include a snowman making contest, bonfire and maple taffy

New this year, the township and Canadian Tire have worked together to light the Gull River blue — the colour of Angelman Syndrome awareness. A town scavenger hunt will visit businesses and the local

school is also involved with week-long activities.

Admittance is by donation and events run from 1 to 8 p.m.

For further information, visit Catch the Cure 2017 on Facebook, or learn more about Angelman Syndrome at CureAngelman.org



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**Feb 18 - Haliburton - Frost
Festival:** Curling on Head Lake,
Wagon rides, Polar Bear Dip, Kids
Dog Sledding and much more.

Feb 19 - Minden - Fire & Ice:
Adult only event offering top notch
scotch, cognac, beer & wine
tasting & more.

**Feb 19 - Wilberforce - Radar
Run:** Many categories of machines
with fabulous prizes to be won,
all proceeds to the Wilberforce
Food Bank.

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