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The Highlander

Thursday **December 14, 2017** | Issue 318

INSIDE: NEW WARDEN SWORN IN - PAGE 3

FREE



TIPS UP: Skiers ride up the hill on the chairlift at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride, which opened this past weekend. *Photo by Chris Bishop.*

Trades shortage a continuing concern

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills Coun. Jean Neville thinks Haliburton County needs a trades school. So do all five respondents to today's Eye on the Street. (p. 7).

But two tradespeople *The Highlander* talked to don't think that's the answer to our county's skilled labour shortage.

Following a presentation by Autumn

Wilson, manager of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, on a new workforce development tool, Neville said, "I think a trade school is needed."

She added there are empty schools in summer that have workshops and kitchens that could be utilized.

A mother of three sons in the trades, all of whom had to leave the county to go to school, Neville said "that is a major

necessity here."

Coun. Jeanne Neville asked Wilson if a housing shortage was contributing to the problem and Wilson said the lack of skilled tradespeople is "a big beast" with "a lot of contributing factors and housing is one of those issues."

Trevor Chaulk is the second vice president of the chamber. He told *The Highlander* that as much as he would like to say yes to

a trade school, he's not convinced that's the solution to a very complex issue locally.

"The education system for this area can adapt and offer more training, but it has been tried and they did not sometimes get enough interest," Chaulk said in a lengthy email. "This means that they will continue to send students to other cities for training with the hopes that students return."

See **"Lack"** on page 9

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Highlander news



Outgoing warden Brent Devolin puts the robe of office on newly-acclaimed warden Suzanne Partridge. Photo by Mark Arike.

New county warden from Highlands East

By Mark Arike

Suzanne Partridge is officially the warden of Haliburton County.

Partridge was sworn into the position on Tuesday during the inaugural meeting of council. She takes the reins from Brent Devolin, who was warden for a year.

"This is such an honour," said Partridge, after receiving the robe of office from Devolin and chain of office from CAO Mike Rutter. "I'm going to do my very best to live up to the expectations county council and the people of Haliburton County have of me."

Looking ahead, Partridge said she hopes for an excellent year of communication between councillors and staff, and communication to the public.

"It's my hope we can carry through all that, and have really open, important dialogue at a county council level," she said.

She concluded by thanking "the two most important men" in her life, her brother Scott and partner Rob. Both were in attendance.

Partridge, who is also the deputy mayor of Highlands East, was the only county councillor to file a nomination by the Nov.

15 deadline. She was endorsed by Dave Burton, councillor and mayor of Highlands East, and Murray Fearrey, councillor and mayor of Dysart et al.

"It's an absolute pleasure for me to nominate councillor Partridge for the position of warden," said Burton. "Suzanne brings a lot of municipal experience to the table."

She has been a councillor for 20 years.

Burton thanked her for taking over his duties as mayor last year after a slip and fall accident landed him in hospital for 72 days.

In his three terms working with Partridge, Fearrey has appreciated her honesty.

"You say what you think," he said.

In an interview after the meeting, Devolin said Partridge's municipal experience will be an asset. His only advice was to take advantage of the resources that are available, including fellow councillors and staff.

"Avail yourself of all the resources that are there," he said.

Partridge will hold the position until December 2018. On Wednesday, Algonquin Highlands deputy mayor Liz Daniels stepped up to become deputy warden. She won by acclamation.

Highlands East economic committee working on business logo

By Mark Arike

Highlands East's economic development committee is planning on unveiling a logo in the new year for the business community as part of its marketing strategy.

On Dec. 6, Joanne Vanier, community economic development and committee coordinator, recommended council approve the hiring of a graphic designer to create the logo. A local designer quoted a price of \$300, which includes two or three options and fine tuning, reported Vanier. It will cost an extra \$75 to design a graphic for Facebook with the logo. Vanier said none of the committee members are up to

the task.

Deputy Mayor Suzanne Partridge asked why it's necessary to create a new logo, since the municipality has its own. CAO Shannon Hunter replied, saying the business community wants it to promote their activities and have their own identity.

Council voted in favour of the request.

Vanier told *The Highlander* that a designer has not yet been chosen.

"We are considering a couple of local designers who we have worked with in the past," she said.

In her report, Vanier said domain names and social media accounts have been secured to promote the business community.

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Highlander news

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 Students in the fibre arts program work on the first day back to class. *File photo.*

Thirty-eight college students quit after strike

By Mark Arike

Thirty-eight students at Haliburton's Fleming College campus withdrew from their programs after the province-wide faculty strike.

"Although we do not know how many of those students will return, we will continue to reach out to them and offer assistance if they would like to resume their studies in upcoming program start dates," said Drew Van Parys, executive director of marketing and advancement.

He said they left for "strike-related reasons."

It's been a month since the provincial government passed back-to-work legislation to end the five-week long

strike—the longest in Ontario's history. Students were given until Dec. 5, two weeks after classes resumed, to decide if they wanted to withdraw and get a full refund. The government established a \$500 "hardship" aid to help full-time domestic and international students who incurred unexpected costs.

A total of 104 students were enrolled in the fall semester.

According to media reports, 743 full-time students withdrew from campuses in Cobourg, Haliburton, Lindsay and Peterborough. Semester end dates were extended in Haliburton and certificate program students were offered the option to return in May to make up missed courses.

OPP in brief

Minden man found safe at hunt camp

By Mark Arike

Jason Shaw, a 22-year-old Minden Hills man who was reported missing a week after he was last seen walking his dog, has been reunited with his family.

On Sunday (Dec. 10), Haliburton Highlands OPP asked for the public's assistance finding Shaw after receiving a missing person report the previous morning. He was spotted on Dec. 3 with his dog around Reynolds Road.

In the afternoon, less than seven hours after Sunday's initial media release was issued, Shaw was located at a remote hunt camp west of Scotch Line Road in Minden.

"The [property] owners, who were familiar with Shaw,

checked their property in the belief that he might be staying there after they had read the media release ..." said OPP Const. Dianna Dauphinee in a report. "Shaw was found safe and sound and brought out of the remote area by the owners of the property without incident."

The Highlander followed up with Dauphinee for further information, but she didn't answer questions sent by email.

"Thank you for your inquiries," she said. "The missing person investigation is complete and the male is back safely with his family."

The OPP thanked the public and media for their assistance, saying they were instrumental in the outcome.

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Highlander news

Bob Lake group wants 'one ramp to rule them all'

By Lisa Gervais

Talk of a public boat ramp for Bob Lake is back on the table.

Again.

Residents have been without a communal launch since the spring of 2016. That's when it was discovered that what was thought to be a township ramp was actually on private property and the landowner – fearful of liability – cut access.

Since then, several delegations have made their way to council chambers trying to get the municipality to do something. But, during a meeting on May 25, 2017, the township wiped its hands of the matter, saying it had exhausted all avenues.

On Nov. 30, though, representatives of the newly-created Bob Lake Association, director Dave Roberts and vice chair Robert Roszell, made a pitch.

Roberts said he wasn't "going to beat around the bush," in asking council to consider the plan and its \$30,000 price tag during 2018 budget talks.

"We think we've got a really great proposal," he said.

He said the key objectives are to "minimize cost, environmental impact and local disruption."

"All of this for a mere \$30,000 with virtually no maintenance."

Roszell got into the specifics.

He said it is the site of a former launch that was used prior to the dam being

installed. One resident after the meeting said it would have last been used around 1946. So, Roszell said it was a matter of "resurrecting a public ramp."

It's being called the Claude Brown Road public boat ramp because it would be located on the north end of the lake, on Claude Brown Road.

The entire site is municipally-owned. Projecting a site plan, Roszell explained how it is now being used as a turnaround for snow ploughs so there is room, with some gravel expansion, for vehicles towing boats to drive in and also back up. There's an existing hydro pole but no steel post will be installed.

Roszell said they've already talked to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries (MNRF) and it's been deemed non-spawning shoreline.

He said the plan for the ramp is to lay pre-made concrete slabs on top of granular material. There'll also be breaker rock.

Roberts said there would be many benefits. Without a public boat launch, he said a local realtor estimated property values could drop 10-15 per cent. He said that will drive property assessments, and tax revenue, down. More private launches could also be installed, impacting the shoreline, when the council could build "one ramp to rule them all."

Further, there'd be "quick, easy and known water access to services such as MNRF for water quality testing or OPP for



Robert Roszell and Dave Roberts, representing the Bob Lake Association, made a pitch for a public boat ramp Nov. 30. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

search and rescue."

Roberts said not having a public launch also has an impact on local businesses.

They tabled a series of logos from associations and businesses supporting the restoration of a launch.

Mayor Brent Devolin called for a staff report prior to 2018 budget talks.

Coun. Pam Sayne thought it was a "win-win-win scenario ... hopefully we'll have some good news."

CAO and treasurer Lorrie Blanchard asked if the association would be willing to contribute money. Roberts and Roszell said they'd have to take it to a vote at the May AGM but said a \$30,000 Minden Hills investment "would pay off tenfold" and the township shouldn't be looking to taxpayers for help.

The association, which was formed in September, represents more than 230 property owners.

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Editorial opinion

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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.

What's the answer to trades shortage?



By Lisa Gervais

When I was in Grade 12, at a high school just outside of Sudbury, I wish that someone – a guidance counsellor, teacher, or even one of my parents – had suggested I get into the trades.

Like many female graduates of my generation, I was encouraged to go to university instead, where I ended up getting a Bachelor of Journalism degree with a combined honours in history. Luckily, I've been able to find steady work in journalism, with the exception of one newspaper being closed on me without notice.

However, I wonder what my life would be like today if I were a miner, an electrician, a plumber or a carpenter? Not to knock my chosen profession, but I would likely have far greater job security and be earning a whole lot more money.

So, this recurring theme of Haliburton County's skilled trades shortage has me scratching my head. Why don't our high school graduates want to go to trade school, and then come back and work?

Looking at the latest Stats Can data from 2016, people in the trades had an average hourly wage of \$25.85 in 2016. That doesn't include overtime, either, which I'm told there is plenty of in Haliburton County.

We're told by groups such as the Ontario Chamber of Commerce that these careers

are only going to get more financially lucrative due to the rising demand for skilled labour.

Older Stats Can data indicates the highest earners are electricians, followed by crane operators and plumbers. Other construction trades and carpenters follow.

One knock is young people have to work very hard and don't make a lot of money when they first start out, usually apprenticing under somebody. But, the thing is, they are being trained and within a few years of becoming a journey person, some tradespeople can double their salary. With overtime, some hit the six-digit mark. Not bad for a boy or girl from Haliburton County in their 20's.

In some cases, what's happening is our grads are opting to go to university or college to get what they think is a prestige degree, only to find there is no work in their chosen field. So, they end up working at minimum wage jobs instead.

Others argue it has nothing to do with choosing to pursue a future in the trades, or good money, but everything to do with a lack of amenities in the county that make it attractive for our youth to return. That is a very real challenge. If they love the outdoors, it isn't so tough. However, many crave a night life and that just isn't available

here. It's been long documented that we don't have enough affordable housing. Some people do their grocery shopping out of town because they find it too expensive here. And, what if they don't have a car or truck? With no public transportation, they have to rely on a boss, colleague or family to get them to and from work. It's far from ideal.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has been making its rounds of municipal councils espousing a workforce development tool, aimed at encouraging small businesses to set up shop here. They're planning to spend \$10,000 on a video. In their presentation, they talk about looming workforce shortages, for cooks, retail managers, salespeople, etc.

However, they – and our elected officials – really need to address the ever-present shortage of skilled tradespeople in the county. To do that, they have to take a critical look at those very real barriers we've mentioned, such as quality of life issues, affordable housing and cost of living, and public transportation.

You get what you pay for

A few years back, a friend and I were having a political discussion and he posed the question, "why isn't the president of the United States paid handsomely," the thinking bringing to light many factors, the basic one being that if you offer enough money, you would hypothetically get the best candidate possible whether it's the president of the United States or a local councillor.

We, of course, know that money alone isn't what makes a good public servant but this did present some intriguing theories. First off, you could persuade great thinkers into the public sector if they knew, to put it bluntly, the money was comparable. Secondly, as ironic as it sounds, you would likely have more honesty in politics. Politicians would simply be more difficult to corrupt. This is the exact point Arnold Schwarzenegger made while running for California governor way back when.

While I'm not naive enough to believe that money and money alone is enough to create a "good" politician, the basic fact remains that you get what you pay for.

Recently, I heard these types of discussions in regards to the money made or not made for positions like mayor and councillor locally. In effect, local politicians are paid what would amount to part-time to low full-time wages. That part we can all agree on. The question that remains is whether we agree that someone doing a job like they do deserves to be paid better.

I know that the knee-jerk reaction to this question is a resounding 'hell no'. There is such a mistrust and lack of respect for public servants and for the most part it's probably justified but therein lies the paradox. If we don't pay a politician enough to demand the best, then we'll never get the best because we don't pay enough.

The question you need to ask yourself is, given the salary and the public scrutiny of the job, would you do it? Even those who respect the office of public service would admittedly say no. It's just not worth it. There are too many lame ducks and bad apples. Unfortunately though, because of this simplistic rationalization, the same vicious circle continues ad nauseam.

Look at who mans these positions. It's predominantly people with a life and a lifestyle that allows for this.

It's not so much a career as a source of second income. I'm not implying that these

people aren't trying their best and in it for the right reasons, but perhaps their best just isn't enough for the needs of the position.

The truth is, can we truly expect any better given the financial restrictions of the job? Being communally-minded only goes so far and there's a good reason highly-qualified people choose to remain in the private sector. It's part autonomy, part economy. The two go hand in hand and the basic fact remains: you will never consistently attract the best people for the job because, to put it bluntly, the realities of the job don't interest most of the best and the brightest among us. As I said before, you get what you pay for.



By Charlie Teljeur



Have an opinion?

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

Editorial opinion

Eye on the street: Do you think it would be a good idea to start a trades' school in Haliburton County?



Gary Carter

Minden

Absolutely. I'm a retired tradesman—I know that [it's a good idea].



Jim Fahl

Minden

I think it's a good idea. Then you don't have to go out of town.



Kerry Grozelle

Minden

Yes, because 60 per cent of Haliburton County is trades. It would keep some of the youth here.



Rick West

Haliburton

It would be good for high school graduates, so they can continue their trade.



Steve Eickmeier

Minden

Absolutely. There's a serious calling for a trades school.

Photos and interviews by Mark Arike

Help youth to feel less isolated

Re: Young people must be part of solution, *The Highlander*, Dec. 7, 2017. Young people feel isolated. Give them an opportunity to join a group, whether faith-based or recreational to be able to talk to one another and to engage in sports. Return discipline to the classroom with the consent of parents. A topic which seems to have been ignored is that life without the belief in a higher power is like a boat without an anchor. It cannot withstand its tribulations and may eventually lead to suicide.

L. Dobrzensky
Haliburton

Have an opinion?
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Small town, big heart

It was 1975 when we purchased our cottage in the tiny hamlet of Wilberforce. For 40 years we enjoyed travelling from Markham to Wilberforce to spend weekends and summers escaping from our busy city life. In 2015, we retired and purchased a lovely home in our town that we knew so well.

In 2017, our daughter, Alyson, became ill and it was necessary to stay in Kingston, close to the hospital, for almost two months. This 'small town,' with the help from the book club ladies, set up a donation jar and helped us get through a very trying time by supporting us financially. Thank you to all those who contributed to the jar at Agnew's General Store. It certainly helped with our out-of-town expenses. And, thank you to our wonderful neighbours who took care of our home ... and our dog during that difficult time. Alyson is now in Haliburton awaiting placement in long-term care where we continue to support her.

Wilberforce will always be 'the little town with the big heart.'

Thank you,

Barry and Gail Gotter
Wilberforce

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Deer forage in the newly-fallen snow just off of Gelert Road earlier this week. Photo by Walt Griffin.

So long and thanks for the apples

And, so, my fare reader, you may, depending upon your leaning towards or sway against the hunting of deer, be glad to know that the season is all but over. And as such, I will be putting pen to paper (so to speak) on the matter just this one last time.

My missive this week is with regard to the fact that while the anti-hunters among you may be glad to see the back of the deer season, the deer around where I hunt will, I imagine, be mightily disappointed. They will bemoan the passing of Dec. 15 and they will miss the human-scented boot prints of mine that have trodden through their forest for the last month. The whole herd of white-tailed beauties will listen in vain for my crackle and crash as I stalk silently to my stand, and they'll lift their

noses, sniff and realize that their olfactory environment is suddenly somewhat bland, missing as it is the myriad man-made scents that I have dragged with me through the bush each time I crept to my secret spot.

And, speaking of this secret spot, this tree stand disguised so that no creature could distinguish it from any other ladder leading to a seat in a tree, the deer will miss visiting and checking it out at regular intervals.

But, if they did this, why did I not shoot one with rifle or bow, you ask? Because my lovely reader, the deer, whom I have come to think of as absent friends, visited only when I was not there. I could tell, you see, by their many many footprints, their scrapes against the nearby trees but mostly by their mug shots caught on my camera.

Photographic evidence no less, and not just passing glimpses either. No, these pictures were portrait worthy. Two does grazing naturally in the morning light. Frolicking fawns, one in mid gleeful jump. And, most majestic of all, an eight point buck standing tall and proud in the golden sunshine of a November afternoon. I say majestic but it could have been sarcastic because I swear there was a smirk upon his face as he stood looking straight down the lens of my camouflaged trail cam.

But why will the deer miss me blundering about in their patch of Haliburtonian wonderful wilderness? They'll miss me because I brought them treats. I plied them with goodies. I bribed them to come to my spot with apples, carrots, a salt lick and

molasses soaked corn. My deer ate regularly and they ate well during the hunting season and now that it's over they'll miss me I'm sure.

It would have been nice to have a visit with them while I loitered in their woods but as yet I am too ignorant of their ways, too clumsy, too smelly, too noisy, too eager for our first encounter. Maybe next year we'll get to meet. Maybe next year my deer will be less flighty but until then I'll be savouring the prospect, and continuing to purchase ground beef from the grocery store.



By Will Jones

The Outsider

Highlander news



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Nominate that business, individual or organization that went above and beyond in 2017.

Anyone can submit a nomination and any organization can be nominated. Details and nomination forms online at www.haliburtonchamber.com

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Minden Hills

Water repairs to Valu-Mart and Minden Motel

Long-standing water service issues to the Valu-Mart in Minden should be rectified after council approved the only tender, from an out-of-town company, to do some work Nov. 30

Ivan Ingram, environmental and property operations manager, said that several years ago, staff applied to the Ministry of Transportation for a permit to replace the waterline at Valu-Mart and they got it Oct. 23.

He said the Minden Motel also began to have issues with water. He said staff discovered the line to the motel had been crushed and needed to be replaced.

Staff recommended a two-inch service line from the six inch water main at the OPP building, instead of a costly job of boring under the highway to repair the crushed lines.

Only C.C. Underground, of Oro-Medonte, bid on the job, Ingram said. He recommended them, "based on these results and the fact that it's been a couple of years that these businesses have been at reduced service, rather than re-tender for the work."

Ingram said staff had budgeted \$50,000 in 2017 and the additional \$12,365 could come from reserves.

IGA road closer to reconstruction

A beat-up IGA road in Minden is one step closer to being reconstructed after council awarded the tender for consulting and engineering services at its Nov. 30 meeting.

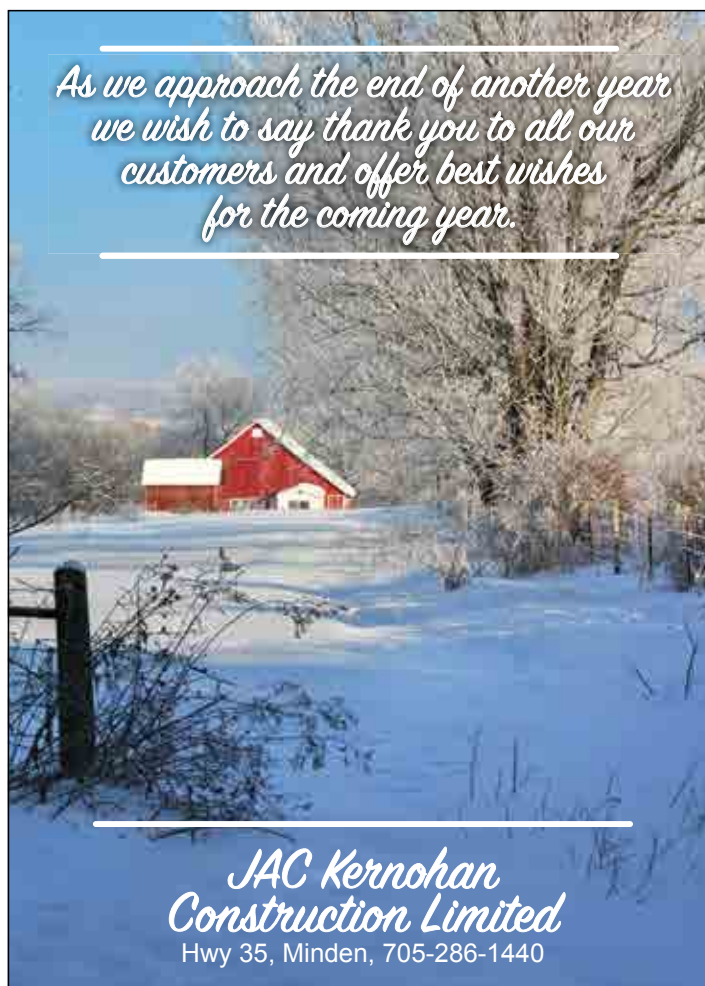
As Mayor Brent Devolin explained, the surface is badly deteriorated due to ongoing drainage issues at the site.

Council awarded the tender to Tulloch Engineering, of Huntsville, for \$48,610, excluding HST.

Roads superintendent Travis Wilson, in a report, said the RFP invitation was sent to five consulting firms. He said three submissions were received, including two from one supplier. The other, unsuccessful bidder, was CC Tatham and Associates.

"Staff wrote the RFP to allow up to 120 calendar days to award the RFP, meaning the RFP will need to be awarded at the latest February 14, 2018," Wilson said. "However, preapproval would allow the consultant to perform survey work throughout the first few weeks of December prior to snow and ice buildup." (*Minden Hills briefs compiled by Lisa Gervais*).

*As we approach the end of another year
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customers and offer best wishes
for the coming year.*



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County

Getting into the turtle business

The County of Haliburton is taking over maintenance of the turtle barrier wall on Gelert Road.

In a report to a recent meeting, Craig Douglas, director of public works, said it was recommended at a Nov. 8 roads committee meeting "that the corporation take ownership of the Turtle Migration Barrier Wall structure from the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust."

Recently, county council authorized the transfer of ownership and the termination of the license of occupation agreement between the county and the land trust.

The wall, on Gelert Road near the Wintergreen Pancake Barn, was instrumental in a HHLT turtle morbidity project, proving highly successful.

Official Plan passed

Charlsey White, director of planning, reported that the county's Official Plan has now been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The document was officially ratified Nov. 20 with the appeal process now exhausted.

White said it is on the county website, and hard copies will be available at libraries.

"So, that's some good news," she said.

According to the ministry's website, an official plan describes how land should be used. It is prepared with input from the community and helps to ensure that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of the community.

It outlines where new housing, industry, offices and shops will be located, what services, such as roads, watermain, sewers, parks and schools will be needed, when, and in what order, parts of the community will grow and community improvement initiatives.

State of the rail trail

A short section of the rail trail, south of Fowler pit, could be raised next year by a few inches to help with flooding, Craig Douglas, the county's director of public works, told council when updating them on the state of the rail trail.

But, in general, he said the section south of Haliburton is holding up quite well.

He said that next year, staff also plans to continue with the topping of the existing surface.

He also addressed brushing, saying staff and councillors had received complaints about how wide the brushing was and how it looked.

He said that going forward, they'll minimize the width of brushing. They'll also consider hand brushing with the use of a chipper, possibly in combination with other mechanical means. And, to cut down the quick regrowth, he said staff will be looking into planting native, low-growth vegetation.

The Gerlert Bridge is also in bad shape. Some boards are rotted through. "Early in the spring, staff will consider fixing and or replacing the rotten deck boards, and overlaying the entire deck with new boards perpendicular to the existing ones. The older and new deck boards will work together to create a solid surface," Douglas said. He said money would come from the 2018 rail trail cost centre.

Drag Lake subdivision finally approved

It looks like the owner of the former Drag Lake Lodge can finally proceed with her plans to build a subdivision.

Applicant Catherine Gonnens was seeking the green light for an Official Plan amendment and draft approval of the plan of subdivision.

Her idea is to use the property to create six lots, five for cottages along the Drag River, and one resort commercial.

The lots would be off of Fred Jones Road and Murray's Road, a private road.

The former lodge and camp dates back to the 1940's.

She first floated the idea back in 2012, so it's been a long time coming.

Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey told *The Highlander* "the proposal is a great fit for the development on Drag Lake." (*County briefs compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

Highlander news



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Two transportation models pitched to council

By Mark Arike

Haliburton County's rural transportation project keeps chugging along.

During a recent special council meeting, planning director Charlesy White recommended two options on behalf of the transportation task force for the creation of a community transportation system. The first is a booked shared ride model that would cost about \$192,000 per year. The second is a blended service model pegged at \$315,000 per year. Both are based on a service that operates five days a week.

"There was dialogue and consideration by council upon their first view of the document and presentation," White told *The Highlander*.

She received questions from council and answered many of them during a Dec. 13 meeting.

Following a transportation summit two years ago, a task force comprised of representatives from many local organizations was formed. It was up to them to determine what transportation models would be a good fit for the area.

The project, which was spearheaded by the county and the Rural Transportation Options committee, has received more than \$127,000 in funding from the Ministry of Transportation. Part of this money went toward launching a transportation hub website and phone line, and a website called Haliburton Rideshare.

The first recommendation, a booked shared ride, would see an 11-seat passenger van pick up people along "flex routes" during specific times of the day. Riders would call in advance to book a trip and would be provided the time of pick up. The cost is based on one vehicle being available eight hours a day. The fuel cost was estimated based on 650 km of travel each day.

The second option, a contracted service, would utilize a school bus for public transit between Minden and Haliburton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A smaller passenger vehicle would travel within the county along a flex route.

The provincial gas tax, grants and fares would pay for either service. Based on proposed fares, someone who uses the service five days a week would spend \$1,200 annually. A discounted fare would cost \$960.

The task force evaluated options with a long list of criteria. Some of the other options they looked at included an additional service vehicle managed by Haliburton Highlands Health Service, lift stops and Uber.

County Warden Brent Devolin, who is on the task force, is happy to see progress.

"What I was hoping for has come to fruition," said Devolin, referring to "an evolved business plan that's costed—and costed from a conservative approach."

He's currently leaning toward the first



Charlesy White, right, planning director at county council, is recommending two options for the creation of a community transportation system. Photo by Mark Arike.

option, but both are "worth some further investigation."

"I think the appetite is increasing with the public that we need to try to do something," he said.

Devolin is looking forward to receiving

input from the rest of county council in the near future.

According to 2016 census data, 20-30 per cent of the county's population doesn't drive due to age, disability, income or choice.

Lack of entertainment, housing, public transport cited

Continued from page 1

Another tradesman, who wished to remain anonymous, said "a trades school isn't a bad thing, but it isn't the be all and end all of our issues. We would still need people to come here and when you're competing with 20-plus other schools offering the same sort of courses, it would be hard for us to compete."

The problem, according to Chaulk, is students don't return. Some of the reasons include limited entertainment options, not enough and expensive housing, and a lack of public transportation.

Can you imagine if cottagers, homeowners or business owners needed work done and there were no tradespeople to do it?

Trevor Chaulk
Chamber, Vice President

"We can't get youth to come back after post-secondary, why?" the other tradesman asked. "Because to be bitterly honest, we have nothing to offer them. We have no entertainment, minimal sporting facilities,

no public transportation to help get people around so they could be more self-sufficient and get to a pick-up spot for work or get groceries for that matter." He said we also lack services such as banks that are open outside of traditional hours.

Chaulk said the seasonal nature of our work is an added challenge. He said for two-to-four months a year, businesses have to lay off staff and can't afford to train them. Local companies are small and don't have resources for training.

Chaulk said the other problem is young people aren't excited about working in the trades, even though there's well-paying jobs. He thinks some young workers want a good wage but don't want to work hard for it.

The other tradesman agreed. "Yes, it can be a very demanding job and we work in hard weather conditions, but just like everyone else you have to start at the bottom in all ways. There's a reason why the person making \$25 an hour is making that wage. It has to do with experience and ability."

Chaulk said local companies would be more inclined to train in-house if there was more provincial and federal funding and tax credits.

The other tradesman said municipal government can also do more. "I feel that they are too complacent and too quick to keep the status quo on many issues that

involve moving the county forward for the long-term.

"I don't feel anyone's slice of heaven should be completely destroyed or altered but do feel there needs to be a realization that many people get less service in what would otherwise be a guarantee almost anywhere else in the province."

Chaulk said the balance between workforce, tourism and retirees has to be found because the alternative isn't good.

"Can you imagine if cottagers, homeowners or business owners needed work done and there were no tradespeople to do it? Can you imagine when tourists go to restaurants and there are no cooks?"

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Highlander business



Sweets and services at holiday open house

The community was invited to enjoy some festive treats while they discovered the many services available at 49 Maple Ave. in Haliburton. A Dec. 7 holiday open house featured local agencies Contact North, Fleming CREW Employment Centre, SIRCH Community Services, Fleming academic upgrading, and Haliburton County's Social and Housing Services. SIRCH, a non-profit charity that offers many social programs, is the latest addition to the building. They relocated at the end of September after putting their former home base on County Road 21 up for sale. (Mark Arike)

Above: Visitors drop by SIRCH Community Services' new office. Right: Fleming CREW employees Sandy Stevens, left, and Jillian Denniston enjoy hot chocolate and apple cider. Photos by Mark Arike.



INFORMATION PAGE

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Request for Rates

RFR #RDS 17-014 – Truck and Construction Equipment Rentals. The Roads Dept. is seeking hourly rates for the rental of construction equipment for a three (3) year term (2018 – 2020). Submission deadline is Jan 25, 2018 by 12:00 noon. Visit www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for more information.

Winter Parking

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 am. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

Seasons Greetings

From the Township of Minden Hills
Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

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Hours of Operation:

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

CLOSED Dec 25th to

Jan 1st, 2017

Regular hours resume

Jan 2nd, 2017

Cultural Centre/Agnes

Jamieson Gallery

CLOSED Dec 22nd

Regular hours resume

Jan 2nd, 2017

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

Dec 24th 8:30 am – 11:00 am

CLOSED Dec 25th & 26th

Dec 27th – Call Arena for hours

CLOSED Jan 1st

Community Services Department

Administration Office

Hours of Operation:

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

CLOSED Dec 25th to Jan 1st,

2017

Landfills

All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25th & Jan 1st

Meeting & Events

Jan 25 - 9:00 am, combined
COTW/Council Meeting, Minden
Council Chambers

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

Please Note: Council meetings
are reduced to one meeting
during the month of January.

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change.

The Winners of the Festival of Trees Raffle Ticket list:

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Anderson, Julie	Cooper, Charlene	Denise	Roberts, Lori
Bagshaw, Marilyn	Danilko, Marissa	Lowes, Nancy	Robinson, Paige
Baird, Rita	Dawson, Diane	Macarthur, Theresa	Schell, Carole
Balaski, Robbie	Dutka, Jean	Mack, Cathy	Schell, Lisa
Ballantyne, Kim	Dykstra, Amanda	Maulson, Pat	Short, Gayle
Bamford, Krista	Gill, Jenn	Mintz, Linda	Shulist, Joe
Bingham, Victoria	Hamilton, Teagan	Monk, D. Lynn	Therrien, Nancy
Bolin, Barb	Hewitt, Betty	Monk, Michelle	Thistle, Cindy
Campbell, Kristen	Hewitt, Tenley	Muelle, Andrea	Tomkinson, Ann
Campbell, Nadene	Hughes, Craig	Murray, Kathy	Van Nood, Shelley
Campbell, Pat	Kernohan, Georgina	Oetelaar, Laurie	Welch, Elli
Carr, Susan	Kitchener, Jason	Osbourne, Summer	Willbee, Alex
Carr, Valerie	Legge, Tegan	Paliwoda, Rose	Wilson, Tyler
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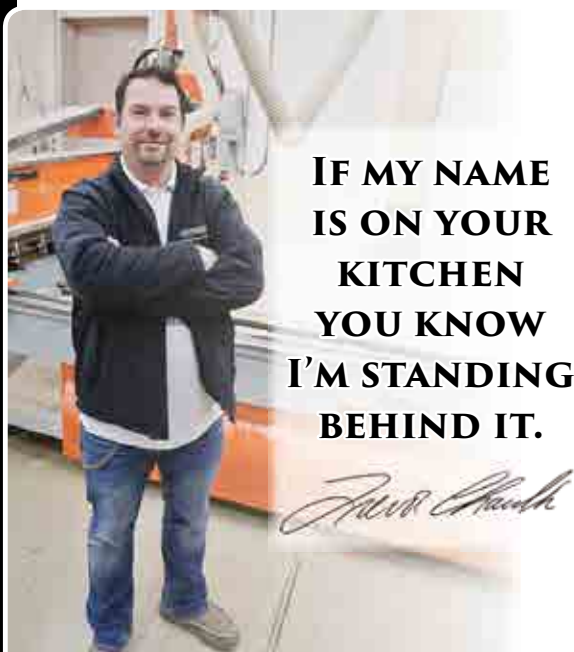
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Living well



Dorset Health Hub asks for funding

By Alex Coop

The Dorset Health Hub wants to continue its work in the area with the help of financial contributions from Algonquin Highlands and Lake of Bays councils.

The organization has served nearly 400 registered patients, according to Collin Reaney, board member of the Dorset Community Partnership Fund, who spoke to Algonquin Highlands council last month.

Patients are evenly split between Muskoka and Haliburton.

Mayor Carol Moffatt said the organization is to be commended for its "incredible work," and said the hub's requested \$10,000 will be deferred to

budget deliberations in January.

One of three provincial pilot health care hubs in Muskoka, the Dorset site provides local residents without a family doctor/nurse practitioner access to one.

The hub also has access to lab services and medications for emergencies.

It's received \$1.2 million in community contributions to date.

"The hub is working," Reaney told councillors. "It's a good investment."

The recreation centre in Dorset is used for the diabetes program by about 20 people. It's another example of ways the township can contribute resources, he added.

"We have these spaces, why not use them?" said Reaney.



Hockey Hall of Fame inductee Scotty Morrison, pictured, chats with Moose FM personality Rick Lowes during the second day of the Radiothon last week. *Photo by Mark Arike.*

Radiothon raises \$19,000 for food banks

With the support of its listeners, Moose FM's 11th annual Radiothon raked in \$19,370 for food banks in Haliburton County. During the two-day event, donors had the chance to win prizes for their cash contributions. Christmas treats were offered to visitors at the station, located on Highland Street in Haliburton. Last year's fundraiser brought in a record-setting \$25,000. *(Mark Arike)*



Wheelbarrow of wine winner

Wendy Gamble was the lucky winner of the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary's Wheelbarrow of Wine fundraiser. With 40 bottles of wine donated by auxiliary members and a wheelbarrow donated by Emmerson Lumber, Wendy was all smiles. Pictured is convener Jane Jaycock, Wendy Gamble and convener Diane Smith. The auxiliary would like to thank all those who purchased tickets and helped raise more than \$4,100 for capital equipment for the Haliburton Hospital. *Submitted.*



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Highlander events



Above: Carl Dixon sings a Christmas tune. Right: Popular local radio personality Mike Jaycock emceed the festivities. Left: Violin player Bethany Houghton was one of several local musicians who joined Carl Dixon on stage. *Photos by Mark Arike.*

Carl Dixon and friends play for charity

Carl Dixon, former frontman of The Guess Who, recently joined other local musicians to spread holiday cheer and raise money for two organizations. The seventh annual Christmas concert, held on Dec. 7 at McKecks Tap and Grill in Haliburton, raised \$1,500 for the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary and the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank. They will split the proceeds. The restaurant was packed for the evening's fundraiser, which included a charity auction. The event has raised about \$9,500 for charity since its inception. Non-perishable food items were collected for the food bank at the door and for a week after the show. *(Mark Arike)*



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Highlander events



Rotary club throws a Christmas party for Haliburton

Families enjoyed free festivities and entertainment under one roof during the Haliburton Rotary Club's fifth annual Community Christmas Party. The Dec. 8 event at A.J. LaRue Arena featured skating, Christmas music from Jeff Moulton, games, pizza, photos with Santa and presents for children. Dogsledding was cancelled due to the conditions. (Mark Arike)

Top left: Jeff Moulton performs some Christmas tunes. Top right: Families enjoy free pizza and entertainment in the upper level of the A.J. LaRue Arena. Far left: Children and adults enjoy free pizza during the evening event. Left: A young boy skates a lap around the arena. Photos by Mark Arike.

Students show school spirit during celebration

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students celebrated the pride of the red and Canada's 150th anniversary on Dec. 8. The day began with a school-wide breakfast served by staff. Then, students went to the gym for a pep rally and a basketball game, which saw the junior boys' team take on staff. Various Canadian-themed activities, including face painting and trivia, were also part of the day's festivities. (Mark Arike)

Right: Students help the school's mascot make his way around the gym. Far right: Students proudly display their school spirit during a pep rally. Photos by Mark Arike.



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**Performances July 2-5 (7:30 p.m.), 6 & 8
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by A.R. Gurney

The play is set in a fine dining room, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action is a mosaic of interrelated scenes—some touching, some revealing, some hilarious—which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of the rewards and trials of family life. The actors change roles, personalities and ages with virtuoso skill as they portray a wide variety of characters, from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

**Performances July 30 - Aug 2 (7:30 p.m.), 3 & 5
(2 p.m. matinee), Aug 7 & 8 (7:30 p.m.).**

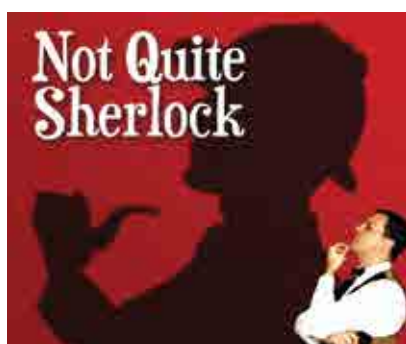


Cliffhanger

by James Yaffe

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Performances July 25 & 26 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m. matinee).



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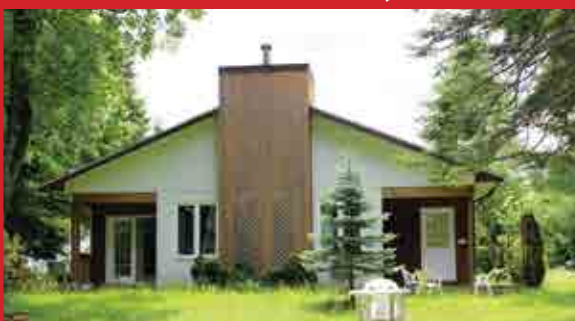


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Highlander sports

Red Hawks rise to the top

After winning their last two games, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Red Hawks have soared to the top of the leaderboard in the Kawartha hockey league. The HHSS boys' hockey team defeated the St. Peter Saints 5-2 at the A.J. LaRue Arena on Dec. 6. The next day, they travelled to Fenelon Falls, where they beat the Falcons 4-2. They have a record of four wins and one loss, and are first out of 10 teams in the league. Their next home game is Dec. 20 against the Cobourg Wolves. Puck drops at 3:50 p.m. (Mark Arike)



Above: Red Hawks goalie Carson Sisson makes an easy save. Left: A Red Hawks player takes control of the puck as he skates into the Saints' end. Below left: A HHSS player goes after the puck. Below right: Benn MacNaull skates behind a Saints player as he pursues the puck. Photos by Mark Arike.



Mountain biker's success only the beginning

By Alex Coop

A friendly mountain bike race at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride hooked its teeth into Minden's Nick Emsley seven years ago.

Now at the age of 18, his passion for mountain biking hasn't waned; it's actually intensified.

Emsley placed first in his final event of the 2017 racing season in Mansfield, Ont. Oct. 14.

"It's about dedication. It can get challenging at times, but at the end of the day, you feel satisfied with what you've accomplished," says Emsley.

And Emsley has accomplished a lot.

To cap his season off this year, Emsley won his second consecutive Sausage Suit

Individual Time Trial event, a time trial format cross country mountain bike race.

For the fifth year in a row, he placed first in the 44 km single track challenge at the Hardwood Ski and Bike, just north of Toronto, May 27.

He's also had a number of top three finishes over the years.

The young racer's daily schedule starts with a two-and-a-half-hour workout at 4:30 a.m. That's then followed by school, work, and additional cardio training in the evening.

He also takes his talents to Sir Sam's Ski and Ride's Advanced Camp for mountain biking as an instructor during the summer. Emsley has been helping with the camp



for more than four years.

Emsley has also competed against some of the world's top talents, including:

Geoff Kabush – three-time Canadian Olympian; Corry Wallace – one of the top marathon racers in the world; Andrew Watson – his coach and former Norco Factory Racer and Derek Zandstra – former Canadian champion and USA champion.

Emsley and his coach Andrew Watson, a four-time Canadian champion, will focus more on marathon training for next season.

His long-term goal is to represent his country on the global stage in 2020. With the ongoing support of his family and the people of Haliburton, that goal appears to be very attainable.

The Highlander is also a proud sponsor of Nick Emsley.

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Highland Storm



The Highland Storm Bantams surround an opposing player in Friday night action. Photo by Mark Arike.

Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House/Dollo's Foodland Bantams

The Storm played a home-and-home series against the Woodville Hurricanes this past weekend. The first game was Friday evening in Minden. Brendan Coumbs got the Storm on the board midway through the opening frame but the Hurricanes tied it shortly after on a penalty shot. Zach Davis put the Storm back on top scoring on a nice pass from Hunter Arnott. The boys from Woodville then responded with three unanswered goals to take a 4-2 lead before Jake Sisson scored on the power play near the end of the second period to make it 4-3 Woodville at second intermission. In the third, the teams continued to take turns scoring goals with Storm markers coming from Tyson Clements and a second from Sisson in a 7-5 loss to Woodville.

Saturday's game saw an evenly matched first period until the Hurricanes scored near the end of the period with the puck just barely squeezing between Nate Miscio and the post. Body contact was the theme of the second period with both teams delivering some thundering hits much to the enjoyment of the fans and giving the hometown Hurricanes a 1-0 lead going into the third period. The third period saw a revolving door to the penalty box for both teams which never allowed the Storm to get any momentum and at the final buzzer the boys found themselves without

a goal in a 3-0 loss and a series sweep.

The bantams travel to Campbellford on Saturday for a tournament. (Submitted by Gord Hoenow).

Tom Prentice & Sons Trucking Tykes

The Highland Storm travelled to Millbrook for their first tournament of the season. Game one was against the Mariposa Lightning White, and a 6-0 win for the Storm. Goals scored by Vanek Logan (3), Jaxen Casey, Easton Burk, Zack Prentice and assists by Jack Tomlinson (1), Logan (1), Burk (1).

The Storm outplayed the Manvers Mustangs in Game two, winning 10-0. Goals scored by Logan (5), Evan Perrott (2), McCartney Saunders (2), Tomlinson (1) and assists by Matthew Scheffee (1), Luke Gruppe (1), Perrott (1).

The Mariposa Lightning Blue was no match for the Storm in the semi-final game, losing 10-2. Goals scored by Logan (4), Gruppe (3), Casey (2), Tomlinson (1) and assists by Mason Latanville (2), Ethan DeCarlo (2), Tomlinson (2), Burk (2), Saunders (1), Perrott (1), Logan (1).

The Storm treated the crowd to an exciting final game against the Sturgeon Lake Thunder. With goals scored by Logan (3), Tomlinson (1) and Latanville (1), the Storm took the game 5-2.

Carter Braun's amazing goaltending contributed greatly to the success of the team. The Storm proved that hard work and determination pay off as they claimed

the title of A Champions. (Submitted by Jessica Tomlinson).

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

On Dec. 5, the Storm hosted the Kawartha Coyotes. They got on the board first with a goal by Gage Hutchinson, assisted by Avery Degeer and held a 1-0 lead into the second. The Coyotes took control in the second, however, netting four goals. Ahead 4-1, the Coyotes scored one more at the start of the third. The Storm managed one, scored by Austin Boylan, assisted by Kyan Hall and Evan Armstrong but fell short 5-2.

On Dec. 9, the Storm headed to Whitby to take on the Durham Crusaders. Again, the Storm struck first with a goal by Hall, assisted by Aiden Perrott and Degeer. The Crusaders scored to tie it going into the second. They netted another in the middle frame to take a 2-1 lead going into the third. The Crusaders scored early off a deflection to put them ahead by two. But, the Storm came within a goal, scored by Boylan, unassisted. Storm goalie Taylor Consack shut the door and did everything he could to keep his team in the game but at the final buzzer, it was 3-2 Crusaders.

The locals travelled to Parry Sound Dec. 10 to take on the Shamrocks. The first period was all Shamrocks with them taking

a 3-0 lead. The Shamrock's luck continued and they netted another but the Storm took advantage on the power play with Cooper Coles scoring, assisted by Hall and Degeer. The Shamrocks put in another but so did the Storm with a goal by Perrott, assisted by Coles to put the score at 5-2 going into the third. The Shamrocks took advantage on the power play and scored again but the Storm buckled down and started on the attack. Hutchinson scored, assisted by Coles, to cut the lead in half. Another power play and Hutchinson scored again, assisted by Hall and Coles. But they ran out of time, losing 6-4. Another great effort between the pipes by goalie Damon Harriss.

The peewees head to Bracebridge Dec. 16 to take on the South Muskoka Bears. (Submitted by Ron Hall).

The GJ Burtch Construction Atom AE

The Storm travelled south to play in the Silver Stick tournament in Ayr Dec. 8-9.

They played two games on Friday, the first a 10-0 loss to the Lincoln Blades. The second was versus the Lambeth Lancers. In the first period, Parker Simms scored the only Storm goal with the game ending in a 5-1 loss.

Early Saturday morning, the Storm faced the Tillsonburg Tornados. They started off strong with Jace Mills taking the puck from one end of the ice to the other to score the first goal. A few minutes after,

Continued on page 22



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Highland Storm



A Bantam player falls to his knees in the Game of the Week. Photo by Mark Arike.

Storm reports

Continued from page 20

he scored again. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough and the game ended in a 4-2 loss. (Submitted by Lisa Reinwald).

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On Dec. 9, the Storm travelled to Beaverton to face the Brock Wild. The Wild opened the scoring two minutes in. However, two minutes later, the puck was dish out of the corner to Addison Carr in the slot for a goal. In the second, the Storm dominated. Carr caused a turnover at the Storm blue line, sped around the D on the left wing,

cut in and deked the goalie for his second goal. He did it again two minutes later for his hat trick. Right after that, Carr was in the thick of it again with Cheyenne Degeer and Brechin Johnson and this time Johnson deked the goalie for a top shelf goal.

In the third, the Wild scored their second goal. However, Carr picked up the puck in the Storm end and rushed down the left wing while Brock was changing. He passed to Degeer who eventually got her own rebound to score. Final score: 5-2 Storm

On Dec. 10, the team travelled to Parry Sound to face the Parry Sound Shamrocks, losing 5-1. The lone Storm goal was by Johnston, assisted by Carr.

On Dec. 16 at 2 p.m., the Storm travels to Bracebridge to face the Bears. (Submitted by Amber Card).

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The Highland Storm Tykes celebration their A championship in Millbrook. Submitted.

Bantams

The Total Site Services bantam local league team has had a great 7-0 start to their season. This past weekend, they faced some tough competition at the Silver Stick tournament in Haliburton. The first game was against the Apsley Flames. Goalie Darian Maddock had a fantastic game and saw lots of rubber.

For the second game, they took on the Thorton Tigers. Nick Phippen was able to score two goals, one unassisted and one assisted by Cody Martin. Unfortunately, the TIGers fought back hard and were able to defeat the Storm 3-2.

For the final game, the Storm took on the Mariposa Lightning. Phippen was able to rack up two goals and two assists, Hunter Winder had a goal and an assist and Tyler Martin had two goals and an assist. The team played great together, however it was not enough to keep the Lighting at bay and they were defeated 9-5.

Cheer on the bantams this weekend at the Haliburton arena on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. (Submitted by Greg Phippen).

Atoms

The Pharmasave atoms had a very busy weekend with a double header. On Dec 9, they played Huntsville away. In the first period, the Storm got the scoring started with a goal by Daniel Stephen, assisted by Eric Bird and Jacob Mantle.

Early in the second period, Huntsville scored but the Storm answered back with another goal by Stephen, unassisted.

In the third period, Huntsville answered back with two goals followed by a hat trick goal by Stephen, assisted by Bird and Bryant Medlar for a final score of 4-3. Player of the game went to Medlar.

On Dec. 10, the Storm hosted Huntsville.

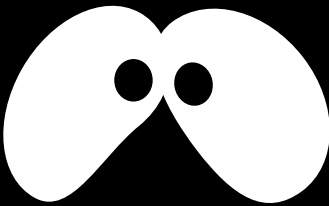
During the first period, Stephen scored the first goal assisted by Bird and Owen Megraw-Poppe. The second period started out strong with the Storm working together as a team to take another lead with another goal by Bird, unassisted. Hunstville answered back with matching goals but the Storm kept the pressure on with another unassisted goal by Stephen in the third period. But, Huntsville kept the pressure on with a final score of 10-3.

Player of the game went to Mantle (Submitted by Chris McMartin).

Local League

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Jake continues to show his hockey smarts and in Fridays' match versus Woodville, he was rewarded with two goals along with delivering some nice body checks and setting up teammates with some nifty playmaking.

2

Zach Davis



Zach continues to use his speed to help the Storm. Frequently put on the penalty killing unit because of his strong forechecking skills, his speed paid off last Friday as the quick winger jumped into an open spot on the ice giving him perfect positioning for a lovely goal.

3

Sam Hoenow



The feisty little winger was moved to the centre position midway through Friday's match against the Hurricanes. Sam won numerous important face offs particularly while on the penalty killing line and was rewarded with an assist spearheading a nice play on the power play.

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Jets reports

Bantams

The Parkview Dental/Canadian Tire Bantams got a 3-0 win on home ice this past Saturday.

Gillian Rosik started the Jets scoring with a backhand in front of the Eagles net, assisted by Trista Young. Emma Tidey scored, unassisted, by winning a battle for the puck against her opponents, skating in, and shooting the puck under the pad of Ennismore's goalie. The final goal of the game was by Jaylin Frost, unassisted, with a beautiful wrist shot ending up with the puck top right corner in the net. Bella Smoelen had a solid game in net and earned the shut out for the Jets. Next games: Saturday at 4 p.m. against Peterborough and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. against Napanee at home. (Submitted by Linda Goulet).

Midgets

The Bancroft IDA/Red Eagle Family Campground Midgets won 3-1 against the Otonabee Wolverines on Saturday. (Submitted by Lysane Burnett).

Peewees

The Leveque Bros/Rock Breaker Peewees started the weekend on the road in Lindsay against the Lynx. In a close game, the Jets came out on top 2-1. Both goals were scored by Hailey Hudder, assist to Jordyn Coe. On Sunday, the girls were on home ice against the Lynx again. The Lynx came to play, scoring in the first period. The Jets came back in the second, scoring two. With two minutes remaining in the third, Lindsay pulled their goalie and were able to squeak one in. The game ended 2-2. Goals to Hudder and Megan Jenkins. Assists to Chloe Billings (2), Maya Woods and Hudder. Next game is Saturday against Ennismore in Haliburton at 3 p.m. (Submitted by Tracy Coe).

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NOTICE

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Blairhampton
Golf Club at 1557 Duck Lake Road Minden, ON,
K0M 2K0 will be holding a public meeting to
present its Annual Report on Class 9 pesticide
use as required by Ontario Regulation 63/09
under the Pesticides Act. The Annual Report
summarizes the use of class 9 pesticides used
in 2017. The meeting will be held on
Monday Dec. 18, 10 am.

Please RSVP to 705-286-1315.
Doug Prozak - IPM Agent.

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produce & fresh foods for
sale. Open Wednesday-
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6
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parking. Jan 1. \$550 all
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heat, West Guilford area.
Call for details 705-457-
0710.

ROOMS FOR RENT,
West Guilford area. Call
for details 705-457-0710.

Classifieds \$8
\$8 for 25 words, 50 maximum.
705-457-2900

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Bathroom Renovation - Stanhope Fire Station

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking bids from qualified,
experienced trades to renovate a bathroom in our Stanhope Fire
Hall, as per the design, to create a new accessible washroom.

Please refer to www.algonquinhighlands.ca
for complete details and Bid Forms:

CALL FOR TENDER
Bathroom Renovation Station 80 FS-17-02.

Sealed/marked quotes will be received at the
Township Office: 1123 North Shore Road,
Algonquin Highlands, Ontario K0M 1J1 until 3:00 p.m.
on Friday, January 5, 2018.

Please refer all tender inquiries to:
Mike Cavanagh, Fire Chief mcavanagh@algonquinhighlands.ca
or by phone at 705-766-0010.

The lowest or any quotation not necessarily accepted.

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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

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EXPERIENCED CUTTER/SKIDDER OPERATOR, certified preferred. Work area in Dorset (arrangements can be made to Car-pool from Carnarvon). Top wages, benefit program available. Individual must be a safety-minded, punctual, team player and able to work well with others. Questions or to apply email hallslake88@hotmail.com or call 705-306-0935.

EVENTS

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

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 Cathy 705-457-2996, or Judy 705-306-9064.

LUNCH FOR THE BEREAVED, an informal get-together for those who are experiencing bereavement. Light lunch, no registration required. Fridays 11:30 am - 1 pm, 1st & 3rd Friday of the month – Haliburton Legion. 2nd & 4th Friday of the month, Minden Legion For more info: 705-457-2941.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP open to anyone who has been diagnosed with or survived cancer. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Ruth Parkes Room at the Haliburton Hospital from 1 – 3 p.m. For more info: 705-457-2941.

EVENTS

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS Stroke Support Group meets the third Thursday of each month at the Fireside Lounge, Highland Crest, Minden 10 a.m. - noon. Contact Lois Rigney 705-286-1765

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Shirley Marie Kirk

(Longtime Employee of the Haliburton County Roads Department)

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Monday, December 4, 2017 with her loving family by her side, at the age of 68.

Beloved wife of the late Jim Kirk (2005). Loving mother of Barry and Donna Thompson, and grandmother of Macy. Shirley is predeceased by her sister Beverly Lunney. Dear aunt of Wendy and Herschel Jacobs, Dennis and Charlene Lunney and families. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

In keeping with Shirley's wishes, Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will be held at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Bradford, Ontario in the spring of 2018.

Memorial donations to the Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Academy 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

EVENTS

sassy digs

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HELP WANTED



The Municipality of Highlands East

Is Currently Seeking A

Building Inspector/Deputy Chief Building Official

The Municipality of Highlands East Building Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector/Deputy Chief Building Official.

Preference will be given to candidates who have the following experience:

- 5 years experience in a related trade with a minimum of 2 years performing municipal building inspections and reviewing permit applications for Part 3 & Part 9 Buildings and Part 8 Sewage.
- Formal academic training in an architectural based program or equivalent, or construction technology including septic installations.
- Qualified in or be willing to obtain qualification through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing examinations in House, Small Buildings, HVAC-House, Plumbing-House, Septic and Building Structural.
- Have a thorough working knowledge of the Ontario Building Code and associated legislation, with a demonstrated ability in plans examination, issuing permits, performing site inspections to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code and knowledge of construction techniques and systems.
- Have a valid G driver's license.
- Have experience with various computer programs including MS Office Suite and good oral and written communication skills.

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application –Building Inspector/Deputy Chief Building Official"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8th, 2018 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: shunter@highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer. Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.

A copy of the detailed job description is available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Highlander classifieds

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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34	35	36	37					38				
39							40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

ACROSS

1. Briny deep
4. Lamenting cry
8. Harm
12. Eighth mo.
13. Dress for Caesar
14. Got it! (2 wds.)
15. Tire grip
17. Bare
18. Showy flower
19. Once more
20. Photocopier liquid
22. Knight protectors
24. Scrutinized
26. Better half
27. Paddle's kin
28. Bubble ____

32. Mary ____ (Bible figure)

34. Mimic
38. ____ blanche
39. Contributor
40. Mediocre (hyph.)
41. Flat
42. Chair parts
46. Well-ventilated
47. Shortly
48. Impressed utterance
49. Permits
50. Wooden pins
51. Director Spike ____

DOWN

1. Fri. follower

2. Austria's cont.
3. Opposed to
4. Apparel
5. Reporter ____ Lane
6. Long, long ____
7. ____ Francisco
8. Door joint
9. Ordinary
10. Redecorated
11. Adolescents
16. Crinkly cloth
19. Assist
20. Actor ____ Robbins
21. Stop ____ dime (2 wds.)
22. Theater platform
23. Cow crowd
25. Outer garment
28. Unenthused
29. Hairspray type
30. Explosive inits.
31. Laughing sound
32. Deface
33. Squirrel's treats
34. Flawless
35. "Brokeback Mountain", e.g.
36. Inactive
37. Stage awards
40. Urban air pollution
42. Nile viper
43. Caviar base
44. Foot part
45. That female

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6	5	7			3	1		
			9		6	2		
	9						5	6
		6	8	7				
	8						2	
				6	1	7		
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PREVIOUS WEEK'S ANSWERS

T	W	O		S	C	A	N		S	C	A	B
R	A	P		L	A	C	E		E	A	S	Y
E	Y	E		O	L	E	O		E	L	S	E
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T	U	T	O	R		A	R	R	A	N	G	E
			R	O	E			A	N	G	O	R
B	E	A	D			P	O	L	E		M	A
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O	N	T	O			A	N	D	Y		D	E

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

Highlander events



Santa rides through Wilberforce in style

Santa Claus made a grand entrance in Wilberforce: on the back of a side-by-side ATV. The big man, along with floats and groups on foot, made his way through town during the annual parade last Sunday afternoon. The short route started at the Wilberforce Elementary School and ended at the Lloyd Watson Centre, where kids were given a present and had their picture taken with Santa. Candy, pop and hot dogs were also handed out. The event was sponsored by the Ward 4 volunteer fire department and the Santa fund committee. (Mark Arike)

Top: A locked up Grinch was featured on the Crime Stoppers float. Above left: Santa, joined by a volunteer firefighter, waves to the crowd. Above right: The Wilberforce Rockets hockey team walked in the parade. Right: Jocelyn Donaldson of South Algonquin Trails rides through downtown Wilberforce. Photos by Mark Arike.



[www.carolefinnartist.com/ONLINE STORE](http://www.carolefinnartist.com/ONLINE_STORE)



The ONLINE store will be launched for business on Saturday, Dec. 9 during the Opening of "Carole Finn-2017 A year In Retro"



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What's on

DEC 2017 & JAN 2018 • EVENT LISTINGS

Thursday, December 14

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Trim Nails for a Cause, at Minden Animal Hospital. \$10 cash donation, or a new toy of minimum \$10 value. All proceeds will be going to the Minden Toy Drive being held by the Minden Food Bank.

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Craft Group in Wilberforce, at Deep Roots Store, every Thursday. Call 705-448-9888.

11 – noon – Adult Shinny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$5/person

12 – 2 p.m. – Adults Only Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$2/person

Friday December 15

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Trim Nails for a Cause, at Minden Animal Hospital. \$10 cash donation, or a new toy of minimum \$10 value. All proceeds will be going to the Minden Toy Drive being held by the Minden Food Bank.

Saturday December 16

7:30 – 10:30 p.m. – Blues Christmas, at Dominion Hotel, Minden.

December 16 - 17

Standard First Aid, CPR & AED Certification Course, at Deep Roots Adventure, 2307 Loop Rd., Wilberforce. Pre-registration required, \$135 + HST per person, obtain certification valid for 3 yrs. info@deerootsadventure.com, 705-448-9888.

Sunday December 17

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$2/person

11:15 a.m. – Advent Choral Service with the Haliburton United Church choir, directed by Melissa Stephens, at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, \$2/person. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

7 p.m. – Essonville Historic Church Carol Service – 1284 Essonville Line (County Rd. 4). An old fashioned carol service by lantern and candlelight in a historic setting.

Monday December 18

2 – 5 p.m. Places For People open house, at 2690 Monck Rd., Cardiff. placesforpeople.ca

Tuesday December 19

10 – 11 a.m. Coffee & Colouring, at the Dysart Branch of the Haliburton County Library, 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month!

Wednesday December 20

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, \$2/person. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Wednesday December 20

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$2/person

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, \$2/person. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Thursday, December 21

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Craft Group in Wilberforce, at Deep Roots Store, every Thursday. Call 705-448-9888.

11 a.m. – noon – Adult Shinny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$5/person

Noon – 2 p.m. – Adults Only Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. \$2/person

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, FREE!. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Sunday December 24

10 a.m. – Joint Pastoral Charge Morning Service, at Lochlin United Church, 1050 Lochlin Rd., 10 a.m. singing, 10:30 a.m. service. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

7 p.m. – Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service – Communion and Special Music, at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

7 p.m. – "The Gift", Christmas Eve service, at Eagle Lake Community Church.

Wednesday December 27

11 – noon – Adult Shinny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, FREE!. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Thursday December 28

11 – noon – Adult Shinny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

Noon – 2 p.m. – Public Skating at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, FREE!. Children under 10 must wear a CSA approved helmet.

Friday, December 29

11 – noon – Adult Shinny at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Public Skating at A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton. FREE!

Sunday, December 31

9 a.m. – Joint New Years' Eve Service, for Ingoldsby and Lochlin United Churches, at Ingoldsby, 1741 Ingoldsby Rd., Minden. 9 a.m. singing, 9:30 a.m. service. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

11:15 a.m. – Contemporary Service at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton. 705-457-1891, hpcharge@bellnet.ca

6 – 8 p.m. – Family New Year's Eve – Grab your skates, toboggans, family and friends, and bring them to the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena for this free event.

Saturday January 13

Therapeutic Touch Level 1 workshop. Learn a holistic, evidence-based therapy that provides relaxation in any situation and boosts the immune system for improved healing, health and well being. Contact Susan Keith 705-457-3981 or ch.concepts@sympatico.ca

Saturday January 20

Therapeutic Touch Level 2 workshop. Continue or refresh your Therapeutic Touch journey! Learn to recognize and understand the meaning of imbalances in the energy field and methods of rebalancing the field to promote health and well being. Contact Susan Keith 705-457-3981 or ch.concepts@sympatico.ca

2018

Thursday January 4

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Craft Group in Wilberforce, at Deep Roots Store, every Thursday. Call 705-448-9888.

Saturday January 13

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's Course, for people aged 12 and up. See hcsa.ca/driver-training/ for details.

EVERY TUESDAY

10 a.m. – Noon – Library at the Dorset Rec Centre.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

2 – 6 p.m. – Library at the Dorset Rec Centre.

EVERY FRIDAY

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch for the Bereaved, 1st and 3rd Friday in Haliburton (SIRCH, 2 Victoria St.), 2nd and 4th Friday in Minden (Minden Legion, Hwy 35). Drop-in. For more info contact 705-457-2941 Ext 2932.

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 third Thursday of the month starting at 7 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 cribbage 1 p.m. start and 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.

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

Don't forget our Christmas lunch on Dec. 20 at noon. Turkey with all the trimmings only \$12, with a special meat draw of turkeys and hams. Plus two more special draws. Dec. 16, we have open mic from 2-5 p.m. Our "Tree of Warmth" is ready and waiting for donations of warm outerwear, to supplement the Food Bank's Christmas baskets. The senior's art group have a hands-on session every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. There are a few openings in this group, so if you have been waiting, now is your chance. Ladies darts have resumed, Wed. afternoon at 1 p.m. Monday-every second week rug hooking; Tuesday, seniors art classes 10 a.m., bid euchre 1 p.m.; Wednesday, meat draw noon; Thursday, mixed darts and euchre 7 p.m.; Friday 7 p.m. mixed darts; Saturday, meat draw 1 p.m.; Sunday, sports day noon. Lunches every Mon.-Fri, with Friday featuring fish and chips and chicken wings also served 5-7 p.m. Take-out available. Everyone welcome.

WILBERFORCE BRANCH

Dec. 15 Spaghetti dinner 5 - 7 p.m.
Dec. 16 Meat draw 2 p.m. - Early bird 3 p.m. sharp

Dec. 18 Bid euchre 7 p.m. Beginners
Dec. 20 Fun darts 7:30 p.m.

We are in dire need of volunteers. If anyone is interested contact the Legion at 705-448-2221. Travelling this winter? Get your travel insurance through your membership. Legion is closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve dance 9 p.m. – close
Jan. 1/18 New Year's Day President's Levee 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 27/18 Crib tournament in Trenton 29/\$50 - 28/\$25 - 24/\$10



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What's on

The best present ever

By Jennifer Hughey

Why are there so many Santa's? Is that the real Santa?

These are questions children often raise during the holiday season and for Minden author, Irene Davidson-Fisher, ones she was familiar hearing from her own kids.

"*The Best Present Ever* is based on the story I told my children and grandchildren when they began asking questions about the existence of Santa Claus," Davidson-Fisher told *The Highlander*.

In this children's book, main character Elizabeth is confused about all the different Santa's she sees and so she asks herself questions about why there are so many, why he goes by different names and ultimately, if Santa is even real.

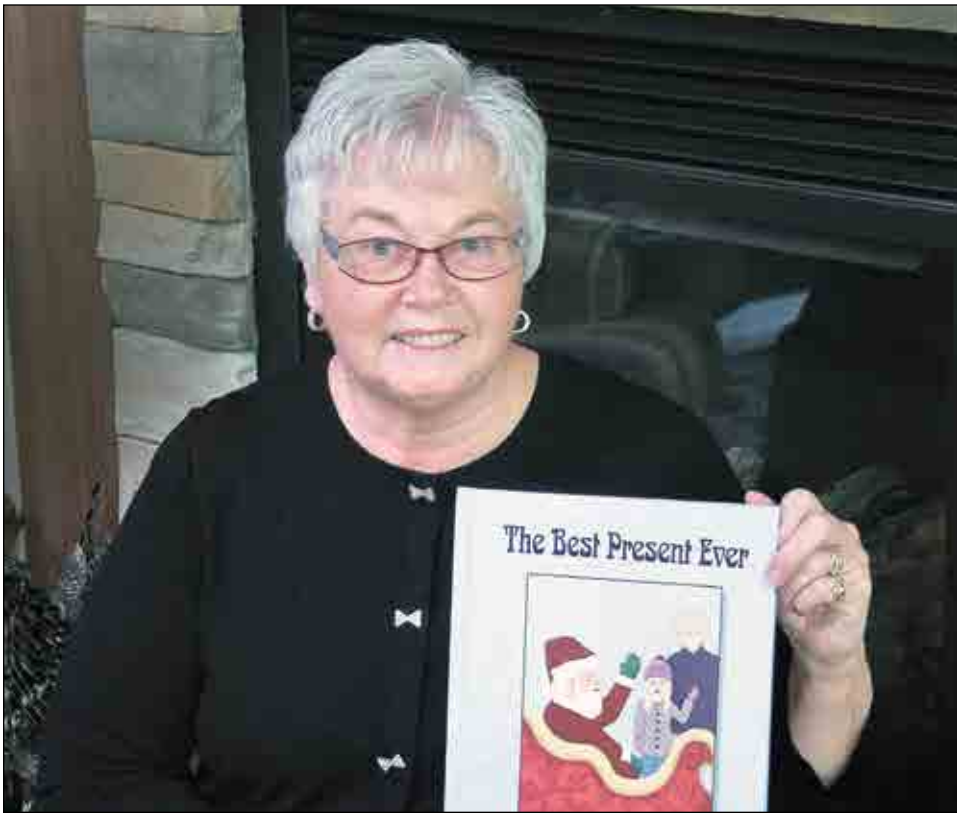
Elizabeth makes up her own mind after hearing a story from her grandmother and ultimately learns that Christmas is more about giving than receiving.

Davidson-Fisher has been published several times in *Our Canada* magazine, a subsidiary to *Reader's Digest*, is a member of the Reading/Writing Connection, the Haliburton Highlands Writer's and Editor's Network, and Children's Book Insider.

She said she loved to read and write stories as a child, but it wasn't until she retired to Minden with her husband in 2006 that she started putting her skills as a speech and script writer to a different use.

"Throughout my career, I put words in other people's mouths, writing scripts and speeches," she said. "It was a long-time goal of mine to take this skill and put words into the mouths of my real and imaginary characters."

In 2015, she published her first book, *Robbie Raccoon and the Big Black Blob*, a story told from the perspective of two mischievous raccoons on the hunt for a



Local author Irene Davidson-Fisher poses with her newest book, *The Best Present Ever* at Wintergreen Maple Products and Pancake Barn this past weekend. Photo submitted.

certain sweet smell, who in the end learn a valuable lesson about life.

"Time was always an issue," she said, "so these characters percolated in the back of my mind, with the hope that someday I would have the opportunity to write [about them]."

Davidson-Fisher said her three grandchildren continue to encourage her to bring these real and imaginary characters to life, and so, she is working on a third book entitled, *Treasures from the Deep*.

The Best Present Ever is illustrated by Davidson-Fisher's husband Stan Fisher and Andrea Por and is now available at Sassy Digs in Minden and Master's Book Store in Haliburton. It can also be ordered online from her website, left2write.ca.

Visit with Davidson-Fisher at Wintergreen Maple Syrup and Pancake Barn this Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 16 and 17, where she will be selling and signing her books for those interested this holiday season.



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Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada

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Sunday December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve at St. George's Haliburton
Lessons and Carols 9:30 am
Chaotic Family Service 4:30 pm
Carol Singing 8:00 pm
Service begins at 8:30 pm

Christmas Morning Services
St. Margaret's, Wilberforce 10:00 am
St. George's, Haliburton 10:30 am

Regular Service Times
St. George's, Haliburton - Sunday at 9:30 am
St. Margaret's, Wilberforce - Sunday at 11:15

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EXHIBITION Mar. 17 St. Patricks Day

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Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.**



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Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve Day Candlelight Carol Concert

Reception including Christmas sweets following each service

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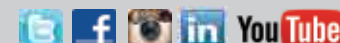
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Seasons Greetings From

The Haliburton Real Estate Team

To all of our Clients & Colleagues,
Friends & Families
we wish you the very best as 2017 comes to an end,
and look forward to more health
& prosperity in the New Year!

Linda, Karen, Marion & Dana.