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The Highlander

Thursday **October 8 2026** | Issue 760

INSIDE: THE STUDIO TOUR CONTINUES PAGE 12

FREE



Hal High teacher Paul Longo pumps up the crowd of students at the start of the Terry Fox Run Oct. 2. See more coverage on page 19.
 Photo by Adam Frisk.

AH fights new cell tower rules

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands has taken a stand against Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), refusing to endorse updated federal regulations designed to speed up approvals for new cell tower installations.

Proposed changes to legislation covering

radiocommunication and broadcasting antenna systems were issued by ISED in May. The body said the aim is to accelerate rural connectivity and 5G network expansion by “modernizing public notifications and streamlining municipal review processes.”

Township planner, Aaron Bell, broke down the changes for Algonquin Highlands

council at a Sept. 17 meeting. The most impactful, he said, is the removal of local public consultations that tower applicants had to organize before a site could be approved. That will be replaced by a digital portal where people can comment on projects online.

“They intend this portal to function as the Continued ‘Not’ on page 2

Turtle Guardians funded for new County nursery

By Mike Baker

The Land Between’s Leora Berman has always harboured dreams of running an incubation program big enough to regenerate the Highlands’ turtle population. Now, she’s one step closer to achieving her goal.

The local charity, founded by Berman in 2007, was awarded a \$196,000 grant by the Ontario Trillium Foundation last week, with the money to establish a new Turtle Guardians nursery in Gooderham. Berman said she hopes to have the site up and running by June 2027.

“This is a reason to celebrate and a major milestone for the organization,” Berman said, noting the endowment is The Land Between’s first capital grant. “Our goal is to be on par with Scales Nature Park. They’re the largest incubation centre in Canada... we’re at the point now where, if we don’t do something soon, our kids will not grow up with turtles.”

Berman said staff and volunteers respond to calls from the public about turtles on roads, or in dangerous situations. Because turtle eggs are so vulnerable, they’re taken back to Turtle Guardians’ facility in Haliburton village, where they’re cared for and nurtured for 10 days before being released back into the wild.

This year, the facility took in almost 14,000 eggs from approximately 500 nest sites across the County. They have to maintain a 97 per cent success rate in hatchling survival to maintain their incubator permit. Berman said they’ve always hit that benchmark, but survival in the wild is slim.

Continued ‘Charity’ on page 7

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Highlander news

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'Not in best interest of local population'

Continued from page 1

sole notification consultation mechanism for proposals all across Canada," Bell said.

There will be no requirement for applicants to advertise new projects in local newspapers, while on-site signs will only require a QR code people will need to scan to get more information. Application fees, set at \$500 in Algonquin Highlands, have also been removed.

The notification process is also changing. Currently, applicants must mail notice of a project to all property owners within 500 metres of a proposed tower site, or 1,000 metres if it's close to a lake. Now, ISED is mandating that notice be given only to residents who live within three times a tower's height. With most structures ranging from 30-60 metres, that means only properties 90-180 metres from a site will be notified.

"It's quite a big change," Bell said.

ISED said it will also be enforcing a 45-day review clock for residents and municipalities, with Bell saying a late or non-response will trigger automatic federal approval. While local councils retained the right to object to projects based on visual impact and environmental sensitivity before, they can now only oppose for federal procedural and safety breaches.

The township has maintained its own policy for cell tower approvals for more than a decade, but Bell said the updated federal regulations would supersede them.

Outgoing deputy mayor, Jennifer Dailloux, said she was very concerned about this new direction.

"I would say strongly none of these changes are in the best interest of the local population. Townships such as Algonquin Highlands have refined and improved our consultation and notification policies in direct reflection of the experiences we've had with these local communities and the lessons we've learned.

"The lakeside experience is very different from being in a city surrounded with high rises. We know what we're doing here and why we're doing it – because it's in the best interests of our people and community," Dailloux said.

Cell gap project

The issue is a big one in the Highlands given the controversy surrounding the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) cell gap project, which wrapped in August. Partnering with Rogers and the provincial and federal governments, the \$300 million initiative delivered 657 new, co-located and upgraded towers.

"5G cellular services are now available across eastern Ontario, improving services for residents, businesses, first responders, municipalities, Indigenous communities and visitors in the region," EORN said.

The cell gap project targeted 99 per cent voice call coverage, 95 per cent standard definition video coverage, and 85 per cent high definition video coverage in populated rural communities and highly-travelled roads and highways. In August, EORN said there was a 100 per cent



Outgoing Algonquin Highlands deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux has criticized updated federal regulations around cell tower installations. *File.*

completion rate for upgrades to existing towers, at 311, though only 234 of 257 planned new towers were built – a 91 per cent success rate.

Twenty-one upgrades to existing towers were completed in the County, with four new co-locations, though only 19 of 29 new towers are currently in service – a 65.5 per cent success rate.

Of the proposed new sites, 12 were set for Dysart et al, six each in Minden Hills and Highlands East and five in Algonquin Highlands.

The Highlander did not get confirmation on the 10 projects that haven't been completed but know Algonquin Highlands council refused to provide concurrence for a tower on Hwy. 60 near Oxtongue Lake in 2023, which didn't proceed. Minden Hills council also opted against supporting a tower slated for Bobcaygeon Road last fall.

Ward 2 coun. Sabrina Richards called the update "an attack to democracy at the municipal level" and pitched maintaining the local policy, despite having no teeth.

"Even though we have little control when a higher level of government comes in and wants to make changes, we have found when we vote against things we're not supposed to vote against – like previous tower sites – they do listen," Richards said.

Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East are the only two County townships with cell tower policies.

CAO John Connolly recommended council maintain what it has, with staff taking on the role of notifying residents within 500 or 1,000 metres of a site, depending on location, and organizing public consultation.

"This is a case of, are we going to get hit in the face or the gut? It's not the kind of policy we want. We want to maintain the local autonomy. There will be difficulties for providing the advocacy – but I think we still need to do that," Connolly said. "This is an important issue, a local issue, and I think we need to keep banging the drum."



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Highlander news

Minden wants input on floodplain mapping

By Lisa Gervais

There are positive and negative implications for property owners under proposed new floodplain mapping for Minden Hills, CAO Cynthia Fletcher told council's last meeting.

A proposed zoning bylaw amendment for floodplain boundaries was presented at a Sept. 24 meeting with little input from the general public so far.

Fletcher said what is being planned, "does have an impact, both positive and negative, to some properties." She said it was why the report was for information only, as staff feel there needs to be more public education and engagement.

Manager of planning, Amanda Dougherty, discussed proposed amendments to the township zoning bylaw for mapping, from 1988, and for the Gull River only. She said the changes would align Minden's floodway zone and flood risk overlays with new LiDAR mapping the County of Haliburton did with the Gananaska Conservation Authority. It would now also include coverage along the Burnt, Drag and Irondale rivers.

"The floodway is an area of high-risk and is not generally permitted [for] development or site alteration. The flood risk area, also referred to as the flood fringe, is subject to flooding but to a lesser degree, and therefore may support development or site alteration providing such development can be safely achieved and without creating new or aggravated hazards," she said.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey appreciated the report and said the township had to do better outreach.

"This is new mapping. It is definitely going to impact people's properties, and is totally new for the Irondale, Burnt, and Drag." She called for informal open houses, such as at the Irondale and Minden community centres, with large maps on the wall, so people can pinpoint their property to learn about potential impacts. She also wanted to make sure the mapping was accurate.

Coun. Pam Sayne felt now being consistent with the provincial planning statement will help the township progress applications faster. She said it was important the community also understands why the municipality is altering its mapping. She thought they could record a public event and share it to YouTube.

Coun. Ivan Ingram asked if existing maps were grandfathered for landowners. Dougherty said anything built pre-mapping changes would be allowed to remain.

Coun. Bob Sisson asked, "what happens if someone has paid a huge amount of money for a property and now it's going to be zoned in this floodplain, what is the resale going to be for this property?"

Dougherty said while it might sound "crass," property values are not a planning matter. However, she added, the



The iconic chairs in the Gull River some use to gauge water levels. *File.*

concern "is not lost on staff." She said she was already working with possible impacted property owners.

Mayor Bob Carter said the LiDAR mapping was done before COVID but then delayed in the aftermath. He said there had been presentations and public meetings. He agreed with staff he was surprised how little public comment there is now. He encouraged outreach.

"Some people will be overjoyed; some will not be very happy with this new mapping." He said they would have much more accurate mapping, but "let's go out and get the input from people and go from there."

McKelvey noted it wasn't just the river systems either, but "a lot of properties between lakes as well."

The only member of the public to speak at the meeting was Patricia Walshe, who lives on Spring Valley Road. She said she had asked how the plan would affect their property but had not heard back.

She said they built in 2015 at "considerable cost" for things such as a flood survey, and had invested to prevent flooding impacts, such as three flying buttresses. She said they had done everything asked of the municipality after the 2013 flood.

With the changes, she said, "I'd like to know how this applies to us."

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Contenders duke it out in Dysart

By Mike Baker

With food insecurity at an all-time high across the Highlands, County farmer Godfrey Tyler put Dysart et al council candidates on the spot during a debate at the Haliburton Legion Saturday (Oct. 3), challenging them to do a better job of working with, and advocating for, local growers and suppliers.

Around 235 people attended the event, hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project (HHDP), which has organized forums in all four townships ahead of this month's municipal election.

After candidates had a chance to present their platforms in a short one-minute introductory speech, and answer pre-set questions on amalgamation, lake protection and the future development of the township's 92-acre property on County Road 21, it was the public's chance to hold their feet to the fire.

Tyler was one of the first to step forward. For decades, he and his wife, Jean, have cultivated cattle, maple syrup and forestry operations at their Waverly Brook Farm property. He asked deputy mayor candidates Pat Casey and Walt McKechnie and mayoral hopefuls Greg Bishop and Andrew Nowell how they would help local farmers keep putting food on the table.

Bishop said he wanted to review the township's bylaws around community and personal gardens, which would help with supply. He also promised to work closely with the Haliburton County Farmers' Market to connect local vendors with Highlands' stores and shops.

"Getting them on side to buy and supply locally within our institutions around the County is key," Bishop said.

Nowell promoted homesteading, believing there's more the municipality can do to support people starting out, while Casey and McKechnie liked the idea of more individual and community gardens – provided they can be protected from wildlife.

Margaret Cox, a volunteer with the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank noted the organization is spending around \$30,000 per month on food to give away to needy households. She asked the four leadership candidates if they would endorse the township providing annual funding to the food bank to support operations – Bishop,



Haliburton farmer Godfrey Tyler asked candidates how they would advocate for the agricultural sector if elected. Photo by Mike Baker.

McKechnie and Casey said they would, while Nowell presented a different idea.

"We've got to look outside the box and bring more food sources into our area. I used to work with Sysco Canada and they usually have a surplus they give away each month," Nowell said.

Elizabeth Cloutier asked each candidate if they're aware of the funding streams available to municipalities needing to invest in failing infrastructure. McKechnie brought up a joint \$1 billion commitment from the provincial and federal governments to assist townships who don't issue development charges to builders.

"We're lining up at the door... we have a team at Dysart working on this, and other grants, all the time. This is something that will be very positive for our community and will help in many ways, maybe even with the sewage plant expansion," McKechnie said. The \$14 million project is still awaiting regulatory approval.

Casey said money could also be used to support expensive bridge repairs and installed necessary infrastructure at the County Road 21 property. Nowell and Bishop said they'd look to staff to provide direction on what the township can apply for and do with the money.

All four committed to doing some work to repair the road into the village at the intersection of County Road 21 and Gelert Road.

With short-term rentals now permitted on licensed shoreline properties, another resident asked if any of the candidates were open to allowing bed and breakfasts. She first came to the Highlands as an arts student 30 years ago and, for the next 20 years, made annual visits, staying at different B&Bs. They've mostly disappeared in the years since, she said.

Bishop and McKechnie said the issue is a big one and should be decided by all council, with guidance from staff. Nowell said he would be open to investigating, while Casey noted he'd be in favour.

"I struggle with it, being on the lakes... but the conversation on the other side is Airbnbs. If we're allowing them in that zone, and B&Bs comply with getting a STR licence, I would support that," Casey said.

Voting will be done via telephone or the internet in Dysart again this election, with polls opening Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. and closing Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. If you don't receive your voter information letter by Oct. 16, contact the Dysart municipal office at 705-457-1740.

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Haliburton welcomes 650 student leaders for summit

By Adam Frisk

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) will host 650 students and teachers from across the country this week for the 2026 Canadian Student Leadership Conference.

The annual event, which runs Oct. 8–11, brings student leaders together for four days of workshops, activities and guest presentations that are focused on youth leadership and community engagement.

School principal Jennifer Mills said 25 HHSS students were selected as spirit

leaders to help with conference operations and mentor visiting delegates. She said a major part of this year's conference will be a town-wide scavenger hunt on Saturday afternoon, taking participants through the high school and the village of Haliburton, giving visiting students a chance to see the community.

Most of the conference programming will take place at Camp White Pine. The event officially opens Thursday (Oct. 8) at 7:30 p.m., with a welcoming presentation hosted by HHSS students. Speakers are scheduled throughout the conference, headlined by opening keynote

presenter Alan Doyle, founding member of Canadian folk-rock band Great Big Sea.

The conference marks a return of the leadership gathering to Haliburton County, giving local students a chance to play a major role in organizing a national event.

Mills said the conference has been a significant opportunity for local students, describing it as "the best thing I have ever been a part of for leadership for students."

Organizers expect the influx of delegates and staff to bring more people into the village during the conference, particularly during Saturday's community-wide event.

Highlander news



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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Minden library temporary closure

The Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library will be closed temporarily during reconstruction of a retaining wall and ramp.

The closure is scheduled to start Oct. 13, and the facility will remain shuttered for four to six weeks.

The township said the move "relates to the safety and usability of the facility during the reconstruction project...to keep patrons and staff in a safe and accessible environment."

Minden Hills added that on Thursday (Oct. 8), the parking lot immediately adjacent to the library will be closed. Parking will continue to be available at the back parking lot.

Water sample drop-off will be impacted, and people are asked to contact Lakelands Public Health at 1-844-575-4567 or www.lakelandsph.ca for information.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Agnes Jamieson Gallery will continue to operate with normal business hours. Parking will be available at the back parking lot only. The S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena has complimentary Wi-Fi, charging stations, and lounge areas, and is open seven days a week 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., except holidays.

Info session on flood recovery

The province of Ontario is hosting a virtual information session about the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program Oct. 14.

Homeowners and tenants in the designated activation areas for the program, who experienced flooding in April, are invited to attend with DRAO program staff to learn more.

It's at 6 p.m. over Microsoft Teams.

Before registering, people are asked to verify that their property is within the activation area by reviewing the maps on www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance

"During this session, eligible applicants will learn more about the program and application process, including eligibility requirements, required documentation, what to expect during the review process, and available supports. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation," the township said.

The deadline to register is 4 pm (EST) Oct. 14.

Advance polls opening

The advance voting poll (in-person) is scheduled for Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre (55 Parkside St. – upper level).

The 2026 municipal and school board election has three ways to vote: online, telephone, or paper ballot. The voting period opens Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. until Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. Anytime during this period, people can cast their vote online or vote by telephone.

To vote with paper ballot, they will need to attend in-person to the advance poll or on election day Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Both the advanced poll and election day will be held at the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre.

If you are planning to vote in-person, bring your voter information letter and your identification.

Electors who have not received, or do not have their letter, will need to contact the voter information centre to have a letter reissued. The elector will need to provide identification, proof of residency (including seasonal) in Minden Hills (for example, a tax bill) and complete an oath in-person at the office, the advanced poll or on election day.

The centre is available to support electors Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays until 6 p.m. at the administration office (7 Milne St., Minden) until Oct. 20. You can reach the centre at 705-286-1260 ext. 585 or email elections@mindenhills.ca.

Water system flushing

Effective Oct. 5 through to Oct. 23, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing the township water system.

It is regularly scheduled water system maintenance, and the municipality wants people to be aware of flushing from fire hydrants and expect workers to be on the roads.

During this time, residents on the municipal water system, or accessing the public water tap at the old fire hall, may experience low water pressure or discoloured water. You should run your outdoor faucet, laundry tub faucet, bath, or shower faucet until the discolouration clears.

Normal discolouration during this process includes rusty or cloudy coloured water. Contact the public works department with any questions or concerns.

Minden sidewalk improvements

A contractor will begin the sidewalk improvement project in Minden Village the week of Oct. 13. The project is expected to take three weeks. Local businesses in the area will remain accessible throughout the project. The public is advised to watch for signage and slow-moving vehicles in the area and be prepared for short delays.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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It's nicer here



Highlander news

Charity hopes to raise another \$400,000

Continued from page 1

“We balance the odds from 1 in 1,400 eggs reaching adulthood [left alone in nature], but it’s 1 in 250 if we excavate nests and incubate,” Berman said. “So, even after all our efforts this year, we have 300 turtles reaching adulthood, we’re seeing an average of 1,000 dead turtles every year... so we’re not even coming close to replacing the dead ones.”

Since 2016, Turtle Guardians has been patrolling roads across Haliburton County, Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes and Hastings Highlands, tracking data for rescues, injuries and fatalities. Berman said some areas are seeing losses of up to 40 per cent in turtle populations.

Because Turtle Guardians has only been able to care for hatchlings for up to 10 days before releasing them, Berman said they return to dangerous locations on the side of roads, where they’re prone to be hit by cars if they wander, or picked off by other animals.

To go along with funding for the new facility, Berman said she’s also secured an extension to the amount of time hatchlings can be under Turtle Guardians’ care, now up to two years.

“Now, we’re going to try to boost the turtle population ourselves. If we grow them for one or two years, the hatchlings are that much bigger when they’re released. They won’t be targeted by frogs or fish, and will be difficult for herons to take, so we’re cutting at least half the threats to them right away,” she said.

She’s aiming to take in 20,000 hatchlings next year, though hopes to grow to 30,000 when fully operational. Her upside limit is 50,000.

The 1,500 sq. ft. facility will basically be a turtle farm, Berman said. It will need to be bio-secure to keep new diseases away, with heated flooring required to maintain temperatures.

While thankful for the grant, Berman said she’s around \$400,000 short of funding the project. That will cover construction, infrastructure and equipment costs, while also establishing an endowment fund for emergencies. Anyone interested in donating can contact info@turtleguardians.ca.

Once built, Berman said she’ll also be on the lookout for more volunteers to help run the space.

“I want this to be a community project. We want people named on the permits, out excavating nests, helping to raise the turtles and, eventually, release them. That way it becomes sustainable. It becomes a Haliburton project forever – that’s kind of my dream,” she said.



Meadow Funkenhauser with a hatchling at Turtle Guardians office in Haliburton. Submitted.

Twins update

Conjoined twin snapping turtles, Bert and Ernie, have beaten the odds thus far, Berman said. Recovered from Eagle Lake in August, the pair were still at Turtle Guardians’ home base in Haliburton as of Tuesday (Oct 6).

“They’re still doing well. I don’t think they’ll make it much longer, but they are still going,” Berman said.

The mini snappers were born with two heads but only one shell and body, a condition known as bicephaly. Conjoined twins occur once in every 100,000 cases among turtle hatchlings.

Berman said the pair would soon be shipped off to Simcoe County, where they’ll be cared for at another rehab centre.

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Adventure Begins Here

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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OUR 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.

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Feds creating gap

Recent changes proposed by federal regulator Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) to the approval process for new cell tower sites should concern all of us – even those who believe more infrastructure is needed.

Over the summer, ISED said it planned to update its policies to accelerate rural connectivity and 5G network expansion by modernizing public notifications and streamlining municipal review processes.

In a nutshell, there will be no more local-level consultations for the public to ask questions about specific projects. Instead, residents are expected to do their own research and make sure they're aware of what's proposed and submit any comments to a new online portal.

To me, that reads like ISED paying lip service to the public rather than using their ears and hearing local concerns.

These changes align with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) announcement, in August, that it had completed its \$300 million cell gap project. Partnering with Rogers and the provincial and federal governments, the initiative delivered 657 new, co-located and upgraded towers across the region.

The numbers make for positive reading – EORN reported a 100 per cent success rate for projects that focused on upgrades to existing towers, while 91 per cent of planned new builds were completed, at 234 out of 257.

Ten of those 23 incomplete projects were

slated for Haliburton County. In total, only 19 of 29 planned new towers for the Highlands are currently in service, a 65.5 per cent success rate. I think the public played a major part in that.

I can recall when some of these projects came to our four municipal councils in recent years. There was a lot of opposition. Concerns largely focused on environmental and economic impacts, while some argued about the health risks associated with 5G technology. In at least two cases, residents presented a good enough argument that their councils sided with them and opposed projects.

I've made my position on this very clear – I believe Haliburton County needs better cellular service. Anyone who has driven our rural roads and tried to make a call knows just how many dead zones are out there.

To me, cell service isn't a luxury anymore. It's basic infrastructure that residents, business owners, workers and tourists need in their day-to-day lives. From that perspective, it's a concern that only two thirds of towers planned for Haliburton County as part of the cell gap project came to fruition.

I'm more worried though about the implications of the federal government stripping communities of their voice. What they're proposing isn't local decision-making, it's local administration. Algonquin Highlands councillor Sabrina Richards called it an attack to democracy at the municipal level, and I tend to agree.



By Mike Baker

The federal government appears to have decided that consultation is an obstacle to construction, rather than an important part of the process. That's the wrong lesson to take from projects that have been difficult to build.

If the goal is to get more towers into rural communities, then make the consultation process faster. Make it clearer, establish firm deadlines, prevent municipalities from endlessly dragging their feet. But don't eliminate the local conversation altogether. We deserve a more meaningful seat at the table.

Pushing more things online is a mistake. It used to be that these meetings happened in-person, where residents could strike meaningful conversation with those running the projects. Those meetings went virtual during the pandemic and never returned. Now they're being replaced by the modern version of a complaint slip. I think we can all guess what drawer those will be filed in.

Algonquin Highlands council is pushing back on this – kudos to them. By committing to maintaining a local-level policy and communicating projects to the public when they come up, they're providing an invaluable service to the community.

SAWDUST STORIES

Life after 5 p.m.

Talking to a friend over a Korean-inspired dinner of spicy chicken, jasmine rice, dried seaweed, toasted sesame seeds and green onions, I realized how rare this kind of evening had been during my life as a reporter and, eventually, editor.

Newspaper deadlines didn't stop for unscheduled visits from friends, dinners made with care, impulsive dates, birthdays that fell on workdays or holidays when events dominated the calendar.

My journalism career was a carousel of my life — perpetually in motion, always close enough to touch but never fully within reach before I was carried off again.

In my time, there was an expectation to bear witness to the community at all times. There were countless narratives, some significant, others less so, but all important to someone.

As a reporter, I knew there was always another story on the horizon. Once one was finished, there was another interview, another lead, another deadline. Even when I wasn't in the newsroom, part of me was still there. A day off didn't quite mean I was away from work.

Maybe that's what changing careers has given me.

Construction has its unpredictable

moments, but it's the consistency I value. Working Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., has given me something I didn't realize I was missing: time and space to be present in my own life.

I've started to understand the value of repetition differently.

After more than a year, I'm finally comfortable using my impact driver with both hands. I'm still far from perfect, but I'm less likely to strip a fastener head than when I started.

A few weeks ago, while framing, I stood on a two-step ladder facing a corner, trying to secure a jack stud. I had no choice but to use my left hand. Despite the discomfort and initial awkwardness, I managed to secure all the fasteners.

That's what repetition does. What once required concentration slowly becomes second nature. I've developed a feel for the work. I'm more comfortable in places where I once felt discomfort.

Maybe the same thing has happened with my life outside work.

Having more time and space has made me more patient with the things that used to fatigue me. I no longer feel the same pressure to hurry through social situations.

While chopping garlic and letting sauce simmer in a pan, I realized it wasn't the meal itself that was important. It was having the time to decide what I wanted to eat, make it, sit with a friend and actually be present. Nothing was pulling me toward a deadline.

There is something liberating about knowing that, at 5 p.m., the workday is over.

That's what I value most about this new career path. It's not the hours themselves, but what I can do with them.

An unexpected dinner. A conversation that lingers. A birthday I can RSVP to. A Saturday that isn't anyone else's, but mine.

And now that I've had dinner with a friend, I'm already thinking about the next visit. Perhaps dessert. I used to make apple tarte Tatin. Maybe it's time to make it again.

Life may not necessarily begin at 5 p.m., but after years of giving so much of it away to work, that's when I've finally learned to notice it.



By Darren Lum

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Your vote really counts

Dear editor,

I watched the all-candidates meeting for Minden Hills on the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project (HHHDP) website HHHDP.ca and I highly recommend every eligible voter in Minden Hills takes the time to also watch it.

I applaud the HHHDP team for initiating and running this program to encourage and educate all of us to get involved in our municipal politics. This has provided great value to all of Haliburton County. The all-candidates meeting for each of the four municipalities is or will be available for viewing on the HHHDP.ca website.

I also applaud each and every candidate for stepping up to serve their community and provide us with choices.

It is an excellent opportunity to hear from each candidate, their answers to questions that are important to us all. To help you decide who you think will represent your interests for Minden Hills.

The decisions made (or not made) by our municipal government directly impact everyone in this community. What they prioritize and what they do not prioritize impacts all of us.

This is not the time to sit back and let anyone run our municipal government at their discretion.

A rough but relevant statistic on your vote in each election is this: federally, your vote is worth two votes with 50 per cent voter turnout. Provincially, your vote is worth three votes with 33 per cent voter turnout and municipally, your vote is worth four votes with 25 per cent voter turnout.

Your vote has power, please exercise it. But also, please take the time to know who you are voting for and why.

Who will be running Minden Hills for the next four years will have positive or negative results for many years to come.

We have the power to make sure we are represented by honourable, honest, and capable individuals without personal agendas. Let's do it.

Dale Rider
Minden Hills

Listening shouldn't be newsworthy

Dear editor,

When I read about TLDSB's voices initiative, I found it amusing that listening to students and families was being presented as an accomplishment.

Listening to the people a publicly-funded education system exists to serve should not be newsworthy.

TLDSB, why are you announcing that you listen as though listening itself is evidence that you're doing a good job?

Our voices only matter if you do something with them.

TLDSB has said for years that it listens. So why has it taken 'voices' to make listening visible? Shouldn't we have been heard all along?

Unless you have a child in Ontario's

public education system, it can be difficult to understand what school days look like. It can be hard to imagine classrooms evacuated because of violent student outbursts, serious disruptions interrupting learning, or children — and their parents — worrying about safety. For families living it, these concerns are real.

And there is danger in treating these conditions as the reality of modern classrooms — something students, families and educators are expected to adapt to. We have to question whether we are asking children to become more resilient to an environment the board has a responsibility to make safer.

The article reported 4,000 parent and guardian survey responses and noted that 139 were considered by TLDSB staff.

But what does 'considered' mean? Which concerns resulted in action? What changes will families see?

Families speak up because we want something to change. The board needs to show families what listening looks like in practice: what it heard, what it is doing, when changes will happen, and how families will know whether they are working.

My daughter shouldn't have had to ask me which shoes would allow her to run faster the next time her classroom gets evacuated because of violence.

Aurora McGinn
Minden Hills

Candidates and the environment

Dear editor,

Environment Haliburton! has developed a list of questions for candidates with an environmental theme and circulated them to all candidates across the County.

We have received thoughtful responses from many candidates which can be viewed by visiting www.environmenthaliburton.org and clicking on 2026 candidates' answers.

Susan Hay,
President, EH!

Public wants response

Dear editor,

Thank you for your recent article, 'Public wants response, plain language.'

It really hit home. I understand it may sometimes take a few days to respond to inquiries, but personally, I have been waiting months for a response from Minden township regarding ongoing issues that town council has been aware of for years.

When I contact the relevant members of council, the mayor, my local councillor, what I get in return is... nothing. The last response I received was in May of this year and my most recent requests for updates have been ignored by all parties.

I feel I have been exceptionally patient and reasonable. After reading the article, I realized I am not the only one frustrated by the inefficiencies and lack of action on

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Kevin K Pepper calls this 'enjoying the quiet and solitude of the morning on Salerno Lake'

the part of our town council and elected officials, but this should not be allowed to continue. As taxpayers, we deserve a local government that is committed to accountability and the resolution of issues in a timely manner.

Lisa Damoff-Murphy
Minden Hills

HE residents deserve answers

Dear editor,

How long should a resident have to wait for answers when serious concerns are raised about municipal operations?

I have sent two letters to the CAO and all members of council seeking answers and accountability. The CAO advised me by email that the municipality's new human resources employee would look into the matter. However, I have heard nothing further.

Coun. Angela Lewis was the only other person to respond, advising that she was looking into it. Months have passed, and I still have no explanation, investigation findings or meaningful follow-up.

This is about more than one incident. It is about transparency, accountability and public trust. Residents deserve to know that municipal operations are conducted properly and that legitimate concerns are taken seriously.

If the allegations are unfounded, explain that. If an investigation was conducted, provide the outcome. If procedures were not followed, explain what steps are being taken to address the matter.

Silence is not accountability. The municipality expects residents to follow its bylaws. Residents should be able to expect the same commitment to proper procedures from their municipal government. I am simply asking: what happened, was it investigated, and what was the outcome? The residents of Highlands East deserve answers.

Rick Huffman
Highlands East

In defence of Carney

Dear editor,

The letter published on Oct. 1 by Beverly MacDuff of Gooderham (Canada Strong Fund risks) is a textbook example of misinformation - incorrect claims shared without factual grounding.

I have shown the verification sources in brackets. First, Mark Carney did not introduce or adopt the UK National Wealth Fund. Carney's term as governor of the Bank of England ended in March 2020 (official Bank of England governor archives). The UK National Wealth Fund was launched in October 2024 by chancellor Rachel Reeves under prime minister Keir Starmer (HM Treasury public announcement, Oct. 2024) - over four years after Carney left the UK. Attributing a 2024 government fund to a central banker who left office in 2020 defies basic chronological facts.

Second, MacDuff's claims regarding pension fund destabilization and financial chaos completely rewrite history. The British pension crisis involving liability-driven investments occurred in September 2022 under prime minister Liz Truss - two years after Carney's departure - triggered by her government's unfunded "mini-budget" (UK Financial Conduct Authority analysis, Oct. 2022).

Furthermore, independent economic research from the UK Office for National Statistics and the Institute for Fiscal Studies overwhelmingly attributes post-2016 UK market stagnation and stock listing shifts to trade barriers caused by Brexit, not central bank oversight.

Finally, accusing Carney of breaking neutrality for issuing pre-referendum warnings ignores the fact that the Bank of England was legally mandated under the Bank of England Act to publish macroeconomic risk forecasts to the public (House of Commons Treasury Committee Hearing Reports, 2016). Carney's warnings about post-Brexit inflation and sluggish growth turned out to be accurate.

Civic debate on economic policy like the Canada Strong Fund is essential, but it must be based on verified facts rather than manufactured timelines. When sharing information publicly, we all share a duty to verify that our facts are accurate.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake



DYSART ET AL

Dysart et al mayoral candidate Greg Bishop

By Mike Baker

After making hundreds of council appearances over his 40-plus year career as an engineer and land surveyor, Dysart et al mayoral candidate Greg Bishop feels he has the right mix of experience and know-how to lead the township through what he thinks will be a difficult term.

He decided to run after wrapping stints as a planning adjudicator with the Ontario Municipal Board and interim chair of the Ontario Land Tribunal, where he spent time deliberating over complicated planning matters provincewide. Before that, he ran his own firm in the County.

"Politics is in my family's blood – my grandfather, father, they were all involved. I didn't feel I had the time to put into this position until now," Bishop said, noting he sees the mayoral role as full-time. While leading Dysart council, the mayor will also serve on County council.

He's campaigning on five key issues. Regarding environmental protection, Bishop said his experience working on the Trent-Severn Waterway Panel highlighted what he sees as a critical need for infrastructure improvements to maintain water quality in the Highlands.

He supports the township's septic inspection program and wants to maintain a relationship with U-Links to bolster water

quality monitoring in the community.

Bishop said he wants to partner with Habitat for Humanity, Places for People, other non-profits, and private developers, to bring more attainable ownership and rental options to Haliburton.

"Helping people 'in the middle' achieve the stability and pride of ownership must be a priority if we want to attract workers, health-care professionals and families to Dysart," Bishop said.

He wants the next council to complete an updated asset management plan and master plan, to make the best use of tax dollars. His priorities are repairing or replacing several bridges nearing end of life.

Bishop supports the construction of a new arena on the township's 92-acre property on County Road 21, one day, and wants the next council to focus on advancing development of the site.

"I look at this as a very long-term hold, where we can create what we need for the community," he said. To pay for a new arena, he said the township could demolish the existing facility on Mountain Street and sell that land to be redeveloped.

He hasn't taken a firm public position on the affordability and governance structure review ongoing at the County level. Led by consultants the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, the process includes recommendations for Haliburton



Greg Bishop. Photo by Mike Baker.

County to amalgamate. With municipal costs increasing significantly since the pandemic, concerns have been raised about all four lower-tier township's long-term sustainability.

"What we've seen so far only scratches the surface... there's so much more detail that needs to be known," Bishop said. "Dysart has the lowest mill rate in the County, meaning our residents pay the lowest taxes per \$100,000 of their property's assessed value. That all plays into this."

Bishop supports Haliburton Highlands Health Services' plans to consolidate all long-term care beds to Minden. It has applied for a 98-bed expansion at

Hyland Crest long-term care. If approved, Haliburton's Highland Wood will be repurposed for acute care.

He didn't comment on short-term rentals, noting the future of that file and how it will be handled in Dysart should be decided by all of council. Bishop also said he wouldn't shy away from utilizing strong mayors powers if needed.

"The reason they were put in place is because townships weren't getting their budgets done until April. So, this mechanism was put in place to make sure budgets are done earlier. From a legislative perspective, the mayor has no choice but to take them," Bishop said.

Dysart et al mayoral candidate Andrew Nowell

By Mike Baker

In a life filled with challenges, Andrew Nowell said making a run for mayor in Dysart et al might be his biggest yet.

While he's only lived in Haliburton full-time for about a year, Nowell believes he has a lot to offer to his new community.

He operates the Wicked Wizard's Wife – which Nowell describes as a spiritual and metaphysical shop – out of Castle Antiques. Before that, he served 24 years with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and worked in occupational health and safety in the corporate world. He said the mayor role, should he win, would become his full-time job.

The most important trait an effective leader can have, he said, is being a good listener and communicator. Nowell believes he would bring council, staff and taxpayers together, moving in one, cohesive direction – both in Dysart and at the County level.

Addressing the affordability and governance structure review, which has sparked conversation about amalgamation, Nowell said he wants the upper-tier council, made up of mayors and deputies from the four lower-tier townships, to hit the ground running and select one of the four recommendations outlined by consultant, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, early next term.

"What I saw [this term] was a sandbox full of kids fighting, saying they didn't want this. It's almost like they've got the blinders on with what we need to do to move forward. The information is right there as far as what's going to happen in the next however many years – we're going to run out of money," Nowell said. "Realistically, we have to amalgamate."

He lists housing as a major focus. While there are plans to develop more than 100 housing units on the township's 92-acre property on County Road 21 (CR21), to go along with the 35-units Habitat for Humanity is building on Grass Lake, Nowell thinks the community needs more. He wants to do a full audit of available municipal land to see what's available to be built on.

That CR21 project comes with heavy costs – the township previously pitched a community bonds program to raise the millions needed to service the first phase of development, though Nowell thinks he can get help from the federal and provincial governments by way of grant money.

One thing he doesn't want to see there is a new arena. With S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden less than 10 years old, he believes programming and services currently offered at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton could be moved.

"Ultimately, we can't afford to build



Andrew Nowell. Photo by Mike Baker.

another one right now. The money is not there. So, it's about figuring out how we do better with what we have," he said, without outlining plans for the existing arena and curling club, which are nearing end-of-life.

He's in favour of inflation-based tax increases, promised to "have another look" at the short-term rental bylaw, and said he would never utilize strong mayors powers issued by Ontario premier Doug Ford.

Nowell's primary goal is fostering the growth of Haliburton village – making it even more of a destination people want to visit.

"When people come driving through Haliburton for the first time, everything

looks the same, so why stop here? It's a case of what can we do to change that up," Nowell said. "I think the downtown needs improvement... we need to bring more artists here, more events, things to do."

He referenced Coldwater Steampunk and Oddity Days, which happen in August and draw thousands of tourists, as an example.

"They shut the main street down; it was a huge success. They made people who are into that stuff think 'oh, this is the place to go.' I don't want to make this a hokey thing, but if there's a way to say Haliburton is the destination for, whatever, we should try and do something with that," Nowell said.

Editor's note: We are continuing our municipal election coverage this week with contenders for the mayor's seat in Dysart et al. Content was pulled from podcast interviews recorded with the candidates over the summer. They can be found at thehighlander.ca/what-the-haliburton-podcast.
Next week: Highlands East mayoral candidates.

Businesses turning to larger loans

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Businesses in Haliburton County are taking out larger loans, according to the latest numbers from the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC).

At HCDC’s annual general meeting on Oct. 1, board members and staff reported a busy year of lending, with loans at the corporation’s maximum now making up a much larger share of its portfolio.

Loan manager Sara Joanu reported that HCDC handled 69 loan applications during the 2025–26 fiscal year ending March 31. The board approved 48 applications, declined three, and recorded 18 withdrawals, for a 70 per cent approval rate.

In total, HCDC approved \$8.2 million and disbursed \$6 million to 37 area businesses, bringing its active loan portfolio to 135 loans. Combined with \$4.6 million in leveraged funds, HCDC estimated the lending generated \$10 million in economic impact and helped maintain or create 241 jobs.

According to the year-end report, more businesses are borrowing the maximum amount available. In 2023, loans at HCDC’s maximum of \$300,000 made up 13.3 per cent of the portfolio. Now, they account for more than 30 per cent.

“It tells us that businesses are requiring more money, higher loans, in order to cover the business costs,” Joanu said. “And it also tells us that our max lending limit of \$300,000 isn’t going as far as it once was.”

HCDC has also partnered with organizations such as the Community Futures Network of Canada on joint lending arrangements to fund larger projects.

Of the approved loans, 48 per cent went toward maintaining existing business operations, 33 per cent financed expansions, and 19 per cent supported new startups. Service businesses made up the largest share of the portfolio, followed by construction, retail and tourism.

Accountant Tim Degeer of Dawson Gray presented the annual audit. HCDC’s general operating fund brought in \$632,000 against \$688,000 in expenses, resulting in a \$55,000 operating deficit. Degeer noted that the deficit includes \$41,000 in non-cash depreciation from leasehold improvements and equipment at HCDC’s main location.

“In moving to the new location, we had to expend funds for equipment for leaseholds up front, and then we depreciate those over



HCDC board chair Andrew Hodgson speaks at the AGM. Photo by Adam Frisk

time,” he said. “So it’s not shocking that we’ll have successive years of loss just to reflect that and be in alignment with accounting standards, which may be a little counterintuitive sometimes.”

HCDC reported \$7.1 million in cash in its investment fund, along with an active loan portfolio valued at nearly \$18 million after allowances for doubtful accounts. Total assets stood at \$25.1 million. The corporation earned \$1.5 million in net investment income during the fiscal year, according to the report.

Operations at The Link community hub generated \$49,000 against \$79,000 in expenses, creating a \$30,000 deficit driven by depreciation. Degeer confirmed direct rental operations are functioning at break-even.

“Not every loan that comes through the door is an easy decision. There’s a lot of risks that need to be considered, a lot of questions that are asked and sometimes difficult decisions that need to be made,” Joanu said. “When you look at these numbers, it really just shows the commitment that our board has in supporting local businesses.”



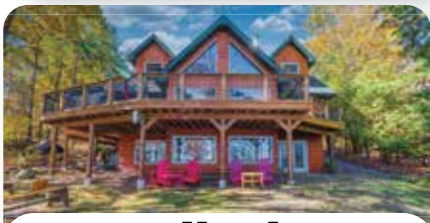
Pinoak Lane

- \$599,000**
- 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Bathrooms
 - Log Home or Retreat Property
 - Double Garage with Unfinished Loft
 - Over an acre of Level Land



Hunter Creek Road

- \$629,900**
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 - Single Car Garage + Shed + Storage
 - 2 Acres of Land with Bush Lot at Back
 - New Heat Pump this summer



Gull Lake

- New Price! \$2,240,000**
- 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms
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 - 4 Areas to Enjoy and Relax in
 - Insulated and Heated Double Garage



Horseshoe Lake

- New Price! \$849,000**
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 - Garage and Outbuildings

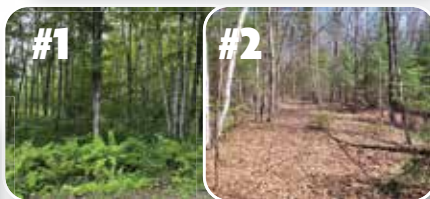


Drag River

- New Price! \$649,999**
- 2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
 - Bunkie for overflow
 - Yard at the waterfront to play on
 - 1.78 Acres with bush at the back

for sale Lots of Lots!!

- #1 1.25 Acres at 2875 County Road 21. Driveway Installed. \$199,000.
- #2 5.4 Acres of Bush Lot at the south end of Gelert Road just north of County Road 121. \$159,900.
- #3 1164 Ravine Road 1.55 Acres with entrance, Hydro on site and shed. \$139,000
- #4 Bushwolf Lake Road 85' x 176' building lot near the corner of Sir Sams Road. \$98,900



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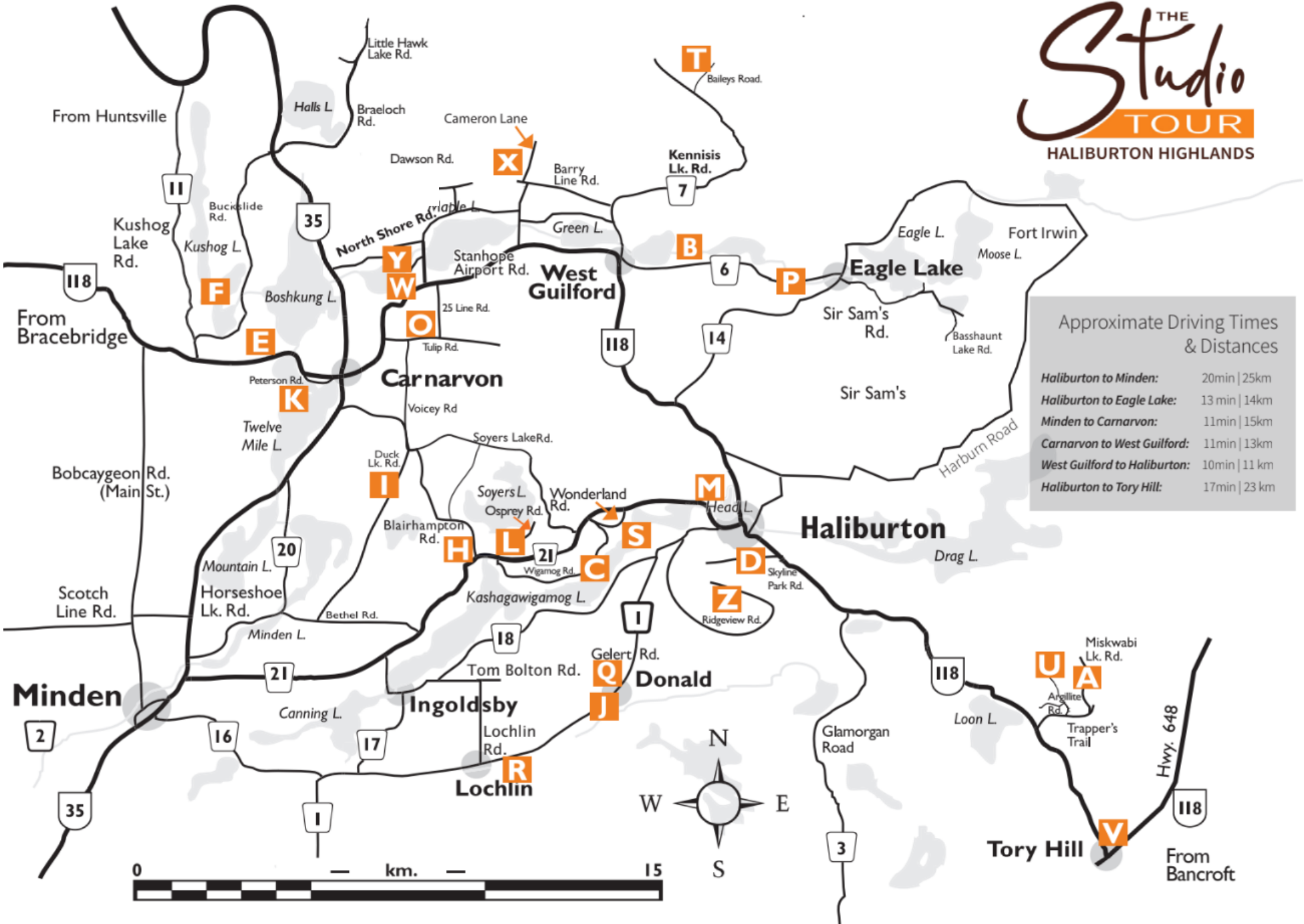
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THE STUDIO TOUR



V Glassblowing Studio & Boutique

VISIT OUR STUDIO

HOT Shop by ARTECH STUDIOS

We will have live glassblowing demos, our boutique is open for shopping and our guest painter, Allison Barrow is here!

*18639 HWY 118, TORY HILL 705.854.1522 artechstudios.ca

Heather's Kiln Works

Artist Heather Brownridge With Guest Artist Zoey Zoric

Handcrafted ceramic sculptures for spaces that inspire joy.

Studio T
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Studio Rose

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Studio "I"

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Corin & Stephanie Ford Forrester

Photography & Mixed Media

1528 Tulip Road

Visit **Boathouse Studio** with artist **Harvey Walker** to enjoy some local oil painted landscapes.

Classes Available
1162 Peterson Rd., Carnarvon harveywalkerart@gmail.com

STUDIO K

STUDIO E CARNARVON

KATHLEEN E. DEWAR, ARTIST
LEATHER LANDSCAPES AND DESIGNS INSPIRED BY NATURE
WWW.EARTHSBEAUTY.CA



THE STUDIO TOUR



One down, one to go

The arts community was out in full force over the weekend as the 39th annual Studio Tour Haliburton Highlands got underway. This year's event features 43 artists at 26 studios, with world class creators showcasing their goods and offering a peek behind the curtain on their work process by live demonstrations. There's still another opportunity to check out your favourite vendors, with the tour running again this Saturday and Sunday (Oct. 10-11) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. "No matter your budget or preference, The Studio Tour has a wide-selection of items available, from pottery, jewellery and glass to paintings, textiles, metal and so much more," organizers said.

Top: Running live demonstrations on how to layer oils at Studio W on Saturday (Oct. 3), painter Kathy Marlene Bailey said she has really enjoyed her first time participating in the tour. Middle: Barbara-Joy Peel shows off some favourite creations utilizing her trademark crystallite glaze technique. She'll be at her home Studio D again this weekend. Bottom: Brad Millman brought dozens of knives forged out of high carbon, stainless steel and wrought iron to Studio D, where he is a guest. Visiting from Wiarton, he has 10 years of blacksmithing experience. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

WHITE PINE STUDIO

1198 Oliver Rd., Algonquin Highlands KoM 1S0
(10 minutes west of Carnarvon off Kushog Lake Rd.)

STUDIO F

Two Artists in One Location
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Highlander news



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The final Haliburton market was Tuesday (Oct. 6). Photo by Adam Frisk.

Markets a success

Tents came down at Head Lake Park on Tuesday (Oct. 6) as the Haliburton County Farmers' Market wrapped up its 2026 season, capping a summer that saw strong crowds and an increase in vendors at both the Haliburton and Minden markets.

Market manager Lexy Feinstein said peak attendance in Haliburton topped 2,000 visitors on some Tuesdays, while Saturdays in Minden regularly drew more than 1,000 people. Nearly 70 vendors took part at some point during the season, including 34 full-time booths during the busiest part of the summer.

"The biggest win is getting new vendors to expand the community and to have more people coming to be with us," Feinstein said.

Spending remained steady despite the economic pressures facing consumers, Feinstein said. The market also attracted a number of young entrepreneurs this year, including an 11-year-old who sold cookies.

With the 2026 season over, planning for next year is already underway. Feinstein said she wants to bring in more growers and food vendors for 2027. This Saturday is the final Minden market day. (Adam Frisk)



From Studio To Gallery.

Members Exhibition

September 19-October 19 2026

The Space Gallery
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the arts council
haliburton highlands

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Highlander environment



Bringing green space to life

Volunteers gathered at St. Stephen's Cemetery's green burial section Tuesday (Oct. 6) for a planting afternoon. Haliburton County master gardener, Carolyn Langdon, said they planted more than 50 native trees and plants "to bring this green space to life."

Above: Carolyn Langdon, Patricia Smith, Gordon Smith, Ruth Treloar, Nancy Vonk, MaryAnn Gonneau, and Adriane Weller pictured on planting day. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*



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Two edges that matter in a cottage landscape

Imagine you'd got hold of a cookie cutter and used it to cut out a space for a cottage. This is what the property I worked at the other week looked like.

The cookie cutter had sliced into the forest leaving a clean, straight line of cedar and maple about 100 feet long. Where there wasn't forest, there was lawn. And where there wasn't lake, there was more lawn. All right angles and straight lines.

My clients wanted their property to look more like Haliburton – and on my first visit this summer, it didn't.

Cottage properties have two edges: the one between the cleared area and the forest, and the other between the cleared area and the lake.

These edges are where the work happens.

The forest edge

Normal forest edges don't have a straight, clean line. Instead, they're ragged, like the forest is slowly encroaching on the clearing. Which it often is.

I added a serviceberry as a centrepiece, about eight feet away from the forest. This shrub, grown in tree form, will get to about 20 feet. It will have white flowers followed by dark purple berries – something to look forward to after the snow melts and a place to attract the eye.

I also planted a nannyberry to provide a thickness at the same height as the serviceberry – a leafy mass to break up the clean line. Between these taller shrubs I put in two American hazels – about ten feet tall with catkins in spring and, once they're mature, nuts in fall.

Further into the lawn, the shrubs are shorter. Planted in groups of twos and threes are pasture rose with its pink flowers and red hips, and Kalm's St John's-wort, bright yellow as I put them in the ground.

The largest quantity of plants was sweet fern (actually not a fern but a shrub – go figure). I planted ten of them in groups, where they will spread and cover the ground, filling in the gaps between the taller species.

Finally, at the lowest level and stretching about 20 feet into the lawn, is New Jersey

tea, with its rounded form and white flowers that bridge the gap between spring and summer.

The shoreline

The second edge is the shoreline. Plants here form the fuzzy edge, softening the view and slowing the waterflow between cottage and lake.

Next to the short human-made rock wall, I created a band of plants, about eight feet thick. I added shrubs here, too – bayberry, buffaloberry, highbush cranberry, more Kalm's St John's-wort, pasture and swamp rose, and sweet fern, depending on how moist the ground was.

But it wasn't just shrubs here: I dug in ten perennials that will provide blooms and food from spring through to fall. A sunny lawn with no trees isn't a typical shoreline situation here in Haliburton County, so some of these species come from further south or west but do just fine here. Nodding onion, grey and upland white

goldenrods, heath and New England asters, clustered mountain mint, lanceleaf coreopsis, rough blazingstar, pale purple coneflower, anise hyssop.

As I finished the work and looked at it from the cottage deck, I noticed that what had looked like cookie-cutter straight edges had become something much less clean. The serviceberry was leading the march into the lawn and the Kalm's St John's-wort was adding dabs of colour.

The trees around the lake were turning yellow against the pure blue sky.

And the leaves of the northern bush honeysuckle I'd put in the ground in the driest part of the shoreline were a deep red.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes and shorelines. His next article will appear when spring is getting near. Meanwhile, visit groundedgardens.ca.



By Simon Payn

Cottage properties have two edges: the one between the cleared area and the forest, and the other between the cleared area and the lake.



A popular event saw the Haliburton County Huskies bowl with Red Wolves special Olympians. *File.*

Fast Lane Bowling closes permanently

By Lisa Gervais

The permanent closure of Fast Lane Bowling in Minden Hills "has affected a lot of people in our community who enjoyed participating in the sport," said Trina West, who oversaw bowling for the Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics.

Business owners, Kandice and John Head, announced the shuttering Sept. 30.

On social media, the Heads said they had made the decision "with broken hearts. After struggling with ongoing issues inside the building for the past eight months, we are unable to not only financially keep the business going; it has now become a health and safety concern for our family and our bowlers to be in that environment."

However, landlord, Amit Khera, told *The Highlander* Monday (Oct. 5) that while he understands the closure is disappointing for the community, he does not agree with "the impression that they neglected the tenant or failed to help."

In an interview with *The Highlander* Oct. 5, Kandice Head said, "I'm sure it was known through the town we've had some issues." She said they had no heat from December until mid-March. She said a heating unit was installed in time for March break and they re-opened. However, in mid-April, she said they had to call the fire department when they noticed a burning smell. She said there were hydro issues. They closed, again, for the summer. She said they decided in mid-August they could not reopen.

Head said the landlord did not charge rent for awhile and offered to replace lights so their hydro bill would be cheaper, which was "great, but a little late." She said there was water coming into the building, and they also found what they think is black mould. Khera said he was not aware of any black mould issue.

Khera said he purchased the property in August 2025. He said that before the furnace stopped working in mid-December,

the Heads had not informed him it was malfunctioning or needed replacement.

He said when they contacted him, they provided a quote of more than \$50,000 for a new unit. He said he looked into other options and arranged to have it replaced at a cost of approximately \$30,000.

"Securing and installing a commercial heating unit of this size takes time, but I took action after the problem was reported and paid for the replacement," Khera said.

He said he also "provided substantial rent relief to help her through this period... and other concessions ... this was a significant effort on our part to support her business, in addition to paying for the new heating unit."

He said the owners did not ignore reported building problems.

Head tells a different story. She said they did not know there were any furnace issues. "All we knew was that it took forever to heat the building and the cost to heat was extremely high. When the unit stopped working (Dec. 8), I spoke to Amit right away."

She said Khera's decision to get someone else to do the work caused delays, and they did not have confidence in the work crew.

The Heads told the leagues in August they would be closing.

"All around, just devastated. But all the leagues, everybody, 100 per cent understood and supported me, which made it even harder," Head said.

West said, "the closure of the bowling alley has been extremely upsetting and disappointing for our athletes. Bowling was the most popular and well-attended Red Wolves sport."

"It is a very unfortunate situation. Bowling is a sport that everyone can enjoy. Children, seniors, special needs individuals are all affected by this closure. Bowling accommodated all age levels and skill levels. Hopefully, at some point, someone will come along with a vision and build a new one."

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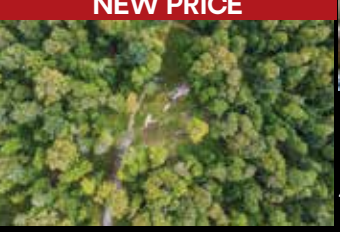


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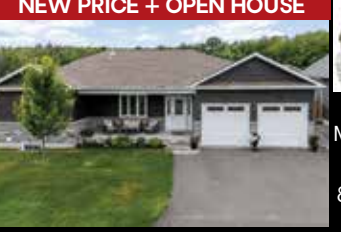


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Hands-on learning about conservation

Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival co-ordinator, Kara Mitchell, said the Haliburton County community had embraced the 2026 event at the Kinark Outdoor Centre Oct. 6-7. "We have more donors. We have returning donors who have given twice as much as before." She added others that had never supported them in the past had stepped up. Mitchell said they also had new partners, for example, the Friends of Muskoka Watershed, who had a 'wise salt use' activity. She said environmental managers from the townships also took part this year. Another new local presenter was Steve Lukacic, teaching about sustainable fishing.

Left: Mackenzie Hyatt looks through a microscope at invasive species. Right: Bentley Flynn wipes off a model boat at the aquatic invasive species (not wanted) station. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Letters to the Earth: Between Despair and Hope*, a mixed media group exhibition curated by Carmel Brennan and featuring 26 artists, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until November 28. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.
 - Join us for a free screening of *The Nest* (2025) on Thursday, October 8 at 1:00 PM. The film follows write Julietta Singh as she returns to her haunted childhood home where Indigenous, Deaf, Japanese, and South Asian communities and histories, are all connected. The Nest explores who gets lost in the archives of history, and what we stand to gain by resurrecting them. Presented in partnership with Haliburton County Public Library.
 - The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for self-guided tours and exhibits until October 10! Stop by for Toddler Discovery Zone on Friday from 11 am - 12 pm and Hands-On Saturdays on Saturday from 11 am - 12 pm.
- For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763. All welcome. Admission is by donation.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Looking to apply for an Entrance or Wide Load Permit? A copy of the permit application can be requested by emailing roads@mindenhills.ca.

Visit our Entrance and Sidewalks page on our website for more information.

A NEW WAY TO DIVERT FOOD WASTE COMING TO MINDEN HILLS

The Township of Minden Hills is excited to introduce a new food waste organics program at the Scotch Line Transfer Station, designed to help residents divert food waste from disposal and turn it into a valuable resource. More details are coming soon! Watch for information about: What can go in the organics program, how the program will work, when you can participate, and program launch details.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2026 to celebrate Thanksgiving.

- Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
- Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)
- S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)

All waste disposal sites will operate on Sunday hours. Please note that Winter Hours are in effect.

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- October 8 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

October 4 – 10, 2026 is Fire Prevention Week, and this year's theme, "Safe Charging is a Superpower," focuses on rechargeable battery fire safety and the everyday actions people and organizations can take to prevent fires before they start. Visit the Education and Fire Safety page on our website for more information.

ADVANCE VOTING DAY

The Voting Period begins this coming weekend on Saturday, October 10th, 2026.

- You may vote online or by telephone any time between 8:00 a.m. on October 10th through to 8:00 p.m. on October 26th.
- October 10th is also ADVANCE VOTE DAY, and you may vote with paper ballot from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre (55 Parkside St., upper floor).
- If voting in person, please remember your Voter Information Letter and a piece of ID.
- If your ID does not have your qualifying (Minden Hills) address on it, please bring proof of address (i.e. tax bill, etc.)

Contact the Election team for assistance: 705-286-1260 ext 585 or email elections@mindenhills.ca



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Junior highlanders



For Terry

Students at Hal High laced up on Friday (Oct.2), for the school’s annual Terry Fox Run. Students and faculty raised more than \$4,000 this year in support of the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research, bringing the school’s overall fundraising total to \$127,000. The foundation has raised more than \$1 billion since Terry began his Marathon of Hope on April 12, 1980.

Left: Students Harper Gooley and Veronica Heasman are all smiles ahead of the Terry Fox Run on Friday. Right: Students Julia Lafferty, Lyla Spencer, and Caelin Stevens write the names of the people they are running for in support of the Terry Fox Run. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Minden Hills
Municipal & School Board
ELECTION

3 Ways to Vote!
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**Advance Voting Day
Paper Ballot**

At the S.G. Nesbitt
Community Centre
(55 Parkside St., upper level) on:

- Saturday, October 10, 2026
- 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **Please bring:**
 1. **Voter Information Letter**
 2. **Identification**
 3. **Proof of qualifying address**
(if not on your ID)

**Voting Period
Online and Telephone**

- Vote online or by telephone any time between **October 10 at 8:00 a.m. and October 26 at 8:00 p.m.**
- An internet voting station will be available at the Administration Office (7 Milne St.) during Voter Information Centre hours, excluding Voting Days.
- On Voting Days (October 10 & 26), an internet voting station will be available at the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre (55 Parkside St., upper level)
- A unique PIN found on your Voter Information Letter will be used for these methods of voting, along with your birth date.

Didn't Receive Your Letter?

Voter information letters have been mailed. If you lose your Voter Information Letter, do not receive it in the mail, or do not have access to it, please contact the Election Team.

A Voter Information Letter is required for all methods of voting.

**Election Day
Paper Ballot**

Want to vote with paper ballot but can't make the October 10th Advanced Vote Day? You still have one more date for paper ballot voting!

Mark your calendars for Election Day on Monday, October 26th, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre.

Need Help?

Visit the Voter Information Centre during the below hours, or at the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre on Advance Voting Day and Voting Day.

Municipal Office: 7 Milne St, first floor.

- Monday, Wednesday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Every Tuesday until October 20: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Highlander arts



Art is in the air

The Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre in Haliburton village hosted an opening reception for its latest exhibition dubbed En Plein Air Haliburton, last Friday (Oct. 2). It's the third annual exhibition that features paintings created in the "open air" within Haliburton County. Nearly 50 pieces were submitted for the "friendly painting competition" with the work of 20 finalists on display at the gallery. The exhibit runs through to Nov. 28.

Left: Dozens of people gathered for the opening reception of En Plein Air Haliburton exhibition. Right: Members of the public view artwork during the opening. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Leaves & Yard Waste

As autumn begins, look after your leaves and yard waste.

Manage leaves and yard waste on your own property for free:



Mulch Leaves
Use your mower to mulch leaves on the lawn and improve your lawn health.



Compost
Place leaves in your backyard composter. Add "green" materials like fruits and vegetable peelings.



Let it be
Pile fallen leaves and yard waste on your own private property. Let nature do its thing!

Or for a fee, drop-off leaves and yard waste at the Haliburton, Harcourt, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours:



Bagged Yard Waste
\$2.00 per paper bag
☒ Yard waste in plastic bags NOT accepted



Loose Yard Waste
\$15.00 if less than one cubic yard
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Brush & Tree Branches
\$50.00 per cubic yard
☒ Tree stumps NOT accepted



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**HALIBURTON VILLAGE
SANTA CLAUS PARADE**
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 2026 ~ 6:30pm



BANDS~HORSES~MARCHERS~BRIGHT LIGHTS

To enter contact
Jim Frost at 705 457-4031 or
jandmfrost@outlook.com



At the Town Tree, there will be caroling at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm



The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton & District Lions Club

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KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE \$1,499,000
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SERVICE CENTRE \$1,149,999
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NEW LISTING!



PARADISE LAKE \$899,000
Stunning lakefront home offering 2,500 sq. ft., 138' of shoreline, 3+ bedrooms, 3 baths, private dock, hot tub, lakeside deck, and attached double garage.



COCKLE LAKE \$899,000
131-acre parcel featuring 3,000' of undeveloped frontage with a sand beach, rock point, and natural area & trails throughout to explore just minutes from Wilberforce.

NEW LISTING!



HEAD LAKE \$849,900
Beautifully appointed 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo offering an open concept floor plan with approximately 1,450 SF, a custom chef's kitchen, wrap around deck.

JUST REDUCED!



CANNING LAKE \$819,000
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HIGHLAND ST \$750,000
4,000 sq. ft. mixed-use commercial building in downtown Haliburton with 3 long-term tenants, excellent visibility, & a prime in-town corner-lot.

JUST REDUCED!



WONDERLAND RD \$749,000
Renovated 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath home with a custom Mennonite kitchen, bunkie, & access to a sand beach on Kashagawigamog Lake.



HALIBURTON LAKE \$739,000
Inviting 5-bedroom, 1.5-bath year-round home or cottage on a highly sought-after 2-lake chain with beautiful big lake views & western exposure.



KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE \$650,000
Exceptional 139-acre waterfront parcel with 1,000' + of frontage, just 10 minutes from Haliburton & part of the renowned 5-lake chain.



DARDANELLES RD \$649,000
5-bedroom, 2.5-bath log home on 51 acres with over 3,400 sq. ft., 2 miles of private trails, water views, & a sandy beach on Drag Lake nearby.



SOYERS LAKE RD \$600,000
13.5-acres with over 1,200' of frontage on County Road 21, additional frontage on Soyers Lake Rd, close to Haliburton & excellent development potential.



HIGHWAY 35 \$599,000
Rustic yet modern 4-bedroom, 2-bath cabin on 80 private acres with trails, wetlands, wildlife, Crown Land access, & easy year-round access.



RIVERSIDE DR \$549,000
3 bedroom, 3-bath in-town home with a renovated kitchen, numerous recent upgrades, a finished lower level, outdoor living space, & detached garage.



KUSHOG LAKE RD \$500,000
139-acres with over 1,600' of road frontage, private pond, extensive trail network, & hydro at the lot line, located across from Kushog Lake.



BURNT RIVER \$499,000
46.7-acre parcel with over 4,700 ft of frontage along the river. A true outdoor enthusiast's paradise with trails winding throughout to explore.

NEW LISTING!



GEORGE STREET, HALIBURTON
Lovely in-town home, ideal to walk into town with 2-bedrooms plus upper level loft, 2 full baths, oversized lot, & detached 1-car garage.

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GELERT RD \$459,000
Move-in-ready in-town home with 2-bedrooms, 1.5-baths, a finished walkout basement, 2-car garage, & sunset views over Grass Lake.



BRADY LAKE RD \$400,000
300+ acres comprised of 2 adjoining parcels with over 7,000' of road frontage, private ponds, mature forest, & endless potential in the Highlands.



BLUE HERON POND \$319,900
Private 49.5-acre off-grid retreat with mature hardwood forest, a wildlife-rich pond, turnkey cabin, Bunkie and more, all just minutes from Minden.



DOVERS HILL RD \$299,000
Charming one-bedroom, one bath home offering the perfect blend of comfort, character, and country living on 1.2 acres just outside of Haliburton Village.



IRONDALE ROAD \$299,000
57-acre parcel with stone gate entrance, private trails, potential building site, & year-round road access, just minutes from Gooderham.



INGOLDSBY RD \$249,000
4-bedroom century home on a spacious corner lot with a covered front porch, metal roof, & just minutes from Kashagawigamog Lake.



50-ACRES ON SOYERS LAKE ROAD



0.8 ACRES ON KASHAGAWIGAMOG LK



2-ACRES ON BUCKSLIDE ROAD (P1)



2-ACRES ON BUCKSLIDE ROAD (P2)



3-ACRES ON IRONDALE ROAD

Highlander community

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The wine-ing ticket

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary raised approximately \$3,500 through its Wine on Wheels fundraiser this fall. For weeks, volunteers sold raffle tickets for the chance to win a literal wheelbarrow full of Canadian red and whites. Auxiliary member Cecille Gibbons said money raised will be used to provide new bed equipment for residents of Hyland Crest long-term care. “We want to thank all who supported us by buying tickets... so our draw would be a ‘sold out’ success.” This year’s winner was Mardi Schildroth from Bond Head, Ont., with the winning ticket pulled Sept. 26 by Lauren Phillips live on-air during that week’s ‘County Currents Sundays’ show on CanoeFM. (Mike Baker)

Above: Mardi Schildroth collects her wheelbarrow full of wine from the Minden Health Care Auxiliary gift shop on Monday (Oct. 5), where she was greeted by auxiliary member Cathy Smith. Photo submitted.

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Highlander community



Baking with love

Freshly baked pies and other tasty treats flew out the door of St. Peter’s Maple Lake Anglican Church on Saturday (Oct. 3) as the parish held a “hugely successful” lunch and bake sale, raising more than \$2,000. More than 100 people attended the event, which ran from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The church confirmed proceeds will be donated to Central Food Network. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: An enthusiastic team of volunteers helped make the event a success. From left to right: Karen Eager, Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Dave LaCroix, Jane McKee, Rev. Martha Waind, Sandra Dean, Heather Connor, Nancy Simpson, Sylvia Stephan and, kneeling, Mary Lynne Patterson and Christine Sharp. *Photo submitted.*



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Amber canopy

A dogwalker takes an early morning stroll along the boardwalk in Haliburton village on Saturday (Oct. 3) as fall colours begin to peak in the County. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

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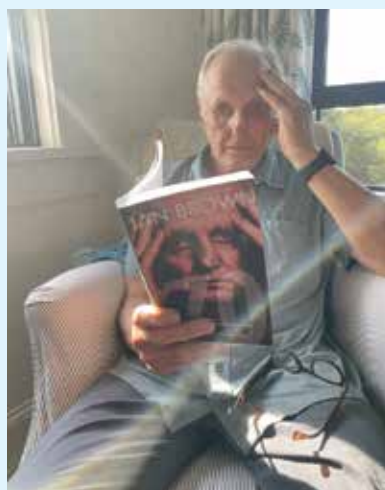
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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office closed, bridge from 1-4 p.m.
Tuesdays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon. Bar 5-9 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed, bid euchre 1-4 p.m.
Thursdays: Office open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bar closed. General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are \$2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are \$1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events. Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
 Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
 Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other **Friday**
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Branch 566 Cardiff

Bar Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
First Sunday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.: Breakfast
Second Sunday of each month starting at 12:30 p.m.: Euchre
Every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9 p.m.: Euchre
Every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m.: Shuffleboard
One Saturday of each month: Music and Jam Session from 1 to 4 p.m. Notice of date will be posted on Cardiff Facebook

Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

Third **Thursday** of the month is the executive meeting at 7 p.m. and general meeting at 7:30 p.m. Third **Sunday** of the month is the ladies auxiliary meeting.

EVENTS

Oct. 8, 12:30 p.m. The Haliburton Sculpture Forest is hosting a sculpture unveiling of Rene Petitjean's "Catharsis". Meet at the sculpture site, located near the circular driveway at the Haliburton School of Art + Design.

Oct. 8, 1-3 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a documentary screening of *The Nest* (2025), which follows a decolonial writer, Julietta Singh, as she returns to her haunted childhood home. Admission is free.

Oct. 8, 4:15 p.m. Those Other Movies is screening the documentary *You Had to Be There: How the Toronto Godspell Ignited the Comedy Revolution, Spread Love and Overall, and created a Community that Changed the World (in a Canadian Kind of Way)*. Tickets are \$10 at the door or online at www.thoseothermovies.com. There is a second screening at 7:15 p.m.

Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to noon. Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is hosting a 'moss walk' event at Beaver Creek Wildlands (1276 Plantation Rd., Minden). Led by bryologist Phaedra Cowden, learn more about the inconspicuous and often hard-to-identify organisms that inhabit our forests. Suitable for all ages. Long socks, pants and shirts recommended to protect from poison ivy and ticks. By donation.

Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Haliburton County Farmers' Market is hosting its final event of the season, in the municipal parking lot. Last chance to pick up your seasonal produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, preserves, prepared foods, handcrafted artisan items and more.

Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Studio Tour Haliburton Highlands is back with over 40 artists in 30 studios showcasing their

original paintings, pottery, jewelry, textile art, sculptures, metal work, glassblowing, woodworking and more. Also running Oct. 11. For a full guide to all locations, visit www.thestudiotour.ca.

Oct. 10, 1 p.m. Iconic Canadian country, folk and roots band Whiskey Jack is performing at the Irondale Church. There will be a BBQ and games for children before the show, with a bake sale featuring treats like butter tarts and Nanaimo bars. The concert begins at 2 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Oct. 10, 1 p.m. Bake sale at Highland Hills United Church in Minden (21 Newcastle St.) Check out the wide variety of pies and baked items on the lower level of the church. Everyone welcome.

Oct. 14, 7-9 p.m. The 'Telling Our Stories' Speaker Series welcomes author, journalist and broadcaster Ian Brown to discuss his recent book *Seventy* – a candid account of his experience on the doorstep of old age. Taking place at the Haliburton Legion. Tickets are \$15. To get tickets, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

Oct. 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Second-annual 'Hearty Harvest' soup supper at Haliburton United Church. There will be several kinds of soup available, including a vegetarian option. By donation. Everyone welcome.

Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Psychic and mystic market at the Haliburton Legion. There will be psychics, mediums, tarot card readers, crafts, crystals, jewellery and more. Costumes encouraged. Admission is \$2 per person, with proceeds supporting the legion's generator fund.



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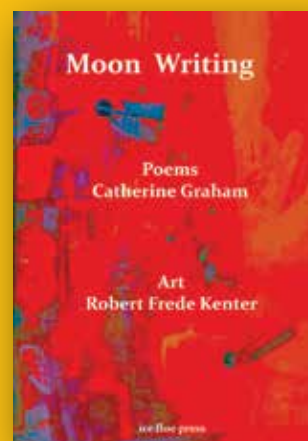
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What's on



Falling into the season

There were plenty of pumpkins to go around at Abbey Gardens on Saturday (Oct. 3) as the Haliburton site hosted its annual fall festival. There were wagon rides to and from the pumpkin patch, with cookie decorating, seasonal crafts, scavenger hunt, facepainting and inflatable combine combo for kids to enjoy.

Top: A wagon-full of people heading up to the pumpkin patch. Right: Family photo time as mom Meagan Hartshorn (second left) and grandma Tanya Mann (right) pose with Scarlet and Meagan Hartshorn. *Photos by Mike Baker.*



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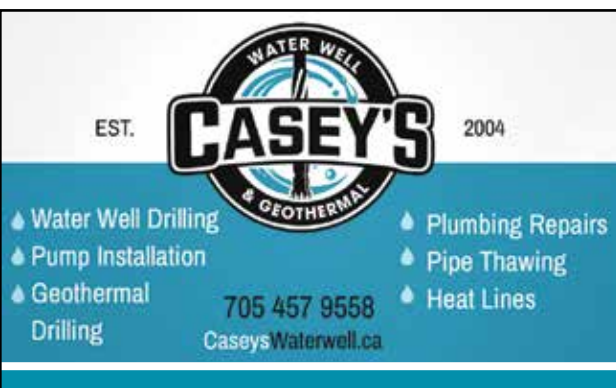


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Highlander classifieds

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FOR RENT – Granite Cove Condo, located at 1 Park Street, Haliburton, with breathtaking view of Head Lake. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, partially furnished, all appliances, underground parking and storage unit. Please call Dan at 905-853-8253

FOR RENT – Beautiful home on Lake Kashagawigamog for rent. 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, main floor master bedroom with walk-out to upper deck. Finished basement with walk-out to Lake. Unfurnished, available Nov 1st \$3,500. all inclusive. Call 905-751-4982

FOR RENT – Warehouse / Storage Space, located at 81 Mallard Road, Unit B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door. This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

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HALIBURTON MAN looking for work, Mason by trade, but familiar with all aspects of construction, reno's demo, bush work, etc. Also, Chimney or Fireplace repair, brick, block, stone, concrete & tile. Call Shannon at 306-317-7073

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

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FOR RENT

Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Northland Faith Church, 50 York Street, Unit 10, Haliburton (where Service Ontario used to be) For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of **Edward "Ed" Patrick Bunville**



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our father, Ed. Anyone who knew him was truly blessed. Family was his greatest accomplishment that he never took for granted. He had the biggest heart and always had a smile. He is now reunited with Judy, the love of his life and best friend, his wife of 61 years.

He leaves behind his 3 daughters, Lisa, Tracy (Kevin), and Jennifer (Mike). "Poppa" to Shanese, Anikka (Clayton), Cole (Emma), Karyl, AJ, Sarah (Adam), and Michael (Kaela). Great Poppa to Nala, Addyson, Maya, Maddy, Annabelle, CJ, Callan, Parker, and Landon. Dear Brother of Rosalie and Paul. Predeceased by his siblings, Gordon, Daniel, Elaine, Mary, Vivian, Margaret, and Joan. "Favourite" and most cherished Uncle to many.

Many will remember his amazing sense of humor, his love of woodworking, fishing, and hunting. He was a man of honour, kindness, and strength. Heaven has gained the most humble, gentle, kindest soul.

Private Funeral Arrangements

In honour of Ed's wishes, no service will be held prior to cremation. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Ed's memory can be made to a children's charity of your choice, or a tree planted in his honour. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 6644 Hwy. #35 Coboconk, Ontario K0M 1K0 (705) 454-3913.



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- Changing dressings
- Removing sutures
- Administering injections
- Drawing blood
- Adhere to safe work practices.

Physical and Working Conditions:

- Periods of sitting and standing
- Office and clinic environment
- Occasionally required to move equipment and/or patients
- Multiple demands and distractions
- Attention to detail required
- Probable exposure to infectious conditions
- Stress related to professional isolation and interaction with charged situations and individuals is possible.

Qualifications:

- Registered Nurse in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Gain knowledge of resources to refer patients to and follow up with plans
- Have or be willing to gain knowledge in well babies and women's health
- Have or willing to gain knowledge in the administering of immunizations and educating the patient
- Broad knowledge of chronic diseases (cancer, diabetes, bowel disease) to help educate patients and administer their medications
- Basic nursing skills (BP monitoring, removal of sutures/staples, wound management, ear syringing)

The AFHT offers benefits and pension.

Application Deadline: Interested applicants should forward resume and cover letter to: Donna Hildebrand by e-mail (donna.hildebrand@algonquinfht.ca) by October 30th, 2026.

While we thank all who apply, only those chosen for an interview will be contacted. Thank you.

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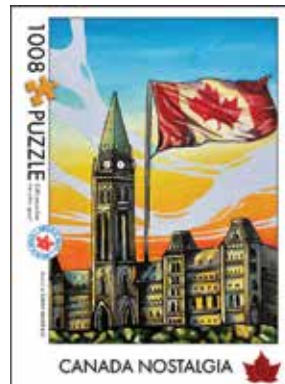
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Grid of numbers and letters for last week's solutions.

THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Grid of numbers and letters for this week's solutions.

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OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of
John Kup
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved father, John Kup, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday afternoon, September 29, 2026, in his 95th year, at his home in the Village of Tansley Woods retirement home in Burlington, Ontario. Born in Curacao, he was the lovingly devoted husband of Mary Kup (deceased 2012) for almost 60 years. Proud & loving father of son Mike (Kim Ramsay) of Burlington, and daughter Marilyn (Gregg Little) of Oakville. Lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Aaron Little (Jaclyn Smith), and Leigh Little (Imad Shubassi), along with his great-grandchildren, Owen, Rylen, and Noah. Predeceased by brothers Ernst, and Fred, and sister Anne Campbell. He will be sadly missed and remembered by sister-in-law Mabel MacIntyre (Larry), and brother-in-law Ken Merkley (Jo Ann), George Poulton (Susan) who's always viewed John as his "big brother", and his many nieces and nephews. John was a voracious reader across an extensively broad spectrum of interests, and had a lifelong and highly rewarding career holding several uppermost level positions with the Department of Defense both in Toronto and Ottawa until his retirement in 1984. After that he and Mary enjoyed 28 wonderful years together at a new Haliburton home they built beside the same lake where they spent their honeymoon. After leaving there in 2019, he then comfortably resided in Burlington where he was much closer to his family during his remaining years, despite his health steadily declining during the last several of them. He was very active in his community, his church, and dedicated in volunteering his time and talents to local baseball and figure skating associations, for which he was also President of both during his 18 years in Brampton. He was also an avid ham radio enthusiast, and had passions and skills in many other areas including electronics, curling, and for a number of years, was also a licensed airplane pilot. John's biggest enjoyment was, and continued to be, spending as much time as possible with family and friends right up until his passing. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him...

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends were received at JACK and THOMPSON Funeral Home, 318 Main St E, Shelburne, Ontario, L9V 2Y9, on Friday, October 2nd from 11 am – Noon, followed by a remembrance service at noon, and then interment at Shelburne Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation in his memory would be much appreciated by the family. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of
Ross Burton Fletcher
Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Sunday, September 20, 2026 surrounded by friends and loved ones.
Ross retired from teaching in 1995. When Ross retired he moved to Boshkung Lake where he spent the next 22 years of his life, then he moved to Hunter Creek Estates in Minden in 2017. Ross loved inspiring young kids to read, he specialized in teaching kids with hearing disabilities. I think that gave him the most pleasure in life, he continued on with this, tutoring after he had retired. Ross also had a love for horse racing, the Blue Jays, playing bridge and making sandwiches for all his friends.
There will be a Celebration of Ross' Life at the Stanhope Fire Hall, 1095 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands on Monday, October 19 at 1130 am. Light lunch to be served. All are welcome.
Donations in lieu of flowers can be made in Ross' memory to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) 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
Marilyn Frances Kuno
It is with profound sadness that the family of Marilyn announces her passing on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at Hospice North Hastings, Bancroft. She joins her husband Murray of 66 years in peaceful rest. Marilyn was born December 11, 1937, in Toronto to her parents Helen Elizabeth and W. Douglas Jackson. Marilyn preferred to shine the light on others and took great joy in their successes, especially her children, Stephanie (Hugh), Anita, and Paul (Vicky), who will deeply miss this quiet encouragement. As will her grandchildren Curtis (Hannah), Tom (Emily), Jessie (Gaige), Evan (Hannah), and her great-grandson Arthur. Marilyn will be missed by her brother Bill (Bev), sisters-in-law Anne (Gerry), and Linda, as well as many nieces, and nephews. Marilyn always wanted those in her circle of influence to reach their full potential. Nowhere was this more apparent than her 37-year teaching career at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. During this same time period, Marilyn continued her own higher education via night school, correspondence courses, and summer school over 30 years to obtain her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Waterloo in 1990. Marilyn loved cooking, organizing, and hosting family and friends. After retirement in 1994, while wintering at Tuscon Estates she was responsible feeding 150 Canadians Christmas dinner. Everyone was well fed. Even in her last days, she was organizing the upcoming Thanksgiving meal for her family. She will be fondly remembered by many former students and staff, the coffee chicks, Tuscon Estates snowbirds, friends in Haliburton and Maynooth, and family members. Marilyn's family will receive relatives and friends at Graphite Bible Camp (702 Graphite Road, Maynooth) on Monday, October 12, 2026, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. A Funeral Service for Marilyn will take place at Christ Lutheran Church (9 Lutheran Church Road, Maynooth) on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Randy Liedtke officiating. Interment to follow at Christ Lutheran Church Cemetery, Maynooth. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Hospice North Hastings, The Heart & Stroke Foundation, or a Charity of Choice would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).

In Loving Memory of
Patrick "Rick" Lee Fraser
Passed away suddenly at the Sunnybrooke Health Sciences Centre, Toronto on Thursday, September 17, 2026 with his loving family by his side, at the age of 71.
Loving husband and best friend of Judy Fraser (nee Hutchings). Loving father of Jenny Fraser (Steve Yanch) and grandfather of Austin Yanch. Rick is predeceased by his mother Doris Fraser (nee Smith), by his sister and brother-in-law Geraldine and Peter Cowen. He is survived by his sister-in-law Jackie Hutchings, brother-in-law Bill Hutchings (Lesley), by his nieces and nephews; Gene, Janine (Jamie), Tanya (Troy), Allison, Ryan (Kara), Jessica (Josh), by his great nieces and nephews and great great nieces and nephews. Fondly remembered by his adopted brother and sisters; Tim and Laurie Smith and Diana Hutchings.
A Celebration of Rick's Life will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. # 129 (downstairs in the Club Room), 719 Mountain St., Haliburton on Saturday, October 17th from 1:00 until 3:00 pm. In keeping with Rick's wishes, cremation has taken place.
Memorial Donations to the 4 C's or the Charity of your choice 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

Highlander puzzles

Four Quarters

- Across**
- 1 Pleasant melody
 - 4 Aides: Abbr.
 - 9 "___: Battle Angel" (2019 action film)
 - 14 "No seats left" sign
 - 15 Heart of Québec?
 - 16 Lear's middle daughter
 - 17 Ocean home?
 - 19 Grammy division
 - 20 Demand to pick up a call
 - 21 Place for a lump or a frog
 - 22 Tibet's answer to the Loch Ness Monster
 - 23 "That hurt!"
 - 25 "Prince Valiant" prince
 - 26 Last of a quartet of lordly homes?
 - 31 "I'm going to count ___ ..." (parent's warning)
 - 33 Club hub of London
 - 34 Royal Conservatory subj.
 - 35 Vatican jurisdiction
 - 37 Highly tenacious type
 - 39 Uganda's Amin
 - 40 File folder features
 - 42 ___ apso (terrier)
 - 43 Home for the film crew?
 - 46 Canadian actor Cariou of "Sweeney Todd"
 - 47 Forever and ever and ever
 - 48 Tennis pro Nadal, to fans
 - 52 "(___ On) the Dock of the Bay"
 - 54 "I Fall ___" (Patsy Cline hit)
 - 57 "Look not thou upon the wine when it ___": Proverbs
 - 58 Homes that cows lick?
 - 59 35.3 cubic feet
 - 60 Article type, like "a": Abbr.
 - 61 Pop star Carly ___ Jepsen
 - 62 "___ a Message" (INXS song)
 - 63 Pixie of poesy
 - 64 Opposite of 27-Down

- Down**
- 1 Mineral analysis
 - 2 "Fame" singer Cara
 - 3 Sunday dinner, for many
 - 4 Target of an ice pack, maybe
 - 5 Rise sharply, as prices
 - 6 "___ moment" (memory lapse)
 - 7 Sounds of admonishment
 - 8 Texter's "my bad"
 - 9 Hair-tearer's cry
 - 10 Observe lustily
 - 11 Total blockhead
 - 12 Bad pet for an arachnophobe
 - 13 Work without ___ (be risky)
 - 18 Superfan of "Tay Tay"
 - 21 Parliament's place, casually
 - 24 When doubled, ASAP
 - 27 Left in a Spanish atlas?
 - 28 Still on the plate
 - 29 "..., or ___ story goes"
 - 30 Immigrant's subj.
 - 31 Task guides
 - 32 Grove growth bearing oil-rich fruit
 - 35 That guy
 - 36 Major river of Spain
 - 38 Move rapidly, with "along"
 - 41 "Black Magic Woman" band
 - 44 Apprentice doctor
 - 45 Tristan's love, in a Wagner opera
 - 49 Without ___ in the world
 - 50 Some Greek cheeses
 - 51 It's a good thing
 - 52 Felipe's "For sure!"
 - 53 Picked from a lineup, say
 - 55 "Wing" prefix, to a palaeontologist
 - 56 Still not locked in
 - 58 Thor's wife

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

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