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The Highlander

Thursday **October 15 2026** | Issue 761

INSIDE: YOUNG RACER GOING FULL THROTTLE PAGE 17 **FREE**



Lifting each other up

A student crowdsurfs during the opening festivities of the 2026 Canadian Student Leadership Conference, held at Camp White Pine in Haliburton. More on page 19. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Coalition defends candidate rankings

By Mike Baker

The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners’ Associations’ (CHA) Paul MacInnes said he was surprised by social media backlash to environmental rankings the organization issued to municipal election candidates last week, noting “probably 80 per cent of the feedback I’ve gotten has

been positive.”
 On Oct. 6, MacInnes emailed lists containing names of all 56 candidates seeking election this month, outlining the township and position they’re running for. Also included was a letter grade and a percentage score.
 Some County residents questioned the lack of context included in the email, with

concerns raised over how the rankings will be perceived. There were no questions or responses provided, only grades.
 MacInnes said there were four questions asked: do you support keeping our lakes’ shorelines natural for 30 metres back from the water; would you support demanding that Lakelands Public Health inform people of current blue-green algae blooms; would

you support action to protect our lakes from extreme wakes and if so, how; and do you support the continuation of septic reinspection programs across the County, and how would you strengthen them?
 In total, 24 candidates received an ‘F’, which MacInnes said stood for “failed to reply” – three in Algonquin Highlands, nine
 Continued ‘Group’ on page 2




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Highlander news

Group wants environmental issues 'top of mind'

Continued from page 1

in Dysart et al, seven in Highlands East and five in Minden Hills. Other scores ranged from Cs, with a low of 25 per cent (issued to two candidates), to A+, with three scoring 100 per cent.

"We started working on this months ago. We saw this election as being very important for lake health and our future," MacInnes said. "Our biggest task was coming up with a rankings system that would be fair to everybody – the difficulty was, a number of us (scorers) know a lot of the candidates but there are some we don't."

MacInnes said he didn't want pre-existing relationships to impact the ratings, so the only thing considered were answers to four questions CHA emailed out earlier this summer. MacInnes said he gave candidates more than a month to answer and followed up several times with those who didn't respond.

"We based the scoring 100 per cent on the answers candidates sent to us. We had a system and that was it," MacInnes said. "When answers came in, we looked at their responses and how closely it aligned with the principles of lake health – and that's how the rankings were issued."

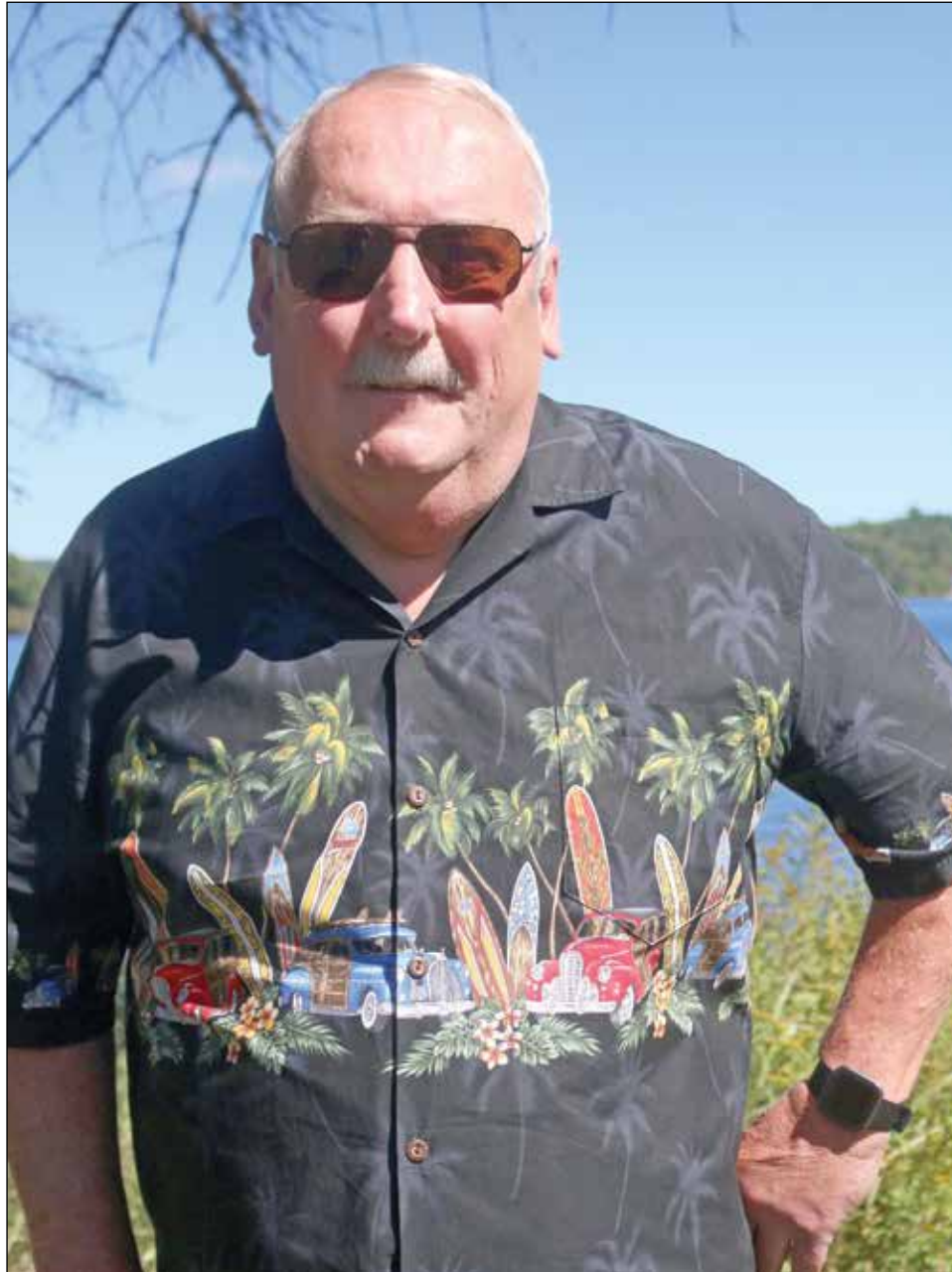
He said results were shared with candidates and individual lake associations across Haliburton County Oct. 6. *The Highlander* asked how the notification was rolled out, with one candidate at an Oct. 5 Minden Hills all-candidates debate referencing the rankings, seemingly having access to them early.

"Results went out to everybody within a 24-hour period. There was a lot of emails to send and you can't get them all in one day. But, what we did was, all of our member associations – the people who will use this information on day one [got it Oct. 5] and the candidates got it the next morning," MacInnes said.

"The only way someone could have known about it on the night of the Minden debate is that a candidate found out from one of the local associations," he added.

Minden Hills deputy mayor Lisa Schell, who isn't seeking re-election, criticized CHA for the way they went about this.

"According to the CHA, the rating was done with a consistent system for all candidates and with no bias... here's the problem, who decides what the 'correct'



Paul MacInnes said the CHA has no regrets about its environmental rankings that were made public last week. *File.*

answers are? It wasn't a yes/no or true/false requirement," Schell said. "Releasing this 'report card' days before the polls open could be seen as voter interference."

There are strict rules around third-party advertising in the Municipal Elections Act. Any group looking to advertise something, such as a questionnaire, via broadcast,

print, electronic or other medium that supports, promotes or opposes a candidate must register with a municipal clerk prior to releasing anything. However, that only applies if the group incurs a cost. MacInnes said the CHA didn't spend anything during this process.

"We didn't say 'vote for this person'

or 'don't vote for them'. We were never intending for this to say 'we support this candidate'. We just wanted the issue of lake health to be top of mind," MacInnes said.

More issues

Ron Parkinson, representing Highlands East Lake Organizations (HELO), said he received the results from MacInnes last week and immediately asked for more context. His plan was to issue a more comprehensive package, which went out Oct. 13.

"We definitely didn't want to just put those ratings out... when we saw those, we were all basically like 'what the heck is that?'," Parkinson said.

While the package HELO released did contain more information, including candidates' answers to questions, there was an issue transferring responses for Highlands East mayoral candidates with some attributed to the incorrect source.

"We're now in the process of fixing this before we send it back out," Parkinson said. "We're not putting anyone in a more favourable position than anyone else. All we want to put out is what people wrote, no grades."

He said a corrected email blast would be issued to HELO members Oct. 14 or 15, though *The Highlander* could not confirm as of press time.

MacInnes said this is the first time CHA has gotten involved in an election by asking specific questions of candidates, though he likened it to someone like Haliburton farmer Godfrey Tyler asking Dysart et al candidates about agricultural issues at a recent all-candidates meeting.

"This is the same thing. We're stepping up because we wanted the topics of lake health to be part of the conversation... there isn't an organization or job in Haliburton County that wouldn't be threatened if our lakes went to hell in a handbasket," he said.

Asked if he, or other CHA members had any regrets, or wished they could do things differently, MacInnes said no.

"We have very clear consciences. We know exactly why we did it... and there's nothing we would change," MacInnes noted.



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Highlander news

Police board frustrated with overdue cost review

By Lisa Gervais

With County townships learning they may be on the hook for another 11 per cent increase in OPP costs, the Haliburton Highlands detachment board has written minister of rural affairs, Lisa Thompson, and commissioner, Thomas Carrique, seeking an update on the province's review of the OPP cost recovery model.

Board chair Andrew Fletcher said the intent of the letter was also to seek clarity on the ministry's and OPP's plan to address the growing cost of policing for rural communities.

Solicitor general Michael Kerzner told townships Aug. 14, the province had confirmed no OPP-policed municipality will see its total base policing costs rise by more than 11 per cent compared to 2026 in 2027.

The Haliburton County-generated correspondence reads, "rural municipalities recognize and value the essential role of the OPP in protecting residents, supporting victims, responding to emergencies, and maintaining public safety across large geographic areas."

"At the same time, many rural and small municipalities are experiencing significant and ongoing budget pressures related to OPP billing. These pressures are particularly difficult in communities with limited assessment growth, aging infrastructure, and competing demands for housing, roads, emergency services, health and social supports and community safety initiatives," Fletcher wrote on behalf of the board.

He added they appreciate the province committing to reviewing the OPP cost recovery model, including work to inform the 2026 annual billing statements; and acknowledge provincial relief measures intended to offset recent increases for small and rural municipalities.

However, he said short-term mitigation does not replace the need for "a sustainable, transparent, and equitable billing framework that reflects the realities of rural policing."

The board is asking for an update on the status and outcome of the review, including: the key findings and recommendations; how municipal and detachment board feedback was considered; any changes expected to the billing methodology, including the treatment of calls for service, base service costs, overtime, court security, and prisoner transportation; the projected impact of any changes on rural and small municipalities; the timeline for communicating final decisions to municipalities and detachment boards; and the longer-term plan to ensure OPP policing remains financially sustainable for rural communities while maintaining public safety standards.

"We further encourage the ministry and OPP to continue working directly with municipalities, OPP detachment boards, and municipal associations to develop a funding



Haliburton Highlands OPP police detachment board chair, Andrew Fletcher. *File.*

approach that is predictable, understandable, and responsive to the unique challenges of rural Ontario," the board chair said.

Fletcher added a fair cost recovery model should recognize rural municipalities often have fewer taxpayers over larger service areas, a limited ability to absorb sudden increases, and complex community safety needs that extend beyond traditional enforcement.

"Policing is a shared priority. We are committed to supporting effective local governance, constructive dialogue, and collaborative solutions that protect both community safety and municipal fiscal sustainability. Timely information about the review and the province's next steps will assist our board and member municipalities in planning responsibly and communicating clearly with residents."

The letter was CC'd to Kerzner, MPP Laurie Scott, local councils, AMO and ROMA.

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Highlander news

County slips while TLDSB lauds results

By Mike Baker

Student achievement is on the rise across Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) according to recent provincial testing in reading, writing and math, though it's been more of a mixed bag in Haliburton County.

The province released Education Quality and Assessment Office (EQAO) testing results from the 2025-26 school year on Sept. 25. Exams are completed by students in Grade 3, 6 and 9, while results from last year's Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, completed by Grade 10 students, is also available.

"The latest EQAO scores from TLDSB are outstanding and are a direct reflection of the dedication of our students, as well as the relentless commitment of our educators and support staff," said TLDSB board chair Colleen Wilcox.

Over the past five years, TLDSB has seen a marked increase in results boardwide. There has been a 14 per cent swing in the number of Grade 3 students reading at or above the provincial standard – 84 per cent last school year, up from 80 per cent in 2024-25 and 70 per cent in 2021-22. The provincial average was 75 per cent.

It was an even better story with early elementary writing and math, which saw 19 and 24 per cent increases. Last year, 76 per cent of TLDSB students were hitting provincial targets, up from 69 per cent in 2024-25 and 57 per cent in 2021-22. Math proficiency was 80 per cent, up from 72 per cent in 2024-25 and 56 per cent in 2021-22.

TLDSB students are outperforming the provincial average in both areas – 76 compared to 67 per cent for writing and 80 versus 65 per cent for math.

Numbers were largely static year-over-year for reading, writing and math at the Grade 6 level – with 87 per cent of TLDSB students at the provincial standard for reading, down from 89 per cent in 2024-25; 88 per cent



Provincial testing results for the 2025-26 school year were recently released, with TLDSB happy with the results. *File.*

for writing, up from 87 per cent; and 55 per cent for math, which stayed the same.

Chief executive officer, Wes Hahn, said there was a notable five-year improvement for late-elementary aged students – nine per cent in reading from 2021-22, 13 per cent in writing and 15 per cent in math.

High school results are also up, with a seven per cent change in math proficiency (52 per cent in 2025-26 from 45 per cent in 2021-22) and a five per cent swing in the number of students passing the literacy test – 83 per cent last school year, from 78 per cent in 2021-22.

"Over the past five years, TLDSB students have made considerable progress, which is evident in these scores," Hahn said. "We routinely consider EQAO data, along with other information, to support decisions made to support student academic achievement. When we look at the continual

improvement of these scores, we can see that TLDSB students are on the right track."

There have been some big wins in the County – Stuart Baker Elementary School saw significant increases this year, with 64 tested. Reading proficiency increased to 82.8 per cent, up from 72.6 per cent, while writing increased 20 per cent to 79.7 from 59.7. Math results also increased, to 84.4 from 67.7 per cent.

J.D. Hodgson Elementary School also saw positive results. With 66 students tested, 95.5 per cent were reading at or above provincial standards, up from 86.4 per cent in 2024-25. Writing proficiency also increased to 89.4 per cent from 88.1. The one blemish was in math, which dropped to 53 per cent from 62.7.

Ten Grade 6 youth were tested in Wilberforce, with 80 per cent at the provincial standard for reading (down from

81.3), 100 per cent for writing (up from 68.8) and 30 per cent for math (down from 37.5).

It was a tough year for Archie Stouffer elementary in Minden, which saw decreases in five-out-of-six metrics.

In Grade 3, reading proficiency increased to 72.2 per cent, up from 58.3 per cent, though writing (52.8 per cent this year versus 60.4 last) and math (61.1 per cent versus 64.6 per cent) both dipped. There were 36 kids tested.

Fifty-five Grade 6 students were assessed, with reading results down to 72.7 per cent (from 89.5), writing at 69.1 per cent (from 81) and math at 34.5 per cent (from 49.1).

EQAO reported 123 Hal High students sat the literacy test last school year, with 83.7 per cent passing. That was above the board average of 82.6 per cent, but below the provincial average of 85.6 per cent.

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Committed to the Community

Schell: two decades of service

By Lisa Gervais

A tearful Minden Hills deputy mayor Lisa Schell thanked the community for its trust in allowing her to serve on council for 20 years, as she attended her final council meeting Oct. 8.

Schell said it had been hard finding the words she would say at her municipal curtain closer.

"After 20 years around this table, it is difficult to put into words what this place and this community has meant to me. When I first sat in this chair in 2006, I never imagined the journey that would follow. Twenty years is a long time."

She said she had watched the community "change, grow, face challenges, celebrate successes, and often come together when we needed each other most."

Schell added she had learned a great deal during her years on council.

"That municipal government isn't just about roads, budgets, bylaws, and policies. At its heart, it's about people and community. It is about the residents who take the time to call because they're worried about something in their neighbourhood. It's about the business owner trying to make a living. It's about our volunteers, our firefighters, our community organizations, our seniors, our young people, and our families. And most of all, it is about caring deeply about the place we call home."

The deputy mayor and County councillor added there had been difficult meetings over the year, as well as disagreements, "but I've always believed that we were all here for the same reason; because we love Minden Hills and we want what's best for the people who live here, including ourselves."

She said she has always held firm to the belief, "I can disagree at this council table, but then go to lunch with any of my fellow councillors."

She said it was not an easy decision to walk away from something that has been a huge part of her life the past two decades. She described it as "bittersweet. But sometimes life reminds us we have to listen to ourselves; take care of ourselves and know when it is time for the next chapter."

"Thank you to my fellow councillors past and present. Thank you to the incredible staff who work behind the scenes every day



Deputy mayor Lisa Schell with her farewell cupcakes at last Thursday's (Oct. 8) council meeting. *Submitted.*

to keep this municipality moving forward and running smoothly. I want to thank the residents who have trusted me with their voices and their community. I leave knowing Minden Hills is in good hands, and with an enormous amount of pride in having played a small part in that. I will miss this table. I will miss the debates, the laughter, the frustrations, the friendships, and even the long meetings. But, I will carry these memories with me for the rest of my life."

She added she is leaving "with a heavy heart, tremendous gratitude, and absolutely

no regrets except for the splash pad that I have wanted since 2008. And the snack bar at the new arena. And the heat."

Mayor Bob Carter said Schell had shown "exemplary service and been a tremendous help to all of those councils."

He said he had served with her on two of them, and, "we all owe you a deep amount of gratitude. I, especially, in helping me as the deputy mayor over this last term. On behalf of council and staff and our community, we can't thank you enough for your dedication and your service."

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Huskies' coming home

Minden Hills council, at its Sept. 24 meeting, formalized an agreement with the new Haliburton Huskies Jr. C team for arena usage starting next hockey season.

Director of community services, Candace McGuigan, said the owners of the Jr. A Huskies told them in May they were moving to Cobourg, however they were working with community partners to bring a Jr. C team to be based in Minden Hills.

She said staff had been working with representatives of the Huskies to support

their application to the Provincial Junior Hockey League for approval of a team to operate out of S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena starting in the 2027-28 season.

She said they'd reached an agreement for arena use, for a two-year term, with the option to renew for another two years.

She said the team would hold two practices a week, and it's an approximate 20-game season (September to the middle of February), then playoffs.

"Ice rentals will be in the prime ice rate, currently \$125/hr. There will be camps conducted in the spring and summer."

She estimated revenue of \$9,000 plus

HST in year one; \$9,750 plus HST in year two; \$12,000 plus HST in year three and \$15,000 plus HST in year four.

She said staff believe the team will benefit the township by having an economic impact in the community; provide a social and community-gathering opportunity; provide an opportunity for minor hockey players to play for a high calibre team and connect Minden Hills to a well-developed hockey brand.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

Highlander news



ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Indigenous garden

An archeological site review of Tapscott Lopes Park will be required before Algonquin Highlands township can proceed with the installation of an Indigenous garden on the property.

Manager of parks, recreation and trails, Chris Card, recently told council he had heard from four of the seven Indigenous communities he contacted over the summer, with discussions centering on what will be featured.

A first concept design for the 20-by-20-foot space has been completed, though Card said he's awaiting estimates for the archeological site review.

"Because we initiated this consultation, we have a duty to accommodate the request. From my understanding, it's not an option. This is a process we have to go through," he said, reiterating he still hopes to complete the project this year.

The installation of an Indigenous garden was one of the conditions in the deal that Don Tapscott and Ana Lopes made with the township when they donated the property in 2024.

Plane donation

Stanhope Municipal Airport may soon be the new home of a classic Canadair CT-114 Tutor jet, historically flown by the Royal Canadian Air Forces' (RCAF) 'Snowbirds' demonstration team.

The aircraft has been offered to the township by the family of the late Hannu Halminen, to be displayed at the airport and enjoyed by the community.

Public works director Adam Thorn said the township's airport committee is working on a project to acquire, paint and reassemble the jet, which is currently in pieces in storage. He said costs will be presented during 2027 budget deliberations.

The plane served as the RCAF's primary jet trainer from 1963 to 2000, with the Snowbirds' aerobatic team utilizing it since 1971.

"As an iconic aircraft closely tied to Canadian aviation history... the Tutor would serve as a significant landmark and point of community pride, while enhancing the airport's visibility and appeal," Thorn wrote in his report.

Last chance

There's still time for people to enjoy the fall colour season from the best view in the County, though time is running out, said communications coordinator Chad Ingram.

The Dorset Lookout Tower closes for the season Oct. 26, giving people two final weekends to book a spot and go up the iconic structure. All bookings are handled online at ahtrails.ca.

While entry comes at a cost, patrons of the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) and Lake of Bays Township Public Library can borrow a pass to access the tower for free. HCPL has five passes, which can be



A planned Indigenous garden for Tapscott Lopes Park has been delayed. *File.*

checked out for up to a week. There's a limit of one pass per cardholder. Lake of Bays has two passes at each of its Baysville and Dwight locations.

The pass will grant walk-up access for one person, one car and all vehicle occupants, or one motorcycle. When booking online, use the three-digit number of the pass to complete your booking.

Owned and operated by Algonquin Highlands, the tower is located off Hwy. 35 just north of Dorset. The original structure was built in 1922 and used until 1961. A replacement went up in 1967, with Ingram saying more than 10,000 vehicles and 60,000 people access the site each year. *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker)*

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Highlander news

New era for Haliburton Sculpture Forest

By Mike Baker

Some of Nicholas Russell's favourite memories of life in the Highlands have been forged at the Haliburton Sculpture Forest and now, the local musician is taking on the responsibility of ensuring the popular tourist destination thrives for generations to come.

Russell was unveiled as the forest's new, and second-ever curator on Saturday (Oct. 10). He's replacing the retiring Jim Blake, who has held the role since the sculpture forest's formation in 2001.

Describing Blake as a mentor and a friend, who helped Russell get his business, Haliburton Guitar Studio, up and running in 2017, the new curator said he's honoured to follow in Blake's footsteps.

"It's a very specific job because it requires not only an understanding of sculptures and classical and contemporary art, but also deep networking roots in the community – I feel I've established that last part through my business, performing as a musician and being involved in different things. It all felt like a very natural fit," Russell said.

With Blake staying on in an advisory role, Russell said he intends to lean on his mentor as he learns the ropes of managing a cultural icon. The forest celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer and typically attracts 40,000 visitors per year.

The space boasts 47 sculptures and seven artistic benches on an approximate 1.4-kilometre walking trail. Russell said he usually visits the site at least once a week, seeing it as the perfect spot for his two



Nicholas Russell said he's honoured to follow in the footsteps of his mentor, and former curator, Jim Blake. Photo courtesy of Danielle Clement.

young children to burn off some energy and learn to appreciate art.

"I think we'll be there a lot more now," Russell said.

Asked if he had a favourite sculpture,

Russell said he feels a connection to *Atmo-Sphere*, the walk-in stone structure created by British Columbia's John McKinnon and installed in 2013. Russell created an original piece of music people can listen to on their

smartphone while visiting the sculpture, which debuted this summer during the 'Alive 25' anniversary celebration.

It's *Das Buch XXIII*, a steel piece by Marianne Reim that first appeared during the downtown sculpture exhibition in 2019, that really resonates with Russell, though.

"It belies expectation. The sculpture is a book and, when you open it, it says 'emptiness'. That's just really interesting and thought-provoking. It opens the mind to doing different things," Russell said.

His initial focus will be developing a curatorial vision that will help to guide the forest's future growth. Russell said he wants to bring more performance-based art to the space, while promised new additions will always be top of mind.

"The plan is always to grow... welcoming more Canadian, international and Indigenous artists into the collection," Russell said. "Every year, if there are a few sculptures added, then that's a great success."

Blake, who worked alongside the sculpture forest's chair, Barb Bolin, and the rest of the board to find his replacement, believes Russell is a great fit for the role.

"I think that Nick's care and understanding of multidisciplinary art, in tandem with his experience in performance and artistic collaboration, his knowledge of the artistic community in Haliburton and how nature and art work together, will be an excellent addition to the ongoing exploratory spirit of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest," Blake said.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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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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Gone to the dogs

When did we collectively agree that leaving a dog at home for 20 minutes is a crime against humanity?

If you try to do much of anything downtown on a Saturday, it's an absolute maze. You head into a store for a simple item, only to find someone's 90-pound Labradoodle stretched flat out across aisle four. So you wait for the owner to notice you're standing there. Eventually, you start wondering if the dog is shopping for something itself.

Over at the post office, a cold, wet nose suddenly finds its way against your leg while the owner reads the obituaries on the bulletin board.

Or try sitting down on a patio to have a cold drink. Within 30 seconds, a snout is nudging its way right under your arm. Then comes the familiar line: "Don't worry, he's friendly!" Great. I'm glad he's friendly. I just don't want to share my chair with him.

The farmers' market is where I really start to wonder if we've lost the plot. Between the crowds and the dogs on 20-foot retractable leashes, getting through the stalls is an obstacle course. A dog wanders off toward the lake, leaving a thin nylon line stretched straight across the walkway. You either have to step over it or stand there waiting for the owner to look up from their phone.

A public unveiling of a new art sculpture? Why not bring Fido along? I'm sure the artist appreciates a few extra four-legged admirers, assuming they keep their distance from the piece.

It's actually somewhat amusing to watch. People shuffling down the street trying to balance a coffee, text with one hand, and carrying a steaming bag of dog poop with the other, like this is a totally normal way to spend a Saturday morning.

Now, don't get me wrong. I have nothing

against dogs. They're animals, and plenty of them are great companions. It's the decision to drag them along on every single errand and to every public event that gets to me. A little consideration for the people around you wouldn't hurt.

I miss the days when conversations at the coffee shop were cut short because someone had to "get home for the dog." Now, I have to budget extra time for every errand, mostly because a dog named Cooper is parked in the middle of the bank doorway, and nobody has the heart to ask him to move.



By Adam Frisk

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

A healthy dose of the woods

By Susan Tromanhauser

As a former registered psychotherapist, Greg Boyce would never offer advice on how to solve a personal problem. But if anyone explicitly asked, he would lead them into the woods, and he knows just the place.

Boyce believes immersing oneself in nature is like climbing out of the backseat into the front seat of the car of your consciousness, and putting "hands on the steering wheel of your own mind, and steering where you want to go" rather than following errant thoughts.

Boyce has spent many years going where he wanted to go – canoeing trips across the country. But in 2005, Boyce and his wife came to visit a friend in the Highlands and paddled down the Kennisis where the river empties into Halls Lake. It was there the couple saw their next adventure – a 'for sale' sign. They were soon owners of their own cottage. Boyce admits it was an impulsive decision, but they were lured by the smell of white pines, hot rocks, and the Canadian shield, reminded of camp days as a youth.

Once they became cottage owners, canoe trips slowed, but Boyce's hobby of photography picked up. Boyce enjoys documenting the nature surrounding their cottage, focusing not on landscapes, but macro photography, closeups of flowers and birds. When he is particularly pleased with a picture, he will share online.

On a recent morning, instead of flora and fauna, Boyce chose to return to another past hobby – airplanes. In all kinds of positions, kneeling, sitting, twisting his body on the ground, taking photos of the various kinds of aircraft landing during the Stanhope Fall Fly-in at the Algonquin Highlands' airport. But Boyce is very selective. In two hours, he took 835 photos but only five met his standards.



Greg Boyce. Submitted.

Boyce and his wife alternate between the cottage and their home in Guelph, going back and forth every eight days or so. They no longer spend time in the Highlands during the winter, with the changing climate no longer providing reliable snow to snowshoe and instead more frozen rain requiring unenjoyable crampons while hiking.

Instead, they winter in Guelph focusing on their other hobby, dancing. Boyce fondly recalls the couple were once involved in Latin dancing, which was "very athletic and we were in really good shape, practicing eight hours a week." They have recently

transitioned from ballroom to West Coast swing.

But Boyce's favourite hobby remains being immersed in nature, admitting "you've got to be in the country to be living outdoors." Boyce stands by the recommendation to spend more time outside to be healthy and happy. "Outdoors is a wholesome place to be, being aware of nature is relaxing." If a psychotherapist could offer a prescription for a happy and healthy life, one might just be to spend an hour a day in the woods by yourself. For Boyce his ideal woods are along the shores of Halls Lake.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Ask the big questions

Dear editor,

Between Oct.16-26, Highlands East will choose a mayor and four councillors. We are not just picking personalities. We are choosing the people who will hold our township's money, services and future in trust.

Ontario's Municipal Act is clear. Council must consider the well-being of the whole municipality, ensure accountability and transparency, including over senior management, and maintain the township's financial integrity. The mayor, as chief executive officer, must lead council, promote public involvement and foster our economic, social and environmental well-being.

Having served and chaired the board of an administrative authority in Ontario, I know that good governance is what turns good intentions into good results. It rests on integrity, transparency, accountability, careful stewardship of public money, genuine consultation and respect for staff and colleagues.

In Highlands East, it also means stewardship of place: protecting the health of our lakes and residents' quiet enjoyment, while supporting small businesses and meaningful work so young people can build their lives here.

Before you vote, ask candidates how they will keep residents informed between elections, how they will plan beyond next year's budget, and how they will protect our lakes while helping our economy grow.

Voting is by internet and telephone only, from 9 a.m. Oct. 16 to 8 p.m. Oct. 26. If your voter information letter has not arrived by Oct. 14, contact the municipality. Help is available at the Wilberforce municipal office.

Good governance does not happen by accident. Please vote.

Allison Scanlan
Highlands East

Where are the jobs for locals?

Dear editor,

At the all-candidates meetings for the 2026 municipal election, one message was repeated by many candidates, both incumbents and hopefuls: we need to create jobs in our area and give our young people a reason to stay in Highlands East.

That sounds great. But are the municipality's own hiring practices reflecting that commitment?

Since 2020, the Municipality of Highlands East has hired 23 people for positions. Of those 23, only three reportedly live in Highlands East.

Let that sink in. That means only a small fraction of those hired are local residents.

Some will argue that the municipality must hire the most qualified candidate, and nobody is suggesting that qualifications should be ignored. But I question whether that argument tells the whole story. I am

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Michael Moir captured this image of a Hummingbird on Davis Lake.

aware of several positions where, in my view, more qualified applicants were available but were not selected.

Our young people are being told that they need to stay in the community, build their lives here, and contribute to its future. But how can we expect them to stay if employment opportunities with their own municipality are going to people from elsewhere?

If our municipal leaders are serious about keeping young people in Highlands East, shouldn't the municipality lead by example?

Taxpayers deserve transparency about how municipal positions are advertised, how candidates are evaluated, and what steps are taken to give qualified local applicants a fair opportunity.

This is not about demanding that local residents be hired regardless of qualifications. It is about asking whether local people are being given a fair chance and whether the municipality is practising what its elected officials preach.

If creating local employment is a priority for Highlands East, it should be more than a talking point at an election meeting. It should be reflected in the municipality's own hiring practices.

The question is simple: What does Highlands East intend to do to ensure that qualified local residents have a fair opportunity to work for their own municipality?

Rick Huffman
Highlands East

Passing the buck

Dear editor,

The recent report on Lakelands Public Health's financial strain ("Health Unit asked to do more," Oct. 1) laid bare a startling

statistic: local public health funding grew just 7 per cent over an 11-year period where inflation jumped by double digits.

While public health agencies absorb layoffs and search for "efficiencies" to meet provincially mandated duties, the problem goes far beyond local boards. It is a symptom of how Ontario manages healthcare overall.

When governments plead poverty over rising health costs, they act as if our current crisis came out of nowhere. But as University of Toronto demographer Dr. David Foot mapped out back in the mid-1990s in Boom, Bust & Echo, Canada's aging demographic tsunami was entirely predictable math. Queen's Park has had nearly 30 years to prepare for the inevitable arrival of a more numerous, older population.

Instead, when you adjust provincial health-care spending for inflation, rapid population growth, and aging, real per capita spending has barely managed to tread water—while local public health lost roughly 30 per cent of its real purchasing power per resident.

What makes this squeeze unconscionable is that Ontario is one of Canada's economic powerhouses. Yet according to the province's financial accountability office, Ontario consistently sits at, or near, the very bottom of all Canadian provinces in health spending per person.

Passing the buck by starving foundational public health services and shifting costs onto local municipal property taxes isn't fiscal responsibility—it's political negligence.

It is time for Queen's Park to stop playing surprised by demographics and properly fund health-care at a level that matches the real needs of our growing province.

Armin Weber,
Eagle Lake

CHA ratings lacking

Dear editor,

As a strong supporter of lake stewardship, I was surprised - even shocked - by Paul MacInnes' Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA) ratings of Minden Hills candidates on lake health. In my view, the ratings lack transparency and appear to take political advantage of uninformed seasonal voters. I question why the highest-rated mayoral candidate has no record of working with lake associations or supporting lake stewardship, while two other candidates do.

I am also concerned that one mayoral candidate apparently had access to the evaluation before the Minden Rotary all-candidates meeting on Oct. 5 and referred to it there, while the other mayoral candidates did not receive it until the following day.

A more transparent approach would have been to distribute the three questions asked of all candidates and to share each candidate's unedited responses to each question. This allows voters to determine their own sense of who can and will work to support lake health if elected.

A ratings chart without the background information does not inform - it manipulates. By doing so, it reveals, for the most part, the bias of a single person or organization doing the rating.

I prefer transparent and informed democracy any day and am saddened at how poorly this data reflects on CHA in our community.

Liz Clarke
Minden Hills



HIGHLANDS EAST

Mayoral candidate Dave Burton

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton said his experience at the council table will be important following the upcoming municipal election, pointing to the potential for significant turnover among councillors as one of the reasons he is seeking re-election.

Speaking to *The Highlander*, Burton pointed to his experience in local government, including four terms on Highlands East council and five terms as warden of Haliburton County, as an asset heading into the municipality's next four years.

"It could be an interesting term because we could have an all-new council with the people that are running, and I feel the leadership at the top should maybe have some experience," Burton said.

He added that voters shouldn't swap out experienced representatives without a clear reason.

"If it's just for the sake of change, give me reasons why. There's nothing, in my opinion, in Highlands East, that really needs change too much."

Addressing the ongoing discussion around municipal amalgamation and the County's service delivery review, Burton reiterated his opposition to full amalgamation while remaining open to shared services.

Burton explained that municipal planning and building departments are areas where services could be aligned across the County, adding that local contractors have asked for a single, streamlined interpretation of the building code across the municipalities. He cited neighbouring regions such as the City of Kawartha Lakes as examples where lower-tier identity and equitable resource distribution can suffer under full amalgamation.

"My concern... is right now, the way it's set up, if there's grants or loans or anything out there, we have five tries at it, each lower tier and the County," Burton explained. "If it becomes one, it'll be one... and it's been proven to my neighbours to the south that [funding] goes to the bigger centres."

"And I'm not going to have Highlands East left out," he said.

Burton also said keeping Highlands East debt-free remains a priority.

"I take a lot of pride in Highlands East being debt-free... and we're going to be as long as I'm around," he said. "I'm worried that all of a sudden we'll be left behind, or picking other debt up."

When asked about housing availability, Burton proposed a trade college program in Wilberforce that could also help address the shortage of skilled workers and affordable housing. He outlined a concept for a satellite program, potentially in partnership with Loyalist College, where students



Dave Burton. Photo by Adam Frisk.

would complete classroom study in the morning and hands-on modular construction in the afternoon.

"I'm looking forward to an idea that I have to put a college, a small college, trades, in Wilberforce, that I'm hoping that the students can go to their classrooms in the morning and build their house in the afternoon," Burton said. He suggested modular units could be built in sections indoors and assembled on-site.

Burton also defended keeping all four of the township's fire halls operational,

rejecting consolidation scenarios floated in the provincial fire master plan. He noted that recent station upgrades and equipment purchases, including a newly ordered pumper truck, have been paid for through municipal reserves rather than debt.

Burton said his motivation to continue serving also comes from the people of Highlands East.

"The people there have been nothing but refreshing to work with all the years I've been there," Burton said. "They're survivors."

Mayoral candidate Steven Kauffeldt

By Mike Baker

Highlands East needs more housing, greater economic development and a council that communicates more openly with residents, believes mayoral candidate Steven Kauffeldt.

After serving a single term as Ward 1 councillor from 2010-14 and unsuccessfully running in the 2014 and 2018 municipal elections, Kauffeldt said he decided back in February that he wanted another kick at the can – only this time for council's top job.

"We're staring down what could be a generational change in governance in Haliburton County and I want a seat at the table," Kauffeldt said.

He thinks his prior council experience will allow him to hit the ground running should he be elected. He's campaigning on what he describes as a need to get the township "building again," arguing that outdated planning rules are restricting opportunities for growth.

"I think it's time to start saying 'yes' instead of 'no' to things in Highlands East. We have a very restrictive zoning bylaw," Kauffeldt said. "I'm not saying take the harness off, but I think we can loosen the reins to help people grow."

Kauffeldt wants to revisit the township's official plan, while noting he would be in favour of adjusting zoning rules so

that people with large plots of land could build second, third or fourth homes on a lot, providing it's big enough. He's also interested in pursuing tiny home developments.

On amalgamation, Kauffeldt said of the four choices presented to the County, he likes option three – which would maintain all four lower-tier townships but see them pass responsibilities for most services and program to the upper-tier. His preference, though, would be a "made in Haliburton County" solution.

"I think we need to slow things down; make sure we do this correctly because this is going to be something that could affect us for a very long time," he said.

While he's in favour of more shared services with other County townships, Kauffeldt felt there were possible partnerships Highlands East could pursue with Hastings Highlands.

Kauffeldt isn't in favour of spending millions on a new town hall. A volunteer firefighter with the Highlands East department, he does see a benefit in maintaining the municipality's five fire halls.

One non-negotiable was maintaining and bolstering protections for vulnerable lakes. "Lakes must be protected. Without them, we have nothing here. That's our lifeline, our tourism, our economy. Lake health



Steven Kauffeldt. Photo by Mike Baker.

is paramount, so I'm not talking about removing restrictions on shorelines or anything like that. I think they need to be better protected."

With Highlands East the first township in the County to reopen discussions on its short-term rental (STR) bylaw, Kauffeldt had mixed feelings.

"STRs are a business, but I think there's a big difference between someone who owns three cottages on a lake and rents them all year long, to someone who rents

out their house while they go away for a week – I don't see those as a short-term rental, but I know they would fall under the classification right now," he said, noting STRs do provide places for people to stay when visiting the area.

If elected, Kauffeldt promised to publish monthly mayor reports and hold town hall meetings.

"I think just think we need a fresh voice and perspective, and I'm ready to be that guy," Kauffeldt said.

HIGHLANDS EAST



Mayoral candidate Mike Killingsworth

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Former Toronto Transit Commission enforcement head Mike Killingsworth is drawing on nearly 40 years of municipal administration experience as he seeks to lead Highlands East, saying the township faces challenges that require an experienced mayor from the outset.

Speaking to *The Highlander*, Killingsworth explained why he chose to run for mayor rather than first seeking a seat as a ward councillor.

"I don't want to spend the first four years learning because I think I've got a good baseline experience and education to perform well," Killingsworth said.

His municipal career includes serving as chief special constable and head of transit enforcement for the TTC, as well as deputy clerk overseeing regulatory services for the City of Markham.

"I need to be the leader. And that's my philosophy," Killingsworth said. "I think I've got the municipal experience to lead. And I want to move this municipality forward."

Killingsworth said he does not support full amalgamation based on the information currently available, but believes the township needs to change how it operates.

A new council will have to get up to speed on municipal operations while weighing

potentially significant changes to how local services are delivered, he said.

"There's going to be a lot of base-level grassroots learning that needs to be done by the new council," Killingsworth said. "Throw on top of it a generational decision, and the timing is very unfair. It is what it is. We need to move forward."

On municipal finances, Killingsworth questioned the cost of maintaining a debt-free township while infrastructure needs continue to grow. Highlands East is the only municipality in Haliburton County without debt.

"We've been debt-free in Highlands East, now, I don't know how long we've been debt-free, but we are currently now and we're the only municipality in the County that is, but at what expense?" he asked.

"And one of the reasons that I am running for mayor is because our infrastructure is literally crumbling."

He pointed to aging fire halls, deteriorating roads and delayed maintenance at municipal facilities, arguing that the township needs to take a broader look at its infrastructure needs.

"Our town in Highlands East specifically looks tired," he said. "Bearing in mind that we've got a governance structure study being conducted. We need to start investing. If that means some responsible debt, then I think that's what we're going to have to do."



Mike Killingsworth. Photo by Adam Frisk.

Killingsworth also proposed targeted transit services to help residents in remote parts of the township reach commercial centres and health services.

"I see the isolation that our people are living in and quite frankly it brings me to tears sometimes because people live off the beaten path they have no way to go... to pick up a prescription... so we really need to get down to brass tacks," he said.

He suggested the township could start with a single vehicle.

"I'm talking about even if we had to buy one van, one accessible bus in Highlands

East... It's a start. It brings people together," he said.

On housing, Killingsworth called for new approaches to make it more affordable for young families to live in the area. His suggestions included long-term land leases and modular housing developments, similar to models in neighbouring communities such as Bancroft.

He also said the township needs to do more to engage both year-round residents and seasonal property owners, particularly given historically low voter turnout.

Mayoral candidate Krystle Anne Pegg

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Keeping younger families in Haliburton County, improving access to municipal information and finding ways for the County's four lower-tier municipalities to work together are among Krystle Anne Pegg's priorities as she seeks the mayor's seat in Highlands East.

Pegg, a paralegal who operates a legal practice in Gooderham and chairs the non-profit Citizens for Crown Land Protection, said she decided to run because she wants her children and future generations to be able to build their lives in the County.

"I have kids that I'm raising in Haliburton County," Pegg said. "At some point, I expect them to get married, have kids themselves, and I need them to be able to have a Haliburton County that they can grow up in with their families, so they don't have to move to the city, so they don't have to leave their home just to have a job, just to have a house that they can afford."

Pegg said her experience following council proceedings and municipal matters at different levels of government has given her an understanding of how local government works.

If elected, Pegg said her priorities would

include improving public access to township staff, eliminating barriers for community groups and hosting more local events to rebuild community cohesion.

She also wants to make it easier for residents to understand how their municipality works and where they can go for help.

"I want an informed community," she said. "At the end of the day, I want everybody who is coming to the municipality, if they don't get an answer from us because it's something we can't do, I want them to know where they can go."

Pegg is opposed to municipal amalgamation and supports "Model 1" in Haliburton County's ongoing governance review, which would maintain the four lower-tier municipalities while looking for ways to improve shared services.

She has also launched a petition calling for a public referendum before any changes to the County's municipal structure are made.

Pegg said previous attempts to share municipal services have been held back by differences among officials rather than problems with the structure itself.

"We have to make it so that we're not costing taxpayers more money because of our issues, our schemas," Pegg said.

She pointed to short-term rental (STR)



Krystle Anne Pegg. Photo by Adam Frisk.

regulations as an example, and said four different lower-tier bylaws create unnecessary confusion. She suggested establishing uniform STR rules so municipalities could share enforcement personnel and distribute costs during the peak summer season.

Pegg also supports maintaining shoreline buffers but said there should be practical exceptions for existing structures, property rights and physical accessibility needs.

"My approach is that it needs to be practical for the people that may have an accessibility need too," Pegg said. "It can't be absolute. Nothing in life can be absolute in this scenario."

Pegg is one of five candidates for mayor in Highlands East, alongside incumbent mayor Dave Burton, Cheryl Ellis, Steven Kauffeldt and Mike Killingsworth. Voting concludes Oct. 26.

Editor's note: We are continuing our municipal election coverage this week with contenders for the mayor's seat in Highlands East. Content was pulled from podcast interviews recorded with the candidates over the summer. Highlands East mayoral candidate, Cheryl Ellis, declined a verbal interview but provided a written statement for publication, which *The Highlander* declined to publish. **Next week: Algonquin Highlands mayoral candidates.**

Highlander arts

Arts council revives 'Fashion Fallies'

By Mike Baker

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands has been the talk of the town for the past week, with the organization announcing the return of one of the community's most unique annual traditions.

'Fashion Fallies' will make its "triumphant return" next spring, the arts council's Chris Lynd confirmed last Thursday (Oct. 8). The fashion show challenges the County's most creative minds to design a piece of wearable art that themselves, or models, don on the runway in what Lynd described as one of the most high-energy events she's been a part of. The show was last held in 2019.

"COVID-19 was probably the thing that stopped it, but the community has always been there. There have always been people, makers and creators who have loved that event. It never really leaves your mind," Lynd said.

A revival was first discussed late last spring and quickly gathered pace, Lynd said. Traditionally, 'Fashion Fallies' was one of the premier fundraisers for arts programming in Haliburton County. Lynd said that will be a focus again, but more than that, it's about providing a platform for creators to showcase their talents.

The show will bring together both amateur and established designers, makers, artists, engineers, storytellers and more, offering an "exciting glimpse" into the world of wearable art.

"It's always been more than just a fashion show – it's a vibrant celebration of our



A model walks the runway during a previous 'Fashion Fallies' event. Submitted.

creative community," Lynd said. "There are so many people out there who like a challenge, and this is exactly that, but it's also an opportunity for collaboration, to work with different materials, really put themselves out there.

"We really want to see painters working with woodworkers, or wire sculptors, really mixing people from different mediums and

worlds together. We have some really fun ideas about including musicians, dancers and literary people and make them a central part of the show," she added.

A location and firm date have yet to be determined, though Lynd said it will be held in May 2027. Organizers are looking for a larger venue for the show, which was traditionally held at the Haliburton School

of Art + Design.

Lynd said the arts council is planning a series of workshops for the winter, where participants can get a head start on their design. She's hopeful it will serve as a spark, rekindling a long-held spirit of collaboration within this specific arts community.

Asked about some of the most unique pieces of wearable art she's seen displayed at previous shows, Lynd said a few came to mind.

"I have seen a popcorn dress that could just knock your socks off. I've seen a dress made from toilet paper that goes on for miles, and another made from various tree parts that was supposed to promote nature – so anything and everything can go into this," she said.

There will be other forms of entertainment and interactive pop-ups at the event, with VIP experiences available and an after-party celebration planned, Lynd said.

Money raised will support arts council programs such as its 'art in public spaces' and 'artists in the schools and community' initiatives. Funds will also be directed to community events, such as Bookapalooza.

Lynd said tickets will go on sale in the new year, while designers and artisans interested in participating are asked to contact fashionfallieshaliburton@gmail.com.

"Tickets sell out so fast, the audience enjoys this just as much as the participants do," Lynd said.

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Haliburton's Ryan Van Lee gets big break

By Lisa Gervais

Being chosen one of three fan favourites in Samsung True North Tunes - from more than 2,000 artist submissions across Canada - is something Ryan Van Lee wanted to bring "back home" to Haliburton County.

It was announced last week that the Highlands' musician had been selected through public voting.

The "cool" win has garnered him a raft of industry prizes, including being on a limited-edition beverage can, a live recording session, access to industry mentors, live performance opportunities, marketing chances, and Samsung technology.

He told *The Highlander* last Thursday (Oct. 8) "I haven't even taken it in yet."

Tracking the contest statistics, he didn't think he would be a winner. He felt he would crack the top 20 across Canada and believed that was an accomplishment in itself. "I was okay with that. I came to terms with it."

However, votes from across the nation kept coming, and finding out he'd won "was very crazy news for me."

Van Lee is still absorbing the list of prizes but knows they will benefit his career. He is wrapping his head around the thought of a limited-edition Collective Arts collaboration featuring his artwork on custom beverage cans, created alongside renowned gig-poster artist Tiffany Chin.

The live recording session is at Lacquer Channel Mastering with Noah Mintz,



Ryan Van Lee is a fan favourite winner. *Submitted.*

to be filmed by Barnburner Films, of Alexisonfire, Cancer Bats, The Dirty Nil, and Neil Young Archives, fame.

There is one-on-one mentorship and access to Canadian music industry professionals working across A&R, management,

publishing, radio and artist development.

Another perk is additional live performance opportunities through Collective Arts and its music partners.

There'll be a national campaign feature and marketing amplification as well as a

Frame TV and sound tower speaker, as well as a custom vinyl and TNT trophy.

"It's a big break. As musicians, we put so much money into ourselves, and invest so much for it to pay off, which it does, but you have to be ballsy enough to do it. The way I see it is I'm not going to have to pay for everything. Things are going to be a little easier on the wallet."

Van Lee added the recognition is good for his music resume.

Going back to wanting to bring the title home, Van Lee said that awhile back some kids reached out to him on social media, telling him they had taken up guitar, or gotten into music, because of him, "and that was kind of huge."

"That's kind of why I want to do this ... to leave a legacy. I've always dreamed of having my own little photo mural on the side of somewhere because this town is all about sports." He said that as a kid, he was bullied because he wasn't into athletics.

"I followed this music path. I bushwhacked my own path in this, and it's kind of cool to start seeing kids following."

Tafari Jilany, head of corporate marketing, Samsung Canada, told *The Highlander*, "Ryan is a great example of an artist building momentum from his local community while creating music that has the potential to resonate far beyond it," said Jilany. "Through the program, we're helping artists connect with industry professionals, gain new experiences and reach broader audiences across Canada."

Christmas Around The World

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Highlander events



Giving thanks at the hill

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride hosted its annual Thanksgiving festival on Saturday (Oct. 10) where locals and visitors gathered to take in what's left of the fall colours. The free event featured a BBQ, inflatable games, face painting and fall chairlift rides. The ski hill also announced the name of its new chairlift during the festival. The Fireball Express quad chairlift will help keep skiers and snowboarders moving this winter and help cut down lift lines, organizers said. The name was selected from 300 entries.

Top left: Brynley Hutchings getting some painting done at the Thanksgiving festival. Top right: Families enjoy inflatable games on Saturday. Middle left: Antonio Brum reacts after Pockets painted his face at the fall festival. Middle right: Josh Jamieson scarfs down some Kewartha Dairy ice cream. Bottom left: There were plenty of things to do and see at the Thanksgiving festival. Bottom right: People took in the views from the deck. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

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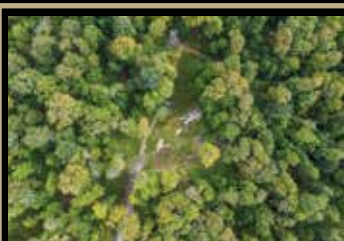
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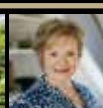
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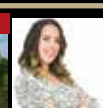
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Highlander events

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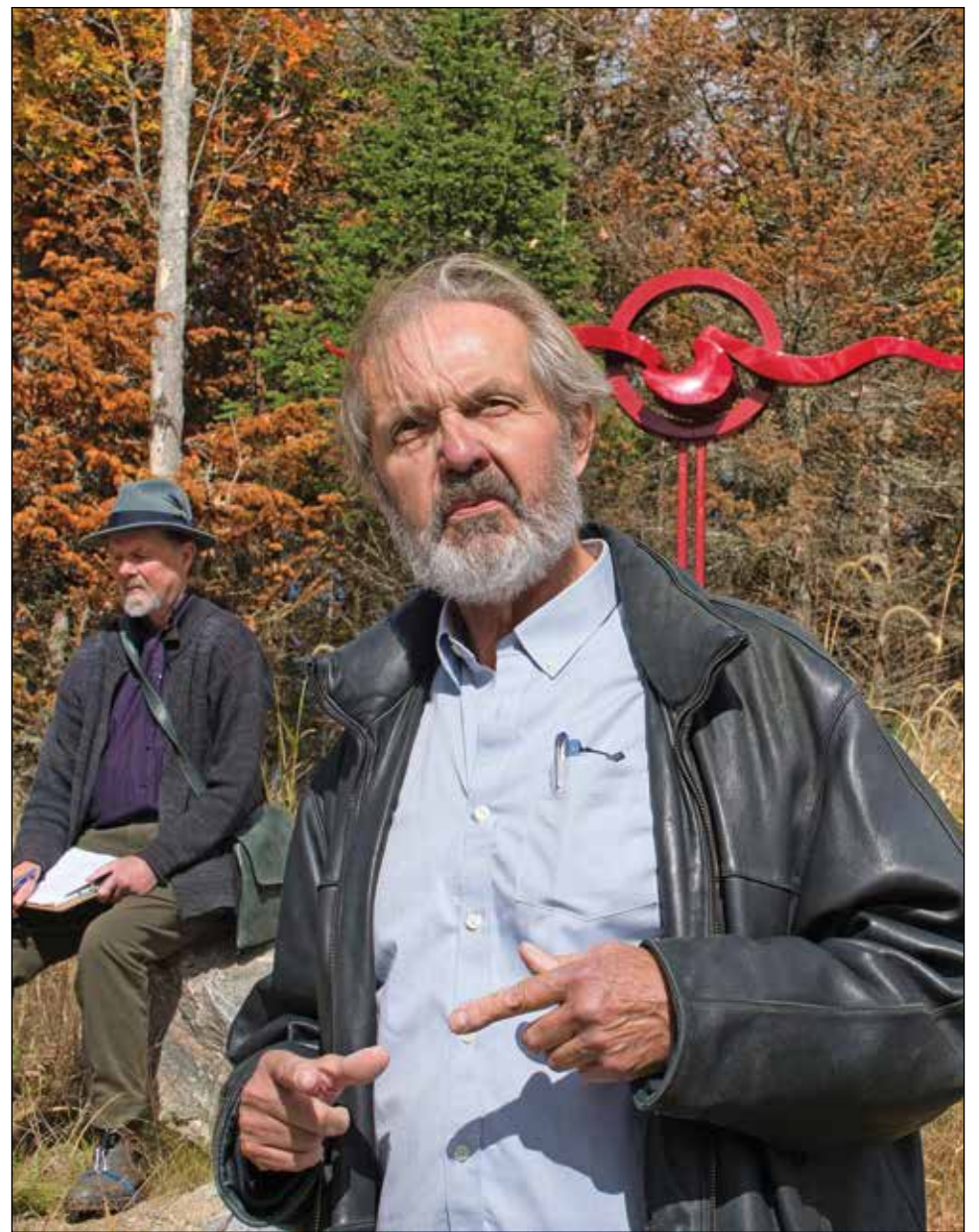
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New beginnings taking shape

The Haliburton Sculpture Forest unveiled its latest art installation on Thursday (Oct. 8) at Fleming College Haliburton School of Art + Design. Artist René Petitjean was on hand for the induction of his work that he donated to the sculpture forest

René Petitjean chatted to a crowd of people during the induction of his new work, Catharsis. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

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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.
 - The UFO Craft group meets in the Welch Room on Friday, October 16 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 PM.
 - Join us for the 4th annual Haunting in Minden Hills on Saturday, October 31 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. This year's festival takes a spooky twist, with eerie decorations and displays inspired by folklore, legends, mysterious tales, and popular culture. Families can enjoy a Witch Dance workshop, face painting by Pockets the Clown, palm reading by Catherine Harper, costume parade, scavenger hunts, Halloween games, and creative crafts. Visitors can also carve a pumpkin to take home or enter the pumpkin contest, take part in the colouring sheet contest, and warm up with hot chocolate and popcorn. Costumes are encouraged. Admission is by donation.
- 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Parks, Trails, and Boat Launches will not be maintained starting Friday October 23, 2026. The trailer dumping station at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena will be closed as of the same date.
- Registration is open for our second set of Fall fitness classes and youth programs that will run in November and December. Registration takes place online at www.minden hills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena at (705) 286-1936 ext. 554.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

The 2026-2030 term of Council meetings will be conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation on the following dates:

- November 16 – Inaugural Meeting
- November 26 – Regular Council Meeting
- December 10 – Regular Council Meeting

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

VOTING PERIOD

- The Voting Period for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election is on NOW!
- You may vote online or by telephone any time from now until 8:00 p.m. on October 26th, 2026.
 - October 26th is ELECTION DAY, and you may vote with paper ballot from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 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

Going full throttle for MotoGP dreams

By Adam Frisk

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton's Will Brown secured third place overall in the national FIM MiniGP Canada Series this past season, wrapping his second year of motorcycle racing with a podium finish.

Competing in the national circuit for young riders aged 10 to 14, Will finished the season at Shannonville Motorsport Park earlier this month.

"When I tell my friends at school that I race bikes on pavement, they mostly get confused and ask if I mean dirt bikes," Will said. "I usually have to show them my bike before they actually believe me."

Three years ago, his father, Ron, took Will and his younger brother for a single day at the Super Sonic Road Race School in Brechin, run by Canadian Motorcycle Hall of Fame inductee Toni Sharpless. Ron said the kids had plenty of experience on trail bikes, but had never tried a road bike before.

"I just wanted them to experience it for a day," Ron said. "Within about an hour, they pulled Will out of the main group to give him private instruction. Other parents were coming up asking where we normally race, and I had to tell them we don't. It was our first day ever on a track."

In his second full season, the 12-year-old was travelling the circuit with his number 999 Ohvale GP-0 bike. The bikes run on 10-inch wheels and sealed engines, which helps keep the equipment evenly matched, Ron explained.

"It's really fun going fast around corners and getting your knee down. Some people even get their elbow down," Will explained. "If you wreck, your race is pretty much over. But mostly you're just worried about losing your position."

Ron said the key is learning to control the bike at speed.

"Smooth is fast," Ron said, a common coaching motto on the circuit. "The very first race Will ever won was in the rain. It wasn't because he was faster than the other kids out there, it was because he was smoother on the throttle and the brakes."

"If you're coming into a corner, it's not just hard on the brakes and chop off the throttle," Will added, while demonstrating his process. "It's kind of like slowly off the throttle and you don't just grab the brakes."



Will Brown sits on his Ohvale GP-0 bike outside of his family's cottage. Photo by Adam Frisk.

You want to progress on the brake a little to help slow the bike down so it doesn't throw you over the bars."

The final weekend at Shannonville was also part of the track's 50th anniversary celebration. The event drew a packed crowd, and Canadian Superbike champion Steve Crevier was also there, spending some time chatting with Will.

Those race results gave Will enough

points to finish third overall in the national standings.

He was also awarded the Hard Charger trophy for the second consecutive year. The award is given to a rider who "brings it to every race, every lap and makes it entertaining for the fans."

"I appreciate that Hard Charger trophy as much as third place nationally," Ron said. "It shows he brings it every race."

"I really try when I race," Will added. "I never give up."

The racing season is now over, and Will's bike is parked in the trailer. Until spring, he's swapping his road helmet for his hockey helmet.

"I hope to go all the way to MotoGP," Will said. "It's a long shot, but we're taking it one step at a time."

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Highlander community

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024059:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of East Moore Lake, lying in front of 1278 Tundra Trail located within Lot 25, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
2. **File No. PLSRA2025046:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1207 Canuck Trail located within Lot 10, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. **File No. PLSRA2025092:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyars Lake, lying in front of 1240 Poverty Bay Trail located within Lot 26, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
4. **File No. PLSRA2026038:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Salerno Lake, lying in front of 2024 Salerno Lake Road located within Lot 30 & 31, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Snowdon
5. **File No. PLSRA2026051:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1255 Canuck Trail located within Lot 10, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **November 13, 2026**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than November 13, 2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Donna Sisson

Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning

705-286-1260 Ext. 509

dsisson@mindenhills.ca



Highlander community



Students take over the village

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) hosted 650 students and teachers from across the country at Camp White Pine for the 2026 Canadian Student Leadership Conference. The annual event, which ran Oct. 8-11, brought student leaders together for four days of workshops, activities and guest presentations that were focused on youth leadership and community engagement. Speakers included keynote presenter Alan Doyle, the founding member of Canadian folk-rock band Great Big Sea. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Above: Alan Doyle poses for photos with Hal High’s Skye Upton, Justin Collins, Jenn Mills, Isaac Borgdorff, and Lyla Degeer.



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CORNER GALLERY



About 40 people attended Abbey Gardens for an Environment Haliburton! seed collection event. *Photo submitted.*

Planting seeds for change at Abbey Gardens

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's (HHLT) Nick Weissflog believes Abbey Gardens is one of Canada's greatest examples of ecological restoration done right.

Speaking at a seed collection event organized by Environment Haliburton! and held at the Haliburton site Oct. 6, Weissflog said the land has seen a remarkable turnaround over the past 20 years. Once a gravel pit, the 380-acre Abbey Gardens property has been transformed from a space that drew from the area's natural resources to one that replenishes them.

Weissflog was one of three speakers at the event, which included a tour of Abbey Gardens' vegetable and pollinator gardens, as well as its "flourishing" tallgrass prairie habitat. "That ecosystem wasn't found in Haliburton County prior to European colonization – but it's one that needs a lot of help. With the changing climate and all the sand we have up here, it is a suite of species that does quite well restoring an old sand pit," Weissflog said.

Cara Steele, an ecologist who tends to the land at Abbey Gardens, said the tallgrass prairie project began in 2017. It focuses on a five-acre plot now known as the 'Little Pit Prairie'.

"Tallgrass prairie is one of North America's most endangered ecosystems, with an estimated one per cent remaining," Steele said, noting the habitat loss has threatened dozens of species, including birds. "Our primary goal is to create more grassland habitat and showcase progressive and innovative reclamation techniques for aggregate pits."

It can take several years for some grasses to stick and take hold – Steele said the only way to develop a new habitat is seeding and planting by hand. The program has become a

focal point of the EcoExplorers program for children aged six to 11, with Steele teaching the process from start to finish.

"Each year, the kids help plant approximately 500-600 grasses," Steele said.

During last week's event, Steele said she discovered two new species growing in the prairie that she hadn't seen before – the cylindrical blazing star and round-headed bush clover. The former is a rare plant she had sewn in with a restoration mix several years ago, but had yet to see it spring.

About 40 people attended the event, with each learning how to foster prairie habitats at home said Haliburton Micromeadows' Baz Conlin, who also spoke at the event.

"People were concerned about grassland conservation and asked how they could help. They were also interested in establishing their own micro prairies. Attendees were passionate about collecting seed and keen to start their own native grasses," Conlin said.

"The site at Abbey Gardens is an example of grassroots restoration and rewilding that can be done on any scale, from five acres to 200 sq. ft. When you get native plants back on the landscape, great things happen," he added.

Conlin was also collecting little bluestem seed for the Ontario Kirtland's Warbler Restoration Initiative, which restores grassland habitat for at-risk birds at the Featherstone Nature Reserve near Port Hope.

Susan Hay, Environment Haliburton! president, said the event was an important one as it showcased to people how easy it can be renaturalizing barren land. She promoted hands-on learning as an effective way of getting people started.

"We like to try to have outdoor events when the weather is suitable," Hay said.



Home of the Highland Storm



Dean Da Lanca breaks past his man in the U11 Storm's 7-1 win over the Lindsay Muskies. Photo by Mike Baker.

U11 Storm fry fish in Haliburton season opener

The Highland Storm U11 rep Tom Prentice and Sons team continued their incredible start to the season with a 7-1 win over the Lindsay Muskies last Thursday (Oct. 8). The team showcased the teamwork and chemistry that have become the foundation of their success. With players trusting one another, moving the puck and recognizing that passing is fundamental to winning, the Storm continues to build momentum with every game. The kids were firing on all cylinders, with goals from Kipton Cunningham (two), Sullivan Brind (two), Maddox Gaffney, Dean Da Lanca and Jaxon Pelley. The scoring

effort was supported by assists from Gryphon Luck, Rome Hicks, Da Lanca, Travis Hutchinson, Felix Dart, Nolan Gallagher, Ander Brown and Brind. Contributions throughout the lineup highlighted the team's unselfish play and commitment to working together. What makes this group special goes beyond the scoreboard. The players show up to every practice ready to work, support one another and treat both teammates and opponents with respect. The coaches and families are incredibly proud of the effort, character and sportsmanship these kids bring to the ice every day. (Submitted).

STARS of the WEEK

SULLIVAN BRIND
Came in hot with three points. He consistently contributes to the team each game and helped the Storm secure the win.

KIPTON CUNNINGHAM
Is a high-effort playmaker every game and is relentless against his opponents.

JACK HUNTER
Put in big effort in the net and continues to grow his confidence every game.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire

SCOREBOARD			
Oct. 8	11 Rep vs Lindsay Muskies 7-1 W	Oct. 9	U15 Rep vs Ennismore 3-1 W
	U18 LL vs Lindsay Muskies 5-4 L	Oct. 10	U11 Rep vs Oshawa 9-1 W

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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.

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 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.
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 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. 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. 19, 1-3 p.m. Free financial basics workshop for people of all ages at the Academic Upgrading office in Haliburton (49 Maple Ave. unit one on the second floor) Learn essential skills around budgeting, managing expenses, saving, investing and protecting yourself from scams. Transportation can be arranged for those who need it. Contact Jennifer Gill at 866-353-6464 ext. 6702 for more information.

Oct. 20, 2:30 p.m. The Highland Grove Historical Society is hosting a 'rediscovering our past' event at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Speakers Joanne Burroughs and Ed Dore will talk about their new book *The History of Highland Grove*. All are welcome. No admission charge. Refreshments available.

Oct. 22, 7 p.m. The Haliburton Highlands Art Centre Foundation is hosting its annual general meeting at the Haliburton Highlands Museum (66 Museum Rd.). Open to anyone with an interest in bringing a new performing arts centre to Haliburton County. Register at info@hhartscentrefoundation.ca.

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. there will also be line dancing at 7 p.m., tickets are \$20 per person.

Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. The Paudash Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a celebration at the North Kawartha Community Centre in Apsley. There will be live music, snacks and presentations recapping the group's history in the community. Tickets are \$25 and available at Bancroft Sport & Marine, Wayne's World Polaris, Algonquin Cookhouse in Harcourt, Woody's in Apsley, and Wally's/Gilmour Bay Marina.

Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Environment Haliburton! is hosting a virtual presentation 'let's get the lead out'. Co-sponsored by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA), it will feature speakers Suzanne Montgomery and Rick Wesselman on the dangers of lead fishing tackle and lead poisoning in loons. Register in advance at www.environmenthaliburton.org.

Oct. 31, 2-5:30 p.m. Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association is hosting a 'Warped Woods' Halloween show at 1105 Spring Valley Rd. Walk the creepy woods on the property or just observe the ghouls and goblins. Suitable for small children and people with disabilities. Cost is \$20 per family. For more information, visit www.walkaboutfarmtra.com.

Oct. 31, 5-6:30 p.m. The Township of Dysart et al presents Haliburton Haunt and Treat at A.J. LaRue Arena. Trunk or treat event for the whole family. Kid friendly. Dysart After Dark runs from 7-9 p.m. for those 10 and over. Enter if you dare.

Oct. 31, 7 p.m. The Haliburton Legion is hosting a Halloween Dance, with music by Recycled Teenagers. Costumes optional. Tickets are \$20.

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Halloween fun across the Highlands

By Mike Baker

Spooky season has officially hit the Highlands and now two of the County's lower-tier townships are getting in the Halloween spirit.

Dysart et al and Minden Hills have announced Halloween-themed events for later this month. The fourth-annual 'Haunting in Minden Hills' is happening at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"This year's Halloween celebration explores urban legends and folklore, with spooky activities and mysterious tales for all ages. Dress up in your favourite costume and join in the fun," said Robert Wong, the cultural centre's programming co-ordinator.

There will be various activities throughout the day, Wong said, including a witch dance workshop, palm reading by Catherine Harper, pumpkin carving and contest, scavenger hunts, colouring sheet content, mythical legends crafts and facepainting. There will also be complimentary hot chocolate and popcorn.

There will be prizes given out throughout the day, donated by local businesses. Admission is by donation.

New this year, Dysart township has organized something for kids of all ages.

Haliburton Haunt and Treat is happening at A.J. LaRue Arena Oct. 31 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and is being promoted as a kid-friendly event. Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events, said there will be a trunk-or-treat in the parking lot, with a



A cute skunk made an appearance at a previous 'Haunting in Minden Hills' event. *File.*

Halloween-themed experience inside.

"We're looking for local businesses, organizations, community groups and residents to decorate their vehicles and hand out treats," Mueller said. People can register online at www.dysartet.ca/halloween.

Once the sun goes down, it'll be time for 'Dysart After Dark'. Mueller said it's aimed

for people ages 10 and up. Also happening in the arena, it's a haunted walk-through experience featuring spooky spaces, eerie surprises and plenty of Halloween scares.

The township is looking for community donations to help transform the arena – old decorations, props, lighting and spooky décor are all needed. For more information,

contact 705-457-1740 ext. 635.

There's plenty more happening in the community. Winterdance's Haunted Halloween Forest, located at 1888 Hodgson Rd., runs tours on Fridays and Saturdays during October, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

The Haliburton Legion is hosting a psychic and mystic market Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with some Halloween-themed activities. There will also be a line dancing event from 7-10 p.m.

Ommmh, at 8 Milne St. in Minden, is hosting a 'Halloween High Tea' Oct. 29 at noon, reservations required. On the same day, Cookhouse Saloon (2879 Hwy. 60) is hosting a Halloween jam night party from 8-10 p.m.

On Halloween, Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association is hosting its first 'Warped Woods' show from 2-5:30 p.m. Owner, Jennifer Semach, said the event is suitable for small children and those with disabilities and sensitivities. The DropZone Games Arcade in West Guilford is offering a drive-thru trick or treat service from 5:30-8 p.m.

The Haliburton Legion is hosting a Halloween dance Oct. 31, from 7-11 p.m., with music from The Recycled Teenagers; the Wilberforce Legion is hosting a dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with prizes and hot chili available; while Shawn and Elli Chamberlin are hosting a paranormal investigation at the Dominion Hotel, starting at 8 p.m.

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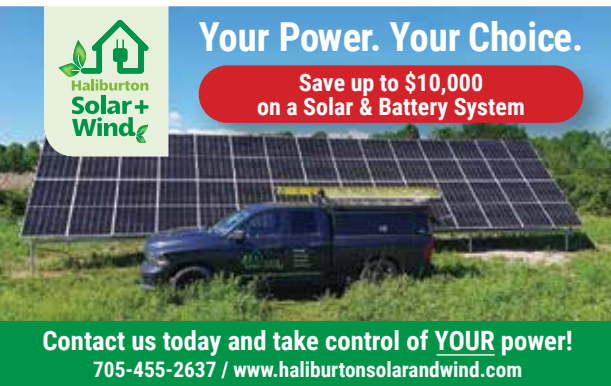
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NOTICE

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

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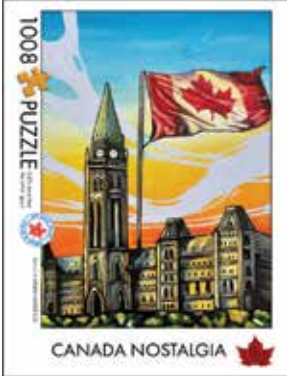
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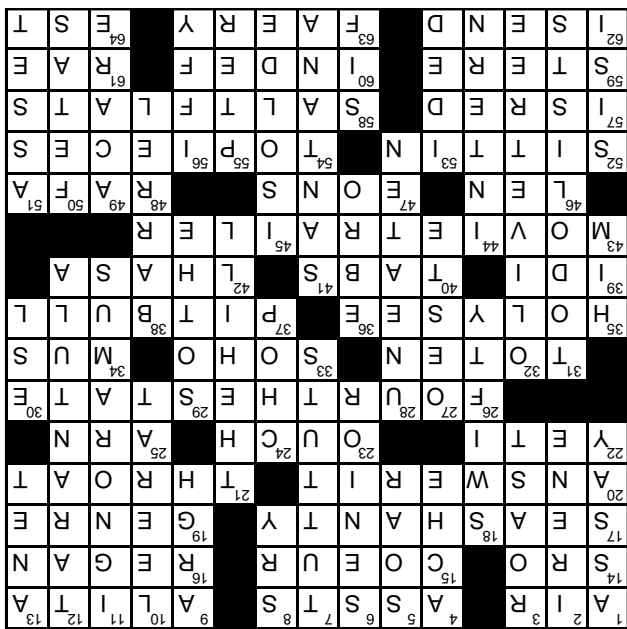
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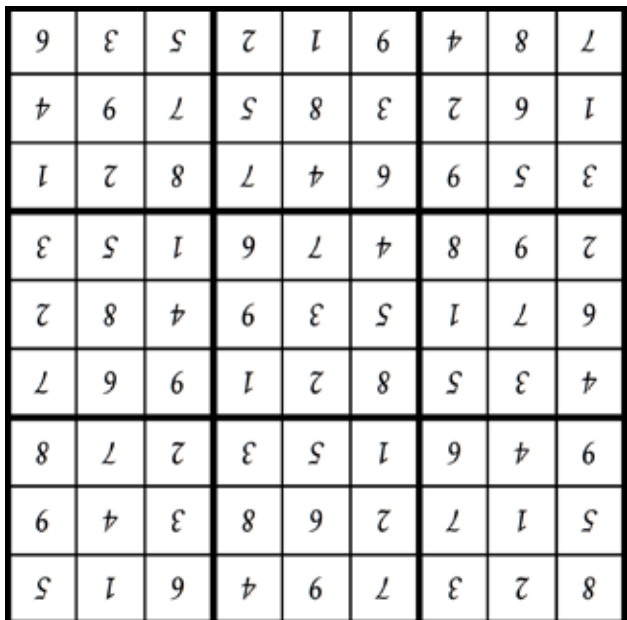
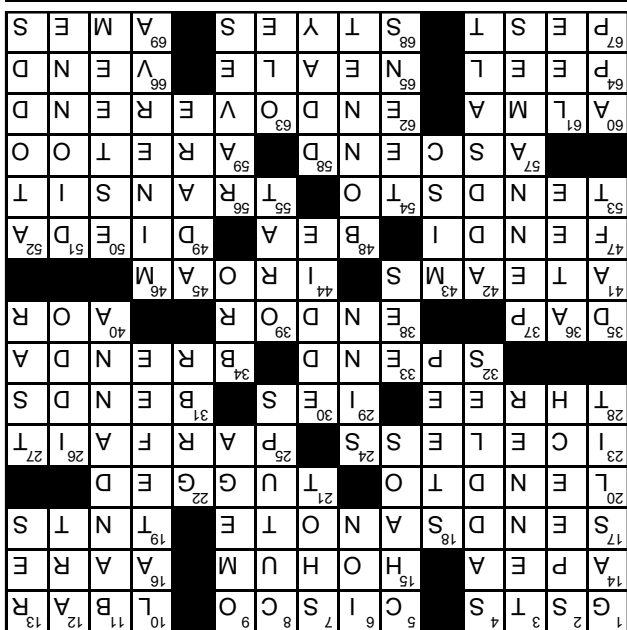
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THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



OBITUARY

Celebration of Life

Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Norman



Please join the family of the late Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Norman in a Celebration of her Life. Taking place on Friday, October 16th, 2026, at the **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 129 - HALIBURTON**, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.

Please feel free to drop in, share stories, memories, and offer a friendly send-off to Pat.

As an expression of sympathy, donations in Pat's memory can be made to the Extendicare Proud Pioneers or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.



In Loving Memory of

Robert "Bob" A. MacLea



It is with great sadness and love that the family of Robert "Bob" A. MacLea of Wilberforce, Ontario, share of his passing on October 7, 2026 at the age of 75.

Bob was born in Toronto on September 21, 1951; although, he often told many people his birthday was September 28 and would celebrate on that day.

Bob will be lovingly remembered by his children Jenna (Kosta) and Michael. Bob leaves behind 4 grandchildren Adelyn, Audrey, Archer and Elias who will miss him dearly, and his sister Linda (Niko). Bob will be missed by many other family members and friends. Bob was predeceased by his beloved son, Malcolm.

Bob was an avid motorcycle racer and had lifelong friendship in that circle. His accomplishments with racing have spanned a lifetime. His many close friends held him in high regard and he will be greatly missed by all.

He was a proud father & grandfather, and a good friend to many.

When we would say goodbye dad would often reply, "It's not goodbye but as the French say au revoir 'I'll see you soon'..." but now this is goodbye, dad. We will always miss you.

Friends are invited to a Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Bob's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 12:00 o'clock noon until 2:00 pm. There will be a time to Share Memories of Bob at 12:30 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Hospital Sick Children Foundation or the Minden Cat Angels would be appreciated by the family.

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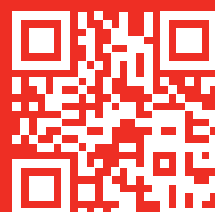
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- 1 5% levies in most of Cda.
 - 5 "The ___ Kid" (western character)
 - 10 Construction beam
 - 14 ___ in the Pod (maternity brand)
 - 15 Blasé
 - 16 Bern's river
 - 17 Emails quickly
 - 19 Explosive chemicals
 - 20 Let have for a bit
 - 21 Had a little pull?
 - 23 Like a neat drink
 - 25 Dessert name meaning "perfect" in French
 - 28 ___-on-the-tree ('60s gear shift lever)
 - 29 "Y" pluralized
 - 31 Shows flexibility
 - 32 One can do it with time or money
 - 34 "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" singer Lee
 - 35 Fist bump, in slang
 - 38 "Return of the Jedi" setting
 - 40 ___ B (choice of two)
 - 41 First-line squads
 - 44 "___ around, around, around" ("The Wander" lyric)
 - 47 Italian fashion house
 - 48 Arthur of sitcoms
 - 49 ___ slow death (suffered)
 - 53 Takes care of
 - 55 Subways, buses, trains, etc.
 - 57 Head up
 - 59 Group's defensive reply to a doubter
 - 60 ___ mater
 - 62 Like a tumbling move, and literally, what can be found six times in this puzzle
 - 64 Spa offering
 - 65 Author Zora ___ Hurston
 - 66 Be a peddler
 - 67 Teen's tagalong brother, say
 - 68 Eyelid woes
 - 69 "Daniel Boone" actor Ed

- Down**
- 1 Illuminated, before electricity
 - 2 Cry to an award recipient
 - 3 Sawbuck, by another name
 - 4 Jockeys' seats
 - 5 Utter bedlam
 - 6 + or - atom
 - 7 Beyond repair
 - 8 Practical jokers
 - 9 ___-3 fatty acids
 - 10 Past due charge
 - 11 Hulk Hogan headwear
 - 12 Work on an easel
 - 13 Almost-obsolete ph. line
 - 18 Prepare tea leaves
 - 22 Scot., Eng. and Wales, collectively
 - 24 Ireland's ___ Fein
 - 26 "___ Anything" ("Oliver!" song)
 - 27 A Romanov
 - 30 Rocker Van Halen
 - 33 Broad foot sizes
 - 34 Dude's bud
 - 35 A little loopy
 - 36 Suit to ___
 - 37 Authors' aliases
 - 39 "... ___ least I thought so"
 - 42 Season, in a way
 - 43 "Everything else" category: Abbr.
 - 45 Act on ___ (be brave)
 - 46 Athena's Roman counterpart
 - 48 Baby hat
 - 50 Regard highly
 - 51 "I Say a Little Prayer" singer Warwick
 - 52 Arguing (with)
 - 54 Most highschool grads
 - 56 Five-star reviews
 - 58 Do-or-die time
 - 60 Many an iPhone icon
 - 61 Levi rival
 - 63 Barcelona "bravo!"

by Barbara Olson
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- 3 Beds + 2 Baths (1 is an ensuite)
- Carport • Garden Shed
- 50+ Community
- Low Maintenance Lifestyle

1105EighthLane.com

MARKET UPDATE



CENTURY 21.
Granite Realty Group Inc.
BROKERAGE, INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

Melanie & Andrea
MAXWELL
Brokers

