





The Highlander

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INSIDE: REMEMBRANCE DAY PAGES 10-12 **FREE**



TLDSB's Wes Hahn and Gary Brohman, Wasauksing First Nation elder Dave Rice, MPP Laurie Scott, outgoing Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter and school board staffers Jennifer Clark and Kelly Moore at the groundbreaking for the new outdoor education and Indigenous centre in Minden on Friday (Oct. 30). *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Centre connects kids to Earth

By Mike Baker

Peering into the wilderness at the site of Trillium Lakelands District School Board's (TLDSB) future outdoor education and Indigenous centre in Minden last week, Wasauksing First Nation elder, Dave Rice, said the facility will become a vital olive branch reconnecting youth with nature.

The school board held a groundbreaking ceremony at the 90-plus acre property Friday (Oct. 30), with several TLDSB officials and politicians attending.

Rice, who has been part of the Indigenous learning team at TLDSB for 11 years, believes this is one of the most significant projects he's been involved in.

"This space, once built, is going to provide opportunities for kids to build a relationship with the earth," Rice said. "I've always said children need to be outside more. Some of them need to be out among nature to release their energy, but also to learn in a space and environment that feels comfortable."

TLDSB chief education officer, Wes Hahn, said providing more opportunities for youth

Continued **'Board'** on page 2

Scott text exchange with lobbyist raises eyebrows

By Lisa Gervais

Controversy is swirling around Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott over a series of text messages she exchanged with a lobbyist that Ontario's former integrity commissioner found guilty of breaching the Lobbyist Registration Act.

The text messages, which Scott gave to the late J. David Wake as part of his investigation into Mr. X, now identified as John Mutton, only came to light recently after Mutton made the 132-page integrity commissioner's report, released Jan. 29, 2025, available to *The Trillium*, a publication that covers Queen's Park news.

Mutton is a former mayor of Clarington.

According to the report, which *The Trillium* made public, the integrity commissioner found Scott and Mutton "clearly communicated in an effort to move forward the provincial decision to make an MZO (minister's zoning order)." MZOs allow a provincial minister in Ontario to unilaterally regulate the use of land, buildings and structures anywhere in the province.

The report outlines how Mutton contacted Scott with regards to an MZO for Kawartha Downs in her riding, and on Brown's Line in Cavan Monaghan. Scott handed over texts from Dec. 20, 2021 to July 7, 2023, the report said.

One of the exchanges came Jan. 9, 2023, when it appeared the MZO for Brown's Line was going ahead.

Mutton texted, "can you ask Ryan

Continued **'No'** on page 2



Highlander news







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Board blames tariffs for $3.8M tag

Continued from page 1

has been a key theme of the project.

The build was announced last February. It was projected to be a $1.2 million project with a spring 2027 opening. Hahn said those benchmarks have changed, with TLDSB now estimating a $3.8 million bill and a completion by spring 2028.

"We had to do another cost analysis because of the tariffs and increased manufacturing costs," Hahn told *The Highlander.*

He added Minden Hills staff flagged issues with the original design. "We had some rerouting of municipal services… because of the size and type of piping required, it's going to cost us a little more to complete that underground work," Hahn added.

Hahn said the spend is still coming from reserves.

"This is possible because of that fiscally responsible piece. If we were running deficit budgets every year, we wouldn't be getting this project," Hahn said.

The 3,000 sq. ft. building will be located a few hundred metres from Archie Stouffer Elementary School. There will be a large indoor gathering space, kitchenette and washroom facilities. Outside, there will be a gazebo with a fire pit, and several kilometres of walking trails. It will be used year-round and is designed for day trips, not overnight stays.

There will be programming from Kindergarten to Grade 12, with input from the Indigenous community. Rice sees potential for all manner of hands-on learning.



TLDSB's Wes Hahn in Minden. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"Different plants and the medicines they make, how we harvest trees and when the right time to do that is. Being able to track what kind of animals are living in the area… hosting big powwows."

A pre-consultation meeting at the site in late October attracted 30 companies. The construction contract is open for bids, closing later this month.

No formal rulings on Scott's conduct

Continued from page 1

what day this week he is passing the MZO. Also the Premier has asked me to co chair his dinner for March. I believe that is a show of trust from him."

Scott replied, "MMAH [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing] has signed off at PO [Premier's Office] I am told."

Mutton responded, "Woo hoo…that's great. Thank you. I owe you a good lunch… when will we see confirmation?"

Scott replied, "They are on it I am told" to which Mutton replied, "awesome."

Further in that exchange, Mutton wrote "let me know when you want to do another fundraiser this year too." Scott replied, "I was trying to do first of March time for funder but the party is having a huge one then. So I will have to plot for after. Don't use all the money up." Mutton responded, "Don't worry. I will save enough haha."

After passage of the MZO, Scott texted Mutton Feb. 2, 2023, to ask, "do you think you could get a couple of your people especially the ones we just helped to buy a few tickets for March 2nd event. They have to go thru my portal so I get credit."

The commissioner found Mutton guilty of a dozen breaches of the Lobbyist Registration Act. He further wrote that Mutton contravened the law by placing Scott "in a position of potential conflict of interest."

In his report, the commissioner did not make any formal rulings about Scott's conduct or that of any other government officials mentioned in the report, as that was not the point of the investigation. The commissioner also didn't make any definitive determinations about whether Scott played a meaningful part in either MZO getting approved.

Scott issued the same statement to *The Highlander* Nov. 3, that she had issued to *The Trillium.*

"My office received an MZO request that had endorsement from the municipality. The MZO followed the process established by MMAH [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing] and was subsequently approved. All information on donations and donors is publicly available."

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Cottager receives life-saving citation

By Lisa Gervais

Donald Powell was driving home to the city from his Mountain Lake cottage Oct. 15, 2025, when he came upon a three-pickup collision near Miner's Bay. It must have just happened as there were no emergency services on site. Being well-trained in first aid as a 33-year volunteer ski patroller, he stopped.

"I did what's called a triage. I went to visit everybody; see who needed help, or what help they needed, and then treated it," he said in an interview with *The Highlander.*

Powell said a husband and wife in the first vehicle he dealt with were fine, although their truck was not. He checked on a second vehicle and its male occupant had bloody hands but was doing OK.

With the third vehicle, "another gentleman obviously had been hit head on and the whole dash was on his lap. He was pinned in there. He couldn't get out." However, Powell said the man was "actually in amazing condition." The two called the man's wife from a cell phone to let her know he had been in a crash but was OK.

"He did amazing considering the injuries and the state of the incident itself," Powell said.

Powell stayed with the man while also making sure the scene was safe. For example, there were some hot fluids leaking out from the engine and he made sure it was coolant, not combustible. "The last thing you want is a pinned person with a fire."



Sergeant Grayson Cappus, Donald Powell, and Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander, Deb McClure. *Submitted.*

He waited for EMS to arrive and, "I just handed it over." The man was airlifted to a trauma centre for life-saving treatment.

Powell said thanks to his lengthy ski patrol experience, he was prepared mentally and had a first aid kit in his car.

He said, "I have brought people back from death. I do it because I like helping people. When they are in need, it's just even better."

Powell concedes many people would not stop, get out of their vehicle, and rush in to help. They'd be more likely to call 911 from the sidelines.

He said he was grateful to receive an OPP Commissioner's Citation for Lifesaving recently for his action but downplayed it.

The citation reads, "Donald drew upon his first aid training and used his own supplies to provide critical care to the injured man while keeping bystanders calm. He assumed a leadership role at the scene, continued administering first aid until emergency medical services arrived, and then assisted first responders with the man's care."

Powell said the award ceremony was "amazing. I cannot believe I was part of that. They were in full-dress uniforms. They had a bagpiper pipe them in. They had a colour guard. They had a native elder come in and talk to us. It was so professional and well done. There were true OPP heroes there, that dove into water to rescue a woman after a vehicle [went in]. I was in shock how powerful these people are, and the brave things they did, and somehow, they included me in that. I'm really, truly honoured to have been part of that."

Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander, Deb McClure said, "many people would have called for help and waited. Mr. Powell instead chose to step forward, using his training, experience, and compassion to provide critical care and reassurance during a chaotic and stressful situation. His selfless actions, calm leadership, and willingness to help a complete stranger exemplify the very best of our community and are truly deserving of recognition."

Public health unit bringing radon test kit challenge to the Highlands

Lakelands Public Health is bringing the 100 radon test kit challenge to Haliburton County. It is a national initiative led by Take Action on Radon, with support from Health Canada, to increase radon awareness and testing in communities across the country.

In early November, 100 free radon test kits will be available to Haliburton County residents who register to join the challenge. Testing is easy - simply register online, pick up a free test kit, and place it in your home for at least 91 days, and finally, return the test kit for processing and results. All participants will receive their radon test report by email with results.

If radon results are above recommended levels, it is up to the homeowner to address remediation.

"Currently, there is limited data and information available on the radon levels of homes within Haliburton County," said Sue Shikaze, health promoter with Lakelands Public Health. "By joining the 100 radon test kit challenge, we hope to make testing more accessible to residents and encourage homeowners to take this simple but important step to protect their health."

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that is invisible, odourless, and tasteless. It forms underground as radioactive metals naturally break down in rocks and soil. Outside, radon is diluted and does not pose a significant health risk. However, when radon seeps into indoor spaces, it can reach levels that can be harmful to human health. This can happen in buildings and homes through foundation cracks in concrete floors and walls; gaps in plumbing and support posts; floor drains and sump pumps.

Long-term exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, contributing to 3,000-plus deaths in Canada each year. Because radon levels vary between homes, individual testing is the only way to determine whether a home has elevated levels.

Registration is open for Haliburton County residents at TakeActionOnRadon.ca. Test kits will be available to pick up Nov. 3-7 at libraries in Dysart, 78 Maple Ave., and Wilberforce, 1101 Holmes Rd.

Participants are also invited to a free online radon information session to learn more about the health effects of radon, why it is a concern, what Health Canada recommends for homeowners, and how to participate in the challenge. Details will be emailed upon registration.

If residents have questions, they can contact Shikaze at 1-844-575-4567 or sshikaze@lakelandsph.ca. To learn more about the health impacts of radon, and how to get a free radon test kit in other parts of Lakelands Public Health area, visit LakelandsPH.ca/Radon.

(Lisa Gervais)

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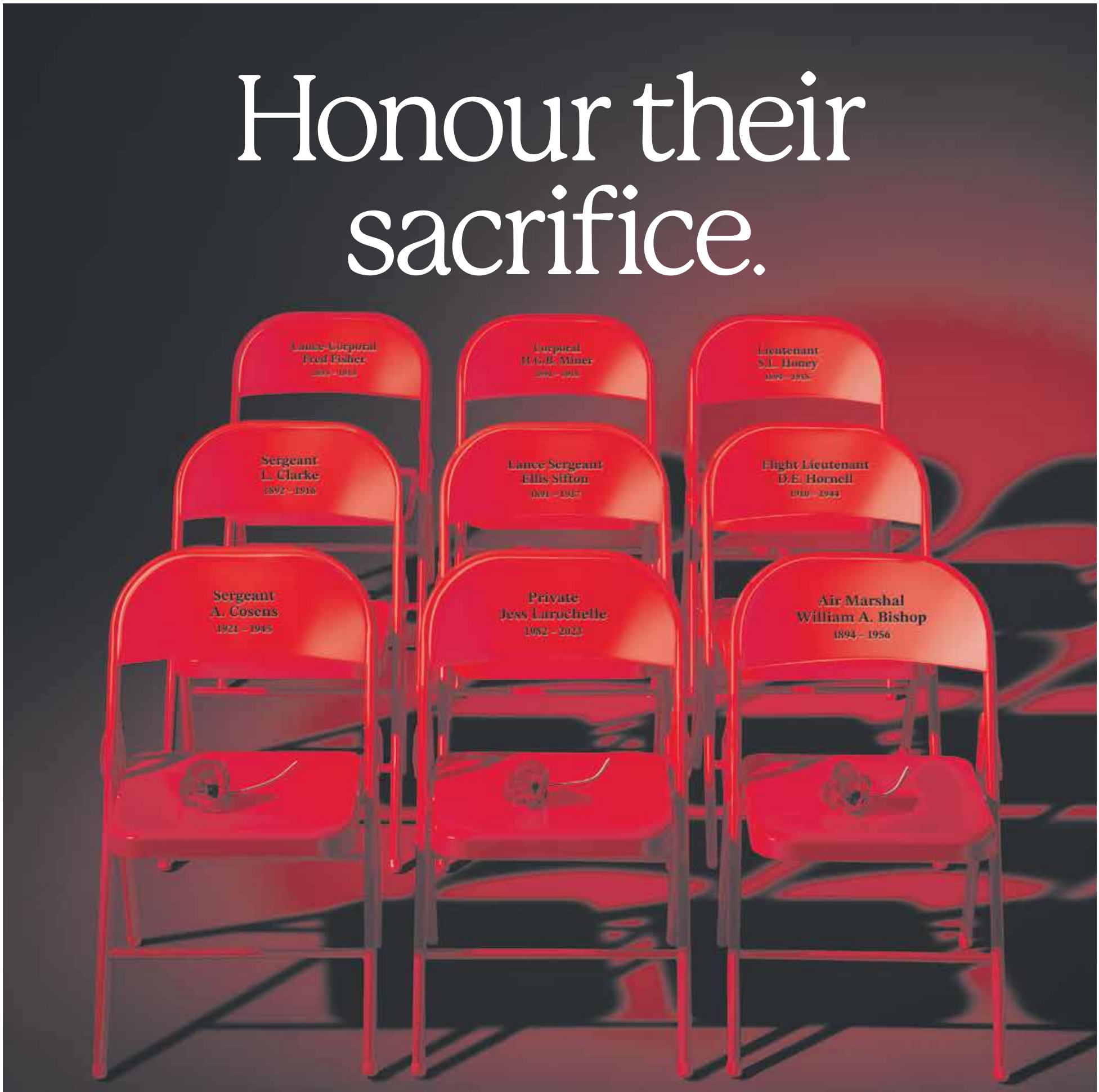
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Highlander news

Food banks unite for holidays

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County's three main food banks are teaming up for a single, co-ordinated push to help ensure there's food on the table and gifts under the tree for families this holiday season.

Haliburton 4Cs, the Minden Community Food Centre, and the Central Food Network are joining forces again this year in an effort to pool resources to help make local giving easier, avoid overlap, and ensure no family falls through the cracks at Christmastime.

"All three food banks have worked mostly in conjunction with each other forever, for many, many years, but we had never introduced it so that all the kids are covered," Louise Ewing, chair of the 4Cs board, told *The Highlander*.

Last December, the charities provided holiday gifts to 482 kids, a number expected to increase this year as more families ask for help.

"Minden has the most children that we've supported in the past few years, but last year, there were 482 children supported between the three organizations," Minden Community Food Centre's Tracey Gilbert explained. "Safe to say close to 500."

A big part of the campaign this year is streamlining how toys and gifts get collected and handed out. With the help of the Haliburton County Home Builders Association, Canoe FM and Moose FM, drop bins will be stationed across the County. Everything collected will then head to the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce by Dec. 7, where volunteers will divide up the donations to each charity.

"The Chamber is going to use a volunteer to separate those things into three separate piles based on the number of kids each food bank provides them," Ewing explained.

Organizers said that while toy bins fill up quickly, teenagers are the hardest group to cover, ensuring they have gifts during the holidays.



A donation bin pictured at the entrance of Haliburton's Foodland on Nov. 3.
Photo by Adam Frisk

"We do find that the older children tend to be forgotten about. Those are the hardest ones," Gilbert said. "So toiletry items for them, gift cards, makeup, and deodorants for the guys, those are the ones that typically end up getting forgotten about."

Each food bank does something a little different for holiday meals. The 4Cs in Haliburton hands out two grocery vouchers so families can pick their own food or stock up on meat. In Minden, it's a full hamper packed with turkey or ham, with all the fixings, fresh produce, baking supplies, and a milk voucher for Kawartha Dairy. Minden expects to distribute around 235 hampers this year, up from 220 last Christmas.

"We've roughly seen 20 more people each year," Gilbert said. "Last year, we did 220 hampers. The year before, we were just under 200. It's scary what's happening here."

Registration for the holiday campaign is open now, and all three branches have a hard cutoff deadline of Dec. 4. Organizers stressed that monetary donations go the furthest because cash lets the food banks buy vouchers and staple foods in bulk.

"Cash is king," Ewing noted.

The community can also support the cause by tuning into the 12-hour Canoe FM Radiothon on Dec. 11 (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.), dropping cash in collection buckets outside local grocers, or bringing non-perishables to OPP stuff-a-cruiser events throughout December.

Feds to fund replacement of Little Brother Lake dam

By Mike Baker

Parks Canada has announced the Little Brother Lake dam in Algonquin Highlands is getting a full replacement, with the year-long project underway.

The federal department said the project is part of an ongoing investment in critical infrastructure along the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW).

"The Little Brother Lake dam is part of the reservoir system that supports waste management operations on the TSW. While the dam is operated only occasionally, it plays an important role during periods of high water and seasonal water management operations," a media release announcing the project stated.

Parks Canada spokesperson, Joél Anthony Forget, noted recent engineering inspections at the site identified deterioration in the existing century-old concrete dam.

"After assessing options, Parks Canada determined replacing the structure is the most effective long-term solution. The project will ensure the dam continues to support water management operations safely and reliably."

The dam replacement has been bundled with another project at the Long Lake Dam, with the two estimated at $8.7 million. Construction began Nov. 2 and will continue through 2027.

Sudbury-based GDB Constructeurs has been awarded the contract after a "competitive procurement process," Forget said.

Work will include the installation of temporary cofferdams and isolation systems; dewatering of the construction area; fish salvage and relocation; demolition and removal of the existing dam; excavation to competent bedrock; construction of a new reinforced concrete gravity dam; installation of a new stoplog operation equipment, a deck and catwalk; and vegetative restoration.

While there was excitement on social media when the announcement dropped Oct. 15, Algonquin Highlands communications co-ordinator, Chad Ingram, said this is a different site to the much-anticipated dam replacement on Big Hawk Lake.

"Little Brother Lake is located further up Hwy. 35, north of Halls Lake towards Dorset," Ingram said.

Forget said he had no update on the replacement of the Big Hawk Lake dam, which is projected sometime in the next 15 years. Algonquin Highlands council has been hesitant to sign off on an expensive replacement of the Hawk Lake Log Chute until the dam is replaced.

"At this time, we do not have any further information to provide regarding Big Hawk Lake Dam," Forget said.

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Highlander news







Hi
It's nicer here.

County trustee values transparency

By Lisa Gervais



Newly-elected Trillium Lakelands District School Board trustee Victoria Hillier-Hutchison. *Submitted.*

Newly-elected Trillium Lakelands District School Board trustee Victoria Hillier-Hutchison is "excited" to have been elected as Haliburton County's representative, and thinks transparency is important to Highlands' parents.

She beat out Kinga Baricz by a large margin to join four trustees from the City of Kawartha Lakes and four from Muskoka on the nine-person board. She replaces the retired Gary Brohman, who served 16 years.

During her campaign, Hillier-Hutchison, who is married to Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO Jack Hutchison, reached out to County schools. She said some staff were reluctant to engage in conversation; being told they should not talk to candidates. Hillier-Hutchison said she found no policy precluding informal chats.

"I'm not saying I need to be at the school managing the staff…but it's important to get information from the front line because this is a large board. Haliburton County only has one seat out of nine and that is why I was hoping I was going to be able to talk to some of the front-line people, such as principals and vice principals. They didn't have to share operational stuff or data; I didn't need any of that. I just wanted to know what's going on. Is there anything you have concerns about? What are your big challenges? How far is the longest bus ride for a student? I just want to get a bird's eye view of things."

She intends to continue her research as a trustee, saying "you need to know what is going on, and talk to families and constituents and school employees and unions. I think it is important to talk to some of these people." When she worked for the school board in Moosonee, she said they had principals report to school board meetings.

Hillier-Hutchison added that as a staffer, she is familiar with "the other side of the table."

She said, "some trustees don't always understand their role. You're in the driver's seat. There are acts and provincial legislation, red tape you must abide by. But, ultimately, it's up to you to ask questions, build policies, work with your fellow board members to push and get things done and get the information you need to make the right decisions."

> *"I'm going to voice what I feel would be the position of Haliburton County and the students in this community."*
>
> ***Victoria Hillier-Hutchison***

Bill 101, passed May 7, amends several key statutes to centralize provincial oversight and reform school board operations. Supporters say the act ensures fiscal responsibility, reduces waste, and targets funding toward classroom achievement. But critics said the bill is an executive power grab that undermines local democratic governance and ignores issues such underfunding and class sizes.

Hillier-Hutchison said it will be a challenge for boards across the province, since it "greatly reduces board powers, but doesn't completely eliminate them." She said it was "disappointing" there's change "to the point where the CEOs have a lot more power. Boards can't even fire the CEO without provincial approval."

She is not a fan of how boards have "buttoned up. It is a public system. It should have mechanisms for transparency.

"There's confidential pieces I understand and respect, but I think the people want transparency. I think people want to know there's somebody at the table listening and bringing things forward and communicating back what the result is. If the board makes a decision, I will stand by the board's decision. If there's a discussion, I'm going to voice what I feel would be the position of Haliburton County and the students in this community."

She added she feels being positioned as the only Haliburton County voice may give her power to be a tie-break vote with four trustees from CKL and four from Muskoka.

"Politically, there are a lot of opportunities for Haliburton County to positon itself strongly. Being the swing vote does have power and I'm going to try to leverage that."

It's nicer here

Highlander news

Defeated Dysart candidate wants recount

By Mike Baker

After losing his election race in Ward 1 in Dysart et al by 33 votes last week, Rob McCaig has submitted an official recount request with the township's returning officer.

McCaig said he has "several concerns" over the way this year's municipal election was handled, claiming he heard from dozens of locals who weren't included on the voters list, despite voting in previous elections, and seniors uncomfortable with phone and internet voting.

Running in Ward 1 for a second time, after a second-place finish in 2022, McCaig lost out on the seat to Deb Lambe, who prevailed 366 votes to 333. Danny Roberts finished third with 251 votes.

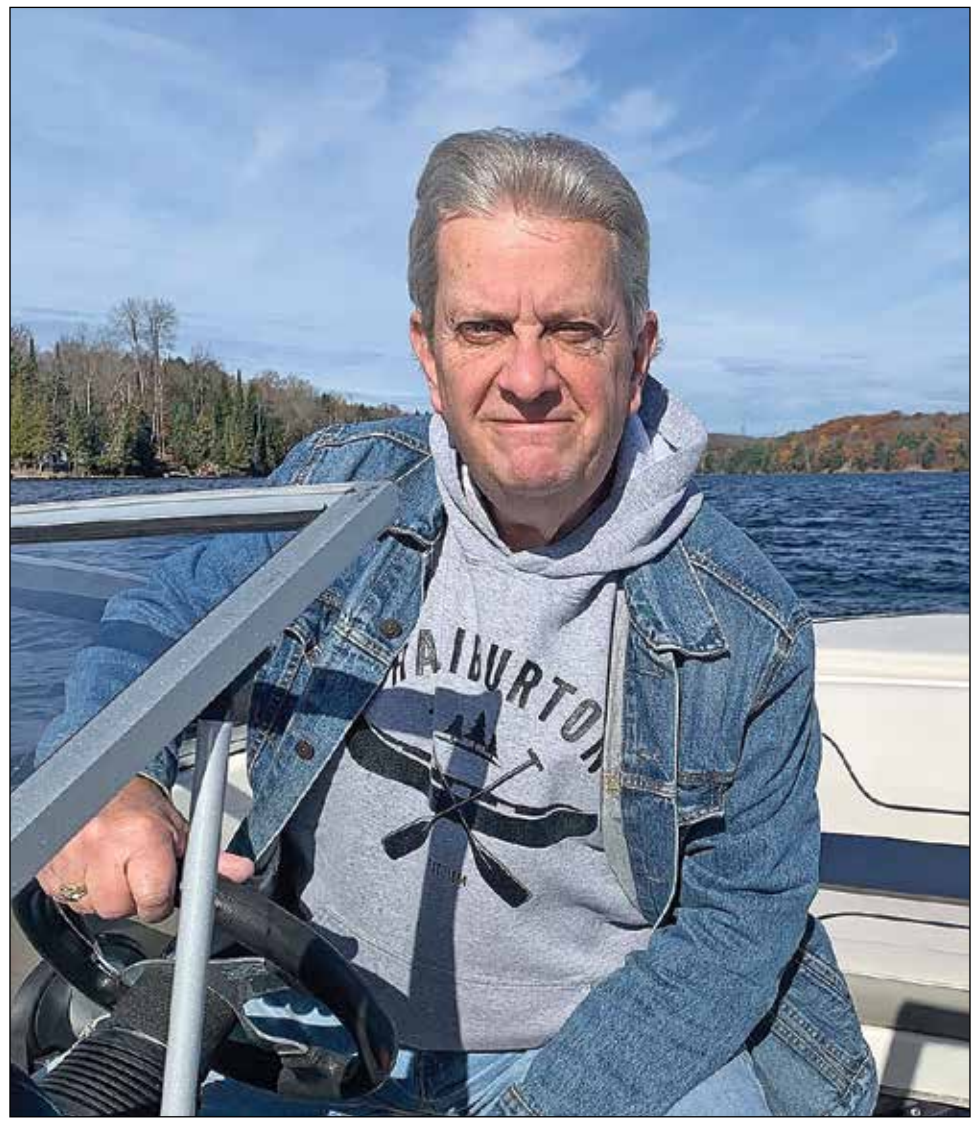
"In the last election, I had a lot of people say, 'hey, you only lost by 58 votes, you should have put in a recount request,'" McCaig said. "So that, but also the fact there's been so many anomalies I came across during this election – for instance, a local family I know had one of seven eligible voters in their household receive their voter card.

"Some people had addresses missing on their form – these are houses that have been around for over 50 years, yet they were missing off the voters list. Then there were people who thought they could vote in one ward because they owned a business there, like they have before, but because they lived in another ward, that became the only place they could vote," McCaig added.

Voters could have contacted election or municipal staff to get on the list. Per the Municipal Elections Act, property owners can only vote in one ward in their community. Seasonal residents can vote at home and in the County.

McCaig confirmed he submitted his request Oct. 26, shortly after election results were made public.

Dysart CAO and acting clerk, Tamara Wilbee, said McCaig's request will be taken to the new council's inaugural meeting Nov. 24 for consideration. She noted Section 57-58 of the elections act provides guidance related to recount requests.



Rob McCaig, who sought election in Ward 1 in Dysart et al, is requesting a recount after losing the seat by 33 votes in last month's municipal election. *File.*

"Council should only agree to a recount if there are sufficient grounds to doubt the electronic result," Wilbee said. She confirmed the township doesn't have a policy of its own, so would refer to the provincial document.

Wilbee noted McCaig, or any other person, can request a recount through the superior court within 30 days of the official results being posted. Results were made official in Dysart Oct. 27.

If a recount were to take place, Wilbee said it would be the same process used during the original count – where two election staff use secure tokens to unlock the results electronically, which then downloads into a Microsoft Excel file.

"As the entire process was electronic, there is no room for human error so a recount wouldn't change the result," Wilbee said.

Lambe said McCaig broached the issue with her, saying she encouraged him to proceed. "Every person has a right to have a recount and if that's what he chooses to do, I think he should do it. I'm totally comfortable with that," she said.

While McCaig was pleased to see increased participation this election cycle, with turnout in Dysart pegged at 39.46 per cent compared to 31.47 per cent in 2022, he feels it could have been stronger with in-person voting.

"That was the biggest issue I came across with seniors – they don't like voting at home. They want to go to the legion, do this in-person and make it the big deal it always used to be," McCaig said. "I had lots of people asking me if I could help them vote while I was at their door, and I had to tell them I couldn't. So definitely, I think there were people who didn't [vote because there wasn't a designated in-person location]."

Minden Hills was the only township in the County to offer in-person voting, with Dysart, Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East all going phone and internet only. Even with in-person voting Minden Hills voter turnout was only 34.6 per cent.

Wilbee said Dysart ran mail-in ballots for years before transitioning to phone and internet voting for the 2022 election.

"We've used mail-in ballots since the 90s, so there hasn't been an in-person vote in Dysart in quite a while," she said.





The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is pleased to invite members and the public to our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **November 22, 2026** at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery Meeting Hall (6712 Gelert Rd.) between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Cameron Ferguson's title is General Manager Forest Experiences. He will speak on the "Forest Experiences" side of the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve..

A summary of the HHOA's activities for the past year will be shared as well as the last fiscal year's financial report. The opportunity for invitations of prospective HHOA Board directors will take place as well. This commitment leads to becoming involved in the workings of the HHOA and assisting in maintaining Haliburton County as a premier Outdoor Activity destination in the Province of Ontario and beyond.

Light refreshments will be available.

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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Answers please



By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott has been under fire the past week or so after it was found she engaged in text messaging with a lobbyist who tried to influence minister's zoning orders (MZO)'s for two developments the lobbyist was getting paid to push forward.

Even worse, it appears Scott asked the lobbyist, John Mutton, to get the people her government helped to buy tickets to a partisan fundraising event.

Terrible optics.

The lobbyist got a slap on the wrist for 12 breaches of the Lobbyist Registration Act.

It all came out when a publication called *The Trillium*, which covers Queen's Park, released an integrity commissioner's report into Mutton's wrongdoings.

The late J. David Wake, in a Jan. 29, 2025, report, found Scott and Mutton "clearly communicated in an effort to move forward the provincial decision to make an MZO." He further said Mutton contravened the law by placing Scott in a position of potential conflict of interest.

It should be noted that Scott turned over the texts to Wake. Further, in his report, the commissioner did not make any formal rulings about Scott's conduct or that of any other government officials mentioned in the report, as that was not the point of the investigation. The commissioner also didn't make any definitive determinations about whether Scott played a meaningful part in either MZO getting approved.

Asked about the controversy, Scott issued the exact same statement to *The Highlander* as she had *The Trillium*.

"My office received an MZO request that had endorsement from the municipality. The MZO followed the process established by MMAH [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing] and was subsequently approved. All information on donations and donors is publicly available."

She did not answer questions such as: if she had attempted to influence both MZOs; why she used her relationship with Mutton to sell tickets for a partisan political event; or how this may be perceived as shady by her constituents.

And yet, we know from her texts that after passage of the MZO, Scott messaged Mutton on Feb. 2, 2023, to ask, "do you think you could get a couple of your people especially the ones we just helped to buy a few tickets for March 2nd event. They have to go thru my portal so I get credit."

We know Scott wasn't the only member of the Doug Ford government to be examined as part of the integrity commissioner's work in light of the Greenbelt scandal.

It may be true that the municipalities in question had endorsed the MZO request. And it may be true that a process was followed and the MZOs were approved. But there appears to be a whole lot missing between the lines.

Do we think lobbyists routinely text MPPs and ministers of the Ford government? Yes.

Do we think some lobbyists break the rules? Yes.

Do we think this is indicative of the type of thing that goes on at Queen's Park? We know the controversial 2022 decision to remove protected Greenbelt land from environmental protections, projected to benefit connected developers by an estimated $8.3 billion – was reversed in 2023. However, the extent of what went on behind-the-scenes is still leaking out.

NDP leader Marit Stiles rose in the legislature last week about the issue. She has requested the current integrity commissioner investigate Scott. Stiles indicated the apparent help for fundraiser tickets - shortly after an MZO approval - appears transactional and undermines public trust.

We don't feel this is an unreasonable request.

What's required is answers, not statements. How can this not undermine County constituents' trust in their elected representative?

Too soon? Bah humbug



By Adam Frisk

Ah yes, it's my favourite time of year again when the deer are still feasting on smashed, mouldy pumpkins and I'm in my garage untangling Christmas lights like I'm Clark Griswold.

But for some, that's a problem.

"It's too soon," they say. "Wait until after Remembrance Day!" the purists scold on Facebook, while adjusting their high-visibility moral vests.

Bah humbug, to which I respond. Pass me the garland, the lights and the tacky yard-inflatables, because old Saint Nick is going up on the roof.

Now, before you get your stockings in a twist, I do respect the calendar. But, the grim reality of living in central Ontario really begins to set in right about now. Halloween is over, and the universe has decided to shut the sun off at 4:30 p.m. The days are grey, damp, brown and smell of soggy leaves.

Why on earth would anyone choose to stare into the gloomy, depressing abyss of an autumn afternoon when they could be sitting cozy on a couch, staring at pre-lit Fraser fir?

People often bring up the old debate about how decorating on Nov. 1 somehow disrespects Remembrance Day. As if taking a moment of silence on Nov. 11, or paying tribute at the local cenotaph requires 10 previous days of sitting in the dark, admiring that orchid you managed to keep alive for so long.

I believe that our veterans did not fight for our freedom so we could spend the first 10 days of November sitting in damp darkness pretending we don't have a fake Christmas tree sitting in a busted-up cardboard box in the garage. You can wear a poppy, honour the fallen and those who made it home, AND enjoy the warm yellow lighting at the exact same time.

Then there's the logistics of it all. Stringing up outdoor lights on Nov. 2nd means your fingers actually still work. You can staple-gun 25,000 twinkling lights to the roof without freezing your hands off, or risk lake effect snow hindering your inner Griswold. Deep down inside, we all know that Mariah Carey begins to thaw from her cryogenic slumber at the stroke of midnight on Nov. 1, with *All I Want for Christmas Is You* replacing Michael Jackson's *Thriller* on Grocery Store FM.

So, if flipping the switch on Christmas in early November makes the impending six-months of Haliburton winter slightly more enjoyable, I'm not waiting for an arbitrary date on a wall calendar for permission to have some joy in my life.

Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good 50 nights!

Clarification: In the editorial 'What happened?' that appeared in our Oct. 29 edition, Mike Baker referenced large swings in the number of eligible voters in Dysart et al and Algonquin Highlands between the 2022 and 2026 municipal elections, asking if the local population had increased as much as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) statistics were suggesting. To clarify, the swing in numbers was due to multiple wards voting in races in 2026, with acclamations in 2022 reducing the eligible voter pool.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Waterfront owners in Dysart

Dear editor,

Congratulations to Greg Bishop on an 87 per cent mandate, and to the new council.

Make no mistake: waterfront owners have a large stake in what comes next.

Mr. Bishop says his priority is revisiting several of Dysart's bylaw files. Good. A fresh look is overdue, and worthwhile when the objective is clearly stated. In this case, it should be laser-focused on bringing in new tax revenue.

The biggest share of the tax base comes from the lakes. This year's 4.98 per cent increase added about $71 to the median seasonal tax bill and $40 to a typical home in town. Same rate, but our assessments are higher, so we carry more of every increase while using a fraction of the services. Staff warn that growth in new assessment is running at a quarter of recent years, so 2027 will hit harder.

The mayor's platform proposes an infrastructure levy. That's more money from the same owners, not a bigger base. The bylaw review is the chance to change that: cut red tape so approvals move faster, open zoning for commercial use at the County Road 21 property and set a target for commercial and industrial assessment growth.

At the County table, the amalgamation analysis should compare the services seasonal owners get to the taxes they pay.

Waterfront owners want healthy lakes and a healthy township. We'll back a review that brings in new business and new assessment. We'll push back on one that only adds rules and costs for the people already paying most of the bill.

George Smith Jr.
Dysart et al

Daylight savings time

Dear editor,

Once upon a time, every town set its church clock by the local sundial. Then came the railways and the total chaos of localized schedules. In 1879, Sir Sandford Fleming - the very engineer who gave his name to our local Fleming College - solved the madness by inventing global time zones tied to Greenwich Mean Time, giving the world a logical system anchored directly to the sun.

Enter the clock-tamperers. In 1895, a New Zealand bug-collector named George Hudson proposed shifting clocks, so he'd have extra light to catch insects after work. By the First World War, governments adopted this artificial trick under the guise of saving coal. It was snake oil then, and it's snake oil now. My dog, Bella, and every dairy cow know when it's feeding time to the exact second. Moving the numbers on a dial doesn't create more daylight; we get the identical amount of sunlight every 24 hours regardless of our political and bureaucratic tinkering.

Now, as fatigue with clock-shifting reaches a boiling point, politicians are naively moving to lock us permanently into Daylight Saving Time. This gets the science completely backward. Standard Time is solar time - the astronomical baseline our circadian biology, nervous systems, and organs have evolved alongside for millennia. Forcing our bodies to run an hour late permanently is a direct strike against human health.

It is only a matter of time before Ontario will stop switching time twice a year. If we are finally going to abandon the clock toggling, let's have the sense to return to Standard Time - the true runtime of the planet.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Fred Pyziak captured this image of a buck swimming across the Drag River.

Computers

Dear editor,

Years ago, when the library or post office was open you could get a book or stamps.

Now, if the computer is down, nothing is available.

What would happen if all the computers across Canada went down on the same day?

People got exercise walking to a filing cabinet, not pressing a button.

The only reason we have computers is to make more problems.

Remember, if it's new, it's not true and if it's true it's not new.

Winston E. Ralph
Bancroft



SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK AND LETTERS

editor@thehighlander.ca

Remembrance Day









Unsettling truths unpacked at Remembrance Day talk

By Mike Baker

It's been 81 years since the last major Nazi concentration camp, Stutthof, was liberated by Allied forces in May 1945. While there are few survivors remaining to share their chilling experiences, Haliburton's Irv Handler is set to publicly share the horrors his family endured for the first time.

Handler is one of two featured presenters at a special Remembrance Day-themed 'Speaker Series' event, taking place at the Haliburton Legion Nov. 11. The bulk of his talk will focus on his parents, Shifra and Eliya, who were each detained by German forces at different locations during the Second World War.

"It's a tradition on Holocaust Remembrance Day, in the Jewish community, for survivors to go into public and tell their story and give a personal testimony. Sadly, most survivors have passed away now, including my parents," Handler said. "My generation is now stepping up to be the ones to keep these stories, dark as they may be, alive."

Handler said his mother was 16 and living in Romania when she was captured and sent to a relocation camp in Transnistria, located in modern-day Ukraine.

His father was 28, married with two daughters and living in Poland when war broke out. He was sent to the Gross-Rosen death camp in Rogoznica, Poland and never saw his first family again.

The historian of the family, Handler said it has been difficult coming to terms with what he's learned. His research found approximately 400,000 people were taken to Transnistria, with 380,000 dying – mainly through disease and starvation.

About 40,000 of the 125,000 prisoners who passed through the front gates of Gross-Rosen made it out.

"It was a miracle they survived, that anybody survived."

Handler said his mother was young when first relocated to Transnistria, accompanied by her mother and sister. They all contracted typhus, which killed Handler's grandmother. His mother and aunt survived the rest of their imprisonment.

Because Transnistria was labelled a relocation, rather than concentration, camp, Handler said his mother wasn't entitled to reparation payments once the war ended. In the 1990s, she and other survivors formed a class action suit against the German government, which they won.

"She managed to get a pension, but it was a small amount compared to other survivors – and there was no backpay," Handler said. "She was thrilled, though. She told me, 'they said I didn't suffer enough, that I wasn't in a concentration camp, but this money proves that I was, that I did suffer.' So, it was very meaningful for her to get."

At Gross-Rosen, Handler believes his father survived due to his grisly job as a member of the Sonderkommando – slave labourers, mostly Jewish, who were coerced into assisting Nazi soldiers at the camps. Handler said his dad was forced to dispose of bodies at the Gross-Rosen crematorium.

Handler said his parents got together after the war ended, before moving to Canada. He'll be bringing lots of original documentation to speaking engagement to support his findings, sourced by his brother on a genealogical trip to Europe several years ago.

Learning all that he has over the years has taken a toll on Handler, who is suffering from intergenerational trauma.

"It was a very difficult upbringing. I had a lot of symptoms while living in Toronto, but since moving to Haliburton I feel a lot better. It's a very welcoming community. I feel, finally, for the first time in my life that I belong somewhere," he said.

On his presentation, Handler added, "this is a dark and disturbing story, but it's also a powerful testament to human endurance, while also serving as a warning that to accept hate in our community is to open a Pandora's Box of crime and evil. So, we have to continue to fight hatred."



Irv Handler will share his parents' story surviving Nazi relocation and concentration camps during the Second World War at a Nov. 11 Speaker Series event at the Haliburton Legion. *Photo submitted.*

Home children

Speaker Series organizer, Barrie Martin, said this is the first time he's put together a Remembrance Day-themed event, noting it happened completely by chance. Speaker Series events are held on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May.

Asked what Remembrance Day means to him, Martin said, "we all have memories – my family were farmers, so they didn't fight in the war but made a sizeable contribution to the wellbeing of Canadians."

He said he connected with the second speaker, Joan Knighton, via a mutual friend. Knighton is a member of Home Children Canada and will be sharing details around the migration of 100,000 children from England to other Commonwealth nations, including Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, from 1869 to 1948.

"For the most part, those kids were put to work on farms once they arrived to Canada," Knighton told *The Highlander.* "I'm a descendent of one of those home children. My father worked on farms and suffered some abuse because of it."

She said the effort was led by the Catholic church and 40-50 other organizations that ran orphanages throughout England that became overrun during the Industrial Revolution and First and Second World Wars. She said about 12 per cent of the children sent to Canada were considered true orphans, meaning most still had some family back home.

"A lot of very sad outcomes, unfortunately," Knighton said, guessing a quarter of the kids ended up in kind, loving homes while the rest were largely left to fend for themselves.

She estimated 10 per cent of Canada's population today is made up of descendants of the home children.

"I'll be getting into as much of the history as I can – what happened, why, how, and the results of it all. It's a big part of British and Canadian history that is unknown to most people," she said.

Tickets to the event are $15, available at the door or online at tellingourstories.company.site/products. It starts at 7 p.m.

Remembrance Day

Historical book tells story of 'largely forgotten' war hero

By Mike Baker

When local history buff Cody Cole spent time distinguishing between some of the nation's most celebrated military figures, he found few had as much of an impact as 18th century French Canadian Metis chieftain Charles de Langlade.

While he's best known today as the "father of Wisconsin" for being the region's first white settler in the 1700s, de Langlade's formative years were spent on the land of the Odawa people, who were among the Algonquin Anishinaabe. They inhabited areas around the Great Lakes, including northern Michigan and southern Ontario.

After hearing stories about de Langlade's exploits, Cole felt compelled to learn more. In 2019, he started researching the various battles he was said to be involved in. It culminated with the release of the book *Auke-wingeke-tawso*, or *Defender of His Country*, first published in 2024 and updated this past summer.

"There hadn't been a book written attempting to detail Langlade's incredible life for 122 years," Cole said on his inspiration. "My book sheds light on a largely forgotten, although once legendary and larger-than-life leader who, above all else, loved his homeland."

De Langlade was born in 1729 in Fort Michilimackinac, a French fort and trading post located along the straits that connect Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. His mother, Domitilde, was the daughter of an Odawa war chief, while his father, Augustin Langlade, was a fur trader from modern day Canada.

His military career began in his early 20s, with de Langlade serving under the French with their Native American and Canadian allies against the British during the French and Indian War that spanned nine years, from 1754-63.

Cole said one of the most interesting excerpts from his book covers de Langlade's exploits during the Battle of Monongahela in 1755, where he was a commander.

"A young George Washington was almost killed at that battle – how history may have been different without him," Cole said.

De Langlade also served during the 1759 Siege of Quebec, which eventually led to the Battle of the Plains of Abraham – both major losses for the French forces. He formally surrendered French forces at Fort Michilimackinac to the British Army in 1761 and relocated his family to modern-day Green Bay, Wisconsin, but not before declaring loyalty to his British captors.

Years later, during the American Revolutionary War of Independence, which began in 1775, de Langlade assembled and led handpicked contingents of British-allied Canadian militia and Native American warriors against American and Spanish forces. He was present for the Saratoga campaign, Battle of the Cedars and Battle of St. Louis.

Cole said de Langlade was renowned for succeeding in daring missions that stacked the odds against he and his men, earning him monikers like 'defender of his country', 'he who is fierce for the land', and 'military conqueror'.

When the war ended in 1783, de Langlade returned to Green Bay to live out the remainder of his life, dying during the winter of 1800-01.

All in, Cole said he spent thousands of hours over five years researching and writing the book, which was published by Tellwell, a Canadian company that assists authors releasing and marketing books.

Reflecting on the process, Cole said his biggest obstacle was tracking down the historical documents that proved where de Langlade had served – though he admitted there's still lots out there he couldn't find.

"As detailed as my book is, there are still some very important historical documents that have simply been impossible to find. I still chase down leads, but as of yet, without success. With them, de Langlade's life and military career would be rendered even more glorious and spectacular," Cole said.



Cody Cole with his book *Defender of His Country*, about the life of 18th century French Canadian military man Charles de Langlade. *Photo submitted.*

The book has provided one interesting connection – a descendent of de Langlade's, currently living in Green Bay, contacted Cole last year to tell him how much they appreciated it.

Now that he's a published author, Cole said he's caught the writing bug. Plans are already in place for future books.

"I fully intend to research and write more on early North American, specifically Canadian, history – and particularly persons and events which, whether well-known or not, helped form our national identity and contributed to the cultural mosaic we enjoy today," Cole said.

Defender of His Country is available online, including on Amazon, with hard copies available at Cole's-Indigo in Lindsay.









Remembrance Day

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The Haliburton Legion is hosting a veterans' dinner this Sunday (Nov. 8). *File.*

Paying respects to veterans

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Legion president Mike Waller has issued a rallying cry to the Highlands community, calling on people to show their love and support for local veterans at an upcoming weekend tradition.

The legion is hosting its annual Remembrance dinner this Sunday (Nov. 8), with Waller saying it's the perfect opportunity for those not able to attend a service on Nov. 11 to still pay their respects.

"This is a special night – it's a small way of honouring and giving back to the people who served, because, if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here doing what we're able to do today," Waller said. "It's just a way we can show our appreciation."

Tickets are $40, which gets you a roast beef dinner with all the fixings. There will be live music by Bill Candy and speeches from MP Jamie Schmale and a Dysart et al council representative. While Waller won the Ward 2 seat in last month's election, he won't be sworn in until later this month – so it won't come from him. Doors open at 4 p.m., with dinner served at 5 p.m.

Waller said he's expecting 30-40 veterans to attend, with a spouse or guest – with all eating for free. There will be three veterans of the War in Afghanistan in attendance.

"That's huge, because for a long time so many of those veterans didn't want to be part of anything. So, it's nice to have them come and be recognized," Waller said.

It's been a busy few weeks for the legion president – while organizing both Sunday's dinner and the Nov. 11 ceremony in Haliburton village, Waller has also been expanding the banners program launched last year to commemorate the Highlands' military men and women.

Debuting with 24 flags last year, which were hung around the downtown, Waller said he has nine additions.

Waller said the program has really taken off, with more people reaching out this year than he could accommodate. He already has a waitlist forming for 2027.

Asked what it meant to him to see the banners flying on Remembrance Day last year, during his march from the legion on Mountain Street to the cenotaph at the corner of Highland and York streets, Waller said it was emotional.

"The veterans always hold a special spot in my heart and to see the flags was amazing – I can't really find the words to explain what it meant to me, the families, it was overwhelming. But lots of great comments from people and lots of recognition," Waller added.

Remembrance Day

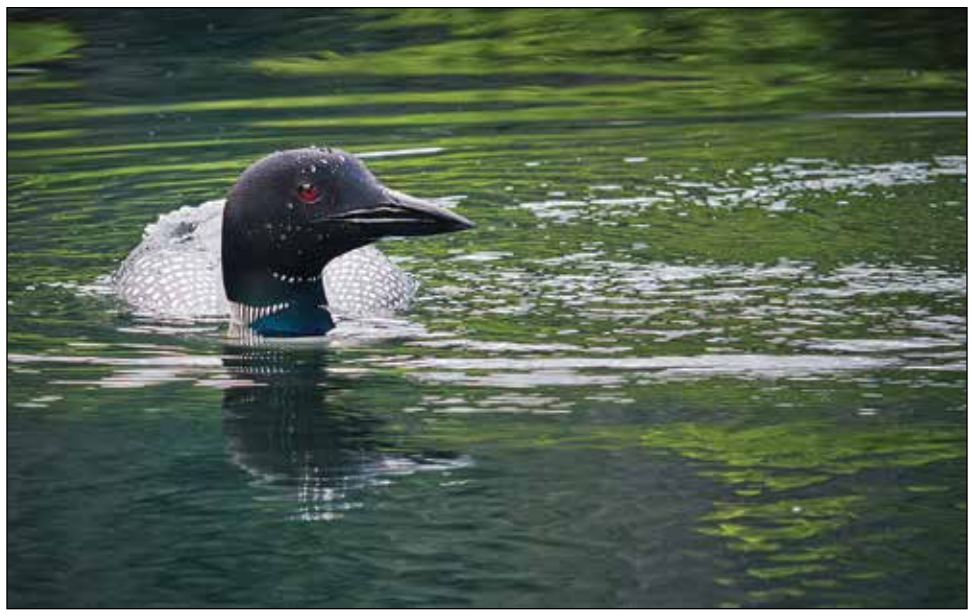
Waller said there will be a small mass at the Haliburton Legion at 10 a.m. Nov. 11, with the parade to the cenotaph to begin around 10:30 a.m. The service will be led by chaplain, Garry Swagerman, with speeches from other dignitaries and laying of wreaths. There will be a luncheon at the legion afterwards.

"Everyone is welcome for that – it's an important day for reflection. It's important to come together as a community," Waller said.

Tomorrow (Nov. 6), Waller said he'll be visiting Highland Wood, Extendicare and Gardens of Haliburton with Swagerman and the legion's colour party to conduct small services.

Minden Hills' Nov. 11 Remembrance Day service will begin at the County cairn by the village green at 10:30 a.m., with formal proceedings beginning at 10:45. Highlands East's service takes place in Wilberforce, by the cenotaph outside the municipal offices (2249 Loop Rd.). All services are organized by the local legions.





A loon pictured on Head Lake in Haliburton. *Photo by Adam Frisk*

Advocates push for lead-free fishing

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A silent, heavy threat is sitting at the bottom of Haliburton County's lakes. After the deaths of at least two common loons from lead poisoning, advocates are urging anglers to clean out their tackle boxes.

The deaths reignited a growing push by lake associations across the region to eradicate bodies of water of toxic lead fishing gear.

"Lead poisoning is a slow, painful death," explained Suzanne Montgomery, who leads the 'Let's Get the Lead Out' campaign for the Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners Association (DSLPOA). "It affects the nervous system. As you see in affected wildlife, they lose their ability to swallow and preen, which keeps them alive. Loons will pull to shore to die. Because they are elusive and we have so many lakes and shorelines that aren't watched, I don't think we fully understand the complete scope of it."

The local push is part of a larger campaign by Fish Lead Free, a grassroots initiative launched in 2022 by Margie Manthey and Donna Garland through the Wolfe Lake Association.

"When we launched in 2022, I just hoped to use my platform to raise awareness," Manthey told *The Highlander*. "Once you get into the science of it, it bowls you over. Every year it gets bigger and stronger, taking off like a match to dry grass."

According to the campaign, it's estimated that 545 metric tons of lost lead sinkers and jigs accumulate in Canadian waters every year. That's equivalent to 20,000 car batteries or 44 dump truck loads of lead fishing tackle, Montgomery said.

While loons are the most visible casualty, lead ingestion threatens a wide range of wildlife, including herons, ospreys, eagles, and swans.

Manthey noted that decades-long research out of Tufts University in Massachusetts and the Loon Preservation Committee, shows that lead tackle accounts for more than one-third of all adult loon deaths.

The initiative coincides with a study published in FACETS journal at the end of October. According to the study, Ontario's common loon breeding productivity has been slipping by roughly one per cent every year for more than 40 years. While climate change, development, and shifting water clarity make it harder for loons to hunt, advocates stress that lead poisoning is completely preventable.

Community action is yielding some tangible results, Montgomery said. Through targeted swap events, the DSLPOA has collected nearly six kilograms of lead tackle. They also built four multi-message stewardship kiosks at boat launches, backed by a grant from the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) alongside material support from Emmerson Lumber.

But confusion remains. Manthey explained that many anglers just assume lead tackle has long since been banned while others might purchase cheap imports labelled "eco-friendly," only to find they actually contain hazardous metal composites like cadmium.

She suggested testing gear with inexpensive lead-test swabs or switching entirely to certified non-toxic alternatives like tungsten, steel, tin, or bismuth.

Looking forward, Montgomery wants to scale the movement across Haliburton County's roughly 500 lakes. She floated the idea of a voluntary fish lead free zone, backed by all four municipalities. At the same time, the campaign is gathering signatures for a provincial petition urging Ontario to ban the sale and use of small lead sinkers and jigs under 50 grams.

"The single most important thing they can do before fishing opens next season is simple," Montgomery said. "Don't fish with lead. Target the one-ounce-and-under weights and small jig heads, that is the very best place to start."

Residents looking for more details or a way to sign the petition can visit fishleadfree.ca.



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Wellness Clinics

Hosted in partnership with Haliburton Highlands Health Services & Haliburton County Community Paramedics in several communities throughout Haliburton County.

Dates & Locations:

September 16, 2026
2pm to 4pm
Dorset Recreation Centre
1051 Main St., Dorset ON

November 19, 2026
11am to 2pm
Cardiff Community Centre
2747 Monck Rd., Cardiff ON

January 20, 2027
10am to 2pm
Haliburton Legion
719 Mountain St., Haliburton ON

March 11, 2027
10am to 2pm
Minden Community Centre
55 Parkside St., Minden ON

On-site services could include:
- Connection to Community Supports
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Flu Vaccinations
- Point-of-Care Glucose Testing
- Inhaler Education
- Medication Reviews with a Pharmacist
- Light refreshments & snacks

FREE EVENT!

Please note:
Services may vary by location.
Primary care practitioners will not be on site.

The Wellness Clinics will bring multiple healthcare-related partners together for a drop-in clinic designed for older adults but open to all individuals looking for support.

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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

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Highlander people

Chimney sweep offers Zen-like system

By Lisa Gervais

Many Haliburton County homeowners know Ian Myers. The owner of Myers Chimney has been in countless houses for more than two decades, inspecting and maintaining chimneys and solid-fuel systems. What many may not know is that Myers is a former Buddhist monk who has just written a book titled *Zen and the Art of Chimney Sweeping: the Discipline of Inquiry*.

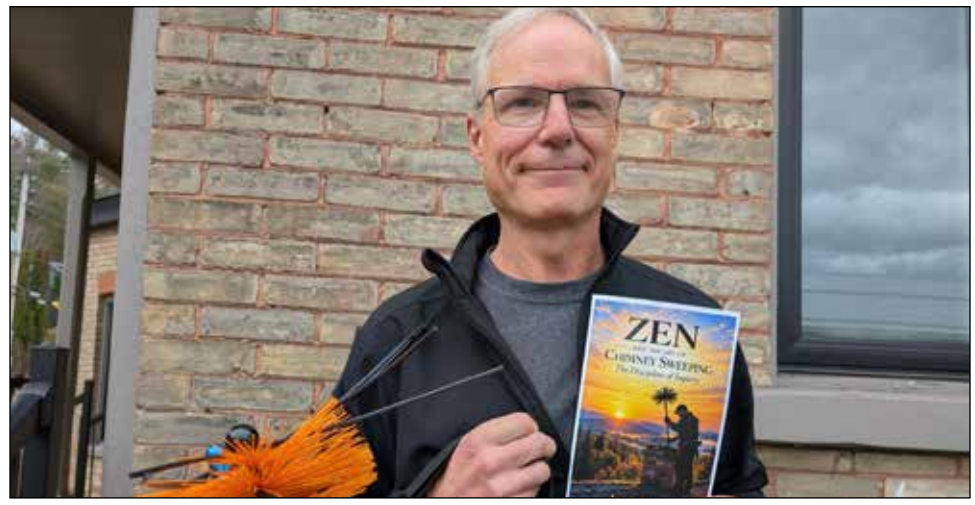
In an interview with *The Highlander*, Myers is asked about the 1974 book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and said what he has penned is very different. Robert M. Pirsig's tome is a fictionalized autobiography of a 17-day journey on a Honda CB77 motorcycle from Minnesota to Northern California in 1968 punctuated by numerous philosophical discussions.

Myers said it was only after penning his 96-page book that he gave it the Zen-related title; realizing it contained Zen principles but, "I didn't even consciously do that."

In his 30s, he was ordained a Buddhist monk in a Korean temple. But, for a variety of reasons, he did not find it fulfilling. He moved to the County of Haliburton to begin a business he said he has a natural inclination for.

In the book, Myers explains that despite its title, it's not a book about how to sweep a chimney, either, but about a system that could apply to any profession.

"The system can be summed up, as an ever, self-improving system of documenting and communication with all relevant stakeholders (in this case, homeowners, insurers, municipal authorities etc.,) writing your report (in this case a sweep report) as though others will genuinely benefit and find guidance from what you are offering. If that is the intention of a person creating a document, then, over time, the notations improve exponentially and professionalism naturally grows within the practitioner, going on record naturally cultivates trustworthiness.



Ian Myers with a copy of *Zen and the Art of Chimney Sweeping: the Discipline of Inquiry. Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

"Chimney sweeping is simply where the questions found me," he said, adding the queries "belong to anyone whose work asks them to observe carefully, exercise judgment, accept responsibility, preserve knowledge, and leave their profession a little wiser than they found it."

Myers said during his 20-plus year career, "another kind of education was taking place. The work itself was teaching me." He further observed that "some individuals accumulated years. Others accumulated understanding" and the difference fascinated him. The book's style is "as though we're walking together and we're having a conversation."

He hopes to share the book with stakeholders, such as the insurance industry. The National Chimney Sweep Guild (NCSG) will be publishing it in their International 'Sweeping' magazine (The Journal of Chimney and Venting Technology), one chapter per month, in digital and print formats circulated to its many American certified chimney sweeps. The NCSG also has a sharing agreement with WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer) Inc. in Canada to distribute their magazine to all Canadian WETT certified members.

"I really think it could teach people how to reflect, focus, and the importance of being in the moment, organizing your thoughts and paying attention to the little things and identifying patterns…"

Reflecting on his time as a monk, Myers said he is bringing his learnings back to improve his industry.

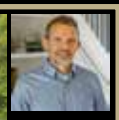
"My Zen master used to always say 'cultivate unknowing mind' and… when the chatter is gone, you interact with things differently, you see things differently, you're not just looking, but you're seeing. What follows is relationships. You start to recognize the patterns in relationships… whether it's mechanical, social patterns, you just get the benefit of that. You don't have to attack it by 'oh, I'm going to practice Zen.' You just have to think, 'I need to clear my mind. I need to sort this out. I've got to figure this out.' I literally wrote it to explain the philosophical underpinnings of my system, which was based upon 20 years of doing the work. And then I wrote this thing and I thought 'this is Zen'."



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Jim Allder* (705) 935-1112

Spar Lake $499,000
- Private 2 Acres, 3BR Cottage, 320ft WF
- Sandy Entry & Deep Water Off Dock
- Motor-Restricted Lake, Peace & Quiet!





Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Minden Home $869,000
- Gorgeous 2200SF Viceroy, Built in 2010
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Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

BITTER LAKE - $724,900
- 3-Bed, 4-Season Home Or Cottage
- Level Lot & Expansive Waterfront
- Shallow Entry, Dock & Lake Views





Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

Miskwabi Lake $1,095,000
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 4-Season Home/Ctg
- Beach, Dock & Screened Gazebo, Garage
- Workshop & Loft Suite, 2-Lake Chain





Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

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Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

5-Bed Family Home $550,000
- 5 Bedrooms, Heated Double Garage
- 0.75 Acres, Generac, Rail Trail
- Deck, Gazebo, Move-In Ready





Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** & Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

Hunter Creek Estates $250,000
- 2 Beds / 2 Baths, 50+ Community
- Sunroom, Carport, Heat Pump & A/C
- Level Lot, Shed/Workshop, Close to Town

NEW PRICE

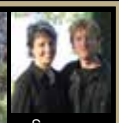




Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Fully Renovated Home $739,900
- 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath, Screened Deck
- 3-Room Bunkie w/ Hydro, 5 Mins to Hali
- Public Access to Kash. Lk Nearby





Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake - $849,000
- 190ft waterfront, Sandy shore, Lake views
- Custom kitchen, Wraparound Deck
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Screened porch, Garage



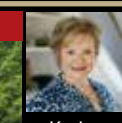


Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

43 Acres of Privacy! $450,000
- 43 Wooded Acres With Trails & Bunkie
- Underground Hydro + Potential Build Site
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Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

Glamor Lake
- 4 Bed 4-Season Turnkey Cottage
- Studio/Bunkie & Pontoon Included
- Generator, Sunroom w/ Sunset Views

OPEN HOUSE





Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

MINDEN HOME $675,000
- 4 Beds, 3 Baths, Over 1,900 Sq Ft
- Passive House with Low Energy Costs
- OPEN HOUSE: Sat, Nov 7 @ 11am-1pm





Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Otter Lake Cottage $699,000
- Turnkey 3-Bed Ctg + Screened Porch
- 190 Ft Waterfront + Sand Beach
- Fireplace, Boat & Furnishings Included





Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

BILLINGS LAKE $694,500
- 3-Bed Cottage + Separate Studio
- Level Lot With Sandy Shoreline
- ATV Storage, Trails & Lake Views

NEW LISTING





Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Renovated Family Home $649,900
- 2,400+sq ft • 4 beds/3 baths • 1.2 acres
- Pool • Hot Tub • 24'x24' Detached Garage
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Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

COUNTRY LIVING! $299,000
- 3-bed home on nearly 2 level acres!
- Bright living room & spacious yard
- Insulated dbl garage, Benoir Lake nearby





Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Kushog Lake Access $595,000
- 3 Bed Home + Deeded Lake Access
- Full W/O Basement, Propane Fireplace
- Garage, Carport, Sunroom + Deck





Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

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Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839 Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 457-7225

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- Energy-efficient home with backups
- Games room, man cave & 3-lake access

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Highlander events

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BUY ONE, GET ONE

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Spooktacular Halloween

There were plenty of Halloween celebrations across the County last Saturday (Oct. 31), from haunted forest walks, costume parades and several trunk-and-treat events. The Haunting in Minden Hills featured face painting, a witch dance performance and workshop, pumpkin carving and palm readings at the cultural centre from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Top: Laura (left) and Kinsley Porzuczek carve a pumpkin during the Haunting in Minden Hills at the culture centre. Bottom: Julie Barban performs on Saturday. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

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. The Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

• The Minden Hills Cultural Centre will host a free screening of *The Pacifist Who Went to War* (2002) on Thursday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m. Directed by David Neufeld, the film follows the story of two Mennonite brothers from Manitoba who were forced to decide in 1939, as Canada joined World War II — in the face of 400 years of pacifist tradition, should they now go to war?

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• Register for our PA Day Camp on November 20th and the Home Alone Course on Saturday November 14th either online (www.mindenhills.ca/recreation) or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena, (705) 286-1936 x554.

• Santa is coming to town! The Minden Hills Santa Claus Parade is on Saturday November 21st at 11:00am. There will also be a Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Village Green on Friday November 20th. The tree will be lit shortly after 7:00pm after carols, some opening remarks and warm beverages will be served.

• The Community Services Department will be hosting a Holiday Decorating Workshop on Thursday November 21, 2026, from 6:00pm until 8:00pm in the Minden Hills Community Centre Room 2. Please RSVP to Megan Locker, mlocker@mindenhills.ca.

WINTER PARKING

From November 1st to April 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 a.m. on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

The 2026-2030 term of Council meetings will be conducted in-person (County Council Chambers, 11 Newcastle 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.

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Highlander events





Trunk-or-treat

The Municipality of Dysart et al hosted a Halloween trunk-or-treat and haunted house event at the A.J. LaRue Arena on Saturday evening (Oct. 31). The event welcomed kids of all ages to do some trick-or-treating in the arena parking lot, while sponsored businesses and organizations provided the candy. A haunted walk-through of the arena was also available post trunk-or-treat for those who dared to venture into the building.

Left: Katy Cox and Tanya Smith of Kate's Burger Counter, pose for a photo with Jack Fuhrman at the start of the trunk-or-treat event at the arena. Right: A young Spider-Man loads up on some treats. *Photos by Adam Frisk*



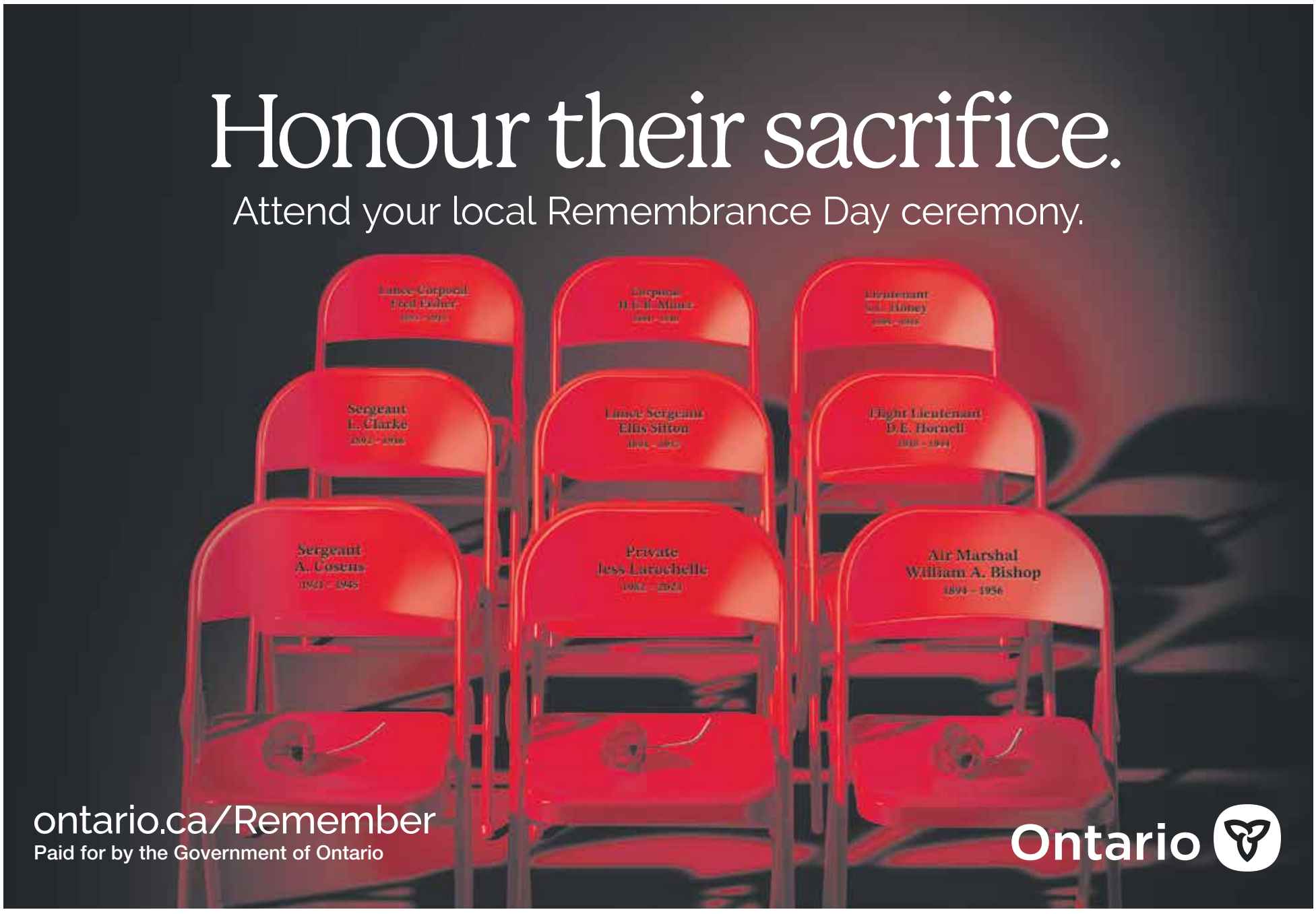


Highlander community

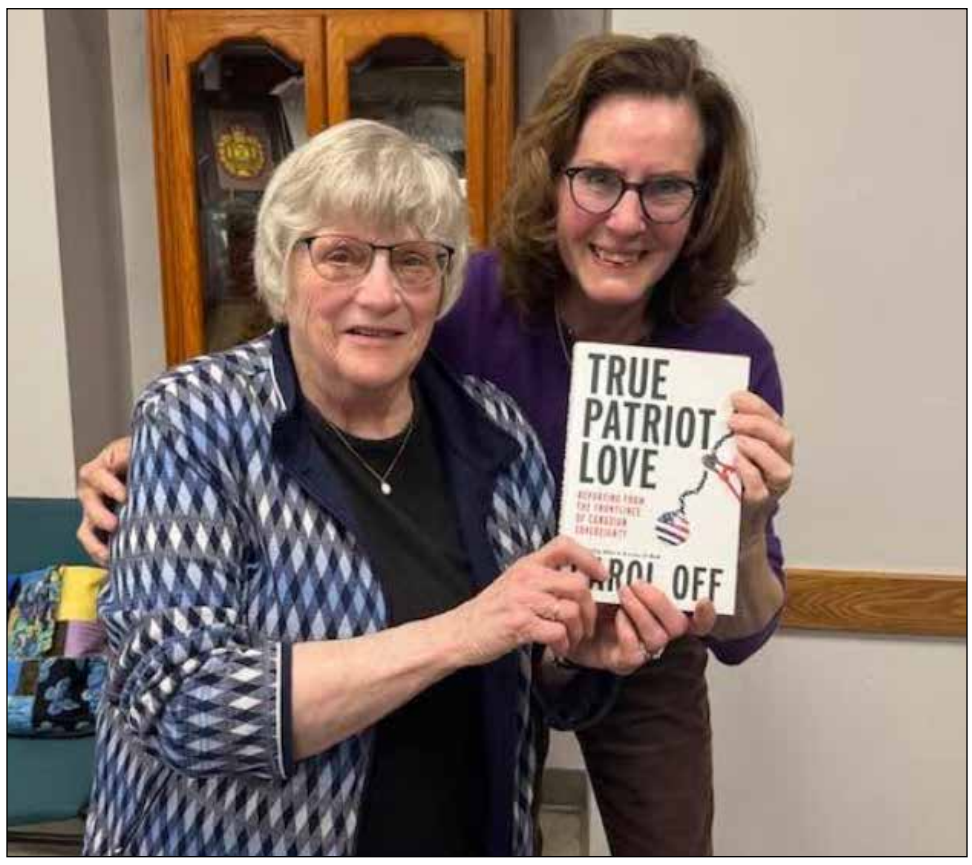
Sanctuary chosen charity

On Oct 20, the executive of the 100 Women Who Care Haliburton group presented a cheque to Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) for $14,100. This represents the donations of 141 women or teams at their Oct. 7 meeting. “Woodlands is badly in need of a good-sized generator to get through the winters and this money will go a long way to helping with that goal,” the group said. Pictured, left to right, Joan Middleton, Monika Melichar (WWS), Judy Thayer, Pat Bradley and Margaret Cox, Chrissy Neshevich (WWS) and Christy Fyfe. Anyone wishing to join the group can go to https://100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com/mysite to read about them and download a membership form. Their next meeting will be held on March 10 at the Haliburton United Church. *(Submitted)*





Highlander community



Having an Off day

Friends of Haliburton County Public Library spokesperson, Janet Trull, said the afternoon with Carol Off on Nov 1, at the Haliburton Legion, drew “a capacity crowd.” She said Off arrived early and signed almost 100 copies of her books with a personal word for all who wanted to tell her how much her voice has meant to them over the years. “Gracious and generous, she is a true ‘friend’ of the HCPL, donating her speaker’s fee back to the library to support literacy programs, social services, and books.” *(Lisa Gervais)*

Above: Carol Off is pictured with Kathy Stouffer of Master’s Book store in Haliburton. *(Submitted)*



We are the champions

Five longtime volunteer trustees with Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) were honoured for their years of service during the final meeting of the 2022-26 term Oct. 27. Chief education officer, Wes Hahn, congratulated Heather Bradley, Bruce Reain, Louise Clodd, Judy Saunders and Haliburton’s Gary Brohman for their commitment to student learning and wellbeing and for helping to oversee the board’s “positive growth” in classroom results. He presented each with a TLDSB Champion Award to mark their service. Brohman, who was first elected in 2010 and served four terms, shared some advice with his fellow trustees before departing. “Every mother and father sends us the best kid they have every day. They do not keep the good ones at home – so, ladies and gentlemen, look after these kids like they’re your own. Kindness works every time… I think the role of a trustee is to help the staff in the school, and senior administration, with that motto.” *(Mike Baker)*

Above: Outgoing TLDSB trustees Heather Bradley, Bruce Reain, Louise Clodd, Gary Brohman and Judy Saunders show off their TLDSB Champion Award. (*Submitted)*



VOTE Minden Hills
Municipal & School Board
ELECTION

Official Results

MAYOR	VOTES
Bob CARTER	809
Pat KITCHEMAN	592
Tammy MCKELVEY	**1698**
Pam SAYNE	1181

DEPUTY MAYOR	VOTES
Richard BRADLEY	1708
Ivan INGRAM	**2359**

COUNCILLOR AT LARGE	VOTES
Ron NESBITT	1640
Bob SISSON	**2379**

WARD 1 COUNCILLOR	VOTES
Dan GARBUTT	**1793**
Shirley JOHANNESSEN	**1313**
Joe MCMANAMY	121
Keith MOORE	1070

WARD 2 COUNCILLOR	VOTES
Brad GRIFFIN	266
Stephen HERTEL	**503**
John MCNEIL	173

WARD 3 COUNCILLOR	VOTES
Jeff HANCOCK	245
Lisa MERCER	**401**

Junior highlanders

Christmas Around The World

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

BANDS~ HORSES~MARCHERS~BRIGHT LIGHTS

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

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

REMEMBER - NO PARKING ON HIGHLAND STREET

CANADA POST POSTES CANADA

Canada Postal workers will be on the parade route collecting letters for Santa

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







Red Hawks spike Bulldogs

Hal High's junior boys volleyball team outplayed the visiting Brock juniors on home court last Thursday (Oct. 29), taking the match two sets to one. The boys in red were down the first set but rallied back with two-set wins to send Brock back to where they came from.

Top: Hal High's James Gooley and Parker Holden go up high for a block. Middle: Will Gallant goes up high for a spike. Bottom: Hudson Meyer tips the ball over the net for a point against the visiting team. *Photos by Adam Frisk*

Home of the Highland Storm



Summer Da Lanca attempts to elude a Brock Wild White player. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Looking sharp against Brock

Sharp Electric's U9 Blue Local League team faced off against Brock Wild White in an exciting back-and-forth game filled with great plays and plenty of action.

Both goaltenders were busy, making numerous outstanding saves to keep their teams in the game. A special shoutout to Dominic Dart, who made his goaltending debut and did a fantastic job between the pipes.

The entire team contributed with great offensive and defensive plays as they continue to grow and develop together.

One thing these players can always control is their effort, and this group continues to show up ready to compete. As coaches, we couldn't be happier with the commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm these players bring to the ice.

It's exciting to see their progress each week.

(Submitted)

STARS of the WEEK



MARSHALL SMITH

With a nose for the net, Marshall scored a few highlight reel goals and always hustles back to help his team.



SUMMER DA LANCA

So much fun to watch on the ice. She is fast, agile, and always looking to make things happen.



DOMINIC DART

Made his debut in goal and did an outstanding job between the pipes.

SCOREBOARD

Oct. 29
U11 Carquest Minden vs Sturgeon 5-4 L
U13 Curry Chevrolet vs Kawartha 6-1 W
U18 Haliburton Timber Mart vs Orono 6-2 W

Oct. 30
U13 Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Millbrook 6-4 W
U15 yellow Minden Pharmasave vs Brock 13-3 W
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak House vs Centre Hastings 8-3 W
U15 blue Casey's Water Well and Geothermal vs Kawartha 10-2 W

Oct. 31
U11 Carquest Minden vs Woodville 9-1 W
U11 Tom Prentice and Sons vs Durham 3-1 W
U13 Curry Chevrolet vs Sturgeon 10-4 W

Nov. 1
U13 Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Brock 4-3 L
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak House vs Ennismore 8-2 W
U15 blue Casey's Water Wells and Geothermal vs Sturgeon 3-1 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.

Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

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

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Thursday, Nov. 5: open 2 to 10 p.m. Ladies auxiliary meeting at 10 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 6: open 2 to 11 p.m. Wings and jam session 5-7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw 3-5 p.m., trivia night at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 9: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts at 7 p.m. Free games night.
Monday, Nov. 10: closed. General meeting 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 11: Remembrance Day service at cenotaph 11 a.m., lunch at brunch after.
Wednesday, Nov. 12: open 2 to 10 p.m. HHHS social recreation 10 a.m., karaoke with JR 7 p.m.

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

Nov. 5, 1 p.m. Documentary screening at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, showing *The Pacifist Who Went to War* (2002). Free admission. All ages welcome.

Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Ctrl-ART-Del presents 'Mary's Wedding' at Highland Hills United Church in Minden. The play focuses on lovebirds Mary and Charlie, who discover a charming first love at the wrong time – 1914, when most young men were shipping off to war. Tickets are $25, or $10 for students. Shows also running Nov. 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.

Nov. 7, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Hunter's supper at Highland Grove Community Centre. Serving a hot turkey dinner with all the fixings and pie for dessert. Adults are $20, children aged five to 10 $8, and kids five and under free. All proceeds support the Highland Grove Historical Society.

Nov. 7, 5:30 p.m. Hunter's dinner fundraiser for the Irondale Church, being held at the Irondale Community Centre at 1004 Line Dr. Dinner includes pork tenderloin, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Tickets are $25 per person. Call or text Beth at 905-263-8335 to reserve a spot. Non-perishable food items will be accepted, to be donated to Central Food Network.

Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Environment Haliburton! is hosting a 'partners in conservation: stewardship in action' event with Rick Whitteker, who will discuss his work as the partners in conservation co-ordinator for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Taking place at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Refreshments will be served.

Nov. 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The popular 'lunch is on us' program returns to the SIRCH Bistro. Free dine-in for guests while quantities last. A welcome place to gather, share a hearty hot lunch and enjoy local music with neighbours and friends. Donations are welcome. Running every Wednesday through March 2027.

Nov. 11, 1-3 p.m. The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is holding its monthly meeting at the Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall. This month's speaker is Theresa Fama, a quilt artist and author. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Memberships are $40 per year and includes a sew day every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beginner to expert sewers welcome. Contact Connie Walker at 905-439-5943 for more information.

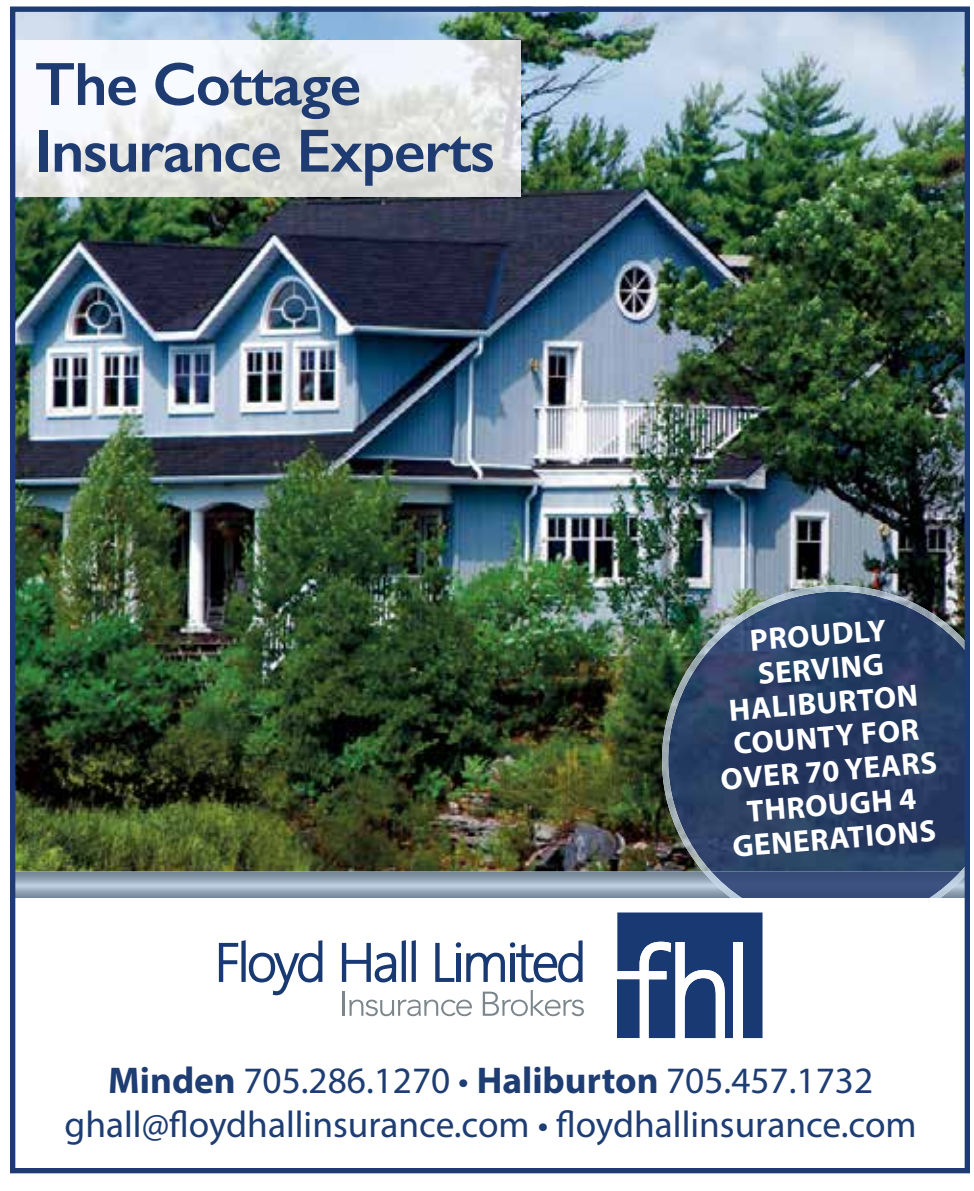
Nov. 11, 7-9 p.m. The 'Telling Our Stories' Speaker Series is marking Remembrance Day with two special presentations, featuring Irv Handler on his family's story surviving the Holocaust and Joan Knighton on the efforts of Home Children Canada. Taking place at the Haliburton Legion. Tickets are $15, available at the door or by contacting Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557.

Nov. 13, 11 a.m. to noon. The Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a creative workshop where you'll get to make your own gel candle in a mason jar. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca.

Nov. 13, 5 and 7 p.m. 'Oh Canada!' concert featuring the music of Gordon Lightfoot and Neil Young, performed by Keith Kirkpatrick and Larry Shepherd. Fundraiser being held at Highland Hills United Church in Minden. Tickets are $25. To book, call 705-286-1470 or search on Eventbrite.ca.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.





'Hot Pocket' and the girls rolling into Hali

By Lisa Gervais

Eagle Lake's Amelia Ambridge grew up roller skating on the boardwalk in Haliburton. Back then, she said folks wore quad rollers and it was the only place that had any pavement. At Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, she also wrestled. Ambridge reckoned the two provided the necessary skillset to become a roller derby player.

Ambridge left the Rhubarb capital of Ontario for the University of Ottawa and then moved to Montreal where she has been for 20 years. The nurse practitioner and stand-up comedian comes back home about five times a year and is returning this weekend with friends for the Haliburton International Film Festival (HIFF) - which is screening a roller derby movie.

HIFF's Myra Stephen and Tammy Rea said *Les Furies (The Furies)* is "a female-driven sports comedy from Quebec. Women in Montreal and Waterloo, QC fight for their rink time when a men's semi-pro hockey team claims their regular arena, threatening their established sports community. They prove that women's sports can inspire crowds and that sisterhood is the ultimate act of resistance."

Ambridge said after she moved to Montreal, she discovered the city had a strong roller derby scene with competitive teams. She thought a person had to be a professional to play. Then she heard about a boot camp where women could learn the ins-and-outs of the sport and try to get drafted to a team. "I did all of that." She competed until the pandemic hit.



Amelia Ambridge pictured during her roller derby days. *Submitted.*

Known on the track as 'Hot Pocket,' Ambridge is travelling with four other women she knows, and who have connections to the league and film, for the Sunday afternoon (Nov. 8) screening.

Stephen and Rea said it is interesting to note that Haliburton had a roller derby team "back in the day. Some of the women who were involved took part in a piece for *Dusk Dances* (2013) featuring roller derby. Some of those women will be coming to HIFF as well."

Ambridge said she is excited to show the County off to her buddies. She said this will be her third time seeing the film.

Asked about the appeal of roller derby over the years, from the days of 'Skinny Minnie' Miller to the Drew Barrymore movie *Whip It*, Ambridge said it is an intense sport; feminine; inclusive of all; and with an indie vibe. She said the sport had evolved from the days of banked tracks and anything goes, to flat tracks and more rules, but the show has carried on. She said they had retained derby nicknames, "crazy" clothes, makeup, and characters built around players.

The movie also champions women's sports, friendship, and diversity: from a mom to a lesbian coming out, to trans and queer folk. She said they all play for their own reason, and each gets something different out of the sport.

Those Other Movies is celebrating 20 years with its annual HIFF Nov. 6-8 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.

Stephen and Rea said, "this year's line up promises stories with characters chasing big dreams, seeking big thrills and dancing with some big moral questions. From comedy to drama to thrillers, this line up has something for everyone. HIFF brings Canadian stories and ones from around the world."

They said the HIFF committee collectively watched more than 50 films at the Toronto International Film Festival and Sudbury's Cinefest — 11 days of movies, nine movie watchers, 54 movies, 147 total viewings.

"The final selection for Haliburton has stories of underdogs persevering against the odds, immigrants facing barriers, people coming up with quirky and creative solutions and showcasing the lengths some people will go to both survive and chase dreams. These are stories that will stick with you. The festival has been curated to give the audience time to think, talk, question and make connections. There will be time to walk, stretch, eat and refuel too."

Weekend VIP passes are $65 available at https://www.thoseothermovies.com/ or cash at the door. Tickets for individual films are $10 at the door. Commemorative blankets will be for sale (at cost) via the website or with cash at the theatre. $45 tax included.



MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Games & Cards / Board Games drop-in – various dates in November

November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
QiGong for Seniors

November 3
SALC Webinar: Diabetes Education & Healthy Foods

November 3, 10, 17 & 24
Senior Skate and Social

November 3, 4 & 27
Tech Help Walk-In Clinic

November 4, 17, 18, 19 & 20
Genealogy for Seniors

November 5, 12 & 26
Breathwork Class

November 5, 13 & 20
Needle Felting: Coasters

November 6
American Mahjong

November 10 & 24
Cooking Classes

November 11
Fall Planters & Wreath Making

November 12 & 26
Mindful Movement for Vitality

November 12 & 26
Chair Yoga

November 12 & 26
Board Games & Cards

November 14
The Garden Gathering: A Gardening Discussion

November 16 & 30
Painting Class

November 17
SALC Webinar: Benefits of Volunteering

November 18
Crafternoon Drop-In

November 19
Wellness Clinic



Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

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requires a

Public Works Operator – Dorset Yard

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Public Works Operator – Dorset Yard.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits package, Health and Wellness opportunities and enrolment in the OMERS Pension Plan. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2026** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Haliburton County Council is seeking members of the public for

Land Division Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County

The Land Division Committee makes decisions on Applications for Consent which include new lot creation, easements, rights-of-way, lot additions, and other application types under Section 53 of the Planning Act. Public members are appointed on a four-year term that coincides with the term of council.

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at https://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/county-office/careers/

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Sarah Hume, Human Resources Manager at shume@haliburtoncounty.ca.

The application process will close at 1pm on November 13, 2026.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Ontario Garlic & Scapes, Garlic & Scape Powders, Garlic Sauces, Spreads, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, SEED GARLIC. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, 2.2 km from County Road 21, Minden 705-286-1617

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE – All Craftsman or Mastercraft: 10” table saw $60. table mount router with bits $50. 10” chop saw $60. 8 gal. Wet dry Vac $60. 8 gal air compressor with brad nailer $90. laser level kit $30. 13 pc hole saw set $15. Cash. Call 705-457-3333

FOR SALE – 12 FACE CORD HARDWOOD. Over 2 years, under cover, Cut and split approximately 16” lengths, $1,400. Pick up only. 705-286-1098 Minden.

FOR RENT

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

FOR RENT-Beautiful home on Lake Kashagawigamog for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, main floor master bedroom with walk out to upper deck. Finished basement with walk-out to Lake. Unfurnished, available Nov. 1st, $3,200. all inclusive. Call 905-751-4982.

FOR RENT – Warehouse / Storage Space, located at 81 Mallard Road, Unit B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door. This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could

HELP WANTED



FOR RENT

easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

FOR RENT/SALE

CONDO FOR RENT – with option to purchase. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, air-conditioned Condo on top floor, corner unit, providing stunning view of Head Lake. Graniteview is located at 4 Lake Street, only 5 minute walk to lake & town amenities. Open concept, includes 1 indoor parking spot, storage locker, radiant heat, water & stainless appliances. Move in ready, all new paint. Available to rent, $2,600./month with option to purchase $569,000. during first 12 months of rental contract. Please contact 705-455-7568

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP! Join Debbie Reeve in Haliburton and paint beautiful watercolor Christmas Cards. Saturday, November 28, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Her studio, only $95. Book today: www.debbiereeveart.com/courses

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WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

NOTICE

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

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone’s drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony’s 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

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

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Carole Linda Cherry
(née Johnston, later Jones)



Known throughout her life simply as Linda, passed away in Haliburton Ontario in the early morning of Tuesday October 27th, 2026. She was 82.

Mom was a warm and caring helper, filled with love for others and their wellbeing. She adored all sorts of animals, especially cats and birds, and her car always “braked for turtles”. She was a complete bridge nut, collecting all the associated knick-knacks, books and instruction manuals she could find, and she played almost daily in her later years. She loved to watch old movies, enjoying the thrill of naming as many actors as she could, and she was really good at it. She took great pleasure in setting a proper table, and for those of us who might adorn it with a food’s original container, the contents of which magically reappeared, housed by the appropriate dish.

Linda was born February 27th, 1944, to Sam and Lillian (née McIntyre) Johnston. While she lost her father at the age of 2, Mom spoke fondly of her early years where it was just she and her mother. Around the age of 10, Grandma married William (Bill) Jones, and Mom’s family grew to include her stepsister Brenda and stepbrother Brian. She attended St. Clement’s School in Toronto, and later attended Chamberlayne Junior College in Boston, where she earned her Diploma of Interior Design.

It was before her time in Boston, when Mom met her love and our father Bill. They dated for awhile and agreed to go their separate ways while Mom went away to school, mutually aware that they would see how they felt when she got back. Upon her return, they became inseparable and were married May 31st, 1969, for 43 years until Dad’s passing on February 27th, 2012. Their love, strength, and dedication to each other will forever be a lesson to us.

Throughout her life, Mom understood and exemplified the value of helping others. She spent countless hours volunteering her time and effort, often taking her turn as President, in so many groups, clubs, and organizations. For decades, she enjoyed being a “Cottage Mom”, making sure to have her highly acclaimed coffee ready in the morning for those who called her “Linney”. Before or after any meal or event, humbly, Mom always just started helping, without asking or being asked. Dinner at someone’s house, a rummage sale at the church, you name it, she quietly joined in. And for many of her recent years, she spent most of her Saturdays as a Supervisor at the Lily Ann Thrift Store in Haliburton, working the till, stocking the shelves, and sorting through all the donated clothes and wares-to-be. Throughout it all, what was so special about her, was that she shied away from any recognition or laudation. She was the essence of altruism. She was a helper.

Linda loved her entire family deeply and wholeheartedly, especially her late husband Bill. She is lovingly remembered by her son, Warren, his partner Kristine, and her grandson Walker; her daughter Meghan, son-in-law Jeremy, and their children, granddaughter Emma and grandson Parke. She is also lovingly remembered by her brother-in-law Paul, his wife Shelley, and her nephews and their families; Clayton, his partner Erin, and her grandnephew Boden (Bo); and Cameron (Cam), his wife Candice, and her grandniece Dani and grandnephew Dallas. It was us whom she called her family, and we are forever better for having known her… and we’ll never forget her.

Please join us to say “bye for now” at St George’s Anglican Church in Haliburton ON, on Friday November 27th at 1pm, with a reception to follow. If you’d like to remember her with a gift, flowers are welcomed via www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com, or a donation can be made in her name to the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank & Lily Ann Thrift Store at www.haliburton4cs.org

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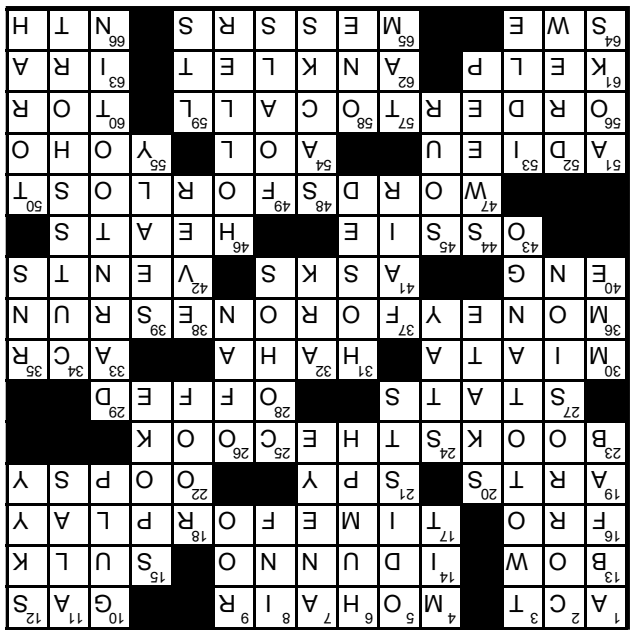
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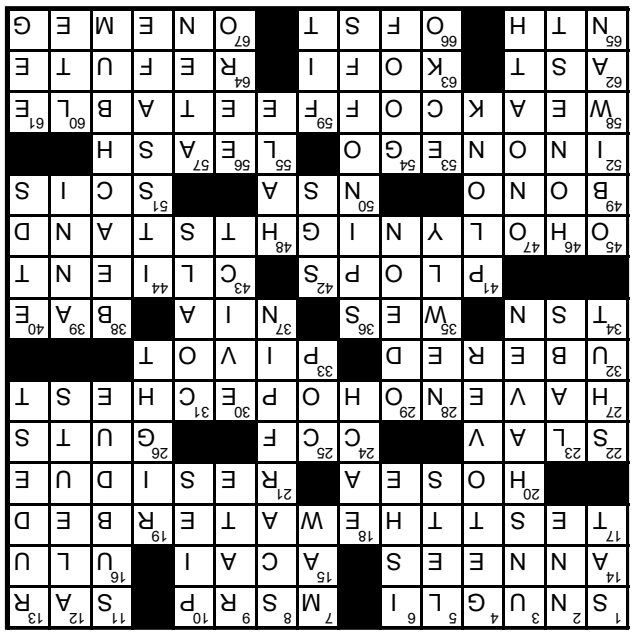
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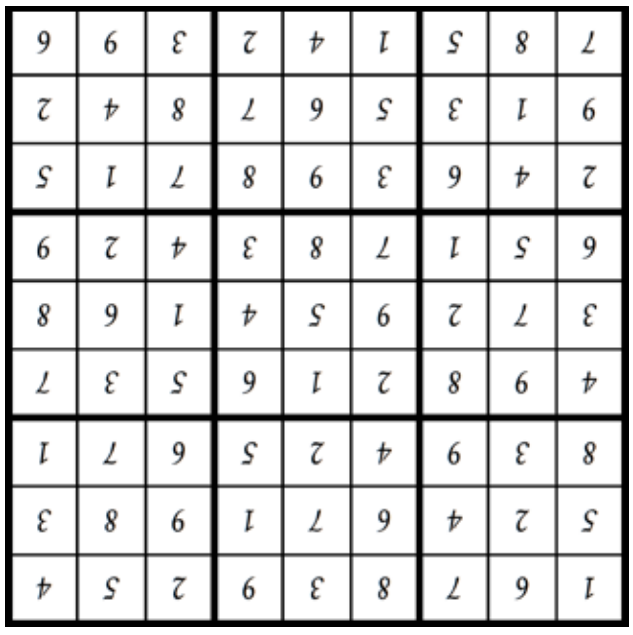
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Brett Wilson



The family of Brett Wilson announces his passing at home on Monday, October 26, 2026, in his 46th year. Born on November 8th, 1979, in Peterborough, Ontario. Beloved son of John Wilson (Marilou) and Deborah Bishop (Rick). Lovingly remembered by his children, Kenlee and Remi. Dear brother of Andrea Maxwell (Melanie), Courtney Miscio (Monte), and Logan Deremo (Nikki). Also fondly remembered by his nieces and nephews: Ryanne, Taylor, Hudson, Jackson, Matthew, Emmerson, Brinley, Rylan, Macy, and Paydon, as well as his large extended family and friends.

Brett was a loving father, cherished son, grandson, brother, and friend. Growing up, Brett was always a happy-go-lucky, fun-loving guy. Always with a smile on his face and quick with a joke. Brett was always looking for a way to make people laugh, even if it wasn't always the most appropriate time to do so. A true man of the outdoors, you could often find Brett hunting or fishing. It would be a challenge to find a photo of him that didn't include him proudly showing off his latest catch. Brett's love for his family, his humour, and the many memories he created with those closest to him will be treasured always and held close in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per the family's wishes, funeral arrangements are private. The family will celebrate Brett's life in a private gathering at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Brett's memory can be made to a charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0.

In Loving Memory of

Kathryn Jean Childs (née Maloney)



June 23, 1932 - October 27, 2026

Kathy passed away in Haliburton, Ontario at 94 years of age.

Born in Port Arthur, Ontario (now Thunder Bay) to Frank and Esther Maloney, Kathy was predeceased by her husband E. W. (Bill) Childs, as well as her siblings John, George, Marjorie, Jim and Danny. Kathy leaves her sons Scott Childs (Jill Cuthbertson), Jeff Childs (Lauri Kibiuk), grandson Zachary Childs (Amba) and many loved nephews and nieces.

Her years were filled with laughter and fun. She loved her husband and their life together. She loved Thunder Bay and woe to the person (especially from down east or the US) that criticized her city. Kathy was an avid curler in her day, loved supporting all the local stores, and cherished her neighbourhood around Heather Crescent and the friends she made there.

In 2021, she decided to move closer to her sons and settled in Haliburton at the age of 89. Moving into her new home at the seniors residence, The Gardens, she quickly befriended many of the residents and staff and she was regularly found volunteering at the bingos there. This period of her life was filled with many great times and she enjoyed being closer to her family.

In the last 6 months of Kathy's life, her health took a sudden and significant turn and she moved to Extendicare Haliburton. Our family extends our sincerest appreciation to the staff there for the professional, thoughtful, and the extraordinarily compassionate care she received. Thank you from all our hearts.

If you want to honour Kathy, remember to be kind to whomever you meet, get frustrated with the Blue Jays (but always be on their side), and occasionally try to take some money away from a casino (but if you lose …just let's not talk about it).

Please donate to your favourite charity as Kathy supported many causes throughout her life.

A celebration of life is planned for a future date.

In Loving Memory of

Lynda Ruth Porter (Robinson)



We are saddened to announce the passing of our Mom Lynda Ruth Porter (Robinson).

Born on January 3, 1953, in Toronto, Ontario, Lynda was the daughter of the late Elva and Donald (Don) Robinson. She grew up in Toronto, spending cherished time at her family's cottage on Lake Kashagawigamog in the Haliburton Highlands, an area she would later call home.

Lynda was kind-hearted, with a special love for animals and a deep appreciation for life at the lake. Lake Kashagawigamog held a special place in her heart, bringing fond childhood memories and a lifelong connection to the beauty of Haliburton Highlands.

Lynda is survived by her children, Christopher (Brittany) Porter and Jennifer Porter (Mitch), and her brother Jeff Robinson. She was predeceased by her husband Robert (Bob) Porter and her parents, Elva and Don Robinson.

She will be remembered for her kindness, her love of animals, and the memories she leaves behind.

A Celebration of Lynda's Life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 636, 12847 Highway35, Minden on Saturday, November 7th from 2:00 until 4:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation – Highland Wood Residents Council (HHHSF) or Snowflake Meadows Rescue (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Laurie Burk

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH
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AT 2:30PM THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FROM THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDERS PIPES AND DRUMS PIPE MAJOR, ANDREW MANSFIELD
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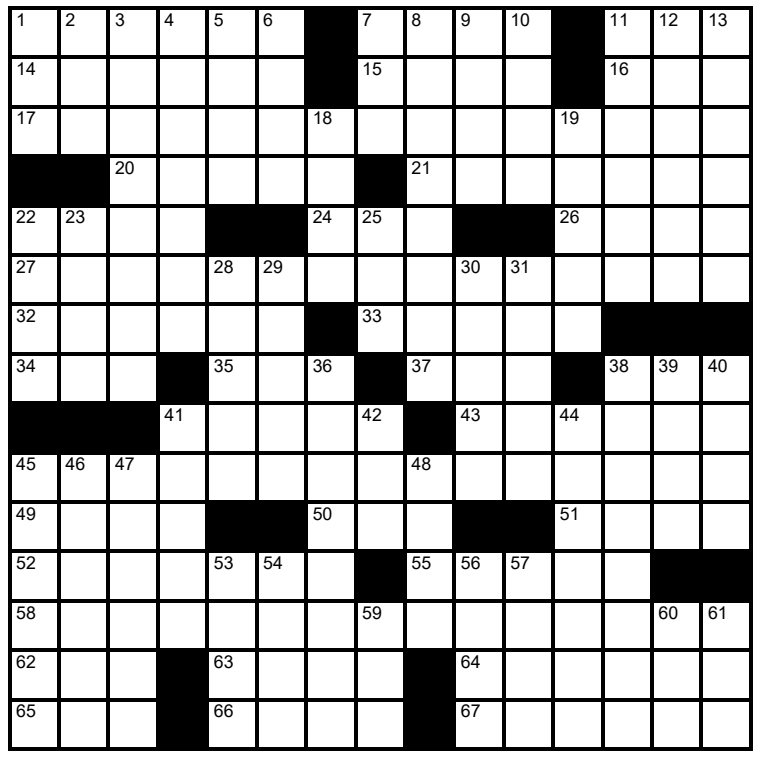
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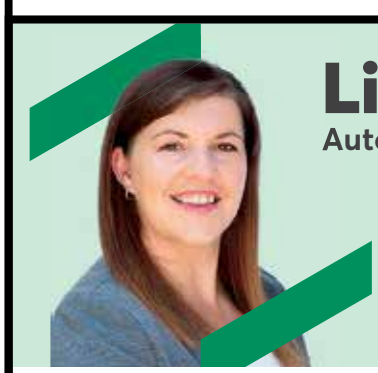


Across

1 Baby carrier brand
7 Window sticker fig. on a lot
11 Corsica's isl. neighbour
14 Janvier-décembre spans
15 Smoothie berry
16 Inuit knife
17 See if a sloshy sleep is for you?
20 Hebrew prophet
21 Leftover substance
22 Balkan native
24 Tommy Douglas's party, now the NDP
26 Daredevil's need
27 Be without a bridal box?
32 Took a rideshare ride
33 Switch careers or topics
34 Grey Cup airer
35 "Scream" director Craven
37 Actress Peebles or Long
38 Modern "sweetums"
41 Pebbles-hitting-water sounds
43 Accountant's customer, e.g.
45 Hymn about a reading lamp and alarm clock holder?
49 Knighted Irish singer/activist
50 "Snowden" subj.
51 Biol., chem. and phys., e.g.
52 With a single attempt
55 Attachment to one's dog?
58 Flimsy piece near a sofa?
62 P.E.I. clock setting
63 Annan of the U.N.
64 Disprove
65 To the ___ degree
66 "The Eve ___ Agnes" (Keats poem)
67 1,024 KBs

Down

1 Three before Tue.
2 Opposite of SSW
3 Not like a bald-faced liar?
4 Stop crying about
5 "Why don't we?"
6 "Blessed ___ who comes in the name of the Lord"
7 Yawning yap
8 Ascot securer
9 Assign stars to
10 Slapstick movie projectiles
11 Quell
12 Alaskan natives
13 Least schooled in etiquette
18 Every partner?
19 "Yeah, ___" (doubter's words)
22 Not ajar
23 "Chocolate" dogs
25 Donut shop frequenter, in jokes
28 Afresh
29 Cineplex ___ theatres
30 Toss, as a tenant
31 Hibachi filler
36 "Maude" and "Rhoda," e.g.
38 Seaside regular
39 Gennaio-dicembre spans
40 Takeoff data, briefly
41 Rotgut wine
42 Department of Defence med. advisors
44 "All clear!"
45 "Star Wars" sage, for short
46 Truthful
47 Sworn to be 46-Down
48 Healthy
53 Fashion designer Marc
54 ___ off (shirk work)
56 Finnish architect Saarinen
57 Wouldn't touch with ___ foot pole
59 Like a fiddle, in an idiom
60 4G wireless letters
61 Test that makes head lines?



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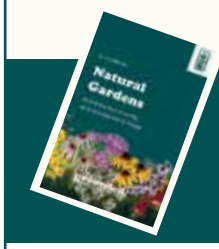
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- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- House Calls

143 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON
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BED 4 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13875488

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HALIBURTON LAKE
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BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13785940

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$525,000



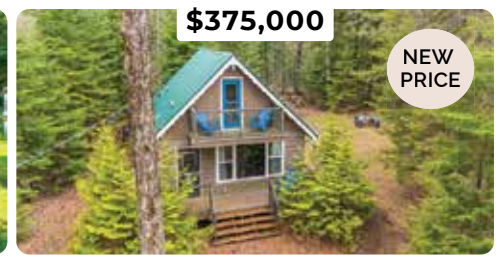
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13796596

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35
$489,900



BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD
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BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

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BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X14124018

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MISKWABI LAKE



MLS #X1364760

BED 3 | BATH 1

PROVIDENCE DRIVE



MLS #X13573000

BED 2 | BATH 1

EVERY SALE HAS A STORY

An agent who says "No" – While contemplating the characteristics of my ideal real estate agent, I never imagined that the willingness to disagree would be at the top of my list. But, when I needed help selling a treasured family cottage, it turned out that straightforwardness and confidence were key. In Linda Baumgartner of BRG in Haliburton I found those attributes and more.

Throughout the process, she delivered clear, direct answers and intuitive advice. Should I invest in improvements like a new, larger septic? Replace the dock? Yes to the septic, she advised, we were likely to recoup the outlay, but a hard no to the dock. "You won't recover the investment." And our dialogue didn't stop there. "Was the asking price too low?" I wondered. "Did the stream of showings indicate an offer-holdback was warranted?" "Hold steady," said Linda, "You're where you need to be." Judgements like that require deep-rooted experience, knowledge, guts.

It follows that a savvy agent surrounds herself with outstanding support, therefore it was no surprise that office and field staff, alongside Linda's fellow agents at BRG, are dynamic, reliable and creative. Her contacts in the community run deep and seem to be available at a moment's notice. It's like magic. The result? My cottage sold in just four days and it's not an exaggeration to say it felt easy. My nay-saying agent had the right answers every time. Thank you Linda

- V. Skinner, Google Review

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$170,000
11.43 Acres | MLS #X13692442

Highlands East
GRACE RIVER RD
$145,000
0.45 Acres | MLS #X13799190

Highlands East
CONTAU LAKE RD
$115,000
19.8 Acres | MLS #X13882312

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