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HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM

# The Highlander

FREE

INSIDE: DEVOLIN ELECTED COUNTY WARDEN - SEE PAGE 3



Andrew Lang guides his daughter Samantha Lang down the ice at the Rotary Club of Haliburton Free Skate on Friday. Photo by Alex Coop.

## YWCA fighting local shelter closure

By Lisa Gervais

A delegation from YWCA Peterborough Haliburton was snowed out from making a presentation to Minden Hills council last week, but their report said it all.

Director of philanthropy and communications, Jennifer Coreton, writes that the only shelter for women and their families in the county was closed for five months last year (from November 2015

to March 2016) because of a shortage of money. The rest of the time, they were able to keep it running but had to dip into reserves.

"Beyond 2016-2017 we will not be able to continue to support women who have experienced violence at a level that meets their needs," she wrote.

Coreton said that in order to continue their work, they need to secure \$120,000 over the next year to sustain their

Haliburton operations for the next two years while they work with government, experts, partners and the local community to develop a long-term sustainability plan.

They don't just supply a shelter in Minden that accommodates two families, but a number of other services including confidential 24-hour crisis support and related assistance, emergency transportation to the shelter, food, clothing and basic personal necessities, connection

to other community resources and supports, help with special priority for rent geared to income housing and language interpretation.

But the news isn't all bad. So far, they have raised just over \$80,000, including just over \$1,300 from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event.

Coreton came to council looking for

See 'YWCA' on page 2

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# Editorial opinion

## The Highlander

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week

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

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

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

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

## The time to act is now

The fact the only life-saving shelter for women and children in our county was closed for five months seems to have gone largely under the radar locally.

It wasn't until a planned presentation to Minden Hills council appeared on an agenda that it was discovered that YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS) in Minden was forced to close its doors between November 2015 and March 2016 due to a lack of funding.

The YWCA Peterborough-Haliburton didn't actually make its presentation as its Peterborough-based spokeswoman couldn't make it to Minden because of bad weather.

She is scheduled to return in January and said she will visit the County of Haliburton and the other municipalities — asking for \$5,000 from Minden Hills, and, presumably the same from the other governments.

Reeve Brent Devolin told us the closure was news to him. The YWCA said it didn't announce the closure publicly because it didn't want people to get the wrong impression that all of their services were closed in Haliburton. They didn't want to step women from reaching out.

Regardless, now that it is known, immediate action must be taken. The YWCA needs \$120,000 to continue operating over the next two years while it meets with partners to come up with a long-

term sustainability plan. So far, they have \$88,636. That leaves a shortfall of \$31,364. If the county and the four lower-tier municipalities were to kick in \$5,000 each it leaves just a little over \$6,000, which we would hope the community would kick in.

We know the municipalities don't like setting spending precedents. The province of Ontario should be doing more to fully fund shelters for abused women and children. Last year, the government only funded 62 per cent of the Y's work. The fact it doesn't give 100 per cent is shameful.

But municipal support doesn't have to be a perpetual payment, just a one-time emergency donation. Minden Hills has in its draft budget plenty of \$5,000 items, things such as ball diamond backstop replacements, new toilet blocks, upgrades of boat ramps and internal telephone system improvements.

Sure, these are important, but what about women fleeing violence in the home? Aren't they more important? This is the only violence against women service in Haliburton County. Sadly, last year was their busiest.

They provided support and life-saving resources to 149 women in Haliburton County — whatever these women needed to break free from the abuse they were living with at home.



By Lisa Gervais

Trying to get a handle on what they do isn't easy. Women are protected by confidentiality. But we do know that a counsellor once spent 18 consecutive hours travelling with a client, counselling while driving white-knuckled through a bad snowstorm. One counsellor drove 382 kilometers to meet a client. YWCA Outreach counsellors had 671 sessions with women outside of their offices last year.

We can say with certainty that a woman has probably been abused in Haliburton County in the time that it has taken you to read this.

The fact the shelter was closed for five months is unacceptable.

County council, Minden Hills, Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al and Highlands East need to donate \$5,000 each in emergency funds as soon as possible.

In turn, the YWCA will have a cushion to now seriously come up with a long-term sustainability plan — in talks with county partners — in hopes they do not have to return to councils cap-in-hand in future.

And the province needs to fund more than 62 per cent of local YWCA needs.

## A year-round need

There are many ways the Christmas spirit can touch you at this time of year. I encountered it last week at the Minden Hills Community Centre when the hall was awash in food, toys and clothing gathered by the Minden Food Bank for distribution to the needy.

The room was a whirl of busy elves shifting, sorting and filling the 185 boxes lined up on tables. Each box was marked with an identity number and the size of the recipient family, from singles up to families of nine. Hard-working volunteers, pushing carts laden with canned goods, breakfast cereal, pasta or other foodstuffs, scooped up and down the rows lovingly placing items in the boxes in the hope that someone's Christmas season would be a little more happy and secure with the additional food in the house.

In another section, toys, sorted by age and gender, were laid out on tables for parents to select, ensuring that every youngster will open a surprise or two Christmas morning.

A group of students from nearby Archie Stouffer Elementary School joined the volunteers helping with the sorting and bagging and distributing of vegetables: bags

of carrots and potatoes, a cabbage, a box of mandarin oranges, onions and more ... all in a heavy duty grocery bag lined up neatly with the boxes ready for distribution. But the much-anticipated deliveries could not take place before the addition of the last items: a frozen turkey, ham and a dessert completed the package.

Then, Friday afternoon, just ahead of a snowstorm bearing down on the Highlands, volunteers drove fanned out through the area delivering Christmas hampers filled with food and treats for the Christmas season. It was heartening to witness this generous community act unfold. Much of the food had been donated or purchased at a deep discount from local retailers. All of those helping, up to 150 over the three days, were volunteers. It was an act of giving and sharing in the true spirit of the Christmas season.

However, despite the warm glow, I couldn't help but think, as I looked over the sea of 185 overflowing boxes and bags, how can there be so much need in a land of so much? Why haven't we solved this problem yet? I'm not sure what the answer is, but perhaps there is no solution and the

needy will always be with us. History tells us there have always been those with less and a place for Samaritans to reach out and help.

The need does not disappear with the arrival of a Christmas hamper stuffed with good food. It continues year-round. Marilynne Lesperance, the chair of the Minden Food Bank, noted that cash donations fell short of the target this season, by \$45,000. While food donations are appreciated, cash allows the food bank to meet emergency needs or quickly fill gaps in its inventory.

So, even though the Christmas season will soon be a fading memory, I hope people will keep the food banks in Minden, Haliburton, Wilketforce and Cardiff and the needs of their clients in mind as we move into the new year. The Christmas season may only last a few short weeks, but for some in our community, hunger is a daily challenge.



By Jack Brezina

## OFFICE HOURS



The Highlander office is closed December 24 - January 1  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# Editorial opinion

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world better every day.

## Get your cheque books out

Jennifer Careton of the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is scheduled to make a presentation to Minden Hills council today (Thursday, Jan. 26). She is asking for one-time funding of \$5,000 to help the organization continue to operate its Minden-based women's and children's shelter as well as maintain domestic violence programming at existing levels. Careton, who is the director of philanthropy and communications, told The Highlander this week that she would also be going to the three other lower-tier municipalities in coming weeks: Algonquin Highlands on Feb. 2; Dysart et al on Feb. 9 and Highlands East on Feb. 13.

The YWCA has yet to get confirmation on amending a Cooney of Haliburton meeting, Careton said.

After The Highlander reported on the plight of the shelter's director (it was forced to close its doors for five months in 2015-2016 and dip heavily into reserves), Careton said this week that the community was moved by their appeal and they had received some donations. She said they appreciate it and every

dollar raised will stay in the county. However, they are still after municipal support.

Beyond 2016-2017, they say they will not be able to continue to support women who have experienced violence at a level that meets their needs.

In order to continue their work, they need to secure \$120,000 over the next year to sustain their Haliburton operations for the next two years while they work with government, experts, partners and the local community to develop a long-term sustainability plan. They have so far raised about \$90,000 of that.

That leaves about a \$30,000 shortfall. Minden Hills council should approve a minimum of \$5,000 in funding today. It has \$7 million in reserves. This should not even have to be discussed. It is one-time funding, not perpetual, so they

hardly have to worry about setting some kind of spending precedent for a largely provincial government service.

By doing so, they send a strong message to the other councils, and the county, that they, too, need to support this very worthy cause.



By Lisa Gervais

This does not take the province off the hook either.

MPP Laurie Scott needs to continue to nudge the Ministry of Community and Social Services to realize it needs to fund rural Ontario services differently than its city counterparts. We have geographical challenges that lead to isolation.

We like the new Haliburton Highlands video that promotes Haliburton County. It acknowledges all that is good here. That's the story we all want to see and read. But there is another story. It involves women getting physically and emotionally abused and threatened with death. It involves children growing up in violent homes. It isn't a pretty side of Haliburton County but it is reality. It's time for our councils to do the right thing and spend our taxpayers' dollars to support the only women's shelter in the county and the many clients who rely on its other life-saving services.

## A new day, a new reality

Slowly the streets of Haliburton County came back to life Saturday morning.

Bewildered residents, who had bunkered down at home with their stockpiles of canned food and jerry cans of water, warily emerged from their shelters, and with eerie cases, bursters. They stumbled blinking into the bright reality of a cloudy day, wondering if it was indeed safe to walk the streets again.

Hunched over in a turtle position, (if you don't get that reference, ask someone over 70), many had watched on their battery-powered mini screens as a new president, Donald J. Trump, completed the 39-word oath of office, wondering as he finished, just how close his fingers were to those ominous launch buttons. They had stared with mixed emotions as the newly-installed president waggled his finger at nations who traded with the U.S. and by extension stole their jobs. He was going to set that record straight he told the huge crowd. We were, here in our quiet little country, one of those nations who threatened the stability of the U.S.? Perhaps we are the savagers he referred to, after all we have been invading the U.S. for most of our time

on this continent. Without our intrusions, the U.S. would not call the presidential residence the 'White House' or share half of a Rainbow Bridge.

Or he just might have been referring to the thousands, my tens of thousands of Canadians who flood across the border each year racing to the sunshine and early bird specials in Florida and Arizona. And what about the planetloads of invaders we send to Orlando each day, unleashing them to stand politely in line at Disney World?

Those who emerged from their panic rooms were soon conformed by the fact the world had not come to an end. Indeed those who had harboured some questions about climate change found reassurance in that all references to the global climate being impacted by man's voracious consumption of fossil fuel had been erased from the White House website. Also gone were comments in support of civil rights and the rights of the LGBTQ. Oh, well, a few less things to worry about.

However, the following day, they may have been bemused by the seemingly insane

debate about just how many people were on the Washington Mall on Friday as opposed to the same occasion four years ago. They also might have scratched their heads over the profusion of pink hats ... pussy hats ... that emerged Saturday as the latest fashion statement. Who were all these people and why, in the U.S. capital and cities around the world, were they marching in the streets? And more importantly, what was the so-called message they were trying to convey with those cute little hats ... they looked warm and comforting at least, which every mother knows, is a good thing.

So, with plodding intention, life in the Highlands returns to its circadian rhythm. People are working their way through winter one day at a time and hoping that inauguration day, Jan. 20, 2021 won't be quite so eventful.



By Jack Brezina

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

**Correction:** A story from the Jan. 12 issue of The Highlander (page 3, "Gas station proposal hits roadblock") incorrectly noted the square-footage of Jerry Walker's proposed Home Hardware and Building Centre on County Road 21. The correct number is 20,000 square feet, not 40,000.

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# The Highlander

Thursday February 9 2017 | Issue 276

INSIDE: TRUCK CRASHES INTO MINDEN FOODLAND - SEE PAGE 3

FREE



Team Fireball from Port Perry gets ready for its final game of the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships. See page 17 for story. Photo by Alex Coop.

## Haliburton couple donates \$10K to YWCA

By Lisa Gervais

A bathroom stall at the Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD) has contributed to a local woman and her husband donating \$10,000 in matching funds to the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton.

Susan Hay explains that when she was doing a course at the college, she noticed a poster on the back of a washroom door. It had a phone number that women could call if they were experiencing domestic violence.

"It really caused me to raise my eyebrows," Hay said in an interview with *The Highlander*. "I thought there must be a lot of domestic violence in Haliburton County."

The retired nurse, avid painter and self-described passionate environmentalist added, "And I thought to myself, I can't even imagine what it would be like to be hit by my spouse."

Hay, who moved full-time to Haliburton with her husband Keith about a year ago, said she has led a sheltered and privileged life. She had a father who was a "kind, loving and gentle person" and her husband is the same.

"It's beyond my comprehension to live with a man who abuses me physically and verbally."

Around Christmastime, she read a story in the paper about the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton being forced to

close its Minden's women's and children's shelter for five months over 2015-2016 due to a lack of funding. She read that the organization needed \$30,000 to continue present programming beyond 2016-2017.

"It just popped off the page at me, that it was something that really needed to be done," Hay said.

She and Keith, who always donate money to charities around Christmas, sat down and had a talk.

The result was an offer of \$10,000 to be matched dollar-for-dollar by community members.

"I just thought it was terrible that women that were being abused didn't have an option. Maybe they had a car, maybe

they didn't. If there wasn't a shelter in the community, that would probably take away the option of getting away from the abuse. And I just thought that was awful," Hay said.

She said it was Keith's idea to do the matching funds.

"That always encourages me to give more. And we wanted to give enough to ensure the project succeeds," Hay said.

The YWCA is soliciting one-time funding to maintain its operations while it uses government money to work on a long-term sustainability plan.

"We wanted to try to encourage others to reach into their pockets and make sure the project succeeds," Hay said.

See "Matching" on page 2

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Haliburton resident Susan Hay, left, discusses the \$10,000 donation she and husband Keith made to the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton with director of philanthropy, Jennifer Cureton. Photo by Lisa Genova.

## Matching fundraising campaign kicks off

Continued from page 1

Jennifer Cureton, the director of philanthropy and communications for the YWCA, said they are kicking off a matching fundraising campaign on Feb. 12. She said people can donate online (designating Haliburton County); by telephone; by holding an event; and via forms in the paper that can be mailed in. They are also planning a tag day for March 11 and are looking for volunteers and sponsors.

"Every single dollar makes a difference. If you can give

us a loonie at tag days, \$10 when you call or \$100 when normally you would give us \$30 ... it all doubles to help women and children. And it all stays local," Cureton said. As one of the clients anonymously said, "it will be forever grateful to this program. Without the kind, caring staff going out of their way to help us I wouldn't feel the confidence and strength to move forward. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

To donate: The phone number is 705-286-1942 and the website is [www.ywcapeterborough.org](http://www.ywcapeterborough.org).

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## Let's accept the challenge

There's a half-page ad on page 9 of today's Highlander we'd like you to look at.

It all started back on Dec. 8, 2016, when a Ms. Jennifer Careton, director of philanthropy and communications for the YWCA - Peterborough/Haliburton, appeared on a Minden Hills council agenda with a request for financial assistance to support shelter services in the County of Haliburton.

She didn't actually show up on that snowy Thursday. A winter storm kept her away. However her written presentation was posted to the Minden Hills website. We had a look.

It was troubling. We found out that YWCA HERS (Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace) had been closed from November 2015 to March 2016 due to lack of funds.

That means there was no Minden-based shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence for five months. They could still access other services, and be referred to out-of-town shelters, but could not get help in their - and our - own community. The presentation projected worse: beyond 2016-2017, the YWCA will not be able to continue to support women at a level that meets their needs, without additional funding from the community. They require \$120,000 to sustain their

Haliburton County operations for the next two years while working on a long-term sustainability plan. They've raised about \$90,000 of that, so still have \$30,000 to go. We moved all of this around Christmas, hoping the story wouldn't be lost in the season.

It wasn't. In fact, Haliburton resident Susan Hay read about the plight of the YWCA. She was so moved that she and husband Keith decided to donate an extremely generous \$10,000. Keith further figured they could match community donations dollar-for-dollar to pump a full \$20,000 into the Y's coffers. Careton eventually made it to a Minden Hills council meeting on Jan. 26. The council pledged \$5,000 to be split over two years. She is continuing to make her municipal rounds.

Today's page 9 ad is all about getting the Y over the line.

It explains how when you support the Y between Feb. 12 and Mar. 31, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar by the Hays up to \$10,000.

There are four easy ways to give: fill out the form in our paper and mail it with your cheque or credit card information; call the Y at 705-266-1942; donate online at www.ywcapeterborough.org; or plan, or attend, an event. For example, you could invite a

group of friends over for dinner and ask them to each contribute \$10 or \$20. That money will then be matched by the Hays. Careton isn't joking when she says even a loonie helps. A loonie becomes a tonnie.

Those who say this essential service is a provincial responsibility, or that our councils shouldn't have to shell out unbudgeted taxpayer funds for what might be someone else's shortsightedness, are absolutely correct. It's a disgrace that funding essential family services is falling on small communities with few resources.

And hopefully those same people realize that these concerns, valid as they are, can't be a priority. Right now, people in our community are in need, some desperately. We can help and we must help. Like the proverbial leaky boat, we can worry about who's properly responsible when the situation is stabilized.

As a community, let's accept the challenge and turn the Hays' generous donation of \$10,000 into \$20,000, so the YWCA can continue to help women and children living with domestic violence here at home.



By Lisa Gervais

## One big family

There has been a lot of talk about the role of the upper-tier of municipal government and its leader, the warden. The discussion was prompted by the departing words of last year's warden, Algonquin Highlands Ravee Carol Moffat. Among her suggestions was a longer term for the warden, who is currently selected on an annual basis from among the eight reeves and deputy reeves who make up county council. She has also floated the idea that perhaps the warden could be elected separately and serve the full four-year term, unencumbered by duties related to his or her municipal responsibilities. There are other options being floated.

I welcome this discourse. Institutions like municipalities need to examine themselves from time to time and take a cold, hard look at how they might serve their community better. Can you believe at one point there were 10 plus two municipal jurisdictions in the county: 10 township offices and staff, 10 roads and welfare departments, 10 building inspectors plus the Improvement District of Brockle, plus the county administration. All looking after a population at the time of less than 12,000 ... one municipal infrastructure for 1,000 residents. Harkening back to 2001 when the province mandated an amalgamation and the municipalities were

told to reduce the number in the lower-tier to four. Dysart et al was unchanged, but in the other three corners of the county, single township municipalities disappeared and were amalgamated into three larger administrative bodies.

At the time, I argued that the process did not go far enough and that there should be one municipal structure covering all of Haliburton County. The province mandated that solution for the municipalities in Victoria County and even imposed the name, City of Kawartha Lakes. It is worth noting that at the time, Victoria County/CKL had 15 municipal jurisdictions serving a population of 69,000.

One-tier municipal government is still an option I think should be given serious consideration and should be a part of the discussion. I favour a four-year term for the warden. I also lean toward electing a person to that position separately ... rather than the "whose turn is it this time" method of choosing. This would allow the warden to concentrate on county business rather than split his/her time between two levels of government.

Following the earlier forced amalgamations across the province, a study was undertaken to determine whether amalgamation to one municipal government within mostly rural counties

was viable. The results showed that, for the most part, there was no saving, a surprising finding for those of us watching from the outside thinking only one set of managers in all departments would be required across the county. Resources, in say the road department, could be deployed in a cost-effective manner ... even though the number of miles of roads to be maintained would not have changed. A single-tier would also reduce the number of council meetings and the infrastructure needed to support them. On the other hand, the position of warden and perhaps other elected officers would become a full-time job with the requisite compensation expectations.

So despite the report, while the municipal councilors study the role of the warden, it might also be an appropriate time to consider the overall structure of the municipal government in the county. Certainly, if the office of warden is on the table, at the same time the entire municipal structure should be too.



By Jack Brezina

## Clarification:

A story in the Feb. 2 issue of The Highlander "Former Minden councillor questions landfill decision" said Brigitte Gull was a former councillor and a Minden Hills ratepayer. She is also a consultant to Highlands Environmental, which has the contract at the Scotch Line landfill.

# Highlander news



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Breakfast with the Warden

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

7:30am

Rhubarb Restaurant  
Ghubarb Restaurant  
Haliburton Warden, Brent  
Devolin

Cost: \$35 for members,  
\$45 for non-members

RSVP to

autumn@haliburtonchamber.com  
or 705-457-4700

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The Highlander

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

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# County to give YWCA \$25,000

By Alex Coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Careton added the shelter's closure wasn't publicized because they didn't want to deter women from accessing their other services. "Whenever we raise money in Haliburton County it stays here," she said. Dyan Reeve Murray Feaney said

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Wilberforce Elementary squeaks out win against OPP

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

# Editorial opinion

## It's never too late

Dear editor,

(Re. Your story in the Feb. 9 Highlander about Susan and Keith Hay donating \$10,000 to the YWCA.) Just an incredible donation to the much-needed YWCA. I was one of those women in an abusive situation in Haliburton County. Please let Susan and Keith Hay know what a blessing this is.

I lived in the Haliburton area about 20 years ago. I was naive, and in an abusive relationship which I now realize was never love, nor healthy. I thought I was unable to go to the police because the partner I was with knew most of the OPP in town. I will never forget standing outside at night under the beautiful Haliburton sky in my driveway after being punched by my ex and fully aware that I was unable to do anything about it and making the slow walk back

into the house. The police wouldn't believe me (or so I thought). Friends noticed bruises, but never said anything.

I finally left, in my mid 20s. It was the best decision I ever made. I never was able to reach out during that time to any community services because there were simply none available. Life is beyond completely different now, for the positive.

Abuse is insidious. You start to believe the lies, toment and zero self-worth that is thrown at you daily. Thanks to people like Susan and Keith, I hope that donation can offer other women and children that glimmer of hope. It's never too late.

Anonymous

(Editor's note: the author has identified herself to The Highlander but requested anonymity.)

## Wants his own 'pride' recognized

Dear Editor,

I may also have to petition Minden council in order to have my own "pride" recognized, referring to your p. 5 group of last week (photo of the week, Feb. 2).

However, the only flag I may be able to exhibit will be my French flag (in honour of beautiful presidential candidate Marine Le Pen !) when your photographer snaps my pic.

Admittedly, my "pride" will be different. My own heart only beats faster when, at the gas bar, I have neatly recoiled the air hose not infrequently left in a jangle by the previous motorist.

I own another sin of "pridefulness" which

regularly drives me with baited breath, inside and outside of Haliburton's Tim Hortons, to pick up discarded cups and other less mentionable litter.

Driving around this peaceful village of ours, I fanatically hold as a rule to slow down and (Good Gracious!) brake in a "grud" gesture of citizenship or comradeship to all pedestrians. This kind of freewill volunteerism, I confess, serves me (in addition to my ancient age) as a feeble excuse to avoid, for example, giving blood to the bank or running for cancer around the county.

Charles Lutz

Haliburton

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

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Things are getting icy. Photo by Alex Coop.

## Floods, flies and fanciful thinking

It's spring!

I know it's spring because of the drip drip drip and the army of big fat hairy flies that have emerged from who knows where to live in my office. The damn things are visibly happy about the warming of the weather. I can tell because they buzz around like kamikaze pilots, seeming to take great glee in dive bombing my head as I sit here trying to craft another masterpiece for you folks to read.

Did you see how I got the excuse for a lackluster column in right at the top of this missive? Blame the insects, I say, it always works.

But spring, it's here, for sure. Picture me, slippers on, singing "it's springing, it's springing, everything is melting," while

waving my arms around in a circular motion in front of me and hopping from one foot to another (I'm dancing, dad dancing probably but you get the gist) all the while being dive bombed by fat hairy flies. But I don't care because Spring is here and I believe it, even if Eric, whom I met at the grocery store thinks that we're gonna get another blast of winter yet.

Now, Eric is one of those fellows who tends to know about these things. He's got some kind of direct line to Mother Nature, you see. Eric grows stuff, all kinds of stuff, and he does it really well. Whether it's Swiss chard or watermelon, heritage garlic or ancient apple varieties, Eric can grow it because he's in touch with the earth, the sky, and the elements. And yes, in quite a bippy way. But a way

that when he says we're in for another cold spell yet you have to kind of believe him.

And I do but I'm just going to try to ignore him this once and hope he's wrong because I like this warming of the weather. Even, if it turns my front yard into a river; one which flows directly into the lake that was formerly known as my garage. While, out in my backyard, the actual river slowly rises until it bursts its banks and turns my backyard and as far as the eye can see into a water world the likes of which Kevin Costner would be proud of (well, hopefully he'd be prouder of my water world than his film of the same name).

But, hey, who cares so long as winter is done.

Then again, maybe

I am getting a little premature. I mean, if spring comes two months early then surely bug season will follow swiftly, too. We'll have black flies in March and mosquitoes in April. I'll soon be ducking for cover as the big fat hairy flies who dive bomb my head don't do it for fun but instead be intent on taking a chunk out of me, too.

Hmm, the lesser of two evils ... another blast of arctic weather or hordes of hungry deer flies? Oh lovely reader, I wonder why do we subject ourselves to such evils but then I swear away another dive bomber and look out of my window and I know my view will look wonderful whatever the season.



By Will Jones

The Outsider



# Highlander events



Left: Mika Titze, a member of the Highlands Chamber Orchestra, delivers a moving violin solo. Middle: Outreach counsellor Paula Pepping provides some alarming statistics about local women fleeing abusive relationships. Right: Val Jarvis sings and plays guitar with her band members. Photos by Mark Arike.



## COUNTY OF HALIBURTON COMMITTEE VACANCIES

### Haliburton County Planning Advisory Committee

The Haliburton County Planning Advisory Committee is seeking two (2) interested individuals to fill vacancies as a Committee member for the remainder of the term of County Council ending Nov 30, 2018.

As a Committee Member you will:

- Be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older;
- Be a qualified elector in the County of Haliburton pursuant to the Municipal Act;
- Be able to demonstrate compliance with all relevant municipal by-laws;
- Have a planning background by education or experience;
- Have knowledge of rural Ontario issues;
- Understand general land use planning concepts and processes;
- Have knowledge of Haliburton Official Plans and Zoning by-laws;
- Be available to attend meetings during the day; and
- Be neither a member of a municipal council nor an employee of the County of Haliburton or any local municipality.

Note: Members are appointed to serve as individuals and shall not represent a specific interest group or agency. Members shall be chosen based on their interest, experience, availability, academic qualifications and expertise that they possess.

Preference will be given to the criteria above, however applicants without the above listed technical background may also be considered. The public member appointments may be renewed once, but such member shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms of County Council unless explicitly authorized by Council due to continuity of function related to a specific issue or planning exercise.

Any person having an interest in being appointed to the Planning Advisory Committee is invited to submit an expression of interest no later than Friday April 7, 2017, at 4 pm, detailing relevant experience and skills to the attention of:

Michael Rutter, County CAO/Clerk  
County of Haliburton,  
11 Newcastle Street, P.O. Box 399,  
Minden, Ontario N0M 2K0 705-286-4829 fax  
mrutter@county.haliburton.on.ca

## Community opens hearts, and wallets, for women's shelter

By Mark Arike

When local musicians and the community came together on Saturday afternoon at the Haliburton United Church, they raised more than \$1,000 for the YWCA.

About 70 people attended the event, which featured performances by Mika Titze, a member of the Highlands Chamber Orchestra, and The Two-Bit (some and Friends (Maggie Harris, George Claridge, Val Jarvis, Ted Scholtes, Steve Main and Don Siver).

"I'm just grateful that people came out and showed their support," said organizer Georgia Shank.

When Shank heard the YWCA had to close its Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace in Minden for five months due to a lack of funding, she decided to spring into action. The Minden resident said she was "in a pretty bad position" five years ago and had to access the YWCA's services.

The funds will be matched by

locals Susan and Keith Hay to bring the total to \$2,000. The couple has committed to matching all incoming donations, up to \$10,000.

Saturday's event also included a bake sale, with items donated by Shank and her friends.

The YWCA has been serving Haliburton County for 30 years, according to outreach counsellor Paula Pepping. Its emergency shelter, which is for women and children fleeing abusive relationships, has been operating for 10 years.

A total of 670 women in the county accessed counselling sessions last year. In the same period, the YWCA served 124 women and families, and received 1,200 crisis calls.

"We're looking forward to more support from this community," said Pepping, who thanked Shank and the musicians for getting involved.

Another fundraiser concert was held on Wednesday at the Haliburton School of Art and Design. See next Thursday's Highlander for coverage.

*I'm just grateful that people came out and showed their support.*

**Georgia Shank**  
organizer

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TUESDAY 14th

12:00-2:00  
ADULT SKATE

2:00-4:00  
PUBLIC SKATING

4:00-5:00  
SHINNY (ages 14-17)  
Protective gear required

WEDNESDAY 15th

12:00-2:00  
PUBLIC SKATING

2:00-3:00  
BROOMBALL  
Helmets required

3:00-4:00  
SHINNY (ages 8-13)  
Protective gear required

THURSDAY 16th

12:00-2:00  
ADULT SKATE

2:00-4:00  
PUBLIC SKATING

4:00-5:00  
SHINNY (ages 8-13)  
Protective gear required

5:00-6:00  
SHINNY (ages 14-17)  
Protective gear required

FRIDAY 17th

12:00-1:00  
PUBLIC SKATING

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Cost is \$2 participant and parents must be signed by a parent/guardian for anyone under the age of 17 (for shinny and broomball).

For more information contact Elicha at 705-286-2996 or ewess@minderhills.ca

# Highlander news



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## Passion drives YWCA fundraising campaign

### Community raises \$35,000 so far

By Lisa Gervais

Bonnie Rice hosted a YWCA HERS fundraiser while nursing an awful cold. Georgia Shark gave birth the day after her money-raising event. And, volunteers turned up for a tag day on a bitterly cold March Saturday — all showing the kind of passion that has driven a community to so far raise \$35,754 for a local women's shelter and its services.

Coupled with a County of Haliburton pledge of \$25,000 over two years, that brings the total to more than \$60,000.

"And we're still going," Jen Cureton, director of philanthropy and communications for the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, told *The Highlander* this week.

The fundraiser for the YWCA HERS (Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace) continues until March 31.

Cureton said that since announcing Susan and Keith Hay's donation of \$10,000 in matching funds, two other matching fund donors came forward. An anonymous couple put up \$4,000 and an anonymous woman \$5,000 to put matching funds at \$19,000.

Cureton said that they had been "reality pleasantly surprised by the outpouring of support." They've had new donors, people who hadn't given for a number of years come back, and people who always give, continue.

Initially, the organization said it needed a minimum of \$120,000 to continue operating the shelter and its programming. At the time, they had raised \$90,000 and had a \$30,000 shortfall.

However, Cureton emphasized this week that the \$120,000 was a bare minimum calculation. She said the actual costs are \$180,000 to \$200,000 a year and what

has been raised to date will now allow the shelter to remain open — and offer its services — over a two-year period while it works on a plan towards long-term sustainability.

The shelter had to be closed for five months in 2015-2016 due to a lack of funds.

Cureton said they would like to see base increase funding from the province, but are not confident. In the meantime, they are using provincial government money to hire a consultant to map out future plans. Cureton emphasized they will never be 100 per cent funded by government so will always have to fundraise for some money. However, at the moment they have been trying to raise \$80,000 to \$100,000 and that is too much.

While sheltered in a two-year cushion, Cureton said this campaign isn't only about money.

"We've just inspired by the women who've been inspired to tell their stories, and the women who might know about us now that didn't know about us before ... just the awareness built for our services and the issue in the county of violence against women."

She reiterated that money raised locally stays local.

As for the review, they've put out an RFP for a consultant and have been getting responses.

"We will be engaging in that work soon ... to help us frame how we build the business going forward."

As part of that process, Cureton said they would be reaching out to the community for its input.

In the meantime, she said, "We're so lucky with the outpouring of support from so many people, and the passion that so many people have shown."

## Jillian Hawley sits in House of Commons

By Alex Coop

Jillian Hawley's journey with the Daughters of the Vote program continued recently, this time with a week-long program in Ottawa.

In addition to a surprise breakfast with Canada's first female Prime Minister Kim Campbell, Hawley pointed to the main event on International Women's Day March 8 as the highlight of the week.

Hawley was one of 338 young women between the ages of 18 and 23 — one from each of the federal ridings — in Ottawa that day participating in the Daughters of the Vote, a program created by Equal Voice to promote the participation of women in politics and government.

"It was the epitome of why we were there," Hawley said. "Some of the speeches really brought me to tears."

She pointed to delegate Lianna Rice's impassioned speech about the frequency of suicides on reserves. Rice talked about her brother's suicide and her own attempt to end his life.

Rice is an Inuk woman from Labrador and was one of 70 Indigenous women in the group.

Hawley said more than a dozen delegates made speeches, and each one was met with a standing ovation.

"It was pretty funny, even the Speaker of the House commented and said the MPs could learn a thing or two from this," she said.

## Terry Carr Bill Kulas

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## **Community Service report/The Highlander**

Prior to a Minden Hills town council meeting in December of 2016, editor Lisa Gervais noticed a delegation was scheduled to appear from the YWCA Peterborough-Haliburton. Because of a snowstorm they never made it to that meeting, but Gervais looked into a written report buried deep in the agenda and unearthed a major story that had not yet been reported in Haliburton County. The one and only shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence had been forced to close its doors over a five-month period due to a lack of funding. While the centre in Minden still provided outreach, women had to leave their homes for shelters in neighbouring communities.

Gervais broke the story in December, 2016 but wasn't about to let it go. She knew that this was a crucial service to a community facing issues of poverty and isolation. She contacted Jennifer Cureton of the YWCA early in the new year (2017) and discussed how The Highlander and YWCA could team up to focus attention on the HERS shelter and the need to raise money.

The YWCA launched a matching dollar-for-dollar fundraising campaign with in-kind advertising support from The Highlander. The stories, and the money, came. We launched it with the tale of a local woman who donated \$10,000. We reported on all of the fundraisers organized by the community. We took a strong editorial stance, writing numerous editorials imploring the community, but also our elected officials, to donate.

By the end of March, the campaign was a roaring success, having surpassed its goal. The County of Haliburton donated \$25,000 and the campaign eventually reached \$183,269 (including money from the county and province). The money has allowed the shelter to remain open for at least two years while the YWCA works on a longer-term feasibility plan.

One of the most touching things we printed was a letter from an abuse victim who talked about the need for a shelter in the county and what it meant to her. That alone was thanks enough for us.

Lisa Gervais  
Editor  
The Highlander

Dear OCNA judges,

The work done by Lisa Gervais and the entire Highlander team went above and beyond our expectations of media. They provided thoughtful and action-provoking coverage, advertising support in-kind, and gave legitimacy to our campaign early on.

The work done by The Highlander, and Lisa in particular, was backed by research, and understanding of the issue and I was always pleased to work with her during the campaign. What's more, it followed a strategic cycle that kept the issue alive and held everyone accountable for their actions.

Their support was invaluable in securing a donation from the County, from major contributors in the community and from hundreds of people who cared about the issue, learned more by reading Lisa's work, and took action to make a donation

**Jen Cureton**

*Director of Philanthropy & Communications*

**YWCA Peterborough Haliburton**

216 Simcoe Street, Peterborough, ON K9H2H7

705.743.3526 x 130 - [www.ywcapeterborough.org](http://www.ywcapeterborough.org)