

INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

GIVING THANKS
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– special County Life section inside

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Ready to roll

Children launch their pumpkins down York Street on Saturday, Sept. 30 during Haliburton's Colourfest. The annual event included live entertainment, scarecrow contest, kids' zone, horse-drawn wagon rides, barbecue, vendors and more. See page 5. /DARREN LUM Staff

Steep electricity costs put pressure on HHHS budget

JENN WATT
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the Haliburton Highlands Health Services board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services was sitting with a small surplus at the end of July, reported Kathy Newton, chief financial officer.

However, keeping HHHS in the black is not without challenges and one of the biggest ones is hydro costs, which

"continue to be high despite the rebate received in July."

In the last year, HHHS spent \$585,000 on hydro between all of its properties.

"In the past two years, we have seen a 60 per cent increase in hydro costs, despite a small increase in usage (11 per

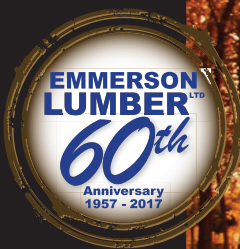
cent – resulting from growth in our services)," CEO Carolyn Plummer wrote to the Echo in a follow up email. "We are working on identifying strategies to reduce usage without negatively impacting services."

see HHHS page 13

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