

Better Newspapers Competition 2019
Photographer of the Year Submission: Darren Lum
Haliburton County Echo

One of the first things we ask new reporters to do when they begin working at the Haliburton Echo is to spend an afternoon learning from our reporter/photographer Darren Lum. With more than two decades of experience behind the camera, he's a resource for fellow reporters, an enthusiastic teacher and, of course, takes the kind of photos we marvel at week after week.

Because we're a small town paper in a county with a year-round population of about 18,000, the vast majority of reporters' assignments are community based. That means giving as much attention to high school hockey as you would the NHL, or spending as much time photographing a dance recital as you would the National Ballet. Darren has always been up for the challenge. He is deeply committed not only to telling the stories of people in the Haliburton Highlands, but to challenging himself to do so with more creativity and finesse each time he goes out on assignment.

This year, the Haliburton Echo and our sister paper the Minden Times came together to create a four-page feature of photos taken over the course of one 24-hour period. Immediately, Darren was engaged, coming up with ideas on presentation, content and technical specifications. Since we divided the photography among many staff members, we relied on Darren to help plan shots, which was especially important for those of us working in the wee hours of the morning when lighting can be difficult. Thanks to Darren we had a variety of images to work with when it came time to do the layout (which he also took on).

Darren has always been incredibly hard working and committed to his craft. The attention he gives to each assignment shows just how much he cares about the Haliburton Highlands and excellence in journalism.

Thank you for considering this entry.

Jenn Watt
Managing Editor
Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life



Night of lights

Above, using a long exposure shows off the light from the swing and carnival rides at the Haliburton Rotary Carnival on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the annual event, which includes a fireworks show and midway with games and rides, has been a summer staple for decades./DARREN LUM Staff

Right, five-year-old Millie McQuaid of Oshawa holds up the prize her grandmother won her after playing the Wacky Water Race during the Haliburton Rotary Carnival.



A visitor to the carnival takes a shot for a prize.

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#MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

Students engaged in researching local veterans

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followed by the parade to the cenotaph at 10:45 a.m. where the ceremony will take place.

The Bells of Peace is supported by Legion members, area churches, students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and the Haliburton Highlands Pipes and Drums.

Legion public relations officer Linda Heeps, who has been a resident of Haliburton for 11 years, put in months of work long before the Legion's Ontario Command sent out the plans for the Bells of Peace event to branches across the country.

Heeps had coincidentally already led an effort to investigate and confirm First World War veterans buried at several cemeteries, including Evergreen Cemetery. She wanted to compile a list to know which veterans needed a grave marker or to have their marker refurbished.

Part of the Bells of Peace event is having students do the research. Heeps gave what she had discovered to the HHSS leadership students, who have spent the past four weeks going through personnel files available online.

Heeps implores the public to honour those who served.

"I want people to come out and listen to the bells for a time when probably young boys and women innocently joined a great adventure and probably did the most (what I can't even imagine) the most horrific things and became heroes. Some of them are buried in the cemetery without a tombstone," she said. "What it's going to do for their memory is for all of us to realize a lot of people sacrificed a lot of things to make our land of peace. We need to honour these people because I wouldn't want to do it. Going to war is not fun and



Linda Heeps, Royal Canadian Legion Haliburton branch public relations officer, stands in front of the grave marker belonging to veteran Randolph Ruthven Tyler of the Royal Canadian Army 109 Battalion at the Evergreen Cemetery. /DARREN LUM Staff

so I'm hoping they come out and listen to the bells and remember a lot of people laid down their lives (or gave up a lot of their lives) to keep us in the beautiful country we live in."

There were 66,000 who died and 172,000 were wounded. Many who survived came home changed forever.

Heeps said this isn't about honouring war as it is honouring the sacrifice made for peace.

On Nov. 6, starting at noon, the leadership students will place flags at confirmed

First World War veterans' grave markers at Evergreen Cemetery. At the end of this ceremony, a bagpiper with the Haliburton Highlands Pipes and Drums will play Amazing Grace.

The newly launched leadership class is taught by Paul Longo, a teacher for 27 years, which he describes as student council in a classroom setting.

The students unearthed information never before known (or at least presented locally). They also visited the cemetery to map out where the veterans are buried to place flags.

The leadership class is responsible for organizing the high school's Remembrance Day event.

While researching for Bells of Peace, this class has also looked into learning more about the people behind the names of those listed on the Honour Roll in examining the online military service files. They list clinical charts, their pay, where they died, what they died of or how they died in action.

The importance of being able to present the new findings to correspond to the names on the Honour Roll puts a life to the names. "You're helping build an identity for these people. They're not just a name on a list. That's what we're trying to do," Longo said.

He hopes this effort will bring attention to the First World War. "My hope as a teacher is I hope it sparks an interest in reading more about the history of World War One and about the Canadian involvement in the war and why we have a Remembrance Day assembly and ceremony. Why it's important to remember," he said.

"It's making the story come alive," he said.

Longo invites the public to attend the high school's Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 9. It will include new information learned during this research effort. There are two time slots, one at 10:15 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. He expects Legion members to attend.

Among the things that surprised Heeps in this endeavour was learning that many of the files included next of kin as a landlady and not a wife or mother, which makes sense since men working in the Highlands at lumber camps were far from home and family, she said.

Heeps is moving forward with her effort to learn more about the individuals buried

at Evergreen.

She said that includes Dysart's first doctor, the first reeve, two civil war veterans and one unconfirmed member of the Devil's Brigade (includes Americans and Canadians) of the Second World War.

Heeps will be documenting the Bells of Peace event with still images and live video to send back to command. Following this event, Heeps will continue her research to confirm the identities of the First World War veterans buried in Evergreen Cemetery so that every identified grave site is decorated for Decoration Day during Legion Week in September next year.

Legion president Paul Sisson, who has served for four years, is proud of members' and community involvement.

"I'm certainly proud of the fact that we had so many volunteers put their hat in the ring and work towards getting it done," he said, referring to Adele Espina of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, Legion members, Heeps, Bill Timms and Bill Fry.

He wants the public to attend the event, which he hopes is received well by the community.

"One hundred years ago there were people trying to put a stop to democracy and a lot of people died fighting that idea so if it wasn't for them we just wouldn't have the lifestyle we have now as a Canadian," he said.

Heeps said in going through the attestation papers of the veterans, she thought of what motivated many young people (some younger than 18), who volunteered. Many thought serving would take them on a great adventure.

"We all know what the adventure was. Vimy Ridge and all of these places was no great adventure. It was a kind of horrific thing they experienced. They went over there and did their duty. Some of them were in those trenches for years with body parts hanging out of the walls not knowing if they were going to die [while] rats were running over their feet and then they came back to a world that didn't understand PTSD [post traumatic stress disorder]. They didn't understand mental health and what they had to endure within their own brain. I'm thinking when the war was over the world spontaneously rang those bells because they thought it's over. Thank God, it's over," she said.

Minden, Irondale and Wilberforce are also hosting their own Bells of Peace events.

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Improved communication, goal setting among priorities

from page 1

Ward 4 was won by John Smith, who received 1,203 votes. Aaron Walker, who was also campaigning for that job, received 375.

Walt McKechnie, the incumbent in Ward 5, kept his seat in a close race with Glenn Scott. McKechnie received 649 votes. Scott received 635.

Of 13,424 registered voters, 6,059 cast a ballot – just more than 45 per cent.

Andrea Roberts said she thought voters were looking for change and a different direction.

"I'm excited to lead the next council," she said. "I'm thrilled with all the people that got elected."

One of her priorities will be improving communication – part of that with seasonal residents. To that end she said she wants to hold town hall meetings at least once per year.

Planning and goal setting will be another priority when the new

council meets, she said.

On the topic of Murray Fearrey, who has led Dysart et al for decades, Roberts said she admired him and commended him for dedicating his life to public service.

"I didn't run against him; I ran for myself," she said.

She said Fearrey had called her to wish her well.

In Algonquin Highlands, where two races were contested, unofficial results show Julia Shortreed winning Ward 1 and Jennifer Dailloux winning Ward 3. Carol Moffatt was acclaimed to the position of mayor; Lisa Barry and Liz Daniels were acclaimed as councillors for Ward 2.

As of press time, results were not in for Highlands East or Minden Hills.

See our website haliburtoncho.ca and next week's paper for additional coverage of the election.

With files from Darren Lum



With friend Dale Walker, left, Dysart et al mayoral candidate Andrea Roberts reacts to the news of her election victory while at her home in Haliburton on Monday, Oct. 22. Roberts won 57.82 per cent of the 5,958 votes cast, incumbent Murray Fearrey received 42.18 per cent of the vote. /DARREN LUM Staff

Growing culinary tourism in Haliburton County

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during an Oct. 10 meeting of the Haliburton County tourism advisory committee.

Committee members heard a presentation from Rebecca Mackenzie, president of the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance about the continued and growing importance of food-based tourism in the province.

"It isn't just a dining experience," Mackenzie said, adding food-based tourism can include experiences such as visiting microbreweries, wineries or orchards.

Mackenzie was promoting the CTA's Feast On certification, which recognizes establishments for using Ontario-grown and processed ingredients.

"This is good for the economy, good for our farming industry and the food processing industry," she said.

To qualify, businesses must go through an audit process, demonstrating they meet the threshold for Ontario-based ingredients.

Currently in Haliburton County, Carnarvon's Rhubarb restaurant is the sole Feast On-certified dining establishment.

"I'm happy to hear the standards are high; it means that it's meaningful," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. "If it was easy to get in, everybody would be on the train."

The county is hiring a food tourism coordinator on a contract to create a couple of major food-based programs. The county obtained provincial funding for the creation of the contract position.

Marketing the county in 2019

Tourism director Amanda Virtanen presented committee members with a draft marketing plan for 2019, incorporating feedback from stakeholders and a survey issued by the tourism department. Virtanen will be seeking more input from stakeholders on the draft, before bringing it back to the committee once again.

"We're going to focus in 2019 on enhancing our Google presence," Virtanen said, adding that while the Haliburton Highlands Twitter and Facebook

accounts have significant followings, she also plans to focus on boosting its numbers on social media photo-sharing app Instagram in the upcoming year.

"I'd like to increase that 20-fold," she said.

The Haliburton Highlands Facebook page has more than 21,000 likes, and its Twitter account nearly 5,000 followers. Its Instagram audience is currently fewer than 1,000.

Virtanen said she would also like to increase the number of videos on the Haliburton Highlands YouTube channel.

"I'd love to see more videos on there from across the county," she said. Positive Media is currently creating an "Ask a Local" video series for the county.

The county will continue to populate its new tourism website with user-generated imagery and continue to tailor activities towards the "travelling consumer," that being someone who travels 40 kilometres or more to a destination, perhaps just for a day trip. Given the county's size, residents themselves can be travelling consumers within their own community.

The tourism department's target audience is represented by a hypothetical couple named Karen and Jake, a youngish couple with disposable income, seeking an authentic experience and who like to share their adventures via social media.

"We're not just focused on Karen and Jake," Virtanen said. "We're able to use Karen and Jake as conduits to other secondary markets."

There are also plans to enhance the Hike Haliburton festival with a snowshoeing event, that would take place in 2020.

No go for CoHo

Committee members were to receive samples of limited edition clothing produced by CoHo Apparel. The county and the company have been in conversation for a number of months and while the committee has seen images of the proposed merchandise, members said they were disappointed that physical samples of the clothing had not come to fruition.

Councillors on the committee agreed that the issue of a new limited edition clothing line would be left to the new county council.

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sports



Red Hawks girls' varsity rugby player Chloe Samson breaks past defenders in a 25-10 victory over the visiting LCVI Spartans on Thursday, Oct. 11 at the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field in Haliburton. The Hawks will host St. Mary on Tuesday, Oct. in Haliburton./ DARREN LUM Staff

Hawks run roughshod over Spartans

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

For the second Kawartha Senior Girls Rugby league game the Hawks ran out on the pitch at the conclusion of regulation in jubilation

This time they did it with a dominating effort on defence and offence against the LCVI Spartans on Thursday, Oct. 11 at the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field in front of a strong crowd, lining one sideline.

Coach Alexis David was proud of the team following the win, particularly how far they have come from beginners to being the players they are.

"They understand the game. They are continuously playing. They're making their tackles. They're making their rucks. They're hitting all those things. So for me it makes me really proud and happy to be part of the program. I think for them it's just building on their skills and they're getting more confident every single time. I think that our team as a whole is just getting closer and closer together. I think that unity and togetherness is making us play better," she said.

The night before the game the team came together to focus on achieving individual goals.

"We need to help each other reach all of our individual goals," she said.

Some of the individual goals included touching the ball, executing a big hit, getting a run and hit every other ruck.

This game featured offensive contributions from a variety of players.

Tries were scored by Senna Marra, Chloe Samson, McKenna Johnston, Rachael Norman, and Charlotte Paton. Not figuring on the scoresheet, but contributing with noteworthy efforts is Kailynn Sikma, whether with long runs, breaking tackles or hitting opponents.

During the game when the Hawks were executing on the field and holding their lead, Hawks coach Carson MacDonald said he was happy to see the success. MacDonald has been with the program for several years.

The home game is a showcase for the girls, who are proud of their school, David said.

"They have that much more energy on a home field because they feel motivated knowing their friends and family are all here to cheer them on. They get so excited when [they] talk about 'My mom got the day off work and my dad got here.' And they're so excited to be around their friends and families. It just amps up the intensity and they put that much more into a game. To win on home field is really cool to show how far our pro-

gram has come over the years," she said.

Coming into the contest, the Spartans were winless through four games and were at the bottom of the seven team league.

The Hawks are in the bottom half, but are quickly moving up with five points (four points for a win and one bonus point for scoring four or more tries) on Thursday. Other points in this league are awarded with ties worth two and one point for losing by less than seven points. This lopsided victory easily puts the Hawks close to the middle of the pack. (Game results remained outstanding before press time.)

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, the Hawks will host St. Mary. Their upcoming opponents on paper are beatable, having given up 220 points as of Wednesday, Oct. 10 while the Hawks had surrendered a 109 points less. Both teams have beaten Adam Scott. However St. Mary beat Adam Scott 27-10 while Haliburton edged them out 17-12.

Tuesday will be an opportunity and a test for both.

The victor from the game will take a spot in the standings not far from the leaders.

David knows the team can still improve even with a few games left in the regular season.

"They improve every single day even if we look at the last week's game to this week's game, there were so many improvements in one week. They're improving all the time," she said. "I want to see them spread out more. I want to see them move forward more on defence ... today was moving in that direction. We had more and more people hitting the rucks and getting those tries. New faces and new names."

Note: this is technically the Hawks second win out of the last three games. Haliburton officially lost to TASS by default on Oct. 5 when an official was unavailable. When asked about an appeal David wrote the coaching staff is looking into "fair solution" or a "long term solution so this doesn't happen again."



The Red Hawks girls' varsity rugby team celebrates their second win of the season following a 25-10 victory over the visiting LCVI Spartans.