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# The Highlander

Thursday **December 19 2019** | Issue 420

**INSIDE: MERRY CHRISTMAS! NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 9**

**FREE**



Aaron Paura displays one of his forge works, a knife, at Wrap It Up, the end-of semester exhibition at Haliburton School of Art and Design this past Saturday. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

## Eagle Lake man dies after falling through ice

**By Joseph Quigley**

The Eagle Lake community is grappling with a tragic death after a man fell through the ice at Bushwolf Lake Dec. 14.

Larry Bagg, 57, was on the lake in a truck ploughing a track when the ice broke beneath him. Haliburton Highlands OPP and firefighters responded to the scene.

Although the Algonquin Highlands Fire Department ice rescue, with assistance from Dysart et al's department, recovered Bagg, he was pronounced dead after being taken to hospital.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts acknowledged the incident during a Dec. 16 council meeting.

"It's a real tragedy and it makes me very sad," Roberts said. "Keep your loved one's close and we really appreciate the efforts of our volunteer firefighters who had to go to another tragedy."

Condolences have poured in across social media as people react to the incident. A post-mortem has been ordered by the coroner.

Dysart et la fire chief Mike Iles said it was an unfortunate circumstance but

the response went well. The two fire departments arrived at the staging area at the same time and although Dysart's is shore-based, the two worked together to retrieve Bagg.

"Water rescue requires an immense number of people," Iles said. "We just worked together as a team."

Both OPP and firefighters are emphasizing people should use caution and keep safe on the ice.

"No ice is ever 100 per cent safe," police said in a press release. "Be very cautious when going out on the ice."

Algonquin Highlands firefighters suffered minor injuries after getting in an incident when returning from the Dec. 14 call.

The fire department reported its rescue truck was involved in a collision Dec. 14 but that all four in the vehicle were released from the hospital.

"Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Please respect our firefighters' privacy as they recover," the department said on Twitter. "Thank you to the doctors and nurses in Haliburton and Peterborough hospitals for treating and looking after our firefighters."

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