

Getting the scoop on Kawartha Dairy

By Lisa Gervais

A household name in Haliburton County has now expanded into western Canada – as well as opened three new retail stores this year.

Kawartha Dairy owner Mike Crowe told *The Highlander* that since his family's company was founded in 1937, it has become a staple in Ontario cottage country. It has a retail store in Minden and its products can be found across the Highlands.

He said their ice cream is still made the traditional way with fresh milk and cream from local farms, and people can find it in most major grocery stores across Ontario, a large number of partner scoop shops, and 13 Kawartha Dairy stores.

He added Kawartha Dairy ice cream is now available in Calgary Co-op and Freson Brothers in Alberta, and 12 scoop shops in British Columbia.

"We're excited to bring the taste of the Kawarthas to consumers in Western Canada," he said.

Crowe added they are also "thrilled" to share that they have opened three new Kawartha Dairy retail stores this year, with customers in Burlington, Cobourg and Danforth now experiencing their "small-town values, and high-quality customer service... and we're excited to be part of those communities."

Crowe said this year they also launched four new ice cream flavours – Dockside,



Kawartha Dairy in downtown Minden continues to be a busy place. *File.*

Cappuccino, Grape, and Nanaimo Bar.

"And this September, look for our new Spiced Apple Ripple," he said. They now have 50-plus flavours.

Crowe teased, "we can't give you the inside scoop on 2025 just yet, but let's just say you can expect some new flavours and more exciting news in the future."

In 2017, the Kawartha Dairy Company celebrated its 80th anniversary of the 100 per cent Canadian, 100 per cent family-owned company. It is still operated by the same family that started it back in the beginning.

In 1937, Jack and Ila Crowe took a leap of faith and bought a small dairy in Bobcaygeon. The early 1960s saw the

company expand to Minden, where it opened a depot and its now famous dairy bar.

"Although the office and plant are in Bobcaygeon, to many cottagers and summer visitors the heart of Kawartha Dairy lies in Minden, where stopping for a cone is an essential part of summer," the company says on its website.

MINDEN HILL NEWS

Short-term rental rules

Planner Amanda Dougherty told council Sept. 12 a license of occupation is required for any building or structure on a municipally-owned shore road allowance for short-term rentals.

She said an intent to purchase the shore road allowance is only required if the dwelling being used to sleep in is one of those structures.

Dougherty further clarified sleeping cabins associated with the short-term rental can be used with the short-term rental; and giving notice of insurance changes is the

responsibility of the property owner or the responsible person on the license.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey queried the County of Haliburton appeal process for short-term rentals, including fees.

Mayor Bob Carter said it was discussed at the Sept. 11 County council meeting, since the County will handle appeals. He said the County will set up the fee structure. "We hope it's going to be at a minimal cost, but it is still being developed over the next couple of weeks." He said the County would come to townships to explain the process.

Coun. Ivan Ingram wanted to know about

demerit points and was told three or more would result in suspension or revoking licenses for six months.

Fees and charges

Minden Hills resident, Diane Peacock, was the only member of the public to speak to the township's new comprehensive fees and charges bylaw at a Sept. 12 council meeting.

Some adjustments are being implemented now, some, specifically around short-term rentals, Oct. 1, and others Jan. 1, 2025.

Peacock spoke to a rental increase at the community centre.

"Minden Hills council, you are going to be killing your rentals for the community centre by upping your prices," she said. She said the changes will mean renting rooms one and two will now cost more than \$400.

Consequently, she said there would not be a Christmas craft sale there in 2025. "I will move it to Haliburton to the legion because I can get the legion for a \$300 rental."

She added she was opposed to all of the fee increases.

See the fees and charges on the council agenda of Sept. 12. They are expected to be finalized Sept. 26. (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais*).



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New restaurant Buzz-ing at Sandy Lane Resort

By Mike Baker

Having recently invested in Sandy Lane Resort, new owner Efjay Singh said he’s already feeling at home in Haliburton County.

Singh and his family, recent immigrants from India, purchased the Algonquin Highlands-based resort earlier this year, formally taking over the property Feb. 1. He said it was his first venture into the hospitality industry in Ontario, with the deal coming about completely by chance.

“We had never been to Haliburton County before – we only moved to Canada in December. It was just coincidence that we ended up here. We were scouting for some resort properties in western Ontario, out near Kenora, but the market really pulled us back towards eastern Ontario,” Singh, who prefers to go by Efjay, said. “It’s been a great first few weeks here. We’re very excited.”

One of Efjay’s first moves was to renovate and reopen the in-house restaurant at Sandy Lane Resort. A new eatery, The Buzz, has been operating for several weeks, running dinner service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and a breakfast/brunch buffet on Sundays.

Local chef Michael Wright, who also cooks at Mulligan’s in Minden, has been hired to run the kitchen. Efjay said it’s been a great partnership thus far – while the menu is small, featuring pizzas, burgers, butter chicken and salads, they will be expanding their options, with new features added



Sandy Lane Resort is under new ownership, recently opening a new restaurant, The Buzz. Submitted.

weekly. He said a bar will be opening next week, with appetizers added to the menu.

Having also upgraded the reception and main lobby area, Efjay said he will be slowly investing in the rest of the property over time. There will be some landscaping work in the spring.

He plans to introduce new programming at the resort, geared towards children and those interested in the arts.

“We want to work to make this more of a family place. I’m putting a calendar together for next year with different offerings – there are a lot of gaps in certain months where we’d like to bring things to the community that people would be interested in doing. For example, in April, we will look to do more with the arts and culture, where we attract writers and artists for different workshops and programs,” Efjay said.

“We also want to have more winter programs for children, so they can come and explore the outdoors. Wellness programs for people looking to detox and get away from the stress in their lives. I’m very much wanting to focus on hospitality and creating new experiences for people,” he added.

For more information, visit sandylaneresort.com.



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WEEKEND
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The Highlander

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INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS

FREE



Con-grad-ulations

Kate Walker was awarded the principal all-round student award. She is pictured with principal Mike Gervais and vice principal, Michelle Kernohan, at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School grad June 24. ASES kicked off this week's grads ceremonies. See our grad section in the July 4 Highlander. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Residents rock the boat over Kash wakes

By Mike Baker

Lake Kashagawigamog resident Lance Payne is fed up with not being able to safely access the water from his private dock during daytime hours throughout the summer.

He was one of four delegates pleading with Dysart et al council June 25 to implement rules limiting the impact of boat wakes on

the Lake Kash chain. He was joined by Lake Kashagawigamog Organization president Wendy Hampson, Dr. Timothy James, and Silver Beach resident Dave Tranter, who said they've been dealing with the issue for two years.

It started, they say, when Haliburton Hockey Haven, a local youth camp, started

offering wakeboarding on Lake Kash in 2022.

"They run two wake boats continuously for six hours daily, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (breaking for lunch) every weekday in July and August. This is not allowing property owners to engage in safe water-related activities in a fair or equitable manner,"

Payne said. "We also have concerns about ecological damage in the future."

Payne said the boats regularly send waves up to three-feet high careening towards the shore.

"It's dangerous – people feel like they can't go swimming, they can't go out in kayaks or

Continued 'Councillors' on page 2

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Councillors confident about compromise

Continued from page 1

canoes. It's impossible to sit on the deck without being thrown around," Payne added. "The objective is not to remove wake boats from this lake, it's to look at a more equitable use in sharing the water."

Tranter said the Silver Beach community is up in arms, too. He estimates their association has spent approximately \$50,000 repairing docks and other equipment by the water due to excessive wakes over the past two years.

He said this was about more than money, however.

"It's not safe down by the water when these boats are running – one of our residents fell between their dock and boat last year after a wake," Tranter said. "I want council's support to come up with a reasonable solution to this, because it has to stop."

Hampson said LKO administration met with Troy Binnie, who owns Haliburton Hockey Haven, June 4 to see if they could work out any issues. She said they spent two years trying to organize a meeting, and while she was thankful for the opportunity to connect, the two parties left without an arrangement.

Binnie said he was unaware the issue was before council, telling *The Highlander*, "I realize there are a lot of wakeboard boats or similar in the 22-mile chain of lakes we are on, but I do know our drivers have been trained to respect and protect our lake and our campers, with safety being our top priority."

He added that all Hockey Haven boats are equipped with front and rear dash cams to ensure the training and safety of campers is "constantly recorded and reviewed so we can make sure our staff are following the federal

boating guidelines, as well as those around us."

James, a scientist who works in ecological conservation, said as dangerous as these wakes are for people, they're worse for the environment.

"Without question, there's evidence to support citizen observations of shoreline damage, changes to lake ecology and water quality... a new and significant physical stressor [has been added] to our lake system. When you add a new stressor like this, the system responds. It's this response that's the cause of concern," James said.

He noted the County's lakes are "pristine" but due to the delicate balance of nutrients in the water, he's afraid the wakes could skew things and lead to the formation of algae and growth of weeds in the water.

"Unfortunately, one of the best ways to introduce unwanted nutrients like phosphorous into the water is by eroding our shorelines and stirring up underwater sediments... this can happen naturally, but the relationship between wake size and its power is exponential. A small increase in wake size means a really big increase in what it can erode," James said, noting the waves created by wakeboarding on Lake Kash are up to 17 times stronger than natural waves.

James said the wakes are likely impacting fish and other wildlife native to Lake Kash, and the use of larger boats, like those used for wakeboarding, increases the risk of introducing invasive species to the system.

Payne said he'd like to see Dysart connect with Transport Canada to establish Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) on Lake Kash. He said the deadline for new applications for summer 2025 is Aug. 15.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie said he



Silver Beach resident Dave Tranter and Wendy Hampson of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization want Dysart et al council to take action on boat wakes. Photo by Mike Baker.

wasn't in favour of going that route - yet.

McKechnie said he spoke with Binnie this week, who, he claims, has agreed to a compromise – reducing the sound of music on one boat he'll maintain on Little Kash, and moving the second boat to Big Kash "a few days of the week." McKechnie believes the township should focus on educating people rather than jumping straight to enforcement.

"Bringing in VORR is not the right answer... I'd like to see us communicating with all lake associations to let the people know about the respect they should have for

our lakes and shorelines," McKechnie said.

Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts said she spent time on Lake Kash last summer and said the boats were "very noisy" and the large wakes made it impossible for people to access the water, especially with children.

Ward 1 coun. Pat Casey said the township should work with Hockey Haven to ensure they're following through with the proposed compromise and see what impact, if any, that has. If the issue remains, council can discuss more stringent measures.

"We're trying to come up with something that is workable for everyone," Casey said.

Rain damages Forest roads and trails

The Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve says they were "slammed with an incredible amount of rain," this past weekend, which has caused significant damage to their roadways - and possibly trails across their 100,000 acres.

As of 5:30 p.m., June 24, they reported flooding due to peak storm water runoff in a number of areas. They are advising that some of these areas can be driven with a truck, but not a car, others are passable with care, and others not at all.

The Forest also reported a number of washouts, including a major one near the picnic spot at the northwest corner of the lake, and deemed impassable.

They also advised of "numerous locations where roadsides have washed out at culverts. Caution must be taken as not all are marked."

The Forest added, "there may be places we don't know of yet. Please send reports of road and trail issues to reservations@haliburtonforest.com, phone 800-631-2198 or come into the office.

"Storm water levels should start to recede

in the coming hours and days allowing for safe passage throughout the forest. The roads crew is mobilizing equipment to deal with washouts, balancing the needs of Forest experiences and Forest products."

Canopy tours are not affected at this time. Some overnight campsites may be a bit rougher than usual but they hope to have things cleaned up by the weekend. (Lisa Gervais).



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