

Dear judges,

We believe Joseph Quigley is deserving of the Stephen Shaw Award for Reporter of the Year.

These three stories were all relevant to our community: the evacuation of a long-term care home due to roof leaks; girls deprived of ice time at the local hockey arena; and a dispute between parties over a building of some significance to the general public.

In the case of the Highland Wood story, Quigley cut through the rhetoric being dished out by hospital management. We had heard of people dying, perhaps prematurely, due to them being relocated at advanced age to other facilities. He fearlessly tackled this story, tracking down a widower who was prepared to share his story and then asking the tough questions of hospital management. (Incidentally we are still chasing this story today via FOI requests and appeals).

In the case of girls' ice hockey, he focused on a seeming injustice towards female hockey players. He wrote a fair piece of journalism, and in the end, the main user of the rink awarded more time to female players.

In the case of the Donald Chemical Plant story, there was much gathering of information and a solid interview with one of the parties to the dispute. The second party initially declined to speak. However, when the first piece came out, he soon contacted Quigley to get his side across.

In all case,s it's the type of initiative ... and fighting for the underdog ... that the paper prides itself on.

Lisa Gervais

Editor

The Highlander



HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM FREE The Highland Storm FREE The Highland Storm FREE Thursday February 14 2019 Issue 376

INSIDE: HIGHLANDER REAL ESTATE GUIDE



HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

Girls hockey camp shut out of summer day ice

By Joseph Quigley

For 10-year-old Atom hockey player Tavia Harris, participating in the all-girls M-Power Hockey summer camp in 2017 was a strong learning experience.

"That was around the time

I just started playing hockey. We figured it would be a good experience for me," Harris said. "It was really fun. We had a lot of ice time and it was just fun playing with a lot of different girls."

The week-long camp was run

by M-Power Hockey founder Mandy Cronin. The Torontobased hockey school launched its first-ever overnight summer camp in Haliburton in 2017, renting Hockey Haven facilities and using Hockey Haven's booked ice time at A.J. LaRue Arena. Cronin said she was drawn to the locale due to its outdoor recreation. Besides hockey skills, the camp also sought to offer campers leadership development, Cronin said. "I started this business so

See "Next" on page 5

Leaky roof forces Highland Wood evacuation

By Joseph Quigley

Residents of Highland Wood Long-Term Care Home were all relocated by Feb. 7 due to leaks in the facility from melting snow and ice.

In a Feb. 6 press release, Halliburton Highlands Health Service (HHHS) said due to the leaks, several Highland Wood residents were being relocated to other parts of the building and neighbouring long-term care facilities

In a follow-up press release Feb. 7, HHHS said all Highland Wood residents were being relocated after a detailed inspection of the roof.

HHHS president and chief executive officer Carolyn Plummer said the leaks in the facility have been extensive.

"In multiple areas, including hallways and resident rooms," Plummer said in an email. "Our maintenance team has been working around the clock to divert water off the roof and to monitor leaks inside the building as the ice melts and the rain falls. Despite this, there is a risk for more leaks to occur. For this reason, it is no longer safe to keep residents in the facility."

The roof of the building was scheduled for repair in the spring, Plummer said. In a press release Feb. 11, Plummer said HHHS had its facilities, including roofs, assessed in 2017 as part of its capital program. The assessment recommended the roofs be proactively within 2018-2021 and a tender was awarded in July 2018 to replace the roofs of both Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest.

Hyland Crest's roof was completed in 2018. However, Plummer said weather conditions prevented them from See **"Too"** on page 2



The Highlander

Highlander news

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

Summer program protests Hockey Haven contract

By Joseph Quigley

Dysart et al's decision to allot summer evening ice at A.J. LaRue Arena to Haliburton Hockey Haven is upsetting other local programs who have historically booked that ice-time.

The decision came at the Sept. 24 council meeting, when Dysart et al council voted to authorize the mayor and clerk to execute an agreement with Hockey Haven to give them exclusive weekday rights for 2019 summer ice at A.J. LaRue Arena. The agreement extended Hockey Haven's allotted ice-time to include both daytime and evenings.

Monica Keefer said she has been running a power-skating program at A.J. LaRue Arena on Monday nights in the summer for the past eight years. It serves about 45 kids every year across three age brackets, with a waiting list.

But her usual ice-time from 6:30-9:30 p.m. has now largely been allotted to Hockey Haven.

"I know they are a business and they have their own programs to run, but my feeling and frustration is, at what cost to the rest of us?" Keefer said. "Nobody ever did the homework to ask the rest of us that use this if this was going to be detrimental."

In an emailed statement, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said the contract extension was seen as a positive move and that Hockey Haven has invested in the community. "Council did not discuss the impact to other programs and I personally was not aware it would negatively affect anyone," she said. "The contract was seen as a good business decision and was not intended to upset or alienate anyone."

The new agreement booked Hockey Haven for ice at A.J. La Rue Arena from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. through the first seven weeks between July 1 and Labour Day. For the last two weeks of that period, Hockey Haven is booked from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hockey Haven expanding its summer ice booking is expected to increase municipal revenue from ice rentals by approximately \$25,000.

Keefer said she was never contacted about Hockey Haven taking on her usual ice time and did not become aware until trying to book ice in December. She added there are other local programs facing a similar situation.

Roberts said the contract allows for subletting of ice time for Hockey Haven at the same rate they pay the municipality. However, that subletting is kept optional. Roberts also said Hockey Haven is

proposing a solution to the municipality and something on the matter will be presented at the Feb. 26 regular council meeting.

Hockey Haven Owner Troy Binnie said he sought the extra ice-time due to the continued growth of Hockey Haven programming.



DEBRA LAN

FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS CALL

RE/MAX[®] NORTH COUNTRY REALTY INC., INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

705-457-1011

Monica Keefer said a skating program she has run for years using summer ice at A.J. LaRue Arena had its usual ice-time allotted to a new contract for Hockey Haven without her knowledge. "I know they are a business and they have their own programs to run, but my feeling and frustration is, at what cost to the rest of us?" she said. *Photo by Joseph Quiglev*

He said he could not offer details on what he is proposing until he works it out with the municipality. But he added this yeat he "100 per cent" expects to be able to accommodate groups who have been regularly using summer evening ice at A.J. LaRue Arena.

However, he said years beyond summer 2019 were not something he could yet discuss.

"I'm not going to comment on that part until I finalize my talks with the township on this," he said. "I'm trying to be the nice guy."

Binnie said Hockey Haven wants to support the community.

"We're here for the community. We're here to help," he said.

Keefer said she understands Hockey Haven does good in the community, but that does not counter the negative feelings about her previous ice time getting booked up. "I just feel like we're being pushed aside," she said.

Next summer never came for girls hockey camp

Continued from page 1

I could make sure all these young girls would have access to all of us females who now can play professional female hockey," Cronin said. "A lot of lack of confidence in young girls. My goal is to have more of these camps where we can have young girls come and their mutual connection is hockey."

The camp in Haliburton succeeded in 2017, Cronin said, attracting approximately 30 attendees.

"Everybody loved the camp, rave reviews, couldn't wait for the next summer," Cronin said.

But next summer never came for the camp.

Cronin said there was a split with Hockey Haven. Efforts to secure facilities and icetime through Hockey Haven did not work out.

Hockey Haven owner Troy Binnie said M-Power wanted to run a camp program different from Hockey Haven's. He said outside groups that use Hockey Haven's camp facilities are expected to use its camp programming, but can be independent with on-ice activity.

"I like Mandy, I have no problems with her, but I'm running a business," Binnie said. "I'm also running a brand and our brand is Haliburton Hockey Haven."

M-Power Hockey instead made arrangements to use Bark Lake Leadership and Conference Centre for camping in

2018.

However, when it came to ice-time at A.J. LaRue Arena, which Hockey Haven had booked for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the summer, Binnie said he could not give the time up.

"We use the ice every day," he said. "Our programs are running all day long ... so I'm not going to give up my ice-time."

Without Hockey Haven, Cronin reached out to Dysart et al to secure summer daytime ice. She said those efforts proved unsuccessful, due to Hockey Haven having daytime ice booked throughout July and August.

"Very disheartening that going all the way up the ranks in this municipality and nobody can negotiate to get us just two hours of ice a day for our girls," Cronin said.

However, the municipality did offer evening ice-time. After weeks of backand-forth, Cronin said she was provided an evening ice slot, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said summer ice would not even be in place at A.J. LaRue Arena were it not for Hockey Haven's usage.

With respect to M-Power Hockey, Roberts noted they were offered some ice time. "They were offered ice time lact year and

"They were offered ice time last year and didn't take it," Roberts said in an email.

But Cronin said the evening ice slot was problematic as it would impact the camp's

night activities, as well as being difficult logistically due to the drive from Bark Lake.

Ultimately, Cronin said she had to cancel the 2018 camp due to how long the process took to secure the ice, with prospective campers already signing up for other camps.

Haliburton cottager Christine Jurusik sent two daughters to M-Power Hockey camp in 2017. She said they loved it and were devastated when they found out they could not go back in 2018.

She said girls sleepaway camp is an "entirely different experience" than a co-ed camp and can help teenage girls more easily be themselves.

"I'm saddened to think the people who make the decisions about appropriating icetime wouldn't reserve a portion of the icetime exclusively for girls hockey," Jurusik said. "Traditionally, girls hockey has taken a second seat to boys hockey with icetime."

Binnie said Hockey Haven attracts about 70 girls to its programs each year, offers female instructors and also has girls teams use its facilities. The camp reportedly had a growing enrolment of 650 campers total in 2016.

Binnie said Hockey Haven has not really considered a girls-only hockey camp program like M-Power Hockey ran in 2017. "There's a need for those (camps) that are just girls. We're just not really set up for it," Binnie said. "You shut down a week, then the boys don't get to play ... how would you do a good balance? The only way you can do a proper balance, I think, is to keep it co-ed and the options are open for anybody."

Trying to get ice-time for summer 2019 has also proven difficult, Cronin said.

She said she first asked the municipality about getting that ice in February 2019, without response, to try to avoid a repeat of 2018's cancellation.

In an e-mailed comment, Roberts said because of their contract, Hockey Haven still had daytime summer ice booked. When Cronin reached out to the

municipality again in September 2019, she said she was told no ice was available – not even evening ice.

At a Sept. 24 council meeting, Dysart et al council voted to proceed with a new contract for Hockey Haven, which extended their ice-time to include both daytime and evenings in 2019.

Elizabeth Foote, Harris's mother, said it is a struggle to get fair play for girls hockey in the County of Haliburton. She added ice-time should be allotted for M-Power Hockey's camp.

"This is just disheartening in 2019," Foote said. "We're supposed to be beyond that. We're supposed to include everybody."



- Furnaces Fireplaces Hot Water Tanks Air Conditioning
- Radiant Floor Heating Boilers HRV's & MUCH MORE

705-341-9170 • kegelheatingandcooling@hotmail.com

HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM The Highland to the store of t





Kids play in the water during Camp Wanakita's Strawberry Social this past Saturday. Photo by Meagan Secord. See more photos page 13 of The Weekend.

Donald chemical building partnership breaks down

By Joseph Quigley

The future of the historic Donald chemical building is now in doubt with the nonprofit co-operative trying to restore it contemplating litigation against the structure's owner.

The partnership between a local co-op and owner Jim O'Connor is no more. After the co-op invested more than \$90,000 in grant funding and donations to help restore the building, the planned lifetime lease of the property to the group never came to pass. Co-op member, The Land Between, received a legal opinion on a potential lawsuit May 29. Co-founder of The Land Between, Leora Berman, who has also managed the project for the co-op, said legal action would be a last resort.

"I'm hoping Jim sees the light. Sees the importance of the building," Berman said. "No one will fund a private individual for their personal gain. It should be in public hands."

The Highlander reached out repeatedly to O'Connor. He declined an interview and did not provide any answers to a submitted list of questions. He instead said to refer to a story published in the June 18 edition of *The Haliburton Echo*.

The only comment from O'Connor in the

story was indirect, and stated: "O'Connor said as the owner of the building, he wanted to move forward with the restoration and was working on it himself now."

FREE

The partnership between the co-op and O'Connor began in 2010. With the structure decaying, Berman gathered organizations out of a desire to preserve the historic building. It is the last remaining from the Standard Chemical Company Plant, at one See **'Co-operative'** on page 2



Highlander news

Co-operative considers legal action against owner

Continued from page 1

time the largest producer of iron coke in North America.

The informal co-op, which also included the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA), the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) and the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, signed a memorandum of understanding with O'Connor. The lease agreement stated that once the Donald Innovation Centre Cooperative had been created, a "life-time lease" would be drafted and come into place.

About \$92,000 was invested by the co-op towards the initiative, according to Berman. She planned to utilize the space as a marketing hub for the local construction sector.

After the co-op formally came into being in March 2015, Berman said she tried repeatedly to get a new contract signed. But nothing had been settled by the time the original agreement expired in July 2015.

"He had indicated to me he felt the property was valuable," Berman said. "That's why the tide seemed to turn."

Between 2010-2013, the co-op invested grant funding to stabilize the building, which had major portions of its roof leaking and collapsing. In 2013, it was deemed safe and secure, according to Berman.

Conflict over work done

Berman said O'Connor did irreparable damage to the facility when he renovated it for use as part of a private storage business.

"We still thought there was hope until we saw the building," Berman said. "We realized the brick was destroyed, the rust was not removed and the concrete did not match."

The legal opinion from Lindsay's Whitford and Nagel Associates states it is unlikely a lawsuit based on breach of contract would succeed, given the previous agreement expired in 2015 and lacked in some details.

However, the opinion said a case for unjust enrichment would have more merit. "As a result of the actions by DIPC (Donald Innovation Project Collaborative), the owner has benefited in that the building is now structurally safe and secure which should result in a direct increase in property value," Garth Lee Whitford wrote. "The court would be sympathetic to your plight and would not want the owner to benefit from public funds that were intended for an entirely different purpose."

None of the claims made by Berman or Whitford have been tested in court. HHOA president Eric Christensen said they are trusting Berman to handle the situation.

"We are very disappointed that the owner has gone back on his verbal and written agreements.," Christensen said.



The Land Between co-founder Leora Berman is contemplating taking legal action over the fate of the historic Donald chemical building. *Photo by Joseph Quigley*

ACO chief operating officer William B Coukell said although they still support fu the co-op, they have "not had any direct to connection to this particular site in a long time."

But any legal effort against O'Connor will need consultation with stakeholders,

Berman said. She added a new public fundraising campaign would be necessary to pay for it.

"This is too important a building to give up hope on. I wouldn't still be here if this building wasn't that important," she said.





Send your photos to editor@thehighlander.ca



HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM The Highland Storm Thursday June 20 2019 Issue 394 INSIDE: MAN CHARGED WITH SECOND DEGREE MURDER PAGE 3 FREE



Alan Bangay sits at home with an old photograph of his wife, Ute Bangay, who passed away May 24. She was a resident of the Highland Wood Long-Term Care home, which re-opened June 3. *Photo by Joseph Quigley*

Families say move hard on loved ones HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES Two residents don't make it back to Highland Wood

By Joseph Quigley

Alan Bangay is busy managing the affairs of his late wife Ute, who died May 24. Ute, 74, lived at Highland Wood Long-Term Care but had to move out when the building's roof failed four months ago. Many Highland Wood residents started returning to the facility June 3 but Ute and at least one other person won't be coming back.

Bangay said moving was arduous for Ute. He described her changing locations four times in a three-week span, each move wearing her down.

She came down with pneumonia and passed away soon afterward, he said. "I can't prove that the moves, they of themselves, caused her to die. I can't prove that. But I think it had a strong influence on her ability to stay with us," he told *The Highlander*.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) vice president of support services and chief financial officer Kathy Newton

See 'HHHS' on page 2



Thursday June 20 2019 | Issue 394

Highlander news

TAILOUT ON ANNUAL Hike Haliburton tor boy a sour Sept. 18-22

HHHS says death 'normal fact of life with our population'

Continued from page 1

2

said the organization does everything it can to support families during difficult times. But she added that long-term care residents passing away in a four-month timeframe is not abnormal.

"It's a normal fact of life with our particular population," Newton said. "That's not unheard of."

She added she could not comment on individual circumstances but family members know their relatives best.

"Common sense would tell you any kind of change, some people deal with change well and some people don't," she said.

Highland Wood Family Council acting chair Terry Hartwick also lost her mother during Highland Wood's closure. Ethel Marinelli, 89, passed away at Peterborough's Riverview Manor April 22 after a respiratory infection aggravated her interstitial lung disease.

Hartwick said Marinelli received excellent care there but the move was still hard on her.

"It was a difficult thing for my mom. It was sudden, it was disruptive," Hartwick said. "Because my mom had a stroke (before moving to Highland Wood), routines and familiarity of place and people, they were pretty important in helping her feel comfortable and safe."

Hartwick did not fault the move as contributing to her mother's death. But she stressed the importance of keeping things steady for long-term care residents. "She was fairly well up there in age," she said. "For elderly people, these kind of moves are a difficult thing ... we have to remember that these are homes for these people and we need to keep them as stable as we can."

Expert talks about move

Dr. Veronique Boscart said although moving to a new facility can be detrimental for long-term care residents, it is difficult to say it would impact their overall health. Boscart is the Canadian Institutes of

Health Research/Schlegel Industrial Chair for Colleges in Seniors Care and a gerontology researcher.

She said it can be difficult for a long-term care patient to move to a new care facility with staff who may not know them as intimately.

"That can lead to awkwardness, and if you have dementia, can lead to anxiety," Boscart said.

But it is another thing to say that such a move would affect health outcomes. "To have an impact on health outcomes

would be a pretty difficult thing to say, just on a general scenario," she said. She noted long-term care patients have a

medical assessment and care plan, meaning staff taking on residents from a different facility would have detailed patient knowledge to work from. "The care level would have been exactly

the same."

Boscart said unfortunately, people in longterm care are not in great shape.

"The problem is it's hard to distinguish what would have happened because of natural decline, compared to natural decline and the move," she said.

Lessons to be learned

Newton said HHHS could not disclose how many of Highland Wood's 28 residents passed away before June 3. She cited privacy concerns and said the facility's small population could make people identifiable if the number was released.

Although HHHS moved residents to Haliburton Extendicare after the closure, most relocated elsewhere due to limited space. Some went to Hyland Crest in Minden and others were taken from there to facilities outside the community.

Ute Bangay was moved to Lindsay, where she remained until her family decided to bring her back to Haliburton when space opened.

"Every time she moved, she would be quieter than normal for a while. That number of moves in that timeframe was just ridiculous," Alan Bangay said.

"She's in a situation with a whole bunch of new faces and some of what they did was not quite what they did in the last place," he added. "For people who are in that age group and who are already not as able mentally, that's far too much without serious effects happening."

Newton said residents had to be moved quickly, necessitating nearby facilities be used as transfer points. But Extendicare and Hyland Crest did not have enough room for all of them, requiring further moves.

"We didn't have enough physical space here for them without undue risk to everyone," Newton said. Hartwick said there would need to be discussions between families and HHHS to see what can be learned from the evacuation.

"That's going to be the positive way going forward. I'm not saying there was anything wrong with their plan, I'm just saying you can always learn something new," she said.

Although Bangay said staff performed admirably given the circumstances, he lamented Highland Wood having to close at all.

"If there hadn't been a necessity to make any moves, it's probable that my wife would still be with us, I think," Bangay said. "The overall circumstances would, if nothing else, accelerate death for some people."

The Highlander will have part two of its investigation into Highland Wood, detailing the circumstances around the roof failing, in its June 27 edition.

Send your photos to editor@thehighlander.ca



13588 Hwy 118, Haliburton Phone: 705-457-8957 www.NorthernExpressionsCanada.com info@northernexpressionscanada.com • GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • CANADA WIDE DELIVERY •