

Random act of kindness

Dear editor,

On Oct. 29, my mom brought my 15-month-old daughter, Tate, to Pharmasave in Minden. My daughter loves to browse the aisles at the store and was enamoured by a pink sweater that had caught her eye.

A gentleman who was also shopping took notice of how much Tate was drawn to the pink sweater, and bought it for her.

We wanted to say thank you to the kind stranger whose random act of kindness has made my daughter so happy.

Vanessa Mandel
Minden Hills

The power of film, food and community

Dear editor,

We're just getting a wee bit older every year — but somehow didn't notice until HIFF 2025 rolled around and we realized time had quietly crept up on us. So, we decided to celebrate anyway and bought VIP passes. We signed up for the Haliburton movie marathon — seven films in one evening, one full day, and a bit of Sunday.

To make things more exciting, the new and rather terrifying and fantastic *Frankenstein* (for technical reasons) had to be screened at the Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount. We wisely chose the afternoon show, hoping to avoid night driving and bad weather. Not so. On the drive back, after seeing that spectacular *Frankenstein* production, we faced heavy rain and thick fog — but it was absolutely worth it.

Saturday brought four incredible films, followed by two more on Sunday, ending with *Köln75*. What a ride. Somewhere in between, I got a bit carried away and purchased 'dinner for two' in support of the Haliburton Heat Bank — an event hosted at the Bonnie View Inn and presented by four of the finest chefs in the County. We barely had time to get home, feed the dog, rest a little, and then head out again for Sunday night's extravaganza. With snow beginning to fall, we took our time driving and were rewarded with one of the best meals we've had in ages.

The entire weekend was a triumph. Each of the seven films celebrated the resilience of the human spirit, and every one of the four courses at dinner showcased the extraordinary talents of chefs working together to support the Heat Bank.

Yes, at our age, spreading such adventures over two weekends might have been wiser — but honestly, where else could you compress such a tour de force into 58 unforgettable hours? This weekend reminded us again of the incredible spirit of this community, powered by an army of volunteers who give countless hours to make events like HIFF possible.

A big shout-out to the dedicated volunteers who watch hundreds of films to curate the lineup, to the Lions Club for the delicious snacks and refreshments, to the chefs and servers at the dinner, and to all those unseen heroes behind the scenes. Together, they make Haliburton one of the best places to live—and to celebrate the power of film, food, and community.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

THE HIGHLANDER COMMUNITY SURVEY

What do you want from your community newspaper?

Tell us and be entered in our draw to win \$100, \$50 or \$25 gift card

1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ Under 18
☐ 19-29
☐ 30-44
☐ 45-64
☐ 65-80
☐ 81+
☐ High School grad
☐ College/Uni grad
☐ I don't follow local news

☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Resident of Dysart et al
☐ Resident of Minden Hills
☐ Resident of Algonquin Highlands
☐ Resident of Highlands East
☐ I try to shop locally
☐ I use social media
☐ Friends/Family (Word of Mouth)
☐ Other (please specify):

☐ Full-time resident
☐ Part-time resident
☐ Cottager
☐ Local
☐ Lifelong Resident
☐ Newcomer
☐ Professional
☐ Tradesperson

☐ Employed
☐ Unemployed
☐ Retired
☐ Student
☐ Business owner
☐ Volunteer
☐ I usually vote in elections
☐ I wouldn't live anywhere else

2. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ The Highlander
☐ Minden Times
☐ Instagram
☐ Moose FM
☐ I don't follow local news

☐ The Echo
☐ Facebook
☐ Canoe FM
☐ Friends/Family (Word of Mouth)
☐ Other (please specify):

3. HOW DO YOU GET NEWS IN GENERAL? RANK YOUR 1ST, SECOND AND 3RD SOURCES OF NEWS BY PUTTING A 1, 2 OR 3 BELOW

☐ Print newspapers
☐ Social Media
☐ Online Video (e.g. Youtube)
☐ Podcasts
☐ Online News Sites

☐ Online newspapers
☐ Television
☐ Radio
☐ Print Magazines
☐ Other (please specify):

4. HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ THE HIGHLANDER IN EACH FORMAT?

	Weekly	1-3x per Month	Sometimes	Never
Print Newspaper	☐	☐	☐	☐
Website	☐	☐	☐	☐
Downloaded PDF	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you don't read The Highlander regularly, please tell us why: _____

5. HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST NEWS FROM:
(LEAVE BLANK FOR SOURCES NOT USED)

	Don't Trust										Trust Completely
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
The Highlander											
Facebook											
Instagram											
TikTok											
Television											
Google/MSN											
Other											

(Please specify): _____

6. WHICH LOCAL TOPICS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ Municipal Government/Politics
☐ Arts
☐ Local Events
☐ Real Estate
☐ Trades
☐ Health & Mental Health
☐ Cottaging
☐ Local History & Heritage
☐ Letters to the Editor
☐ Local School News
☐ Product Reviews
☐ Weekly Calendar
☐ Finance & Economics
☐ Life Events e.g. Weddings/Obits
☐ Other (please specify):

☐ Local Businesses
☐ Environment
☐ Sports (Adults)
☐ School Sports
☐ Bids & Tenders
☐ Seniors
☐ Restaurants/Eating Out
☐ Opinions
☐ Hunting & Fishing
☐ Job Postings
☐ Puzzles
☐ Non-Profit Activities
☐ Investigations
☐ Profiles of Local People

Are there topics you wish we covered more, less or differently?

7. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT ADVERTISING IN THE HIGHLANDER ARE TRUE? (TICK AS MANY AS APPLY)

☐ I read at least some of the advertisements.
☐ I am more likely to shop at a store that advertises in The Highlander
☐ The Highlander's ads are attractive
☐ I look in The Highlander for deals and specials at local stores
☐ I have responded to at least one ad in The Highlander this year
☐ I look at The Highlander when I need a local service or product
☐ I've found products/services I didn't know existed in The Highlander
☐ I trust ads in The Highlander more than social media and web ads

8. PICK JUST ONE THING

What would be ONE thing in The Highlander that would make you want to read it every week?

9. DREAM BIG

If you could wave a magic wand and transform The Highlander into exactly what you want it to be, what would that look like?

What would make you excited to read it every week and make The Highlander your #1 choice for local news and information?

(If you need more space, feel free to send an email to editor@thehighlander.ca with your thoughts and ideas.)

PRIZE DRAW (OPTIONAL)

Enter your email for a chance to win: _____

Please drop this off at The Highlander office at 123 Maple Ave (beside the Post Office)

THANK YOU!



Complete the survey
online instead, here.
www.thehighlander.ca/survey