

Horseshoe Lake Property Owners Association AGM

Five minutes total with question and answer.

It's really great to meet so many new people today. Truly. I see lots of friendly faces too.

My name's Jennifer Hughey and my family has been in Minden Hills since before we called it Minden Hills. Raised at HWY 35 and South Lake Rd, I went to Archie Stouffer and Haliburton Highlands Secondary before heading to Toronto to complete a journalism degree at Ryerson University.

I lived in the GTA for a decade, working for Rogers Media as an editor of their relationship management strategies until the advertisement in *The Highlander* popped up, and they were looking for an editor.

Seeing as my high school co-op was at *The Minden Times* 20 years ago with Jack Brezina and that feeling of being back in a small town covering the news, was so attractive – I jumped at it, knowing it would bring me back here for the long-haul and allow me to raise my children here. **To slow down and get back to my roots.**

In preparation for running for council, I started my own media business which allows me to work for clients inside and outside the community. And some of your faces are familiar from seeing you during our work together with various volunteer initiatives during the past two years.

As a member of the Minden Hills Events Planning Committee, I used my event planning knowledge to plan a successful and financially beneficial event on Canada's 150th Birthday for the municipality and continue to volunteer with a group of amazing people responsible for events in the township.

Other work includes being a member of the County Tourism Task Force – where the goal to improve the food tourism in our County through #myhaliburtonhighlands, working with a team of like-minded people looking to make things just a bit better for our tourism industry, one step at a time.

Fay Martin of the Housing Task Force in Minden recently invited me to speak on CANOE FM about tiny homes and senior campuses and their potential in Minden. This initiative is important to me because I'm interested in options that could accommodate our aging population while improving our community dynamic for those wishing to stay in their homes as long as possible. There are options we've yet to explore and am committed to learning how we can better the quality of life of those who've made Minden what it is today.

I am a Friend of the Haliburton County Public Library Director, serving my second two-year term. It's important to me that our community has access to books, computers, and the latest technology that will help those who need them better their lives and the lives of others.

I sent an email to the deputy clerk yesterday, asking if I missed the deadline for application for the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) Task Force – because I didn't want to – I wanted to make sure I could be a part of that.

The Task Force is “being created as a mechanism for additional public engagement and input throughout the process to work with the Consulting Firm hired to develop a CIP for Minden Village.”

This place is important to me, both as a parent and a small business owner. I am raising my family here and contributing to a retirement plan on my own terms, through freelance editorial work in and out of the county.

All that said, Horseshoe Lake is certainly not foreign to me. My husband Doug and children Moira and Cara (7 and 5) lived at 1638 for two years upon moving back. We swam and fished and canoed as much as we could. And like many of you, we waited at the red light until it turned green at the Dam 3-4 times a day.

It was important to me to do some research before coming here today, as a journalist who is constantly asking questions. I know how important lake health is to all of you, as it is to promote the cultural, social and environmental interests of the residents on and in the vicinity.

Research told me your association studies and reports on all governmental plans affecting its members and makes such representations as are deemed desirable to the various levels of government. Your lake steward, Ken Brownhill, had great things to say in your Spring Newsletter about the Love your Lake program.

He said natural shorelines are extremely important to maintain water quality, ecosystems, and overall lake health. And I 100 percent agree that it's important to understand just how vulnerable our lakes really are.

Part of that health is determined and measured by the amount of pollution seeping from septic tanks. Residents are suggested to have their septic tanks pumped every two to three years to promote optimal shore line health.

Minden Hills have been active in responding to lake associations' requests for a mandatory inspection program. Which many of you would suggest is a long-time coming, so I support this initiative to better ensure your lake stays healthy for years to come.

My best service to you will be doing my job. Like the back of my business card says, what can I do for you today? And even if all I can do is listen, it is ultimately important to me to talk to as many people as I can to do my own informal surveys. Because we all think about what can be done and it's a matter of working together towards change to make things work - realistically.

I welcome your support and am here to answer any questions I can. And if I can't, I'd be happy to connect offline to find out how I can.

Thank you.