

# Opinion

## MUSKOKA MOSAIC

### Introducing Hugh Holland

Hugh Holland has been a car buff ever since he can remember. As a child, the retired General Motors (GM) manager of component operations for all of Canada knew the specs of every vehicle on the road, and being raised on a farm near Tillsonberg gave him early driving experience. He was behind the wheel of a tractor at age 11 and drove a truck to the milk factory from age 13 on.

In his teen years, Holland worked at a GM dealership after school and on weekends, which proved to be the beginning of a long, happy relationship with the company.

As an outstanding student in his high school math and science classes, Holland became interested in engineering as a career. A cousin who worked for GM told him about the GM Institute in Michigan (now called Kettering University) and its excellent co-op program, which was later used as a model by the University of Waterloo. "We spent two months at school then two months at a GM facility and rotated through departments," he says.

After graduation, Holland worked for GM for 38 years in various management and engineering positions across Canada. "It was a great company to work for," he says. "It gave me so many opportunities and wonderful benefits."

A career highlight was his involvement in the massive modernization of GM's Oshawa manufacturing facilities in 1985. Holland was part of a team that travelled the world looking for ideas.

"A lot of what we did is still in place today," he says. "It's

a factor in why the Oshawa facilities have been rated the highest quality in North and South America, including all imports."

Holland and his wife Charlotte first got to know Huntsville because of Camp Olympia. Several of their five children attended the camp, and one was also a counsellor there. "The more we saw, the better we liked the area," he says. "We started thinking it would be a good place to retire."

They built a home on Fairy Lake in 1993 and made it their permanent residence in 1995 after Holland retired from GM.

Since moving to Huntsville, Holland has been very involved in the community. Under the town's previous administration, he served on the economic development advisory committee for six years and the River Mill Park committee for four years.

Soon after his arrival, Holland also joined the Rotary Club of Huntsville. "I immediately had 50 new friends," he says. "When you join they get you involved right away in whatever you are interested in doing."

In his case, that meant helping with the design and building of the Portage Flyer train station at Muskoka Heritage Place and, more recently, being part of the committee that brought the



Rotary Youth Park to fruition.

"I've managed projects my whole life - lots of small ones and a few big ones," Holland says. "That was a way I could help the club, by using my experience."

Holland and his wife love living in Huntsville. He is impressed by the excellent medical services and hospital here, as well as recreational opportunities such as golf, boating, theatre and restaurants. "It's close enough to Toronto but not too close," he says.

In Holland's opinion, growth is inevitable for Huntsville. "We can't stop growth, but we can shape how it grows," he says.

Long-term, he thinks it would be good to have some kind of post-secondary education facility. "It will probably come eventually," he says. "It would be a good idea to lay the groundwork now, because it could be 10 or 15 years down the road."

Holland suggests setting aside some land and earmarking it for that purpose. "It's like building a house," he says. "You rough in the plumbing for a basement bathroom now so when the time is right it will be much easier to do in the future."

Thanks to Brian Samuell for suggesting that Hugh Holland be profiled.

## LETTERS

### A first-time voter speaks

Earlier this year I became a Canadian citizen; it is going to be my first time to cast a vote in a Canadian election and I am spoiled for choice.

The choice is plentiful, diverse, and in my view quite clear-cut. The claims of some of the parties that they offer all-encompassing packages to satisfy everyone's real or illusory material needs, while at the same time giving assurances of long-term healthy conditions for the existence of the future generations, do not appear to be realistic.

I know there are many who choose to harbour the comfortable illusion that there are compromises available. Looking a little farther ahead, there will be no compromises.

I must choose. I must choose for either my comfort today or I must choose for the existence of the future, which I will not be part of.

I ask myself: should I vote with my wallet or with my heart? Should I listen to my ego, which urges me to vote for greed and materialism in order to safeguard the

ability to continue consuming beyond the necessary while denying breathable air and drinkable water to those not yet born?

Or should I listen to my true self, who begs me to choose the much less convenient and considerably less comfortable path of restraint and self-denial in order to save some of the fundamentals of existence for our children's children?

Everyone must vote according to his or her consciousness, and so shall I. One's consciousness is governed by one's level of enlightenment. So, the result is that the country ends up with the government which is in line with its electorate's level of enlightenment.

The saying goes that every nation deserves the government it has elected (whether wittingly or by wasting their vote on so-called strategic voting).

And so it should be. Today's US president won two consecutive elections.

B.J. Boltzauer  
Huntsville

### Don't be fooled by Tories

The real reason Stephen Harper has called an election is because he recognizes a major shift ahead from his agenda as dictated by bellicose boots George W. Bush to a return to sanity, ostensibly, under the leadership of Democratic nominee Barack Obama.

Harper knows he must pre-empt the move toward sanity by securing, at the least, another minority government, if not a majority (in his dreams).

Our guy, the parachutist-cottager Tony Clement, was plopped upon us in Parry Sound-Muskoka because he had a cottage at Port Sydney. Clement had experience at destroying Ontario's

health-care system when he served glib deregulator-privatizer Mike (remember Walkerton-Ipper wash?) Harris. That's when we ran out of nurses. And school supplies.

So, now as minister of health under glib hypocrite Harper, Clement dares to engender our trust again. Don't be fooled again.

The health-care system continues to decline thanks to Harper and his man Clement. A vote for Clement is a vote for a man who persecutes the sick (intravenous drug users). How's your health?

Mendelson Joe  
Emsdale

### Showcasing town pays off

I just read an article on the Triathlon Australia website about the economic impact of Ironman on Huntsville. I believe that the economic benefits to your region may be far greater than the immediate statistics might indicate.

I was privileged to be a team manager for Australia at the 1992 Triathlon World Championships, which was based at Deerhurst Resort. I spent two wonderful weeks assisting our triathletes, which gave me a chance to explore the area.

Huntsville was one of the highlights.

Despite the fact the event was some 16 years ago, I still plan on returning and sharing your special part of the world with my family.

Be courteous to those cyclists and don't underestimate the opportunities that such events provide for showcasing Huntsville as a destination of choice. It will pay off in the end.

Suzanne Bower  
Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

### Let horticultural society do its work

Open letter to Lake of Bays Mayor Peake and members of council:

I am writing to you on a matter of importance to me and the citizens of Baysville and the surrounding area.

I have learned that the Baysville Horticultural Society is losing its control over the planning and planting of trees and other facets of care in the Gristmill and Memorial parks. As a past president and life member of this society, I want to voice my very strong opinion that this is a grave mistake.

The Baysville parks were originally given to the township to be used for and by the citizens of Lake of Bays under the planning, planting and protection of the Baysville Horticultural Society. Over the almost 50 years that these members have given of their time to raise funds, plan improvements and carry out the day-to-day care of these works, they

have come together as residents of Baysville and many miles around in ways that made a caring community for all to enjoy.

These people today, and many who have gone before them, have taken great pride in their work and many of the members were and are trained horticulturalists. The visitors, summer residents and other horticultural societies have been generous in their praise of the beautiful plantings. Many have given donations of money for the purchase of plants and over the years, the trees in the parks were given by families to be planted in memory of their loved ones.

Now, I have been told that several trees have been, or will be, removed. What does this tell the citizens about the attitude of those who ordered this work? Was there any consultation about the history of these removals? Does this mean that the memorial

aspect of the pioneers who settled in Baysville is to be forgotten? In most cases the donors of these trees chose the particular tree to be planted because it was a favourite of the family member. If a tree has, over the years, become a danger because of disease (and this should be confirmed by an arborist), removal and replacement in the same general area and of a similar species seems to be the only way to carry on the memorial aspect of the parks.

I hope you will all ponder this information and before you make your decisions, consult with members of the society and residents of Baysville. It has been, and should still be, their space to nurture and enjoy.

Bernice Good  
Member  
Baysville Horticultural Society  
Guelph

### Kudos to Ironman 70.3 volunteers

Wow! What a weekend! Huntsville and Lake of Bays and the district of Muskoka can be very proud of their accomplishments over the course of the year.

Since the inception of the Subaru Ironman Muskoka 70.3 last August, the towns have embraced this event with welcoming arms. Now back at our office in Vineland Ontario, we have received countless e-mails and phone calls praising the efforts of all our Ironcrew volunteers and the OPP.

They were blown away by the size and sheer magnitude of the cheering crowds as they passed through

Dwight, Dorset and Baysville on their bikes. They couldn't believe all the support they received throughout both the run and swim course.

Swarms of cheering spectators and volunteers made the difference for these athletes. Each word of encouragement helped them closer to the finish line on a very tough course on a very tough day.

It's heartwarming to hear the stories of athletes as they explain to us what a difference a single volunteer can make in the course of their race. It's all the little things that people do or say that add up to a momentous

experience in each and every athlete.

To them this is their Olympics. These people are not just athletes. They are your doctors and lawyers and educators all reaching for excellence. That was their day on Sunday and you all played a part in it. Be proud of your efforts. It takes as much determination and perseverance to stand out in the pouring rain cheering on or helping these athletes as it did to participate in it.

Kudos to our athletes and kudos to our Ironcrew. We couldn't be more proud of you all!

Janet and Mitch Fraser  
Grimsby

### Fund supporters can be proud

The Kirk Evans Memorial Foundation would like to thank all our participants (102 players) and all our generous sponsors. The day was glorious and the feeling of reunion and friendship was very evident.

Our goal is to raise money to support local students and sports groups. Presently we have three students at university who each receive \$1,000 per year toward their fees. This is truly a grand scholarship to win.

Jessica Nairn was the scholarship winner for 2008-2012.

As well, we help individual students requiring assistance to play hockey or lacrosse. We help with buying team uniforms and equipment. This past year Huntsville High School received a large donation from the fund for their new body building room.

Although no final decisions have been reached for this coming year, we

will continue with all the above support and hope to help expand sports-playing areas in the near future.

We know that all those who participate in this day have a good time, win terrific prizes and we want you to know your money is at work in the community of Huntsville doing great things for all to be proud of.

Barb Taverner  
(mother of Kirk Evans)  
Huntsville



## HEALTHCARE HEROES

Huntsville District  
Memorial Hospital Foundation  
100 Frank Miller Drive  
Huntsville, ON P1H 1H7  
Tel: (705) 789-4756

### Emsdale Lions Club

The Emsdale Lions Club invited Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare CEO, Barry Lockhart and Huntsville Hospital Foundation ED, Debi Davis, to dinner last week. The Lions are always gracious hosts as they provide wonderful home cooked meals, great conversation and a cheque to support Huntsville Hospital. Barry & Debi were pleased to receive \$2,500 from the Lions. The Club has donated over \$22,000 to Huntsville Hospital. Thank you Emsdale Lions.

Barry presented an overview of the challenges faced by our hospital organization and the Lions asked lots of questions. Thanks Lion President Eric Paterson, we appreciate the opportunity to visit in the community.

### Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Foundation continues to support:

- Huntsville District Memorial Hospital
- Fairvern Nursing Home
- Burk's Falls & District Health Centre



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