

# Opinion

## MUSKOKA MOSAIC

### Introducing Kelly Holinshead

BY PAULA BOON

Kelly Holinshead follows her passions. "My life has always been, 'I'm going to do this,' and then, 'Okay, now how do I do this?'" says the owner of the Shutterbug Gallery on Main Street in Huntsville.

The approach has served her well. In less than 10 years, Holinshead has developed a following as a wedding photographer, food photographer and creator of fine art.

Holinshead and her husband, Kyle Peacock, live on 125 acres off South Waseosa Lake Road, where they hike, run and ski with their three dogs, Kurrie, Judah and Aussie.

The middle of three sisters, Holinshead was born in Huntsville and spent much of her childhood on the Fairy Lake farm that has been in her family since the 1800s.

Holinshead's interest in photography was sparked when she was studying Law and Security Administrations at college and a friend in the photojournalism program showed her how to use a darkroom.

After graduating, Holinshead returned to complete two outstanding high school credits and, with the help of teacher Jon Snelson, build her photography portfolio so she could apply to university.

Holinshead was accepted into Ryerson's still photography program and completed one year there, excelling in her courses. But the wider world called more loudly to



her than continued studies. She spent about a year in Europe and another 10 months in British Columbia. "I don't regret leaving school," she says. "I might have made fewer mistakes if I had stayed, but I still reached the same place."

Back in Huntsville, Holinshead enjoyed life as a waitress at 3 Guys and a Stove, but when she met her husband-to-be, she began thinking about how she wanted to spend the rest of her life. The answer was taking photographs.

Holinshead says she is grateful for the support of her family and friends. "My family was there from Day 1," she says, "and Dale (Peacock, Kyle's mother) had a business background, so she was instrumental in the business planning."

In June 2000, The Shutterbug business was born. Holinshead began by selling cards featuring her landscape images in stores on Main Street, and soon after people began inquiring about wedding photography.

For several years, Holinshead continued waitressing while building her business. "(3 Guys and a Stove owner) Jeff Suddaby was so supportive. He hired me to do the still photography for his TV program, put my photos in his establishment, and hired me to do the photography for his cookbooks," she says, adding that his support continues today.

One day in April 2005, while walking down Huntsville's Main Street, Holinshead noticed that the former Double Scotts pub was empty. It was suggested to her that the space would be perfect for a gallery, and Holinshead agreed. Shutterbug Gallery opened June 25, 2005 and now features the work of a select number of exclusively local artists, such as Beverley Hawksley, Marni Martin and Susan Higgins, in addition to Holinshead's own work. "Made in China" items are everywhere," she says. "It's

important to me that the work I represent was created right here in Muskoka."

Holinshead's distinctive fine art photos layer two or more pieces of film, creating a textured final product that looks remarkably like a watercolour painting. "I'm not the only one to use this technique, or the first one," she says, "but it's certainly become somewhat of my signature."

Holinshead also does a brisk business in wedding photography. She already has 21 weddings booked for this summer and will fly to Mexico over March break for her first destination wedding. As well, she has recently travelled the province capturing shots for the Ministry of Agriculture's Savour Ontario campaign.

Between her work and home life, Holinshead is happy. "Huntsville has been so good to me," she says. "I don't think I would have been this successful anywhere else."

Her next project is the development of Shutterduds, a line of clothing featuring Holinshead's images that she hopes to launch this summer. Beyond that, she remains open to what the future brings. "It's amazing how doors just keep opening," she says. "I'll see where things take me."

*Thanks to Judith Blanchette for suggesting that Kelly Holinshead be profiled.*

## LETTERS

### Both sides in tree-cutting bylaw debate need to come together

Why are the councillors going after the loggers through the landowners of Muskoka? Why is the bylaw not focused on the problem group? Why were developers excluded from the bylaw? What was the real purpose of the bylaw?

As a person who has a family heritage in Muskoka going back to the 1860s, I have these questions and more. Though I may not agree to what some of the Muskoka Landowners Association (MLOA) members are doing, their hearts are in the right place, and they don't want people to make decisions behind their backs and without their input. From what I have informed, that is exactly what was going to happen. In my opinion the "gun" was held to the landowners' heads first (the kettle calling the pot black syndrome).

This bylaw affects more than the loggers. It affects more than the council has obviously considered. Not everybody misuses their land.

You now see why the landowners are wanting to close trails and routes: it is going to cost them money to maintain them (it's their property, so they are responsible for the permits), and these trails and routes allow hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people into the area to spend their money at local businesses.

I do agree that illegal logging should be stemmed, but this bylaw doesn't go after the culprits; it goes after the innocent law-abiding citizens — the wrongdoers are not law-abiding citizens, and as such, won't care about permits or what a bylaw has to say; they will do as they will until they get caught, and if there are little to no consequences to their actions they will keep on doing it. If the council wants to stop illegal logging, they should go after the crooked loggers.

I find it kind of funny that the bylaw would exclude property under 10 acres as well. Who owns land under 10 acres?

Cottagers! It seems to me that council only wants to make the permanent residents pay, and protect the part-time residents. This is another reason to reconsider this bylaw; it should be applied to all landowners equally.

As a former survey technician in the area, I have seen property being devastated by logging and other ventures such as development. Subdivisions lay waste to entire forests, and the subdivisions that don't, cost too much for any real local to afford. I have also seen 10-acre pieces of property, in a few places, stripped of every tree and replaced with a well-fertilized lawn.

The council has to understand that they don't speak for themselves or their interests, they speak for all of the people of Muskoka, and they must get real opinions from these people.

Trying to slide a bylaw like this past people is underhanded and will make people angry. And, for all the advertisements they may have used to bring these opinions to the forefront, you might as well say they did none. I never saw anything myself.

Look at Muskoka today. What you will find is what most people from out of the area will consider a forested wilderness with a few small populated areas. It was not always like this. When the first settlers came to this area, they cleared it for farming, and the land remained clear for a few generations.

Since then farming has been found to be futile in most areas of Muskoka and the fields have been allowed to grow over; ever wonder why you find barns in the middle of forest here?

Now there is only a small amount of land that remains clear today. Even in my 38 years I have seen fields grow into forests.

What I am saying is that there are more trees now than there were before my generation. The locals of the area are becoming "green" in other words.

Which is more than can be said for our neighbours to the south.

I don't know what is motivating the council to proceed with this bylaw, but I do know that there are several persons within Muskoka that they are ticking off. The council needs to back off and reconsider the entire bylaw, and get real opinions (not just consultants) from the people their decisions are going to affect. This eight-week extension is such an obvious ploy to delay the MLOA, and I am sure that they realize it.

This delay will last just long enough to allow all the big snowmobile functions to happen.

Both the MLOA and council need to get real and sit down with one another and sort things out, or things, in my opinion, will get out of hand on both sides.

Words and phrases like "thugs," "holding a gun to our heads," and other such childishness needs to be put aside by the councillors. The councillors, in my opinion, are acting as if they got caught with their hands in the cookie jar, and seem to be lashing out in spite. I personally haven't heard the name-calling from the MLOA yet, but nasty phone calls are not the way to win friends either, though they did get the attention they wanted.

I'll admit that I don't like the idea of this new bylaw, and that my opinion does side with MLOA (Obvious, eh?) though I am not and will not be a member. I don't even own a large parcel of land, but I do have several family members who own big parcels and will be affected by this bylaw if it goes through.

What I want to see is level heads prevailing, and both sides getting together and coming up with a solution. Let's leave the "dirty politics" behind. There is no place for them.

James M. Stewart  
Huntsville

### What on earth have we gotten ourselves into?

Tony Clement and Mayor Claude Doughty could not contain their glee as Clement announced the federal government would invest \$16 million to convert the Huntsville Centennial Centre into a G8 media centre (Forester online, Feb. 6). The cottager added that up to \$50 million would be spent on G8 infrastructure.

The business community appears giddy at the prospect of raking in thousands of dollars as a result of the summit, and no one seems to have a bad word to say about any of this. Well, hang on. That pesky irritant called history will come back to haunt these Pollyannas drooling over the windfall they believe will surely accrue from the summit at Deerhurst.

The cottager, the mayor and their coteries would do well to read a British government report on the 2005 summit at Gleneagles in Scotland. It baldly stated that retailers in the nearby city of Edinburgh lost around \$12 million in sales. A town closer to the summit site reported a sales drop of 60 per cent because of the temporary displacement of the local population.

And here's the stunning kicker for Muskoka. The report concluded, "In one month, around \$10 million was lost in potential tourist revenue."

So, if you combine these devastating statistics with the sheer irrelevance and vacuity of the annual back-slapping "rich boys' and girls' club," isn't it about time somebody stopped to ask what on earth have we gotten ourselves into? But nobody will. That would be unpatriotic and way too uncomfortable for the likes of cottager Clement and Mayor Doughty.

John Scully  
Dwight

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