

# Community shows up for Barker family

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

A local family is looking to thank the community for giving them a second chance at life.

Carnarvon locals Megan and Curtis Barker have had their fair share of highs and lows, since Curtis was diagnosed with stage four cholangiocarcinoma, or bile duct cancer just over one year ago. The couple have two young daughters, both under the age of four, and have spent time, money, and a significant amount of energy navigating the best treatment plan for the involved dad.

"There's unexpected costs to someone navigating stage four cancer," shared Megan, noting the hospital stays, child-care, and additional medications.

While Megan's private insurance covered the first portion of treatment, the next steps were less certain. The disease has since spread to his liver, lymph nodes, and spine, with Curtis enduring first-line chemotherapy and immunotherapy, followed by second-line chemotherapy, and radiation. Along the way, he has faced multiple hospitalizations, including pneumonia, a blood infection, influenza A, and colitis.

Through testing at Princess Margaret Hospital, it was noted that Curtis's tumor is HER2 3+ positive, which opens the door to a promising targeted treatment called Enhertu. "The goal is to stabilize me or shrink the tumours a bit," he said, noting that it could drastically improve his overall quality of life.

Unfortunately, Enhertu is not funded in Ontario, and is not covered by private insurance.

But this was where the community came in. "We didn't want to bankrupt our family," said Megan, "but we also knew we needed to try everything we could."

The treatments hover around \$10,000 per session, which is required every



Carnarvon locals Curtis and Megan Barker have received an outpour of support towards a Go Fund Me page to assist with Curtis's stage four cholangiocarcinoma treatment.



Curtis is currently receiving Enhertu, a specialized medication to treat bile duct cancer. /submitted

three weeks. The more treatments Curtis receives, the higher the likelihood of success.

With the help of friends Michelle Doiron and Jennifer Hicks, the family launched a Go Fund Me Page, with a goal of \$100,000 to try to attain 10 sessions.

And while Megan and Curtis kept their expectations low, the goal was surpassed by community support within 72 hours.

Word of the fundraiser spread quickly through social media, with likes, shares, and comments. The funds continued to trickle in, ranging from all amounts, including \$5,000 from NHL player and Haliburton local Matt Duchene. But it wasn't just the financial contributions

that made the family feel supported, it was also the sharing on social media, and the words of encouragement offered.

"We're just really grateful that the community stepped up so much," said Megan, "either by contributing or sharing, we're just so thankful."

Out of the hundreds who donated, Megan and Curtis noted that the vast majority were locals. Friends, family, customers from their family business, or former teachers; a testament to how much they have given back to the community over the years.

"Curtis has spent his life showing up for others. Now, we're asking for your help to show up for him," reads the Go

Fund Me page. "Please consider donating, and if you're able, sharing this page - it truly means the world to Curtis, Megan, and their girls."

As the Barker family navigate their way forward, they are continuing to keep the Go Fund Me active, to account for hidden costs in treatment, as well as an opportunity to provide ongoing updates. On April 20, Megan took to the page to share the first update: "Curtis is receiving his first treatment of Enhertu right now," she said. "So far, so good. He wouldn't be here without you all. We are so blessed to have such a generous and kind community, standing by Curtis's side."



**Notice  
(Applicant – Henderson/Allen)**

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Koshlong Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

**Notice Is Hereby Given**, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the *Municipal Procedures*, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**, a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

**Firstly:** Part of Lot 16, Designated as 66" Road Allowance in Front of Lot 16, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11217, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed October 2, 2025.**

**Secondly:** Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in Front of Lot 16, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-11217, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed October 2, 2025.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11217 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

**And Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

**Dated** at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 28th day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk  
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,  
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0  
rrogers@highlandseast.ca  
(705) 448-2981



**Notice  
(Applicant – Balgopal)**

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake** more particularly hereinafter described.

**Notice Is Hereby Given**, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the *Municipal Procedures*, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**, a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 4, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 2 and 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-11211, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying completed November 6, 2025** (Part 3 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).

The Plan of Survey 19R-11211 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

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