

INSIDE



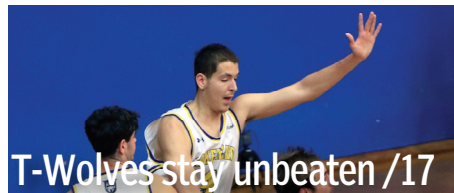
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Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 22 No. 46

Thursday, November 21, 2024

# SANTA PAYS VISIT

Thousands turn out for  
annual Santa Claus Parade  
last Saturday /4



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Santa and Mrs. Claus were the highlight of last Saturday's annual Santa Claus Parade, which saw people packed up and down Memorial Avenue. (Leith Dunick)



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# Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

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# Postal workers' strike continues

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The head of the union representing striking local postal workers says it's unfortunate they've walked off the job.

But after a year of failed negotiations, Leo Favreau said they felt they had no choice.

Favreau, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Local 620, on Friday said about 260 workers throughout Thunder Bay and the region are affected by the national strike. Workers include plant employees, sorters and letter carriers

"We basically find ourselves, after a year of negotiation, no further ahead than we were a year ago. It's just going nowhere," Favreau said.

"I felt as long as they were still talking, we were doing fine. I was really heartbroken to find out they broke off talks yesterday. I still had hopes that we were going to settle all along."

With the Christmas holidays rapidly approaching, Favreau said it's a tough time of year to be on the picket line, both for the striking workers and their customers, who often rely on Canada Post for package delivery and other holiday mail.

Canada Post, in a statement issued on Friday, said its operations have shut down and customers should expect delays while the strike continues. Mail and parcels will not be processed or delivered, and some post offices will be closed. No new items will be accepted until the labour dispute is resolved.

Nationally, more than 55,000 workers are off the job. The 72-hour strike notice was issued last Tuesday, and impacts both the rural suburban mail carriers and urban operations bargaining unit.

Favreau is hopeful by walking off the job on Nov. 15, the message will be delivered to Canada Post loud and clear.

"It would be very nice if Canada Post would come to the table and negotiate fairly. They really haven't budged on any issue for over a year. That's not negotiating," Favreau said.

"A living wage would be nice. We have a lot of health and safety concerns with all the changes they're making inside. A lot of people are getting hurt because of the stuff that they're doing. We don't want them touching our pension that we've worked so hard to keep."

Benefits are also a concern, he added.



A postal worker walks the picket line. (Leith Dunick)

Across the board, workers are looking for 10 paid medical days, in addition to seven paid personal days, improved protection against technological change and against harassment, and no contraction out. The RSMC bargaining unit wants corporate vehicles for all carriers, coverage of all absences, paid meal and rest period rights and involvement in service expansion projects.

Urban operations are looking for time to prepare and deliver neighbourhood mail, improved rights for temporary employees, and improved staffing provisions.

On Day 1, Favreau said the mood on the picket line remained upbeat.

"Today it's pretty cheerful. Everybody is still having fun. We'll let the weekend soak in and we'll see what happens after that. We're trying to stay positive. We realize we're not up against the staff here, it's a national issue. It's the higher-ups that have put us in this position," he said, adding he's hopeful a deal can get done quickly so postal workers can get back on the job, particularly important as the holiday season rapidly approaches

## WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>Cloudy</b>	<b>Mix Snow/Rain</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Mostly Cloudy</b>
Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>5</b> LOW <b>1</b>	Precipitation: <b>40%</b> HIGH <b>5</b> LOW <b>-1</b>	Precipitation: <b>20%</b> HIGH <b>3</b> LOW <b>-2</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>3</b> LOW <b>-1</b>

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Hundreds of people took part in the Santa Claus Parade last Saturday. (Olivia Browning)

# Parade delights

By Olivia Browning

After 32 years, many groups of people continue to gather each year to welcome the Christmas season and of course, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

Thousands of people lined Memorial Ave. on Saturday morning for the Rotary Santa Claus Parade.

Dawn Sebesta, chair of the Rotary Santa Claus Parade committee, said the weather was perfect and everything went very well.

"We ended up with 57 entries. We did have more registered but unfortunately due to illness and things like that, we had a few pull out. We still had a good turnout.

"I think there was still plenty to entertain everybody," she said.

Sebesta said this event is great for absolutely anyone, especially families with small children.

"Santa comes to town and what better time for that to happen. He's here at the auditorium and then you can go see him at Intercity as well because they kick off their Santa Claus celebrations there as well.

"The parade doesn't cost anything. Anybody can come and watch it and enjoy it," she added.

Sebesta said Rotary clubs have not always looked after the parade.

"It used to be looked after by the OPP at one time, but we've been doing it now for around 15 years. It's been a while," she said.

This parade has been in existence for a

long time, Sebesta said.

"We hope that we can continue this tradition in Thunder Bay and we really appreciate the support that this community gives to the parade," she added.

It was Jordan Larmand's first time taking part in the parade with his colleagues at Shout Media.

"A lot of us have been visiting and attending the Santa Claus parade, but not many of us have actually taken part. We're excited to be a part of it.

"We made a gingerbread float and it turned out really well, decorating the candy. It was really exciting and the number one reason, of course, is the kids," he said.

Chloe Blackburn watched the parade this year for the fourth or fifth time, she said.

"It was really fun and I enjoyed it because there were lots of cool floats and there were like 30 different grinchies," Blackburn said.

She added that she has two favourite floats, if she had to pick.

"I liked the one that had Elsa and Anna and I also liked the one that was Toy Story," she said.

This year it was Zoe Ponder's first time ever being at the Santa Claus Parade. She gave out candy and said it was very fun.

"I loved seeing the kids get happy when I gave them candy," she said.

Ponder said it was amazing to see all the people lining the streets.

# Giertuga faces assault charge

By Clint Fleury - Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Coun. Trevor Giertuga says he is facing an assault charge following a June altercation with one of his brothers.

The at-large councillor denied the allegations, while going public with the assault charge during Monday's committee of the whole meeting.

"I'll have my day in court where the entire circumstances will come out. I believe I'll be vindicated, but I just want the public to know."

Giertuga said the matter will be heard in court next week, but he wanted to come forward now and "stay true to (his) ideals of transparency and openness to the public."

He stated the altercation between the two brothers shouldn't have gone beyond a grade-school wrestling match.

"It was an issue between two brothers, siblings, and a family issue that should have stayed in the family but hasn't. I apologize," Giertuga said.

"The real victim here is my mother who's gone through so much."

# Waterfront funding axed

By Clint Fleury - Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

City council has decided that development on the waterfront is better funded by the private sector.

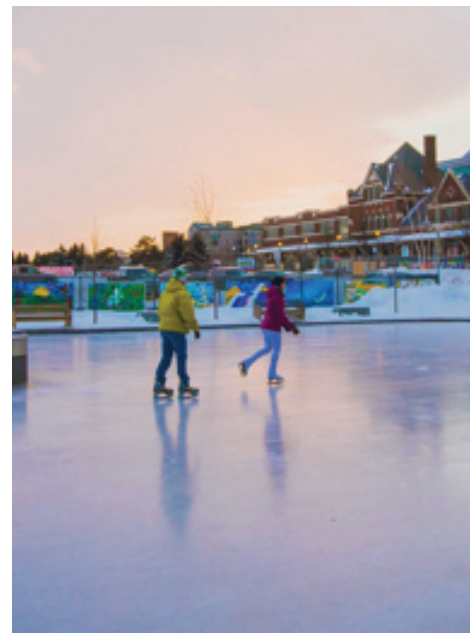
Coun. Andrew Foulds, chair of the waterfront development committee (WDC), asked council to include a one-time funding contribution of \$150,000 in the 2025 budget to advance development of the waterfront.

If it had been approved, administration could still have kept the tax-supported portion of the budget to the 3.8 per cent increase mandated by council.

However, several councillors including Mayor Ken Boshcoff, coun. Rajni Agarwal, and coun. Mark Bentz said the private sector would be better suited to developing the waterfront.

"I feel at this point the waterfront is really part of the community and doesn't really need another add-on to the budget, that everything can be done within the parks and rec," said Boshcoff.

"I can't see putting money forward until that huge strategic direction for the massive piece of land be directed through the



Waterfront development came before council Monday.

"I can't see where this investment would actually supersede what we're already doing or waiting to be completed by our outside consultants that are in place," she added.

In her comments, Agarwal referred to two developments at the marina, the proposed Science North building and festival area.

"Those are only two of the many projects," Foulds responded. "In the memo, there are things like the trail, things like education, things like communication. I mean, those are two big pieces that you just articulated, but there are many pieces that will inform many of the ways forward."

The sum of \$150,000 is significant Foulds said. And he suggested the committee could do better at communication with council. "But you did task us with doing work. That was more than just the festival area, more than just Pool 6," he added.

The memorandum tabled by Foulds outlined key initiatives in the WDC's 2024-2026 action plan, including continuing to develop properties along the waterfront, preserving industrial properties, the waterfront trail, and promotion and education of the waterfront.

consultants that have been retained over the last couple of years," said Agarwal.

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# Holiday Wishes Tree aims to collect 400 gifts

By Lucas Punkari - TB Source

Waking up on Christmas morning without a gift under the tree can be very hard on children in need.

"When families are struggling, this can be a difficult time of year," said Dana Leeder, director of services for the Children's Aid Society Thunder Bay District.

The 36th Children's Aid Society Thunder Bay District's Holiday Wishes Tree Campaign is officially underway.

The campaign, which launched Thursday at the Walmart on Memorial Avenue, runs until Dec. 23 and helps provide gifts to children and youth in need during the holiday season.

"Thunder Bay has always had a tremendous heart and they are very giving. We're very appreciative of the people that are able to help and support our youth."

Leeder said it's always an emotional experience to see how the campaign helps local youth.

"A lot of times we have our youth holiday parties and events like that happening at the agency and the excitement for the little ones and the teens is just beyond words," Leeder said.

The campaign's donation trees are on display at the Walmart locations on Memorial Avenue, Dawson Road and Arthur Street West. Snowmen gift tags for children and youth are hung on the trees, where shoppers can grab them and purchase an age-appropriate gift.

The unwrapped gift is left in the designated area for the Children's Aid Society's volunteer captains to pick up and deliver to the agency.

After distributing 377 gifts through the district in 2024, the goal for this year's campaign is to collect 400 gifts.

In addition to being in Thunder Bay, the district serves communities as far east as Marathon.

They also have offices in Nipigon and Geraldton.



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EDITORIAL

## Free parking

The public has spoken.

It's time for city council to act.

In a recent Newswatch poll, readers were asked if they thought Thunder Bay should eliminate paid parking at night, after 6 p.m.

A resounding 93.82 per cent of respondents said yes.

While we understand the desire to make parking cost-neutral, the idea of ticketing people out having a good time, supporting the local economy, doesn't sit well.

It feels opportunistic, the ticket writers lying in wait to levy parking infractions against motorists who are out to eat or at the Gardens trying to take in a hockey game.

There's no need for the city to collect parking money at night.

Our businesses are struggling enough as it is.

Marina Park was meant to be used by the public.

Two hours of free parking at night and on weekends is appropriate.

By all means, if people are abusing the system, ticket them, multiple times if need be.

But those wanting to enjoy the waterfront or a night out on the town should not be punished.

## Ford's rebate bad use of money

To the editor:

Premier Doug Ford's recent initiative to return \$200 to every Ontario taxpayer is bold and also ridiculous.

The accumulated sum, a whopping \$3 billion could immediately move the dial on many issues important to citizens namely health care, addictions and community safety.

Although those of less means will undoubtedly spend their cheques stimulating the economy, much or most of it will simply end up dormant in bank accounts or stock portfolios.

Ford is trading what could be a transformational sum of money for political parlour tricks, ignoring the crisis on our doorstep.

Municipalities are being forced to cut services and raise taxes to pay for ballooning emergency services budgets that are the direct result of inadequate investments in social infrastructure.

Paying out dividends to every Ontarian is not an equitable solution.

It only ensures that the addictions and mental health crisis continues to be carried on the backs of the marginalized.

Alternatively strategic investments in health and wellness will ensure that every citizen, regardless of socio-economic status get to benefit from healthier and more prosperous cities.

Brian Hamilton,  
McKellar Ward Councillor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



# Van Der Wouden pens shining debut novel

It is hard to believe that *The Safekeep* by Yael Van Der Wouden is her first novel. It is written with such skill and confidence that you would think it's the latest in a long line of her literary output.

It's the kind of novel that slowly draws you in and then grips you hard and fast so that you simply must know how it is going to end.

The carefully devised plot gives some clues as to what might lie ahead but, when the killer twist arrives, you do not see it coming. At that point I literally had to put the book down and regain my breath before reading on.

The author is both Dutch and Jewish,

which are keys to understanding this intoxicating blend of history and memory and how the paths of two people that intersect, seemingly by accident, can tell one of the most important stories of the 20th century.

It's been 15 years since the Second World War and the rural Dutch province of Overijssel is quiet. Bomb craters have been filled, buildings reconstructed and the conflict is well and truly over. Yet its echoes continue to reverberate like pebbles dropped into the lives of those who only have vague childhood memories of their traumatic pasts.

Alone in her mother's country home -

which is itself a major character in the novel - Isabel lives her life as it should be: led by routine and discipline. She is not kind to the young woman who comes to clean and cook for her. And she is cold and aloof to the desperate lonely man who tries to woo her with his clumsy attempts at affection.

Isabel's quiet, settled life is upended when her brother Louis delivers his graceless new girlfriend, Eva, at Isabel's doorstep, as an unwanted guest, there to stay for the season. She is the latest in a long line of women that Louis loves and then leaves.

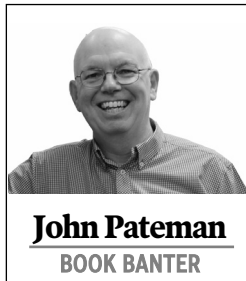
Eva is Isabel's antithesis: she sleeps late, wakes late, walks loudly through the house and touches things she shouldn't. In response, Isabel develops a fully-fueled obsession, and when things start disappearing around the house - a spoon, a knife,

a bowl - Isabel's suspicions spiral out of control.

She tries to confide in her other brother, Hendrik, who she was close to as a child, but he is too wrapped up in his relationship with Sebastien, which Isabel does not seem to approve of. And it is after a day out with Hendrik and Sebastien that Isabel and Eva suddenly start to really notice each other for the first time.

In the sweltering heat of summer, Isabel's paranoia gives way to desire, leading to a discovery that unravels all she has ever known. The war might not be well and truly over after all, and neither Eva nor the house are what they seem.

The way in which the author keeps these strands apart and then weaves them together is truly impressive.



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# Pop culture's alive and well

By JR Shermack - Special to TB Source

That magic feeling is back.

I am past the point where I can be easily swept away by high-energy pop culture trends, but I wasn't always this way.

As a kid, I witnessed the biggest social and musical phenomenon the world had ever seen—the Beatles were bigger even than Elvis Presley.

I was not among the throngs of screaming fans who would drown them out every time they performed in person, but I was captivated by the music, the magic and the hype.

There have been many other superstars since who have amassed millions of enthusiastic fans worldwide not to mention billions of dollars for their efforts.

But music preferences and personal favourites often transition from top forty to oldies but goodies, and for many aging baby boomers, there will never be another Beatles.

As the music world was dancing to Disco, groovin' to Grunge, rebelling with Rap and bopping to Hip Hop the original Beatles fans were left behind, reminiscing about that magic feeling.

There were other huge concerts and record-breaking sales but nothing could compare to the sudden, irreverent and irresistible impact

of the Fab Four on pop culture.

Until now, that is—even the most diehard fans of John, Paul, George and Ringo have to admit there is another contender for most influential pop star ever.

Her name is Taylor Swift and she is wrapping up her world tour with a series of shows in Canada, six in Toronto and three in Vancouver.

Canadian fans are overjoyed and so are the two Canadian cities hosting the tour.

Some estimates have the Eras Tour bringing in as much as \$5.7 billion altogether and a pie that big can be divided into many slices.

The City of Toronto is happy to receive their \$282 million from concertgoers during the six night tour (If only she would do a show in Thunder Bay - we could use the money).

I am not a bona fide Swiftie but nobody is immune to the charming, somewhat wholesome persona she has created for her adoring public.

But I am unapologetic about being intrigued by the Taylor Swift phenomenon even though I do not fit the profile of a typical fan.

An analysis of concert goers reveals that 58 per cent are between the ages of 35 and 64 with 37 per cent between 18 and 34 and 5% under 18.



The Eras Tour has arrived in Canada. (Ogulcan Aksoy)

The press coverage of Taylor Swift concerts features crowds of glittery, sparkly super fans (mostly female) all decked out in themed

outfits for the show.

Actually the majority of fans are female but it is only by a slight margin of 52% to 48%—apparently I'm not the only dude craving that magic feeling.

I am not one of the 300,000 ticket holders for Ms Swift's Eras Tour at the Rogers Centre in Toronto, but I know someone who was there opening night.

It was everything you expect from the biggest, most influential performer since the Beatles—high-energy, excitement, a huge crowd, a great performance and magic in the air.

Taylor Swift said "Everyone loves Canadians" and I assume she included herself because she also called us "the most generous, encouraging, welcoming, passionate, excitable fans."

That's why she decided to close her world tour in front of a positive, admiring Canadian audience after 149 shows on five continents over a year-and-a-half.

As for me, I resisted the urge to get tickets for Taylor's closing performance in Vancouver, but crowds of Canuck Swifties are bedazzled and sparkling and lining up for the show.

After all, that magic feeling doesn't come around every day.

what's happening  
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## The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

### November 25

#### Cirque Musica Holiday Show

TCG Entertainment, the leading producer of live entertainment, invites audiences of all ages to step into a world of enchantment this holiday season with the all-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland, the perfect fusion of circus artistry and beloved holiday melodies.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the magical holiday extravaganza filled with music, marvels and merriment will ignite the festive spirit in all who attend. New for 2024, a limited number of VIP experience tickets will allow guests to meet the talented cast firsthand and go behind the scenes to learn how the magic happens.

Featuring awe-inspiring acrobatics, gravity-defying aerial feats and talented musicians and singers, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland takes audiences on a spectacular journey into a world of music, circus and wonder.

With new costumes, music and storylines, the all-new show blends the spellbinding grace and daredevil athleticism of today's greatest circus performers with a musical mix of timeless seasonal favorites.

### November 30

#### St. Nicholas Celebration

The Dutch Canadian Society of Thunder Bay invites you to its St. Nicholas Celebration (Sinterklaas), on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Vickers Heights Community Centre, located at 1695 Broadway Ave., to share a wonderful Dutch tradition, The Arrival of St. Nicholas from the Netherlands.

This event is free and open to all.

There will be not only a visit from St. Nicholas, but also an animated slideshow with music and pictures of the arrival of St. Nicholas in the Netherlands, and free activities for the children.

A reminder to bring a small gift for St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas) to present to each child.

### November 21-30

#### Of Marriage Minded Misses

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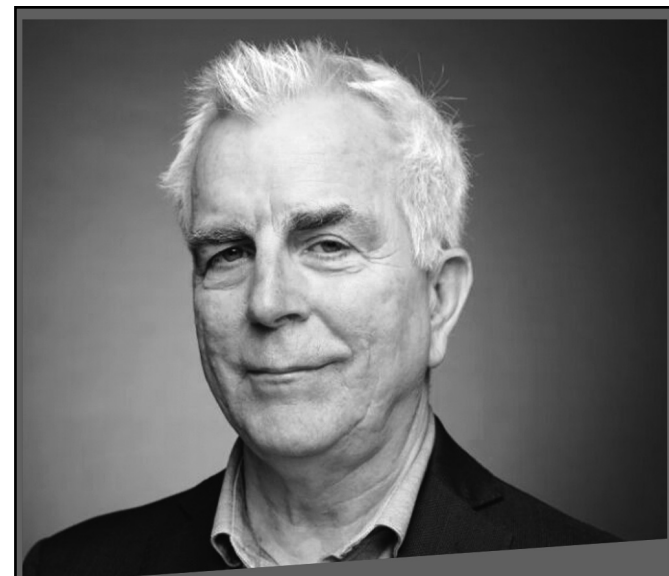
The London Social Season has started and the eccentric Bixby family are back! Will middle child Eugenia manage to paint her masterpiece?

Will youngest daughter Francine find a wealthy husband? Will would be "rake" Thomas avoid his match-making Mama?

And will eldest daughter Camille finally throw the perfect party?

Pick a comfortable seat and hold on to your corset, because here comes the Bixby family.

Performance dates and times are available at [cambrianplayers.com](http://cambrianplayers.com). Tickets are \$30 and be purchased at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).



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# Christmas Wish bags are back

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

For 16 years, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care has been making Christmas brighter for children in care, thanks to its annual Christmas Wish campaign.

Over the last decade-and-a-half, Christmas Wish has delivered nearly 9,000 gift bags to children in Northwestern Ontario, each iconic red bag filled with personalized gift items tailored to individual children, a reflection of their individual personality.

From essential clothing and necessities to toys, books and learning supplies, the program has been a huge success for Dilico, but it can't happen without the support of the public.

"We're really looking for the public to come out and share some warm wishes for the kids and purchase some gifts for them," said Sarah Pelletier, the assistant director of child welfare at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

"Our kids are in need throughout the holiday season, so we're really looking just for some special items to be gifted to the kids and make some of their wishes come true."

The impact has been phenomenal, Pelletier added.

"The kids in the community, when they



Singers from Paramount Theatre help usher in this year's Christmas Wish campaign. (Leith Dunick)

actually receive these gifts, it really puts a smile on their face during the holiday season. They really feel they're appreciated, that people care about them and that members of the community care about their well-being," she said.

Last year, more than 800 Christmas Wish bags were collected, with a value of gifts

generally ranging from \$30 to \$100 – though some shoppers do spend much higher than that, depending on their financial abilities.

Tom Auger, assistant director of Child Welfare at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, said they're looking to collect as many bags or more this year.

Unfortunately, he said, the need never goes

away.

"We just want to make sure that no child is left behind at Christmas. We want to make sure that every single child in our community has something to open up, to smile and to laugh and to be happy about on that Christmas morning," Auger said.

"As we've gone through the years, the need has grown. I can't really say why that need has grown, and we try to meet the need as best as we can."

To take part in this year's Christmas Wish campaign, wish bags can be picked up at Dilico Health & Wellness Centre on Court Street, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care on Anemki Drive, Goods & Co. or at any participating Starbucks location in Thunder Bay.

There will also be pop-up booths over the next two weeks, where the public can not only pick up wish bags to fill, but also purchase Christmas Wish cards. Proceeds from the sale of the cards goes towards filling up even more bags for children in need.

It's a wonderful way to give back, said Audrey Sawchyn, who has been participating in the Christmas Wish campaign for several years, most recently with her two young children.



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# Kids bombarded with ads

For many years now, lawmakers have attempted to prevent fast food, candy and soft drink manufacturers from marketing their sugary, fatty or unhealthy foods to kids.

Banning ads during certain hours of the day, banning kids from appearing in ads, and also banning certain brands from sponsoring youth centered events or sports.

It is a constant, undying struggle to keep kids eating healthy in today's world.

Now, ultimately the responsibility of that falls to the parents. However, lawmakers have made strides to make sure that it's at the very least, a little less accessible.

That being said, these laws and regulations were made before the rise of social media, which doesn't fall into the usual laws of traditional media.

Social media marketing of fast food, soft

drinks, chocolate and other snacks contribute to normalizing unhealthy eating, say Canadian researchers calling for policies to protect children and teens.

Now a study published in a recent issue of the journal PLOS Digital Health has focused on the 40 food brands with the highest sales in Canada.

Fast-food restaurants and sugar-sweetened beverages were the most common social media posts mentioning products.

Social media is emerging as a top source of youth exposure to marketing promoting products that are poor in nutrients, the study says.

Study author Monique Potvin Kent, a professor in the school of epidemiology and public health at the University of Ottawa, previously estimated Canadian children see more than 4,000 food and beverage ads per year on social media

using their digital devices. For teens, it's 9,000 ads.

Even the most health-conscious parent can't compete with that kind of digital bombardment.

This study worked on data collected in 2020, you would assume in 2024 the messaging has only gotten more intense.

Last year, the World Health Organization recommended mandatory regulation of marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages high in saturated fat, trans fat, salt and certain sugars.

## Food environment changes

Changes in the food environment, which includes the availability of junk food, the price of healthy foods and factors like advertising, all impact food intake.

In 2022, a systematic review of studies on the effects of marketing of unhealthy products through social media or advertising overt and covert ads that children are exposed to as they play video games has a significant effect on pester

behaviours, food choice, and food intake of children.

The pester behaviour is something I can personally attest to.

The types of regulations required to control this messaging isn't going to happen overnight.

These things need to be studied and implemented slowly. However, it seems as if we are tremendously behind on where we need to be to control the advertising of unhealthy foods to kids.

There are provinces doing things. For instance, Quebec bans any commercial advertising directed at children under the age of 13 on the internet, radio, television, mobile signs, promotional items, and printed materials, based on their cognitive ability to recognize the intent of ads.

This is a great place to start.

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory with ONE location in Current River and is the Co-Owner of Elite Beef.



**Derek Lankinen**

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# Blow winds, blow

Saturday night and Sunday the wind blew fiercely. The tops of trees were swaying back and forth, and I had two concerns: would more trees be toppled across our trails and would one of them, somewhere, take out a hydro line, throwing Casa Jones into complete darkness and complete silence?

Last week the power was cut in the early morning. We learned that it would be hours before it was restored. My wife, Laura, looked on her phone and saw how many places were now without power. Lots.

But never fear, anticipating a power cut we had run water into a couple of pails. Also, and most importantly, I had brewed the coffee well before the house went silent.

Losing power is a rural "given". You take steps to prepare. If the weather dictates the potential for losing "znits", you make sure that you have candles and even oil lamps. It is also a good thing to cook on a propane stove since lack of electricity will not prevent you from making a meal.

On the day last week when we were suddenly without electricity, I had just begun to make a fire in the wood boiler in our basement. Fortunately, I had yet to put a match to the paper inside. Whew! We heat with water that is forced through copper pipes all around Casa Jones but requires electricity to run the circulation pumps that push the heated water through those pipes.

Thank goodness the real cold (courtesy of Jack Frost) had not yet arrived. And there was still some heat from the fire I had made the previous night.

After I get the coffee maker working, I often set a match to the fire I've built in the living room fireplace which I had done that morning. So even though we temporarily were without power, I could keep the upstairs (at least in the living room) warm.

Well, even though the Hydro website had

predicted that the power would be restored in the afternoon, it actually came back on just before lunch.

Good!

The point is when choosing to be a rural dweller, and like the Boy Scout Motto says: "Be Prepared." You know that eventually you will be without power.

Saturday evening the winds came up and a steady roar was heard around the house. Sometimes when I hear deep, thrumming noises, I check to see if it is, in fact, the wind outside, or the dryer on in the laundry room. Saturday evening, it was the wind.

We had spent most of the day trundling to the farm where we had bought several hundred small, hay bales but there were slightly more than a hundred left in the hay producer's barn.

So, after breakfast, I hooked the hay trailer to the truck and off we went, "we", being me, son Daug, and Laura.

I climbed up into the barn and tossed the hay to Laura who tossed it to Doug who was mowing it on the trailer and then into the box of the truck.

Then we trundled home and set about unloading the hay into the annex part of our barn where we store hay.

When we took off in the morning, there was next to no wind but when we got home with the load, the wind was beginning to pick up. After the last bale was off the trailer, I took a broom to sweep off the loose hay. The task was easy because the wind was blowing from the south right into the open barn.

But the wind had yet to really puff out its cheeks and blow loudly. By the time it was dark, the steady "roar" could be heard; and occasionally I felt it shake the house. And as I mentioned, being an experienced rural roofer, I ran water into a couple of large pots just in case.



**Fred Jones**  
RURAL ROOTS

# Living wage set at \$20.30/hr

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Lakehead Social Planning Council says people living in Northern Ontario need to earn at least \$20.30 an hour to be considered to be earning a living wage.

The calculation, released annually, factors in the cost of shelter, food, medical, internet, clothing and cell phone plans, as well as transportation and child care in its living wage breakdown.

"A living wage is the hourly wage a person needs to earn to cover their basic expenses

and participate in their community. The living wage calculation includes costs for food, shelter, transportation and childcare as well as a modest amount for recreation such as going out for dinner and a movie, said LSPC coordinator of poverty reduction strategy Bonnie Krysovaty, in a release issued on Monday.

According to the report, shelter, which includes insurance and utilities, costs \$19,229 per year for a three-bedroom unit, down to \$14,884 for a one-bedroom place. Food is estimated at 15.1 per cent of total annual income.

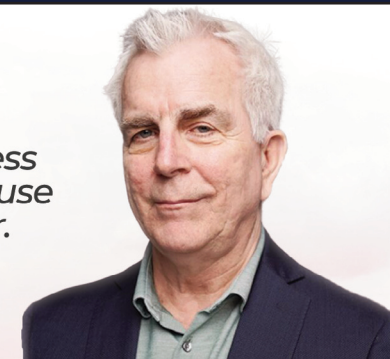


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The snow will start falling soon, which means it could be time to hit the slopes and ski trails any week now.

## Skiing nearing

As autumn fades to winter, the hours of daylight dwindle and the temperatures drop, it is common for most Canadians to spend more time indoors. However, if we can find a passion that brings us back outside in the winter months, it is possible to thrive all year long.

Looking at that early season falling snow with excitement and finding joy in a winter activity can completely change your mood and your outlook on life from December through March. In my younger days, it was hockey and ice fishing that stoked my internal fire for winter. With marriage and young children, my focus had to evolve into something more accommodating to my wife and daughters. For the past two decades, Nordic skiing became the activity that bonded us through the coldest months of the year.

Now that my daughters are young adults who are far too fast on their skis for me to keep up with, my winter passions are changing again. Last year I spent more time on the fat bike, and now I am finding myself excited to get back into some ice fishing in the months ahead.

After last winter, if you could call that "winter", many outdoor enthusiasts are looking forward to the return of something more traditional this year. When the snow hits the ground and doesn't melt, it feels like a clean start, not only for a fresh season of

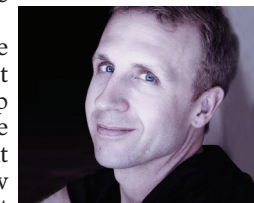
winter activities, but also a renewal for the soul. I find that December always inspires a uniquely amazing feeling in me as fresh snow and relatively mild temperatures allow us to see and enjoy the world around us in a different way.

Perhaps it is the beauty of a winter landscape, or the quietness a fresh blanket of snow brings, or the sound of children down the street at the rink, but we can all find something to appreciate with the change in seasons.

For many, the desire to simply get outside the house can be the catalyst to discover the wonders of the winter version of sports like running, hiking, or biking. For others, it is the ice and snow that bring the ability to interact differently with our surroundings as we look to ski, skate, snowshoe or ice climb.

Like it or not, winter is coming. We can let it ruin our mood, or we can embrace it and accept both the challenges and the possibilities it brings. I prefer the latter, because we are extremely lucky to live in a place where people have already pioneered an endless number of wintertime activities to help us enjoy the

season. From ice rinks to ski centers to snow-covered winter trails through the woods, the infrastructure necessary to embrace winter and thrive is all around us. We simply have to get out there and take advantage.



**Keith Ailey**

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# Downsizing isn't just for retirement

## Moving to a smaller home aligns with a minimalist approach

When you hear the term downsizing, what comes to mind?

For many, it's an image of retirees trading in their family homes for cozy cottages by the sea.

But here's a fresh perspective: downsizing isn't just for those stepping into retirement — it's a smart move that can benefit adults at any stage of life.

There's a common misbelief that downsizing is only suitable for the golden years.

Younger adults often dismiss the idea, thinking they need to wait until retirement to consider a smaller home. However, this mindset overlooks the freedom and opportunities that downsizing can offer right now.

Downsizing is about more than just reducing square footage; it's about creating freedom.

Imagine shedding the burdens of excessive upkeep, high utility bills, and unused space.

A smaller home can mean lower expenses, less maintenance, and more time and resources to invest in what truly matters to you — whether that's travelling, pursuing a passion, or simply enjoying more financial flexibility.

While the immediate financial perks like reduced mortgage payments and lower property taxes are appealing, downsizing can also be a strategic move for building wealth.

By freeing up equity tied in a larger home, you can invest in opportunities that align with your long-term goals.

Today's world values experiences over possessions. Downsizing aligns with a minimalist approach, focusing on quality over quantity.

It's about curating a living space that fits your lifestyle, not the other way around.

This shift can lead to a more fulfilling life, centered around experiences rather than the accumulation of things.

A smaller home often means a smaller carbon footprint.

Reduced energy consumption and less waste contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.

For those passionate about environmental responsibility, downsizing is a practical step toward living those values daily.

It's natural to feel attached to a larger home, especially if it's filled

with memories.

But downsizing doesn't mean leaving memories behind; it's an opportunity to create new ones.

By embracing change, you open doors to new experiences and possibilities.

If you've been contemplating a change, consider how downsizing might play a role in your journey.

It's not about giving up space; it's about gaining freedom — financially, emotionally, and physically.

Whether you're a young professional, a growing family looking for simplicity, or someone seeking a lifestyle change, downsizing could be the key to unlocking the life you desire.

Let's debunk the myth once and for all: downsizing is not reserved for retirees.

It's a bold move toward a freer, more intentional life, available to anyone ready to embrace it.

If you're curious about how downsizing can fit into your life, reach out to explore the possibilities.

Freedom isn't about age; it's about making choices that align with your aspirations today.

Frank Zanatta, is a realtor in Thunder Bay. You can also follow him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/frankzanattarealestate](https://www.facebook.com/frankzanattarealestate) for further topics and information.



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EZIQHZ OPVO RHZZEGS QI GKOVQDZE,  
KLO OPZ EZIOHLMQGD GR EZIQHZ."

— ZTQMOZOLI

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Reimbursed
- 5 Free
- 8 US dam
- 12 Project
- 13 Guido's note (2 words)
- 14 Outer portion of Earth
- 15 Sleep (pref.)
- 16 Albania (abbr.)
- 17 Design
- 18 Arabian domain
- 20 Shore
- 21 Tumor (suf.)
- 22 Three (pref.)
- 23 Irish foot soldier
- 26 Block
- 27 Celsius (abbr.)
- 30 Shoe size
- 31 Fr. meat dish
- 33 Have (Scott.)
- 34 Plus
- 35 Indo-Chin. people
- 36 Voltaire play
- 38 Computer chip
- 39 Ounces (abbr.)

**DOWN**

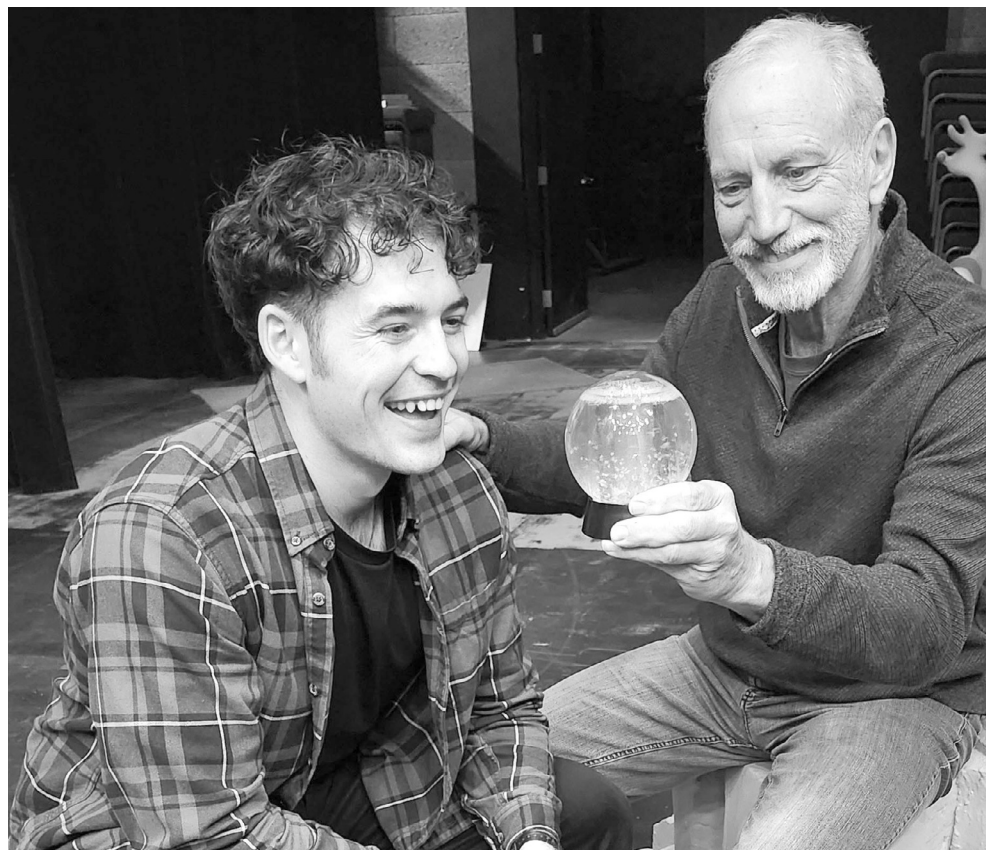
- 2 "Cantique de Noel" composer
- 3 Yesterday (Ital.)
- 4 Silk substitute
- 5 "Giant" ranch
- 6 He (Lat.)
- 7 Flounder
- 8 Willow
- 9 Love of Radames

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

ELIA TAT WAKA  
CONC RAH AGAG  
HOCH ALE LAMA  
OPHISM TILLER  
RAP ADO  
MIRACLE OPTIC  
ACE ELM ACS  
GAMMA DADAIST  
ABA LAB  
ASSESS ELATER  
BEAN ABT TOCO  
BALA NAE INCL  
ARAD ALE SEEL

- 10 This one (Lat.)
- 11 King of Israel
- 19 Amer. Sign Language (abbr.)
- 20 Swim (2 words)
- 22 Hat
- 23 "The Jungle Book" python
- 24 Belonging to
- (suf.)
- 25 Energy unit
- 26 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
- 27 Greek letter
- 28 Fruiting spike
- 29 Civil War commander
- 32 Air-to-air missile (abbr.)
- 37 Wild ginger
- 38 Polishing material
- 39 Watering hole
- 40 Hall (Ger.)
- 41 Mother of Brunhilde
- 42 Walk through
- 43 Para-aminobenzoic acid
- 44 Foreshadow
- 45 Hole
- 46 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 48 Science class

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Alex Fellowes Smith (as Buddy the Elf) and Sandy Winsby (as Santa Claus) rehearse a scene from *ELF - The Musical*. The musical takes the stage at Magnus Theatre from Nov. 29 to Dec. 21. (Magnus Theatre)

# Elf comes to Magnus

The joy of Buddy the Elf will spread Christmas cheer starting Nov. 29.

By Linda Maehans - Special to TB Source

In Santa's workshop at the North Pole life is fun and oh so sweet. Boy, how those clever elves accomplish all their tasks!

Yet, sadly, one particular elf, Buddy, feels he simply doesn't fit in anymore. Undaunted, he leaves his long-time home in search of the real father he never knew he had (until now).

In New York City, beleaguered businessman Walter Hobbs is overwhelmed. Too much stress, that's an understatement.

The very last thing he needs is the unexpected arrival of a weirdo in green tights-and-tunic with bells-on. It isn't Walter who's the cuckoo-nut, no sirree.

## Enchanted

Here in the Lakehead, Magnus audiences are in for an enchanted evening (or matinee) of outstanding entertainment.

The exquisite magic of live theatre, with music and snappy dance numbers; all senses fully engaged and inside, where it truly counts, hearts-and-souls uplifted in the nick-of-time.

Thunder Bay Source found Buddy in NYC; wasn't hard to miss, really.

"The other elves explained this is my true birthplace, not Christmastown where I've grown up these past 30 years."

One glance and it's impossible not to believe actor Alex Smith is an elf.

"I know I'm different," he shrugs. "At the North Pole, in *The Elf Singers* I'm a baritone; and a pretty good basketball-player. But on skates I tend to be clumsy. And sometimes, lately, I've fallen short with my toy quota."

For a moment Buddy looks crestfallen. He brightens.

"But, here, well I've learned my real dad publishes children's books. He makes people happy. That's exactly my plan too!"

Buddy beams as only elves can.

"I think it's always best to lead with a positive attitude."

Geez-Lou-eez. My first impression of Walter? This guy's under a sleigh-load of pressure.

Actor Stephen Sparks has appeared on a Magnus stage before (*Meet My Sister*; *Smarty-Pants*); today he looks as though he's in shock, or trauma of some kind.

"OK. I had a son. By a college girlfriend, who died. No, she never told me. Yeah, I'm sure I didn't know."

He draws a shuddering breath.

"Greenway Books. We are in Manhattan. We do children's publications. We're losing money. Our latest book got printed with two missing pages - surprise! Now kids won't be finding out what happens to Jingles-the-Christmas-puppy.

"Are the illustrations enough? I don't think so! It's my head on this chopping block.

And, now, to find out I have a son who claims he's an elf? He needs mental help! I don't have time for this! I can't deal with any of it!"

Relax. And prepare to be filled with glee. Literally.

## Largest cast

With the largest cast ever to appear on Magnus' stage, including top-notch live band (Danny Johnson-and-the-boys, who else?) and choreographed sparklers worthy-of-Broadway by Makayla Moore of *Shout!* fame, 2019.

Alongside all the scenery, energy and humour-laden joy, you'll be a-twirl in your seats in no time - 200 per cent guaranteed.

Quoting Buddy, if I may: "the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!"

So cozy up with your loved ones at Magnus Theatre, anytime from Nov. 29 to Dec. 21 and be truly ready, inside where it counts, when the real and meaningful eve finally arrives.





Anishinabek Family Care

## Christmas Wish

2024

**Share the Spirit of Giving**

Join Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and help fill over 800 Wish bags for children in need this holiday season.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

- 1 Pickup your Christmas Wish bag or sign up online.
- 2 Fill it with toys, learning supplies, or essential items based on your child profile tag.
- 3 Return your filled Wish bag by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 2nd.**

For further details visit:  
[dilico.com/christmaswish](http://dilico.com/christmaswish)



# Anora lives up to Palme d'Or hype

It's somewhat exciting to find *Anora* at SilverCity. The winner of the Palme d'Or, top prize at the Cannes Film Festival, seemed likely to sidestep our conventional cinematic burgh. The non self-explanatory title may not resonate with local film goers. Plus, what wins in Cannes doesn't necessarily follow in North America. But *Anora* may be an exception.

Mikey Madison (*Once Upon a Time in America*) plays Anora—who also goes by “Ani” – a stripper/sex worker from Brooklyn of Russian heritage who meets and impetuously marries the super-spoiled son of a super-rich Russian oligarch. Getting wind of this, mom and dad don't approve, and head to the US. In the meantime, they command the son's klutzy state-side handlers to intervene.

The basic plot description doesn't due justice to the delicately executed piece by director/writer Sean Baker (*The Florida Project*, *Tangerine*) where screwball comedy bits meld with character study and gritty class reality. Cross-cultural characters collide in a bitter-sweet ill-fated romantic mess that has greater emotional resonance than anticipated.

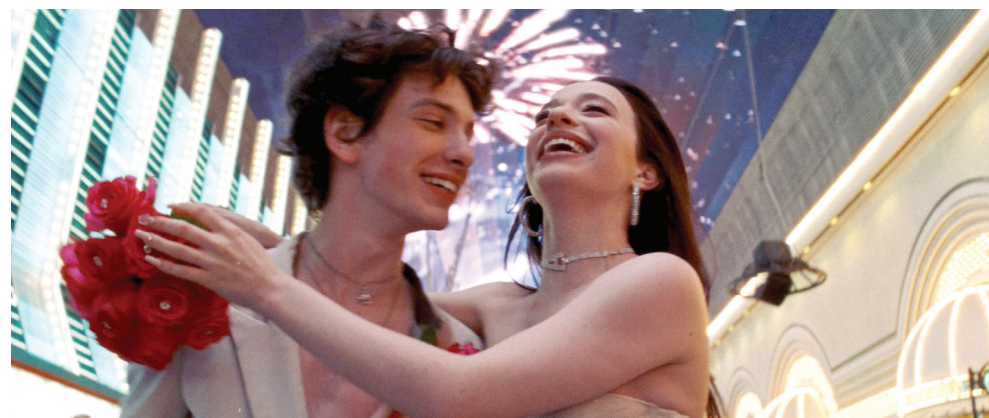
Having a fractured facility with Russian, Ani is assigned to entertain Ivan at her club. They hit it off. Ani quickly progresses to being his “girlfriend” for a week—for a fee. To Ani, this slight “extension” of her job is simply supplementing her income. The arrangement gives her agency. She bristles at the word “prostitute.” Is this her ticket to the American Dream?

Ivan aka Vanya (Mark Eydalsteyn) is 21. He's all party-hearty. A limo and private jet are at his disposal. He's a serious video gamer. They are agreeably intimate.

Their transactional relationship may be unseemly but it's simply equitable. Both benefit. Ivan is not abusive or aggressive. Ani is not a hardened opportunistic negotiator. Ivan says he would've paid double. Ani actually likes this exuberant man-child, further dazzled by his fairy tale cocoon.

While partying in Las Vegas, Ivan reveals that he'll be compelled to return to Russia to work for his father unless he gets a green card. (Is his partying staving off reality?) Marrying an American would enable this. Awash in passion, they get hitched.

Upon returning to New York, the film adopts



Mikey Madison (right) and Mark Eydalsteyn are the stars of *Anora*, a movie that has won accolades worldwide.

a slapstick tone as they face Ivan's handlers: Toros (Karren Karagulian) an Armenian priest and Ivan's godfather, Toros' brother, Garnick (Vache Tovmasyan) and Igor (Yura Borisov.)

They're regular guys, not scary stereotypical goons, hilariously ill-equipped as “fixers.” Ivan flees. Ani stands her ground.

Parents arrive. Russian domestic dysfunction ensues.

Director Baker is non-judgmental towards his realistic, everyday characters. Mikey Madison is excellent in a daring, multi-layered

role, arousing empathy despite Anora's moral choices and eginess.

Eydalsteyn is engagingly callow as Ivan. The film's unassuming revelation is Yura Borisov. His Igor is subtly compassionate. Madison and Borisov are astounding in the immensely powerful, wordless final scene, sensitively orchestrated by Baker.

*Anora* defies expectations, overcoming some languorous stretches to skillfully tie together its unlikely serio-comic elements, buoyed by a wonderful cast. Awards season awaits *Anora*.



Marty Mascarín

MOVIE TALK



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# LU struggles continue

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

For more than seven minutes in the third quarter, the Lakehead Thunderwolves were shut out.

On the night, they shot just 22 per cent from the field.

The defence, steady for most of the early part of the season, struggled to make stops and their opponent, the No.10 Guelph Gryphons, were all too eager to take advantage.

Add it all up and the Gryphons rolled to an easy 70-46 win at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse, Guelph improving to 6-1 on the season, the T-Wolves dropping their fifth in a row to fall to 1-6.

Guard Paul Lopez, who led LU with 11 points, said the team was looking to put on a bit of a better show for the home crowd, but hopes the lessons learned will stick when the team hits the road next weekend.

"Against this team, they're like a top 10 OUA team, we have to fight to the last minute," Lopez said.

"We can't focus on the results. We have to get better from these games, these teams that are tough to win against and fight hard."

Second-year coach Hugo Boisvert said he

was happy with a three-minute stretch in the third, when his Thunderwolves went on a 6-2 run to 59-33, Thunder Bay's Sara Azzolini finally breaking the goose egg in the quarter with a hard-fought bucket with 2:46 to go in the period. Sidney Crawford followed with a pair of free throws, then put one in from the floor.

It just wasn't nearly enough, Boisvert said. "The rest of it, I did not think we competed all night, other than those couple of minutes," Boisvert said, at a loss to why the team is still struggling this far into the 2024-25 season.

"That's a great question. I think we've just got to be tougher on each other in practice and kind of build those habits. Today we just lost our battles individually, which lead to a whole bunch of trouble."

The Gryphons took control early on in the contest, after Lopez drained a three to give the Thunderwolves a 7-4 lead.

Guelph's Julia Colavecchia responded with a trey of her own, tying the game, the start of an 11-0 run by the Gryphons that gave them a 15-7 lead. They'd stretch it to 21-9 after one, and carried a 43-27 lead into half.

They'd increase their advantage to 30 points before Azzolini stopped another run.

# Weiss, Burgess keep winning

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Bryan Burgess and Gary Weiss say sometimes curlers need to catch a break or two to win.

They both got plenty of them last Wednesday night.

Not surprisingly, both skips walked away with victories, adding to their early success during the 2024-25 Tbaytel Major League of Curling season.

Weiss stole his way to victory, scoring a single in the first with hammer, then added one in the second, three in the third and closed it out with a deuce in the fourth, completing a 7-0 whitewashing of Andrew Sinclair at the halfway point of the match.

Burgess had a much tighter outcome, but pulled away from Dylan Johnston, scoring three in the sixth end to pull out a 7-4 triumph.

"We had a couple of good breaks tonight," said Weiss, his team improving to 7-0-0-1, good for a tie for top spot in the standings with undefeated Ron Rosengren, who continued his winning ways on Wednesday with a 5-2 win over Robyn Despins.

"The ice was pretty straight, so if you're not throwing it true off the stick, it's tough to make some shots. We put them in some good positions and made it tough on (Andrew) to make some shots."

It's gone that way all season, Weiss said, adding they're thrilled with where they're at in the standings, the season about to hit its halfway mark on Thursday night.

"It is a good start for us this year. Usually it takes a little while for us to get warmed up. We try to gear up for the seniors, which is later on in the year, so all these are good practice games for us to get ready for senior provincials," said Weiss, who curls with Deron Surkan, Aaron Rogalski and Mark Beazley.

Burgess has played one fewer game than Weiss, but also came into Draw 9 action with just a single loss to his name.

His team, which includes lead Brent Adamson, second Tristan Vale and third Mike Vale, opened strong, putting up three in the first against Johnston, a three-time Major League of Curling champion, winning twice as a skip in 2020 and 2022.

The pressure was off early, but Burgess said they got a little help along the way.



Gary Weiss releases a shot last Wednesday. (Leith Dunick)

"We got the breaks that game," Burgess said. "We didn't play that great. It looked like they were off their game and it just kind of went our way. We made the shots when it counted for the points and lucky for us, we were on the winning side."

Given how tight the standings are, and seven teams remaining with two or fewer losses, every point counts, said Burgess, who is penning a curling column this season in the Chronicle-Journal.

"It's nice to be at the top of leaderboard early in the round robin, for sure. We're going to need a few more wins to stay up top, but hopefully we continue to play good as a team and we'll see what happens."

In other action, Denis Mallette scored three in the eighth and downed Ben Mikkelsen 7-3, Chris Silver fought back from an early 2-0 deficit to double up Claire Dubinsky 6-3, Brian Adams Jr. needed just four ends to dispatch Myles Stevens 8-2, Trevor Bonot roared back from three down to

knock off Rob Skinner 7-3 and Ashley Palmer's team, skipped by Oye-Sem Won, won the draw-to-the-button playoff against Krista McCarville, prevailing 7-6.



BRYAN BURGESS

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# Thunderwolves improve to 7-0

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

In the OUA, just two undefeated teams remain.

The unranked Lakehead Thunderwolves, at 7-0 after Friday night's 85-64 triumph over the visiting Guelph Gryphons.

The No. 6 Carleton Ravens, at 6-0, are the other.

While their toughest tests are yet to come – the teams they've played this season to date have a combined 8-31 record after Friday night's contests – the Thunderwolves have rolled through the OUA West and put themselves in a good spot ahead of next weekend's first true test, road games against No. 4 Ontario Tech and No. 14 Queen's.

Despite a rough first quarter that saw them trail the Gryphons 20-19 after one quarter, the T-Wolves kept fighting, pulled away to open a nine-point lead at half and outlasted their opponent in the second half to capture an 85-64 win at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse.

Harold Santacruz, a powerful force in the paint, finished with 15 points and five rebounds to help lead LU to the win, and said they'd like a do-over for the first quarter, but liked the way the team performed over the final 30 minutes of play.

"I think we had a slow start," the Spanish import said. "But then we picked it up a little bit and played together and it made the difference."

The perfect record, regardless of how early it is in the season, feels great, he added. But the T-Wolves aren't taking anything or any opponent for granted at this stage.

"We've got to play every game as if it was the last one. We have to go into every game thinking about that and try to give our best," Santacruz said.

Thunderwolves coach Ryan Thomson said he wasn't thrilled with how his team handled Guelph's star forward Eric Armstrong, who punished them for 28 points, including nine in the first quarter, running roughshod over Lakehead's attempts to stop him throughout the contest.

"Armstrong was kind of the priority on the scout all week of different ways we wanted to guard him. Really what we've prepared for and saw on film was what he was able to execute. So that's a little bit disappointing, but we're happy to come away with the win," Thomson said.

"Ultimately we had a lot of guys contributing tonight, which has kind of been

par for the course for us."

Nathan Bilamu topped all LU players with 20 points, while Adrian Nowak came off the bench and put up 14 and Chris Sagl finished with 13 points and seven dimes.

It was Sagl who helped give the T-Wolves the momentum heading into the second half. He forced a late steal and went all the way for the bucket to give LU a 42-35 lead, then hit another hoop just before the buzzer to extend the lead to nine.

Early in the third, after Armstrong hit a quick three to cut Lakehead's lead to 46-38, Marcos Alonso responded with a three of his own, returning the Thunderwolves lead back to double digits. They never dipped below the rest of the way, leading 68-51 after three quarters. They finished the game on a 6-0 run to push the advantage over 20 points.

Thomson said he knows the schedule is about to get tougher, with Laurier and No. 1 Carleton heading to Thunder Bay in two weeks. But as the wins start to add up, the team's record is nothing to complain about.

"No, we'll never complain about getting wins. Regardless of how they come, they're hard to get. Next week will be a really good test for us," he said.



Harold Santacruz guards Guelph's Jack Tunstill.

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# Unanimous for Suzuki?

Ichiro Suzuki should be the second unanimous baseball hall of fame inductee.

The Japanese star is a sure-fire first-ballot entry, but it remains to be seen if he can convince all 385 or so baseball writers who get to cast a ballot to put an 'x' beside his name.

Other than Mariano Rivera, no one has been unanimous. Not Willie Mays, not Hank Aaron, not Tom Seaver.

A two-time batting champion, Suzuki led the league in hits seven times, had 200 or more hits in his first 10 seasons, stole 509 career bases, finished with a career .311 batting average and, in 2004, set the single-season record with 262 hits.

Though he didn't arrive in North America until he was 27, he finished with 3,089 big-league hits, and when you add in his Japanese numbers, he wound up with an incredible 4,367 hits, 111 more than Pete Rose.

Oh, and Ichiro won 10 Gold Glove Awards for his fielding prowess.

The Baseball Writers' Association of America on Monday revealed this year's hall of fame ballot.

Other than Ichiro, there are no sure bets. Pitcher C.C. Sabathia will likely get in at some

point, on the back of a 251-161 record and a World Series ring with the Yankees in 2009, but he may have to wait a few years, despite a 60.0 career WAR. That's a little below the average hall-of-famer (73), but I think he's worthy.

Dustin Pedroia, Troy Tulowitzki and Felix Hernandez at points during their careers looked Cooperstown-bound, but injuries and Father Time took a toll on their chances.

Of the holdovers, lefty reliever Billy Wagner is likely to cross the 75 per cent vote threshold in his final year on the ballot. He fell five votes short last year. Carlos Beltran and Andruw Jones each have a shot, but both need plenty of voters to come on board, so it's unlikely they're getting in this time around. Maybe next year.

If I had a ballot, it'd be Ichiro, Wagner, A-Rod, Beltran, Sabathia and Chase Utley. Voters can choose up to 10.



How about Carter George, goal scorer? The Thunder Bay goaltender, who plays for the Owen Sound Attack, scored an empty-netter last week against Peterborough and was named OHL goaltender of the week as a result. Just the 11th OHL goalie to score.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS



Lakehead goaltender stands his ground against Guelph's Jacob Winterton last Saturday. (Leith Dunick)

# T-Wolves romp

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Keighan Gerrie needed a breakout game.

Entering Saturday night's rematch with the Guelph Gryphons, the third-year Thunderwolves forward had just one goal and one assist in six appearances, missing five games because of injury.

The former Superior International Junior Hockey League playoff MVP is just two seasons removed from a 15-goal rookie campaign, and gave a pretty good indication in his seventh start of 2024-25 that he's ready to be that player once again.

The 23-year-old Gerrie netted a hat trick and added a pair of assists, giving him four goals and seven points in seven games, but more importantly, he led Lakehead to a bounce-back 9-1 win over the Gryphons, a team that edged them 4-3 the night before.

It's a good feeling, Gerrie said after the performance.

"It's a big sigh of relief," he said.

"It's been a tough start to the year for me and tonight was a big game. Hopefully I can just build off this and keep rolling in the second half."

It caught the attention of his coach, Andrew Wilkins, who hopes the five-point night is a stepping stone to top-level play the rest of the way.

"It doesn't surprise us. We know he has that type of ability. He's coming off an injury, so he's trying to find his groove. If you ask him, he'll probably say he didn't quite play his best game last night, but I thought he was completely dialled in tonight and exceptionally good," Wilkins said.

Gerrie's first goal came four minutes into the

second, and completed a pretty tic-tac-toe play with linemates Riley Sharun and Joe Mack. The second goal was a rapid-fire answer to Guelph's Nolan Dann, who beat LU goaltender Carson Cherepak short side on the power play at 8:29 of the middle stanza.

Gerrie's fourth of the season came just 1:45 later, a redirection of cross-crease pass from Mack that flicked high into the Gryphons goal. The hat trick goal wrapped up the scoring in the third, the T-Wolves second power play goal of the night, coming at the 18:54 mark.

He wasn't the only former SIJHL playoff MVP to have a big night.

Defenceman Jack Cook unleashed a torrent of teddy bears when he rang one off the post and past Guelph starter Cal Schell, who was later yanked in favour of Tanner Wickware midway through the contest after giving up his fourth goal on 18 shots.

It was the annual Teddy Bear Toss game, the goal pausing play for about 10 minutes while players and minor hockey kids collected up the stuffed animals, 27 bags worth to be exact.

"It was awesome. There's nothing like playing in front of 2,500 or 3,000 fans here and to see the teddies fly, it was awesome," said Cook, the goal his first in a Thunderwolves uniform.

"It's huge. I think it gave me a little confidence boost to just know as a first-year I can play in this league."

Cook finished the night with a goal and two assists.

The win was important for the team's standing in the OUA West.

The two points, vaulted them into a tie for first place with Western (7-3-1) and Toronto Metropolitan (7-6-1), each team ending the night with 15 points.

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