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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Local Technician Works Hard to Maintain, Expand and Improve Regional Service

Meet Network Operations Technician Keith

By Janine Chiasson

When you're travelling the stunning north shore of Lake Superior with its breathtaking views, you're not really thinking about who is taking care of the technology that lets you text or call home. That guy is Keith, Network Operations Technician covering roughly Nipigon to White River, part of a team of regional network technicians who look after Tbaytel's vast service area. For eight years, Keith has maintained and installed all of Tbaytel's equipment on the north shore from his home base in Marathon with support from Tbaytel's Network Operations Centre in Thunder Bay.

Network technicians aren't just maintaining and fixing – they're also extending service to new coverage areas and adding capacity to existing cell sites. This is likely one of the reasons why Tbaytel outperforms its major competitors when it comes to constant growth and improvement. Since Keith started with Tbaytel, he's gone through four complete changes of network equipment, starting with the switch from analog to digital, and is now seeing LTE make its way down the shore. "Tbaytel is constantly introducing new technology to improve reliability and increase our service footprint, which means a better experience for customers," Keith notes. "In terms of providing excellent cell service to sparsely populated areas, Tbaytel is the clear leader in our region."



"Network technicians aren't just maintaining and fixing – they're also extending service to new coverage areas and adding capacity to existing cell sites. This is likely one of the reasons why Tbaytel outperforms its major competitors when it comes to constant growth and improvement."

"I am ready to do whatever it takes to keep the network up," says Keith. "Looking after 25 towers, I have to be ready to troubleshoot anything that affects our ability to provide service." When one tower goes down – a lightning strike for instance – it can cause a linked reaction to towers hundreds of miles down the shore. Fixing a tower could involve diagnosis of the problem, an inventory check for parts, coordination with the network operations centre then implementing the solution. Now imagine all this during a Northern Ontario winter when access to Tbaytel's remote tower location is challenging and Keith has to travel on an ATV with snowtracks. As he says, "It's all part of a day's work to troubleshoot and solve issues quickly. I love that for me, every day is different."

Earlier this summer when a power outage in Hornepayne caused a service disruption, Keith solved the problem in no time with a generator and Tbaytel cell service was going strong. "I'm really proud of the fact that the network doesn't go down out here," Keith says. "Even when it does, I'm ready to respond because this is my



neighbourhood and people are relying on me to make sure they stay connected."

LOCAL NEWS

Bridge repairs going to cost \$8M to \$12M

Design flaws, human error blamed for Nipigon Bridge failure

NIPIGON
By Jon Thompson - TB Source

It's now not only clear to Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca what caused the Nipigon River Bridge to split in January but also clear the bridge shouldn't be the only link between eastern and western Canada.

Standing on the bridge site on Thursday, Del Duca announced three factors compounded to cause the bolts that were holding the girder to the bearing on an expansion joint to break on January 10. The event severed the TransCanada Highway in half for 27 hours, only 42 days after the construction was complete.

Del Duca attributed the bridge failure to "overloading," echoing concurrent ministry and independent engineering reports.

"First was the design of the shoe plate and its flexibility; second was a lack of rotation in the bearing that was constructed; and third was improperly tightened bolts attaching the girder to the shoe plate," he said.



TRIO OF REASONS: Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca says the shoe plate and its flexibility, a lack of bearing rotation and untightened bolts were responsible for last January's Nipigon River Bridge failure that closed the highway.

Bridge were tested in two laboratories that both found their integrity to be sound. Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle has faced months of questions over the failure and he expressed relief to finally have answers.

"I think it's fair to say there's a degree of responsibility that's shared by everybody..."
STEVEN DEL DUCA

"It wasn't the cold. It wasn't the wind. It was other technical factors involved and ultimately, any one of those three could have resulted in the same thing happening,"

Gravelle said. The province intends to spend the next 18 months designing and undergoing an environmental

assessment for an alternate route around the north of Lake Nipigon to be used in case of emergencies. "Those discussions came up almost immediately so I was grateful that indeed there was some serious consideration given to a potential emergency route," Gravelle said.

Work remaining

"It's important to get that route right, which is why the environmental assessment is going to be important in terms of the route it will take. It's a positive move and one I'm pleased to see."

Once completed, the Nipigon River Bridge will be the first of its kind in Ontario at a cost of \$106 million.

Spring completion

Repairs are expected to be complete by spring 2017 at a cost of \$8 million to \$12 million. Del Duca said both the public and private sectors will share in that cost.

"I think it's fair to say there's a degree of responsibility that's shared among everybody who participated in this," he said.

"Exactly how that responsibility or liability is apportioned will be the subject of discussions, some of which have begun."

Bolts from the Nipigon River

Elevator fire quickly doused

THUNDER BAY
By Nicole Dixon - TB Source

A grain elevator fire that initially sparked concerns of a potential explosion was quickly brought under control.

Thunder Bay Fire Rescue were called to the scene at Viterra grain elevator just before 9 a.m. last Thursday.

Workers were pushed back from the area amid safety concerns that the fire could lead to an explosion.

At least one ship was moved from the area for the

same reason.

Deputy Fire Chief Greg Hankkio said grain elevator fires are dangerous, especially if you have a lot of grain dust in the atmosphere.

"It can lead to a grain dust explosion, which we unfortunately have had in the past, so we are taking a fire like this very seriously," Hankkio said.

Just before 11:40 a.m. crews at the scene were able to call the situation officially under control.

"The fire was contained and it's presently contained in the pellet plant," Hankkio said.

Weather Forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mainly sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny
Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH 18 LOW 8	Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH 20 LOW 10	Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH 16 LOW 10
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Chance of a shower
Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH 17 LOW 9	Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 17 LOW 11	Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 17 LOW 13

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LOCAL NEWS

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CUTS MADE: City manager Norm Gale has found a way to make up most of a projected shortfall.

Council finds \$3M to eliminate deficit

Councillor suggests budget increase wasn't realistic

CITY COUNCIL
By Jon Thompson – TB Source

Even as city council approved a plan to fill the projected hole in its 2016 budget on Monday, many councillors were already looking down the road to 2017.

City council unanimously passed a plan that will recover, save or defer \$3.02 million of the municipal budget's anticipated \$3.2-million deficit by year's end.

City manager Norm Gale's changes to the 2016 budget include nearly \$1 million savings in operations and over \$2 million reduction in capital expenditures.

Gale said nearly half of capital savings is comprised of projects that came in under budget and the hiring freeze to save on personnel costs will not impact front-line services.

"I can't say specifically what it means to the average resident but I do wish to assure residents that things like capital projects, street clearing, emergency services – there's no change," Gale said.

Despite voting for the plan, Coun. Paul Pugh was among a number of councillors who expressed consternation at the budget process that fell so short.

"As a council, we voted for a 2.1 per cent tax increase, which was unrealistic," Pugh said.

"When you factor in our infrastructure commitment, that barely covers inflation."

Inflation will stack on top of 2017's costs as well. The tax revenue that will result from 2016 new property development will be balanced by decreasing valuations on existing properties, resulting in zero growth for the city's tax base.

Developing the 2017 budget will be abnormally challenging, by all accounts. Coun. Shelby Ch'ng delivered an impassioned speech, urging citizens to contribute their priorities to the process.

"If someone calls me and they want a zero per cent budget and they have not participated, not called me, not emailed, not facebooked, not twittered, not instagrammed, not snapchat, I don't know what else to tell you," she said.

JON THOMPSON

LOCAL NEWS

Crime prevention is a hard sell: Chevrette

CITY COUNCIL
By Jon Thompson - TB Source



JON THOMPSON

CITY UNIQUE: Lee-Ann Chevrette says Thunder Bay has complex social issues.

Although most crime statistics are falling, risk factors are on the rise and program advocates say this message has yet to reach senior levels of government.

Ontario has rejected all three program funding proposals the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council has submitted over two years and the council's leadership claims not to have even received an explanation.

"We recognize the need is great across the province," said council coordinator Lee-Ann Chevrette.

"However, we feel very strongly that Thunder Bay has some unique and very complex social issues and we need other orders of government to help us, to step up and to provide some level of support, so we can start to really tackle some of these social issues in a targeted way, so we can reduce crime and victimization in our community."

One such program would have been a partnership with the Thunder Bay Police Service. Two others would have provided mental health supports and other services for those who presented an elevated risk in either being victimized by crime or coming into contact with the law.

Chevrette said on paper, local crime statistics have been falling since 1998. Property crime and violent crime have both decreased while the

decline in Thunder Bay's youth crime represents the steepest drop among metropolitan cities across Canada.

Those numbers, she pointed out, don't tell the whole story.

"What's happening is, there are more interventions. People are being diverted so they're not being charged with those crimes," she said.

"They're going to alternative diversion programs. They're getting the supports they need."

Meanwhile, the web of social issues attributed to risk is weaving a larger, more long-term trap.

"We're still seeing increased interactions with police, increased incidents of disorder in our community, problematic substance use, mental health conditions. We know a lot of people continue to struggle with poverty and homelessness," she said.

"It's those social issues we really

need to address because when we're talking about crime, we're talking about victimization."

The council is currently applying for a five-year federal program envelope that would bring supports and programming to youth in their own neighbourhoods.

But even the longest-standing local program of its kind is experiencing funding challenges.

Linda Bruins has been running the Evergreen United Neighbourhood organization for a decade. Her program is based in two locations in the Simpson Street-Ogden area, including the former Hells Angels clubhouse. Evergreen reaches children in the neighbourhood with the highest concentration of working poor residents.

Bruins said even her proven track record hasn't provided stable funding. While she fills out grants every two months, much of her staff remains employed part time and while she's required to fundraise in addition to grant applications, some grants can disappear without explanation.

"A big part of my job is chasing money in order to pay myself and my staff to do proven, quality work," she said.

"I've had a good track record but the last couple of years have been very challenging. Funders have a particular idea about what they want to do and meeting community need through what's available when funds come in."

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Editorial

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disturbing dog death

There's some disturbing news emanating out of the Northwood area this week.

Inspectors with the Thunder Bay and District Humane Society say the body of a female spaniel-type dog was located in a wooded area near a popular playfield, a fractured skull amongst the poor pup's injuries.

While it remains an isolated case, the incident was heinous enough for the OSPCA's Jeremy Gardiner to caution residents to keep their dogs inside where possible.

He also mentioned they've been dealing with similar incidents involving cats, albeit in different areas of the city.

This is worrisome, to say the least.

To think that someone – or more than one person – is out there roaming the streets and capable of mutilating defenceless animals is pause for thought.

Just what type of person is capable of committing an act like this? And what might it lead to down the road?

The lesson here is to be diligent with your pets. Keep an eye on them frequently if left in the yard and don't let them roam the neighbourhood unattended.

It's also a reminder to have your pets microchipped and/or equip them with a collar complete with identification.

Better safe than sorry.

Pre-budget musings

To the editor:

It is budget time and an excellent opportunity to present a state of the city address, from a citizen's point of view, to help frame the public conversation.

When municipal officials speak of new energy in the city, to what do they refer?

Is it the vibrant and historic Chippewa Park with its much loved carousel and pavillion and view of the sleeping giant – or its wildlife exhibit and carefully upheld public spaces that host so many annual celebrations, picnics, camping events and ordinary afternoons with the family?

Perhaps they refer to the lovingly maintained historic bridges, First Spike, James Whalen, Botanical Gardens, historic East End – or the vibrant Victoriaville Mall in a revitalized Fort William?

No, none of these. But of all the neighbourhoods and city treasures left snubbed and forgotten by planners, east Victoria towers above them all for the discord it has sewn.

Victoriaville, planners' signature fiat development project in the south side, was never a success.

It languishes now in a neighbourhood so precarious a Jane's Walk requires a police escort. How does it avoid demolition? It is said to stand as a fortress against a culture of neighbourhood crime, nurtured and some say initiated by its presence.

A perceived policy to contain despair in the Fort William neighbourhood distresses the community. An apparent two-point plan to steer the indigent and homeless to one end of the city while concentrating development efforts on the other seemed, to council's collective mind, to be fool proof.

What could possibly go wrong? Well, hopelessness and despair are the breeding grounds for crime, and crime did what it always does when left unchecked.

It grew, matured, and reached out to seek its fortune.

We don't know how many street gangs now exist in our community. The police count four.

The drug problem has exploded. Crime is pervasive city-wide.

A 14-year-old was recently charged with taking a life in a residential neighbourhood, in a city where murder is now too frequent an occurrence.

But what about those development efforts our Fort William neighbours have been hung out for? Remember the 52 km waterfront development extending from Chippewa Park to Trowbridge Falls?

Remember the visioning: "...the perfect destination with something for everyone," a five-star waterfront hotel



with on-site parking, a three-storey water park, a wellness centre, etc.? It was all integrated we were told, because today in the hotel business "you need more than four walls and a bed" to succeed.

Remember the promised new marina, the cruise ship strategy and trails extending to the RV park at Chippewa?

That was then. Taxpayers ponied up \$60 million for park landscaping, but private development did not materialize as expected.

Gone is the three-story waterpark, wellness centre, new marina, and parking is to be added off site. There are no cruise ships.

Chippewa Park we are now told could realize millions of dollars for the city if we sold it. Important elements said to be integral to the project's success are missing.

How can this be? But it gets worse. We are looking at a fire sale of city assets. What happened? We were told that with the miracle of leverage and a

mere \$20 million, Prince Arthurs's Landing was a sure thing, and savvy bureaucrats could preserve the fiscal integrity of the city.

Municipal golf course is now sold. The mayor speaks of selling Strathcona, and of our third golf course he says "I don't know legally if we can get rid of Chapples. I'll have to look into that one."

We are familiar with the botched attempt to close the conservatory, city pools are in danger of closing, and all options appear to be on the table for Chippewa.

How many times have trial balloons been raised for the sale of Tbaytel?

There are three ways to balance budgets. Increase revenues, cut expenses and sell assets. What happens when city council has no more assets to sell?

And what of our city's intergovernmental strategy?

According to their actions and the evidence of our eyes, we come to the inescapable conclusion that city

council's regard for senior governments with their mandate to respond to the challenges of global financial instability, climate change, infrastructure deficits (bridges, water treatment, sewers, transportation etc.), population shifts, stagnant growth, high unemployment, historic low interest rates, a real estate bubble, declining household income, historic high household debt and let's not forget the ring of fire – amounts to little more than a slot machine in some strange casino where, if you pull the lever enough times, it will come up "event centre."

City council has created its own world, and it dwells in it alone.

Amidst financial uncertainty, Thunder Bay steams into a global economic ice field while our commanding officers hasten to install luxuries instead of life boats. What could possibly go wrong?

William Olesky,
Thunder Bay

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Perspective

Having human contact

OPINION
By J.R. Shermack
Special to TB Source

Have you ever experienced loneliness?
Everybody gets lonely – it is one of many human emotions and a part of everyone’s life.

We’ve all been homesick when travelling and we miss our families when we are separated but these feelings pass quickly.

When we return home to the smiling faces of loved one sit is a welcome sight and the loneliness disappears.

But what would happen if you had no family home and the loving smiles and human contact you crave were out of reach?

We all know the answer to that question – you would carry on, dissatisfied, while dealing with loneliness, isolation and depression.

There are millions of people in all segments of society who, for any number of reasons, are missing human contact.

Interaction required

From the moment of birth human beings need social interaction to thrive, physically and emotionally. Unfortunately a growing number of our family, friends and acquaintances are dealing with loneliness.

There is a popular public service in the U.K. called Silver Line which addresses a serious social and health concern.

Silver Line is part of a public health strategy to tackle loneliness among seniors.

They get 1,600 calls every day - a typical caller is “Bob” who recently and suddenly lost his wife of sixty-five years.

He has three kids and a great family but although he has places to go, people to meet and things to do, he has nobody to hang with.

The way Bob sees it, it’s just nice to be able to turn and ask somebody, something like, “Hey, is there any more of that blueberry pie left?”

So, at two thirty in the morning when he has something on his mind he calls the chat line for some human contact.

This 24-hour helpline is specifically for lonely older people, but draws attention to what is being called an “epidemic of loneliness”.

Because it often leads to serious mental and physical ailments that are expensive and difficult to deal with, it demands attention.

The health effects of loneliness is a public health issue on par with obesity and substance abuse.

On a psychological survey, 66 per cent of Canadian university students reported feelings of loneliness and despair.

One of the worst periods is right after the Thanksgiving break when students return after a brief reunion with their families.

They may be on a campus with thousands of others their same age but their hearts long for home and family.

This “alone in a crowd” feeling is a by-product of modern life.

Thanks to the internet we are more connected than ever, not only with family and friends but to millions of strangers around the world.

We can join online conversations with celebrities, answer questionnaires, express personal opinions or seek out long lost friends.

Reaching out

Personally, in any given week I could Skype my sister in Calgary, my in-laws in Nova Scotia or my brother in China.

But in spite of the electronic possibilities it seems the connectivity of modern life is making us even lonelier.

In spite of all the perceived benefits of social media, virtual contact is no match for the real thing – there are no hugs on the internet.

Modern life has not solved one of life’s persistent problems and in fact, our unlimited social connections are making things worse.

Keeping in touch by text or e-mail is an emotional cop-out.

From my perspective there is only one effective treatment for loneliness – real, face-to-face human contact.

There is no virtual substitute for a friendly smile, a lively conversation or a heartfelt hug and a pat on the back.

Only humans can make human contact.

“In spite of the electronic possibilities it seems the connectivity of modern life is making us lonelier.”

HE’S DOWN WITH OPP



NEW MAN IN CHARGE: Mark Pritchard, the new OPP regional commander for the Northwest region, says his top priority will be to build stronger relationships in the communities his officers serve.

SUPPLIED

HOW TO WRITE US:

Letters to the editor are most welcome. Those kept to 350 words or less have priority.

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author.

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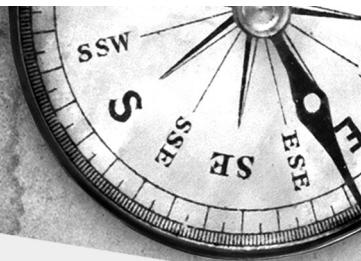
Should Ontario invest in a road that detours around the Nipigon River Bridge?

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This week in history:

Home Restaurant

In the 1920s, the Home Restaurant was located at the corner of Bay and Court Streets in this modern-looking, one-storey building. By the end of the decade the business was owned and operated by William Andreychuck and then Gus Engberg.





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LOCAL NEWS

Women still not equals

POLITICS

By Nicole Dixon - TB Source

Women are still searching for equal representation in politics, says Canada's minister of status of women.

Patty Hajdu took part in the Northwest Ontario Municipalities Association Regional conference last Friday afternoon and spoke about her journey into politics and her experience as a new Member of Parliament and minister during a Women in Politics Luncheon.

"My goal today was to talk about women in politics, and how to get more women in leadership roles," Hajdu said.

The objective is to encourage, train and mentor women to run for all levels of elected government in hopes of women being equally represented.

Hajdu said there are a number of barriers that hold women back from politics.

"I talked a lot about the barrier of money and often it's a very expensive endeavour, so women often don't have the resources that it

takes and it is difficult for women to gather those resources," Hajdu said.

She added there are also preconceived stereotypes and misconceptions about women in leadership roles that continue to persist.



PATTY HAJDU

"We are working on those at the federal level, but it's exciting to see that work is being done at the local level as well."

Groups like Women in Politics have been playing a pivotal role at local levels to inspire, support and make sure women have the necessary resources they need.

"We need to look at how we can make sure that the process from start to finish will ensure that more women are representing us at the federal level," Hajdu said.

"Some early research has shown that women need to be encouraged to run, so making sure we are asking qualified great women in our communities across the sectors to consider running and serving their city, province or country."

She added the narrative we are taught over and over again is that gender equality has been reached.

"When we see the gender wage gap is still 27 cents to the dollars, and that we have roughly 16 to 18 per cent representation on private sector boards, those are the kinds of stats that show the real reality for women in Canada."

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LOCAL NEWS

OPP seatbelt blitz to begin

POLICE
By Doug Dlaczuk - TB Source

Ontario Provincial Police are reminding drivers to take a few extra seconds to buckle up before hitting area roadways.

"Our number one message is simply that five seconds can save your life," Sgt. Shelley Garr, community safety coordinator with the Northwest region OPP, said. "That's about all it takes to put on your seatbelt. We're asking that every single person that gets into a vehicle puts on your seatbelt. It's a basic message."

The OPP is holding its Fall Seat Belt Campaign from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4. During the campaign, OPP officers will be conducting enforcement and education focusing on seatbelt laws and safety.

According to Garr, from Sept. 21

to 25, OPP officers in the Northwest region issued 64 provincial offence notices that were seatbelt related.

"Sixty-four is more than we want to see," Garr said. "We want to see nothing, that's our hope in the Northwest region and across the province. We want everyone to wear their seatbelt. It's simple."

Drivers caught not wearing a seatbelt face a \$240 fine and two demerit points. But the push to get people to buckle up is about more than saving people money in fines.

"It's for your safety and for the safety of everyone else on the road," Garr said. "It's not just you that can possibly be saved, it could be someone else in the vehicle as well."

Between 2011 and 2015, 347 people killed in collisions on Ontario roads were found to not be wearing a seatbelt and 40 people



BUCKLE UP: OPP Stgt Shelley Garr says a seatbelt campaign started this week.

have been killed so far in 2016.

According to Garr, seven people in Northwestern Ontario not wearing a

seatbelt were killed in 2015 alone.

Garr added that initiatives like the Fall Seat Belt Campaign are still necessary because people of all ages still choose to get behind the wheel without buckling up, risking their own lives and the lives of others.

"There is certainly no excuse for that younger generation for not wearing a seatbelt," Garr said. "A lot of the older generation, they grew up and had experience without that law, but they are doing pretty well with wearing their seatbelt."

But adults need to lead the way by setting a good example, Garr said.

"It's not fine to just say that my 16-year-old has his seatbelt on or my child is in their car seat so I'm not going to bother with mine, you need to have your seatbelt on as a driver," Garr continued. "We are going to be out there. So put on your seatbelt and be safe."

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LOCAL NEWS

Dead dog sparks investigation

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A dead dog found near the Northwood playfield has officials with the Thunder Bay and District Humane Society deeply concerned.

Inspector Jeremy Gardiner said residents on the evening of Sept. 16 heard a dog howling nearby. The next day a resident found a female spaniel-type dog's body in the woods near the field and reported it to the Humane Society on Sept. 18.

It's a disturbing find, Gardiner said, adding he's attempting to locate the owner of the dog, which was mostly white in colour with dark spots and was wearing a turquoise collar with no identification.

"Hopefully someone may recognize the dog. Unfortunately we can't put

pictures out because of the heinous crime. It's not something we want to put out there," Gardiner said on Tuesday in an interview with CKPR Radio.

"If someone is missing a dog, or someone knows of a dog that fits that description or might be missing, then maybe they'll come forward and give us a place to start looking."

Foul play is suspected, Gardiner said. "The vet did conduct a necropsy report and there were some skull fractures on the dog, so we've determined that's where the foul play came from. It's nothing we like to deal with," he said.

If located, the person responsible could face charges under the criminal code and be subjected to considerable jail time, Gardiner said.

"We usually save the criminal code

for the most heinous crimes," he said.

With a suspect still on the loose, Gardiner urged the public to keep an eye out and their dogs in the house when possible.

While this is one of the first cases involving a dog, Gardiner said the Humane Society has dealt with numerous cases involving mutilated cats.

"There have been a few similar killings (of cats), but not in the Northwood area," Gardiner said. "There are definitely areas of town we have been focusing on."

It's too early to say whether or not the cases are related.

Anyone with information is asked to phone Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or the Humane Society at 310-7722

All calls remain anonymous.



SHOCKING FIND: Jeremy Gardiner called the killing of a dog a heinous act.



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LOCAL NEWS



DOUG DIACZUK

PILOT PROJECT: Volunteers with Youth Move last week work with kids at the Mary J. L. Black Library.

Youth Move opens doors

Pilot project starts at two library sites
THUNDER BAY
 By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

A summer drop-in program designed to provide a safe and supportive space for youth in the city is expanding to two local libraries.

As part of a four-month pilot program that started on Sept. 12, Youth Move is now available at Mary J. L. Black and Brodie Street Libraries.

The program is in its second year and was created as a partnership initiative between the Thunder Bay Public Library, the city of Thunder Bay's Recreation and Culture Division, the Crime Prevention Council, and Evergreen a United Neighbourhood.

Youth Move program coordinator, Amanda Lemay, said the program has been averaging 10 kids a day at the Mary J. L. Black location, with numbers slightly less at the Brodie Street Library location, but increasing.

"So far it's been really positive," Lemay said.

"We've had a lot of new kids who we haven't seen before come this fall."

Youth Move provides a space for kids to share ideas, plan and organize their own activities, and have access to programs and services aimed at youth.

"I think it's really important to have a place where youth can go and just be themselves and have a say in what kind of activities are being offered to them and a place they can call their own," Lemay said.

Lemay said that they have been doing a lot of work in neighbourhoods to build a relationship between kids and the library. She said that ideally this will not only demonstrate what the library has to offer, but will also help kids stay out of trouble.

"It's to show that there are all these hubs available in the city for the youth to come and use," she said. "The space was already here, so we decided to try and attract kids to it."

Lemay added that the Thunder Bay Public Library has been a great partner and kids get to learn that there are a variety of services available to them right in their own neighbourhood.

"If you look at this space, we have a drop down screen that the kids play video games on a lot," she said. "The libraries have been very generous with us and catered to any need that we have, which is cool."

Youth Move is available at the Mary J. L. Black Library on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and at the Brodie Street Library on Monday and Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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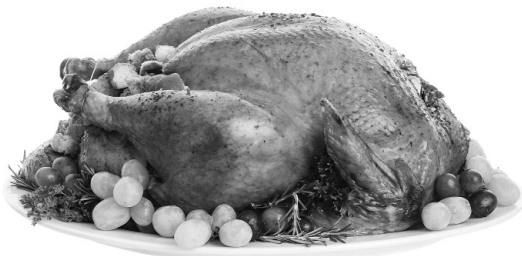
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LOCAL NEWS

March for fallen police

POLICE

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

On a grey and wet day, police officers from across the region marched through the rain to honour the memory of fellow officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

A memorial service and parade was held Sunday afternoon as part of the Police and Peace Officers National Memorial Day.

Members of the Thunder Bay Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and officers from across the border in Duluth and Superior, Wisconsin participated in the annual day of memory.

Const. Rob Steudle, uniform director of the Thunder Bay Police Association, said the memorial service and parade is a way for police officers, active and retired, to pay tribute to the heroes who have given their lives protecting and serving the public.

"We've been very lucky," he said. "Canada in general has been lucky in the last few years, we haven't had too many police officers pass away in the line of duty."



SOMBRE DAY: Thunder Bay Police Service officers remember officers who died on the job.

In Thunder Bay, two officers have been lost in the line of duty. Const. John Kuszniar was fatally wounded when responding to a call in January, 1978 and Const. Joseph Prevett died when participating in a training exercise in

Gravenhurst, Ont. in May, 2014.

"The officers who have passed away, I've worked with in the past and honouring them is very important," Steudle said. "We've also had officers injured in the line of duty and we are honouring them as well."

"We have officers out there every day protecting and serving 24-hours a day," Steudle continued. "Thunder Bay can be a very dangerous city and officers are putting their lives on the line for the citizens and we appreciate them for that."

The parade marched from the former Provincial Court House on Arthur Street to St. Paul's Anglican Church where it concluded with a memorial.

Along the route, family, friends, and members of the public stood in the rain to pay tribute to the men and women in uniform and honour the memory of those lost.

"It's a great showing of people," Steudle said. "It's not the best day, but we really appreciate them coming out to participate in this event. We encourage the public to come out and attend, because the officers are protecting you every day."

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Kim Phuc still refuses to hide from famous photo

THUNDER BAY
 By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Kim Phuc says she didn't know fear until she was nine years old. A happy-go-lucky child growing up in war-torn South Vietnam, she loved to laugh with her friends, ride her bicycle and feast on noodles at her mother's restaurant. But on June 8, 1972 her world was ripped apart.

On that day her village, Trang Bang, was attacked from above, napalm bombs exploding all around her.

As international journalists watched a short distance away, a naked and screaming youngster emerged running from the carnage, her skin seared from the effects of the burning napalm, whose temperature reached 1,200 C.

Associated Press photographer Nick Ut captured her agony for all time, the Pulitzer Prize-winning picture finding its way to the front page of newspapers around the world.

"It changed the way people saw the Vietnam War," said Phuc on Friday night, speaking to a near-capacity Selkirk Auditorium, brought to Thunder Bay by Nu Vision Ministry.

"It changed my life forever." Ut actually saved her life, picking her up and carrying her away to seek medical help. She was left for dead in the morgue.

Three days later her parents found her and took her to a burn clinic in Saigon, where she began a long road to recovery that involved years of surgeries.

"I spent 14 months in the hospital. I had 17 operations. I almost died many times. But I didn't die," she said.

"Inside of me was a little girl who was determined to live."

She recovered, grew up and eventually was accepted into medical school. That's when the communist Vietnamese government rediscovered Phuc and decided to use her as a propaganda tool.

"They decided I should be a war symbol for the state," Phuc said. "They tried to control me and eventually they cut short my studies."

Not wanting her to escape their grasp, the government reluctantly allowed her to study abroad in Cuba, where she met her future husband Bui Huy Toan, also a student in Havana.



SMILING NOW: Kim Phuc's village was bombed with napalm in June 1972 during the Vietnam War.

Realizing she no longer wanted to live under a communist regime, a terrified Phuc convinced her new husband to defect to Canada on their way home from a honeymoon in Moscow during a fuel stopover in Gander, Nfld.

Allowed to stay in Canada, Phuc said at the time, in 1992, she wanted to distance herself as far as she could from the picture that had made her famous around the world.

"It seemed to me that picture did not want to let me go," she said. "For many years, that picture had controlled me. Then a weird thing happened. I realized if I

could not escape the picture, I could work with it for peace. Now I work with my picture for good and it is my choice."

The mother of two, who turned to Christianity to light her path, now heads Kim Foundation International, a charitable organization that's helped build a medical centre in Ongutoi, Uganda.

Having long since forgiven her attackers, Phuc said she hopes her pain and suffering can make a difference in the world today.

"Now, when you see the little girl running up the road in a firebomb that would change her life forever, try not to see her as a symbol of war crying out in pain and fear," she said. "Try to see her as a person who has become a symbol of peace."

"It changed the way people saw the Vietnam War."
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Gathering up the last of the gourds



FRED JONES

RURAL ROOTS

The Triffids are gone. The ‘Triffids’ I call the leafy tendrils of all squash plants but particularly the pumpkins. A couple of years ago, I found that they’d escaped the bounds of garden fencing and were inching their way towards Casa Jones; I recalled John Wyndham’s famous horror tale “Day of the Triffids”. But now ours are no more.

Jack Frost made a second appearance last week and unlike his first visit one week ago, he arrived this time with a vengeance, with a killer frost.

“Killer” frosts bring mixed blessings: if you have not paid attention and have not covered the perishables,

you lose them. My wife, Laura, The Gardener, paid attention. Realizing that this extended summer weather that in my memory (such as it is), has never lasted this long, Laura and I trooped to the garden with bowls to harvest as many of the tomatoes as possible and any remaining beans. Then Jack showed up.

Now many of the leaves belonging to zucchini, pumpkins, and other squash had felt the frost. This time it wasn’t bowls but the wheelbarrow that we brought for the gathering of the gourds. The first pumpkins weren’t hard to find amid the jungle leafage. You could easily spot the orange and if not quite ripe, the darker green than the leaves. So we hauled them in shifts back to the house to store in the basement until The Gardener changed chapeaus and became The Chef, the maker of pumpkin pies or soups.

On the third such trip I asked if that was it re: pumpkins and Laura answered from another part of the

garden “yes” and immediately revised that confirmation with a “wait, I just found four more.” She had indeed. So, a fourth trip.

Then came the task of ripping out the plants and hauling them to the compost. I had forgotten how long some of these vines could get. I noticed while dragging the vines that the several sunflower plants had all been completely denuded – not a seed to be had. I was at one end of the row and either Chip or Dale, our resident chipmunks, was at the other, cheeks stuffed, and scrambling down the plant and off to wherever. Laura had planted the sunflower for the birds who, I hoped, had managed to get some seeds before being ravaged by the chipmunks.

Following that job we surveyed the garden to discover that Jack had not destroyed all of the perishables. Some of the zucchini had survived; the kale and Brussel sprout plants were flourishing as Laura informed me that they

love the frost as does the parsnips. Laura grabbed the garden spade and announced that one doesn’t harvest parsnip until after the first serious frost so it was now okay to dig one up. Parsnips are probably the hardest vegetable to wrest from the ground. It takes strategy and careful plunging of the spade so as to loosen the earth in which the parsnips have become firmly rooted without decapitating the plant. Eventually we freed the stubborn root vegetable that was later sliced and put into a roasting pan along with carrots, potatoes, peppers, cherry tomatoes, and garlic all from our garden – yum!

We also plucked a giant red cabbage, one that would surely have won a prize at the Hymers Fall Fair if the fair was held now, and we uprooted a Brussel sprout stalk festooned with sprouts. I carried cabbage, carrots, and draped the Brussel sprout stalk over my shoulder. Once inside Casa Jones, daughter Beth saw me, asked

what was I carrying over my shoulder and I answered that I was carrying a Brussel sprout mace. Her eyes bugged, and she immediately grabbed the camera for a shot of me so equipped.

Laura entered the ‘hoosie’ later with a bowl of the last potatoes she dug up and the two of us set to chopping veggies for our supper.

Amazingly (to me) the lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, even the zucchini, had all survived Jack’s assault. Mind you while the frost did damage on the one hand and benefited us on the other such that we could grab the parsnip and Brussel sprouts, on the ‘killer’ frost scale it was mild. Next time Jack returns, it will be with a “no-more-mister-nice-guy” assault; the rest of the garden will capitulate.

He could come any day now but by the time he shows up, all of the perishables will have disappeared into the Casa.

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DOUG DIACZUK

MUSICAL MELODY: Members of Marco et les Torvis perform during the Franco Festival in downtown Port Arthur on Sunday.

Franco-Fest fun

CULTURE

By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Francophones living in Northwestern Ontario want everyone to know that they exist, and there's no better way to be known than dancing and singing in the street.

More than 400 people braved the wet weather to participate in the Franco Festival on Sunday. The day included authentic French-Canadian cuisine and music, arts and crafts, and information on Francophone culture and history in the Northwest.

"Francophones are instrumental in helping to develop Northwestern Ontario," said Claudette Gleeson, president of the Franco Festival. "We are here to stay and we want to be known."

The Franco Festival is held every two years in celebration of Franco-Ontarian Day. The festival on Sunday was in its fifth year.

Gleeson said that the festival was born out of a conversation she had with a First Nation's elder who told her that he didn't know Francophones existed in Northwestern Ontario.

"You all look alike, he said," Gleeson recalled. "You need to make yourselves known. I took his word seriously and that's what the Franco Festival is all about."

Gabrielle Chenard, a grade 12 student at École secondaire catholique de la Vérendrye and volunteer at the Franco Festival, said that Franco culture in Northern Ontario is largely forgotten.

"I think the Franco Festival is so important because it's really a way to celebrate our culture and prove that we actually do exist," she said. "Even after all these years, 400 years, Francophones still exist in Northwestern Ontario and Thunder Bay. Even though we are a minority, we are proud to be here, proud to speak French, and

I think it's important that we celebrate that."

Chenard added that the region has come a long way in recognizing the contributions of Franco-Ontarians in the building of this region.

But the Franco Festival is also a way for Francophones to celebrate their culture and speak their language, which is especially important in a community where English is the dominant language.

"People can forget how important it is," she said. "We are surrounded by English all the time, or other languages, so it's easier to speak English, especially in Thunder Bay. We really need to remember that it's a part of ourselves and it's always been there and we've been fighting for it for a long time. I think it's important to remember that French exists, we're proud, and we are big community."

Chenard said that she would still like to see more recognition for the more than 600,000 Francophones living in Ontario, including a French-language university.

The next Franco Festival is scheduled for 2018, however, Gleeson said if there is enough interest and enough people willing to put in a little hard work, it might be back a year early.

For now, Gleeson is happy to see so many people out enjoying Francophone culture, which really shows that Francophones in the region are becoming more known in the community.

"That is ultimately our goal, for people to know us and that we are all alike and we want to be valued and appreciated," she said. "People are here, first and foremost, because they want to have a good French-Canadian poutine, they want the French music, and they want to be able to see each other and talk to each other."

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The right to a healthy environment

ENVIRONMENT

By Nicole Dixon - TB Source

More than 20 years after the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights was introduced, concerns are mounting the legislation has remained largely unchanged.

Proponents of the bill say while the law has remained stagnant, pressures on Ontario's environment continues to increase.

The Blue Dot movement presented a town hall discussion with celebrity environmental activist David Suzuki and guests last Friday evening. The discussion's focus was on the future of environmental rights in the province.

"A lot has happened in the last 20 some years," Suzuki said.

"We are much more aware of the things that are happening, of course we knew about climate change way back in the 1980s and everyone understood that it was serious, but we haven't done anything."

Lobbying efforts

Suzuki argues part of the problem is the fossil fuel industry has spent astonishing sums of money to promote its stance that global warming is a natural occurrence.

This assumption has caused the environment to become worse than when the Environmental Bill of Rights was enacted in 1993.

"I think it's now time to change it, and what we have to do is basically elevate the air, the water, and the soil," he said.

"The things that keep us alive and healthy have got to be elevated as the highest priority that governments are elected to protect."

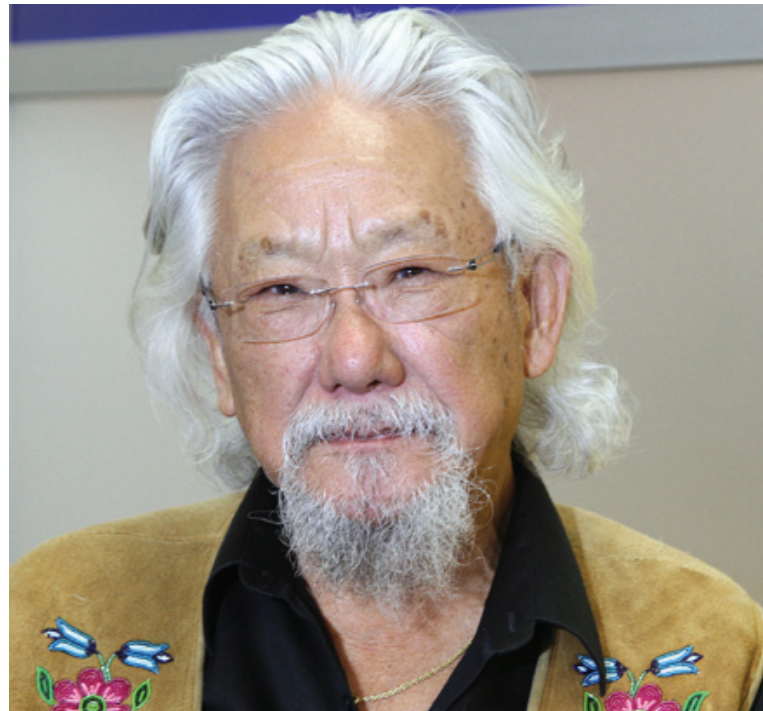
If the Ontario government is committed to protecting the environment for human beings this will mean clean air, clean water, clean soil and protecting other species.

Suzuki said these are all a part of what it is to have a healthy environment, but a healthy environment has yet to be elevated as the highest priority.

"Without air we die," Suzuki said. "Don't tell me we have to compromise or balance that with the economy. The air keeps us alive, you can't eat money so what's going on why do we always have to balance the environment."

Suzuki added the environment is the source of our health and wellbeing, so how do we adapt the economy, the industry and the market to that reality.

If a healthy environment is at the top of the agenda then it is up to the companies to prove to the citizens they are not



TIME FOR CHANGE: Environmental activist, David Suzuki was in Thunder Bay last week during a town hall discussion presented by the Blue Dot Movement.

harming in anyway the clean air, clean water, and clean soil, so it puts the burden of proof on the industry not on the victims.

The important thing is the over-riding priority that the government should have that our health is the highest priority, because our health depends on

clean air, clean water, and clean soil.

"I personally believe that the vast majority of health problems we have are related to the fact that we've used air, water, and soil as a garbage can for toxic chemicals," Suzuki said.

"We are full of dozens of chemicals that are toxic -- whatever we put into our air, water and soil, guess what, it's going to come directly into us."

New world order in

Suzuki added people must adapt themselves to the new world coming in.

"We are going to have to clean up the problems we've created, and this isn't a matter of local issues, this isn't just a matter of how much it's going to cost," he said.

"When you look at the possibilities of climate change there are a lot of scientists now that are saying we won't be here by the end of this century."

Suzuki added once the community has committed to the idea of a healthy environment, the greatest threat will be climate change.

"If people are committed and worried about the environment they will know in order to protect it they will have to do everything they can to change energy resources."

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TB Life



NICOLE DIXON

LOOK OUT BELOW: Organizers at Pumpkin Mania prepare to hoist Don Cronk's 1200 pound pumpkin 20 feet in the air just to drop it back down to the ground to the delight of kids and adults at Belluz Farms last Saturday.

Pumpkins away

Gigantic gourds delight crowds at second annual Pumpkin Mania

THUNDER BAY
By Nicole Dixon - TB Source

Months of gardening has earned a local man first place in the biggest pumpkin contest. The Thunder Bay District Giant Pumpkin Growers vice-president Don Cronk's pumpkin weighed in at more than 1,200 pounds at the annual Pumpkin Mania weigh-off event awarding him with first place overall among more than 20 contestants.

He said the secret to growing a large pumpkin is lots of little gardening tricks. "Well my wife has got five horses, so lots of manure, bury the vines, and hopefully you get the right seeds that helps," Cronk said last Saturday afternoon at Belluz Farm.

Cronk added that he was lucky to even pull out a win, because he had a lot of trouble with this year's gardening season.

Although Cronk is a veteran when it comes to growing pumpkins.

Last year, he set a Pumpkin Mania record with his pumpkin weighing in at close to 1,500 pounds.

Organizers filled this year's winning pumpkin with candy, lifted it high in the air with a crane and smashed it on the ground for dozens of families to enjoy.

A second pumpkin decorated as a minion was dropped into an inflatable pool shortly after.



NICOLE DIXON

TAKING A BREAK: Taylor (left), Samantha and Ashleigh Matheson enjoy the day at Belluz Farm for the annual Pumpkin Mania event.


"Every year we try to do a little more and make the event better for the kids," Cronk said.

The event features a petting zoo, pumpkin decorating, craft table, photo booth, pumpkin carving, a giant straw maze, wagon tours and great fall food.

"The animals are a huge hit, every time I walk around the corner they are all around with the animals," he said.

"Kids just love it here it's a great time."

Do you have an opinion to share?
E-mail the editor at ldunick@dougallmedia.com



Northwestern Ontario Chapter

PRESENTS:
Condo Insurance "What you need to know"
Date: Saturday, October 22, 2016 **Time:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location:
Masonic Temple (Blue Room) - 1600 Dease Street, Thunder Bay

Fees: CCI Members \$60.00 Non-Members: \$95.00
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Pre-register to ensure availability of seating and presentation material.
Registration starts at 8:30 am

Contract: nwontario@cci.ca for more info or
 Call: 807-345-5963 between 9am and 12 noon

Speaker: Jim MacKenzie, MBA, Dip.B.A., FCIP (Hons) – Jim has over 20 years of experience as an insurance broker at Dusyk & Barlow Insurance Brokers Ltd. in Regina, Saskatchewan, and has been a sessional lecturer the Paul J. Hill School of Business at the University of Regina since 2005. He served nine years CCI's national board and five years on executive board. He has also been on the national board of the Insurance Institute of Canada as well as being a past-president of the Insurance Institute of Saskatchewan.



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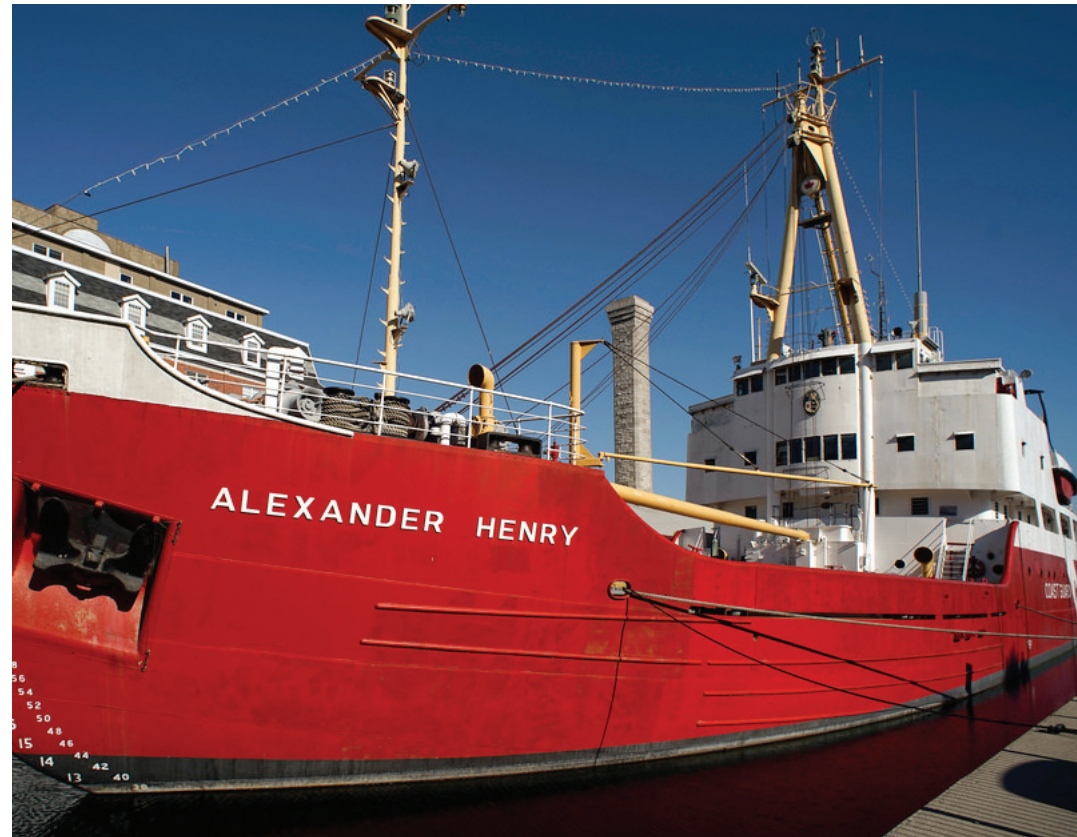
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IN THE bay

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SHIPPING LANE: The Alexander Henry is presently berthed at a dock outside of Picton, Ont. It needs a new home by spring.

Ship being considered

THUNDER BAY

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Paul Pepe says he likes the idea of a maritime museum on Thunder Bay's waterfront.

But the city's manager of tourism isn't yet ready to commit to helping to bring the former coast guard icebreaker Alexander Henry to town, as proposed by the organizers behind a planned transportation museum.

There are still a lot of questions that must be answered, Pepe said earlier this week, including whether or not the Alexander Henry is available and where the money will come from to pay the estimated \$250,000 it will cost to tow the floating museum from its current berth outside of Picton, Ont.

It's an idea that, if feasible and affordable, might make sense, Pepe said.

"It's connection to Thunder Bay is not that it just broke ice here, that it was sort of a sign of spring, a nautical robin of spring here in the harbour, but the fact it was built here at the Port Arthur Shipyards in 1959. So it was birthed here as a vessel," Pepe said.

Decommissioned in 1984, it spent the past several years on the Kingston, Ont. waterfront, the centrepiece of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes collection.

However, the museum sold its property to a private developer and this past winter was given its eviction notice, forcing the board of directors to attempt to find a new home for the ship. According to a recent story in the Kingston Whig-Standard, a local developer, Henry Doornekamp, has agreed to berth the ship over the winter, but unless a solution is found, the ship could be

cut up for scrap or sunk as a recreational diving reef.

Enter Thunder Bay.

More than a decade ago, the city investigated the possibility of bringing SS Keewatin home to the waterfront, but the costs to do so, which included dredging a channel through the Kalamazoo River in Douglas, Mich., were deemed prohibitive.

The city also hosts the James Whalen tugboat on the Kaministiquia River.

Pepe said the venture is at the early exploratory stages at this point, noting the idea has yet to be broached officially with the waterfront development committee, who could consider the Pool 6 berth as a permanent home for a maritime museum.

He said they have reached out to organizers of the transportation museum proposal to see if the city can be of assistance conducting due diligence or looking at the project from a feasibility perspective.

The city, for its part, wants to ensure any static exhibits like a maritime museum aren't going to be a financial drain.

Pepe acknowledged it wouldn't become a destination driver, but more of an added enhancement to keep tourists around a little longer.

"We talk about Thunder Bay as a hinge of the nation and as a transportation corridor for hundreds, if not thousands of years that settlements have been here," he said. "There is a greater need for us to be able to tell that story in more opportunities."

A request for comment from the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes was made, but not responded to immediately.

IN THE bay

Collateral damage in divorce



with **FIONA GARDINER**

of marriage, the industry went crazy. The idea that Hollywood's most solid family was now coming apart sent shock waves.

Comedian Jimmy Kimmel blamed it on Jolie talking about Fight Club when Pitt "specifically asked her not to do that." The Late Late Show's James Carden quipped that their "marriage was the last hope for immigrants to be welcomed into this country." Meanwhile, others claimed ex-wife, Jennifer Aniston, called it "karma" for the way he ended their union.

Now, it's no surprise that news outlets and comedians are turning this family's breakdown into fodder for entertainment. But they're also targeting six minor children in the process.

Conan O'Brien joked that "they'll share custody 50-50: He'll take 50 kids, she'll take the other 50." Chelsea Handler wondered "why [Brad] would need to self-medicate ... stuck in a

house with 85 kids speaking 15 different languages."

One of the first dictates we hear from the professionals in a divorce is to protect the kids. Don't make them choose sides. (Pitt's friends have reported that he specifically doesn't want any negative talk about Jolie.) And don't make them collateral damage.

Having a family break up is the most devastating thing that can happen to a child. They question their home, their stability, their future. They also want to know why. Who is to blame? What can they do to fix this?

So the timing couldn't be worse that the latest story has been about a fight between Pitt and his son that precipitated Jolie filing. Great. Now a fifteen-year-old can blame himself for the divorce.

Meanwhile, the twins are certainly old enough to be aware of the press. So how does an eight year old process

the commentary on daddy's ex-wife in the tabloids? An ex-wife who was with daddy for half the time he was with mommy. An ex-wife who has had numerous relationships, engagements and is now married since she parted with Pitt twelve years ago.

Aniston would have to be pretty unstable to still be carrying such a personal grudge. And yet, the tabloids won't let up.

One could argue that the Jolie-Pitts have never shied away from the camera. But those glimpses into their private life have generally been print interviews or photos in connection with their humanitarian work where the publicity would be beneficial to a cause. Beyond watching them walk in an airport or on a public sidewalk, we don't know much about the personal day-to-day moments of those children.

So why speculate? We may be laughing. But this divorce is no joke for six kids.

Magnus play held over twice

THEATRE
By TB Source staff

For the first time in its 45 year history, Magnus Theatre is announcing a second holdover for a show.

"We are thrilled to announce that our production of *Million Dollar Quartet* has again exceeded expectations and will now be running until Oct.8," said outgoing artistic director Mario Crudo.

"The show is an incredible hit that has struck a chord with audiences of all ages, which has led to an unprecedented demand for tickets."

Million Dollar Quartet is the story of one historic night in 1956, when rock 'n' roll heroes Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash were brought together by record producer Sam Phillips for a star-studded jam session.

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IN THE bay



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REACHING YOUR FULL POTENTIAL: Kathy Smith, founder and coordinator of the Creative Aging Network, said staying creative and trying new things can help the mind and body.

Creativity keeps seniors healthy

ARTS

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Seniors in Thunder Bay are being encouraged to get creative and explore their peak creative years.

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is hosting a Creative Aging Symposium this week, which includes guest speaker Kathy Smith, founder and coordinator of the Creative Age Network in London, ON.

The symposium is being held from September 21 to 23 and invites community members, artists, care givers, and seniors to learn more about creative aging and how to become involved in this growing field.

Smith said that there is a lot of new research that shows people who are aging have not reached their creative potential and older adults should be encouraged to try new things.

"This isn't about making macaroni necklaces, this is about being in theatre and dancing and being in all kinds of different art projects," Smith said.

According to Smith, research shows that new experiences, trying new things, and stepping outside of your comfort zone builds and sustains brain capacity.

"Because we're older, we have more experience and more wisdom to draw on," Smith said. "All of these things put together means that actually some people don't reach their creative peak, which we've seen with a lot of scientists and artists, until their mid-70s or mid-80s."

Smith added that seniors are actually more inclined to step outside of their comfort zone, especially after retirement.

"Sometimes when you get out of the work place you are not as afraid of being judged or

evaluated," she said. "Some seniors are very adventurous and they don't have as much fear because they don't fear being judged as much."

Carol Kajorinne, public programming coordinator with the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, said Creative Aging is very well suited to a community like Thunder Bay.

"We recognized it as a demographic that is already engaged with the gallery, but it's also a growing demographic that can be more engaged with the gallery and be more engaged with the arts in general," she said. "I just wanted to bring this movement here to Thunder Bay."

Between 50 and 70 people are expected to participate in the symposium this week. Kajorinne said that the response has been fantastic and people have been very enthusiastic.

"For me, to have that kind of positive response right off the start shows that this has momentum already," she said. "I'm already looking into partnering with other organizations to run more programming. Run focus groups, identify what's going on, what are some of the gaps, what are some the challenges."

Smith said that it is wonderful to see Creative Aging gaining so much traction in Thunder Bay and she hopes it will have as positive an impact on the community as it has across the country.

"People say it's life changing and gives them new purpose and meaning," she said. "The research says that people who participate in the creative arts have less doctor's visits, less depression, less social isolation, are more active, and along with physical activity and diet, it's a key component in remaining engaged and curious and healthy and active."

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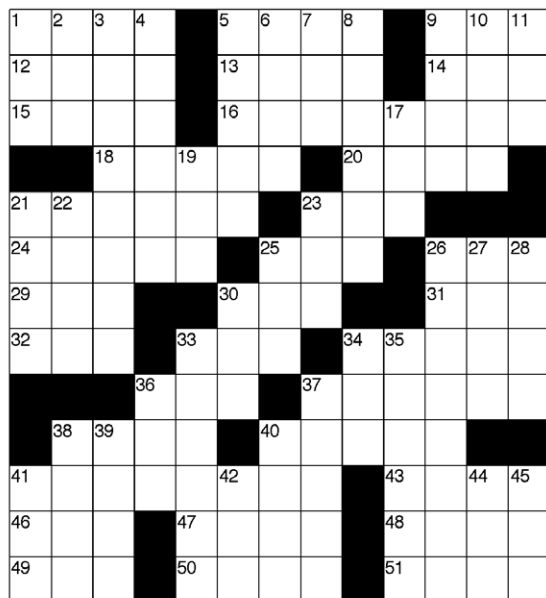
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- 1 Mother of Pollux
- 5 Favorite
- 9 Bureau of Indian Affairs (abbr.)
- 12 Woden
- 13 "Dream Girl" playwright
- 14 Mountain on Crete
- 15 Trim
- 16 Bohea (2 words)
- 18 Hazard
- 20 One of the Twelve Titans
- 23 Poly. beefwood
- 24 Father of Jason
- 25 Elongated fish
- 26 Dead on arrival (abbr.)
- 29 Orinoco tributary

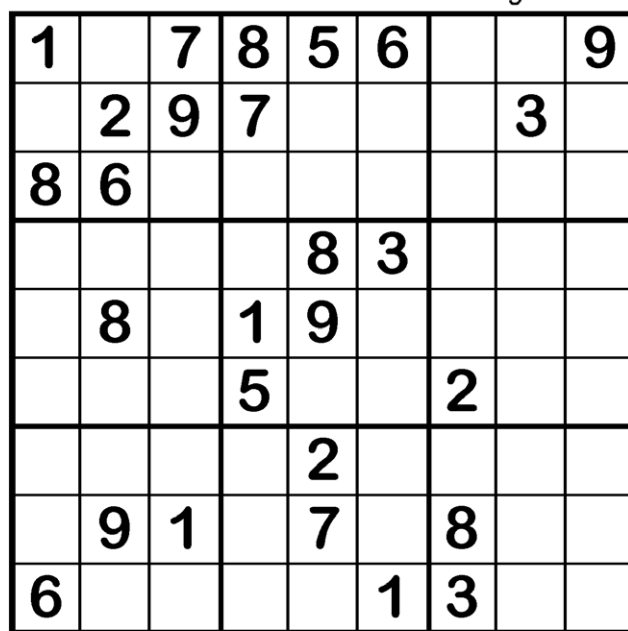


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Sports

local sports news | information | coverage

Sports hall of fame inducts 6

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

There's one thing all the inductees into this year's Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame class have in common - none of them really thought they'd one day be standing at the induction podium.

Rower Liam Parsons, who claimed bronze in the lightweight fours at the 2008 Olympic Games, said the thought never crossed his mind in the midst of a career that started on the lakes of Thunder Bay and took him around the world.

He still couldn't believe it on Saturday night, as the inductees gathered at the Valhalla Inn for the annual ceremony welcoming them into the hall.

"It is an incredible honour. It's also very pleasing to gain the recognition of the hall of fame. When you look through the list of former inductees, it's an incredible list of athletes who have called this region home," said Parsons, the youngest in this year's class.

Entering in alongside him were three-time Calder Cup champion and former NHLer Ron Busniuk, boxer Kathy Williams-Waruk, ex CFLer Jeff Treflin, and wrestling coach Todd Hinds and hockey executive Jim Johnson, the latter two inducted posthumously.

Fort Frances's Treflin, who won a Grey Cup with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1989, also played for Montreal and Edmonton in an eight-year career and today serves as a firefighter in Winnipeg.

It's humbling to be chosen for the hall of fame, he said.

"It's amazing, it's overwhelming. It's a lot of attention a few years later. It's very nice. This is looking like a big thing," Treflin said.



HALL CALL: New NWO Sports Hall of Fame inductees Ron Busniuk (from left), Liam Parsons, Kathy Williams-Waruk and Jeff Treflin.

"I never thought about anything like this, ever. I just wanted to play football since I was five years old."

Busniuk won American Hockey League titles with the Nova Scotia Voyageurs and Cincinnati Swords, played six games with the Buffalo Sabres over two seasons, then spent parts of four seasons in the now-defunct World Hockey Association.

Thirty-six years after leaving the pro game behind, he was ecstatic to join younger brother Mike in the NWO Sports Hall of Fame.

"It's fantastic," he said, recalling his younger days when the pros of the time would take the ice with local players, passing their knowledge on to the next generation.

"Thunder Bay's been really good to me, and the thing that I like the most is

the coaching that I had when I was younger going through minor hockey, then through junior hockey and senior hockey when I came back. The coaching's been great," Busniuk said.

Williams-Waruk was the lone inductee who had any inkling a day like this might one day arrive, her coach telling the one-time world junior bantamweight title holder, who hung up her gloves for good in 2003, she might be honoured some day.

"It's a big honour to be in the Northwestern Sports Hall of Fame for all my accomplishments," said Williams-Waruk, who has refereed basketball since her retirement and helped as an assistant with the Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball team.

"It's unbelievable. It wasn't really

something I expected to happen."

Johnson's son Ryan, who spent more than a decade in the NHL, said his dad wasn't big on honours, but probably would have been proud to earn election to the hall. Jim Johnson was well known in the hockey community and helped found the Kings program and helped bring about the return of varsity hockey to Lakehead University.

"He always saw the city as kind of a blank canvas, in that he wanted to do so much," said the younger Johnson, now an executive with the Vancouver Canucks. "Unfortunately he left us a little too soon because I think there was a lot more to be done."

Hinds, the 2007 CIS wrestling coach of the year, spent 17 seasons at the University of Saskatchewan. He died in 2015.

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T-Wolves looking for a fresh start

After missing playoffs, new dressing room, community survey two ways OUA team seeks to turn things around

UNIVERSITY HOCKEY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Club president Rory Cava says it's time for the Lakehead Thunderwolves hockey team to hit the refresh button.

A summer after missing the OUA playoffs for the first time in 15 seasons, the team is reaching out to the community with an online survey aimed at making improvements off the ice.

The team on Tuesday also unveiled a revamped dressing room to boost morale and attract potential players and Cava said the team will also be reaching out to current and former players to see what changes they can suggest to help improve the recruitment process.

"I think we want to engage our fans, our corporate supporters and the entire community with what they think about Thunderwolves hockey," Cava said.

"I know everybody wants us to win hockey games and that's the first thing we look at, how we're doing on the ice. That's the big focus with us. But I think it's the whole experience, the game experience, how our players handle themselves in the community and basically what people think of us."

On-ice improvement needed

The team's poor performance – it finished 8-16-4 last year, ninth in the OUA West – is most certainly having an impact at the turnstiles.

The Wolves during the mid 2000s routinely drew more than 3,000 fans a night, selling out the building on occasion.

But they attracted fewer than 2,000



NEW DIGS: Members of the Lakehead Thunderwolves check out their new dressing room. They take on Lethbridge on Friday and Saturday.

for the regular-season finale last season and the announced crowds were often far greater than the number of fans who actually bothered to come out to Fort William Gardens to watch the games.

Cava said there's no question the attendance woes are part of the reason they're going in this direction, a little more than a week before the team is slated for hit the ice for non-conference play.

"We had a bit of a tough start last year. We lost our games at the beginning and I don't blame some of the people for being upset," he said. "But we've addressed that. I think we've had a great recruiting year. Time will tell how it goes. But there's more than just how we play on the ice."

Veteran defenceman Justin Sefton said the new dressing room and new attitude is a chance to erase the bitter

memories of 2015-16.

"It's easy to say it's about time they had a change in here," Sefton said.

"It's been so many years. But it worked out perfectly that after a season like last year to have something like this change and have a whole new changeover in guys."

The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPZKGM9>.

2016-17 SCHEDULE

Sept. 30	.....Lethbridge
Oct. 1	.....Lethbridge
Oct. 7	.....Manitoba
Oct. 8	.....Manitoba
Oct. 14	.....Windsor
Oct. 15	.....Windsor
Oct. 20	.....@Ryerson
Oct. 21	.....@Toronto
Oct. 22	.....@Toronto
Oct. 28	.....@Concordia
Oct. 29	.....@Concordia
Nov. 4	.....Ontario Tech
Nov. 5	.....Ontario Tech
Nov. 11RMC
Nov. 12RMC
Nov. 18Guelph
Nov. 19Guelph
Nov. 25@Laurier
Nov. 26@Laurier
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Dec. 30Nipissing
Jan. 6Brock
Jan. 7Brock
Jan. 13@Ottawa
Jan. 14@Ottawa
Jan. 20Laurentian
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Jan. 27York
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Feb. 2@Ryerson
Feb. 3@Waterloo
Feb. 4@Waterloo
Feb. 10Western
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BALL MOVEMENT: Churchill's James Basalyga (81) runs with the ball as Hammarskjold's Travis Halls attempts the tackle at Fort William Stadium.

Trojans 2-0

FOOTBALL
By Leith Dunlick - TB Source

The Churchill Trojans had to work for this one. A timely third-quarter turnover last Friday helped the cause.

Stefan Nahachewsky forced a fumble with a sack on the final play of the quarter and Karl Waffler scooped up the loose ball and ran it into the end zone as Churchill retook the lead for good heading into the fourth and cruised to a 28-20 win over the Hammarskjold Vikings in senior football action at Fort William Stadium.

It put an end to a back-and-forth affair that saw both teams take the lead and helped the Trojans to a 2-0 start on the season. The Vikings, making their 2016 debut, dropped to 0-1.

Receiver James Basalyga led the way for the Trojans offensively, hauling in a pair of touchdown passes, including a 40-yard effort from quarterback Dylan Ford in the first quarter to erase a 4-0 Hammarskjold lead, and a 35-yard strike from Ford in the fourth that put the game on ice.

Basalyga also made a rare appearance on defence in the fourth, intercepting a Marti Martinez pass that quelled any hopes of a Vikings comeback.

"I thought I had a good game. I think we all helped to win that game today. I can't put that game on myself. We're a team," Basalyga said.

The actual key to the game was the Waffler fumble recovery, he said.

It turned around a game that was threatening to get away from the Trojans.

"At halftime our coaches really told us to smarten up and get our heads into the game. I think that's what did it for us. And we needed some more team energy. We didn't have much in the first half. In the second half we really picked that up and that really helped us."

The pass-heavy Vikings jumped out in front, scoring a rouge point on the opening kick-off.

Then down 14-4 after Ford scored on a two-yard keeper, Hammarskjold stormed back with two straight scores, Martinez hitting Derek Pucci from six yards out to close the gap to four, the snap botched on the extra-point attempt.

The Vikings then employed a bit of trickery to set up their second major of the day. Setting up for a 52-yard field goal, kicker Devon Hoier instead raced wide for 43 yards, Martinez taking it in from two yards out for a 17-14 lead.

Hoier added a 12-yard field goal in the third to extend the lead to six, Hammarskjold's largest of the day.

Churchill coach Mike Doromko admitted he could have done with a little less tension.

"From a coaching standpoint, it's fun to coach those blowouts. There's not a lot of stress. But you know what, we came out on the right end of it, so we're happy."

St. Ignatius 38, Westgate 7: Josh Covello threw three first-quarter touchdowns, including a pair of Josh Newransky and Nic Cull ran a pair of scores from inside the 10 as the Falcons improved to 2-0 with a trouncing of the Tigers. Darien Fuchs scored the lone major for Westgate, his fifth touchdown in two games, but the Tigers fell to 0-2.

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sports NEWS

Johnson finds new role

HOCKEY

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Ryan Johnson's shot-blocking bruises have long faded away.

Luckily for the next generation of hockey players, his love for the game has not.

Johnson, never the most talented player on the ice during a 13-year NHL career that took him to Florida, Tampa Bay, St. Louis, Vancouver and Chicago, has spent the last three years in the Vancouver Canucks' front office, where he presently serves as the team's director of player development.

It's a role the 40-year-old cherishes – and it comes with huge responsibilities.

Johnson's job is to nurture the team's draft picks, the future of the franchise, and help them make the transition from the amateur game to the professional ranks.

It's a big step, whether you're a first-round pick like defenceman Olli Juolevi, the Canucks' first-round pick (fifth overall) in the 2016 NHL Entry Draft, or Mackenzie Stewart, a blue-line taken with Vancouver's final choice, 186th overall, in 2014.

Ultimately all players drafted have the same goal, but not all players are created equally. Some are ready for the bright lights and responsibilities that come with being a professional hockey player. Others need to be shown the way.

That's where Johnson, who now calls



LEITH DUNICK

NEW ROLE: Ryan Johnson retired in 2011 and is the director of player development in Vancouver.

Nashville home, steps in.

"Once we pick them they come to me and I devise a plan for them and how they fit into the organization and try to take that (draft) crop and try to produce two or three full-time NHLers," Johnson said, in a way following in the footsteps of his late father Jim, who helped found a Kings hockey program locally that has produced several NHL players over the years.

"To simplify it, it's being a mentor to young players who want to do what you were able to do. My dad always said to me, 'The game's

been very good to you, so if you have an opportunity to give back to it in some way, you definitely should do it."

Due to its nature, in NHL circles Johnson's job is almost always filled by an ex-player, often a journeyman type.

Brad Bombardir, Chris Drury, Scott Pellerin, Ian Laperrriere, Steve Staios and Larry Robinson have all held the position with other franchises, most not exactly household names.

Still, sometimes not even this is enough to convince an up-and-comer there might be a better way to succeed.

"The biggest battle for me is helping them understand that it's going to be a three- or four-year process from the time they're drafted, but if they put in the time and they put in the commitment and sacrifice, get that 'I've got it all figured out out of their minds,' and take some of that information and the resources we've provided them, they're going to have a great opportunity to play in the league for a long time," Johnson said.

But when it pays off, that's the reward, he added.

"One of the first times one of my kids got called up and played in the NHL I sat there and thought, 'Wow, what a great accomplishment for this kid and where he was three years ago to where he is now is amazing; and not just as a hockey player, but for me, who they are as people.'"



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A	D	A	O	B	I	T	K	O	A	E										
A	I	S	G	O	L	A	E	N	T	O										

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