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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.16 No. 1

Year in Review

Our top 10 stories each month, plus top news and sports stories of 2018

WINTER WEATHER ARRIVES



FUN IN THE SNOW: Zane Clinker tests out a sled last Thursday after Thunder Bay was hit by its first true winter storm of the season.

MICHAEL CHARLEBOIS

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LOCAL NEWS



DOUG DIACZUK

KILLINGS CONTINUE: Thunder Bay Police investigate the murder of 17-year-old Braiden Jacob in early December.

Police year's top story

YEAR IN REVIEW
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

It was a tumultuous 2018 locally, especially for the Thunder Bay Police Service, who were under the national spotlight from start to finish.

Violent crime continued to be an issue in Thunder Bay, with the city likely retaining the dubious murder capital of Canada, with eight homicides on the books.

It was also a year of change on the political front, Bill Mauro swept out of the Ontario legislature in June, but into city hall in October, taking the mayoral reins from controversial outgoing mayor Keith Hobbs.

Here are our top five local news stories from the past year.

1 Thunder Bay Police and the Thunder Bay Police Services Board were under the gun after a pair of damning reports showcased a legacy of systemic racism plaguing the department and a lack of clear oversight by the board when complaints were received from the Indigenous community. The Office of the Independent Police Review Director's report suggested at least nine investigations should be reopened, while the Ontario Civilian Police Commission report, authored by Senator Murray Sinclair, temporarily took away the voting power of the police services board, appointing administrator Thomas Lockwood to oversee things while board members receive training. It was also a year that saw change at the top. After being acquitted of obstruction of justice charges and enduring demands from Indigenous leaders to resign, then chief J.P. Levesque did in fact retire, replaced at first on an interim basis by deputy chief Sylvie Hauth, who was later made the permanent chief.

2 Things weren't looking too great on the political front for long-time Liberal MPP and cabinet minister Bill Mauro, who went down to defeat at the hands of NDP newcomer Judith-Monteith Farrell in the June 7 provincial election. Mauro eventually threw his hat into the mayor's race and easily outdistanced challengers

Frank Pullia and Iain Angus to take over the mayor's chair from Keith Hobbs, who in 2019 will head to court to face extortion charges. It was a season of change on the municipal council front, with seven new faces, including Mauro, seated after the election. Peng You topped all challengers in the at-large race, while Kristen Oliver pushed long-time Westfort Coun. Joe Virdiramo to the curb. Brian Hamilton, Albert Aiello, Cody Fraser and Mark Bentz were the other new faces elected for a four-year council term.

3 The city continues to be one of the more dangerous in Canada, with eight homicides further staining Thunder Bay's reputation in 2018 and gang violence on the rise. The city led the nation in per capita murders in 2016 and 2017 and is on track to do so again this past year. The city experienced its first gun death since 2012 and police were constantly battling to stay in front of gangs from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal who descended on the city in an attempt to take over Thunder Bay's lucrative drug trade.

4 Lakehead University's Bora Laskin School of Law was under fire twice, first when dean Angelique Eaglewoman quit her post and later sued the university for \$2.67 million, alleging she faced workplace hostility from faculty and micromanagement from senior school officials. Her interim replacement, Justice Patrick Smith stepped down in September after a Canadian Judicial Council Review questioned whether the post disqualified him from the bench.

5 Five years after it burned and CN closed it to vehicular traffic, a resolution surrounding the James Street Swing Bridge has yet to be found. There was good news from the City of Thunder Bay and Fort William First Nation's perspective, when the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned an earlier decision and deemed the railway was indeed responsible for upkeep of the span in perpetuity. CN wants to take the case to the Supreme Court of Canada in search of a favourable ruling.

Weather Forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Flurries</p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -9 LOW -17</p>	<p>A mix of sun and clouds</p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -4 LOW -7</p>	<p>A mix of sun and clouds</p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -11 LOW -17</p>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>A few flurries</p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -4 LOW -6</p>	<p>Light snow</p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 70% HIGH -9 LOW -16</p>	<p>Mainly sunny</p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -16 LOW -23</p>

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LOCAL NEWS

Local man wins \$333,000 lottery jackpot

THUNDER BAY
By TB Source Staff

It's a Christmas present that Gregory Polhill will never forget.

"My heart started racing," says Polhill about the moment he realized he had won a

big prize in a recent Lotto Max draw.

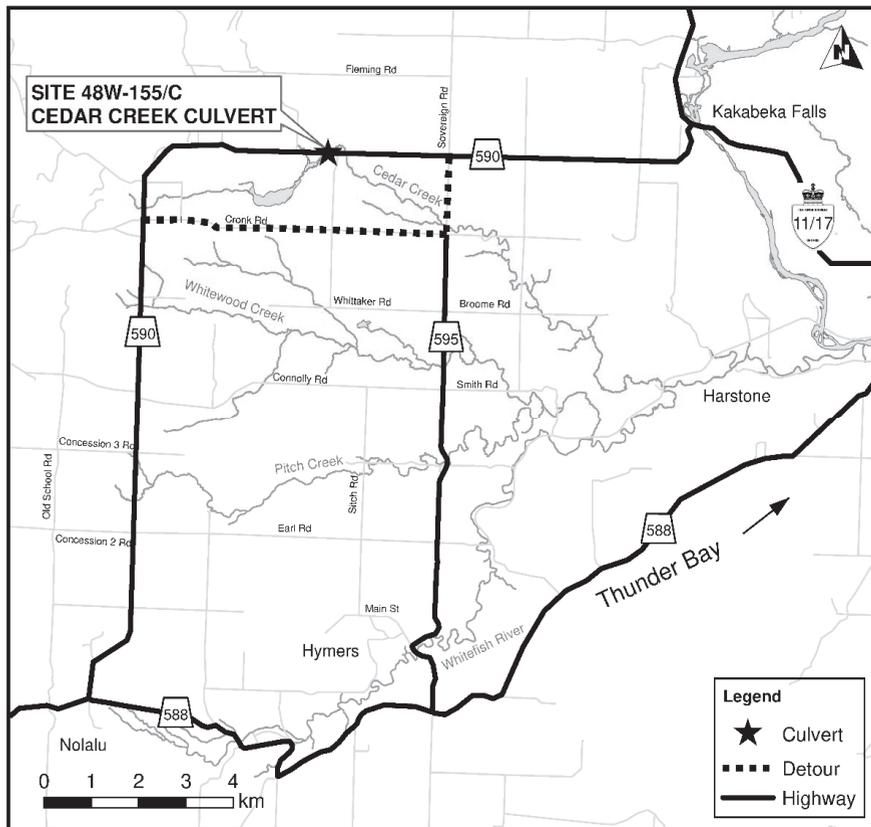
Polhill travelled to the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto to pick up a cheque for \$333,333, dated Dec. 24. The married father of three plans a trip to Hawaii and a new boat, and expects to spend more time fishing with his grandchildren.

He's a 62-year-old retiree, but still works part-time.

"I was kind of in la la land," he laughed as he explained the state of disbelief he was in after visiting an OLG retailer to validate his ticket after the Dec. 14 draw. "It's unbelievable and mind-blowing," Polhill said.

DETOUR ROUTE UPDATE Cedar Creek Culvert Replacement Highway 590

TBT Engineering Limited, on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation, is undertaking the design of improvements for the replacement of Cedar Creek Culvert, located on Highway 590, 2.57 km West of Highway 595 in O'Connor Township, as shown below. The current concrete box culvert is nearing its service life and will be replaced with a new, precast concrete box culvert.



DETOUR UPDATE

The culvert replacement is scheduled to take place during the summer of 2019 (one construction season) and is expected to require a temporary, full closure of Hwy 590 at the Cedar Creek Culvert. A detour route along Highway 595 and Cronk Road (see map) has been selected. Advance notice of the detour will be provided by road signs approximately 10 days prior to the temporary road closure of Hwy 590.

This is an update to *Notice of Step Down - Cedar Creek Culvert Replacement*, previously published in the Thunder Bay Source on Thursday, September 27, 2018. In the previous advertisement, Highways 595 and 588 represented the proposed detour route. Due to public feedback and concerns associated with the project, this route has been changed.

COMMENTS

To obtain additional information or to provide any comments or concerns, please contact either of the individuals listed below:

Ministry of Transportation
Roman Pocion
Project Manager
615 South James Street, Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 6P6
tel: (807) 473-2187
toll free: 1-800-465-5034
e-mail: roman.pocion@ontario.ca

TBT Engineering Limited
Gary Thoms, P.Eng.
Manager - Highway Engineering
1918 Yonge St., Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 6T9
tel: (807) 624-5160
toll free: 1-866-624-8378
e-mail: gthoms@tbte.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.



DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS: MP Patty Hajdu said the federal government has no intentions of taking over the Basic Income Pilot.

Feds will not take on basic income pilot

Hajdu, feds are considering other solutions to help low-income workers

THUNDER BAY
By Michael Charlebois - TB Source

The Liberals and local MP Patty Hajdu are still opposed to taking over the basic income pilot project scrapped by the provincial government in August, but are looking for other ways to help low-income workers.

"We have no intentions of picking up the basic income pilot," Hajdu told tbnewswatch.com on Thursday. "Having said that we're always looking at ways we can strengthen everybody's chance at success."

The topic has made its rounds in the national media landscape after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and economics minister Jean-Yves Ducloux said in separate interviews that providing a basic income is something the federal government is looking at.

The basic income pilot project was set to run for three years, providing payments to 4,000 low-income people in communities including Thunder Bay.

On Nov.10, protesters descended on the office of Hajdu in the hopes that she could help revive the project.

However, Hajdu said there was little she could do about reviving a provincial project, and also mentioned a basic income project may not be the right approach.

While the former remains true, Hajdu has slightly changed her tone to match her government's position.

"We're always looking for ways we can improve outcomes for everybody," she said. "Income security is important to us."

Hajdu also pointed to the Canada Child Benefit as an example of a federal government program that has helped low-income Canadians, specifically in Hajdu's riding.

"In our riding alone, 12,000 children benefit from that. It's something that puts money in the hands of those who need it the most."

Hajdu will run for re-election next October.

LOCAL NEWS

First Nation on the grid

Pikangikum connects to provincial power grid ending reliance on diesel-fueled electricity

PIKANGIKUM
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Pikangikum First Nation has brought the power to its people.

Leaders in the remote northern community on Thursday became the first to connect to the Ontario power grid through the \$1.6-billion Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line project.

The move, which was marked by the flipping of a switch to turn on the community's first set of Christmas lights in more than a decade, ends Pikangikum's reliance on diesel fuel for its power and was a truly historic occasion, said Pikangikum First Nation Chief Dean Owen.

"We are very happy that the project was completed so quickly. This investment for our First Nation supports significant improvements to the quality of life of members and to the environment. We will now have clean, safe and reliable energy that will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of everyone that lives here," Owen said in a release.

Owen said for too long the community, located about 100 kilometres north of Red Lake, Ont., has relied on outdated and aging diesel generators for its power.

"With the connection of our community to the provincial power grid we see access to safe, reliable energy and, more importantly, we see a brighter future," Owen said.

"Today we see a future where there are jobs for our people, where our children can consistently go to school, where we can build, power and live in new homes and where there are business opportunities for even more



POWERED UP: Pikangikum Chief Dean Owen.

growth."

A partnership of 22 First Nations communities, the project will ultimately see 17 of them connected to the power grid.

It's a historic day, said Wataynikaneyap Power CEO Margaret Kenequanash.

"Our elders signed the treaty to share in the benefits of any major development that occurs in the homelands. Our people are leading the pathway by owning a major infrastructure with a vision of bringing light to our communities.

"We celebrate with Pikangikum this remarkable achievement. Today, the line that brings light shines in Pikangikum and brings us one step closer to energizing across the north and realizing the hopes of our people and future generations."

First announced in 2015, the project last year got the go-ahead from the federal government to connect Pikangikum to the

grid. Construction began in 2017 on the 117 kilometre transmission line and wrapped up earlier this month.

The move drew praise from Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

"This is an enormous achievement and I congratulate Chief Dean Owen and Council for their years of effort to secure a connection to the provincial electricity grid. A reliable power source will finally end Pikangikum's reliance on diesel generation and help the community advance plans for growth and development," Fiddler said.

"We also congratulate Wataynikaneyap Power for their work to connect 17 First Nations to the provincial electricity grid through the first phase of this project. Connecting our remote communities to the provincial grid is better for the environment and will help improve the lives of our members."

CHURCH DIRECTORY

PRESBYTERIAN	UNITED
Lakeview Presbyterian Church 278 Camelot Street The Rev. Harold Hunt, Minister Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery Provided Phone: 345-8823	Current River United Church 333 Morse Street Sunday Worship Join us at Knox this Week! 10:30 am We Celebrate Community <i>All welcome!</i>
VINEYARD	Knox Shuniah United Church 1 Shuniah Street, Thunder Bay, ON 345-5065 • knoxshun@tbaytel.net Worship Service Leader: Carol Watson Web site: knoxshuniahunited.webs.com Sunday, January 6th Service @ 10:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality & Sunday School lovingly provided.
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Editorial

EDITORIAL

It's time to self-reflect

Another year has come and gone in Thunder Bay and it's one we'd like to put as far in the past as possible.

But as bad of a year as it was for the city, hopefully it's one that convinced all of us to take a deep look within and resolve to make the changes necessary to make Thunder Bay a welcoming, safe and prosperous community for all who choose to live here.

It's tough to admit we're a racist community.

But it's also impossible to deny it exists. Sadly, racism is woven into the fabric of our community, a pox on Thunder Bay that must be cured for its people to heal and move forward into prosperity.

We learned in 2018 that systemic racism did in fact exist within the Thunder Bay Police Service, and that no one really did anything to pursue effective change, instead preferring to run with the status quo at the expense of our Indigenous neighbours.

Now it's out in the open, the glare of the national spotlight firmly aimed at the city's black eye, its dirty little secret on display for all to see.

How we effect change moving forward will be our saving grace. Not everyone in Thunder Bay is racist. Not even close.

But we must make 2019 – and every year from here on in – the year of inclusion.

We must change our ways and become an example to all the nation that people can get along and thrive together.

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Dease Pool closure

To the editor:

Monday night I attended city council's meeting and listened as council voted 11-1 to close Dease Pool. No one was permitted to speak from the public including myself.

I have been a strong supporter of our outdoor pools over the years and in 1978 I obtained over 1100 signatures to save Dease Pool, the first attempt by the city to close the valuable treasure.

Walter Assef was our mayor at the time and he and the rest of council did the right thing and voted to keep the pool open.

I say this is a valuable treasure because this is where tens of thousands of citizens have learned how to swim over the last 106 years. I also obtained more signatures about 10 years ago to help prolong the life of this pool.

This pool has been the best bang the city has ever got for their dollar and now that the pool needs repairs the city has turned their backs on all the children that use this pool. In my opinion, a new pool at this location is probably the best option. The upgrade of this pool could be done in two steps with the change room facility possibly being built in the second year.

Administration had council vote in this the first night after they took office and ratification of this vote will take place at next week's council meeting giving the public little time to prepare for this meeting.

The public has been shut out of this process.

Administration referred to the cost of replacing this pool and the present usage.

Last year Vickers Street was under construction which did not help attendance and the present facility has no showers. Whenever I have driven by I have seen hundreds of kids splashing around particularly on very hot days.

Some people I have talked to also question the proposed cost of \$1.2 million dollars to replace the pool and \$1.4 million to build a new change room facility. This is one of the reasons the public needs to have a voice in this decision.

If the pool is not replaced how much money will the city save by having hundreds of restless youths wandering the streets with nothing to do. Is the city not advocating for more facilities for young people and the integration of our youth which this pool is certainly doing.

The sad thing about all this is the timing. Two weeks before Christmas the Mayor and council voted to close this pool and gave deputants no chance to speak up on behalf of these kids.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Ratification of this motion to close the pool will take place this coming Monday at City Hall.

It is my understanding that the public will have an opportunity to speak at this meeting by submitting a request to Gordon Stover, Committee Co-ordinator office of the City Clerk by the end of the day on Wednesday or by Thursday by 11 a.m.. Individuals can also email Mr. Stover at gstover@thunderbay.ca

The public can also ask to speak at this meeting by getting permission from a councillor prior to this meeting.

Ray Smith,
Thunder Bay

Improving police conduct

To the editor:

As the former and first Indigenous Police Services board governor from the early '90s, I have an ongoing interest in policing. In the '90s, it was a difficult and debilitating undertaking to draw attention to racism in the community. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of First Nations leaders, victims and family, considerable progress has been made. Nevertheless, I am wary of process and how easily it can be manipulated. Most of us have experienced the non-outcome of official recommendations. I propose to give it some teeth.

One of the things I would recommend to Police Boards and the Thunder Bay Police Board in particular concerns citizen monitoring of the police. Many police officers take great exception to citizens observing them while they are conducting an arrest or detaining someone for example. They will sometimes threaten the citizen even if they are doing nothing wrong. Nevertheless, I think it is important for citizens to stay out of the way, not distract anyone, and not interfere.

In fact, I think it must be clarified by the police board that citizens have this right. In fact, especially in light of the recent recommendations of Senator Sinclair and Mr. McNeilly, I think citizens are required to be especially observant. Good citizens are obligated to monitor police activities.

I think that the police board and the police chief must clarify this in writing and make public announcements to this effect.

In relation to this, I think good citizens should be supported in their efforts to improve police conduct by video recording them without threats of reprisals. They must be supported in this collection of evidence. As evidence, the recorder must also not be intimidated when asking for the officer's name, his supervisor's name, the date, and the reason for the officer's action.

This must also be clarified in public service announcements and there must also be a means for the public to

submit their evidence to an independent authority. This right and the agency collecting the information must be published online and be available on widely accessible cards.

Native people in Thunder Bay are afraid of the police and rightly so. I will say this openly and I think it's time to cut through the political euphemisms and polite language to get at the problem.

In the end, I think, the objective is to make policing an effective and responsive service that truly applies to all citizens and not just the moneyed elite. In so doing, hopefully, indigenous people will be more cooperative with authorities and become fully participating members of society rather than marginalized ones.

Philip Edwards

Racism in Thunder Bay

To the editor:

Racism does not exist in a vacuum. It is structurally supported by a majority of the organization or it could not exist. Racism is simply the tip of a very dirty iceberg. Sylvie Hauth and Celoma Reitberger have their work cut out for them routing out all of the corruption that permits this racism to exist. Cleaning out that corruption takes much more than diversity training – the bad apples have to go.

Rena Jones,
South Gillies

Perspective

A serious snowfall

Well, it snowed, didn't it? Big time and about time. We've been in a drought for at least a month if not longer; and while there was snow on the ground out here at Casa Jones, I could see patches of grass on the lawn when I looked out of my library window. Not anymore.

Sunday afternoon three weekends ago, my friend Drake and I drove our respective quads to the beginning of what we call Winter Trail. We have not been able to ride or walk Winter Trail for two years due to two massive ice storms that toppled trees and broke off tops of tall trees all along the trail. We don't use the trail in the wet season since a good chunk of it at one end is usually far too sodden for trekkers, let alone horses, to negotiate. But, when the freeze comes usually accompanied by snow, then we can pass along its way.

At one end of the trail, the end near Casa Jones, I could not tell where the trail began the downfall was so thick. After a bit of exploring, Drake and I saw where the trail took off past the tumbledown debris. There are two entrances to the trail and while I began chain sawing at one, Drake chain sawed through the other until we met. The long and short of this tale is that together, we got the trail clear that afternoon. Along the way we encountered several toppled trees that either blocked the path or leaned dangerously across the path. While he took down and sawed into moveable lengths the "dangerously across the path" one, I moved on and saved the one lying across the trail. Both trees were tall balsam; both were quite dead and that meant that the wood would be nice and dry,



FRED JONES

RURAL ROOTS

ready for the fireplace once collected and brought back to Casa Jones.

Which I did with the help of my wife, Laura, on Boxing Day. Wisely, Laura suggested that given the forecast for a big snowstorm the next day, we should trundle with quad towing cart and retrieve the cut pieces.

We had to move because we decided to undertake this task about four in the afternoon and it was important to get to the site, gather the pieces of cut wood, and get home before dark.

I attempted to start the chainsaw. It was stubborn and required many 'pulls' but eventually I got it to roar into life shattering the peace of the winter forest. But the chain wouldn't move. I tried moving it by hand but nothing.

I tried gunning the machine but still the chain moved not. Dang!

It was then that Laura saw the oil on the snow. I had put fresh gas and chain lubrication oil in the machine prior to us trundling to our wood-retrieving destination. Apparently, I didn't quite get the cap that covers the chain oil receptacle firmly closed. The cap had worked its way free as we bounced along the trail and leaked oil into the cart. So, we packed up and drove home.

Then as I mentioned, it snowed.

"Time to attach the farm snow blower to the rear of my aged tractor, Big Red," I announced.

And just as I was going to summon our son, Doug, to aidez-moi, Drake and his new bride, Kayla, drove in through the deep snow. Drake knows machines. I started up Big Red and backed out of the shelter to the blower. Drake had the thing attached in less than five minutes.

And then it was merely trying to recall the tricks necessary for blowing snow without wrecking Laura's horse barn, or fences, or gates, or... All went well and I got most of the clearing done until I heard a "clank" and suddenly snow was crawling down the back of my neck.

I turned to see that the funnel, the shoot through which the snow flies out of the blower, had fallen off. Sudden halt and turn off the auger that was spewing snow all over me. I managed to lift the very heavy thing back onto the blower and drive very slowly back to the tractor shelter. It was later, after a dry change of clothes and a hot chocolate, that Doug and I figured out how to re-attach the funnel to await the next day when Red and I would be at it again, clearing the driveway and pathways to paddocks, Mt. Crumpet where we dump the manure, and to the shavings shed where we store stall bedding.

And you know, I didn't once think that Murphy had anything to do with it. But now it is an entirely new year and who knows? Happy New Year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR



SNOW SHOW: From our houses to yours, here's to a happy new year and a prosperous 2019. Here's one of our favourite little guys, Nolan Dunick, enjoying the city's first big snow.

CATHY METCALF

A look back in history: Post office

Seen here decorated for the 1939 arrival of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth is the Port Arthur Post Office located on the north east corner of Red River Road and Court Street. Built in 1892, this beautiful building was unique in appearance, a graceful and distinct presence in the downtown core of Port Arthur. In 1955, the post office was demolished.



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.

Address them to:
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87 North Hill Street,
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Visit our website: www.tbnewswatch.com

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

your VOICE

Will you be showing more support for the Border Cats now that there is a local ownership group?

VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.

VISIT www.tbnewswatch.com TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

TOTAL VOTES: 420

YES 39.29% NO 60.71% NO OPINION 0%

JANUARY

*A Year
in Review...*

Charges against police chief dismissed

1 Police chief J.P. Levesque was vindicated when charges of obstruction of justice and breach of trust were dismissed following a lengthy trial at the Thunder Bay Courthouse. Levesque was under fire for speaking about forthcoming extortion charges being considered against then Thunder Bay mayor Keith Hobbs. Levesque returned to work four days later.

2 Faced with ongoing overcrowding made worse by a virulent flu season, officials at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre were forced to seek alternatives to house patients to put an end to a surge capacity crisis at the hospital. They eventually worked out a deal with the St. Joseph's Care Group to use unused space at Hogarth Riverview Manor.

3 Shelter House's Street Outreach Program was halted when the van used to deliver services to the city's homeless and vulnerable populations broke down. With no back-up in place, Shelter House had no choice but to suspend operations temporarily until a new vehicle could be secured. Roots to Harvest later stepped up with a vehicle loan to restart the program.

4 Northwestern Ontario candidates Derek Parks and Greg Rickford both expressed shock at allegations of sexual misconduct levelled against now-former Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown. Brown was forced to resign, though denied any wrongdoing, after two women came forward and made the accusations, alleged to have occurred when they were teenagers and Brown was a sitting Member of Parliament.

5 Long-time NDP politician John Rafferty dropped out of the provincial race in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, announcing he was starting treatment for a serious medical condition. Rafferty



CHARGES DROPPED: Former police chief J.P. Levesque after his verdict.

twice before had sought the seat provincially, but finished runner-up to Liberal Bill Mauro on both occasions.

6 Controversial senator Lynne Beyak of Dryden was removed from the Conservative caucus by party leader Andrew Scheer, after letters he had deemed racist were not removed from Beyak's website. Beyak later denied Scheer asked her to remove the letters, but nonetheless was left with no choice but to sit as an independent in the Senate.

7 College president Jim Madder announced he would step down by year's end, after nearly seven years at the helm. Madder, who most recently had guided the Thunder Bay school through a faculty strike, called it a difficult decision, but one timed to allow his replacement to be involved with the start of the school's next strategic plan.

8 Sears shut its doors in Thunder Bay one final time, following in the footsteps of the company's stores across Canada. Employees past and present gathered for a final photograph outside the Intercity Shopping Centre store, following weeks of clearance sales after the company declared bankruptcy.

9 Workers at the Port Arthur Health Centre voted to approve strike action, threatening to walk off the job if a contract agreement couldn't be reached. About 65 workers were affected by the vote, which ultimately did lead to them walking off the job in April.

10 Acclaimed author Margaret Atwood made a standing-room only appearance at Thunder Bay's Chapters outlet, spending the evening discussing her work, in particular *The Handmaid's Tale*. — Leith Dunick, tbnewswatch.com.

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*A Year
in Review...*

FEBRUARY

A 28-year-old man killed at northside motel

1 A pair of suspects was arrested and faced charges in conjunction with the city's first murder of 2018, an incident that led to the death of a 28-year-old man at a Cumberland Street motel. Christopher Achneepineskum, 45, was charged with first-degree murder and a 36-year-old woman was charged with being an accessory after the fact to murder.

2 Nicholas Necan was found guilty of second-degree murder in the January 2016 killing of George Gerard, a jury taking just two hours of deliberations before issuing its verdict.

3 Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins urged the city to drop its legal battle with Canadian National Railway over the James Street Swing Bridge. Instead Collins asked the city to work with the First Nation on a replacement bridge over the Kaministiquia River that would cost \$25 million. The situation would change again later in the year after a new court ruling in the city's favour.

4 Sixty-three-year-old Joseph Harry Pruys Sr. was killed and police began a city-wide search for Charles Norman Casmey, 31, who was wanted on a second-degree murder charge after a McLaughlin Street death. The suspect was later arrested at a McLaughlin Street residence, three days after the killing.

5 The trial of two University of Ottawa hockey players, Donovan Foucher and Guillaume Donovan, began in a Thunder Bay courtroom. They were accused of sexual assault after an incident that allegedly took place while their hockey team was in the city for a game against the Lakehead Thunderwolves. The verdict would be read in June.



FOUND GUILTY: Nicholas Necan was jailed for second-degree murder.

6 Sexual assault charges against embattled local lawyer Alexander (Sandy) Zaitzeff were dismissed when the lone witness failed to appear in court and Justice David Harris determined there was not enough evidence to find him guilty. Other charges of assault and sexual assault were heard in April.

7 Local kingpin John Tsekouras had his appeal of drug trafficking charges denied by the Supreme Court, landing him behind bars to serve out his 9.5-year sentence. Tsekouras was arrested in 2012 during a police operation known as Project Dolphin.

8 A Thunder Bay man died of carbon monoxide poisoning in an incident that could have been much worse. Firefighters decided not to wait for the all clear before breaking into a McTavish Street home, rescuing two women and a man who were also inside the residence at the time.

9 A vigil was held at Hillcrest Park calling for justice in the wake of the verdict in the court case surrounding the death of Saskatchewan Indigenous man Colten Boushie. Farmer Gerald Stanley was acquitted of second-degree murder, claiming his gun went off accidentally and he feared for his life at the time of the killing. Several students attending the Bora Laskin School of Law also held a vigil later in the month.

10 A wild lynx that attacked a Thunder Bay woman's pet dog made headlines midway through the month. The 14-pound Maltipoo suffered a number of puncture wounds after the attack outside her Brookside Manor condominium. — *Leith Dunick*

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MARCH*A Year
in Review..*

Indigenous leaders ask Levesque to quit

1 An Office of the Independent Police Review Director report that substantiated allegations of police misconduct during the investigation of the death of Stacy DeBungee led First Nations leaders to call for the resignation of then police chief J.P. Levesque. The 126-page report found the criminal investigations branch of the Thunder Bay Police Service, as well as lead investigators, had prematurely ruled DuBungee's 2015 to be non-criminal.

2 Charles Casmeay, wanted in connection to the city's second homicide of 2018, surrendered following an East-End stand-off. The suspect blockaded himself inside a McTavish Street residence. The 31-year-old was wanted for second-degree murder in a McLaughlin Street incident that left a 63-year-old Joseph Harry Pruiys dead and a 25-year-old woman injured.

3 The Ontario Court of Appeal overturned Shaldon Wabason's 2015 manslaughter conviction in connection with his alleged role in the death of 54-year-old Robert Topping, who had been fatally stabbed in a Minnesota Street home after helping his former partner during a home invasion. The court ruled a statement given by Wabason during his trial should not have been included as evidence.

4 Thunder Bay Police Services officer Rob Steudle pleaded guilty to discreditable conduct for Facebook comments he made about the local Indigenous community. The 30-year veteran expressed remorse for his remarks, which included the line, "Well, lets stop giving the natives money and see how that goes," and "Natives killing native and it's the white man's fault natives are drunk on the street and it's the white man's fault natives are homeless."



STANDING UP: Dozens of people marched on Women's Day on March 7.

5 The Thunder Bay International Airport got some welcome news from the province, handed \$5 million to spruce up its terminal. The work included expanding the departure lounge and a new customs clearance space.

6 Dozens of women marched on International Women's Day in front of Mini Queen's Park on James Street, dressed in pink pussy hats and decrying the need in 2018 to still be fighting for the likes of equal pay and reproductive rights.

7 Hercules actor Kevin Sorbo had his invitation to the 2018 ThunderCon event rescinded after community backlash erupted when it was announced he'd be a feature guest at the October event. Sorbo had faced criticism for his comments on Muslims and also appeared at an event sponsored by an organization that opposes LGBTQ rights. He later called the cancellation a publicity stunt.

8 Premier Kathleen Wynne was joined in Thunder Bay by federal Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott, who announced Ottawa would spend \$1.6 billion to help Wataynikaneyap Power hook 16 First Nations community into the power grid.

9 A 28-year-old man was charged with arson and killing an animal after a fire at a Banning Street home left three dogs dead. The man was arrested under the Mental Health Act.

10 A bilateral public transit agreement was announced that could bring up to \$60 million in federal and provincial dollars under a new infrastructure funding initiative. The money would be spread over a decade and used to improve the Thunder Bay transit system. — *Leith Dunick*



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*A Year
in Review...*

APRIL

Sylvie Hauth named acting police chief

1 Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesque called it a career after 31 years on the city's police force not long after obstruction of justice and breach of trust charges related to an ongoing investigation of Mayor Keith Hobbs were dismissed in court. Deputy Chief Sylvie Hauth was tapped to take over the role on an interim basis and the police services board said it would conduct a nationwide hunt for his replacement. Levesque's rein was plagued by accusations of racism within the department, not to mention his own legal challenges.

2 About 65 clinical staff workers at the Port Arthur Health Centre walked off the job, a labour dispute that would last into the summer months and get nasty at times as employees fought for better wages, the key issue in the labour disruption. Picketers slowed vehicles entering the clinic, but management said they would keep it open and continue to provide care.

3 First Nations leaders called on Lakehead University to address systemic racism following the resignation of Bora Laskin School of Law dean Angelique Eaglewoman. They asked school administration to address institutional discrimination and move toward reconciliation.

4 Embattled former lawyer Alexander (Sandy) Zaitzeff pleaded guilty to charges of invitation to sexual touching under 16, assault and firearms possession. He was charged in November 2016 and received 15 months probation.

5 Then Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford made a pre-election visit to Thunder Bay, where he held a rally, warned Bombardier they must be on time delivering rail cars and promised a collaborative approach to the Ring of fire,



WALKED OUT: Striking Port Arthur Health Centre workers picket.

despite earlier statements he'd take a bulldozer to build a road to the mineral development.

6 The NDP banned Kenora candidate Matt Soprovich from the ballot after social media post from his pasts showing him ripping his shirt off and being so hung over he fell back asleep, came back to haunt the would-be politician.

7 Lakehead athletes and members of the community paid tribute to the victims of the deadly bus crash that killed 16 members of the Humboldt Broncos organization, holding a vigil at the university.

8 Taxpayers learned the repairs to the Main Street bridge would cost significantly more than first anticipated. City council approved a two-year contract, worth \$5.3 million, at a late April meeting. The initial price tag for the project was listed at \$4.2 million, but the lowest tender than came in was for \$5.65 million.

9 McKellar Coun. Paul Pugh announced he would not run in the municipal election in October, saying it was time for new blood around the council table. The former union leader gave his wholehearted endorsement to Ashleigh Nurmela, who ultimately wound up finishing second to entrepreneur Brian Hamilton.

10 Once again city council decided to divert funds to restore the Boulevard Lake dam, redirecting the money to help pay for the Main Street Bridge project. Administration vowed the money would be in place by 2019 to complete the project, which has been pushed back multiple times in favour of other projects.



Michael Gravelle, MPP
Thunder Bay-Superior North

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Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North



MAY*A Year
in Review...*

Lakehead law dean selection slammed

1 Indigenous leaders slammed the selection of Justice Patrick Smith as the new dean at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin School of Law. They were enraged at the choice, saying Smith was the judge who jailed Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation Chief Donny Morris and five councillors in 2008 for refusing to allow mineral exploration on their community's traditional lands. Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox called the move an insult to First Nations.

2 Nicholas Necan was handed a life sentence with no parole eligibility for 13 years, convicted of second-degree murder in the brutal 2016 beating death of 60-year-old George James Gerard. Court heard the victim was beaten to death over a 45-minute period while minding his own business in his apartment.

3 Students at Dennis Franklin Cromarty took their push for a new school and living centre to Ottawa, where they presented their case, along with teachers and school administrators, to several members of Parliament and senators. They were promised their letter would also be delivered to the prime minister.

4 Premier Kathleen Wynne paid a pre-election visit to the city and defended Liberal commitments that included free pre-kindergarten child care, the start of government-paid prescription drugs and dental care, at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's annual general meeting. Wynne was questioned why that money wasn't being spent on infrastructure. Conservative Leader Doug Ford and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath also attended the meetings.

5 Thunder Bay Police, in a foreshadowing of gun violence to come in 2018, investigated a south-side shooting outside a notorious bar. A 28-year-old man was sent to hospital with



FILE **CONTROVERSY:** Justice Patrick Smith was named interim law school dean.

non life-threatening injuries, with police saying they were consistent with being hit with shotgun pellets.

6 The city's new taxi bylaw came into effect, after getting final approval from Thunder Bay city council. The new regulations set guidelines for traditional taxicab companies and ridesharing services, allowing for surge pricing and an unlimited number of licences in the city.

7 Local school bus companies say bus registration projections show ridership was expected to dip by one-third, after students in high school and senior elementary schools were forced to register for bus service to and from the classroom. About 3,100 students signed up for bus service, though 4,700 were eligible.

8 A 20-year-old robbery suspect was arrested and charged with attempted murder after allegedly threatening and assaulting a Mac's Convenience Store employee at the company's Red River Road location. The move spurred Mac's to revisit store hours in Thunder Bay, closing most locations at midnight.

9 A Thunder Bay North Stars player was in court to face assault charges after an off-ice incident at a Superior International Junior Hockey League game. Avery Siau, who returned to the team in November, was accused of punching Dryden coach Kurt Walsten, while the player was already sitting out a suspension. He was booted from the league for 25 games.

10 The business community got some good news when ReGen Med was named Ontario's tissue-processing centre. The decision was expected to create 30 full-time jobs, including 27 in Thunder Bay, and add about \$10 million to the local construction economy.



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*A Year
in Review...*

JUNE

Local Liberal MPP ousted in election

1 A shakeup of sorts on the local political front saw long-time Liberal MPP and cabinet minister Bill Mauro ousted from the legislature as the Doug Ford-led Conservatives swept the Liberals out of office after 15 years. NDP first-timer Judith Monteith-Farrell edged Mauro out for the seat by 81 votes. West of Thunder Bay, former federal cabinet minister Greg Rickford took over the seat vacated by the NDP's Sarah Campbell. He was later named minister of natural resources.

2 The Ontario Court of Appeals overturned a 2017 Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling and ordered Canadian National Railway to reopen the James Street Swing Bridge to vehicular traffic. The bridge was closed to cars and trucks after an October 2013 fire, but the Court of Appeal said the railway had breached a 1906 agreement that mandated them to keep the bridge open in perpetuity.

3 A preliminary hearing in the extortion case against Mayor Keith Hobbs opened in court on June 25. The hearing was held to determine if there was enough evidence to warrant a trial against the mayor, his wife Marissa and Mary Voss. The court later ruled there was and the accused were committed to stand trial.

4 Former Ottawa Gee Gees hockey players Guillaume Donovan and David Foucher were found not guilty of an alleged 2014 sexual assault following a game in Thunder Bay at a local hotel room. In her verdict, Justice Chantal Brochu said that while neither player was a gentleman on the night in question, she had no reason to question their testimony that the woman had consented.

5 Students at Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute bid farewell to their school, which closed its doors after 52 years. Churchill was shuttered after a lengthy closure



DECISION: CN was ordered to reopen the James Street Swing Bridge.

consultation process, most of its students heading to Westgate in September. Construction of a new elementary school began on the site, the original school scheduled to be demolished.

6 Shelter House completed a \$50,000 fundraising campaign and finally got its new Street Outreach Service vehicle on the road, ensuring the program would continue. It had been temporarily suspended when the original van broke down. The program provides food, water, clothing, blankets and harm reduction services to the city's homeless.

7 The city and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit launched a rat-prevention campaign after more than 250 reported sightings in less than two years. The campaign was designed to raise awareness on how to keep rats from taking over yards, how to recognize their presence and how to eliminate the vermin.

8 The Thunder Bay and District Humane Society drew fire for staff terminations, which led to a complaint being filed with the Ontario Labour Relations Board. Robin Ratz said she was let go after bringing more than 50 issues related to workplace health and safety to the animal shelter's board.

9 The legal battle between the Sports Dome ownership group and the CLE continued, with the former filing a \$2-million counterclaim against the latter. In April the CLE filed a \$1-million suit for clean-up costs and other damages.

10 Police said they had a person of interest in the sudden death of 25-year-old Marlan Chookomolin, whose body was found a year earlier on a north-side recreational trail.

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JULY

*A Year
in Review..*

Province cancels basic income pilot

1 The province announced it was cancelling the basic income pilot project, a three-year program that had been introduced by the previous Liberal government to provide a living wage to low-income earners in three Ontario cities, including Thunder Bay. The move brought outrage from anti-poverty groups and those who had signed up to the program.

2 Benjamin Marki was convicted of all charges, including two counts of second-degree murder, stemming from a 2015 double homicide that took the life of Wilfred Pott and Anne Chuchmuch. Marki in August received a life sentence without the possibility of parole for 20 years.

3 CN announced it planned to appeal a ruling of June's Ontario Court of Appeal decision that ordered the railway to reopen the bridge to vehicular traffic. Mayor Keith Hobbs said the city was "beyond disappointed" and "outraged" at the move, which came nearly five years after the bridge was closed to vehicles after a fire.

4 Premier Doug Ford didn't wait long to make changes to the provincial energy industry, Ontario Power Generation announcing it would close the Thunder Bay generating station as it was no longer necessary and in need of \$5 million in repairs. The move affected 50 of 70 jobs at the facility, with OPG officials promising to redeploy workers elsewhere.

5 The city learned that once again it was the murder capital of Canada in 2017. Statistics Canada numbers showed that while the crime rate in Thunder Bay is dropping, the murder rate was 5.8 per 100,000 people. Abbotsford, B.C. was second at 4.72, while Edmonton came in third on the dubious list at 3.49.



SOGGY HOLIDAY: Wet weather damped Canada Day festivities.

6 Greyhound announced it was cutting its Northwestern Ontario bus service. The move was part of a plan that saw the transportation company pull out of Western Canada completely and left riders scrambling for alternatives come October. Smaller, regional carriers have since agreed to fill in some of the gaps, but declining ridership meant the writing was on the wall for Greyhound.

7 Rainy weather put a damper on Canada Day celebrations, leading to the postponement of the annual fireworks display. The rain didn't put an end to all of the festivities, however, with hundreds still showing up at events around the city to wish the country a happy 151st birthday. The rain led to a flood watch being issued.

8 St. Joseph's Hospital opened its new east wing, which completed the process of phasing out the use of the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. The \$56-million project accommodates 38 long-term care inpatient beds living with severe, persistent, chronic and/or relapsing mental illness.

9 Mayor Keith Hobbs officially announced he would not be running for a third term. Under investigation for extortion, Hobbs said he believed it was time to bow out of municipal politics, "sit back and smell the roses, spend some time with my wife, Marissa and our three children..." Hobbs was first elected in 2010 and re-upped by voters four years later.

10 The *Alexander Henry* officially began life at its new home at the Pool Six site on the city's waterfront. The former coast guard cutter was built in Thunder Bay in 1958 and serviced the Great Lakes for decades before becoming a tourist museum in Kingston, Ont.

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*A Year
in Review...*

AUGUST

Health Centre picket line gets ugly

1 Striking employees at the Port Arthur Health Centre, buoyed by a visit from Unifor national president Jerry Dias, blocked multiple entrances to the north-side clinic. Police were on scene and the threat of charges was made against local union leaders. The court later issued an injunction after the workers erected a fence around the perimeter of the building, ordering it removed and demanding picketers not block access to the facility.

2 Police investigated the murder of 31-year-old Amelia Corrie Sainnawap, after finding her body in a laneway in the 100 block of Cumming Street. Thunder Bay Police have yet to arrest anyone in the killing, making a plea to the public for help to find her killer or killers. The death is not believed to be related to the July 31 death of David Hugh Sweeney, whose body was found at a North Algoma Street home.

3 The threat of violence continued in the Windsor Street area, which was cordoned off by police as they investigated after a man wanted on southern Ontario warrants was spotted and fled into a residence in nearby housing complex. Traffic was rerouted from the area and a police held the scene overnight until the 36-year-old Toronto-area suspect surrendered. A semi-automatic weapon was seized.

4 A man with previous convictions for child-pornography offenses was arrested after being found with a young girl. Michael Daniel Bewcyk was caught with a nine-year-old. The 70-year-old was later charged with child-abduction offence and remains in prison awaiting court proceedings.



HOLED UP: Police investigate a standoff on Windsor Street.

5 Lakehead Public Schools' director of education Ian MacRae slammed the province for its controversial decision to return to the 1998 sex-education curriculum, a move many saw as counter-productive for students. Consent and gender identity were at the heart of the decision, MacRae saying the 20-year-old curriculum does not reflect the reality facing today's students.

6 Police investigated a report of shots fired at a Windsor Street residence, in the hunt for three individuals possibly linked to out-of-town organized crime and drug trafficking.

7 City council voted in favour of repairing the Chapples Stadium pitch, awarding a \$1.1-million contract to fix the field, the home of the Thunder Bay Chill. The Premier Development League club has called Fort William Stadium home for several seasons and won't be able to return to their original field until 2020.

8 The province announced it was postponing the planned temporary overdose-prevention site at the Norwest Community Health Centre while the Conservative government conducts a review of harm-reduction practices to determine if similar sites have merit.

9 Former Nishnawbe Aski Nation deputy grand chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum lobbed accusations of harassment and intimidation at former grand chief Stan Beardy, claiming seven people had come forward with statements against him.

10 Council voted to give Tourism Thunder Bay 50 per cent of the newly created municipal accommodation tax being levied on local hotels and motels, but doing so meant shifting the department to the CEDC. — *Leith Dunick*

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SEPTEMBER

A Year in Review...

Algoma Street murder remains unsolved

1 Police were called to a North Algoma Street residence where the body of a 59-year-old man was located. Police, who put out a call to the public for witnesses, identified the victim as David Hugh Sweeney. No suspects have yet to be arrested in the case.

2 Justice Patrick Smith announced he was stepping down from his role as the interim dean at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin School of Law to return to the bench on the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Smith later became the subject of a Canadian Judicial Council review panel investigating whether taking the job in the first place disqualified him to sit as a judge. The review panel later announced it did not.

3 A man's body was pulled from the Kaministiquia River, sparking police to turn to the public to help identify the body, sending out pictures of the clothing the man was wearing at the time of his death. Nine days later he was identified as 42-year-old Geoffrey Francis, who had ties to both Thunder Bay and Kenora. The investigation is ongoing.

4 After serving for all of 2018 in the role in an interim capacity, Moira McPherson was officially named president of Lakehead University, succeeding Brian Stevenson, who stepped down at the end of 2017. McPherson has a long history with the university as the school's vice-president academic and provost.

5 Brayden Bushby's second-degree murder case opened in court. Bushby was charged in connection with the death of Barbara Kentner, who died months after being struck by a trailer hitch thrown from a passing vehicle while walking on the south side of the city with her sister.



RULES SCHOOL: Moira McPherson was named Lakehead president.

6 Thunder Bay Police acting Chief Sylvie Hauth told city council she is concerned at an influx of gang members from southern Ontario bringing criminal activity and violence to the city. Hauth said police have increased patrols and plan to be more visible in high-risk areas. Her presentation noted 52 suspected gang members have been arrested in the past year, resulting in the seizure of \$1 million in cash and close to an equal amount of drugs.

7 Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute welcomed former Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute students to their new home with open arms. The two schools amalgamated following Churchill's closure.

8 A third-party management order remained in place at Hogarth Riverview Manor, the Ministry of Health dictating the facility must sustain compliance. The ministry has yet to give a date indicating when the order, given to St. Joseph's Care Group, which operates Hogarth Riverview Manor, would be rescinded. The ministry noted improvements have been made, but Extendicare will continue to monitor the situation until all outstanding compliance orders are met.

9 Dozens of students marched out of class in protest of the Ontario government's plan to revert to the 1998 sexual education curriculum, removing discussions about consent from the classroom. Students also feared LGBTQ and Indigenous issues would also be lost if the province has its way.

10 MP Don Rusnak, citing family commitments, decided to step away from his parliamentary secretary role to the minister of Indigenous Services. The first-term politician said the intense travel schedule was proving too much and keeping him away from his young family for too long.

CELEBRATING \$30 MILLION RAISED FOR THUNDER BAY CHARITIES

THUNDER BAY, ON – Ontario's Charitable Gaming Association is marking an important milestone in Thunder Bay. More than \$30 million has been raised and has benefited local charities in the region through charitable gaming since 1989. This includes over \$3 million as a result of the revitalization of charitable bingo and gaming initiative that began in Thunder Bay in December of 2014.

The revitalization program, which began over a decade ago, is delivered through a partnership between Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), the Ontario Charitable Gaming Association (OCGA), the Commercial Gaming Association of Ontario (CGAO), local charities and gaming and bingo centre operators.

Superior Shores Gaming Centre hosted the official celebration for the \$30 million that has been raised for over 72 local charities. Today's event was attended by Iain Angus, Councillor, City of Thunder Bay, Suzanne Gustafson, Lottery Licensing Officer, City of Thunder Bay, Iris McCoy-Slono, Manager, Superior Shores Charitable Gaming Association, and Richard Schwar, Field Coordinator, OCGA.

"Today is celebrating the wonderful success of Charitable Gaming in Thunder Bay," said Richard Schwar, Field Coordinator of the OCGA. "These funds are making an immeasurable difference to so many local charities that provide important programs and services in the area."

"We currently support 72 local agencies and all



funds raised in this facility stay in Thunder Bay and are used to support a variety of initiatives which benefit our community." Said Iris McCoy-Slono, Manager, Superior Shores Charitable Gaming Association. "We are so proud to be a part of this gaming facility which plays an important role helping so many organizations in our region."

Background on Charitable Gaming in Ontario

In the past 10 years, OLG has been working with the CGAO and the OCGA to revitalize the province's Charitable Bingo and Gaming industry. By developing and introducing new products and technologies that have invigorated the traditional charitable gaming experience, more money has

been generated for thousands of local charities across the province. The revitalization initiative is preserving and enhancing funding for charities across Ontario while creating economic benefits, including employment opportunities at local charitable gaming centres.

A pilot program was started in 2005 to test electronic versions of existing paper-based bingo games with six charity bingo centres in five communities in Ontario.

Following the success of this pilot project, a phased rollout of a new suite of electronic games was introduced to other charitable gaming sites in the province. This started in 2012. The new charitable games offer customers more choice, and

complement existing paper bingo games:

- **Electronic Bingo:** Charitable Gaming Centres offer terminals with touch screens that allow players to touch the screen to dab the numbers and play along.

- **Play On Demand (POD):** A collection of electronic games that can be played anytime, with great prizes to be won.

- **Tap Tix:** The evolution of the classic Break Open Ticket features an interactive display screen on a ticket dispenser.

The new games allow Charitable Gaming Centres to offer more customer choice and appeal to a broader demographic, while providing a different gaming entertainment experience from traditional bingo.

In total, 31 Charitable Gaming Centres have raised more than \$210 million in additional money for over 1800 local charities and their communities.

CONTACT:

Iris McCoy-Slono, Charity Manager,
Superior Shores Gaming 807-624-7979
Richard Schwar, Ontario Charitable Gaming
Association (OCGA) 705-626-1006



*A Year
in Review...*

OCTOBER

Voters choose change on municipal ballot

- Thunder Bay city council underwent its biggest shake-up in more than a decade when city voters cast their ballots. Former MPP Bill Mauro held off Frank Pullia to win the mayoral race. First-time candidates to win office include McIntyre's Albert Aiello, McKellar's Brian Hamilton, Neebing's Cody Fraser, Westfort's Kristen Oliver and Peng You, who captured the most at-large votes by a wide margin. Veterans Linda Rydholm, Iain Angus, Joe Virdiramo and Larry Hebert were among those to feel the sting of defeat.
- Premier Doug Ford made his first visit to Thunder Bay since forming government, stopping at the Resolute Forest Products pulp and paper mill. Ford told media that he believes the best way out of poverty "is something called a job" when asked about his government's decision to cancel the basic income pilot project.
- Police investigated two homicides that happened in the span of two days on opposite sides of the city. Three people have been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Ashley McKay after the 25-year-old's body was found in a Cumming Street Apartment. Peter Keeash is facing a murder charge in the death of Irene Barkman, who passed away days after being found unresponsive at a Dufferin Street residence.
- A pair of fatal fires claimed a total of three lives. Kyle Stoney, 30, was left dead after a Trillium Way blaze and Tracey Mawakeesic was arrested and charged with criminal negligence causing death. A Taylor Drive fire resulted in the deaths of two people, whose identities were not publicly released.
- Dallas Bailey, 20, was killed in a highway crash on a slippery section of the Thunder Bay Expressway. His father has called on the Ministry of Transportation to install concrete



AT THE HELM: Bill Mauro went from MPP to mayor in 2018.

- medians down the middle of the highway to divide traffic.
- Public health nurses at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit hit the picket lines, rallying against wages that they said were the lowest in the province for their line of work. The strike lasted nearly a month before the two sides reached an agreement in mid-November.
- Kirsten Wesley was sentenced to serve nearly two more years behind bars after previously pleading guilty to manslaughter for the September 2016 death of 20-year-old Leslie Moonias. Moonias was stabbed after the couple got into an argument and was found dead the next morning by his five-year-old nephew.
- A 58-year-old man was killed after being run over by three vehicles on Fort William Road. According to police, the man was laying on the road at the time of the incident and all three vehicles attempted to take evasive action but were not successful. Police have not declared whether any charges will be laid.
- A Greyhound bus passed through the city for the final time as the transportation company ended its Western Canada service. That leaves regional carrier Kasper Transportation as one of the only options for intercommunity bus service in Northwestern Ontario.
- Tyler Boily, who had previously served jail time for causing a 2014 highway crash that resulted in two fatalities, was arrested by Thunder Bay police after running a red light and then attempting to hit an officer with a hammer after a brief chase. Boily faces multiple charges including dangerous driving and assaulting police.



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GO AHEAD...BE A QUITTER

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Next Seminar is on
Wed. Jan. 9th ~ 7:00pm
Call for a free consultation

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

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

PALE	APB	TBLS
OTOE	FAA	ARAL
SMALL	FLY	JOVE
HAD	ELIOT	CAD
MAI	ULVA	
STAUNCH	CATAN	
TALL	TAB	LEAN
AELLO	GABELLE	
SART	LAT	
KOP	BAWDY	IRC
AGIS	SERAGLIO	
GUCK	SRI	ESPN
OMEI	EEC	TAEN

1	9	6	4	3	5	7	2	8
2	4	7	1	6	8	5	9	3
3	8	5	9	7	2	6	4	1
6	7	2	8	5	3	9	1	4
9	5	8	6	1	4	3	7	2
4	1	3	7	2	9	8	6	5
5	3	4	2	9	6	1	8	7
8	6	1	3	4	7	2	5	9
7	2	9	5	8	1	4	3	6

B	C	I	X	N	O	B	M	R	N	N	W	S	R	S
E	K	X	F	L	A	M	E	A	S	L	Y	X	B	T
G	L	O	E	C	R	I	E	S	O	G	J	E	G	S
I	N	P	V	C	V	E	R	U	S	O	P	X	E	
N	L	E	G	A	V	A	S	E	C	I	T	O	N	
K	S	H	W	A	R	F	O	A	B	A	L	A	O	
G	S	T	C	C	A	T	T	V	D	E	S	H	I	
Y	S	T	O	L	S	P	R	P	E	S	T	O	N	
F	N	E	Z	B	I	D	O	X	L	I	K	E		
F	L	C	Z	M	L	E	S	S	L	E	C	E		
T	R	N	O	A	O	D	G	A	N	E				
S	S	E	N	L	U	F	E	C	R	U	O	S	E	R
H	W	H	E	E	S	O	U	E	C	O	L	T	S	
Y	R	W	O	D	L	T	N	I	A	U	O	V	P	Y

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "To do all the talking and not be willing to listen is a form of greed." — Democritus of Abdera

Thunder Bay
source
Your Community Newspaper

**Congratulations
to our Santa's
Stocking Winners**

**DELFINA TREVISAN
DANIELLE MUIR
WYNONA FULLUM**

They have each won a total valued at
\$125 in prizes from our friends at:

**AMETHYST GIFT
CENTRE**

Masala Grille
INDIAN & THAI CUISINE



**LAKEHEAD MODELS
& COLLECTIBLES**

Purple Camel
Learning Resources

**SHOPPERS
HomeHealthCare®**

NOVEMBER

A Year in Review...

New era begins for Thunder Bay Police

1 The Thunder Bay Police Service hired the first female police chief in its history, promoting Sylvie Hauth as the force's top cop. Hauth, a 25-year member of the force, had been a deputy chief since 2017 and had served two extended stints as acting chief.

2 Angelique EagleWoman, who had been heralded as the first Indigenous woman to lead a Canadian law school upon her 2015 hiring, launched a \$2.6-million lawsuit against Lakehead University. In the filing, EagleWoman alleges university leadership subjected her to constant micromanagement and ignored open workplace hostility that she faced. EagleWoman had resigned from the post earlier in the year.

3 Geoffrey Corbeil, 35, died after being shot in a Brodie Street residence. Police, who said they do not believe it was a random murder, have not laid any charges in connection with the case. The victim, who had previously been convicted of manslaughter for a 2005 homicide, had known involvement in the drug trade and past connections to gang activity. This was the first firearm involved murder in Thunder Bay since 2012.

4 The North West Local Health Integration Network doubled the number of transitional care unit beds operated by the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre at Hogarth Riverview Manor. The unit, a temporary solution to severe hospital overcapacity earlier in the year, will have 64 beds and is expected to continue operating throughout 2019.

5 The Ontario Court of Appeal rejected CN's case for a stay to reopen the James Street Swing Bridge. CN, which had previously been ordered by the court to reopen the span to vehicular traffic, claimed the costs to repair would be between \$4 million



DOUG DIACZUK

GOING TO COURT: Former law school dean Angelique EagleWoman launched a \$2.6-million lawsuit against Lakehead University.

and \$6 million. The appellate judge also provided an opinion that it is unlikely the railway will be granted leave to appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada.

6 Provincial energy minister Greg Rickford announced he was asking the Competition Bureau to investigate Northwestern Ontario gas pricing. Rickford, the MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, said savings at the pumps from the cancellation weren't being passed down to customers and accused retailers in Thunder Bay, Fort Frances, Kenora and Dryden of a lack of competitive behaviour.

7 A nearly 10-year drug trafficking sentence that was part of the Project Dolphin probe was quashed by the Ontario Court of Appeal. Keith Ritchie had been convicted of multiple offences in 2017. A new trial has been ordered.

8 Labour Minister Patty Hajdu quashed any last hope for basic income recipients when she told them the federal government would not come to their rescue after the Progressive Conservative government had decided to cancel the pilot project two years short of its scheduled completion.

9 A fire at a Walkover Street residence claimed a woman's life. The woman was transported from the north side home to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, where she later died.

10 A contingent of students from Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School travelled to the nation's capital to lobby for a new school. They met with Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott, who said she was touched by their stories and aspirations and pledged to be a champion for them.

There is NEW LAW in Ontario.



Smoking/vaping of any substance is now prohibited in all areas where smoking of tobacco was previously banned, and now also includes:

- Schools, including 20m setback from school grounds
- Arenas/recreational centres, including 20m setback from the grounds
- 9m from restaurant/bar patios
- 20m from perimeter of playgrounds, splash pads, and sports fields/spectator areas

KNOW THE LAW.

For more information, visit TBDHU.COM/SFOA



THINK RECYCLE

NOT SURE WHAT GOES IN THE BLUE BOX?

Cardboard

Acceptable: Corrugated Cardboard – brown, coloured or glossy

Boxboard – cereal boxes, file folders, business cards, tissue boxes, etc.

Paper - all types of office paper, computer paper, newspapers, magazines, flyers, coloured paper, paperback books, three part forms, envelopes, post-it notes

Non-Acceptable: Thermal fax paper, blueprints, carbons, styrofoam, phone books, and hard cover books (hard cover books are acceptable with the covers removed.), cardboard with attachments of plastic or styrofoam (handles, etc.)

Plastics



Acceptable: Plastic containers which did not contain hazardous/toxic materials (such as oil or javex which have a #1 PETE or #2 HDPE Symbol on them (check the bottom of the container)

Non-Acceptable: Containers which held hazardous materials, recycle numbers of 3 or greater, plastic shopping bags, and items other than pop bottles that have no number on them at all.

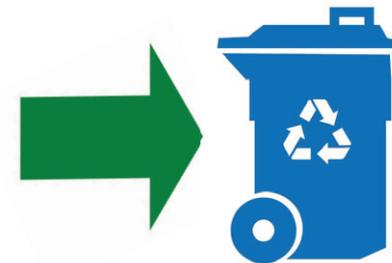
Metals

Acceptable: Clean, uncrushed pop cans, tin cans that are free of food waste. We also accept other tin and aluminum items.

Tetra Packs

Acceptable: Milk cartons, juice boxes

In an effort to promote the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste in the Thunder Bay & District Area, The Township of Conmee, Township of Gillies, Township of O'Connor, Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge, Municipality of Neebing and the Municipality of Shuniah offers recycling services to their residents.



For more information on our recycling program, please contact your local municipality.



PLEASE FLATTEN



RINSE CONTAINERS

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

DECEMBER

*A Year
in Review...*



Report finds systemic racism in TBPS

1 The Ontario Independent Police Review Board finally issued its report on the Thunder Bay Police Service, indicating once and for all that the department was guilty of systemic racism for its treatment of cases involving Indigenous people. Among the recommendations made by Gerry McNeilly was to reopen nine cases that the investigator believes police did not look into properly. Among the nine were four youth who died between 2000 and 2011 while in Thunder Bay attending school.

2 On the heels of the OIPRD report, Senator Murray Sinclair released another damning missive, this time aimed at the Thunder Bay Police Services Board. The report, called for by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, said the board failed to oversee the police department properly in the wake of complaints about how police treated Indigenous complaints and cases. The board was temporarily set aside, with administrator Thomas Lockwood given sole voting power until board members completed a training program.

3 The search for a missing Indigenous teen turned tragic, when the body of 17-year-old Braiden Jacob was discovered at Chapples Park. A few days later police laid second-degree murder charges against 22-year-old Jonathan Yellowhead of Eabametoong First Nation.

4 A video that purported to show a female Thunder Bay Police Service Officer striking an intoxicated Indigenous teen on a stretcher went viral and caused plenty of uproar throughout the community. The officer shouted "You do not spit on me," to the 17-year-old from Nibinamik First Nation, before striking the youth, a student at the Matawa Learning Centre.



DAMNING REPRT: Independent Police Review Director, Gerry McNeilly.

5 Pikangikum First nation made history, becoming the first of 17 remote Indigenous communities to hook up to the Ontario power grid through the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line project. The move, which was marked by the flipping of a switch to turn on the community's first set of Christmas lights in more than a decade, ends Pikangikum's reliance on diesel fuel for its power.

6 Despite public protests, city council voted to close the 106-year-old Dease Pool, which opened in 1912, but would require more than a million dollars in repairs to remain open. Council considered a new pool, but decided to divert the \$50,000 spent on the facility annually to other youth programming.

7 City council launched a cannabis survey, asking the public to weigh in on the idea of a brick-and-mortar marijuana store in the city. The municipality has until mid-January to opt in or out, under rules set down by the Ontario government.

8 A 27-year-old woman wanted on outstanding warrants was charged after allegedly taking off from police following a traffic stop and crashing through a Vickers Street sheet metal shop.

9 Celina Reitberger was named chair of the aforementioned Thunder Bay Police Services Board, the first Indigenous woman to hold the post. She's also the lone holdover allowed to return to the board following Senator Murray Sinclair's report.

10 A Simpson Street landlord took matters into his own hands, erecting a sign outside his apartment complex advertising a crack cocaine sale happening in one of the units. Norm Staal said he tried to evict the alleged drug dealer, but to no avail.



Good Reasons to Recycle

- Recycling saves energy
- Recycling uses less space in landfills**
- Recycling saves trees
- Recycling helps climate change**
- Recycling reduces pollution
- Recycling saves money**
- Recycling creates jobs.

tbnewswatch.com

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YOUR VOICE. YOUR**



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Have a joyous New Year!

Judith Monteith-Farrell
MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan



IN THE bay

Jan. 2 starts your healthy new year

The new year has sprung on us with enough cold to have even the heartiest Northwesterner hiding indoors, tucking into hot drinks and comfort foods for warmth. This means even less exposure to sunlight during these shorter days and a growing sense of doom. So it's no wonder that marketers are taking advantage of the post-holiday blahs and increased vitamin D deficiency and depression by reminding us that Jenny Craig, NutriSystem, and Weight Watchers are ready and waiting to fix us.

That's right. Never will you see more advertisements from weight-loss products than right now – a mere week after they repeatedly showed us how to make creative new hors-d'oeuvres and fat-producing bites for friends and family. They told us to eat, eat, eat and be happy about it.

But now it's a new month, a new year, and it's time to shed, shed, shed.



with **FIONA GARDINER**

Because in every ad, nobody looks happy when they eat anymore. Food is no longer a means to celebrate, but the enemy.

The commercials focus on pills, programs, and procedures to ensure your happiness with lower body fat. Individuals discuss health issues and family concerns.

Musical jingles sing about eating your feelings. And a plethora of before and after photos offer proof of

their magical powers of improvement.

But that's only one part of the equation. While we're holed up with a bucket of take-out, we can't help but notice all the gyms offering discount memberships and signing bonuses along with the all-important indoor workouts away from the cold.

Consequently, it's never busier at the gym than those first two weeks of January.

Everyone's suddenly so enthusiastic about Sweatin' to the Oldies, you have to go early or stay late in order to squeeze in some time on the treadmill. But we do, because the alternative is to stay home where we're repeatedly reminded during each commercial break that everyone else is getting slimmer and healthier and happier.

So instead, we watch those same commercials on the TV's at the gym to ensure we keep running.

Fortunately for the regulars, by

week three the novelty of working out starts to wear off and the rationalizations begin. After all, the Christmas eat-fest only lasted a couple of weeks. However, that membership is for an entire month or more.

Well, once or twice a week still gets you your money's worth.

Of course, getting a good sweat on during the dead of winter has its drawbacks too. You can shower at the gym or just shove on a tuque and head out into the cold.

Either way, your hair freezes. And that can't be healthy for you – or your hair.

But then, one day, it's February. A new month. A new campaign. And the advertisements are suddenly less about fat and carbs and more about chocolates and heart-shaped pizzas.

Don't worry, the ads will be back – just in time to have you panicking about shorts and bathing suit season.



TIME TO START: Gym memberships tend to jump with New Year's resolutions.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Wan
 - All points bulletin (abbr.)
 - Tablespeen (abbr.)
 - Sioux tribe
 - Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
 - Russ. inland sea
 - Gnat (2 words)
 - Jupiter
 - Hoodwinked
 - "Silas Marner" author
 - Uncouth person
 - Fr. month
 - Sea lettuce
 - Loyal
 - Jap. sword
 - Lofty
 - Price
 - Rawboned
 - One of the Harpies
 - Fr. salt tax
- DOWN**
- Bosh
 - Hindu soul
 - Cargo
 - Iranian of central Asia
 - Buddhist column
 - S. Afr. hill
 - Salacious
 - Internat'l Red Cross (abbr.)
 - Spartan king
 - Harem
 - Slimy stuff
 - Hindu title
 - Television channel
 - Buddhist sacred mountain
 - Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
 - Shak. contraction

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	O	T	C	E	M	I	A	F	R	B
E	C	R	U	V	I	A	L	L	I	I
S	H	I	P	E	T	N	A	A	M	C
C	O	R	N	U	R	O	G	U	E	
S	T	Y	L	E	T	L	I	B		
O	S	C	A	N	L	U	C	I	F	E
A	A	L	F	E	D	O	T	O		
P	R	E	L	A	T	E	S	T	R	A
A	N	C	B	E	E	T	L	E		
T	A	R	S	I	L	A	S	E	R	
M	A	A	M	O	A	B	H	E	L	P
E	R	G	U	R	G	E	S	A	U	
N	E	A	S	T	O	L	E	S	C	A

- Conger
- Pain
- Vedic dialect
- Body of water
- Mahal
- Upholstery fabric
- Latite
- Rosebud, e.g.
- Cant
- Tender loving care (abbr.)
- Islamic teacher
- Man's servant
- As written in music
- To (Scot.)
- Pimento
- Witch
- Mulberry of India
- Compass direction
- Sword or bugle belt
- Eye
- Weaverbird
- Cup (Fr.)
- Jap. palanquin
- Irish writing
- Pronoun contraction
- "Casablanca" character
- Fit
- Connecticut (abbr.)
- Schuss
- Obtain

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18			19				20		21		
		22				23	24				
25	26	27			28		29		30	31	
32				33		34		35			
36			37		38		39				
		40			41		42				
43	44			45		46			47	48	49
50			51		52				53		
54					55				56		
57					58				59		

WORD SEARCH

B C I X N O B M R N N W S R S
 E K X F L A M E A S L Y X B T
 G I D E C R I E S Q G J E G S
 I N P V C Y E R U S O P X E I
 N L I E G A V A S E C I T O N
 K S H K W A R F O A B A L A O
 G S T L C T A T T Y D E S H I
 Y S E E U U E E T E P V E S T
 Y T G L S N R R F S T O K N P
 F N E Z B O G T O X I C I R E
 F U C Z M I L E S S I L M E C
 I R N O A Y D C D L G A N F E
 S S E N L U F E C R U O S E R
 H W H E E L S O U E C O L T S
 Y R W O D L T N I A U Q V F Y

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Alcove | Enlist | Lunged | Receptor |
| Begin | Exposure | Measly | Resource |
| Clicks | Ferns | Mikes | Runts |
| Closets | Fishy | Miles | Savage |
| Colts | Flame | Notices | Tatty |
| Dates | Flogs | Nozzle | Toxic |
| Decries | Freed | Pewter | Trace |
| Deftly | Funnel | Quaint | Trucking |
| Dowry | Glint | Quart | Wheels |
| Edibles | Lambs | Rafter | Whence |

ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "X" = "T"

"XU HU YII XAV XYIPCSB YSH SUX MV
 ECIICSB XU ICNXVS CN Y WUTZ UW
 BTVVH."

— HVZULTCXQN UW YMHVTY

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "The best cure for the body is a quiet mind."
 — Napoleon Bonaparte



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 Master Certified, Serving
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 off Government Rd.

Season's Greetings
 and
 Thank you
 to our customers,
 we are grateful for
 your patronage.

Best Wishes for a
 Happy New Year.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

1			4	3		7			
2						8		9	3
	8		9	7		6			
	7		8					1	4
9			6	1					
4							8		
	3								7
8			3						
	2								6

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

See page 17 for this week's answers

Sports

local sports news | information | coverage

Training with a CFL champion

Nigel Romick of the Ottawa Redblacks was back for PRO Kids Training with a Pro: Football Edition

FOOTBALL
By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

For 10-year-old Koen Horne, loving football while living in what has traditionally been known as a hockey town can be tough. But even Thunder Bay has its own football stars and having the opportunity to train with one has really helped his game.

"They teach us a lot of stuff to do in our game and how to be a better football player," he said.

Koen has been participating in the PRO Kids Training with a Pro: Football Edition day for the last three years and leading the training for the third year in a row was CFL Ottawa Redblacks player, Nigel Romick.

"It's awesome seeing their faces and the smiles," Romick said. "I hope they look up to me. I didn't have a football figure when I was playing football. It was all hockey, hockey, hockey, there were no pros. So it's pretty awesome."

Romick was born and raised in Thunder Bay and started playing football in Grade 10 at St. Patrick's High School. He would go on to play for the Saint Mary's Huskies and was later drafted by the Ottawa Redblacks in 2014. Two years later, the Redblacks won the Grey Cup.

When he first started playing, Romick said football was still just an up-and-



DOUG DIACZUK

PRO LESSONS: Nigel Romick of the Ottawa Redblacks takes part in a two-hand touch game of football during the PRO Kids Training with a Pro: Football Edition last Saturday.

coming sport in Thunder Bay, but that has changed a lot since he first took to the field.

"Football wasn't a thing back in the day but it started growing into a football community with Thunder Bay Minor Football Association and OFSSA was in Ottawa this year and I saw the Falcons out there, so it's good to see the kids growing into it," he said.

During the Training with a Pro session, 36 youth between the ages of

five and 13-years-old went through various dry-land drills including running, passing, tackling, and quick games of two-hand touch.

Joining Romick on the field were several players with the University of Ottawa football team and coaches from St. Patrick's High School.

"It's pretty interesting to see what they've learnt throughout their years, and where they started to get so good, and how they got so good and what

they did to get into the CFL," said 13-year-old Nathan Malcnch, who was participating in Training with a Pro for the second year.

PRO Kids works to provide youth facing financial barriers an opportunity to play sports and Laura Daniele, coordinator with PRO Kids, said it is the kids who make the Training with a Pro sessions such a success.

"They really like to come back and hang out with Nigel for a couple of hours. There is a great football community and we have a lot of football spirit in the community so the kids bring that forward and really enjoy the afternoon."

The cost of participating in the training session was \$50 and this year it raised more than \$2,100, with all the money going towards supporting PRO Kids programming.

"It's nice seeing the kids come back for their third time," Romick added. "This is the third time. I kind of know these kids now and its good to see them every year and improve their football skills."

And the kids are starting to get to know Romick, too, which makes the training not only valuable for those aspiring to be the next big football star.

"Not a lot of people get to meet a CFL player and I got to meet him three times, so it's really nice," Koen said.

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sports NEWS

Sports year in review

1 Thunder Bay's Haley Irwin struck silver at the Winter Olympics in South Korea, as Team Canada fell to the United States in the gold-medal game. The second-place finish helped her add to her hardware collection, bringing home women's hockey gold in 2010 and 2014.

2 It was the end of the road for three-time Stanley Cup champion Patrick Sharp, who announced his retirement after one final season with the Chicago Blackhawks. Sharp, who returned to Chicago after two years in Dallas, finished with 10 goals and 11 assists and wrapped up a 15-year NHL career with 287 goals and 620 points in 939 games. He won championships in 2010, 2013 and 2015 and Olympic gold in 2014.

3 After a five-year run that saw the event raise more than \$1 million for local charities, organizers of the Staal Foundation Open announced the tournament was calling it a day. Ben Griffin fired a spectacular final-round 64 to hold off Canadian Riley Wheeldon and capture the fifth edition of the Staal Foundation Open with a four-round, 16-under 266 total. Locals Barry Caland, Walter Keating Jr., Matt Simmons, Evan DeGrazia and Jeremy Kirk were in the field, but didn't make the cut.

4 The Lakehead Thunderwolves struck women's basketball gold again with the arrival of Bahamian forward Leashja Grant, who led the OUA in rebounding and points and captured league most valuable player honours, making her a finalist for national player of the year. The Wolves edged into the national Top 10 just before the Christmas break.

5 The Lakehead Thunderwolves, who lost in the first round of the OUA playoffs to York, changed coaches in the offseason, with the retirement of veteran bench boss Bill McDonald. He was replaced by long-time assistant Andrew Wilkins, who has the team in contention in the OUA West and even briefly returned the Wolves to the U Sports top 10 for the first time in more than four years.

6 Brad Jacobs and Rachel Homan made easy work of the competition at the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling's Tour Challenge, which brought national coverage to Thunder Bay in November. Jacobs knocked off Alberta's Brandon Bottcher in the men's final and Homan edged Manitoba's Tracy Fleury in the women's championship. Thunder Bay's Krista McCarville finished



PROUD MOMENT: Haley Irwin (left) shares her Olympic silver medal with her mother, Kerry Irwin, and niece, Lillia.

the week 1-3 and missed the playoffs.

7 The Thunder Bay North Stars returned to their powerhouse days, ranked as high as second in the Canadian Junior Hockey League after sprinting out of the starting gate to start the 2018-19 season. It follows a trip to the Dudley Hewitt Cup last season, despite losing to Dryden in the SIJHL final.

8 The Thunder Bay Border Cats made the news for all the wrong reasons, as one ownership group walked away from the team and a group of local hopefuls made their pitch to save the Northwoods League squad and bring it back to Port Arthur Stadium for a 17th season. The Cats struggled to a 22-50 mark in 2018, winning just nine games in the second half.

9 The Thunder Bay Chill struggled out of the gate and wound up missing the playoffs for just the second time since 2006, finishing the campaign at 6-1-7 under coach Giovanni Petraglia, leaving them fifth in the Heartland Division.

10 The St. Ignatius Falcons upset the heavily favoured Hammarkskjold Vikings to capture their fourth high school senior football title in five years. Nicholas Doucet rushed for 184 yards and three touchdowns in the 22-7 win.

Honourable mentions to to Eric Staal for scoring his 400th NHL goal; Carter Hutton signing a three-year free agency deal with the Buffalo Sabres and leading the NHL in goals against average and save percentage; Ryan Thomson taking over the Thunderwolves men's basketball program, and Craig Barclay being named Lakehead's women's volleyball coach.

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06. Cottages
07. Commercial for Sale
08. Investment Property
09. Out of Town
10. Real Estate Wanted

FOR RENT

11. Houses
12. Apartments
13. Rooms
14. Room & Board
15. Shared Accommodations
16. Cottages
17. Commercial
18. Storage/Space
19. Wanted
20. Condos
21. Miscellaneous

MERCHANDISE

22. Bargain corner
23. Misc. For Sale
24. Antiques
25. Music
26. Office Equip.
27. Machinery
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29. Food
30. Misc. Wanted

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37. Marine Equip.
38. Snowmobiles
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40. Current River
41. Northward
42. Southward
43. Westfort
44. Rural

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45. Auctions
46. Health
47. Travel
48. Financial
49. Lost & Found
50. Personal
51. Notices
52. Tenders

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53. General Services
54. Home Improvements
55. Bus. Opportunities
56. Training Courses

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59. Child Care
60. Health Care
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65. Happy Ads
66. Cards of Thanks
67. In Memoriam
68. Death/Funerals

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48. LEARN-TO CLASSES



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