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THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.15 No. 01

INSIDE YEAR IN REVIEW



We look back on the year that was in 2017 /3, 8-19

GRIFFON GROWING



Naval reserve unit's count increases 13 per cent /4

FURTADO FIRED



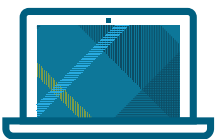
Winless Wolves turf fourth-year coach /22

Olivia Riccio first baby of 2018

First-time parents Vanessa and Vince Riccio welcomed their daughter on New Year's Day at Thunder Bay Regional /2



FIRST BABY: Parents Vanessa and Vince Riccio with daughter Olivia, born on New Year's Day.



9/10

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LOCAL NEWS

Year's first baby a girl

Olivia Riccio born at 9:07 a.m. on Monday

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Thinking she had a day to spare, mother-to-be Vanessa Riccio was settling in Sunday to watch her beloved Minnesota Vikings in their final regular-season game of 2017.

By noon, however, it became clear her daughter had other plans.

By 9:07 a.m. on New Year's Day, Olivia Serafina Riccio had arrived, the first baby born in Thunder Bay in 2018, weighing in at a healthy six pounds, five ounces.

The infant, still sleeping soundly on Monday afternoon, is the first child for Vanessa and her husband Vince, both of whom say they're looking forward to beginning the parenthood journey in such a special way.

"I feel blessed not only to have a healthy beautiful baby girl with us, but to be the first one of 2018 is pretty amazing," Vanessa said, just six short hours after delivering Olivia.

"It's another reason to celebrate."

It was a momentous occasion for the Riccio family, as Olivia joined her father in a pretty remarkable accomplishment, when she entered the world at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

"She will be the fifth generation in our family," Vince said.

"I have a great grandmother who just turned 100 in September, so she's 100 and three months. Now here's the fifth generation."

Vince too was the fifth generation of his family when he was born.

It's been an emotional 24 hours for

the couple, who had no idea they'd have the new year's baby, Olivia not due until Tuesday.

"We had an inkling it could have been us, but we were supposed to be Jan. 2. She came early and most come late. But she decided to come early enough to be the first one. We're completely ecstatic. Our family is over the moon and we can't say enough about how fortunate we were to have this happen to us, especially for our first child," Vince said.

Another pair of prospective parents arrived at the hospital ahead of the Riccios and were farther along in the delivery process, but their baby had to settle for second.

The couple expects to remain in hospital overnight for precautionary reasons and expected return home on Tuesday.

"She will be the fifth generation in our family."
VINCE RICCIO

JOYFUL START: Olivia Serafina Riccio is the first child for parents Vanessa and Vince.

LEITH DUNICK



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LOCAL NEWS

Hobbs top story in 2017

Mayor's legal woes are No. 1, but there were plenty of other stories that made big headlines

YEAR IN REVIEW
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

In many ways, 2017 was a year without precedence in Thunder Bay.

In other ways, more tragically, it was more of the same.

The new year brings hope for improvement and a chance to reflect on the year just gone by, now relegated to the history books.

The past year saw both the mayor and police chief in court facing criminal charges, and three more young Indigenous lives were lost to the city's waterways.

Police were under fire for their handling of Aboriginal death cases, accused of systemic racism from the top on down.

It's a year we won't soon forget, but one we'll hopefully learn from and emerge a better place for everyone who lives in Thunder Bay.

Here are our top 10 stories of 2018:

1 Mayor Keith Hobbs found himself in legal hot water, charged with extortion related to a sexual assault case involving lawyer Alexander (Sandy) Zaitzeff. According to court documents, Hobbs, his wife Marisa and another woman, Mary Voss, attempted to get Zaitzeff to buy Voss a home. Hobbs's case is expected before the courts in early 2018.

2 Equally surprising was the news that Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesque had been charged with obstruction of justice related to the Hobbs case. According to testimony in December, Levesque said he let the mayor know about the pending charges against him as a buffer, claiming he believed it was his prerogative to share the information. A verdict is expected in January.

3 Teenagers Josiah Begg and Tammy Keeash both disappeared on May 6 and later turned up dead in local waterways, two more tragic deaths that led many in the Indigenous community to claim something more sinister was going on in Thunder Bay. Police also faced criticism for how



FRONT PAGE NEWS: Mayor Keith Hobbs was the city's top newsmaker over the past year.

quickly the deaths were written off as non-suspicious in nature and both incidents were added to an outside investigation on how the department handles Aboriginal cases. A third body, 21-year-old Dylan Moonias, was pulled from the river later in the year.

4 A callously thrown trailer hitch in January proved deadly after it struck Barbara Kentner, an Indigenous woman, who was walking with her sister on Cameron Street. The 34-year-old woman spent months in hospital, ultimately succumbing to her injuries. Brayden Bushby, 18, was later charged with second-degree murder.

5 Faculty at Confederation College walked off the job as part of a province-wide strike largely centred around a call for more job security for contract staff. Teachers would walk the picket line for more than five weeks before a deal was reached. About 400 students withdrew as a result.

6 The city and Canadian National Railway had their day in court over

the James Street Swing Bridge and Thunder Bay came out on the losing end, the judge ruling the railway does not have to maintain the Kaministiquia River span in perpetuity for vehicular traffic.

7 While Thunder Bay's homicide count dropped from nine to seven in 2017, it's likely the city will retain its title as Canada's murder capital, the fourth time in six years seven or more people have died at the hands of others.

8 Three days of hearings for the family and friends of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls took place in Thunder Bay.

9 The province officially announced it would build a replacement for the Thunder Bay District Jail, a facility that will also serve as the area's new correctional centre. There is no timeline for construction to begin.

10 Longtime Liberal MPP Michael Gravelle took a lengthy leave of absence to deal with depression. He was off the job for five months.

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

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Weather Forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mainly sunny	Sunny	A few flurries	A few flurries	Scattered flurries	A mix of sun and clouds	Sunny
Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -20 LOW -30	Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH -21 LOW -27	Probability of Precipitation: 70% HIGH -12 LOW -13	Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -9 LOW -13	Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -9 LOW -17	Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -14 LOW -21	Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -12 LOW -19

LOCAL NEWS

HMCS Griffon grows in 2017

Levee still an annual tradition

MILITARY
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

It was a pretty good year for *HMCS Griffon* in 2017.

The Thunder Bay-based naval outfit saw its numbers jump by 13 per cent, from 51 members to 58, which commanding officer Lt.-Cmdr. Robert Cooke attributes to a successful recruitment campaign in local high schools.

Cooke revealed the information on Monday during the Griffon's annual New Year's Day levee celebration, adding he thinks youngsters about to graduate post-secondary school are seeing the Royal Canadian Navy as an opportunity to see the world and do some pretty interesting things.

"Griffon is in sort of a rebuild phase," Cooke said. "We got down pretty low in our numbers and we're starting to build back up. We do it through recruiting and our co-op program. Every year from February through June we do a high-school co-op, where students get two credits for their afternoon when they come here five days a week."

Students are also paid for their time, \$50 a day.

"It's a really good deal for school kids," Cooke said, adding at times they co-operate with the O'Kelly Armoury and a similar program that takes place there through the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment.

While seven new members might not seem like a lot, Cooke said it's a great sign of things to come.

"We're not losing them the other way and we're keeping them. So we must be doing something right," he said.



YEAR BEGINS: Lt.-Cmdr. Robert Cooke of HMCS Griffon speaks on Monday during the annual New Year's Day levee.

"I think it's a little bit more excitement and more opportunities to go to sea. There are more opportunities to do neat things."

Over the past few years the regiment has sent sailors to South Korea and above the Arctic circle.

"And in the new year we've got people

going to the Gulf of Guinea, some to Fiji and one to Latvia. We've got some interesting things going on. Plus we do some pretty interesting things in the unit itself, with small-boat operations and exercises at the regional and the national level."

Cooke said he expects several Griffon members in 2018 to take part in a series

of naval exercises in Halifax.

"Each naval reserve unit has the opportunity to provide the leadership for a special exercise. This year we've done a small-boats exercise, we've done a range weekend and now we're doing a sea-survival exercise in Halifax," Cooke said.

MILITARY
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A New Year's Day tradition dating back to the 17th century continued Monday in Thunder Bay.

Members of the local military community gathered at the O'Kelly Armoury to celebrate the first day of 2018 with the annual levee, which in 1646 Quebec governor Charles Huault de Montmagny held to provide updates on the coming year to the community and significant affairs within the colony.

While much of its original reasoning has been lost, the levee is still a proud tradition around the world, including locally, a chance to raise a toast to the Queen and look ahead to 2018.

"It's a ceremonial and social start to our new year. It's a chance for serving members of the Thunder Bay garrison and the retired officers and some distinguished members of the community to get together and mark the beginning of the new year," said Lt.-Col. David Ratz, the commanding officer with the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment.

"We're not actually planning anything, but it gets the new year off to a social start and also sets us in the mood for the upcoming training year we have."

Christmas Tree Recycling



After the holidays... between Dec 26 & Jan 12, bring your tree to one of the many Christmas tree collection sites.

Remove all ornaments and remove plastic tree wrap before dropping your tree off at the collection site.

Do **NOT** put trees out for curbside garbage collection.

The chipped trees are added to the compost pile at the City's landfill site.

In the spring, when the compost is mature, it is provided to residents free of charge to enrich flower gardens and lawns across Thunder Bay.

Look for the CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFF SITE sign.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

NORTH

Brent Park Balsam St at Margaret St

County Park Tennis Courts County Blvd

Grandview Arena Madeline St
Westminster Church Parking lot off Madeline St
(behind Grandview Arena)

John Jumbo Recreation Centre Toivo St

Strathcona Golf Course

SOUTH

Delaney Arena Legion Track Dr

Kinsmen Northwood Centre 609 James St N.

Westfort Playing Field off Neebing Ave

West Thunder Community Centre
Edward St



thunderbay.ca/recycle

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LOCAL NEWS

Trail of a thousand scents


FRED JONES
RURAL ROOTS

So, 2018. Over the Christmas holidays despite the cold, we actually made it into the bush to walk our trails. The biting winds we feel in the open do not exist in the bush. Naturally, we take along our pooch, Baxter.

When Baxter realizes that we are, in fact, heading to the trail entrance, he gets so excited. He leaps about and runs back and forth to make sure that we are, indeed, out for a walk. Then he charges down the trail to disappear until we make it into the woods. Back he comes though not all the way to check on us, that we are making progress; then back he goes.

I love his excitement, his sheer love of life. Much of his trail-journey is investigating scents. He finds at least a thousand. Don't believe me; believe Baxter. We constantly see him disap-

pearing and re-appearing in and out of the bush on either side of the trail, sniffing the entire time.

At one point well into the walk, the trail climbs a small hill that ends at an intersection. One can head to the right and up a hill to where dead cars were deposited over the years before we bought the property. Back then, this land and the one adjoining it to the south were owned by the same family. Vehicles no longer of any use were dragged to this remote spot and left. There is actually a history of the late fifties and sixties cars and a couple of half-ton trucks in various states of decay gathering mould, lichen, and trees growing up through wheel-wells. When we first explored our new land, one of the cars, a late fifties Oldsmobile, was in pretty good shape but over nearly twenty years, erosion has taken its toll.

We didn't go there this trip. Baxter thought that we would turn right. We turned left and when he figured out our true direction, he shot by me racing down the incline. Then he suddenly stopped and began to sniff around a fallen tree.

"What have you found?" I asked when we caught up to him. He had found scat

belonging to a member of his clan, a distant member, mind, perhaps fox or wolf. Naw, it wasn't fox because usually there is that unmistakable, pungent, foxy smell.

But our real attention was to this fallen tree or, the top half of a tree that now blocked passage for anyone on horseback.

"Ratz!" I grumbled. "I was just through here a week ago and had cleared away all of the blown-down stuff." "I know," agreed my wife, Laura, "I was with you." "Oh, yeah, right, sorry. I forgot." Forgetting seems to be happening more often for me. Ratz!

So, I promised that over the next couple of days depending on the temperature, I'd bring quad with cart, and chainsaw, and deal with the fallen tree. "And while I'm at it, I might as well bring the rest of it for the fireplace," I announced.

Meanwhile Baxter had again disappeared. Not to worry; it is his nature to investigate, to sniff, and sniff, and sniff the fallen trees, and even the snow. We'd see a fleeting orange shape moving through the trees and then he would emerge back onto the trail.

On our return trek, he stayed pretty

much with us but we saw that he was stopping a lot to smell the small tag alder or poplar growing beside the trail. Then he'd move on another five feet or so and stop again to repeat this investigation. Laura observed that several times he buried his nose in the snow to come up with a white snout.

"Look," she laughed, "Baxter's snout is all white." Usually it is orange. "Ah!" I shouted, "He has White Snout Disease! He will cause infection to run rampant!" Joke. Thank goodness we don't have rabies in this part of the province.

So, the rest of the homeward-bound romp was punctuated with frequent stops by Baxter checking out the bushes or even, as I mentioned, plunging his snout into the snow and rising again with a white face. He was very happy.

Actually, I lost count of how many times our pooch plunged his nose into the frozen waste or sniffed the small trees and bushes along the trail locating so many scents.

A thousand? Maybe. Perhaps. I like a thousand. Sounds romantic: "The hidden world of scents that only your dog knows for sure".

Happy New year.

Cops snag drugs in traffic stop

CRIME

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The first day of 2018 wasn't so great for a pair of suspected drug dealers.

City police, in a release, say officers conducting a RIDE program observed a vehicle traveling northbound on Memorial Avenue at about 3:40 a.m. travelling at a high rate of speed.

The officers followed the vehicle and pulled the driver over on High Street South. The odour of alcohol was detected and the driver subsequently bolted, only to return several minutes later.

Both the driver and his passenger were arrested and taken into custody, but not before police searched the vehicle and discovered a quantity of drugs worth an estimated \$69,000 on the street. They also recovered cash.

The two suspects were from southern Ontario and Alberta.

They have been charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of property obtained by crime.

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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Political fun and games

The upcoming year should be a pretty interesting one on the political front.

At the provincial level, it's starting to look like the best-before date for the governing Liberals is about to pass, with the Conservatives poised to take the Ontario reins after 15 years in opposition.

Locally, the race to watch is in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, where long-time MPP and cabinet minister Bill Mauro is expected to face a familiar foe, former NDP MP John Rafferty.

Mauro, who has yet to declare publicly if he's running again, edged Rafferty by just 50 votes in 2007, his second election.

At this point, assuming both men are in the race, it's too close to call.

The other race to watch in 2018 is Thunder Bay's mayoral race. With embattled Mayor Keith Hobbs saying he won't run for the city's top elected post on Oct. 22, it opens the door for new blood.

Coun. Frank Pullia is widely expected to throw his name into the ring. Other possibilities include Ken Boshcoff and Shane Judge, who finished second and third in 2014. A number of councillors, including Iain Angus, Joe Virdiramo and Rebecca Johnson are also believed to be mulling over a possible run for the mayor's chair. Jim Gamble has already said he plans to run.

All in all, it's shaping up to be an intriguing year for local politics.

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Truck drivers a danger

To the editor:

Transport drivers drive like maniacs. I have almost been forced off the road before by them.

They have places to be and have to get there no matter what. It's ridiculous the situation in Northwest Ontario, with single lane highways.

They should have twined them long ago, now they just add passing lanes. It's ridiculous here.

Judith Holmes,
Thunder Bay,
Via Facebook

No oil in Experimental Lake

To the editor:

I am upset this idea is even being proposed. If you'd like to study oil spills, they happen all the time in the ocean. You can travel. Don't ruin our gorgeous surroundings even further.

You don't need to ruin the earth to help preserve it. I don't even have the words for this. Let's put the \$232,000 toward cleaning actual accidental oil spills or cleaning our earth.

Ella Scavarelli,
Via Facebook

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Football and funny top ratings



The past year saw a lot of changes in television. Award-winning series such as *House of Cards* and *Transparent* saw their stars face sexual misconduct allegations that left their shows in jeopardy.

Long-defunct series made history by returning to television with rave reviews. And according to Trump, televised football is now in jeopardy due to a knee and a league-wide show of solidarity.

But what else were people watching?

Based on Nielson ratings, Trump was once again wrong. *Sunday Night Football* was actually the most watched show in 2017. This was followed by *The Big Bang Theory*, *The Good Doctor*, *Young Sheldon*, *NCIS*, *This Is Us*, *America's Got Talent*, *The Walking Dead* and *Bull*.

This would suggest that people really



TRUMPED ALL TELEVISION: Sunday Night Football ruled the Nielson ratings in 2017.

wanted to laugh and find someone worth cheering for in 2017. Gee, I wonder why that would be.

However, according to the changing world of Hollywood, ratings alone are no longer the standard for success. Instead, the belief is that audiences should not only be watching shows, but also interacting with them and other fans. This means social media has become an integral part of television.

Remember when you used to tell your crazy uncle that yelling at the TV set was pointless? Apparently, he was

ahead of his time. Because today, the louder he yells, the better it is. Except now that yelling is being done with a few million thumbs and it's reaching a lot more people.

So according to the INSIDER, the most talked about shows last year included a violent fantasy series that leaves fans begging for more for months on end and another that has a body count that never ends as the dead come back for more.

Several popular comic book-turned-television series proved that studios are

still trying to squeeze out every ounce of pubescent inner-child from their viewers. And then twist it into something even darker.

According to the list, laughter is still key from nerds to modern families and anyone who was willing to skewer the White House every week. Ironically, *American Horror Stor(ies)* also continued to be a big draw when they focused on the clashes of ideologies in America. Based on a true story, perhaps?

And after 19 seasons, Americans are still avid voyeurs, watching and dissecting a group of housemates as they play games and lie to each other for money.

So the most popular shows ran the gambit from laughter to tears, fantasy to reality, family fun to horror. But if you look closely, they all questioned our humanity and morality.

Big Brother and *Empire* could make anyone feel morally superior. *NCIS* and *Grey's Anatomy* gave us the heroes in our midst. *This Is Us* and *13 Reasons Why* made us question our own everyday actions and the repercussions on those around us.

Perhaps given the current social climate, television audiences aren't just looking for an escape. We're looking for answers as to how we got here. And we're ready to talk about them.

Perspective

Resolution time

Many new year's promises broken almost immediately

OPINION

By J.R. Shermack
Special to TB Source

By now many New Year's resolutions have been broken and abandoned when just a week ago all things seemed possible.

Whether New Year's resolutions are fueled by desire for change or motivated by alcoholic beverages, they are often empty promises.

Nobody expects or intends to keep them and we are not held accountable for our words or deeds.

The number one resolution is weight loss – also, getting organized, spending less money or learning something new.

The resolutions we make and our inability to fulfill them speaks volumes about who we are as individuals and human nature in general.

We make the same old promises and expect different results, which is a well-known cliché for insanity.

We live in the twenty-first century clinging to hope that losing a few pounds or saving a few bucks will transform our lives.

I recently came across a demographic fact that made me think about expanding my horizons to look outward, onward and upward.

On Dec. 31, 2017 and for that one day only, all living adults on the planet were born in the 20th century.

Also on that day, every living

child on Earth (based on the legal, adult age of 18 years) was born in the 21st century.

The oldest person alive (Nabi Tajina of Japan, 117 years) was born in 1900 – anyone born before Dec. 31, 1999 was an adult in 2017.

Anyone born Jan. 1, 2000 or later was technically and legally still a child on New Year's Eve, 2017.

On New Year's Eve 2017 all human adults were throwbacks to the last century - all children on the planet were part of an unfolding future.

Speaking as one of the throwbacks, I would prefer to be part of the future instead of a relic from the past century.

We need different New Year's resolutions that foresee a kinder, more compassionate and meaningful future.

A common theme is a desire for control of our lives and to somehow escape the relentless drift toward mundane and ordinary lives.

If we want to escape ordinariness we need to set loftier goals for ourselves than weight loss or financial gains.

It might be helpful to look at resolutions made by the well-respected and highly esteemed philosopher, Johnathan Edwards.

His resolutions were not made at five minutes to midnight at a New Year's party – his ideas were thoughtfully written over a two-

year period.

Resolved: I will always do what I can towards making, establishing, maintaining and preserving peace.

Resolved: To refrain from an air of dislike, fretfulness and anger in conversation but to exhibit an air of love, cheerfulness and benignity.

Resolved: Never speak anything but the pure, simple truth.

Resolved: To never do anything out of revenge; to live with all my might, while I do live; to never lose one moment of time.

The state of human affairs is troubling – we are driven by fear, hatred and greed and yet, still pretend to be appalled by man's inhumanity to man.

Johnathan Edwards' resolutions were written in 1722 and 1723.

Aspiring to good health and instant gratification comes naturally to us – helping our fellow human beings does not.

But to make positive change in the world we need to respect others, change our destructive habits and look beyond ourselves.

This approach is much more subtle but will have a much more profound effect on our lives and the fortune of others.

Old adults, new adults and all children of the millennium have to decide.

Are we relics from the last century or are we prepared to move outward, upward and onward toward the future?



SHEDDING POUNDS: Losing weight is the No. 1 new year's resolution people make each year.

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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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

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TOTAL VOTES: 674

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A look back in history:

PORT ARTHUR'S HARBOUR IN THE MID 1880s

In the 1870s Fred Jones, postmaster and avid fisher, procured the money to establish a bell on the waterfront. It was used as a fog signal for many years until the Port Arthur Storm Signal Station was established and a Marconi wireless apparatus installed.



THUNDER BAY MUSEUM



Trailer hitch injures Indigenous woman

1 A trailer hitch, thrown from a passing vehicle, struck and severely injured 34-year-old Indigenous woman Barbara Kentner, while she was walking on Cameron Street with her sister. The incident was labeled a hate crime by some and led to the arrest of 18-year-old Brayden Bushby, who was charged with aggravated assault. She later died and the charge was upped to second-degree murder.

2 Ottawa murder suspect Jonathan Ranger was apprehended early in the month. The 32-year-old was arrested following a pair of high-risk vehicle stops. Ottawa police had earlier issued a notice that Ranger should be considered armed and dangerous, following an incident that saw a 30-year-old Ottawa man die of gunshot wounds. Another woman was hospitalized in the alleged shooting.

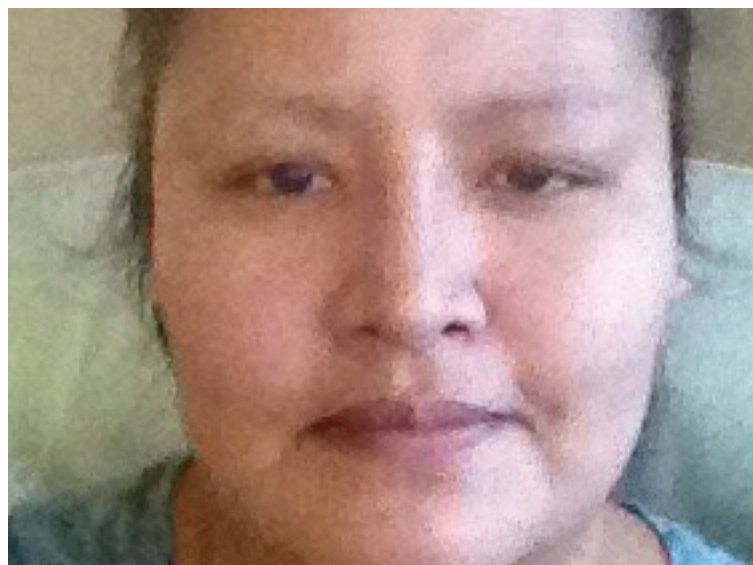
3 The suicides of two 12-year-old girls in Wapakeka First Nation led Nishnawbe Aski Nation leaders to call for a co-ordinated emergency response by both the federal and provincial governments. Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

called the suicide epidemic a crisis. His call came after the launch of the People's Inquiry on suicide by the Mushkegowuk Council.

4 Forty-five-year-old Rachel Lagarde of Fort William First Nation was identified as the victim of a fatal collision on Highway 61 near the Kaministiquia Bridge, sparking safety concerns about the busy stretch of highway and a controversial merge lane. The following month 48-year-old Gary Walker was charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death.

5 The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and its teachers waged a war of words that threatened to end with the board locking out its employees to end a negotiation impasse in a lengthy contract dispute.

6 Human trafficking charges were laid against a pair of Toronto men after an extensive search for a missing 17-year-old woman who was found in Thunder Bay and later safely returned to her family home.



FACEBOOK

TRAGIC INCIDENT: Barbara Kentner was struck by a trailer hitch walking with her sister.

Police arrested 20-year-old and a minor in the case. Both were charged with trafficking and prostitution offences.

7 Sylvie Hauth on Jan. 18 was sworn in as the city's first female deputy chief, taking over from the now-retired former Deputy Chief Andy Hay. Hauth

called it "quite an exciting adventure," and promised to hit the ground running after just three weeks to prepare for her new role – which would expand greatly later in 2017.

8 City administration recommended the Chippewa wildlife exhibit be permanently closed, a move council would go on to approve. The move came after vandals damaged a pen and allowed a captive eagle to escape.

9 Admissions to the newly opened Hogarth Riverview Manor began after a two-month moratorium imposed by the province following nine outstanding compliance orders that caused concern for inspectors. St. Joseph Care Group CEO Tracy Buckler said the issues surrounded patient care and safety.

10 About 1,500 local veterans welcomed the reopening of the city's Veteran Affairs office, which had been closed under former prime minister Stephen Harper. Roy Lamore, who served in the Second World War, said the two-year wait was tough, but he was glad the Liberals kept their promise.

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A Year in Review...

FEBRUARY

Mayor files lawsuit against Zaitzeff

1 Mayor Keith Hobbs launched a lawsuit against lawyer Sandy Zaitzeff, after a YouTube video of the two was made public in November 2016. Hobbs said the video, which includes a marriage proposal and clowns, was published with the sole purpose of damaging his credibility. Zaitzeff is facing charges of sexual assault.

2 Long-serving MPP and Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle announced he was stepping aside temporarily in order to complete treatment for depression. Gravelle said he'd been struggling with uneasiness for several months. He'd remain off the job for five months.

3 Elementary teachers walked off the job at three senior elementary schools to picket outside the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, calling for fairness in hiring practices and experience to take priority when filling vacancies. The board then locked out the teachers at the three schools the following day.



LEGAL ACTION: Mayor Keith Hobbs decided to sue after a controversial video surfaced.

4 City council voted to implement a number of recommendations from the 2016 inquest into the death of seven Indigenous youth between 2000 and 2011. Among the recommendations was

funding youth programming, orientation for students coming from remote communities and a youth detoxification centre.

5 Randal Wabasse was sentenced to eight years in prison for his role in the 2014 death of Adam Nicodemus Beaver, who was beaten to death in the hallway of his Cumberland Street apartment. Wabasse pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

6 It was a double tragedy for residents of Nibinamik First Nation. Days after renowned Indigenous artist Moses Amik Beaver died in custody at the Thunder Bay District Jail, his sister, Mary Wabasse, was killed in a Highway 102 collision. Several members of Wabasse's family were also injured in the crash. Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler said the deaths devastated the community and left plenty of unanswered questions. The province later promised to hold an inquest into Beaver's death.

7 City administration revealed its plan to address municipally relevant recommendations resulting City council finally approved a plan to replace a crumbling wall on High Street. The wall had been assessed by city engineers as

the municipality's worst structure among all of its assets. The \$2.3-million project closed a section of the busy street for several months.

8 The bodies of two missing snowmobilers were pulled from waters at the mouth of Lake Nipigon. Rocky Bay First Nation residents Gerard Thompson, 51, and Nathaniel Thompson, 45, were last seen on the afternoon of Feb. 16.

9 A controversial public-art piece took a hit – literally – in the early hours of Jan. The city's culture and events page said a newly installed Algoma Street statue was knocked over by a motorist. It suffered minimal damage, but was taken away for repairs and later reinstalled.

10 Thunder Bay had an asteroid named in its honour by the International Astronomical Union. Formerly known as 1942 TB, the newly named space rock's new moniker is 11780 Thunder Bay. The asteroid resides between Mars and Jupiter and has a diameter of about five kilometres.



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MARCH

A Year in Review

Swing bridge case makes it to courtroom

1 The city and Canadian National Railway headed to court to begin proceedings surrounding the James Street Swing Bridge. The city claimed the railway was responsible to maintain the span over the Kaministiquia River indefinitely, while CN countered it should not be held accountable for an agreement signed in 1906. The bridge caught fire in 2013 and has been closed to vehicular traffic since that time.

2 Shelter House announced on March 14 it was suspending its Shelter Outreach Service program, citing a lack of funding. Originally launched in December 2014 as a four-month pilot project, the SOS program was designed to help the homeless, the publicly intoxicated and those living in homeless encampments through outreach, support and transportation. Shelter House officials said they were short \$200,000 needed to keep the program going.

3 A ghost plane crashed in the woods near Marathon, baffling investigators. The pilot, 27-year-old Xin Rong, was not on board when the single-engine Cessna, rented from an Ann Arbor, Mich. airfield, went down. It's believed he jumped from the plane and committed suicide at some point during the flight. He was later declared dead by investigators.

4 A suspect in a child killing was arrested in Kenora after his 2009 Pontiac Montana was



STILL SHUT DOWN: The James Street Swing Bridge has been closed to vehicles since October 2013.

spotted in a parking lot in the Northwestern Ontario community. Julian Kuijjer allegedly killed seven-year-old Nathan Dumas and was also sought for the attempted murder of a St. Catharines, Ont. bank employee. He was the subject of a Canada-wide search warrant issued

by the Niagara Regional Police Service.

5 Kakabeka Crystal was the subject of a voluntary recall, after the Thunder Bay District Health Unit advised the public not to drink the company's bottled water because of evidence pointing toward bacterial contamination.

6 The family of Sherman Quisses came together for a memorial to remember him, five years after he was killed at the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre. Members of his family and Neskantaga First Nation also said they planned to oppose a motion to stay first-degree murder charges laid against his accused killer, Adam Capay.

7 City council declared all options remained on the table when it came to the future of Victoriaville Mall. Those options included demolition. Coun. Iain Angus conceded the structure had suffered years of neglect, but added he saw plenty of potential in the south-side structure. The city also said it would conduct a 12- to 18-month environmental assessment of the facility, at a cost of \$150,000.

8 A Ginoogaming First Nation couple were charged after 15 dogs were found in immediate distress near Longlac in February 2017. Three of the dogs died, the remainder transported to the Thunder Bay District Humane Society. Another 16 dogs owned by the couple were later surrendered.

9 Police confirmed the body of a man found on a trail off Pass Lake Road East was that of missing man Grant Tiboni, who disappeared in 2016.

10 The discovery of a frozen cougar carcass near Boreal Road may finally put an end to the debate as to whether or not the large feline predators do indeed call Northwestern Ontario home.

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*A Year
in Review...*

APRIL

Ice storm rocks city

1 An ice storm that brought freezing rain and ice pellets to Thunder Bay threatened to cripple the city, at least for a few hours. The storm led to downed trees and power lines and closed schools, forced Premier Kathleen Wynne to cancel a scheduled appearance at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association conference and saw police urge motorists to stay off the ice-covered roads.

2 Keith Hobbs announced he would not seek re-election in 2018 for a third term at the city's helm. Hobbs said he wanted to step aside and focus on family. Hobbs was first elected in 2010, a landslide win over incumbent Lynn Peterson. He easily won re-election in 2014, knocking off competitors Ken Boshcoff and Shane Judge.

3 Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins was re-elected to the post for a seventh term, defeating challengers Kyle McLaurin, Leo Bannon and Walter Bannon. Collins said his main priority was the James Street Swing Bridge and finding a replacement span to connect his community with the Westfort area.

4 MP Don Rusnak, a Liberal, called on the Conservative party to remove Dryden Senator Lynn Beyak from their senate caucus. Beyak was under fire for comments she made suggesting some good came out of the residential school experience. Rusnak said Beyak should resign, which she did not do.

5 A 69-year-old Thunder Bay man was sentenced to 20 years behind bars for a series of violent home invasion sexual assaults that took place between 1985 and 1987. Donald Milani was initially arrested 30 years ago, but insufficient evidence meant the case never went to trial. New DNA evidence later linked him to evidence seized at the crime scenes.

6 It was announced residents of Thunder Bay had been selected to take part in the basic income pilot project, a plan that will see every resident receive a minimum living wage. A single person will get up to \$16,989, while couples can get up to \$24,027, less any earned income.

7 Members of the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge,

gathering at the Waverley Park cenotaph for a ceremony, laying a wreath which was then covered in poppies placed on it by members of both the regiment and the public.

8 City council agreed in principle to spend \$125,000 from municipal coffers to help cover the cost of towing the former Coast Guard ice breaker Alexander Henry home to Thunder Bay, where it was originally built in the 1950s. The ship had spent the past three decades as a tourist attraction in Kingston, Ont.

9 Lakehead University president Brian Stevenson announced he would step down at year's end, declaring he'd accomplished what he set out to do when he took over the post from Fred Gilbert in 2010.

10 Rising floodwaters led to a precautionary evacuation of residents of Kashechewan First Nation. About 50 evacuees landed in Thunder Bay, the flooding caused by the break-up of ice on James Bay. Kapuskasing, Wawa and Smooth Rock Falls also took in residents of the community, about 300 in total.



ICE ICE BABY: The April ice storm took down plenty of tree limbs.

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Michael Gravelle, MPP

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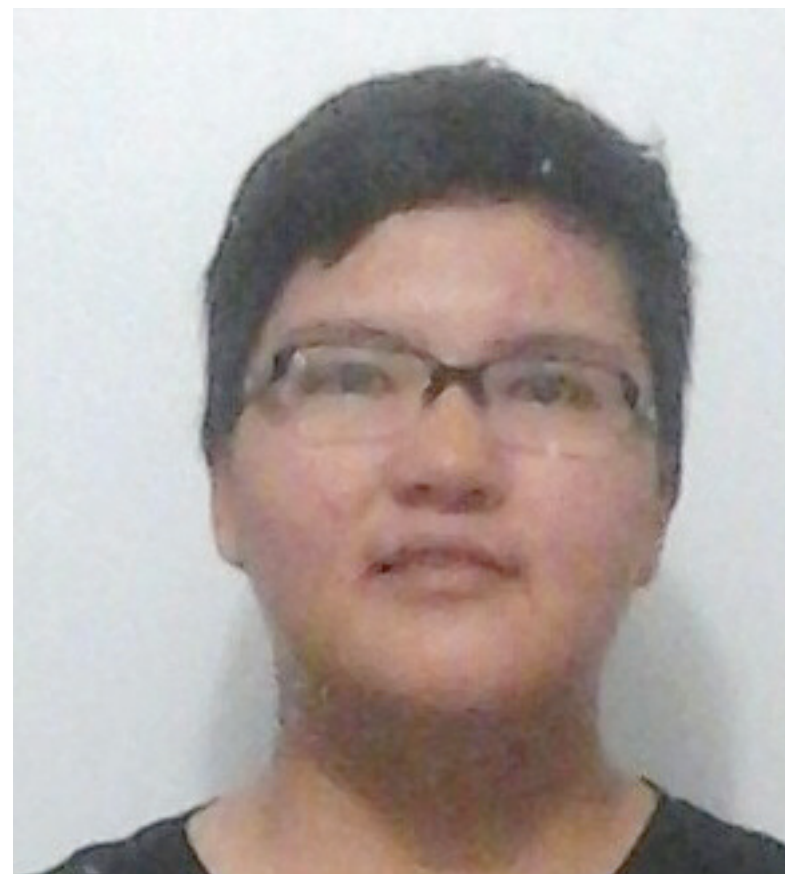
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**Wishing everyone a safe and
happy 2018!**

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MAY*A Year
in Review...*

SUPPLIED

TEEN TRAGEDY: Tammy Keeash, 17, was found dead in the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway.

Teens die in waterway

1 Tragedy struck twice on May 6 when it was learned that 17-year-old Tammy Keeash of North Caribou Lake First Nation and 14-year-old Josiah Begg of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation both disappeared and were later found dead in local waterways. It took nearly two weeks for Josiah Begg's body to be found and Thunder Bay Police were accused of mishandling both searches and criticized for quickly ruling both deaths as non-suspicious in nature.

2 Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesque was charged with obstruction of justice after a five-month investigation by the OPP, who had received a request from the RCMP. The charge was related to an investigation involving Mayor Keith Hobbs. Levesque was subsequently placed on administrative leave.

3 The province announced plans to build a long-awaited replacement for the Thunder Bay District Jail, a 325-bed facility that will also replace the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre. The District Jail, which opened in 1928, is the fifth-oldest in Ontario. The

Correctional Centre opened in 1965. Combined the two existing facilities housed fewer than 250 inmates.

4 Twenty-one-year-old Edmond Clovis of Toronto was identified as the victim of a violent homicide that took place on North Marks Street. To date, no arrests have been made.

5 The Office of the Independent Police Review Directorate announced it was expanding its investigation into the systemic racism with Thunder Bay Police Service to include the deaths of Tammy Keeash and Josiah Begg.

6 A 38-year-old woman told police she escaped abduction on the city's south side, after two males offered her a ride and then grabbed her by the arm and tried to force her into their vehicle. It began a city-wide hunt for a bluish-green Toyota Sequoia, with other women reporting similar abduction attempts.

7 A small group of protestors rallied at Victoria Park, complaining that Roots to Harvest's community garden would lower property values, bring unwanted types to the neighbourhood and increase the area's rat population. The garden, which the protestors said is

actually an urban farm, went ahead despite their objections.

8 A Thunder Bay police officer helped thwart a potentially deadly incident at a North Carolina high school. A parent alerted the officer of disturbing content they had found online, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security arrested a teenager in possession of weapons, fireworks, a dismantled shotgun and a list of 12 possible victims.

9 The city began conducting safety audits of three high-priority local river areas, following through on a recommendation made at the conclusion of seven Indigenous students in Thunder Bay between 2000 and 2011. McVicar Creek, the McIntyre River and the Kaministiquia river were all put under the microscope. Fences and video cameras were also discussed.

10 Convicted drug trafficker John Tsekouras appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada to have his case heard one last time. He was sentenced in 2015 to more than 11 years in prison for his role in a local drug ring, but was released on bail while his appeal was in front of the courts.

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*A Year
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JUNE

Hauth takes over police chief's role

1 Deputy Chief Sylvie Hauth was named acting police chief, taking over the role from the suspended J.P. Levesque. Insp. Don Lewis was named acting deputy chief of police after Levesque was charged on May 23 with obstruction of justice and breach of trust.

2 Marlan Patrick Chookmolin was taken off life support and died as the result of injuries suffered on a pathway in the County Fair area. The 25-year-old was found unresponsive after the attack, which to date has not resulted in any arrests being made.

3 Acting Thunder Bay Police Chief Sylvie Hauth announced Thunder Bay Police Service is not in crisis and is acting as it's business as usual during a news conference called to address an investigation into alleged systemic racism and growing mistrust from Indigenous chiefs, which brought the situation to national attention. The remarks drew swift condemnation from Indigenous leaders and national media.



NEW ROLE: Acting Police Chief Sylvie Hauth made the news twice in June.

4 A memorial prayer walk held in honour of 17-year-old Tammy Keeash of North Caribou First Nation drew about 200 people, including community members, Nishnawbe

Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Mayor Keith Hobbs. Keeash died on May 6, her body found face down in the McIntyre River near Chapples Park. The walk also hon-

oured 14-year-old Josiah Begg, whose body was pulled from the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway on May 19. He disappeared the same night as Keeash.

5 Thunder Bay Police investigated graffiti stating "I killed those kids" on the side of a Via Rail car at the Kamview Overlook Park. The message was quickly covered over, but not before it gained national attention for the city all over again.

6 City council awarded a \$2.1-million contract to begin reconstruction of a retaining wall on High Street, a project that saw a section of the busy roadway closed to traffic for several months while the work was conducted.

7 City council voted to spend \$125,000 to bring the former Coast Guard icebreaker *Alexander Henry* home to Thunder Bay. The decommissioned vessel had been a tourist attraction in Kingston, Ont. for nearly three decades before losing its berth on the southern Ontario city's waterfront. Demolition was another option.

8 OPP identification Sgt. Mark Maltais, 47, was sentenced on child-pornography charges after being caught with more than 250 images and two dozen videos of child pornography on his computer. The court heard Maltais used deliberate and sophisticated measures to conceal his online identity, including multiple proxy servers and encryption.

9 John Rafferty announced his return to politics, taking the provincial NDP nomination for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. Rafferty spent seven years as the NDP's representative at the House of Commons for Thunder Bay-Rainy River, before losing out to Liberal Don Rusnak in 2015.

10 After backlash from the community, city officials decided to back off plans to charge for parking at Prince Arthur's Landing. The public balked at the idea of paying to park in the publicly owned park, which was redeveloped a decade ago and has become a hot spot year-round.

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JULY

A Year in Review...

Mayor, wife charged with extortion

1 Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs vehemently denied charges of extortion laid against him in connection to embattled lawyer Alexander (Sandy) Zaitzeff. The 65-year-old mayor and his 53-year-old wife Marisa, along with 46-year-old Mary Voss, were charged with extortion after being accused of attempting to force Zaitzeff to buy a house for Voss after video of Zaitzeff and Hobbs surfaced in late 2016.

1 Thunder Bay police quickly ruled a pair of deaths on Carl Avenue as a double slaying. Robert Lloyd Gray, 50, and Kory Lee Campbell, 22, were found dead in their north-side residence. Later that month two suspects were arrested in Sioux Lookout, including convicted murderer Garnet Loon and 19-year-old Kailee Loon.

3 Barbara Kenter, the woman struck in the stomach by a trailer hitch while walking with her sister, died at the age of 34. Brayden Bushby was later charged with second-degree murder, accused of tossing the trailer hitch while riding in an automobile driving down Cameron Street on the evening of Jan. 28.

4 Senator Murray Sinclair was appointed by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission to oversee their investigation into the Thunder Bay Police Services Board. Sinclair, a retired judge, was to look at the board's oversight and public confidence in its ability to deliver policing services. The call came two months after First Nations leaders announced they wanted an inquiry of the board and its response following the deaths of several young teens in the Thunder bay area.

5 Thunder Bay celebrated Canada's 150th birthday with a party for the ages, thousands taking part in activities that culminated with a huge fireworks show at Marina Park. Not even inclement weather slowed down the celebration, which also featured fun and games at Fort William Historical Park.

6 The Thunder Bay Blues Festival brought another all-Canadian lineup to Prince Arthur's Landing, led by Amanda Marshall, the Barenaked Ladies and the legendary Randy Bachman, an integral part of both The Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive.

7 After trash service was delayed when a garbage truck was taken off the road as part of the city's optimization process, the municipality decided to temporarily reinstate the truck to reduce the struggles.

8 Michael Gravelle, who was sidelined for several months while battling depression, announced on July 28 that he plans to seek re-election again for the Liberals in Thunder Bay-Superior North, a seat he's held since 1995. July also marked Gravelle's return to Queen's Park after more than five months on the political sidelines.

9 The public learned the mental health wing at St. Joseph's Hospital could face delays that pushed back its completion date to year's end. The project was expected to be done by October, but the contractor faced delays acquiring materials needed to finish the east wing addition.

10 Fort William Historical Park's Karnival on the Kam, a first-year event, was deemed a huge success by organizers, who brought in a variety of attractions, including one of the largest fireworks in Thunder Bay.



ON TRIAL: Marisa Hobbs faces extortion charges, along with her husband Keith.

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*A Year
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AUGUST

Teen's body located near Marina Park

1 The body of 18-year-old Brayden Moonias was found near the Marina Park overpass. Four days later police ruled the death a murder. It took police nearly six weeks, but in September they charged 22-year-old Patrick Elmer O'Keese with second-degree murder, aggravated assault and two counts of failure to comply with a recognizance.

2 Construction on the High Street retaining wall was immediately and temporarily halted on Aug. 2 after crews struck and detonated an old explosive device while working on the \$2.1-million project. A city official said they believed it was an old device used to remove rock that could have been there about a century, when the wall was first constructed.

3 Monica Spence learned she would have to spend two more years in prison for her role in the December 2014 beating death of distant cousin Richard Spence. She was convicted of manslaughter, while her former boyfriend Daniel Debassige was

charged with second-degree murder. He got a mandatory life sentence and won't be eligible for parole for 10 years.

4 Convicted killer Michael Kelly's appeal of his first-degree murder conviction in the death of his common-law-spouse Judith Thibault was denied. Kelly, now 70, was sentenced in 2012 to life behind bars and argued his confession was invalid because it was obtained as part of an undercover police sting operation called Mr. Big.

5 The province, the city and Nishnawbe Aski Nation scored disappointing 'C+' ratings for their collective first-year response to recommendations made following an inquiry into the deaths of seven youth between 2000 and 2011 while attending school in Thunder Bay. The federal government got a D, while Thunder Bay Police were given a B+.

The ratings were handed out by lawyers representing the seven families.

6 The city filed an appeal of a decision that went against them in the courts surrounding the James Street



ON PATROL: Thunder Bay Police investigate the death of 18-year-old Brayden Moonias.

Swing Bridge, which stated CN should not be expected to live up to the terms of a 1906 ruling to maintain the Kaministiquia River span indefinitely.

7 City police were absolved of wrongdoing after the province's special investigations unit looked into the 2016 death of a man who died during a standoff at a south-side hotel. The man died

of a lethal combination of drugs and alcohol, the report revealed.

8 After two more teens were found dead in local waterways, enrolment at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School plummeted. Just 71 students signed up to attend, down from the usual 130.

9 The CP Canada 150 train rolled into Thunder Bay, bringing the likes of country star Dean Brody to perform a free show at Marina Park. Kelly Prescott started the festivities with a collection of iconic Canadian songs by artists such as Stan Rogers, Tom Cochrane and the Tragically Hip. Later in the month Magic, Kardinal Offishall and Midnight Shine, performed as part of the free ONTour concert series.

10 The largest plane yet to land at the Thunder Bay International Airport touched down in the city. The Antonov An-124 cargo plane's height is equal to a seven-storey building, its wingspan two-thirds the width of an American football field.

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SEPTEMBER

A Year in Review...

Man's body pulled from McIntyre River

1 The body of 21-year-old Dylan Moonias was pulled from the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway on Sept. 23. Police renewed their call for public assistance in the case in December, asking anyone who might have been in the area of Fort William Road and Isabel Street on the evening of Sept. 21 to come forward. No arrests have yet been made, despite having released a description of a person of interest wanted for questioning in the case.

2 A 35-year-old man was charged with the Sept. 10 second-degree murder of Bert Wood, whose body was found at a North Syndicate Avenue residence. Nazareth Alexander Nelson was arrested at a south-side residence. A male and a female victim were also assaulted during the incident.

3 A Thunder Bay pilot was killed in a plane crash in Manitoba. RCMP say the 29-year-old male victim took the plane without consent and crashed it north of Winnipeg near the St.



HOMICIDE: Second-degree murder charges were laid in the death of Bert Wood.

Andrew Airport. According to police, the pilot knew the owner and was an experienced flyer.

4 The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's board called for Dryden Senator Lynn Beyak to step down, after twice making

inflammatory comments about the country's Indigenous population in 2017. Coun. Shelby Ch'ng would later propose a motion asking the City of Thunder Bay to support the motion, which sparked a pair of lengthy debates around the council

table.

5 Cruz Pelletier got seven years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the 2015 beating death of 22-year-old Larissa Charlie-Stillaway at a trailer court on Fort William First Nation. The judge, when sentencing Pelletier, took into consideration the conditions of the Thunder Bay District Jail and the 2015 riot.

6 Physicians at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre threatened to depart en masse in an open letter to the editor to local members of Parliament. The warning, addressed to Don Rusnak and Patty Hajdu, came after planned changes to the country's tax code threatened to close loopholes allowing doctors to incorporate. If they follow through with the threat, it could mean the hospital's emergency room might not be staffed 24/7.

7 Mayor Keith Hobbs returned to office less than three months after taking a leave of absence to deal with

legal issues. The mayor is facing charges of extortion related to disgraced lawyer Alexander (Sandy) Zaitzeff, who is facing sexual assault charges. A video of the two surfaced in late 2016 and the mayor is alleged to have asked Zaitzeff to buy a house for a 46-year-old woman as a result.

8 A 20-year-old man was pulled from the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway by police and fire responders was expected to make a full recovery. Alcohol was a factor, police said.

9 City council shot down Northwood Coun. Shelby Ch'ng's proposal to reduce the minimum snowfall clearing amount from 10 centimetres to five centimetres. Only Ch'ng and Coun. Larry Hebert voted in favour of the motion, which saw little discussion. The city set the limits in order to cut back on snow removal costs.

10 A strike at Avenue II Community Services was averted when a deal was reached and later ratified.



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*A Year
in Review...*

OCTOBER

College teachers strike

1 Faculty at Confederation College walked off the job, seeking job security and tenure for part-time staff. Talks broke apart in mid-October and teachers hit the picket line on Oct. 16. They would remain off the job for more than a month before a deal was reached. The province, at the time, said meeting union demands would add \$250 million to the books.

2 Pauline Cutfeet pleaded guilty in court to manslaughter in the 2016 death of Perry Bois at a south-side hotel. Cutfeet was sentenced to six years in prison. She had originally been charged with second-degree murder and was given 28 months credit for time served while awaiting trial.

3 Eric Lindstrom, who in 2012 was sentenced to 10 years in prison for murder, was arrested early in the month in conjunction with a kidnapping case. He was found guilty in 2012 in the death of 36-year-old Richard Ouimet. He was arrested by plainclothes officers near Victoriaville Mall. Police say the alleged kidnapping was related to the drug trade.

4 Nishnawbe Aski Nation leaders applauded the Sixties Scoop settlement announced by the federal government, which will see \$750 million paid out to survivors. The Scoop saw thousands of Indigenous children ripped from their families and placed in non-Indigenous households between 1964 and 1985.

5 Employees at Thunder Bay's Sear's location learned the company was seeking court approval to liquidate its assets and close all of its Canadian locations, including the Intercity Shopping Centre anchor store.

6 A gruesome find was made at an animal dump site off Highway 527. A passerby shot pictures of a skinned moose carcass that had been left to rot. The bodies of a headless coyote and a raccoon were also found at the site, which a Ministry of Transportation contractor uses to dump roadkill. Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officers are investigating.

7 Police rescued an unresponsive woman from the McIntyre River near Fort William Road after discovering

two people in the water. After a police officer jumped in the water the victim, located about 25 feet from the shore, began resisting, but she allowed police to help her to safety.

8 An inquest began into the death of Cody Thompson-Hardy, who died in hospital while an inmate at the Thunder Bay District Jail in 2011. The 18-year-old Rocky Bay First Nation man was involved in drug use at the jail, according to testimony given by his former cell mate.

9 A 19-year-old woman was seriously injured during a fall from an apartment window near River and North Algoma streets. Police were already on scene dealing with a domestic situation at the residence. The province's special investigations unit took over the case.

10 Local music fans, including Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, mourned the death of iconic Tragically Hip front man Gord Downie, who died of brain cancer at 53. Downie spent his last few months championing Canada's relationship with its Indigenous peoples.



ON STRIKE: College teachers across Ontario walked off the job seeking more security.

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NOVEMBER*A Year
in Review...*

Trailer hitch leads to homicide charge

1 Eighteen-year-old Brayden Bushby was charged with second-degree murder, nearly four months after Barbara Kentner died in hospital after being struck with a trailer hitch tossed out of a moving vehicle earlier in the year. The victim, an Indigenous woman, was walking with her sister when the incident occurred. Police originally charged Bushby with aggravated assault.

2 On the 10th anniversary of Reggie Bushie's death, his brother Ricki Strang led a group of about 200 marchers on a walk from Dennis Franklin Cromarty School to the banks of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway where Bushie's body was found on Nov. 1, 2007. The Day of Remembrance also celebrated the release of Tanya Talaga's book *Seven Fallen Feathers*, which took an intimate look into the deaths of Bushie and six other Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay between 2000 and 2011.

3 Two people died in a grisly crash between tractor trailer units on Highway 17 west of Shabaqua, the second fatal collision on Thunder Bay area highways in a three-day span. Two more people were killed and five were injured

on a Highway 102 crash two days earlier.

4 Thunder Bay was one of 14 Ontario cities in which the province will initially establish a government-run marijuana retail outlet when the drug becomes legal in 2018. A site has yet to be chosen, but it will be run by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. The goal is to set up 40 stores province-wide.

5 While the Hells Angels have had a quiet presence in town after being all but wiped out in a 2006 raid, the outlaw motorcycle gang showed signs it wants to be a criminal force in the city once again, posting a large sign on the front of their Simpson Street headquarters.

6 Senator Murray Sinclair delivered an interim report on the Thunder Bay Police Services Board as he continued his investigation on behalf of the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. Sinclair noted several issues related to the TBPSB's treatment toward Indigenous people.

7 Police seized firearms from a 25-year-old student living at a residence on the Confederation College campus. The student was charged with unsafe

storage of a firearm after being reported by a fellow student. College officials said it was a private matter, but did note they do prohibit weapons of any kind from campus.

8 Ontario's chief coroner announced it's unlikely charges will be filed in the deaths of Indigenous teenagers Tammy Keeash and Josiah Begg, who both disappeared on May 6 and turned up dead in local waterways. Dirk Huyer, who directed York Regional Police to take over the investigations, said he wasn't aware of any pending charges in either death.

9 Soccer players in the city were on a roller coaster ride and left in search of a new place to play after a planned temporary indoor field at the waterfront was scuttled by environmental concerns and a challenge to the Ontario Municipal Board. It led to the cancellation of much of the indoor soccer season.

10 The Centennial Botanical Conservatory turned 50 amid calls to make improvements to the aging structure, which in recent years has started to show its age. The facility opened as part of Canada's 100th anniversary.



TEN YEARS: Ricki Strang (left) leads a march in memory of his brother Reggie Bushie.



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Bill Mauro, MPP
Thunder Bay-Atikokan

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DECEMBER

*A Year
in Review...*



Police chief's trial gets under way

1 Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesque was put on trial facing obstruction of justice charges in relation to an investigation into Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs over alleged claims of extortion. The Crown accused Levesque of revealing to the mayor he was being investigated by the RCMP, as well as sharing the information with the city manager and his deputy police chief. Levesque's legal team built its case around the fact that by doing so the chief did not impede the investigation or try to hinder it in any way, adding that he believed it was his privilege to share the information at his discretion.

2 Three days of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls hearings took place at a local hotel and brought together family members and friends of those who have either disappeared or been killed.

3 The province revealed it had taken the reins at the newly opened Hogarth Riverview Manor



SPEAKING OUT: Sharon Johnston has long been a murdered a missing women advocate.

long-term care facility away from St. Joseph's Care Group and placed it into the control of a third-party

operator. The government said SJCG wasn't capable of meeting a number of standards at this time.

4 A pre-winter storm that brought howling winds and wet, stick snow to the city left about 11,000 Thunder Bay Hydro customers in the dark for the better part of a day while crews struggled to keep up.

5 The Thunder Bay District Health Unit launched a rat campaign, saying they've had 208 rat complaints in a 13-month span. The \$5,000 education campaign aimed to eradicate the skyrocketing problem, but officials could not say why the numbers have spiked.

6 Weeks after a bitter strike shut Confederation College down for several weeks, the Thunder Bay school announced it had lost about 400 students as a result. That amounted to about 14 per cent of the school's student population.

7 City council made progress on proposed changes to the taxi bylaw, but were unable to pass the revamped regulations at the Dec. 11 meeting, instead deciding to put more effort into the plan and bring it back in the new

year. Among the changes requested by taxi companies was the ability to set their own rates, allowing for surge pricing at peak times.

8 Apartment dwellers held a rally to complain about what they say is an unfair taxation rate that's nearly 2.5 times the city's residential rate. They vowed to fight to have the city instead have a 1:1 rate with residential owners.

9 Thunder Bay District Jail guards were joined by union members representing workers at the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre. The guards marked the second anniversary of a riot at the crumbling jail that saw staff taken hostage. They say little has been done to improve the safety of correctional officers.

10 A possible meteor strike was discovered when residents in the Mount Forest Boulevard area say they heard a loud bang that shook nearby houses. Fragments of the supposed strike are under examination at Lakehead.

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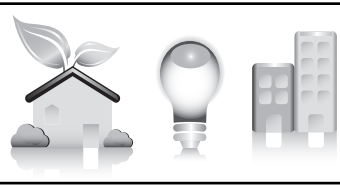
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IB grads rise to challenge

EDUCATION
By Doug Dlaczuk – TB Source

The International Baccalaureate Program is not for the faint of heart, but all the hard work, endless assignments and exams, and time management is really paying off for graduates now wrapping up their first semester of university.

“I am proud and just thankful,” said Robyn Sulkko, a first year university student and IB graduate. “It definitely seemed very challenging while we were doing it, but now I know it’s really worth it.”

Sulkko was one of 31 students who officially received their IB diploma during a graduation ceremony on Saturday. Students wrote their last exams in May, but because the final grades are not usually complete until July, the ceremony is held later in the year when more students are home and able to attend.

A first-year political science student at the University of Ottawa, Sulkko said the ceremony is like having a little reunion with her fellow classmates, many of whom she has not seen since high school graduation in June.

“It feels like we’ve accomplished it,” she said. “We finished our exams in May, but it hasn’t been officially recognized and we worked really hard so it’s really exciting to be here and be able to celebrate our accomplishments.”

The IB Program has been held at Sir Winston Churchill High School since 1999 and according to Clarke Loney, the IB Program coordinator, the students once again went above and beyond.

“This is the biggest class we’ve had in a number of years,” he said. “So we are thrilled to be celebrating their incredible success. They knocked the world average out of the park once again, so we are very proud of them for that and we are anxious to get together and hear about their successes in first year university.”



FINISHED: Graduates of the IB Program celebrate the completion of the rigorous program.

This year’s graduating class earned a grade point average of 5.5, beating out the world average of 4.5 by one whole point.

“I couldn’t be more proud of this class,” Loney said.

“It feels like we’ve accomplished it.”
ROBYN SULKKO

And it’s no easy feat earning such high academic standing, with the IB Program challenging students in the classroom, in the community, and at home.

For Sulkko, one of the biggest challenges was time management and finding the right balance between school work and tight deadlines, extracurricular activities, community involvement, and yes, even time to just be a teenager.

But all that hard work has definitely paid off, Sulkko said, making the transition to post-secondary education that much easier.

“I can tell that I am totally at an advantage to my peers,” she said. “We wrote a lot of exams. I wrote more than 10 within three

weeks and some people wrote almost 20. After finishing the first semester and going through mid-terms and finals, I am definitely feeling that exam process prepared me and just writing skills.”

With Churchill closing, the current grade 12 class in the IB Program will be the last class to graduate before it moves to its new home at Superior C.V.I. Loney said all the IB teachers and students will be moving with the program.

“If you close your eyes, nothing will be different,” he said. “It will be the same voices, the same teachers, the same peers, none of that will change. That consistency is key to ensuring the program’s success.”

And even if the program may seem daunting, the lessons it provided was well worth all the hard work.

“I would recommend the program,” Sulkko said. “I think it’s hard, but now looking back, now that I am in university and kind of in the big leagues, it was definitely worth it.”

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RECYCLE

Sports

local sports news | information | coverage



PLAY AT THE PLATE: Canada's Denzel Clarke (left) is tagged out at the plate in the second inning by a diving American catcher Anthony Siegler on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017 at Port Arthur Stadium during the Under 18 Baseball World Cup.

Murray leads top 10

YEAR IN REVIEW
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Once again there were plenty of local accomplishments to boast about in the sports world in 2017, led by the phenomenal goaltending of the city's own Matt Murray.

Here's our top 10 sports stories for the year:

1 Matt Murray did it again. The Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender won a second Stanley Cup in just his second NHL season, returning in the Eastern Conference Championship after injuring his hand earlier in the playoffs. He became the first goaltender in NHL history to win two titles while technically still a rookie.

2 The Under 18 Baseball World Cup brought the future of the sport to Thunder Bay's Port Arthur Stadium and Baseball Central for the second time in seven years. A dominant American squad rolled through the 12-team tournament and easily captured the championship. Canada finished fourth, losing out to Japan in the bronze-medal game.

3 The Thunder Bay Chill advanced to the Premier Development League championship game, falling 2-1 to the host Charlotte Eagles after taking an early 1-0 lead. It was the fourth title-game appearance for the Chill since 2008.

4 The Thunder Bay Border Cats were forced to the road for a couple of weeks to start the season, after renovations to Port Arthur Stadium were not completed in time. The team lost 10 home dates and was forced to find neutral-site locations to play. They later reached a settlement with the city.

5 Johnny Ruiz came out of nowhere on Sunday to capture the fourth edition of the Staal

Foundation Open, his 13-under 275 good for a one-shot win over Max McGreevy, Kramer Hickok and Chad Ramey. Ruiz would go on to earn a Web.com Tour card.

6 Curler Krista McCarville earned her way into the Canadian women's Olympic curling trials, but came up short in her bid to represent her country in South Korea in 2018, finishing the week with a 4-4 record. Hometown favourite Rachel Homan captured the title. McCarville's year also included a return trip to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts playoffs, where she finished fourth.

7 The Lakehead Thunderwolves parted ways with men's basketball coach Manny Furtado in late December, but gave no explanation for deciding to let the combative bench boss go.

8 On a happier basketball note, former Lakehead University men's basketball coach Scott Morrison landed a pretty nice gig as an assistant coach with the NBA's Boston Celtics. Morrison, who led the Thunderwolves to four straight national championship weekend appearances between 2010 and 2013, spent the past two years coaching the Celtics D-League team, the Maine Red Claws.

9 Trevor Bonot's squad captured silver in October at the World Mixed Curling Championship in Switzerland. The result came 11 months after his team took home the Canadian title. The Thunder Bay rink was runner-up to Scotland at the event.

10 The Churchill Trojans went out on a high note, capturing their final high school football championship with a 37-26 win over Hammarskjold and followed it up with a 36-14 win over West Ferris at the Northern Bowl in Hamilton.



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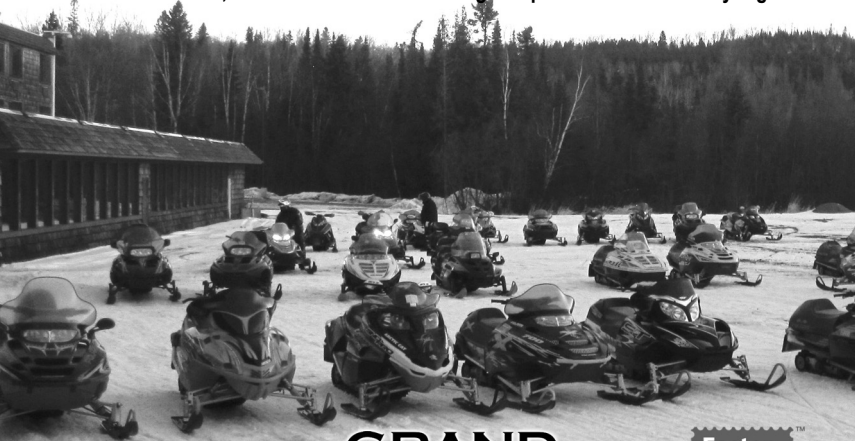
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sports NEWS

Wolves fire Furtado

Men's basketball coach let go after 0-10 start to season

BASKETBALL
By Matt Vis - TB Source

The Lakehead Thunderwolves men's basketball team is in the market for a new head coach.

The program on Thursday announced they have fired bench boss Manny Furtado after the Thunderwolves hit the Christmas break sitting in the cellar of the OUA West division at 0-10.

"We just felt at this point it's the best thing to do for our program," athletic director Tom Warden said. "We just thought that a change in direction is something, at this point in time, is needed."

Furtado signed a two-year contract extension in August 2015.

Furtado, a former assistant coach on two Canadian university championship winning squads at Carleton, was selected to lead a program that had been established as one of the top teams in the country by former head coach Scott Morrison.

Morrison, who took Lakehead to the national final in 2013, announced his departure in 2014 after a one-year leave of absence when he accepted the job of coaching the Boston Celtics' development league team.

But Furtado was never able to bring the Thunderwolves back to those lofty heights. In his fourth season, he had a career OUA regular season record of 27-40 at Lakehead. His best mark came in his debut season in 2014-2015, when the Thunderwolves went 11-8 to finish second in the four-team Central division. That year included a preliminary round playoff win over Guelph before being bounced by Carleton in the OUA quarterfinals.

In 2015-2016, Lakehead slipped to third in the Central at 10-9. Once again, they prevailed in a preliminary round playoff matchup before exiting the postseason in the quarterfinal round, this time at the



TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW: Manny Furtado took over a team that had been to four CIS Final 8s under Scott Morrison.

hands of Ryerson.

The Thunderwolves regressed to 6-13 last year and were the lowest OUA playoff seed when they were ousted in the preliminary round by Toronto.

Lakehead opened this campaign with a pair of non-conference wins in September against Winnipeg, the only two victories they have captured to this point. The closest the Thunderwolves have come to a regular season victory this season was on Nov. 11, when they fell 68-65 to the Nipissing Lakers.

Warden said an interim coach will be named early in the new year.

The Thunderwolves resume their schedule on Friday when they host the 2-8 Guelph Gryphons.



THUNDERWOLVES



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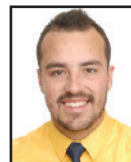
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