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#### Still facing accusation of aggravated assault

#### COURT By Doug Diaczuk - TBSource

The Crown nas wurden and of manslaughter against Armand he Crown has withdrawn a charge George Cummings in connection to the 2016 death of Manny Spence, saying there was no reasonable prospect of conviction based on the evidence.

The trial against Cummings, 43, was set to open on Monday in a Thunder Bay Courtroom, but Crown Prosecutor, Trevor Jukes, informed Justice Tracey Nieckarz that he was withdrawing the charge.

"The Crown is withdrawing the charge because at this time there is no reasonable prospect for conviction,' Jukes said. "While I was preparing for this trial over the last few weeks and assessing the evidence, it became my opinion that the Crown no longer has a reasonable possibility of conviction." Cummings was first charged with

manslaughter in connection to the 2016 death of 35-year-old Manny Spence.

Spence's body was found on Sept. 15, 2016 in a compound adjacent to Court Street and Wilson Street. Cummings was later arrested by Thunder Bay police officers.

A preliminary hearing was held last February and after hearing from 15 witnesses, Justice Frank Valente ruled there was sufficient evidence to move the case forward.

George Joseph, who was representing Cummings, said it was a courageous decision on the part of the Crown to withdraw the charge, and the right decision.

"There was paucity of evidence against Mr. Cummings," Joseph said outside the courtroom. "In fact, it is even questionable whether the victim, Manny Spence, died as a result of some unlawful act.

In other words, the forensic pathology report indicated four different causes of death and ultimately could not tell anybody how he passed away."

Joseph added Cummings is happy to have the charge withdrawn but frustrated that the process took this long.

Cummings is still facing an aggravated assault charge from a separate incident that took place on West Arthur Street in October 2018 and he remains in custody on that charge.



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NO EVIDENCE: Armand Cummings was charged initially with a Wilson Street death.

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GOING TO TRIAL: Brayden Bushby leaves the Thunder Bay Courthouse on Monday, Jan. 21.

# **Bushby to face 2nddegree murder charge**

"There is

sufficient

evidence in

this sad, sad

case to put

Mr. Bushby

to trial .... "

FRANK VALENTE

#### **COURT** By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Brayden Bushby will stand trial for second-degree murder in connection to the death of Barbara Kentner.

Justice Frank Valente handed down his ruling in a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Monday.

"There is sufficient evidence in this sad, sad case to put Mr. Bushby to trial on second-degree murder," Valente said.

Valente added that Crown prosecutor, Andrew Sadler, and defence attorney, George Joseph both presented direct and circumstantial evidence during the preliminary hearing.

But Valente said that it is not his role as presiding judge in the preliminary hearing to determine if a reasonable jury would reach a

guilty verdict based on the evidence, but rather if they could reach that conclusion.

The decision was originally scheduled to be delivered last Wednesday but Valente said he needed more time to consider what he called difficult matters to deal with and wanted to do the case justice.

> Bushby, 20, was charged with second-degree murder for allegedly throwing a metal trailer hitch from a vehicle that struck Kentner in the abdomen on the night of Jan. 28, 2017 in the Cameron Street area. Kentner later died in hospital on July 4, 2017. She was 34-years-old. Bushby was first charged with aggravated assault, however, following Kentner's death and a review by Crown prosecutor, Andrew Sadler, and the Thunder Bay Police Service with the help of the Regional Coroners Office, the charge was upgraded to second-degree murder last November. A publication ban is in place on all evidence

presented. Bushby has been out on bail since November 2017.

Man accused of attempted murder

a Wal-Mart parking lot.

Police say suspect tried to run over victim with his car

#### **CRIME** By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Police have charged a 35-yearold man with attempted murder after responding to a report of a man being struck by a vehicle in Police, in a release issued on Thursday morning, said they received the call at about 11 p.m. last Wednesday night and arrived at the Arthur Street store to find a male victim with severe injuries.

The vehicle involved was quickly located and identified the accused, who was still at the scene. According to police, the victims

According to police, the victims were not known to each other, but during the course of their investigation they learned the accused had struck the victim with his sedan.

The accused, Sean Ryan Purdy, was arrested at the scene.

The suspect was charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and operate a vehicle causing bodily harm.

Purdy appeared in court on Thursday and has been remanded into custody, was back in court on Monday.



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MAKING STOPS: Police will be patrolling snowmobile trails, looking for impaired drivers.

# **Police hitting the trails**

#### **POLICE** By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**C**ity police are hitting the trails in search of snowmobilers who might have imbibed a little too much to ride.

Traffic Sgt. Gordon Snyder said the department plans to step up enforcement and reminded the public that driving a snowmobile while intoxicated is every bit as illegal as getting behind the wheel while impaired.

"The penalties are the same, the outcome is often the same, and if you're arrested and charged with impaired driving on a snow machine, you lose your licence from driving an automobile as well," Snyder said on Wednesday, announcing the blitz from the parking lot of the Neebing Roadhouse, a popular stopping-off point for snowmobilers looking for a quick bite to eat.

"We want to make sure that if people are out there enjoying the weather, enjoying the snow that we have on their sleds, that we make sure that they drink responsibly and don't drink and drive, which is what it basically comes down to."

Ontario last year introduced tough new impaired driving legislation that applies to anyone driving any motorized vehicle in the province. Drivers are not allowed to drive with a blood-alcohol concentration of more than 0.08, and drivers between 0.05 and 0.08 also face penalties for being in the warn range. Legal cannabis adds another concern to the mix.

A warning carries a mandatory threeday licence suspension and a \$250 fine. Being convicted of being over the legal limit includes a 90-day suspension, a seven-day vehicle impoundment, a \$550 fine and a \$275 reinstatement fee.

Young drivers face additional penalties.

Snyder said unfortunately, drinking and driving remains a problem.

"It's something we're addressing and

attempting to reduce. Unfortunately in Thunder Bay in the last several years we have seen some serious and fatal collisions involving snowmobiles," Snyder said. "It's something we want to prevent and something we want to make sure we do everything possible to ensure that people are safe out there."

Thunder Bay Police have a pair of snowmobiles in their enforcement complement and Snyder said officers will also be looking for aggressive drivers, for riders to cross streets legally, at 90-degree angles and not speeding within city limits.

"A majority of built-up Thunder Bay, you're prohibited from snowmobiling," he said. "There are certain areas, such as where we are out on Highway 61, where you are allowed to drive snowmobiles within city limits.

"However there are specific rules that you must follow. Some of those are very important, especially when crossing roadways."



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# **Truck-route slowed**

### By Matt Vis - TB Source

One week after approving the creation of a designat-ed truck route, city council is putting the plan in park.

Thunder Bay city council on Monday night voted to defer ratification of the route, which is meant to keep heavy truck traffic off Dawson Road and Arthur Street and instead redirect it onto the Trans-Canada Highway and Thunder Bay Expressway, until a meeting in March.

Council on Jan. 14 had voted to approve the plan, which had been years in the making, by a narrow 7-6 margin. Minutes from previous meetings have to be ratified to be formally adopted.

The first attempt at a deferral, which had been suggested by Ontario Trucking Association president Stephen Laskowski earlier in the evening, was unsuccessful before it was tried for a second time.

Coun. Trevor Giertuga, who had spent much of his 18 years as the McIntvre ward councillor pushing for a policy that would take transports off Dawson Road, was surprisingly the swing vote that led to the deferral after pausing for a moment to make the decision.

The veteran councillor requested the meeting go into closed session to receive advice from the city solicitor, who was absent. Giertuga said he was concerned about potential legal consequences that the city could face **TREVOR GIERTUGA** if something were to happen on Dawson

Road and administration's recommendation was not followed.

"I have concerns that we are going to be personally as a council maybe and perhaps personally held liable," Giertuga said.

"I think if I was a lawyer in the community and something happened I would be the first one to name the City of Thunder Bay based on the fact that administration is saying this is the safest possible route and what we should be doing, and we're going to sit here and be armchair engineers."

Coun. Cody Fraser, who represents the Neebing ward that encompasses the Arthur Street corridor into the city, urged his colleagues to sign off on the route and pointed

to the reports and recommendations provided by city administration.

"I think it's time to finally accept their advice," Fraser said. "I think it's time to accept this report and grant the residents of Arthur Street and Dawson Road some relief."

The proposed route is a permissive system that adds weight restrictions to the sections of Arthur Street and Dawson Road within city limits, essentially prohibiting using those roadways from entering or exiting the city. Trucks are required to use the Thunder Bay and Harbour expressways for as long as possible and use the shortest possible route to reach their destination.

Making a deputation to council, Laskowski questioned the specific safety issue that the city was trying to address and expressed concern that not enough verifiable information and analysis had been made available to council

"We believe that potential unintended conse-

quences lie out there," Laskowski said. "A

decision of this importance and this magni-

tude, I believe you need to have the complete

package and I don't believe you've had it yet."

Laskowski disputed that adding more trucks

to the Thunder Bay Expressway, which has multiple intersections with traffic lights, would

be safer than allowing them to continue to use



City engineering director Kayla Dixon stood by city administration's recommendation and added pedestrians and cyclists are present on

the city roadways, while they are prohibited from using the highway extension.

Dawson Road or Arthur Street.

"There has been a lot of traffic information, collision information, predicted collision analysis completed. We did have a consultant work on this as well with us," Dixon said.

"At this point, I can confidently say that it is responsible traffic management for us to put trucks on a higher order highway facility. Certainly, we don't believe that is going to be an additional safety issue on that Expressway."

Administration had previously said they expected to present council with the new bylaw in February, had ratification gone ahead.



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

For the past 53 years 91.5 CKPR and the Port Arthur Rotary Club of Thunder Bay have joined forces in a fundraising effort to make our community a better place to live. This year is no different and on Monday, February 18th 91.5 CKPR donates all its commercial time to raise money enabling the Rotarians to continue to make significant contributions to many worthwhile projects right here in our own community.



## **Editorial**

#### **EDITORIAL**

### Chilly temps dangerous

Thunder Bay got a brief reprieve from the frigid temperatures that blanketed the city over the weekend.

But Mother Nature should be back in full force by the wekeend, with early forecasts suggesting highs of -18 C to -23 C, and lows dipping below -30 C.

Add in the nasty wind-chill factor and it's not going to be a pleasant couple of weeks along the shores of Lake Superior.

It's exponentially worse for those who don't have a place to call home.

Wintertime can prove deadly for the homeless. With shelters full to overflowing each night, there isn't enough room for everyone.

During the day, many of the city's homeless spend their time outside, exposed to the elements.

You can do your part.

Make a donation to help our shelters out. Money will help keep the lights and heat on and food on people's plates. If you can't spare cash, maybe you've got an extra pair of gloves, a toque or a scarf you can part with.

If you know someone who is without a place to crash, maybe offer them up your couch for a couple of days to keep them out of the cold.

Most imporantly, if you see someone in distress, don't put your head down and walk on past. Call Shelter House's SOS program, or, if necessary, call emergency services. Let's look out for each other at this time of year.

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#### Park spending overlooked

To the editor: It is all too apparent that the facelift to the city's waterfront has come at a cost to the rest of Thunder Bay's park infrastructure. Except for waterfront development, more than half of the city's parks and recreation infrastructure has been reduced to very poor condition. Before you write this off as the whining of a "certain demographic that doesn't like change", these are the observations of the City's Infrastructure Report Card in 2017. In fact, it reported the grade given to the city's parks and recreation infrastructure outside the waterfront should be an F.

Councillor Angus called it a sad tale of woe. He called it a big fail. The obvious question arose – what was the city going to do about it? The answer came in December 2018, just before Christmas. Nothing.

The closure of the Dease pool was characteristically slipped into the agenda a scant two months after the election. The reported advice of Iain Angus, apparently still fresh in council's mind to not second-guess city administration was heeded. "Don't think you know it all", Angus admonished, "because you don't". He might as well have just stopped at: "Don't think".

And so they didn't.

The decision to allow the pool to deteriorate was obviously made long ago. The closure of the wildlife facility and attempted closure of the Conservatory reflects an ongoing city plan. The cannibalization of the rest of the city's recreation infrastructure for the waterfront was not a 2017 aberration. It is all part of the city vision. It is the opacity, the lack of transparency that is most galling. Time and time again the city has played taxpayers for chumps.

What a wonderful campaign the city has to restore the carrousel, beloved of south side residents. Does anyone really believe they are restoring it for Chippewa Park? The very fact that they let it fall into a dismal state of disrepair demonstrates their intention for the park. Who would rule out the plan to ask citizens to pay for the carrousel's restoration from their private funds, then move it to the waterfront? Carrousel benefactors so concerned should seek assurances from the city, in writing, that this is not the case if they wish it to remain as part of a city owned Chippewa Park. Council should come clean with their plans for the park.

Our council, replete with fresh-faced newcomers elected in the name of hope, have become noodle people – limp reflections of their bold campaign rhetoric. Administration is all wise. Their advice must be taken – Iain Angus told them so. But Iain Angus was defeated, beaten soundly to reflect the depth of dissatisfaction citizens have with business as usual at city hall. Now the noodle people have arrived, and any

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



hope that the last election would herald meaning to the electoral process has been dashed.

The decision to close Dease pool without a replacement in the wings is wrongheaded. The process disgraceful. The neighbourhood has been disrespected as much as a city can disrespect a neighbourhood.

A great Thunder Bay tradition is being honoured by city administration: No Bad News Before an Election. And we don't like it.

> William Olesky, Thunder Bay

#### Truck route dangerous

#### To the editor:

challenge all council members to jump in the passenger's seat of an 18-, 22-, or 24-wheeler before you make your final decision to reroute heavy truck traffic off of Dawson Road to the Thunder Bay Expressway.

By reducing one hazard you are creating a second hazard with unfortunately fatal consequences.

With an additional 500 to 750 transport trucks headed west on the Expressway each day each truck will now encounter three extra sets of traffic lights.

According to *Ontario Roads* magazine it takes an eighteen wheeler that weighs 80,000 pounds approximately 120 feet of travel before the driver will react to a yellow, followed by red light and an additional 390 feet to stop once the brakes are applied at 90 kilometres an hour in perfect road conditions.

Transport trucks can weigh up to 125,000 pounds when equipped with a five axle trailer full loaded. With an additional 750 trucks added to the stretch of the Expressway that is an extra truck every 1.92 minutes on a 24-hour time frame – if the trucks were spaced out.

But as we know most trucks will be traveling in the hours from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. at night with the math now indicating an extra truck every one and a half minutes on this route.

The distance from the Red River Road intersection and Thunder Bay Expressway turning west onto Red River Road and traveling up Dawson Road to the intersection of Highway 11/17 and Dawson Road is 32 kilometres.

The distance from Red River Road traveling south to the intersection of the Harbour Expressway extension and heading west through Kakabeka, Ontario to Sistonens Corner is 48 kilometres.

Add in the additional three sets of traffic lights at Red River Road, John Street and Oliver Road intersections and you have just created very dangerous hazards.

For 30 years I worked inside a pulp and paper mill and I retired in April

#### 2017.

The last two summers I have driven part-time in the summer months a dump truck, concrete truck and car hauler and I know the intersection at Oliver Road and the Expressway heading west is a very dangerous intersection.

I have never had so much respect for the drivers of these vehicles who drive 13-hour days, six days a week.

Now you want to add an extra 30 minutes to the truck driver's day. You are also adding extra carbon monoxide emissions and brake pad dust to the environment.

If council votes again in February with the same result of a designated truck route, a flashing yellow light will have to be installed at all three intersection of Red River Road, John Street and Oliver Road indicating that when flashing that the traffic lights are about to change to yellow followed by red.

This would be the same as the yellow flashing light in the westbound lane at the Balsam Street and Thunder Bay Expressway.

Traffic lights will also have to be installed at the intersections of Highway 11/17 and Mapleward Road, Highway 130, Vibert Road, Highway 580 and in Kakabeka.

Can you imagine trying to make a left turn from a south-side business in Kakabeka?

This would almost be impossible in the summer months.

Another safety concern to consider is the school buses on Highway 11/17.

There are a great deal more schools in the Oliver-Paipoonge area than in Lappe.

With a transport truck approaching from the east from Highway 11/17 and turning east up Dawson Road that the City of Thunder Bay has no control of what happens when the truck approaches Dog Lake Road the beginning of the City of Thunder Bay.

I would not expect the driver to try to turn the 18-wheeler around and head back to Sistonens Corner. How are you going to police this? Probably the same as the two-minute idle bylaw.

Dog Lake Road has a two gravel pits and a concrete plant.

Are these trucks carrying sand, gravel and concrete expected to travel down Dog Lake Road to Dawson Road, make a right and head west to Sistonens Corner, then east back to Thunder Bay to make a delivery on Red River Road. It's a ridiculous question I know, but so is your designated truck route.

In closing, I challenge each and every council member to take a ride in a big rig before your next vote but please bring a change of underwear because you just might need one.

> Rick Baraniuk, Thunder Bay

# **Perspective**

# **Alternative heating?**

### Polar vortex not a bad time to start thinking that way

#### **OPINION** By J.R. Shermack **Special to TB Source**

**C**old enough for you?When the bitterly cold polar vortex blows in from the northwest all you can do is run to the thermostat and crank it up.

You can stay as warm as you like if the gas keeps flowing, the oil tank is full or there is plenty of firewood for heating.

You must also have money and be able to pay for all those extra BTU's, not to mention the additional greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

But while we're hunkered down trying to keep warm under a comforter on the couch nobody is thinking about carbon footprints.

#### Chilly time

The middle of January in Northwestern Ontario is not the right time or place to think about alternative sources of energy.

You won't find many people shopping for solar panels when the temperature dips to thirty-five below.

Still, it's worth considering what would happen if the power went out in the middle of winter

It's great to be a Northerner but life would be a lot different if we had to rely on our own resources to keep from freezing.

That has always been the argument against solar, wind and other alternative sources of energy

**Claim** to

Eleven people lost their fingers in

snowblower accidents on Feb. 19, 1998, mak-

Bay

ing Thunder

famous for a day.

fame

A look back in history

- it just isn't practical in harsh climates.

Even so, much of the world is rapidly shifting away from fossil fuels and as the technology improves, renewable energy will gain momentum.

Right now, many of the success stories we hear come from smaller, less developed countries far from the polar vortex.

Costa Rica will be using 90% renewables by 2020 but it's nice and warm in Central America.

Maybe Iceland, shivering between the cold North Atlantic and the frigid Arctic Ocean, would be a better comparison.

That country is powered 100% by renewable energy - 72% hydro generation and 28% geo-thermal.

But with 800 hot springs pumping out unlimited boiling water, Iceland may have an unfair advantage as well.

Norway uses hydro generation for 97% of its electricity needs and my in-laws say the weather in Oslo is brisk, to say the least.

Speaking of brisk climates, what is Canada's situation when it comes to renewable energy?

Some consider our country to be a leader in alternative energy although overall, renewable sources supply less than 20%.

Most of that is hydro generation, with a surprisingly large contribution from solid bio-fuels (e.g. wood and wood waste).

Wind power accounts for only 5.4%, in spite of the swirling Polar Vortex, and solar generation is just a bit player so far.

However, wind and solar are the fastest growing sources of energy in the country and these resources are being developed quickly.

Right now our energy comes from crude oil (two per cent), natural gas (28 per cent), refined petroleum (22 per cent) and coal (seven per cent).

#### Change is coming

These will not be the fuels of the future, but before I trade my furnace for a solar panel or a wind mill, I have one question.

Is it even possible to survive in our harsh environment without burning fossil fuels and contaminating the cold, clear winter air?

It wouldn't be easy but it could be done using existing technology.

For inspiration consider the Princess Elisabeth Station in Antarctica - totally heated and powered by wind and solar since 2004.

Or the International Space Station in the absolute zero environment of space, powered entirely by solar energy.

Or the Curiosity Rover, a solar powered vehicle which continues to operate on the treacherous surface of Mars.

Things don't get much harsher than the windy, sub-zero temperatures on the Red Planet, hundreds of millions of kilometers away.

If solar can work there, it can work anywhere - even in Thunder Bay in January.

JSEUM



**RUFF GIG** 

TAKING A BITE OUT OF CRIME: Const. Josh Berube and Lucek make up new K-9 unit at the Thunder Bay Police Service, which has been without one for six years.

#### HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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# **Crash victims flown to hospital**

#### Two suffer serious injuries in collision SIOUX LOOKOUT By TB Source Staff

A serious motor vehicle collision near Sioux Lookout on Saturday has resulted in several people being sent to hospital, two with serious injuries who were airlift-

# Mining for Clean Air

ed to Thunder Bay.

According to an Ontario Provincial Police media release, emergency responders were called to reports of a two-vehicle collision on Highway 72 east of Cedar Point Drive on Jan. 19 just after 9 p.m.

Police said an SUV and a pickup truck collided head-on and the Sioux Lookout Fire Department had to extricate the driver of the SUV.

Both drivers received serious injuries and

were airlifted to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre for further treatment.

Three other passengers in the pickup truck also required medical attention. Police said none of the injuries are considered life threatening.

The collision resulted in the closure of Highway 72 for more than 12 hours. Sioux Lookout OPP is investigating the cause of the collision.



### What is the Sunday Lake Project?

On June 20, 2017, NAP announced it had signed a Definitive Option Agreement with Impala Platinum Holdings Limited and Transition Metals Corp for the exclusive right to acquire a 75% ownership position in the Sunday Lake Project located near Thunder Bay, Ontario. Sunday Lake is approximately 2,600 hectares of mineral claims and patents located approximately 35km North of Thunder Bay. NAP announced positive results from its first drilling program at Sunday Lake in a news release dated March 27, 2018. To date, a total of ten (10) holes and approximately 8,500 metres of drilling were completed; based on the assay results, announced on March 27, this drilling program has expanded interest in the search area for future drilling campaigns in the East.

#### Sunday Lake Exploration Property

Working with and requested by Fort William First Nation Chief & Council we would like to invite members of Fort William First Nation to attend this presentation on Sunday Lake.

#### PRESENTATION TOPICS

PROPERTY HISTORY PAST DRILLING LOCATIONS MAGNETOTELLURIC SURVEY GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY WHAT ARE POSITIVE RESULTS? FUTURE EXPLORATION

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#### NAP

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> Dave Benson Exploration Manager davebenson@nap.com 807-448-2416



RATINGS CHANGE: The Health Unit is revamping its ratings system.

# Restaurant retrograde

#### BUSINESS By Gary Rinne – TB Source

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit is working on revisions to its DineWise food safety grading system, including disclosing inspection outcomes online.

The two-year-old program requires letter grades (A,B,C or D) to be posted at restaurant entrances, showing patrons how a business performed in its most recent food safety inspection.

TBDHU officials aren't discussing details, but say they plan to implement the changes to the system in the coming months.

Revisions will bring DineWise in line with recent amendments to the Ontario Food Premises Regulation.

The amendments cover a number of areas including food handler training, food temperature control, and sanitizing equipment.

The TBDHU, one of 36 public health units in the province, implemented DineWise in 2017.

Other health units across Ontario began publicly disclosing restaurant inspection outcomes as early as 2001, and by last year only half a dozen still weren't doing so.

In addition to what it's calling a new "online disclosure portal," the TBDHU plans to expand DineWise beyond the City of Thunder Bay to communities in the district.

Last August, the health unit released statistics showing a dramatic increase in the percentage of local restaurants qualifying for an A grade.

During the pilot stage in early 2017, it said, only 42 per cent received an A, but by the end of that year that had risen to 87 per cent.

"The standard now, due to public pressure, is really at an A grade," said Lee Sieswerda, the TBDHU's manager of environmental health.

The most recent data showed that restaurants were committing an average of four critical infractions—indicating high potential to contribute to food poisoning—per 100 inspections, down from 30 critical infractions during the pilot period.

Only 1.4 per cent of about 900 food premises that were inspected received a C or D grade.

According to information provided this week to Tbnewswatch, the TBDHU database from March 2018 to present shows the distribution of DineWise grades to be as follows:

- A 816
- B 79
- C 3
- **D** 2

# LOCALNEWS **St. Paul fronts** local rankings

#### **EDUCATION** By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

The overall ratings of public schools with the Lakehead Board are on the rise, while the majority of Catholic schools have slipped in the rankings.

The Fraser Institute released its annual report card on elementary schools in Ontario for the 2017/2018 academic year.

More than 3,000 schools across the province are ranked based on academic performance in province-wide testing of Grade 3 and 6 students on math, reading, and writing skills.

Of the 21 Lakehead Public Schools, 12 saw an increase in a rating out of 10, with 14 schools sitting above a 5.0 rating and seven below.

The highest ranked school in the Public Board was McKellar Park School, which was ranked 446 out of 3,046 schools and had a rating of 7.7 out of 10, up from 6.5 in 2017.

The second highest-ranking school was Ogden Community Public School, which sits at 495 in the province and has a rating of 7.6, up from 6.3. Agnew H. Johnston Public School was ranked 796 in the province and was rated 7.1, up from 6.2 the previous year.

#### **Dubious honour**

Sitting at the bottom of the rankings in 2018 is St. James Public School, which is listed at 2,904 in Ontario and rated a 2.8. Whitefish Valley Public School and Algonquin Avenue Public School were tied for the second lowest with a rank of 2,886 and a rating of 2.9.

The public school that saw the sharpest decline was Crestview Public School, which fell from a rating of 8.1 in 2017 to 5.8 in 2018.

The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board has 11 of 15 schools rated above 5.0, however, 12 out of 15 schools saw ratings fall this year.

The highest ranked school was St. Paul School, ranked at 388 out of 3,046 schools in Ontario and rated 7.8, up from 4.1 in 2017. The second-highest ranked school was St. Ann School, which was ranked at 559 and rated a 7.5, a slight increase from 7.2 the previous year, while Holy Cross School was ranked 740 and rated a 7.2, down from 7.6.

At the bottom of the list, St. Jude School was the lowest ranked in the Catholic Board, sitting at 2,594 and a rating of 4.2, while St. Vincent School was rated a 4.3 and is ranked 2,560 in the province, and St. Elizabeth School was ranked 2,400 and rated 4.7.

#### **2018 FRASER INSTITUTE RANKINGS**

The rankings include each local school's provincial rank, in parentheses, and the overall score out of 10.

St. Paul (388) 7.8

- McKellar Park Central (446) 7.7
- Ogden Community (495) 7.6 St. Ann (559) 7.5

Holy Cross (740) 7.2

Agnew H. Johnston (796) 7.1

Valley Central (1,024) 6.8

Edgewater Park (1,096) 6.7

Nor'wester View (1,096) 6.7

Corpus Christi (1,246) 6.5

Woodcrest (1,246) 6.5 Ecole Gron Morgan (1,322) 6.4

St. Francis (1,470) 6.2 Holy Family (1,470) 6.2

• C.D. Howe (1,616) 6.0

Gorham and Ware (1,616) 6.0

St. Pius X (1,686) 5.9
 St. Bernard (1,769) 5.8

St. Thomas Aquinas (1,769) 5.8 Vance Chapman (1,769) 5.8

Crestview (1,769) 5.8

• St. Martin (1,921) 5.6

St. Margaret (2,052) 5.4 Five Mile (2,157) 5.2

Franco Superieur (2,157) 5.2

Our Lady of Charity (2,400) 4.7

Claude E. Garton (2,560) 4.3

parents and educators because it allows them to easily identify successful schools across the province-serving similar students and communities-that can serve as an example to follow," said Peter Cowley, a senior fellow with the Fraser Institute's School Performance Studies in a release issued on Sunday.

"All too often, principals and teachers try to excuse a school's poor overall performance by blaming the characteristics of its students or the communities they serve, but the Report Card shows that any school, no matter where it's located or what challenges its students face, can succeed."

A complete list of local schools is included above. The number in parentheses represents the school's provincial rank, while the number beside is the school's rating out of 10.



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 St. Elizabeth (2,400) 4.7 Kakabeka Falls (2,491) 4.5 • St. Vincent (2,560) 4.3 • St. Jude (2,594) 4.2

Kingsway Park (2,788) 3.5 Sherbrooke (2,788) 3.5 Whitefish Valley (2,866) 2.9 Algonquin Avenue (2,866) 2.9 • St. James (2,904) 2.8

"The Report Card is a valuable tool for







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MOVING OUR WAY?: Grizzly bears have long ruled the forests of western Canada, and may be making their way to Northwestern Ontario.

# **Grizzly discovery in study**

#### THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

**B**ears are no strangers in Northwestern Ontario, with black bears roaming the woods and polar bears hunting along the Hudson Bay and James Bay coasts. But a new study points to the possibility of another member of the bear family wandering into the region.

"I think it's very possible that grizzly bears either have shown up in Northern Ontario already or may foreseeably do so," said Douglas Clark, an associate professor with the University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability.

Clark was one of seven co-authors of a research report entitled Novel Range Overlap of Three Ursids in the Canadian Subarctic recently published in Arctic Science.

The report details observations of three bear species - black bear, grizzly bear, and polar bear found in the same location in Wapusk National Park in Northern Manitoba.

Researchers utilized remote cameras situated at various field camps and 401 bear visits from all three species were observed between 2011 and 2017.

"They proved to be really reliable not just

detecting polar bears coming into the camps, but everything else, too, including other species of bears," Clark said. "There's no surprise that black bears are around. They are around in the forest around there. Grizzly bears are what's new."

According to Clark, grizzly bears have been spotted in Northern Manitoba since the late 1990s and since 2012, grizzlies have been observed every year on remote cameras.

"What was novel in our paper was this is the first time anyone has made repeated observations of those three bear species in North America in the same time with more than one bear over more than a year," Clark said. "It's not just one fluky grizzly bear wandering by, so there is something going on."

What exactly is going on remains a question that still needs to be answered, Clark said. The grizzly bears are most likely barren ground grizzlies travelling south and southeast from Nunavut into Northern Manitoba along the Hudson Bay coast.

"It really raises a lot of questions," Clark said. "We still don't know how grizzlies are making a living in that area."

Young male bears are more likely to wander greater distances and if grizzly bears were to travel into Northern Ontario, it would most likely be along the Hudson Bay coast where tundra conditions most resemble their habitat.

"They could certainly show up in Ontario, whether they stick around is another question, and whether a population actually gets established is a whole other question again," Clark said.

Usually when populations of black bears and grizzly bears are found in the same area, grizzly bears are the dominant species. However, with only young male grizzly bears wandering into new territories, large populations of black bears, like those in Northwestern Ontario, could keep the grizzly bears away.

"In a place like Northern Ontario, what I think that would mean is it would be less likely grizzlies could set up because you have black bears set up close to the coast," Clark said. "They may certainly have wandered through and they may again in the future, but it would be a big jump from that to setting up a population."

Clark clarified that the study area of the report was hundreds of kilometres from the Manitoba/Ontario border, but still within walking distance for a grizzly bear, which can have a range of more than 8,000 square kilometres.

# It was a Jack Frost kind of weekend



Well it turned cold, did it not? This past weekend Jack Frost blew in with a vengeance. We should not be surprised.

Traditionally, January is the month where for two weeks we are treated to the vehicular 'square tires and concrete seats' condition with night time temperatures usually hanging around the minus -30 to -35 mark and day time highs around -22 to -26. The cold is dry and deceiving. If there is no wind, you don't really feel the frigid weather. That is when noses, ears, and even eyelashes can freeze if you don't bundle up. But for the past several years, we've had rollercoaster temperatures each month and nothing predictable. We've had a couple of Januarys where minus 10 to minus 15 has been the norm. Perhaps not anymore. Perhaps we are back on track. I was discussing this fact with my wife,

Laura, as we fed and watered the horses in the barn. Too cold to turf them outside, so with the help of a wonderful friend, Cathy, the horses were led twoat-a-time into the indoor riding arena out of the wind that was vicious beyond those walls while we 'mucked' the stalls.

Where was I? Oh yes, I was asking Laura if she remembered how many winters we had where the month of January had been far from freezing and what had changed this year?

"El Nino has kept the weather warmer during those winters but it is not affecting the weather this year," she answered.

Sunday morning Laura looked out the large, living room window and said that she thought it was foggy out. "Nope, Dear, that be smoke from the chimneys, that be. The wind is blowing from the northwest," I intoned. I had two fires burning: one in the boiler in the basement and one in the fireplace in the living room. The combined smoke almost obliterated the view briefly and then the wind direction would change ever so slightly and we could see clearly again across the field to our south.

The wind was very cold in the morning. After feeding and watering the equines, I ventured outside the barn and into the wind to the water trough in the Winter Paddock to see if the new heater was doing its job. It was, more or less. Around the heater the water was ice-free. But towards the edges away from the heater, Jack Frost was busy forming ice. Balancing on the fence beside the trough, I gingerly tested the ice to see if I could break it.

Fortunately, the new heater prevented Jack from making a miniature skating rink. Two days before, Jack had created a three-inch thick sheet of ice covering the trough.

Walking between our shed where we store wood shavings for stall bedding and the barn the wind hit.

Thank goodness I had some hair on my face in the form of a beard, not a bushy one, but nonetheless, enough to protect cheeks and chin. But my nose felt it. I figured that prolonged exposure without a 'schnoz' cover would result in frostbite. Fortunately, breaking the ice on the tub didn't take long and I managed to do it without getting a soaker. Job done, soon I could turn my back to the wind and head back to the warmth of Casa Jones. Once inside, I poured another mug of coffee and stood at the window gazing out across the expanse of white. The wind had etched scalloping patterns in the snow, very beautiful, a form of natural artwork. I stood sipping and pondered in what sharp detail the scene presented itself. Could it be that the extreme cold crystalizes the view?

The weather folks have told us that Jack will be doing several return engagements before this month is out including this coming weekend.

For Christmas I was gifted with Paper Whites from both Laura and my good friend Dave. Their shoots have shot up and the white flowers have sprung from the tops. Their aroma is strong and not to Laura's liking so they reside in my library in our basement. While I love winter, breathing in that floral scent reminds one that spring is on its way. May take a little time though.



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ANNUAL TRADITION: Artist Elaine Wiersma, with her piece, Whispers in the Wind, is one of 24 artists featured in the fourth Fibre Exhibition.

# Fibre Exhibition on display

#### Works will be presented to the public until March 24 at the Baggage Building ART experienced artists a chance to show their take a step back from traditional art like

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Every artistic medium can challenge the artist and elicit a response from the viewer and one form of art that is gaining popularity in the region is giving artists normally hidden away a moment in the spotlight.

"The way people are using them now is it's almost like they are painting with the fabrics and the threads," said Angie Jensen, operator of the Baggage Building Art Centre. "There is the traditional knitting and crocheting, and it's really exploded."

The Fibre Exhibition opened at the Baggage Building on Jan. 15 and includes work from 24 different artists. Now in its fourth year, the pieces included vary in styles from quilting, weaving, textiles, to knitting and crocheting.

"Fibre is kind of a hidden art in Thunder Bay, but there are so many people involved in it," Jensen said. "There was never an actual exhibition in Thunder Bay to promote that, so I thought it would nice to give everybody, from new artists, to

experienced artists a chance to show their art work."

"This is one of the most popular exhibitions that we have," Jensen added. "We have people come up from Grand Marais to see the exhibition."

"Fibre is kind

of a hidden

art in

Thunder Bay.

but there are

so many peo-

ple involved

in it."

Angie Jensen

Artist, Elaine Wiersma, has two pieces in this year entitled Whispers in the Wind. New to the medium, Wiersma said all her pieces consist of up-cycled materials.

"I was inspired by a number of different artist's works that I saw," she said. "I was never one who was particularly into sewing or embroidery or textiles when I was younger, but trying it now as I got older, I found it very medi-

tative and relaxing and I was very much inspired by the natural world around me."

Wiersma added that the viewer also gets to experience a different way of experiencing and interacting with art that doesn't normally happen with traditional painting.

"Because it's a different medium, I think the ways of using textiles allow people to take a step back from traditional art like painting or water colour, as well as the opportunity for texture and touch that with regular painting you don't normally get," she said.

Every year, the Fibre Exhibition is paired with a public art project. This year will include a yarn bomb, where the public will be invited to contribute to a friendship train that will be displayed at Prince Arthur's Landing near the skating rink.

"We try to link a fiber project to the exhibition every year," Jensen said. "For the second year we are doing a yarn bomb. It happens all over the world,

people go out and cover things with yarn, and knitting, and crocheting."

The public art project will be launched on Sunday and sessions will be open at the Baggage Building every Sunday until Family Day from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Fiber Exhibition will be on display at the Baggage Building until Mar. 24.

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LOOKING GREAT: A sampling of the artwork being featured at Derelicte 11 - A Fashion Odyssey, happening Saturday at Black Pirates Pub.

# **Fashion heats the night**

Derelicte 11 – A Fashion Odyssey is happening on Saturday at Black Pirates Pub

#### **ART** By Linda Maehans - TB Source

weekend that fairly sizzles and scorches and rocks with passionate heat. I'm not exaggerating. I'm not kidding.

If you've never attended Definitely Superior's visual spectacle called Derelicte – A Fashion Odyssey, of course you can't know what to expect. Those that have, maybe even for all previous 10 years before now, also cannot know what to expect because this is one event that defies advance description.

But a few details to whet your appetite for 2019: here goes.

The more than 100 artists and models of Derelicte have one word as their motto for the evening: haute.

As in haute fashion, haute outlook, haute attitude, haute bravado, and haute

strut-your-stuff. Other-worldly wearable art; fashion as you've never imagined it could become; presented as a "stairway to the heavens" or maybe instead as an

underwater tunnel to the lost civilization of Atlantis; or another underground place where the temperature is generally known to be, well, hot. I don't know. Some of what the eyes take in depends on the live background music and/or the DJ's, as close to 40 performance acts heat up the night with their talent and sinewy sensuous moves.

And ooh, what names! Some of this year's features are Burlesque with Miss Be Muse; Tribal

Fusion Belly Dance with Lisa Rose; the Army of Sass (whatever could that be?); Flamenco and Banghra Dancing by World Dance Collective; and Drag Queens Lily Tremoyne and Paloma Marquez. Starting to get the picture? Don't stop your imagination now because in order to make the evening complete, the audience for Derelicte 11 is invited up on the

**"Derelicte** 

have one

word as their

motto for the

evening:

haute."

runway. Calling all feline and feral-types: now is not the time to hide in the shadows. Plan your costume; pick your music; plan your moves; and land on that catwalk with all the style and strut you got!

Catered refreshments and tasty treats. Raffles and prizes await. All kinds.

After all, one never knows what one derelicte means to another.

Derelicte is an annual fundraiser for Definitely Superior Art in Thunder Bay.

Derelicte 11 – A Fashion Odyssey happens Saturday, January 26, 2019: Black Pirates Pub.

 $8 p.m. - 2 a.m. \quad \$15 \ cover @ \ door \quad +19$ 

IN THE **bay** 

# Self-improvement on a razor's edge

Recently, a commercial campaign was launched that set social media on fire. The angry kind, not the good kind. It wasn't about drugs or alcohol. It wasn't about Trump. It wasn't about the LGBTQ community or police violence or any of the hot-button topics that sends people into such a lather. It was about razors.

The Gillette Company launched a campaign called "The Best Men Can Be" which focuses on the changing meaning of masculinity and how men should inspire other men to be better versions of themselves. It identifies many of the negative stereotypical male behaviour of fighting, bullying, and sexually harassing and objectifying women. Then it reminds viewers that today's boys who are watching this will be the grown men of tomorrow who repeat the behaviour.

Unfortunately, it's not inspiring a lot of men. Men's rights activists have



announced a boycott of Gillette's products. Many, including British TV host, Piers Morgan, and actor, James Woods, think that the message is simply that "men are horrible."

It's easy to think that. The ad does show men at their worst. But it also shows men what their "best" would look like: Terry Crews telling the Senate that men should hold other men accountable; a man breaking up a fight; a man speaking out in support of a

woman on the street. Those are pretty positive images.

Yet, according to Piers Morgan, Gillette should "Let boys be damn boys. Let men be damn men."

Even some women have joined the diatribe against the campaign, suggesting that it's just another version of #MeToo once again attacking men. In fact, one New York Post reporter wrote that she's "tired of the boybashing that has become all too common on our screens ... We can't elevate women by knocking men down."

Absolutely. Knocking men down doesn't make women any taller. It just makes the ground a lot more lumpy and difficult for walking.

But I have to wonder, when did suggesting "We can do better" turn into "We suck"? You don't tell a child who comes home with a report card full of Bs that he's great as is and shouldn't continue studying. You honour the effort and then give him the tools to aim for an A+.

After the initial furor of the #MeToo movement that had men singled out for things they barely remembered doing to women decades before, many woman (and men) started asking "Where do we go from here?"

Decades of attitudes and behaviours are hard to change. Specific, concrete tools are needed. But first, you need inspiration.

With the exception of Helen of Troy and few of us could pull off that haircut - women rarely inspire an entire generation of men. We can nag, threaten, blackmail, and condemn. We can't truly inspire them.

But men can. Regardless of whether or not they succeed, that's what Gillette is trying to do: inspire their own to be "The Best Men Can Be."

And really, what's wrong with that?

BEST A MAN CAN BE: Gillette sparked controversy with its latest ad campaign.

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#### UNIVERSITY HOCKEY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

t was a worst-case scenario kind of weekend. Backto-back 5-2 home-ice losses to the surging Laurier Golden Hawks could prove costly for the Lakehead Thunderwolves, who have all but exhausted any cushion they had in the OUA West and have to turn things around in a hurry down the stretch.

The loss, powered by four-point performances from Laurier forwards Christian Mroczkowki and Will Cook, was the eighth in 10 games for Lakehead and left them in a four-way tie for fifth with six games to go – but only one point ahead of ninth-place Windsor, who are currently sitting on the outside looking in at the playoff race.

It's time to get going, said defenceman Patrick Murphy.

"It's crazy tight right now, so every game at this point is like a playoff game. It's must-win. We would really have liked to have these two this weekend, but we'll just have to regroup and try to go get two wins in Brock next weekend," Murphy said.

"It's not something we planned on doing, it's not something we are happy about either. I think at the end of the day it comes down to ourselves being prepared properly, executing plays the way we're supposed to and sticking to the systems properly."

Fifth-year senior Dylan Butler said it was a couple of small breakdowns that proved costly in both games. Unfortunately, he said, it's becoming a

habit during their recent run of bad results.

"We just feel like we outplay teams, but we break down and just a little mental error just seems to always end up in the back of our net," Butler said.

"I don't know if it's bounces or what, but we have to limit those to nothing." Lakehead outshot the Golden Hawks 36-

26, but only solved Laurier goaltender Olivier Lafreniere twice. Cooper Leitch

potted his sixth of the year at 16:29 of the first, the lone goal of the period. The 1-0 lead didn't last long once the second period begun, Cook onetiming a quick shot past Devin Green, the Golden Hawks converting on a rare 4-on-1 opportunity.



IN A RACE: Lakehead's Brett Wolframe (left) chases down Laurier's Jacob Hetherington last Saturday night.

Josh Laframboise answered back 23 seconds later, putting Lakehead up 2-1, but the Wolves found penalty trouble later in the period and it cost them.

Sports news information coverage

**Slumping Wolves swept** 

Jake Henderson scored for the second straight night with two seconds left with the man advantage, connecting on a second chance in front of Green to tie the game 2-2. Then, with Leitch and Chase Stewart sent off simultaneously, the Golden Hawks scored their second power-play goal of the night at 16:03, Mroczkowski finding the back of the net, the goal proving to be the game-winner.

Cook opened a two-goal advantage four minutes into the third and Danny Hanlon finished things off, scoring into the empty net with 2:36 to go.

"Obviously with them four points back, we wanted to get a couple wins and some points for sure. It didn't end up the way we wanted, so obviously we're in a lot tougher spot. But we'll get back to work this week, six games remaining," said first-year coach Andrew Wilkins, who blamed special teams in the second period.

Lakehead ended the second on a 5-on-3 of their own, but couldn't capitalize on either side of the break.

"I thought their special teams were better."

While the Wolves weren't happy with the results, Laurier coach and Thunder Bay native Greg Puhalski was thrilled.

"For us, much-needed wins," he said. "Tonight it was a lot closer game territorially than last night. I thought Lakehead played a good game and the score is by no means indicative of the way the game was played. It could easily have gone Lakehead's way.

The two teams ended the weekend with identical 10-11-1 records.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF Lakehead men rally in fourth to split with Marauders

A fantastic finish earned the Lakehead Thunderwolves men's basketball team its fourth win of the season.

The Wolves (4-12) outscored the host McMaster Marauders 30-16 in the fourth quarter on Saturday afternoon, the difference in a 93-79 triumph that helped coach Ryan Thomson double the team's win total from a year ago.

It was Lakehead's shooting that paved the way. The Thunderwolves hit

47 per cent of their shots from the field and forced 27 turnovers in earning the weekend split on the road.

"It's must-

win."

PATRICK MURPHY

Nick Burke had a season-high 31 points for LU, while Isaiah Traylor chipped in 23 in a winning cause. Connor Gilmore had 16 to lead the Marauders (7-9). The Wolves moved into seventh place in the OUA West, two points behind Windsor for the sixth and final playoff berth.

Lakehead returns to the C.J. Sanders

Fieldhouse next Friday and Saturday for dates against the Western Mustangs.

#### LU swept on road

**D**own 13 at the half, the Lakehead Thunderwolves had a chance to save their weekend with a game-tying three-pointer at the buzzer.

But Lily Gruber-Schulz couldn't connect on the last-second prayer shot

on Saturday afternoon and the Wolves went down to a third straight defeat, falling 70-67 to the McMaster Marauders.

Twice LU clawed to within a point, and had a chance to take the lead in the final two minutes, but turned the ball over for the 22nd time on the day.

Leashja Grant scored 28 points and added 16 rebounds for the No. 10 Thunderwolves, who dropped to 12-4 on the season

#### Thursday, January 24, 2019 1

#### Sports NEWS



TOURNEY WIN: The Current River Comets celebrate their Midget AA title win over the Hearst Lumberkings last Sunday.

# **Robin's hockey heaven**

#### Annual youth tournament draws 145 teams to area rinks HOCKEY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source Hockey By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

For many hockey players, the Robin's Minor Hockey Tournament is one of the first big competitions of their career, so there is no better way to say goodbye to the annual competition than going out on top.

"The first hockey tournament memory I have is probably the Robins," said Andy Prystanski of the Current River Comets who defeated the Hearst Lumberkings 4-1 on Sunday to capture the Midget AA title.

"It feels pretty great," said Ben Pretty of winning the title.

"Especially in your last year," Prystanski added. "We are all third years and we are all moving on next year. So it feels pretty good to get the last one."

The championship win for the Comets is just one of the many successes for players, coaches, parents, and fans of the Robin's Minor Hockey Tournament, now in its 43rd year.

Joe Rizzuto, tournament chair, said this year's tournament was another success, with 145 teams competing over four days.

"I think it's a great impact for the city," Rizzuto said. "We have 33 teams from out of town with an average of 16 players on each team. So they are filling up a lot of hotels, a lot of restaurants and a lot of shops. It's great for Teams from across the region and the country register to participate and the largest tournament ever held included 160 teams, and even then, teams still had to be turned away.

According to Rizzuto, the success of the Robin's Tournament comes down to its longevity, with young players competing all the way through the various skill levels, and then still being involved as parents cheering on their kids or coaching.

"It's great," he said. "I've been doing it for 21 years. It's a generational thing that has been going on for 43 years."

And for the players, it's about leaving it all on the ice for the win and taking away the memories and the friendships.

"It's been nice playing in this tournament and a lot of nice memories," said Comets player, Shane Thompson. "It's been fun while it lasted."

"No better way," Pretty said. "The memories will last forever."

"I think the guys," Prystanski said of that he'll remember most. "The guys in the room. We had a new group this year and a new dynamic. And everyone was so positive coming into the game. We worked as a team and we gelled as a team and that's what made it special."

For a complete list of results, visit the Robin's Minor Hockey Tournament website.

### **Mignault leads Stars to victory**

#### **SIJHL** By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Ryan Mignault scored twice and added an assist last Friday night to lead the Thunder Bay North Stars to a fifth straight win.

The North Stars captain potted his 29th and 30th goals of 2018-19, giving him 30 goals in 30 games, as Thunder Bay scored twice in the second and twice in

the third dispatching the host Dryden Ice Dogs 4-1. Michael Stubbs and Brandon Gillis also scored for the Stars. Gillis had a pair of assists, while Stubbs extended his goal-scoring streak to four games.

Ryan Brandt had the lone goal for the recently hot Ice Dogs (16-13-4), winners of seven of their past 10 games.

The first-place North Stars improved to 26-2-2 and opened a five-point lead over Red Lake.



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Thursday, January 24, 2019 19

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "How much time he saves who does not look to see what his neighbor says or does or thinks." — Marcus Aurelius



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