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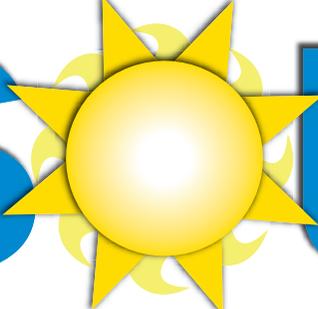
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.15 No. 05

INSIDE
KENTNER VIGIL



More than 100 gather on attack anniversary /2

PARKS SPEAKS OUT



Candidate worried leader's race will be hijacked /4

KOREA-BOUND



Rick Lang heading to the Olympic Games /19

Charges dismissed

Court proceedings exonerate Police Chief J.P. Levesque of breach of trust, obstruction of justice accusations /3



VERDICT IN: Police Chief J.P. Levesque says he was relieved to learn the charges he was facing had been dismissed as he speaks to media last Friday at the Thunder Bay courthouse.

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LOCAL NEWS

Council dissolves Simpson Street BIA

CITY HALL
By Matt Vis - TB Source

The Simpson Street BIA is officially out of business.
Thunder Bay city council on Monday night voted to dissolve the south side business improvement area after years of evaporating interest from the neighbourhood's business owners.
The city stopped collecting levies in 2016

from the BIA's businesses after it became apparent it had no active board participation and could not meet the six-member requirement.

Deputy city clerk Krista Power told council there was no stated interest from the businesses in the area to continue.

"We did most certainly do a very thorough contact and communication not only with the active members of the BIA but also letters were sent to every member of the

BIA back in 2016 trying to see whether or not we could revive the BIA," Power said.

"We asked at that time for property owners to advise whether or not they were willing to continue or willing to come forward and be an active part of the BIA. We received one response and that was no, they were not."

Coun. Rebecca Johnson asked whether there was potential to merge the city's two south side business improvement areas.

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TRAGIC INCIDENT: A large crowd remembers Barbara Kentner.

Vigil held for victim

THUNDER BAY
By Matt Vis - TB Source

One year has passed since Barbara Kentner was struck by a trailer hitch hurled from a passing vehicle but more than a hundred people came together to show the attack has not been forgotten.

A crowd braved the cold Monday night at the intersection of Cameron and McKenzie streets – the very spot in the city's east end where Kentner was hit when she was walking with her sister that night – to gather for a memorial vigil and round dance to honour her memory and support her family.

Kentner, 34, died a little more than five months later on July 4, 2017.

It was not easy for Melissa Kentner to return on the one-year anniversary to the site where she saw the metal hitch thrown from the vehicle and hit her sister.

"I just kept on watching to see where my kids were at all times and watching the vehicles, the ones that were going by," she said. "I was worried about my kids and making sure they were with one of my family members, beside one, at all times."

The incident sparked outrage with demands for the case to be labelled a hate crime and generated national attention as a potential example of racially motivated violence against Indigenous people in Thunder Bay.

Brayden Bushby, then 18, was originally charged with aggravated assault but it was upgraded to second-degree murder in November. The charge has not been proven in court.

Co-organizer Nichole Barkman-Lands insisted Barbara Kentner's memory and what happened to her can't afford to be lost.

"It was tragic and we need to remember that kind of thing exists here," Barkman-Lands said. "We need to take spaces like this to call it out. When you do that, you bring people together."

Fellow co-organizer Trivena Andy said it's important for Barbara Kentner's loved ones – many of whom were at the vigil – to know the community stands with them.

"This kind of violent action shouldn't be forgotten. You need to let people know it's not forgotten and we're behind her family 100 per cent because they need all the support they can get," Andy said.

Melissa Kentner said the family is still trying to cope with the loss.

"Her daughter cries almost every night for her mother," she said. "It's really hard. She's trying to be strong and trying to let her mom go but it's still very hard."

LOCAL NEWS

Levesque 'relieved'

Charges of obstruction of justice and breach of trust dismissed

COURT
By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

With the dismissal of charges of obstruction of justice and breach of trust, J.P. Levesque said he intends to return to work as the city's police chief.

"I look forward to going back to work," Levesque said outside of the Thunder Bay Courthouse last Thursday after the charges against him were dismissed.

Levesque had been placed on administrative suspension by the Thunder Bay Police Services Board in the days following the charges being made public.

Regional Superior Justice Bonnie Warkentin dismissed all charges against Levesque, stating the crown failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Levesque attempted to interfere with a possible extortion investigation by the RCMP into Thunder Bay mayor, Keith Hobbs, and that he acted within his discretion as chief of police when he informed Hobbs he was the subject of an investigation.

On the charge of obstruction of justice, Warkentin said in court that the facts presented supported the explanation Levesque provided during his testimony that he was exercising his discretion as chief, not the theory of the crown that he was attempting to 'tip-off' Hobbs of the investigation.

"It would require a significant stretch to make the findings sought by the Crown, particularly in light of the well-known animus that existed between Hobbs and the office of the chief of police," Warkentin said. "Even though Levesque had a professional relationship with Hobbs, it was clear from the evidence that the relationship was founded on a level of distrust and caution."

Intent not there

Warkentin also referenced how none of the Crown witnesses called during the trial "believed Levesque was acting with the intent to obstruct justice and there was no direct evidence to support that allegation."

For the charge of breach of trust, Warkentin again said the Crown failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Levesque's conduct "represented a serious and marked



VINDICATED: Police Chief J.P. Levesque leaves court during his trial.

departure from the standards expected of a chief of police and that he intended to use his public office for a purpose other than the public good and for a partial or dishonest purpose."

"I believe the explanation provided by Levesque for telling Hobbs about the extortion allegations," Warkentin continued. "This explanation supports a finding that Levesque intended his actions to be for the good of the city of Thunder Bay and for the public."

After the verdict was read in court, Levesque said he felt a sense of relief like nothing he has ever felt before.

"It's almost like when your kids are born and they're healthy," he said. "It's that kind of relief."

Levesque thanked his family and friends for all the support he received during this time saying it has been a very difficult year on all of them.

Prior to the trial opening, Levesque's brother, Phil Levesque, passed away, with funeral services being held the Friday before the trial opened on Monday, Dec. 4.

"My family has been through an incredible amount of pain and diffi-

culty and hard times," he said. "Today I hope we can start healing."

Levesque's lawyer, Brian Gover, said Levesque has served the community of Thunder Bay in an exemplary manner for the last 30 years and is a thoughtful, progressive, and compassionate leader, which he said was reflected during testimony in court.

'Unusual'

"It is highly unusual to have witness after witness, in fact, Crown witness after Crown witness, testify about the good character, the honesty and integrity of the defendant," Gover said. "That happened in this case because J.P. Levesque is an exceptional person."

Greg Stephenson, president of the Thunder Bay Police Association, was in court for the verdict on Monday, and he said the judge made the right decision.

"Over the course of the trial, it was shown what the intent was and it certainly wasn't warranted as a criminal charge," he said. "I am very happy for J.P. Levesque and his family. It's been a very tough year and it's nice to see a resolution and we will move forward."

Counsel for the prosecution, Jason Nicol, did not provide comment.

"I look forward to going back to work."
J.P. LEVESQUE

Weather Forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A mix of sun and clouds	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Mainly sunny
Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -16 LOW -25	Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -17 LOW -24	Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -19 LOW -26
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunny	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny
Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH -17 LOW -20	Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH -14 LOW -22	Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH -16 LOW -22

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LOCAL NEWS

Leadership hijacking worries Parks

Candidate concerned party members might be shut out of vote to replace Patrick Brown

POLITICS
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Derek Parks is adamant that each and every Progressive Conservative member in the province have their say in the party's next leader. He's not sure some of the people surrounding newly installed interim leader Vic Fedeli agree. Parks, who serves on the Ontario PC's executive, is also a candidate for the party in Thunder Bay-Superior North and was a backer of now-disgraced former leader Patrick Brown, said it looks like there might be a move afoot to seize control of the process to select his replacement.

This has Parks deeply troubled, with just four months to go until the June 7 provincial election. "I think there is a fear out there that it may be hijacked," Parks said, reacting to reports the PC Fund was being frivolously spent to cover lawsuit fees, adding it's being used to help the Progressive Conservatives win the next election. "I feel there's an attempt to undermine the executive and the PC Fund and try to come out this week and say we don't have the fund (to hold) a leadership (race)," Parks said. "I'm here to categorically deny it and say that should not happen." He added the membership has made it clear it wants an opportunity to have a say in who leads the party into and beyond the next election. "The reality is the membership has that right to pick that leader and it's only fair for all of Ontario to know who we truly stand beside," Parks said. "Going into the election with an interim leader is not



FALL FROM GRACE: Former Conservative leader Patrick Brown has stepped down.

showing confidence in the people of Ontario and the People's Guarantee." Parks on Monday said he's coming

forward to ensure a leadership convention before the election takes place, likely in March. He knows he could pay a political price. "The knives are coming out. Anyone associated with Patrick Brown is kind of shown the door. I don't think they've gotten to me because I don't believe they feel I was any type of threat with the games that are being played." Brown was accused last Wednesday in a CTV News report of sexual misconduct against two unidentified women, and initially vowed to fight the charges and remain as leader. His decision led to a mass exodus of the party leadership, which in turn convinced Brown to walk away. Fedeli, who could still run in a leadership race, was given the interim reins, but vowed he is the party leader in his first interview. On Monday Ontario PC Party president Rick Dykstra also resigned after

being accused of sexual assault. Brown resigned after being accused of sexual misconduct by two women in a CTV News report. Parks said he expects there to be pressure exerted to convince him to change his mind, but he promised to stand his ground. He made it clear Fedeli was not to blame. "There's a lot of money in politics and there are a lot of people with a vested interest, saying 'If I back Vic and we do this, I'm the one who gets my head in the trough.' And I think that is so wrong on such a fundamental level," Parks said. Parks said he been reassured there is enough time to elect a new leader and still have enough traction to topple the Liberal government in June. "I think that's more than enough time to get our leader out there. The platform's made. It's one of the most extensive processes I've ever seen. And that's a winnable platform."

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

LOCAL NEWS

Reacting to racism

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Eighty-three per cent of respondents to a recent survey say they feel racism and discrimination is a serious issue in Thunder Bay.

Only seven per cent disagree. The numbers aren't shocking, said Sandra Albertson, director of community impact with the United Way of Thunder Bay, whose organization undertook the survey as a way to provide baseline numbers to a problem few people deny exists in the Northern Ontario city.

And to no one's surprise, Thunder Bay's Indigenous population is overwhelmingly seen as the likeliest target of racism and discrimination, with 71 per cent of the 1,641 respondents who took part in the telephone and online survey agreeing.

Seven per cent listed the LGBT community, while five per cent said immigrants and a further three per cent said Caucasians.

Discrimination or unfair treatment toward Indigenous people is more likely to occur in a store, restaurant or bank than anywhere else, with 28 per cent making it their top pick. A further 22 per cent said it happens most on the street.

Sixty-six per cent of non-minorities indicated the question did not apply to their lives.

A couple of things stood out most, said Albertson, adding they went into the exercise with the full knowledge that racism is a major issue in the city.

The fact that so many acknowledge it's a problem is a great place to start, she said. But the survey also showed there's still plenty of work to be done.

"It was a very large number," Albertson said. "Over eighty or



UNIFYING: The United Way's Sage Laliberte wants to co-ordinate anti-racism work.

ninety per cent said yes, it's a serious issue.

"But when asked are you comfortable confronting it or speaking out against it, only 66 per cent of the respondents said yes. So we can see there's an area where people need to be comfortable and empowered to be able to speak up against racism and discrimination in our community."

The other area of surprise was a little more promising.

Asked if they would trust having a doctor, teacher or other professional of a different race or sexual orientation, the vast majority said it wouldn't bother them in the least.

"Ninety-six per cent of the people said yes, they are comfortable. I think there's a serious divide of the people who understand there is racism and discrimination in our community and feel they would like to see it change,"

Albertson said.

"But there's also that small minority of people who are loud in our community and are probably the people causing more of the distress in our community around racism."

Moving forward, the United Way is helping to start the Diversity Counts project to take a deeper look at who is doing what with racism and discrimination issues and helping to forge community conversations around the subject, while also looking at new ways to combat the problem.

Sage Laliberte, a youth Indigenous intern at the United Way, will help co-ordinate the audit. She said her initial work has shown a lot of work has been going on.

"But a lot of it's in silos," she said. "So what we're trying to do is get people together to collaborate, build new partnerships and work together. We're hearing there's a need for more youth involvement. That's what everyone seems to be focused on."

"We're hearing there is a need for more youth involvement."
SAGE LALIBERTE

LEITH DUNICK

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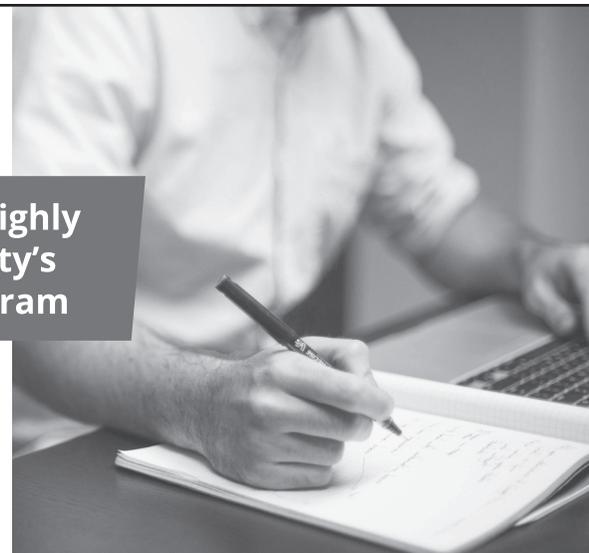
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Editorial

EDITORIAL

PC plans fall apart

What an incredibly terrible week for the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

Leader Patrick Brown resigned in disgrace early on Thursday, after being accused by two women in a CTV News report of sexual misconduct.

On Monday party president Rick Dykstra stepped down, accused of sexual assault.

The allegations, which have not been proven in court or resulted in criminal charges, left the party reeling.

They were quick to choose an interim leader, North Bay's Vic Fedeli, and almost as quick to promise PC party members would have a say in who would replace Brown.

Derek Parks, a member of the executive and a candidate in Thunder Bay-Superior North, wasn't sure the PC brass was being completely honest.

On Monday he spoke out, warning those surrounding Fedeli not to attempt to hijack the process and forgo the leadership race promised to the membership.

It appears he – and others – were heard. On Tuesday Fedeli announced he would not seek the PC leadership, scheduled to be decided on March 24.

It's the right thing to do.

The party needs a new face, a Christine Mulroneo or Lisa MacLeod, perhaps Rod Phillips, to lead them out of this mess. Then again, they could get Doug Ford, who entered the race on Monday.

An interesting couple of months ahead.

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Rainfall tax grab

To the editor:

Thunder Bay's new rainfall tax isn't even law yet and already city homeowners are getting hosed.

That's because we're paying \$250,000 to consultants to make a simple decision our city council is afraid to make on its own.

The decision is this: should property owners pay a new user fee to increase the money to be spent on an underfunded storm sewer system? Or should we just continue paying through our property taxes, the way it's done now?

The answer should be simple for politicians. It's a political question.

Instead, councillors have hired the consulting firm Aecom to convince you that, as one of Aecom's consultants said of a user fee at Tuesday's open house at the Italian Cultural Centre, "It's the right thing to do".

The argument in favour is that a fee ranging between \$4 and \$15 a month per home will guarantee that sewers and other stormwater management facilities get the cash they need.

Aecom says theoretically that also means your taxes will go down, but don't count on it.

The upside for councillors is that they'll have a whole lot more tax room for stuff they like.

There is a downside. But Aecom isn't talking much about that.

For example, how big a bureaucracy will it take to handle all the paperwork?

To deal with the rebates to be built into the fee system for people who improve the ability of their properties to hold water longer before sending it to the storm sewer system, there will have to be inspectors.

Then you can probably bet on an appeal process to deal with folks upset with inspectors' decisions.

Aecom insists a user fee isn't a done deal as a recommendation to council.

There are options to be considered and the public is to be consulted.

However, behind the scenes, according to Aecom's Pippy Warburton, the company is going through the process of analyzing every property in the city to set the stage for implementing a user fee.

Did council need to spend \$250,000 at this stage? No. There are plenty of examples of rainfall taxes across the country.

The engineering department or corporate services department should have done the research in-house. Aecom's work could have waited until a decision was made.

But then, of course, councillors wouldn't have consultants to do the heavy lifting of trying to convince

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



you that a new tax on your home is a good thing.

Shane Judge,
Thunder Bay

Hold a spending review

To the editor:

So, the city would like to create another rate supported entity; a stormwater user fee that will pay for current and future activities related to storm sewers, ditches, catch basins, the Boulevard Lake dam, etc...

It is clear to me that the intention of the current process; i.e. the stormwater financing study is to arrive at the conclusion that the most logical, equitable and sustainable means to this end is a stormwater user fee.

The problem I have with removing the funding for this from property taxes is that it will become less transparent to the taxpayer.

Who among us thinks a property tax reduction will equal the amount collected for stormwater management? It has been abundantly clear to me over the past 20 years it has been far too easy for council to approve rate supported budgets and even easier for administration to spend such funds.

I don't think we should allow any increase to any funding, be it tax-supported or rate-supported until this city undergoes an independent review of what we currently spend,

why we spend it and whether we should spend it, with an eye on efficiency and service delivery by cost-competitive means.

Our combined property taxes and user fees, despite any claims to the contrary or statistical cherry picking, are becoming ridiculous.

Doug Meyers,
Thunder Bay

Budget streamlined

To the editor

The streamlining of the budget process and other initiatives like a three-year budget plan, were put in place to help offset the \$23 million reduction in tax revenues over the last five years due to assessment appeals in the industrial and commercial sectors that arose as a result of the economic recession.

City staff worked diligently in finding about \$12 million in savings internally through operational efficiencies and continuous improvement initiatives.

These efforts and some new growth have enabled the city to maintain an average annual property tax increase of 2.60 per cent over the last 10 years.

These efforts are ongoing as evidenced by the projected positive 2017 year-end variance that will help replenish some reserve accounts like legal, policing, insurance and others that were drawn down over the last few years.

We are mindful of the changing needs in our community for emerging services and therefore this budget includes an additional ambulance and eight paramedics. There is also additional funding for community youth, public safety programs and road maintenance with capital investment in infrastructure being kept at the same levels as 2017.

In conclusion, while overall the city has been able to confront some major headwinds and progress is being made on many fronts to ensure a sustainable future for our citizens, I believe that we still have some work to do in regards to the cumulative increase in water and property tax rates above the level of inflation which is being felt more and more across all segments of our population, and especially those on fixed income.

While an effort on my part during last year's budget to use \$1 million in reserve funds to lower the tax increase was defeated on a 6-6 tie vote, there is an opportunity this year to use half of the projected 2017 year-end positive variance of around \$2.8 million to replenish our reserves and use the other half to provide some tax relief to our citizens. To that end, I plan on bringing a resolution forward at the appropriate time during this budget review and hopefully get the support needed.

Coun. Frank Pullia,
Bueget chair
Thunder Bay

Perspective

Trust the under 40s

NOVA Awards showcase the city's in great hands

OPINION
By J.R. Shermack
Special to TB Source

I can remember when we used to say, "Never trust anyone over 30." It seemed like good advice at the time but I have recently revised that tired, old cliché.

I now say, "Trust everyone under 40," and here's the reason why.

Last weekend I saw the top 20 under 40 in Northwestern Ontario being recognized and honored at the 2018 NOVA Awards.

To clarify, 20 of our region's brightest and most accomplished professionals were honoured at a fancy gala celebration.

To qualify the nominees had to be ridiculously young – under 40.

I am not a fan of most award shows and I don't care for insincere acceptance speeches.

Whether it's the Oscars, the Junos, the Genies or even the Dundeys, these spectacles have become politically loaded and are not fun to watch.

I prefer the NOVAs, a regional awards show with broad community appeal and a more positive, encouraging message.

The NOVAs (Northwestern Ontario Visionary Awards) recognize exceptional young professionals for their achievements.

These awards are given to young visionaries within our own communities – people we might even know ourselves, even family members.

Over the past eight years 200 distinguished community leaders

from across the region have been nominated for this prestigious award.

Each nominee has made a significant difference in NWO and it is refreshing to know that this pool of young talent is out there working.

Some have been honored with NOVA awards – all nominees have earned the respect of their communities, large and small.

But let's get back to this year's gala.

The event has been growing in size and stature and this year's had personality, flair and a cast of thousands (hundreds, actually).

The NOVAs happen only every two years – anybody 38 and up will not qualify in 2020, but who knows, there may be achievement after forty.

Nominees are excellent examples of leadership, community engagement, professional achievement, volunteerism and mentorship.

The long list includes young visionaries making positive change in their communities and all are exceptional examples of captivating brilliance.

The fancy gala was hosted locally and the evening took on a carnival atmosphere filled with entertainment and glitz.

Unfortunately I wasn't there in person, but fortunately the event was professionally recorded.

Regional communities can enjoy the show, learn about some amazing local citizens and feel good about the future of Northwestern Ontario.

I know quite a number of people

under 40 myself and I used their brilliance and expertise to access a re-broadcast of the NOVA's.

I was captivated by the presentation and swept away by something I can only describe as civic pride.

The city councillors in attendance must have felt that same surge of adrenaline as the list of accomplishments went on and on.

I talked to some invited guests who were equally inspired by the Gala NOVA Awards Show and guess what – I know one of the winners.

I thought I was watching the Oscars – entertainment value was high.

The local musicians, actors and dancers in the program were yet another example of excellence in our own communities.

The list of winners this year included business owners, business developers, entrepreneurs and professional hockey players.

They were selected for their professional achievements, their leadership, for being champions of the community and also, for maple syrup.

Some are rising stars and some are known internationally – there is even an award for someone called a Shift Disturber.

The categories themselves reflect the diverse talents and strengths of the nominees and a bright future for Northwestern Ontario.

Get your under-40 friends to access the show and hook you up.

You'll see what I mean.



BIG WINNERS: Farhan Yousaf was one of 20 winners at last weekend's NOVA Awards.

A look back in history:

Canadian Northern facilities

In 1901-02, Port Arthur was selected as the lake terminus of the Canadian Northern Railway, and extensive docks, sheds, a station and grain elevator construction followed. Coal docks, blast furnaces, and freight and steel handling docks marked the rapid development brought about by the CnoR.

C. N. R. Station and Docks, Port Arthur

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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

Address them to:

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87 North Hill Street,
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6
Fax: 345-9923

Email: ldunick@dougallmedia.com

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your VOICE

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TOTAL VOTES: 373

YES NO NOT SURE
49.87% 40.75% 9.38%

Can the Conservatives recover from the shocking allegations made against former leader Patrick Brown and capture the June 7 provincial election?

NOTICE OF FILING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT ADDENDUM #2

Highway 11/17 Four-Laning from Ouimet to Dorion Proposed Birch Lane Connection

THE STUDY

The Ontario **Ministry of Transportation (MTO)** is continuing the Preliminary Design, Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for the four-laning of Highway 11/17 from 2.83 km west of Ouimet Overhead, easterly 8.63 km. **WSP** is undertaking the design on behalf of MTO.

THE PROCESS

This study is following the approved environmental planning process for Group "B" projects under the *Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000), with the opportunity for public input throughout. During the Preliminary Design Phase, a Public Information Centre (PIC) was held on April 13, 2016 to present the proposed design changes to the 1997 Environmental Assessment (EA) Approved Plan. The proposed design changes were also documented in an Addendum to 1997 Environmental Study Report (ESR), which was filed in October 2016.

The 1997 EA Approved Plan did not provide access from Birch Lane to the new four-lane divided highway and the preferred alternative shown at the PIC in April 2016 recommended full closure of Birch Lane. In consideration of concerns raised at the PIC further discussions with the Township of Dorion and additional review by MTO, MTO is recommending a new public road connection between Meyers Road East and Birch Lane. A second Addendum to the 1997 ESR has been prepared to document the proposed design change and incorporate this new road connection into the Approved Plan.

This second ESR Addendum is available for review at the following locations:

<p>Township of Dorion Clerk's Office 170 Dorion Loop Road Dorion, Ontario</p>	<p>Municipality of Shuniah Clerk's Office 420 Leslie Avenue Thunder Bay, Ontario</p>	<p>Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Thunder Bay Regional Office 435 James Street South Thunder Bay, Ontario</p>
<p>Dorion Public Library 170 Dorion Loop Road Dorion, Ontario</p>	<p>Red Rock Public Library 42 Salls Street Red Rock, Ontario</p>	<p>Ontario Ministry of Transportation – Northwest Region 615 James Street South Thunder Bay, Ontario</p>

The report and additional study information will also be available on the project website at www.Hwy11-17Four-LaningfromOuimettoDorion.ca.

The Addendum will be available for a 30-day review period ending **Friday, March 2, 2018**. If after consulting with ministry staff and consultants, you have serious unresolved concerns regarding the new connection between Meyers Road and Birch Lane, you may request a Part II Order ("bump-up") from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (77 Wellesley Street West, 11th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2T5). A copy of your request should also be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation at the address below. If no requests are received by **Friday, March 2, 2018**, the proposed changes will have met the requirements of the Class EA and Detail Design will proceed.

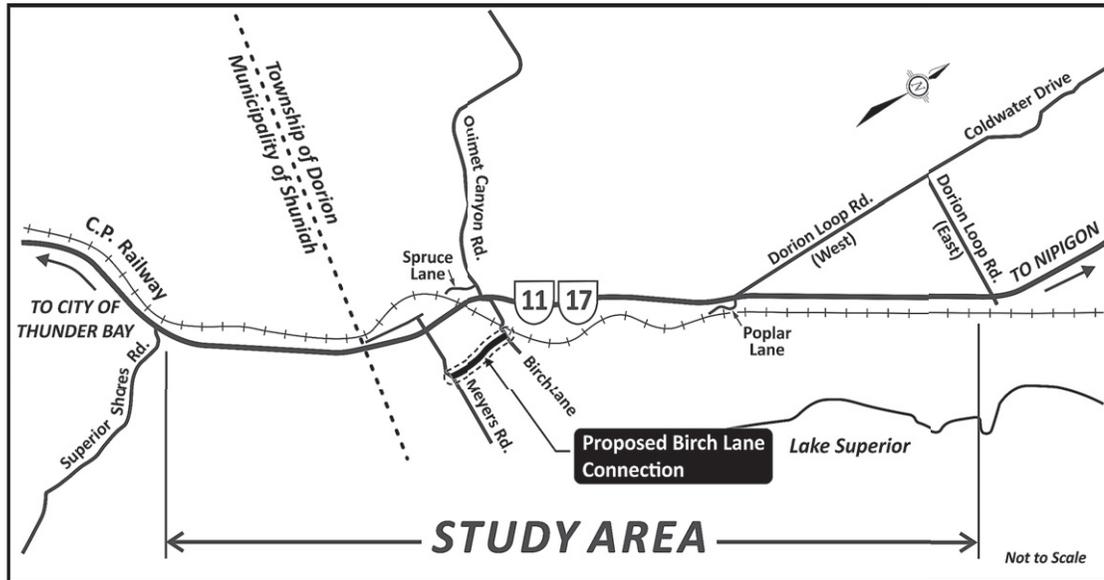
COMMENTS

We are interested in any comments or concerns you may have regarding the Addendum and study. Please submit your comments and/or concerns to one of the individuals listed below by **Friday, March 2, 2018**.

Ms. Domenica D'Amico, P.Eng.
Project Manager
WSP
610 Chartwell Road, Suite 300, Oakville, Ontario L6J 4A5
tel: 1-877-562-7947
fax: 905-823-8503
e-mail: domenica.damico@wsp.com

Mr. Rick Inman
Senior Project Manager
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
615 James Street South, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6P6
tel: 1-800-465-5034 or 807-473-2049
fax: 807-473-2168
e-mail: rick.inman@ontario.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.



LOCAL NEWS

IN BRIEF

Rafferty pulls out

Former MP John Rafferty has withdrawn as the NDP candidate in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, citing treatment for a recently diagnosed serious medical condition.

Rafferty, 64, served as the NDP representative in the House of Commons between 2008 and 2015, when he was defeated by Liberal Don Rusnak.



JOHN RAFFERTY

He had also run twice previously at the provincial level, finishing a distant second to Liberal Bill Mauro in 2003, but closed the gap to just 36 votes in 2007.

In a statement released by the provincial NDP, Rafferty thanked the people of Thunder Bay for their support and understanding.

A new nomination process will take place, with details expected to be released at a later date.

Fraudster arrested

A 41-year-old Thunder Bay man with a lengthy history of fraud convictions is facing a number of additional fraud-related charges.

Thunder Bay Police say they have completed an investigation into 11 complaints received since 2016 from individuals who said they hired a handyman and prepaid him for home renovations or items that were never delivered.

Police say more than \$55,000 was paid to Richard William Nestor Belbas by the complainants.

Belbas, who in 2015 was sentenced to five months in jail related to a pair of fraud cases, faces eight counts of fraud over \$5,000, three counts of fraud under \$5,000 and nine counts of breach of probation.

The father-of-three, whose list of convictions for fraud dates to 2001, was released from custody and will appear in court on Feb. 13.

Chief charged

A prominent First Nations leader in northwestern Ontario is facing criminal charges.

Grassy Narrows First Nation Chief Simon Fobister was arrested twice this month by Treaty Three Police.

Court records show that the 62-year-old man was charged with assault and with breach of an undertaking to abstain from alcohol after an alleged incident on Sunday, Jan. 21 at Grassy Narrows.

He had been charged with impaired driving on Jan. 5.



LOCAL NEWS

City shuttered colon-cleansing outlets

Infection control reason given for shutdown as investigation continues

HEALTH
By TB Source staff

Citing concerns about infection control at two Thunder Bay busi-

nesses that provide colon-cleansing services, the District Health Unit has shut the services down pending further investigation.

Colon-cleansing, also known as hydrotherapy or irrigation, is on hold at the Colon Therapy Clinic on Park Avenue and at the Natural Health and Chiropractic Clinic on Victoria Avenue.

Lee Sieswerda, the health unit's environmental health manager, on Monday said that an investigation was started after a complaint from the public about the infection control practices at both facilities.

"We confirmed that there were some basic failures of infection control," he said.

"As a result of our observations,

and determining that infection control was not up to standard, and that this could pose a risk to the public in terms of disease transmission," Sieswerda said, "we closed both temporarily while we conduct a full infection control and prevention investigation."

The health unit will now determine the degree of disease transmission

risk to which clients may have been exposed.

Sieswerda said he won't pre-judge the outcome of that process, which he expects will be completed within two weeks.

Depending on the results of the investigation, a decision will be made whether it's necessary to formally notify clients of the two services.



DOUG DIACZUK

JOB CREATION: Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer (centre) announces \$240,000 to train 240 Aboriginal workers.

First Nations to manage transmission project

THUNDER BAY
By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

First Nations community members will be playing a leading role in the construction of a major project that will change the way power is transmitted along the northern shore of Lake Superior.

With the help of a \$240,000 investment through the Ontario Indigenous Economic Development Fund, more than 240 members from area First Nations will receive specialized training for employment opportunities related to the East-West Tie Transmission Project and beyond.

Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, David Zimmer, made the announcement in Fort William First Nation on Monday.

"It's a big project, the transmission line, and First Nations should rightfully have a piece of that action," Zimmer said following the announcement. "To get a piece of that action, they've got to have the skilled workers. The \$240,000 is to get those technical skills to those students."

The East-West Tie Transmission Project will connect the Wawa Transmission Station with the Lakehead Transmission Station near Thunder Bay.

The \$240,000 investment is being used by Supercom Industries to hire recruiters and train First Nation members to work on the project. Recruiters have been hired in the six First Nation Communities affected by the transmission line, including Michipicoten, Pic Mobert, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Pays Plat, Red Rock and Fort William First Nation.

"We were able to task these employees with reaching out to all of the membership within the six communities as well as across the whole region to start recruiting people that are interested in gaining the skills to work on the construction of the East-West Transmission Line," said Matthew Dupuis, director with Supercom.

According to Dupuis, they reached their recruitment goal of 244 people, with an initial intake of more than 300.



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LOCAL NEWS

City wants pot store away from water

THUNDER BAY
By Gary Rinne - TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay has told provincial government officials what areas to avoid when they consider where to set up a local cannabis retail outlet this July.

Prospective locations, city hall says, should only be ones that are "away from waterways, away from schools, away from areas where young people may gather."

Linda Evans, general manager of corporate services, said that was the feedback city representatives gave at a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario in late

November.

In an interview, Evans told tbnewswatch.com that the government officials were receptive, and "definitely heard our concerns, and were going to take it back and look at the options that were available to them in the city."

She said the provincial delegation gave no indication as to what specific locations were being considered. "They were just going away to see what areas and commercial properties were available at that time."

The city delegation also requested that the province respect the municipality's zoning regulations in choosing a site for the cannabis store.

Thunder Bay was included in a

November announcement of 14 cities initially chosen to host stand-alone cannabis outlets, while another 15 cities were named in December.

The government has stated that it intends to work closely with municipalities and will consider community priorities when choosing store locations.

The LCBO, which will oversee the operation of the stores through a subsidiary corporation, says it is still in the process of identifying its preferred sites.

In a response to questions from tbnewswatch.com, a

spokesperson said Monday that the public will get a chance to comment once a site has been selected in Thunder Bay.

There is no projected date for the announcement, but a notice of the decision will be posted online at lcbo-cannabisupdates.com.

The spokesperson said the public feedback, which will be accepted online at that same site, will help the LCBO "understand any issues we should be aware of with the identified site."

Thunder Bay officials anticipate that policing costs will rise in conjunction with the

opening of the cannabis store.

It's why, at the November meeting, the city also "discussed the importance of the city getting a portion of the tax revenues to address our police training costs and costs that may be associated with testing for impairment and so forth down the road," Evans said.

According to Evans, the city has not heard back on that request as yet.

The cannabis tax revenue is slated to be shared by the federal and provincial governments, and Evans noted that municipalities across Canada are trying to do what they can to get a portion of the revenue to cover the additional costs they will incur.



LINDA EVANS

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VINEYARD	<p>Knox Shuniah United Church 1 Shuniah Street, Thunder Bay, ON 345-5065 • knoxshun@tbaytel.net Minister: Rev. Marlene Britton-Walfall Web site: knoxshuniahunited.webs.com Director of Music: Betty E. White February 4th Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality Sunday School lovingly provided.</p>
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DOUG DIACZUK

HOT MEAL: Const. Jason Kuoppa-Aho serves up free stew during the Together We Are Stronger Feast in downtown Fort William on Saturday.

Community feast serves all

City police, local First Nation residents share meal to build neighbourhoods

THUNDER BAY
 By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Sharing a meal is a common sign of friendship, and leaders in Thunder Bay and First Nations communities want to strengthen friendships in order to build safer, healthier, and more inclusive neighbourhoods for everyone.

"The best way to start with that messaging is just to invite people in and have a meal together, show people that you care, share food," said Lee-Ann Chevrette, coordinator of the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council. "I think that really goes a long way."

On Saturday, the signatories of the Friendship Agreement hosted Together We Are Stronger, a community feast in downtown Fort William.

The feast, held at the Hub Bazaar, included free stew, bannok, and treats, but as good as the meal was, the feast was meant to serve as a way of bringing people together.

"I'm really happy to see the response here," Chevrette said. "There are close to 50 or 60 people and we just started. I think we can all put some energy into this

neighbourhood and invite people in. I am just thrilled to see the turnout here today."

Mary Ellen Thomas, who has been contracted by the city to assist with Indigenous relations through the Friendship Agreement, said she has been listening to the people in the community who say it is important to start working together.

"Together we are stronger," she said. "People have a lot of different perspectives and opinions. I feel that under that scope, I think we are stronger. The more we work together, the more we can make a positive impact on Thunder Bay."

In September, 2017, the city of Thunder Bay, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Fort William First Nation, and the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, signed a Friendship Agreement to "promote mutual understanding and collaboration between all four partners and their citizens and will develop open cooperation for the benefit of community safety, education, culture, and engagement for those who reside, work, visit, and attend school in the city of Thunder Bay."

Several other community events have been held following the signing of the agreement, including Halloween and

Christmas feasts, which Thomas said were very well-received by people in the city.

"The support that came from the community is really a testament what goes on in the city," she said. "We want to bring out the positive side of Thunder Bay."

The feast on Saturday was about making people feel welcomed, feel safe, and having their voices heard, and Thomas said all partners in the Friendship Agreement are listening.

"I am hoping they will feel welcome in the community and we do appreciate their input when we talk and to let them know that we do listen," she said. "We just have to lay out and move forward with a good plan in place."

"I am hoping for people to see that there are a lot of people who care about this neighbourhood and committed to making this neighbourhood and our community in a broader sense safer for everyone," Chevrette added. "That really starts with building relationships with one another, not only the organizations, but all of the citizens."

According to Thomas, future events are being planned to make stronger connections throughout neighbourhoods in the city. From there, a survey will be developed to get input on how to move the plan forward.

"Together we are stronger."
 MARY ELLEN THOMAS



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Feral cat intruder

Stray feline finds its way into Casa Jones and the dog is not happy



FRED JONES

RURAL ROOTS

We awoke to a scream followed by loud yelling. It was six-thirty in the morning.

The yelling was being made by our daughter Beth and coming from the other end of the house. We could hear growling as well.

The growls were coming from our dog, Baxter.

What was going on?

"No Baxter! Baxter no!" Beth was bellowing as the growls continued.

As I attempted to get upright I prayed that Baxter wasn't attacking Beth's cat, Cleo, who occasionally will swipe at the dog who retaliates.

But those altercations are very few and far between and never does Baxter hurt the cat. His growling is more a warning to back off.

Laura preceded me down the hall to the living room.

Son, Doug appeared out of his bedroom asking the logical question: "What's going on?"

It turned out that Baxter was not after Cleo. He was after a feral cat that had scooted into Casa Jones.

Held back

When I arrived on the scene, Laura was holding a straining dog by his collar and with Doug's help, managed to get him down the hall and into our bedroom. The door was firmly closed.

So, what happened?

"I let Baxter out and he came back into the screen porch because the screen door was open. I thought that he wanted back inside so I opened the sliding door and this feral, black cat rushed in with Baxter right behind it and trying to grab it," Beth said.

Ah, that would explain the repeated growling.

He was just defending the realm from an invasion.

With Baxter now under bedroom arrest, I asked Beth if she knew where the intruder was hiding.

"Behind the couch," she answered.

Beth was by now sitting on the couch. I approached and peered over the edge and there, crouched and shaking, was a beautiful black feline.

But when it saw me it suddenly sprang up to bounce off of the couch's back, on to the curtain and then became a blur as

it raced across the living room floor and down the stairs to the basement.

Unfortunately, while making its made dash for freedom, it scratched Beth's arm in three places.

Now we had to locate it and somehow get it out of the house.

Laura emerged from the bedroom to check on Beth and her war wounds.

I trooped downstairs to close doors to all rooms in the hopes that the cat had sought refuge in our family room behind another couch that is close to the basement door.

I hoped to shoo the creature outside.

While closing the bathroom door, I heard a "clank" sound come from behind me in my library.

So, I completed the door-closing exercise and called to Doug to come downstairs.

I explained my plan to open the downstairs door even though it was again one of those freezing mornings while I investigated the library.

Laura told a story of a young girl who was attacked by a feral cat that leapt onto her shirt, crawled up, and began to lacerate her head all in the hopes of getting away.

The kid had 17 scratches.

Close call

Fortunately, the cat missed her eyes. Laura said that the cat believed that it is fighting for its life, hence the assault.

No doubt, this one thought so too.

Based on that cautionary tale, Doug appeared downstairs outfitted in his snow board helmet, goggles, and gloves (very thick), three layers of pants, and his thick jacket he wears while working in the horse barn.

He resembled a Jedi space pilot as if he was starring in a *Star Wars* movie. Well, he was prepared for any onslaught.

I entered my library and began to search when I heard a scrabbling noise and saw the black blur dash out of the room.

Doug was standing guard on the stairs as it raced into the family room.

We found it perched on a windowsill behind a curtain right beside the now-open basement door.

Doug approached it with a broom and gently poked the curtain. The cat must have immediately seen the open door and made fast its exit. Whew!

Poor thing. The cat didn't look starved though. Laura said that she heard from a neighbour that there was a feral black cat in the neighbourhood and that he was leaving food out for it.

They do roam.

So, why was it in our screen porch?

My fault (of course). I'd left the screen door open.

Obviously feral black cat had entered the porch in the hopes that some stray bit of food was there for the taking.

I have been instructed to henceforth keep the screen door firmly shut.

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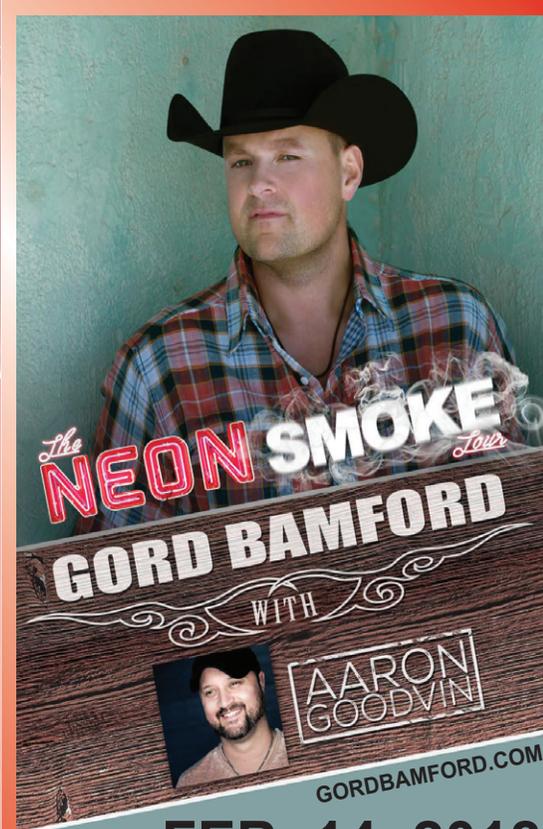
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Safe sober site for youth stepping toward approval

POLICE

By Doug Dlaczuk - TB Source

An alternative care facility designed to assist intoxicated youth is one more step closer to opening its doors.

During the Thunder Bay Police Services Board meeting last Tuesday, member Joe Virdiramo provided an update on the progress of the initiative known as a safe sober site.

The safe sober site was one of the recommendations from the inquest into the deaths of seven Indigenous youth that called for the city of Thunder Bay to consult with various health care services to develop an alternative facility for intoxicated youth, including remote First Nation students who cannot return home until their intoxication level has subsided.

"We've been holding a number of meetings now for the past few months," Virdiramo said. "We are continuing to work on the plan and hopefully it will be submitted and approved by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the youth who need the assistance will get the assistance."

The facility will be designed to assist youth under the age of 25 who may be intoxicated or struggling with substance abuse issues and have nowhere else to turn.

"There are staff there that are trained to deal with intoxicated youth or youth with substance use and there is counselling and medical services," Virdiramo said. "All the services mentioned will be there so they can get the proper treatment and assistance they need."

Youth may be transported to the facility by police, EMS, or come in on their own. Virdiramo said no youth in the city will be turned away.

The final location of the facility has not been determined yet, but Virdiramo said it will be located near the Grandview Lodge and Kah Ni Chi Hih.

Meetings with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care are scheduled for next week. Virdiramo added he cannot say for certain when the facility is expected to open, but he hopes it will be very soon.

"There are other facilities in Thunder Bay, however, this is mainly to deal with their commendations from the inquest and we are hoping it will come to pass," Virdiramo said. "It's a service that is really needed and required for our city."



NEARER: Joe Virdiramo says an alternative detox facility is getting closer to reality.



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TB Life



DOUG DIACZUK

EARLY START: Paramedic, Gavin Barrett, said he's already working on recruiting his two-year-old son, Cullen, as a paramedic.

Emergency services seeking new recruits

THUNDER BAY
By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Growing up in Nigeria, Miles Orakwlu always looked up to his grandfather who served as a police officer. Now living in Thunder Bay, Orakwlu wants to follow in his grandfather's footsteps.

"I heard a lot of stories about him," he said. "There were a lot of kids whose lives he influenced with his personality. I believe I do have a little bit of him in me. I just want to give good examples to young kids on what life in general should be."

Orakwlu attended the Public Safety, Security, and Health Recruitment Expo on Saturday, to learn more about the opportunities that exist in fields related to serving the public.

"Information is power," Orakwlu said. "This is a place where you get a lot of that. I believe if you want to get into any career, this is where to come and find information and guide you to the goal."

The recruitment expo is in its second year and Jennifer Roukkula, chair of the organizing committee for the expo, said in the past, many of the organizations participating were hitting the same career fairs and attracting the same candidates.

"It was an opportunity to bring all of us together in one place for the public for a specialized career fair for people looking for employment in our specific professions," she said.

The two day expo included 24 organizations from various fields, including emergency services, policing, youth justice, EMS, fire, Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

According to Roukkula, recruitment is up in the region, however, many careers in these fields are often overlooked.

"Our process tends to be a little bit longer than other

recruitment processes because of the steps involved," she said. "I think often times people don't think about a lot of our professions necessarily. One of the goals of this is to enhance the public profile of some of the things that happen behind the scenes to keep our community safe."

Gavin Barrett has been a paramedic for the past six years and he said he has seen an increase in the number of people signing up for the job, including more women.

"It's pretty diverse," he said. "I've been there for six years and over that time you see an even split between men and women."

Barrett said working as a paramedic has been very rewarding and he recommends anyone interested in making a difference to look at it as a possible career choice.

"You get to go home and know you made a little bit of a difference sometimes or a big difference other times," he said. "You're not stuck in a cubicle, you're moving around all the time and we have a great crew of people."

It does take a special kind of person to work in the fields of public safety, security, and health, Roukkula said, primarily people who have a strong sense of self and maturity.

"We have people with good communication skills, people who are adaptable to always changing situations, and in all of these professions, that is the kind of people we need," she said. "People who are able to respond rather than react in situations but also have that ability to rely on their training when they need to."

Orakwlu believes he is that kind of person, and building on what he has learned from his grandfather, he wants give back to the community and help make a difference.

"Anytime a police officer comes to any situation, life changes, whether it is for good or bad," he said. "So it's better to have people who want to make things better and I think I can do that. There's a lot of give. You have to be selfless. You have to be ready to go at any given time."

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IN THE bay

arts | entertainment | culture

Broadway smash hit lands on local stage

Paramount Theatre to present Brooks' *The Producers*

THEATRE

By Linda Maehans - TB Source

Mel Brooks' fans will be grinning. Next week a new community theatre group here in the city presents *The Producers*. Time to "lol".

Ahem, a little history first. Following his film debut directing *The Producers* (1967), Mel decided to take it live-on-stage. April 2001 in NYC, the snappy choreographed musical began its run of 2,502 shows on Broadway; claimed 12 Tonys; toured internationally. In 2005 Hollywood re-released the film version. Now in 2018 *The Producers* arrives in Thunder Bay.

The storyline: a couple of shysters attempt a get-rich quick scheme by over-selling Broadway shares; sure to be a flop, they anticipate lining their pockets with hidden profits. The crooks hire a scary-looking Hitler fanatic as playwright, and a lush as director. They think their plan can't fail. Except, it does. The *Producers* is instead a smash success.

Thunder Bay Source dropped in on one of the zany rehearsals ahead of curtain-call.

Co-producers/directors Candi and Lawrence Badanai are excited; cast and crew are going over the top with this one.

"It's a really fun comedy," chuckled Lawrence. "It's light; you can forget your worries as you follow the checkered path of the two con-men out to bilk unsuspecting old ladies of their savings; then take the money and run."

Gee, didn't Steve Miller Band have a chart topper 'bout something similar?

"Technically it's a tricky show to pull together," continued Lawrence, "all the dancing and whatnot. But the tongue-in-cheek humour, some of it verging on political incorrectness fits well, I think, with this day and age.



OPENING SOON: Roger De Bris (played by Spencer Harl) and Carmen Ghla (played by Justin O'Brien), rehearse for the upcoming production of *The Producers*.

Reading through the script we soon realised that some of today's world leaders can sometimes be acting like a Hitler. The original script hasn't changed. So *The Producers* of 2018 might be even more relevant than when the show first opened on Broadway."

Kirk Maurer plays "the playwright". In character I met Franz Liebkind of the exaggerated German accent and fervent eyes. "Zis iss ferry X-itink! Brrod-vay hass all-vayss bin in my drreems! Und now, to be able to prroduus zis play I haff ritten," the pupils of his eyes grew larger, "finally I haff chanz to tell reel story of our beloved führer! A side not many are knowing. Mein chanz to kleeer hiss name, und on Broadway, too! Jah, iss gut!" At this point Herr Liebkind looked near swooning.

This time Thunder Bay's Spencer

Hari (Khashoggi in *We Will Rock You: the Musical* by Queen) morphs into Roger DeBris, director. Tropical shirt and big shades aside, clearly this fop is inebriated. "Oh! I'm over the moon and back down to earth twice over," gushes DeBris. "I haven't been on a stage this big in at least seven months." He leans in conspiratorially. "Refreshed to be back. My people have missed me, yes they have." A slight snuffle. "Happy ending to all this serious work? My dear, no way anything can go wrong. I mean," a flutter of eyelids, "they've got the best of the best. Frankly, some actors comin' through our doors have impressed me to no end. I predict this is going to be", a hiccup, "truly historical!"

The Producers: at Paramount on Court; Feb.7 to 10; again Feb.14-17. call 344-4080; tickets also at the door.

IN THE bay

Separation from son leads to book

BOOKS
By Doug Dlaczuk -TB Source

After his son was moved half a world away at the age of eight, Rob Kozak didn't know how his story of fatherhood would end.

"When I was living it, that ending, I wasn't sure if it was a cliff or a valley or what was ahead, what was at the end of the road for me," Kozak said.

Now, 18 years later, the journey to an ending that is still unfolding is recounted in Kozak's new book, *Finding Fatherhood: Lessons Learned from Separation*.

Published last November, *Finding Fatherhood* was compiled with journals Kozak kept after his eight-year-old son, Bobby, moved to Australia with his mother.

"I had to figure out a way to keep that relationship alive," Kozak said. "And *Finding Fatherhood* is about how I did that over the course of six

years while he was away."

Keeping the relationship with his son strong despite such a great distance between them was a challenge, but Kozak recalled when he said goodbye to his son the last time he was in Canada, he made a promise to see him again in the next 15 months.

Plan interrupted

"I had that goal and I made that promise to my son and I was going to follow through on that," he said. "I just had to keep myself motivated."

However, a month after saying goodbye, Kozak was in a car accident. The brush with death only motivated him more to keep the relationship with his son as strong as he could.

"I focused on that and it gave me renewed purpose," he said. "I started the journal and *Finding Fatherhood* is some of the lessons I raised to myself for ways I can be a better dad."

The journals written during that time were boxed up for 10 years and it wasn't until Kozak started a new family and raising a two-year-old son that he decided to return to those journals and relive some of the lessons he learned about being a father.

"Once I started raising him, this fatherhood part two, I thought I had learned some things in part one that I wanted to share and I opened up those boxes," Kozak said. "Now I'm ready to share those lessons. They made sense to me back then and I know those lessons still remain true today."

Travel story

Finding Fatherhood is part memoir, part Australian adventure as Kozak recounts visiting his son during his summer holidays on the other side of the world.

Kozak said he hopes people who read the book will take away the lesson that there are many different

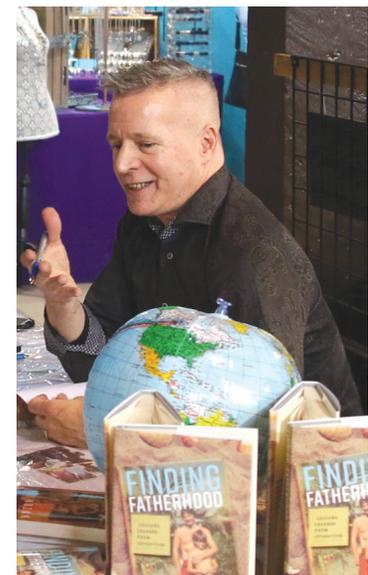
ways to handle a separation, and taking the high road is one of the most important lessons he learned, one that was also passed along to his son.

And while it was emotional and difficult recounting this period in his life, the story has a happy ending, even if the journey was a rollercoaster ride, just like life.

"By putting the book together in the last 18 months, I know the ending, I have a healthy relationship with my adult son, so that was easier," Kozak said. "But back then I didn't know the answers, so it was scary looking back and it could have come out a different way. But at the end of this, as difficult as it was, there is a happy ending."

Finding Fatherhood is available at bookstores and at the Friesen Press website.

Kozak will also be at the Thunder Bay Country Market the last Saturday of every month selling and signing copies of his book.



PERSONAL STORY: Author Rob Kozak wrote *Finding Fatherhood* after his eight-year-old son moved to Australia.

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IN THE bay

Dad's death on This is Us a big crock

Spoiler alert: Jack's cooked up ending

Dear Crock Pot: Like many viewers of ABC's *This Is Us*, I've been waiting nearly two seasons to find out how television's most beloved father died.

Knowing he was gone wasn't enough. Learning there was a fire didn't satisfy me either. I needed details.

I gathered clues each week as I fell more in love with Jack Pearson in all his less-than-perfect glory. I knew how he lived. I knew his sacrifices, his failures and his hard-fought comebacks.

I also learned how his passing continues to affect his children in different ways. There's guilt, addiction, the shunning of all things canine, and a general neuroses regarding time.

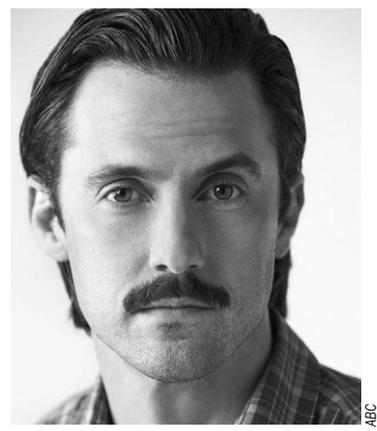


Like many viewers, I originally assumed his death was caused by his drinking. Then I thought he'd had a car accident. Next, I considered a heart attack. Recently, I even toyed with the idea of a puppy mauling incident.

And then last week, I found out the truth: You did this.

You and a vat of chili.

How dare you lull an entire generation – who like to see their food simmering on the counter for hours on



GONE: Milo Ventimiglia portrays Jack Pearson on ABC's *This Is Us*.

end – into a false sense of security?! Sure, I never fully trusted the "leave it on while you go to work or to bed" philosophy that others followed. But I still hoped.

And Jack turned you off before bed. "Off." Not "Down." Not on "Low." "Off." And still you came back to attack his home like a deranged appliance from the depths of Hell. Or a scene out of Maximum Overdrive.

And on Super Bowl Sunday, no less. Have you no shame?

Now, you may not have personally killed my entirely fictional television father-figure. You just set his house ablaze while the family peacefully and ignorantly slept.

I'm still awaiting the final piece of the puzzle in his death. What happened next? Apparently, it involves the son that wasn't even home and a formerly stray terrier. And you had better hope that pup wasn't directly to blame lest you risk an entire planet of dog-lovers on the warpath.

Your recent fervent apologies on social media did not begin to assuage my personal pain. And I'm not alone.

Even *This Is Us* creator, Dan Fogelman's reminders that you were over 20 years old with a bad switch and that "all those lovely hardworking crockpots" should not be lumped together did little to calm viewer hysteria.

Nor did promoting Crock Pot's continued safety standards that would make such a freak incident back in 1998 unlikely today. Because it did happen, my friend.

So don't be surprised that viewers are now vowing to toss their slow-cookers in solidarity. As we move toward our own Super Bowl Sunday, you may soon find many of your brethren out in the cold.

Chilies, soups, stews, ribs, chickens, pot roasts and even an oversized nacho dip may have to find a new place in which to simmer.

Because the Pearsons' faith in you was, apparently, a crock.

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Sudoku

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

WORD SEARCH

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

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|---------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Aback | Choir | Indoor | Nightmarish |
| Abolition | Cider | Influx | Oddly |
| Avail | Clerk | Irony | Ordeal |
| Bayou | Dingy | Itchy | Reverses |
| Begun | Drone | Lapels | Robot |
| Borne | Dumbs | Lines | Slash |
| Bowed | Enable | Madam | Soared |
| Breakthroughs | Epoch | Makeup | Uphold |
| Bumper | Forbore | Nasty | Width |
| Canvasses | Hoard | Nervous | Yarns |

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

"QT GFM RFMSNI'P RDQPC QP LIN
UQBI QP, NFI'P ULG QP."
— CLDS RQSUF I

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ### ACROSS
- 1 Bachelor of Hebrew Letters (abbr.)
 - 4 Small lake
 - 8 Down (pref.)
 - 12 Poem
 - 13 Mrs. (Ger.)
 - 14 Slugger's stats
 - 15 Doing business as (abbr.)
 - 16 Cavalier
 - 18 Gumbo
 - 20 Yeomanry (abbr.)
 - 21 Abundant supply
 - 25 Garishness
 - 29 College organization
 - 33 In another manner
 - 34 Former name of Tokyo
 - 35 Remains of what is burned
 - 37 A (Ger.)
 - 38 Back

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- ### DOWN
- 1 Seaport in W. Norway
 - 2 Handbook
 - 40 Wanted (2 words)
 - 42 Balinese spear dance
 - 44 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
 - 45 Electroencephalogram (abbr.)
 - 47 Fine
 - 51 At the same time
 - 57 Sleep state (abbr.)
 - 58 World's first auto in 1885
 - 59 Heb. measure
 - 60 Lyric poem
 - 61 Caucasian language
 - 62 Muslim ship's captain
 - 63 New (Ger.)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21	22	23	24		25		26	27	28
29	30	31					32		33			
34				35				36		37		
38			39		40				41			
42				43		44						
			45		46				47	48	49	50
51	52	53			54	55	56		57			
58					59					60		
61					62					63		

- 9 Antiballistic missile (abbr.)
- 10 Aunt (Sp.)
- 11 Army service number (abbr.)
- 17 Side of triangle
- 19 Love (Lat.)
- 22 Individual retirement acct. (abbr.)
- 23 Unless, in law
- 24 People (pref.)
- 26 Lower intestine
- 27 Chin, dynasty
- 28 Parsi scripture
- 29 Slav
- 30 Concert halls
- 31 Cry loudly
- 32 Old name of Tokyo
- 36 Selected (abbr.)
- 39 Wagner opera
- 41 Bub
- 43 Seed
- 46 Jordan valley
- 48 Hard
- 49 Give
- 50 Flightless bird
- 51 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
- 52 Shak.
- 53 As well as
- 54 Girl's name
- 55 Decoration
- 56 Bitter vetch

Sports

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Lang off to Olympics

Local curling legend will help coach Team Canada squad

OLYMPICS

By Leith Dunick - TBSOURCE

Rick Lang knows a thing or two about winning on the international stage.

A two-time world curling champion, the 64-year-old Thunder Bay native will bring decades of experience to Pyeongchang, South Korea, where Alberta's Kevin Koe will be gunning for Canada's fourth straight Olympic men's curling gold medal.

Lang, who also won a pair of Brier championships during his storied career, is part of Team Canada's coaching staff at the 2018 Olympic Games, and while Koe – a two-time world champion with three Tim Hortons Brier titles under his belt – won't necessarily be looking for on ice guidance when the curling competition gets under way on Valentine's Day, Lang believes he can play a role with the heavily favoured Canadian squad.

First-hand look

Lang traveled to South Korea last year to scout out the facilities and said the moment the Koe rink walked off the ice at the Olympic Trials in Ottawa, a plan was put in place to prepare the team for the rigors of an Olympic competition.

"We've had the information for a long time. They've only had it for about six weeks," Lang said.

The team leaves on Friday for Japan, where it will conduct a mini training camp, helping curlers and coaches get acclimated to a different time zone and culture.

It's important to get the focus on the event itself, away from the distraction of family, friends and the relentless Canadian media.

In Canada, Olympic fans expect no less than gold.

But the competition is as stiff as it's ever been and Koe, lead Ben Hebert, second Brent Laing and third Marc Kennedy will have to earn their way to the podium.

The pressure is already on, Lang said.

"There's no hiding the fact that we're ranked No. 1 in the world in men's and women's curling. On the



GOING TO THE GAMES: Rick Lang will make his second straight trip to the Olympics.

men's team, there are two guys on our team, Marc Kennedy and Ben Hebert, who have been there before," Lang said.

"They said they really thought there were two or three teams they had to contend with eight years ago in Vancouver. Now there are six or seven on the men's side."

If Koe and company are not on top of their game, the chances of medalling are slim.

"We don't pretend otherwise. I think they relish the fact and always take the attitude that if you're favoured, it means that maybe you're the best and if you go out there and play

your game you've got a good chance of winning a medal," said Lang, adding he'll be there to lean on and discuss strategy should Koe be looking for advice during the Games. Lang, who walked with Team

Canada during the opening ceremonies four years ago in Russia, said he's not sure if he'll get that opportunity in 2018, but he's crossing his fingers there's room.

Spare time

Outside of the curling, he's looking forward to taking in some of the other sports, including long-track figure skating and, of course, hockey, where Thunder Bay's Haley Irwin will be seeking a third straight Olympic medal.

"You don't get to see a lot of tourist things, but I'm a lifelong sports fanatic. Anything sports I've watched on TV since I was a kid and I just love games and sports and athletics. To be a part of the biggest show on Earth, with the greatest athletes in the world, it's a phenomenal experience being at the Olympics," Lang said.

Former teammate and skip Al Hackner will coach the U.S. team.

The Olympic Games are scheduled to begin on Feb. 8.



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sports NEWS

Double win for Hackner

CURLING

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Al Hackner should stay away more often. With the former two-time world champion skip and his lead Gary Champagne tending to the Northern Ontario squad at the Canadian senior men's curling championship in Sault Ste. Marie, Trevor Bonot grabbed spares Kory Carr and Dylan Johnston from the sidelines to join team regular Jamie Childs and outlasted Gary Weiss in Saturday's final to capture a second straight Tbaytel Men's Major League of Curling championship.

Bonot, who knocked out Mike Pozihun's squad in Saturday's semifinal, took the match 6-4 when Weiss's draw to the four-foot to the rings sailed through the house in the eighth end, the steal of two completing a late match comeback that saw the winning side score two with the hammer in the seventh to tie the finale 4-4.

Sometimes you just happen to catch a break, said Bonot, who last year led Canada to a silver medal at the World Mixed Curling Championship in Switzerland.

"Anything can happen in a one-end game," said Bonot, admitting once he fell behind by two in the sixth the goal was to find a way to get them right back in the seventh and take his chances without the hammer in eight.

Weiss was disappointed, but said he'll use the playoff run as a warm-up for the Northern Ontario men's provincial play-downs, which begin on Feb. 7 in Little Current.

"There's never really a good way to lose, is there?" the 44-year-old asked.

"That's curling. It comes down to a millimeter here, an inch there. You throw how many rocks a game and it always seems to come down to that last rock. We like to make them more than we don't, but sometimes this happens. It's unfortunate."

Bonot struck first, stealing a pair in the opening end at the Port Arthur Curling Club.

Weiss, who tied Mike McCarville at 10-3 atop the Major League of Curling round-robin standings, had a chance to set up a deuce of his own in the third, but was heavy in his attempt to split the rings - a sign of things to come - and settled for a second straight blank end. He got one back in the fourth, then stole three more in



COMEBACK WIN: Trevor Bonot bested Gary Weiss 6-4.

the sixth to jump in from 4-2.

"That's typically our style, especially when Kory and I play together, is to kind of get that deuce and try to maintain it and control the game," said Bonot, who earned his first Major League of Curling title. "In six we just had a couple of unfortunate misses and got caught on some tricky ice that shifted momentum a little bit.

"But then we kept it cool and made our shots in seven and tied it up."

Missed opportunities were the story of the front end shots in the eighth, but Bonot managed to partially clog up the rings with a pair of stones, one at the top of the 12-foot, one on the left side, back-eight, with a guard for partial cover.

Weiss, whose team includes Deron Sukar, Aaron Rogalski and Mark Beazley, went for the draw, but had too much on it, handing a sixth championship to Hackner since 1980, when he won his first.

Hackner captured the Northern Ontario senior men's championship on Sunday.

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sports NEWS

Lions blank T-Wolves, claim series sweep

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

For 13 seasons, the Lakehead Thunderwolves absolutely owned the York Lions.

It's been an entirely different story over the past three-and-a-half campaigns.

Since their second meeting of 2014-15, the Lions had rolled off nine straight wins over their OUA West rival, a streak that hit 10 on Saturday night thanks to a pair of shorthanded goals and a 38-save shutout performance by York goalie Mack Shields at Fort William Gardens.

The loss was Lakehead's sixth straight, a slump players and coach Bill McDonald are desperate to end in a hurry, knowing the task doesn't get any easier next weekend when they hit the road for a trio of games against Ryerson, Windsor and the red-hot Western

Mustangs.

McDonald was not thrilled with the penalty kill.

"It was terrible," he said.

"One of them was probably a bad break, but the other one was a bad decision on our part. We lost the draw clean, we didn't battle for the puck and they rimmed the puck. It was a planned play and (Jake Ringuette) got caught on his wrong side with his stick. Goals like that in a game like this kills you."

Morgan Messenger broke free down the left side from his own blue-line and fired it past Lakehead goalie Devin Green to make it 2-0 Lions with 18 seconds left in the first.

Jackman made it 3-0 Lions with 4:16 to go in the second, connecting on a 2-

on-0 shorthanded break.

"It was just a couple of bad reads on the blue-line," said Lakehead captain Dillon Donnelly. "Those are definitely things that cost us. I thought our effort level was there tonight, it was just a couple of mental mistakes that cost us."

The T-Wolves had more than their fair share of chances to break through on Shields, who withstood every barrage he faced.

Dylan Butler had a pair of back-to-back chances standing on the doorstep in the second, but skated away empty; ditto for Jonathon Masters just past the midway point of the period.

No Thunderwolves player came closer than Daniel Del Paggio, who found himself on a shorthanded breakaway with seven minutes to go in the second

and faked out Shields, only to have the puck ring off the corner of the post.

Josh LaFrance scored the game's first goal, his 10th of the season coming 5:10 after the opening puck drop. Alex Mowbray closed out the scoring with one second left in the third and Devin Green on the bench for an extra attacker.

Green stopped 15 of 19 shots he faced in taking the loss, dropping his record to 5-6, the seventh-place Thunderwolves falling to 10-9-4, just two points up on eighth-place Windsor and five up on Toronto and Waterloo, tied for ninth with 19 points. The top eight teams make the OUA post-season.

"It's crunch time," Donnelly said. "All the teams are feeling the same heat in that bottom four. It's all tight. It's just about putting our nose to the grindstone and coming to work."

It was Shields' third shutout of 2017-18 for the Lions (16-8-1).



SIX-GAME SLUMP: Lakehead captain Dillon Donnelly skates on Saturday night.

"It was just a couple of bad reads on the blue-line."

DILLON DONNELLY



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64. Craft & Flea Markets
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6	9	7	3	1	5	4	8	2
2	3	5	4	9	8	6	1	7
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5	2	4	7	6	3	8	9	1
4	1	9	5	8	6	7	2	3
3	5	6	1	7	2	9	4	8
7	8	2	9	3	4	1	5	6



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