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INSIDE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## Snow days

Winter Carnival attracts huge crowds to Fort William Historical Park /11





**Art Gallery project gets** \$200K boost /10



**T-Wolves hit post-season** on four-game streak / 16





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## Fiddler invited to speak in Australia

## THUNDER BAY By Matt Vis - TB Source

Though nearly a full world apart, Alvin Fiddler sees similarities between Indigenous peoples in Canada and Australia.

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation grand chief is travelling Down Under this week, accepting an invitation to be a keynote speaker at the second National Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum in Perth.

"We just want to share our experiences with them and let them know that no matter here you are in the world, there are people who share a similar history and similar experience," Fiddler said last week while preparing for the 36-hour flight.

"Some of the things we're doing here at NAN, I want to be able to share that with them in the hopes they can learn something from what we're doing here and at the same time I know they're doing a lot of work there."

There are efforts in both countries to emphasize getting youth back to the land and reconnecting with their traditional culture, Fiddler added.

Both Canada and Australia's Indigenous populations share disproportionate rates of incarceration and children in the child welfare system, along with high rates of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and mental health challenges.

Both nations have similarly dark chapters in their past, with Canada's residential school system nearly mirrored by a century-long practice of Australian Indigenous children being removed from their families, a practice that later became known as the Stolen Generations.

"We share almost the same history," Fiddler said. "The colonizer

acts the same way. A lot of times that involves trying to extinguish their language, culture and even their existence."

Fiddler's address will focus on the suicide crisis in NAN's communities, where he estimated 500 people have taken their own lives since 1986. The presentation will highlight the causes to poor mental health, developing long-term strategies to address the root causes, discussing the government's role and looking at future initiatives to better deliver effective services on the ground.

"What's different about the suicide epidemic (Australia is) facing is that the average age over there is 30 to 35, where for NAN it's much younger and it's getting more and more younger," Fiddler said. "Over the recent years our average age for people that we've lost to suicide is around 17 or 18."



HEADED DOWN UNDER: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.



## Men over 30 Testosterone declining?

Testosterone levels in men begin to diminish around age 30. In fact, by the time men are 60 years old, they typically produce 60% less testosterone than they did at age 20 (a man's sexual peak).

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Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -5 LOW -8

**FRIDAY** 

Weather Forecast

**Light snow** 

Probability of Precipitation: 90% HIGH -1 LOW -12



**Mainly sunny** 

Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -3 LOW -7

### **SUNDAY**



Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -2 LOW -10



**Probability of Precipitation: 20%** 

HIGH -4 LOW -10



**Mainly sunny** 

Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -3 LOW -10

MURDER CHARGE UPHELD: Nicholas Necan leaves the courthouse during his murder trial.

## **Necan found guilty**

## Jury returns conviction in 2016 death of George Gerard

By Matt VIs - TB Source

jury has found Nicholas Necan guilty of murder in the January 2016 beating death of George Gerard, despite the defence lawyer's insistence that Necan was too drunk at the time of the incident to have intent to kill.

Necan was convicted of seconddegree murder at the Thunder Bay Courthouse on Friday morning, with the jury coming to their verdict less than two hours after resuming deliberations that began the previous afternoon. A conviction of seconddegree murder results in an automatic life sentence, though Superior Court Justice John Fregeau will determine the period of parole ineligibility.

The 60-year-old Gerard was fatally assaulted during an altercation inside his unit at the Casablanca Apartments on North Simpson Street on the afternoon of Jan. 28, 2016.

First responding police officers testified they entered the apartment to find Necan attacking a prone Gerard with a wooden board, with the use of pepper spray required to stop the assailant.

During the trial, forensic pathologist Kona Williams had told the court that Gerard's cause of death was a combination of blunt force injures to the head, face and neck, the resulting aspiration of blood, as well as alcohol intoxication and high blood

Williams testified Gerard had 90 separate injuries to his head, face and neck areas, including fractures to his left and right cheekbones, multiple breaks to his nose, a fractured jaw and multiple fractures to his left eye socket. Gerard also sustained multiple fractures to his larynx, which Williams said could have affected his ability to breathe.

There were also multiple injuries to Gerard's arms and hands, including a broken elbow, that Williams characterized as likely defensive injuries.

Forensic scientist Tara Brutzki told the court that Gerard's blood had been found on Necan's hands as well as a shirt worn by the defendant at the time of his arrest.

Defence lawyer Neil McCartney during his closing arguments acknowledged to the court that Necan caused Gerard's death, but argued the attack was the result of a "frenzied out of control rampage" largely caused by Necan being significantly intoxicated.

Crown prosecutor Gordon Fillmore had countered that the beating had been continuing on and off for an hour, speculating that the reason for the extended duration was that the victim was still breathing.

Gerard had been pronounced dead shortly after being taken to hospital.

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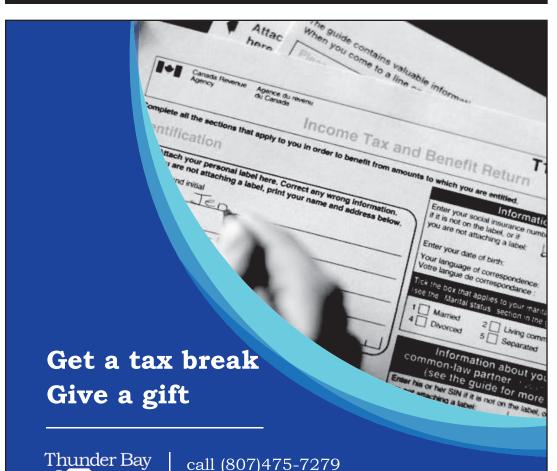
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## LOCALNEWS



WANT CHANGE: Lakehead University's Bora Laskin School of Law students protest the jury system.

# Students march, support Boushie

"I don't think

**Canadians** 

have access

to a true jury

of their

peers."

**DANIEL COX** 

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Daniel Cox is standing up for Colten Boushie.

The first-year student at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law last Wednesday took part in a march through Thunder Bay's north-side downtown core.

"We're hoping to basically start a conversation. We want people to be talking about these things, having the uncomfortable conversations, talking with people who they work with, people they share their lives with," Cox said.

This issue is not going to go away, he added

The 22-year-old Boushie was shot and killed in August 2016 after he and some friends trespassed on property owned by Saskatchewan farmer Grant Stanley.

Stanley was acquitted last week by a jury that appeared to be all-white in its makeup, drawing criticism from Boushie's family, Indigenous people across Canada and many of the country's politicians, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Calls have also come from the legal community for an overhaul of the jury selection process to be more inclusive and representative of everyone involved in a case.

"I don't think Canadians have access to a true jury of their peers, so long as Indigenous people are not on those juries," Cox said.

"I think the justice system is missing out on a valuable perspective, as well."

Sydney Maracle, a member of the Mohawk Nation who grew up in the Belleville, Ont.

area, said a huge injustice was done against Indigenous people and she wants to see it righted

"There should be an appeal and it should never should have happened," she said. "And I really feel and reach out with condolences to the community and his family with what has happened to (Colten)."

Maracle said awareness of the issue needs to come to light, both in Thunder Bay and across Canada, to ensure the necessary changes are made.

"This is a fight that we need to continue to do and this is a huge injustice that has been done," she said, calling for an inquiry into

more inclusive jury selection processes.

Fellow first-year student Elizabeth Green, who is non-Indigenous, said she marched to show solidarity to the Boushie family and other Indigenous students at the law school.

"I just think that this trial shines some light on the inherent problems in the Canadian judicial system, specifically with Indigenous cases," Green said.

"Statistically speaking it's quite

obvious that the Indigenous people are overrepresented in the prison system, but yet they're under-represented in all other areas of the judicial system, namely juries. I feel there should have been some Indigenous representation in the jury selection and on the jury."

Cox said students at the law school have drafted a statement calling for jury reform for the student body to sign, which in turn will be sent to both the prime minister's and justice minister's office.

## College deficit could soar to \$11M in '19

Bill 148 will add significantly to cost of running school

**EDUCATION** By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Confederation College president Jim Madder says implementing Bill 148 will have a huge impact on the school's budget.

In a memo sent to staff outlining a task group being formed to study ways to offset the cost, school officials estimate they could be facing a deficit of between \$9 million and \$11 million if the province can't provide more funding to make up the difference.

Options include cancelling programs, closing campuses and possible layoffs.

"We're looking at everything," Madder said. "Could it mean those

things? Absolutely. As a former vice-president of academics, I'd love to keep our programs, but if we don't get funding from the government to cover that deficit, we're going to lose services.

"We could easily lose campuses and we could easily lose programs."

Bill 148, which has received royal assent in the Ontario casted shortfall.



**CONCERNED: Confederation College** president Jim Madder.

legislature, is better known as the Fair Workplace, Better Jobs Act.

The new law, which came into

effect on Jan. 1, is best known for raising the minimum wage to \$14 an hour, with a scheduled increase to \$15 an hour to begin 2019. Lesser understood is requirements for equal pay for part-time, casual, temporary and seasonal employees.

Madder said this is the main cause of the fore-

"We're

looking at

everying."

JIM MADDER

"Because we are small, we have a significant number of part-time people who actually are paid a lower scale than full-time people. We can't do that anymore, according to Bill 148," Madder

"It would almost double the compensation for the people who are part-time. That's wonderful. In fact I love the idea of paying people more. The problem is we don't have the revenues to do that."

This alone is an \$8-million increase in expenditures, Madder explained.

"It's huge," he said.

The task force, which reports to the school president, began meeting on Jan. 12.

The memo presents three reduction scenarios - \$9 million if the province contributes nothing, \$6 million if they get 50 per cent additional funding for Bill 148 costs and \$3 million if the province gives them 100 per cent more.

Key steps include assessing the impacts of any changes, followed by recommendations to the board of governors.

If the first two scenarios play out, the memo says it will take a multiyear plan to right the ship.

Madder added the province must realize the economics of running a college in Ontario's north are vastly different than in other parts of





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## **Editorial**

**EDITORIAL** 

## **Politicians** pledge help

seems Northern Ontario is finally being listened to by those seeking to run the province.

Caroline Mulroney, in the hunt for the Progressive Conservative party leadership, has pledged to double the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation budget if she wins the race and is subsequently elected premier of the province.

Supporters of former leaders Patrick Brown last Friday made the same pledge, promising to increase the budget from \$100 million to \$200 million.

According to a release issued by his MPP backers, Brown's plan would remove the \$5-million spending cap and set aside \$25 million for community development in remote communities.

Hopefully the province's other parties, the Liberals, NDP and Greens, will see fit to follow suit and include similar promises in their platforms.

Ontario's North is at a turning point. For the past decade the Ring of Fire has been the economic carrot dangled in front of voters. Not much has happened, unfortunately.

The NOHFC is a job creator. While it doesn't always get it right, it's an economic driver that has helped companies like Thunder Bay's Gridlink and Sail Superior get off the ground and foster research at Lakehead University.

The North has challenges that differ greatly from our neighbours to the south, and NOHFC can be a huge difference-maker.

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## **Budget chair response**

To the editor:

n response to the editorial of the Feb. 8, 2018 in Thunder Bay

Thank you for providing an opportunity to respond to your editorial of Feb. 8, 2018 "Levy hike rings false" where you correctly identified administration recommendation on the use of reserves but did not provide any of the contexts on which the final decision was made.

The background information that puts the whole question in perspective was provided and kindly published on your editorial page of the Feb. 1, 2018 Thunder Bay Source "Budget Streamlined."

In that article, I provided the background and the reasons why the city started a three-year budget process along with ongoing operational reviews and efficiencies that generated savings and budget surpluses of \$2.4 million and \$2.8 million for two years in a row.

Contrary to your assertion that the reduction in the tax levy through the use of surpluses was motivated by an election year, a similar motion in the 2017 budget (a non-election year), was lost on a tie vote.

These surpluses were accomplished while we replenished the reserves that you correctly identified as having been depleted between 2012-2014 due to extreme weather and other uncontrollable events like insurance and policing.

In fact, the rate stabilization fund was down to \$2.5 million just a few years ago and it was sitting at over \$10.5 million at the beginning of the 2018 budget process.

Another option that was discussed at length during a healthy debate on the last budget meeting of Jan. 31, 2018 was the need to invest some of the surplus to enhance our roads budget instead of reducing taxes.

The case being made and which the majority of council did not support, was that we are falling behind in our investment in roads, totally neglecting to mention the substantial investment made over the last few years in infrastructure like the storm sewers in Northwood that were done one year ahead of schedule, and especially in preventive road maintenance.

For example, more training and blades for ice conditions like those experienced in the winter of 2016 and over \$400,000 extra per year in fixing utility cuts and cracks in the roads on a permanent basis.

There are many more but the most obvious one is the recent acquisition of a pothole machine that is already allowing the city's to fix potholes even in the winter which will make our roads last longer while enhancing the safety of our workers

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



who previously needed a diesel truck behind a three-person manual operation and cold mix that would not last.

With industry best practices in lifecycle road maintenance showing that \$1 invested in maintenance will save \$5 in rehabilitation and \$10 in reconstruction, such investments are already bearing fruits with a 2017 report ranking 67 per cent of our roads in the good or very good category, while the provincial average is at 50 per cent.

Since the majority of the 2017 surplus of \$2.8 million is actually going into reserves, I can only assume that if council and administration had not been diligent enough to find such savings, and increased taxes accordingly, then we would not be seeing such editorials or arguments being made?

This was a fair and equitable budget with additions in services where needed the most while maintaining an average tax increase of around 2.5 per cent for the last 10

As for projected tax increases next year, it is still early in the year and we will stay the course in finding additional savings, with the expectation that whoever is on council next year, will continue to provide the citizens of Thunder Bay the same type of fiscal responsibility.

Frank Pullia, Councillor at Large for the City of Thunder Bay

## **Above inflation rate**

To the editor:

hy are Thunder Bay councillors patting themselves on the back for passing yet another budget with spending above the rate of inflation while drawing down on dangerously low reserve funds?

Coun. Frank Pullia twists himself into knots trying to justify council's decision to divert money intended for a reserve fund. (In response to "Levy hike rings false.")

Council ignored the advice of city hall managers who've describe the state of reserve funds as "risky." Our debt-to-reserve-fund ratio is completely out of whack. We've got two dollars of debt for every dollar in reserves.

That's twice as much debt as is

The fact is that in an election year, council saw the political danger in a tax levy increase well above three per cent.

So they dipped into reserve funds to the tune of \$4.4 million to make the tax levy more politically palatable to a fed up electorate.

Councillors don't mention that a good chunk of the spending in the budget is underwritten by a \$17 million donation squeezed from Tbaytel which is now forced to borrow money for its own budget.

Instead, councillors tout what great shape the city is in financially because the credit rating has gone

They don't mention that's largely because of Tbaytel and all the cash it generates.

If we don't eventually want to be forced to sell Tbaytel we have to do a far better job of bringing city costs under control.

Coun. Pullia boasts of the surpluses in recent budgets, the result of "ongoing operational reviews and efficiencies".

Mostly that's code for putting off construction projects to the next decade, such as finishing Balmoral Street.

Finally, there's one bit of context I'd like to add to the debate over whether it was prudent to not build up our reserves as much as possible.

In the latest audited financial statement of the city, the municipality had to de-recognize \$24 million.

That's how much money the city will be out if it loses a lawsuit against its insurance company over the catastrophic damage to the sewage treatment plant in 2012.

The city is suing its insurer after the company refused to pay the full costs of refurbishing the treatment

If we lose in court, how are we to come up with \$24 million? A huge tax increase? Or would it have been more prudent to start putting away money now?

> Shane Judge, Thunder Bay

## **Bunch of bananas**

## Being kind to others increases one's life expectancy

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

People sometimes ask me how I come up with my ideas.

Mostly I just open my eyes and then watch and learn until something interesting comes my way.

For example, I came up with this idea after a series of events over the past month or so here's what happened.

I gave a guy a bunch of bananas in the gym parking lot the other day and I've been thinking about it ever since.

They were bright yellow and ready to eat, a little green at the tips and I'm sure they would have been delicious.

The guy put the bananas in his plastic shopping bag and thanked me for the gift.

Now I am not in the habit of giving away fresh fruit to strangers in parking lots but in this case it seemed like the right thing to do.

This particular stranger had just approached me in my vehicle and he appeared to have something to tell me.

He was a pleasant-looking young man so I rolled down my window.

The first thing he said to me was, "I'm a good guy. I'm not a bad guy."

It seemed very important to this guy that I knew this about him-I believed him and I listened to his short story.

He didn't say much but he explained that he was in a bind and was trying to get some food

Without giving any details he confessed that he had been through some personal heartbreak lately - the look on his face backed it up.

I wanted to help him out - I had no cash on me so I rummaged through my one small bag of groceries.

"It feels good

to do good

and kindness

is habit-

forming."

It was slim pickings - some mineral water, a six-pack of diet coke and then, finally, a bunch of bananas at the bottom.

"How's this?" I announced victoriously as I held up the stellar bunch of yellow

He tucked it in a bag with a couple things inside and the bananas topped the

load. The nice thing was, his spirits lifted for a minute and I could see he really appreciated the help

- that made me feel even better. As I said, I kept thinking about those bananas and each time I did, I got a rush of warm feelings.

It feels good to do good and kindness is habit-forming.

It's almost like a guilty pleasure for everyone involved and there are scientific facts to explain what's happening.

Doing good deeds decreases stress and has a measurable, positive impact on blood

Being kind increases lifeexpectancy, promotes good health makes us happier (some call it a "helper's high").

Helping fellow human beings makes you feel good and makes you want to do it again.

I watched my friend as he continued his rounds and noticed three different responses.

> Some turned away and kept walking while others stopped briefly and then shrugged an apology for their inability or unwillingness to hear.

And then there were those who smiled and listened to his story before reaching into a pocket or bag to find a way to help.

This third group seemed quite happy to lend a hand some even went back to their cars to get something.

It occurs to me that in Thunder Bay, across Canada and around the world we have to decide which of these three people we want to be.

This city has plenty of parking lots with vehicles full of groceries - who would deny a hungry person something to eat?

That's how I came up with this idea - sometimes all it takes is a bunch of bananas.

## **OUT FOR A RIDE**



OUTDOOR FUN: Lisa and Ron Maggrah set out on Saturday the nearly 200-kilometre trek during the fifth Annual Sled for Eternity ride in support of Adult and Teen Challenge.

## A look back in history Grenville Ave. **Hydro Station**

S howing off new hydro-electric equipment. During the Depression Great many people complained about high hydro rates. response, the Port Arthur Utilities Commission issued rebates to its customers in 1937-38 totalling \$240,000.



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## THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

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## Valentine's Day Memorial Walk hits 10th year

THUNDER BAY
By Matt Vis - TB Source

For the past decade, Sharon Johnson has marked Valentine's Day by leading a memorial walk to honour her sister. She's the first to admit she wishes it didn't have to be this way.

"I wish we didn't have to see people get together like this," Johnson said just prior to the start of the 10th annual Valentine's Day Memorial Walk last Wednesday.

"I wish that one of these times we could get together for a gathering where we're celebrating being there for each other and supporting each other in a good way, not walking to raise awareness or because of the violence."

Twenty-six years have passed since her sister, Sandra Johnson, was found murdered along the frozen Neebing-McIntyre Floodway on the morning of Feb. 13, 1992.

About 50 people gathered at Thunder Bay city hall for the walk, which



WALKING FOR CHANGE: The 10th annual Valentine's Day Memorial Walk started on the steps of Thunder Bay's city hall last Wednesday.

proceeded north along May Street to the Heritage Building on the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition Grounds.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum, who attended the walk during the early years when there would be only about a dozen people, remembered it wasn't that long ago when the issue of violence against Indigenous women was largely kept in the dark.

"It's very encouraging that we have more and more people who are caring and that there's awareness,"

Read us online

Achneepineskum said. "I remember there were very few of us that used to come on these walks, or even have this discussion."

Johnson said she initially held the walk as a way to help her mother, who was struggling with the loss of her daughter.

As the profile of the event has grown, other people who have gone through similar experiences have sought her advice on how they can honour and remember their loved ones.

"I have met a lot more family members who are reaching out to me for help and guidance to do something similar where they come from," Johnson said.

"I've met quite a few families over just the last few months that also want to do the same thing and I'm encouraging them to just do it and if they need any help I'm here."

Achneepineskum, who was holding a sign pledging justice for Colten Boushie less than a week after a jury acquitted the farmer who admitted to shooting the Saskatchewan youth, said the memorial walk makes her think about Indigenous people who have been treated unfairly by court system, as well as families who have lost loved ones to violence.

"Those kind of circumstances continue to haunt our people," Achneepineskum said. "It's very hard for them to come to that place of healing when they have been treated so unfairly by the court system."

Charges have never been laid in the death of Sandra Johnson, though the Thunder Bay Police Service has maintained the cold case remains open and have urged anyone with information to come forward.

Johnson tries not to dwell on not having answers.

"I don't think about that part as much," Johnson said. "Over the years I haven't really thought about it. It's just something you learn to cope with and you learn to live with it."





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IN BRIEF

# Blaze damages vehicle, home

Avehicle fire has caused some damage to the exterior of a south side home.

Thunder Bay Fire and Rescue Service were called to a vehicle fire last Thursday morning that had spread to a home on the 400 block of Brock Street East.

According to a release, a passerby called 911 to report a vehicle on fire that had spread to an adjacent two-storey residential structure.

The first arriving pumper crew prevented the fire from extending into the interior of the home.

Firefighters worked to extinguish the vehicle fire and control it from spreading further into the house while other firefighters entered the home to search for any occupants.

One man was located uninjured on the second floor of the structure where he had been sleeping.

The fire caused heavy damage to the vehicle and some moderate damage to the exterior of the home.

The fire is believed to be caused by a faulty extension cord plugged into the vehicle's block heater.

## Man charged with sexual assault

• ntario Provincial Police have charged a 71-year-old Kenora man with sexual assault.

According to a release, the incident allegedly occurred in Kenora on Feb. 6

As a result of the investigation, a 71-year-old man was arrested and charged. He was held for a bail hearing on Thursday to answer to his charges.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Kenora OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or (807) 548-5534.

## Four charged following a drug bust in Kenora

our people are facing drug-related charges following multiple arrests in Kenora.

According to a release, the charges stem from an investigation conducted by the Ontario Provincial Police and the Treaty Three Police Service.

The investigation focused on methamphetamine trafficking in and around the Kenora area.

Officers seized crystal methamphetamine, hydromorphone, marijuana, Canadian currency and other drug paraphernalia items used in the trafficking of crystal methamphetamine.

The street value is estimated to be about \$30,000. As a result of the investigation three Kenora men and one Winnipeg man have been charged and held in custody pending bail.

## Two men fined \$3,500 for illegally shooting moose

wo Burlington men have been fined a combined \$3,500 for hunting offences.

Kevan Johnson pleaded guilty and was fined \$2,500 for careless use of a firearm. His hunting licence has been suspended for three years and he must complete the Ontario hunter education course before being able to apply for another licence.

Jeffrey Czuba pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,000 for possessing an illegally killed moose.

Court heard that on Oct. 28, 2017, Johnson and Czuba were inspected by conservation officers after they had harvested a bull moose. Upon further investigation, officers determined that the moose had been shot while Johnson and the moose were on the travelled portion of Kame Bypass Road, northeast of Ignace. Czuba affixed his moose game seal to the illegally killed moose.



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## Waterfront art gallery gets \$200K boost

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

he Thunder Bay Art Gallery has barely scratched the fundraising surface and they're already nearly a quarter of the way to their \$2.5-million capital campaign to build a new \$33-million waterfront facility.

The effort last Thursday got a \$200,000 boost, thanks to a donation from Tbaytel, whose president and CEO Dan Topatigh said the cultural aspect is one of the main reasons behind the publicly owned utility's decision to support the project.

"Our social giving program concentrates on everything from athletics to education to health care, but we really found this as an opportunity to look at the arts and making a contribution in a meaningful way to the community in that respect," Topatigh

"Really, when you look it as the centerpiece of the waterfront, which has really helped to redefine Thunder Bay, I think we're quite excited about the possibility."

It was one of two donations announced on Thursday, bringing the campaign total to \$600,000 before

launching the hard sell portion of it to one's lifetime, but it's not always that the public.

For now campaign organizers have been quietly knocking on corporate doors and speaking with patrons of the arts who are most likely to make a donation.

Included in the latter group are Grahame and Nancy Post, who said they were proud to support the fundraising effort because NANCY POST they believe in its importance to the community.

"Opportunities come by often in the amount of their donation remain

you have the resources, the skills or

the talent to participate," Nancy said, adding the arts have been a lifeblood to the family, including her husband's former business, The Framing Post and Art Gallery.

"This may be the kickoff, but we know there are many people who will join us in supporting the new art gallery.

The couple has asked that

John Sims, vice-chair of the capital campaign, said they're pleased with its early results.

"We have corporations that are coming on board, we have individuals who are excited about the project," Sims said. "Each time donations like this come in from the Posts and also Tbaytel, it just adds to the leverage of the public donations coming from other government levels."

The province earlier this month contributed \$5 million to the project, an amount the city has pledged to match.

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DON'T LOOK DOWN: X-Games competitor Brody Wilson does a backfilp during the stunt show, to the delight of the cheering crowd.

## **High-flying winter carnival**

The Winter Carnival at Fort William Historical Park featured some high-flying stunts

### THUNDER BAY

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

rody Vesa, just six years old, knows when something is exciting, and he didn't need the cheers of the crowd to tell him that seeing a snowmobile upside down in the air is something worth seeing again.

"It was the first time Brody saw it," said Brody's dad, Kyle. "He really enjoyed it, screaming for the backflips like everybody

Huge crowds cheered on Brody Wilson and Josh Penner, professional X-Games competitors who performed during the snowmobile stunt show, one of the highlights at this year's Winter Carnival hosted by Fort William Historical Park.

"It's awesome," Kyle Vesa said of the carnival. "We've come a couple years now. Brody is excited for the snow maze and the snow forts and some of the other stuff."

There was no shortage of activities, from tubing, skating, traditional games, sleigh rides, to just being outside on a nice, sunny

But what drew large crowds to the wharf was seeing Wilson and Penner perform gravity defying stunts on their snowmo-

"It gets your adrenaline going, it's addicting, it's exciting," said Penner, who has been competing in the X-Games for the last three years. "You like to see the smile on kid's faces. It's a rewarding feeling at the end of the show."

Wilson has only been competing in the Winter X-Games for the last couple of years. While he has more than 15 years experience jumping dirt bikes, handling the sled in the air still takes some getting used

"I have lot of experience jumping stuff, but this is all still new," he said. "So it's really exciting for me to figure it out and learn new stuff compared to the bikes."

Wilson said the way a snowmobile hits the ramp and travels through the air is very different from the smaller and lighter dirt

"It doesn't quite fly the same," he said. "A lot of the tricks do feel the same. A lot of it is similar, some is different, but it's not too hard to go back and forth once you get used to it."

Last Saturday, the temperature wasn't very cold, but the wind still picked up at times, which caused some trouble for Wilson and Penner.

"The sleds are pretty big, so it acts more like a kite compared to a dirt bike, so you feel it when it pushes you or when it's a headwind it really stops you," Penner said. "The sleds grab the wind a lot."

But despite the wind, the crowd still got to see three shows on Saturday, which included stunts, jumps, and backflips

"It was pretty wicked," Kyle Vesa said. "You could tell the wind was bothering them. I think they did good considering the conditions.

"Hopefully they get that fixed up and do an even better show for tomorrow.

But that's not all the Winter Carnival has to offer. Logan Hanninen, 8, tried firing an authentic musket last Saturday.

"It felt really good," he said. "I didn't think it would be that loud."

Logan already had a busy day, playing the snake game, making his way through the snow maze, and tubing, but he was eager to check out the X-Games down at the river.

"We are heading our way there now," he said. "I'm really looking forward do it."

"People like to see big jumps and flying through the air and flipping stuff that's not supposed to be flipped," Wilson said. "They get excited and we get excited."



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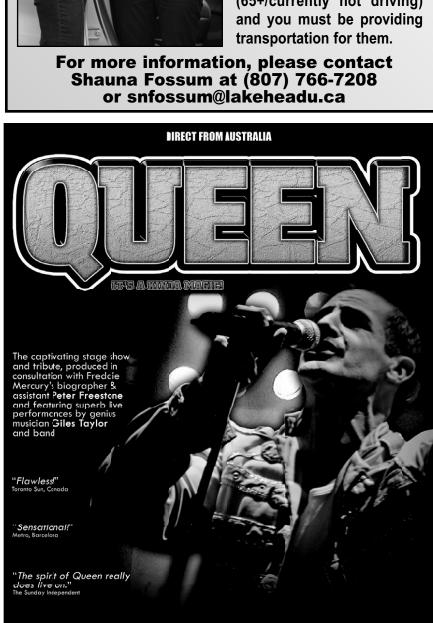
## TB Life

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HITTING THE ICE: William Seaberg takes a sharp corner during hockey drills led by members of the Thunder Bay North Stars, the Thunder Bay Fighting Walleye and the Northern Hawks last Wednesday at Fort William Gardens.

## **Practicing with Stars**

Junior players teach St. Francis students new on-ice skills

HOCKEY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

t may have looked like just another practice, but for a group of local elementary school students, there was a lot more fun being had on the ice thanks to lessons from some unique mentors.

Last Wednesday, students from St. Francis School took part in skating and skills lessons with members of the Thunder Bay North Stars and Junior B team players.

The practice was in its fourth and final week and was part of the winter elective program at the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.

"It's mainly just have fun and working their hockey skills," said North Stars assistant coach, Rob DeGagne. "I know there are a lot of hockey players in the city and just come out and have some fun. They get a lot of coaching during the week so we like to take a lighter approach and it's always good to have some older kids and



**EXTRA PRACTICE: Nolan Copetti** races up the ice during skating drills.

older players they might look up to out there with you.'

Matthew Caruso of the Fighting Walleye and Lucas Sandberg of the Northern Hawks took he kids had an drills to work on skills like skating, moving the puck up the ice, and how to handle the puck behind the net.

"Its fun, I really enjoy it," said William Seaberg, who is in Grade 6. "I'm learning passing and little tips on how to shoot better."

Most of the kids are already hockey players and the elective program provided a good opportunity to work on skills they have already been practicing.

"It's been amazing," said Grade 4 student Nolan Copetti. "I usually do stuff like this in practice, but it is super fun."

"I think they are really enjoying it," added DeGagne. "They come and are eager to go. They are quick to get their skates on and get out on the ice and they are having a good time."

And it doesn't hurt that the young players are learning skills from some of the best players in the city.

"It's pretty important," William said. "They know what they're doing."

## Old junk found on the family farm



RURAL ROOTS

wrote a while back that on one of my walks with our pooch, Baxter, back in the fall before the snow, I discovered an old, broken harrow partially buried in the ground surrounded by young trees. Obviously, it was abandoned many decades ago, just left to rot in what once was a field, now encroached upon by Ma Nature.

I had veered off the beaten track, beaten down by horse hooves, out of curiosity as to where the original boundary was located separating the field from the bush. This boundary had been established back when the land was farmed.

I had wanted to show my wife,

## Rum-running hose and a broken harrow among the items discovered while exploring

Laura, my find since she was not on that trek with me and our dog but then the snow came followed by the freezing cold. We had other things

Last week I wrote about our first snowshoe tromp of the winter that had to wait until the weather got warmer. Since that initial foray, we have down a couple more, exploring areas of our property that, as I wrote, as usually inaccessible during the non-winter months.

Even though we received a fair amount of fresh snow this past weekend, I elected that perhaps next time we snowshoe to the spot so that I could show her the piece of ancient. abandoned. machinery. She agreed.

Finding this implement reminded me of other discoveries on the land since we moved here in 2001. I didn't have to go far to stumble across the occasional old horse shoe, too large for any of our riding mounts but obviously intended for a draft specimen that might have pulled that harrow.

Where we dug and eventually put our vegetable garden, we kept on finding metal bars, hinges, more horse shoes. We figured that the barn once stood where we were finding all of this stuff.

I was snooping around the property several years ago, just cruising and seeing the shape of the land, what kinds of trees grew where, when I stumbled upon a can dump, all rusted.

I asked my neighbour who said that people would dump their garbage back before there were community dumps a.k.a. landfills.

A couple of Augusts ago, while Laura and I were walking the trail that climbs a hill at the back of our property, we discovered Chanterelle mushrooms, a delicacy, growing amidst a stand of balsam trees. Wow, what luxury!

While we were exploring to see how many could be harvested, wending our way up the slope of the hill upon which the peach-coloured edibles grow, we found an old, thick hose, mostly buried in the ground in the middle of nowhere.

It ran a long way but over the years dead tree branches, fallen leaves, and pine needles, had covered a lot of it.

I didn't feel ambitious enough to completely retrace the hose. Where had it come from and where did it go? Why was it there at all?

Laura had posed the question to a long-time neighbour who has lived all of his life in this area. Answer? Rum running. Wow!

So, there must have been some kind of still located somewhere up there. We didn't quite get all the details of how it worked: where the rum was made, where it wound up before being put into casks or bottled, and sold where and to whom?

Ah, mystery, intrigue!

Laura reminded me that we also had found a wooden chair near where we discovered the hose. We would pass it on trail rides or when walking for many years and then it was gone.

"It finally rotted," Laura said, "It was pretty rotten when we first found it."

But, again, in the middle of nowhere?

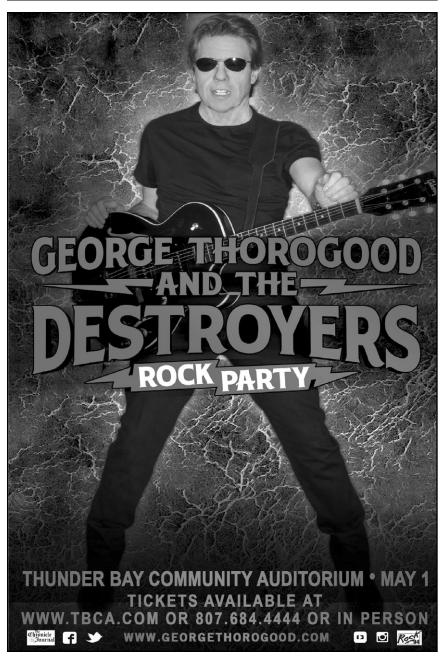
Actually, we think that the hose looks in too good shape to be more than 60 years old, but who knows? We probably never will.



Thursday, February 22, 2018

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## Congratulations to Jabrielle Beaupre Sponsored By **THUNDER BAY** Masala Grille Auditorium WELLNESS CENTRE



# IN THE Day



TO BE OR NOT TO BE: Cambrian Players is staging Hamlet at First Wesley United Church, starting on Feb. 28.

## **Tragedy of Hamlet** stands test of time

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

f asked to name a timeless Shakespearean tragedy, I'd guess responses would include one of the following: Macbeth, King Lear, and Hamlet.

To be, or not to be (one of these three): now truly that is the question, the answer not hard to guess. Next week our city's long-lived best amateur theatre group resurrects the Bard's darkly complicated tale of royal murder in Denmark. Cambrian Players' formidable curtain rises to nothing less than Hamlet.

Truth be told, this time the story is set in the 1930s. The daunting script has been somewhat shortened, while all its powerful essence remains.

"My first job after research was to cut," notes director Eva Burkowski. "Cut it down without losing any plot points. The entire play is intact. The story, the language. Not every audience is familiar with Shakespeare, so our incredibly gifted actors interpret the story in such a way the audience will understand all the action, every nuance.'

A tangible chill permeates Elsinore Castle. The first person to greet me is Horatio; actor Ken Horton's eyes appear worried.

"All is sombre. King Hamlet was beloved. I knew him to be an amazing man: a great warrior, yet gentle human. All of his best elements have been passed to his son. I am sad; and I'm here for my friend.'

Asked what he thinks of the apparition reportedly seen on the ramparts these past two midnights, "nay, I would

pass that off as heightened emotion. Or the succour

(help and support in times of hardship and distress)

during difficult times. I won't deny there are musings here. About things not right. The king so sudden dead; and his brother so soon has wed the widow."

He shakes his head, peers toward a murky horizon.

Elsinore Castle is worth defending. Actor Andrea Jacobsen plays Osric, a lean young hopeful in the new King's court. Osric's eyes are keen. "A beautiful country, Denmark. Sure, old Hamlet is lost to us; thus a tension in the court. But Claudius has stepped up and we mark that. The support he will bring, to our government, our family. My role is to assist. Polonius is my employer of a sort; he's also the King's right hand. Ambition? Nay, I would not name it thus. To help a country find its way during such dark times, this I must."

As he begins to speak actor Jordan Blaxill ceases to exist; before me stands Hamlet, grieving son who holds the key to royal murder. Sorrow and confusion radiate from slumped shoulders; here is a man layed-low. He summons what energy he can.

"Conflicting times, yes. My father was a most just, most loved ruler. For his death so sudden, it has caused a most personal pain."

He sighs, continues.

"Then, to see my mother, she who loved my father so dearly, now marry with my uncle after such a short amount of time...it is...I don't understand it. Oh I expect some would say it is for the good of the kingdom. To me, it seems a terrible decision, made far

Cambrian Players present Hamlet: First Wesley United Church, 130 Brodie St. North. on Feb. 28, March 1-3. It runs again from March 7 to March 10. All shows are at 7:30 p.m.

## Photo-shopping images is here to stay

The practice is a sign of the social media times, says columnist

Recently, some co-workers were discussing the use of photoshopped or manipulated images. And with the increase in social media and society's insatiable appetite for selfies, it's not just graphic artists in major ad agencies using them.

Apparently, average folk are now photo-shopping their personal postings too.

Hollywood has always revered the beauty ideal.

It's only in recent years that so much perfection has been questioned and even condemned for its social irresponsibility.

And photo-shopping manipulates



an image further for size, colour, and any perceived imperfections. Frankly, it gives an unrealistic view of the world and its inhabitants.

Consequently, every few months a celebrity rails against her pictureperfect photo-shopped magazine cover with righteous indignation. Then the public rallies around claiming we're all beautiful just as

So we're in agreement. Photo-

SAI

BIAIAI

21 Down with (Fr.,

30 Irish nobleman

23 Skin vesicle 27 Mulberry of

India

29 Baldness

31 Diplomacy 33 Fiber plant

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

APE

DICTATOR DANE

AMYLOCALBAN

SOBERNOVELTY

AURAFARALOE PRORATE STAAT

YODFARCE KAA

ANTE MAHARANI

19 Cask

22 Web

LANTIGE

TABBAA

shopping is wrong because it messes with reality. But then, what's real?

I discovered my first grey hair at 27 and promptly yanked it out. It was three inches long, wiry, and stood upright at the top of my head. I looked like The Little Rascals'

After that, my use of L'Oreal took on a new level of dedication.

My eyelashes are so fine they're almost invisible.

So I always wear mascara. And because of my Swedish ancestry, I am naturally very pale.

Subsequently, I was once told I looked "like the dead" during a camera test because I wasn't wearing TV make-up.

For many women, hair dye and make-up are their personal "photo-

Then there are high heels to make

legs appear longer and rears more shapely. And don't get me started on the power of Spanx.

However, the argument my coworkers raised is photo-shopping makes no sense because those images no longer reflect how we look in real life. But that changes daily too.

We're constantly adjusting others' perception of us with our clothes. If I wear the wrong outfit on television, I get very helpful emails or calls telling me why I should burn it. "It made your hips look big." (They already are.) "It made your butt stick out." (It already does.)

And I'm forever being told that I'm much taller in real life than I look on television.

Well, since your TV isn't likely more than two or three feet high. yes, I'm quite positive that I look smaller in your living room than in

However, with the new HD televisions and the continued existence of non-HD channels, I'm sometimes stretched wider than I am in real

So now your TV is also manipulating my image with its "widescreen" format. Thanks. I needed that extra 10 pounds.

Obviously photo-shopping should not be used to mislead retail consumers

And natural beauty should be celebrated, not "corrected."

But since my image isn't splashed around the globe on magazine covers, movie screens, major television networks or social media for others to judge - and they will - I'm not going to condemn other people's personal photo manipulations.

Except for Snapchat filters. Those are just weird.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### **ACROSS**

- Accomplished Ammunition Unfavorable
- 11 Original sinner 13 Spurt
- 14 Here (Fr.) 15 Ottoman
- peasant 16 Fr. month 18 Banned
- pesticide 20 Charm
- 21 Parent of Agamemnon 24 Nothing
- 25 Spelling contest 26 Sheep's cry 28 State (Ger.)
- 32 Winglike 34 Uncouth person
- 37 Phil. island 39 Field
- 41 Cetacean 42 Hebrew letter 44 Gastropod

46 Butterfly

36 Pelvic bones

### 53 Academy (abbr.)

49 No (Scot.)

50 Asian

60 Cant

- 56 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.) 57 Nipa palm
- 58 Southern France 59 Pounds (abbr.)
- 61 Ambassador (abbr.)

### **DOWN** Daughters of

- the American Revolution (abbr.)
- Mountáin on Crete
- Reverie Signed (abbr.)
- Ancient Italian One of the
- HAUD NBE SER Twelve Titans
  - 8 Bibliography (abbr.) 9 Land measure
  - 10 Legislature 12 Created
  - 17 Many times
  - (pref.)
    - 35 Ancient stringed instrument 38 Of a reign 40 Own (Scot.) 43 Prairie copse
    - 45 Lady's title 46 Ember 47 Saracen
    - 48 Geological epoch 51 Amer.
    - Automobile Assn. (abbr.) 52 Licensed practical nurse
    - 54 Admiral (abbr.) 55 Fish with bait on the surface

## **WORD SEARCH**

X N I Z B Y W S T L O M I T S 0 P SIFLEWREP THXDTNBEEB M D Y TIYRSOXEAUVLER AOLRRTDIAREOW SPALEECLIGLLC TTKLO D M S

E S

ΕI

Loafs Aloud Flail Mocked Sport Annoy Grassy Molts Super Tactic Boxcar Ogres Impair Characteristic Injury Omits Talon Clergy Therapy Items Opposes Cubicle Jalopy Plies Throw Dissipates Jerky Reload Trios Ducts Jettv Scabs Whets Schola Juniper

T S S T S J P T S B Y S M

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

"UDM GND VENTXZTZDO PVUEXPGNDPYZV ZP JNE HMXXME XYND JZJXI VEMNTYZDO ZX."

- ADSXM EUTADM

to do anything for money." — Hasidic Proverb F232

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

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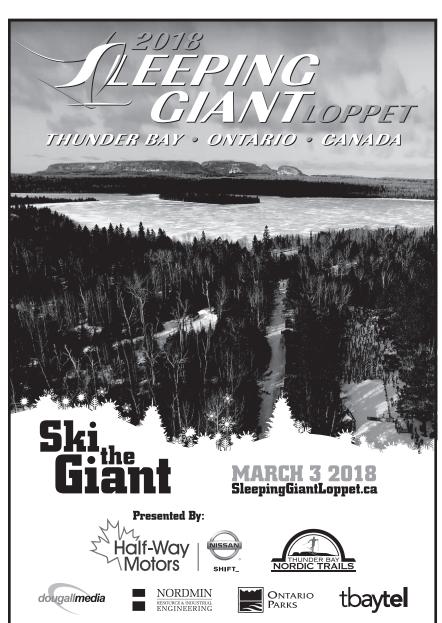
DIFFICULTY: ★★★★

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "One who thinks that money can do everything is likely





# Sports news information | coverage

## Wolves streak hits 4

Lakehead entering playoffs on a high

BASKETBALL
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

erika Baldin and Bridget O'Reilly aren't done yet.

But they began saying their goodbyes last Saturday night.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves seniors, along with injured forwards Katelyn Andrea and August Rickets, were celebrated after their 62-59 win over the visiting Laurier Golden Hawks that closed out regular-season play, recognized for their contributions to the team's success over the years.

The duo still has work to do, the Wolves set to open the playoffs on Wednesday at home against the same Golden Hawks squad.

But it didn't stop them from reflecting a little on their careers.

Baldin, one of the best passers and team leaders to step on the court in team history, called it an emotional night.

"It's nice to have everyone's family in the crowd cheering us on. Having another home playoff game after made it a little less emotional I think, because we know we play at home again and we know we're still in it," said Baldin, who led the league averaging 5.3 assists per game and finished with seven points and four helpers in the finale.

O'Reilly, has watched three previous senior night ceremonies, and said the end is still over the horizon and the focus is on the postseason.

"But it's definitely emotional. It's nice to have the family and everybody here," said O'Reilly, whose contingent during the ceremony was easily the largest.

"Especially the girls that I'm graduating with, I've been with them all



four years. It's really exciting to be able to do it with them."

O'Reilly, who was LU's secondleading scorer in 2017-18, collected eight points on the night and said it's the people she'll miss most.

"I've learned a lot from every single player and every single coach. That's the best part of my years," she said.

Coach Jon Kreiner said the night was made even better because the Thunderwolves (16-8) were able to eke out the win, the team's fourth straight.

"It's nice when senior night follows a win, it's a lot easier," he said. "To have our team step us a whole and do what they did tonight was really big. It's nice for them to play for our seniors. It was emotional especially because we have two of our senior players who can't continue on."

Andrea, the homegrown star, missed most of this season with a knee injury, returning to play three games before another injury forced her to the sidelines for good. Ricketts sustained a concussion more than a year ago and hasn't played since.

"That was hard, but overall I think it was a really great night," Kreiner said.

Lakehead led by one after a low-scoring first quarter, and tripled their lead by halftime, taking a 23-20 advantage into the break.

It would fall back to one in the third, the Golden Hawks jumping in front by five at one point when Maya Day drained a three. LU escaped the frame up 44-43, tying the game on a Kielly McDonough three-pointer with two minutes to go.

They'd never trail in the fourth.

Leashja Grant added to her USports rebounding record she set on Friday night, hauling in 20 boards to go with 16 points, which tied her with Lily Grube-Schulz for the team lead. Grant finished with 338 rebounds, shattering Sarah Wiecz's record of 307.

Laurier's fifth-year guard and alltime scoring leader, Nicole Morrison, led all players with 21 points.

The Wolves and Golden Hawks opened the playoffs on Wednesday night at home.

## Thunderwolves ousted in 3 by Lions

UNIVERSITY HOCKEY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Lakehead Thunderwolves hockey season is over.

The Wolves fell 5-1 on Sunday to the second-place York Lions and were edged 2-1 in their best-of-five OUA West quarterfinal and failed to advance to the second round of the playoffs, a drought dating back to 2015.

Ben Verrall and Morgan Messenger put pucks past starter Devin Green before the game was four minutes old to stake the Lions to a 2-0 lead.

Cooper Leitch got one back for LU late in the first, but Derek Sheppard connected on the power play midway through the second to restore a two-goal cushion.

Reid Jackman and Stefano Perzzetta added third-period tallies to put the game out of reach.

York goalie Mack Shields stopped 27 of 28 shots directed his way by the Thunderwolves to lead the Lions into the second round.

Green was good on 33 of 38 York shots.

The Lions will take on Ryerson in Round 2.

## Wells started Miracle on Manchester

Former NHL blueliner also helped Rangers end a 54-year Cup drought

NHL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

ay Wells will never be mentioned in Hockey Hall of Fame conversations.

But the former first-round draft pick had plenty of brushes with history over his 18-year NHL career.

Two in particular stand out.

On April 10, 1982, it was his thirdperiod goal that started the Los Angeles Kings on the comeback trail in a game forever known as the Miracle on Manchester.

Skip forward a dozen more years and Wells was a stalwart on the New York Rangers blue-line, a team that erased 54 years of Stanley Cup failure with a Game 7 win over the

Vancouver Canucks.

Wells, now 58 and playing the oldtimer's circuit to help raise money for a variety of charitable causes, including Special Olympics during his stop Monday in Thunder Bay, said he and his Kings teammates had no idea they'd make history after the Wayne Gretzky-led Oilers jumped in front 5-0 through two period of play at the old Los Angeles Forum.

"It was a fluke thing," Wells said of his goal, scored 2:36 into the third on a pass from future hall-of-famer Marcel Dionne.

"I threw a blind shot at the net and it found its way in. I do recall the dressing room how calm and how cool we were. We really did feel that we could match up with the Edmonton Oilers, even though we were way behind in points. We always rose to the challenge when we played the Edmonton Oilers."

The up-and-coming Oilers finished 48 points ahead of the Kings in the

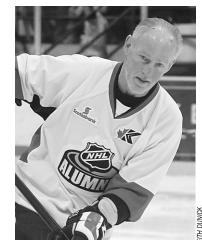
Smythe Division standings, and saw their opponent as a tune-up for what they hoped would be a lengthy playoff run

Los Angeles upset the Oilers 10-8 in the best-of-five series opener and Edmonton was well on its way to the win in Game 3 and a 2-1 lead, when Wells' shot beat Grant Fuhr.

After Doug Smith, Terrace Bay's Charlie Simmer and Mark Hardy cut the Oilers lead to one, Steve Bozek netted the equalizer with five seconds to play in regulation. Daryl Evans won it for the Kings, who went on to win the series in five, early in overtime.

"We went out and just thought about giving it our best and seeing what happened. We threw as many pucks at the net and hopefully we'd get some rebounds. And it all worked out for us," Wells said.

"It was a pretty cool comeback. There have been other teams that have done similar stuff, but in the playoffs that was one of the biggest. It's great



NHL ALMUNI: Jay Wells helps raise money for Special Olympics on Monday.

to be a part of history."

The Kings were swept from the playoffs in the second round by the Vancouver Canucks, and only twice in the next 11 seasons did Wells' team

make it beyond the first round.

But then came 1993-94.

"Right from Day 1 (coach) Mike Keenan set us all straight and put us on a mission that we were just going to go out and play hockey. And we were going to use our skill and puck possession and we did that," Wells said. "It was a real Cinderella season for us."

The Rangers made bold moves at the deadline, trading away Mike Gartner and Tony Amonte, but they paid off.

"We weren't sure how it was all going to gel. Some of the players we picked up played big roles for us in the playoffs, like Stephane Matteau and Brian Noonan and (Craig) MacTavish. It was just a heck of a year to be involved."

Wells, who also spent time in Philadelphia, St. Louis and Buffalo, finished his career in 1997 with the Tampa Bay Lightning, collecting 47 goals and 263 points in 1,098 NHL games.



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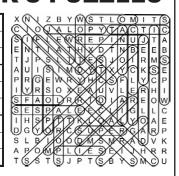


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