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Rydholm to run federally for Conservatives

POLITICS Bv Matt Vis - TB Source

inda Rydholm will be looking to bring her municipal political experience to Parliament Hill.

The former longtime Neebing ward representative on Thunder Bay city council on Tuesday night was officially confirmed as the Conservative candidate in Thunder Bay-Rainy River, aiming to be the first person to turn the riding blue.

Rydholm, who was born in Fort Frances and spent part of her childhood in Atikokan, said over her combined 27 years serving as a city councillor and school board trustee she had been approached almost every election to run. When she was asked last month if she had any interest in carrying the Conservative banner in the upcoming October election, it felt like the right time.

"I think that people in Canada, not just Thunder Bay-Rainy River, are looking for hope. Hope with their lifestyle, an affordable lifestyle. I think they're looking for ethical people who will govern in Ottawa," Rydholm said.

"People I think have maybe become disappointed with what's happened in the past, regardless of parties. People are looking for help and I really like the Conservative grassroots approach to policy."

She was first elected to city council in 1997 following three terms as a school board trustee. After losing in 2000, she regained her seat in 2003 and was subsequently re-elected in 2006, 2010 and 2014. Rydholm was ousted by Cody Fraser in last fall's municipal election.

Rydholm's time in city politics also included a dozen years serving with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, an

advocacy group of municipal leaders from across the country who have a successful track record in lobbying the federal government. She believes that experience makes her well familiar with Ottawa.

"Going on the (FCM) board gave me a bigger what's LINDA RYDHOLM of picture happening across Canada,"

sead us online

Rydholm said. "We were able to get the GST rebate, we were able to get federal gas tax money. Those two items alone for a city of our size is about \$10 million."

No Conservative candidate has ever won the Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding, which was created prior to the 2004 election. In the five previous

votes, the seat has been won twice by the NDP and three times by the Liberals, most recently by incumbent MPP Don Rusnak.

The last time a Conservative ever represented the area was 1930, when Robert James Manion was acclaimed in the former Fort William riding and Donald James Cowan was elected in the former Port

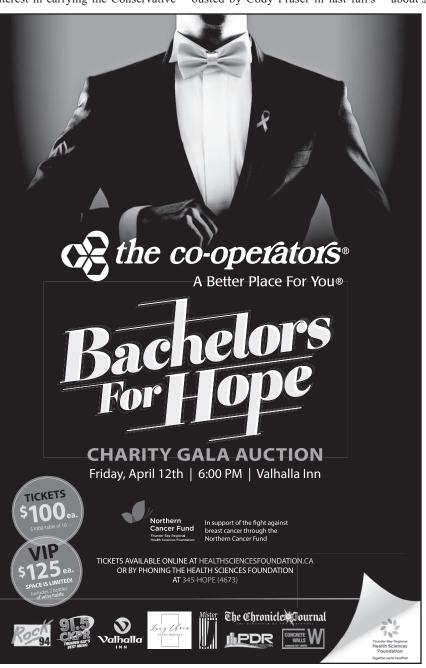
Arthur-Thunder Bay riding. Despite admitting that history, Rydholm is optimistic about both her chances locally and the party's Andrew Scheer heads into his first election at the helm, particularly as the Liberals continue to be engulfed by the ongoing SNC-Lavalin scandal.

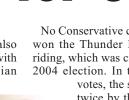
"No one should be above the law. No one. We are at a unique time in our history where a female, Indigenous cabinet minister has defied her boss - seemingly that's what's happened from what we're hearing - and chosen the law," Rydholm said. "It's an important crisis that I hope will wake people up and realize that businesses shouldn't be above the law."

Rusnak has been nominated as the Liberal candidate, aiming to win a second term. The NDP and the Greens have yet to officially put a name on the ballot.

The federal election is scheduled to











ARRESTED: From left to right: David Hui, Marshall Hardy-Fox, and Musab Kharnis Saboon have all been charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping in connection to the death of 40-year-old Lee Chiodo.

Police arrest three in Lee Chiodo homicide

Thunder Bay Police confirm a firearm was used in the incident THUNDER BAY released to the public or media because they are part

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

hree people have been arrested and charged with Three people have been arrested and changed first-degree murder and kidnapping in connection to the city's first homicide of 2019.

David Hui, 47, of Thunder Bay was arrested by Thunder Bay Police last Saturday in the Academy Drive area without incident, while 27-year-old, Marshall Hardy-Fox, 27, also of Thunder Bay, turned himself in to police Sunday evening and Musab

Khamis Saboon, 27, of Kitchener, Ont. turned himself in to Waterloo Regional Police Tuesday morning after being the subject of a Canada-wide warrant.

All three men have been charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping in connection to the murder of 40-year-old Lee Chiodo of Thunder Bay.

Det. Insp. Ryan Hughes of the Thunder Bay Police Service said on Monday that investigators in the city were in contact with their counterparts with Waterloo Regional Police.

"We have received information that he (Saboon) is in the Kitchener/Waterloo area and he is possibly going to turn himself in (there) today," Hughes said Monday afternoon.

Chiodo's body was found by a passerby in an isolated area off 108th Avenue on Mission Island the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 24.

"We don't have any other people of interest, but that could change through investigation," Hughes said. "The investigators are still doing a lot of work and interviewing people. It could be possible they identify others.'

According to Hughes, the three suspects were identified through tips from the public and interviews conducted by police. It is not known at this time if the three men were known to Chiodo.

Hughes also confirmed that a firearm was used in the incident, but it has not been recovered by police. "We cannot say if it's gang-related or not.

Investigators are still working on that," he said.

There are several details of the case that cannot be

of an ongoing investigation and before the courts.

Hughes said there has been a lot of speculation and false leads on social media, but details such as the type of firearm used, the exact cause of death, and whether or not Chiodo was killed at the location where his body was found cannot be released.

Hughes did confirm that this is the third firearmrelated homicide in or around the city of Thunder Bay since August, 2018.

In November 2018, 25-year-old Geoff Corbeil was the victim of a shooting on Brodie Street.

In January 2019, Ontario Provincial Police ruled the death of a 21-year-old Toronto area man, whose body was found on Highway 527, to be a homicide. According to Hughes, that incident also involved a firearm

No suspects have been arrested in either of the two cases.

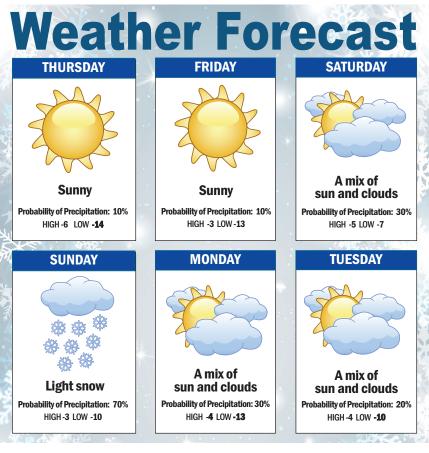
With the growing number of gun-related incidents in Thunder Bay, Hughes said public safety is paramount.

"That's always a concern for the police," he said. "Bullets travel. That is a safety issue for the police. With the OPP homicide that happened just outside of our jurisdiction, there's been three gunrelated homicides in the last six months. That is a concern for Thunder Bay Police officers. Just a stray bullet, or these crimes being committed are very violent."

Thunder Bay Police continue to work with the OPP, the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service and the Anishinabek Police Service through a task force targeting gang activity in Thunder Bay.

"They have done a lot of good work," Hughes said. "There have been quite a few warrants conducted and we've seized a lot of firearms in the last three to four months, and a lot of drugs and a lot of money.

The investigation into Lee Chiodo's death is ongoing, and police are asking anyone with information to contact Thunder Bay Police at 684-1200 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com. A special tip line has also been set up for this case at 684-1545.



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LOCALNEWS

Mandhane calling for quick action on OIPRD

Human Rights Commissioner, Renu Mandhane says there is "a real moment right now for the city and the police service to rebuild trust" THUNDER BAY

"What we

care about is

that the solu-

tions get

implemented

in a timely

manner."

Renu

MANDHANE

By Matt Vis - TB Source

ntario's human rights commissioner believes the Otime to act is now to implement recommendations at addressing racism within the Thunder Bay police force.

The Office of the Independent Police Review director late last year released a report detailing its system review of the Thunder Bay Police Service, which found that systemic racism exists at the institutional level within the force, particularly relating to discriminatorily inadequate Indigenous death investigations ..

The report prepared by OIPRD director Gerry McNeilly resulted in 44 recommendations aimed at various aspects of policing and policies within the police service, including sudden death investigations, missing persons cases and addressing racism.

Ontario Human Rights Commission chief commissioner Renu Mandhane, who arrived in Thunder Bay on Thursday for a two-day visit, said those recommendations provide a road map to move forward.

"What we've seen is that it has to be quick action. It can't be three years later we're still considering how to implement the report," Mandhane said.

"I think there is a real moment right now for the city and the police service to rebuild trust because there's hope. I think you need hope for that, to soften and for those relationships to be repaired."

Mandhane, who is well familiar with the concerns raised by Indigenous leaders and community members for years leading up to the publication of the OIPRD report and the subsequent Ontario Civilian Police Commission probe of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, suggested that not following through with the recommendations will further damage those relationships

"I'm sure people felt vindicated by hearing their experiences echoed by these two reports and now I think it

pivots to will this cause action," Mandhane said. "I think the worst thing that could happen is when people's concerns do make their way into these reports and nothing is done, it almost sends a worse signal than when the concerns were dismissed.'

The financial impact of the recommendations began to be felt by municipal leaders during this year's budget review process, when the police board made a request of an additional \$1.08 million to start implementing some of the solutions, such as additional officers for a newly created major cases unit, body-worn and in-car cameras and the costs of an external investigator for a peer review process.

Mayor Bill Mauro has been vocal about the financial implications of the recommendations on the city, and advocating for senior levels of government to come to the table.

The issue was raised at Queen's Park by Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle, who asked Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Sylvia Jones whether the Progressive Conservative provincial government would provide financial support to Thunder Bay.

Jones responded that she has been in communication



REBUILDING TRUST: Ontario Human Rights Commission chief commissioner Renu Mandhane toured Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School last Thursday.

with Mauro and that she recognized the importance of the recommendations but did not give any indication that the province would be providing help.

"I think it's very incumbent on the Thunder Bay Police Services Board and the police to do the work that is necessary to make sure that their standards are appropriate across Ontario," Jones said.

Mandhane, who emphasized that it's not the human

rights commission's place to suggest which level of government foots the bill for the costs, said debates about who pays can often overshadow the work that is required to implement the recommendations.

"What we care about is that the solutions get implemented in a timely manner," Mandhane said. "But obviously we would expect the province and the municipality would work together to address the systemic concerns and clearly it will require an investment of funds. Where that comes from, that's up to them to decide.'

A meeting between Mandhane and Mauro during her time in Thunder Bay had been

requested but one was unable to be scheduled. She said she would be open to meeting with the mayor during any future trip to Toronto.

Mandhane made it clear that she believes the police is just a starting point for combatting racism in Thunder Bay.

"I think there's a lot the city can do to address racism just more generally because the clear sense you get in reading the reports is this isn't only about the police," she said. "It's about the community where there is a level of racism that is experienced by community members that is concerning."

Truck route plan advances to next stage

CITY HALL By Matt Vis – TB Source

Adecade-long push to direct how cross-country transport traffic passes through the city has passed another checkpoint.

Making their decision just after midnight early Tuesday morning after hours of discussion and debate, Thunder Bay city council voted to ratify their January decision to approve the development of a designated truck route that would keep heavy traffic off Dawson Road and Arthur Street.

Council would still need to vote on a new bylaw to implement the route.

The vote was won by a narrow 7-6 margin, which included some drama as a pair of councillors reversed course on

their previous decision made nearly two months earlier. Coun. Mark Bentz, who initially supported the truck route, flipped to opposition while Coun. Brian Hamilton, who was initially against it, flopped to being in favour.

The proposal recommended by city administration is for a permissive system that would introduce weight restrictions on the sections of Dawson Road and Arthur Streets within city limits, essentially forcing trucks to use the Trans-Canada Highway to enter and exit Thunder Bay.

Statistics provided by administration obtained from a 24-hour traffic count conducted in 2016 by the Ministry of Transportation found that there was an average daily volume of 1,500 trucks on Highway 102 between Sistonen's Corner and Dog Lake Road, which amounted to 38 per cent of the total traffic. Those vehicles would be rerouted to Highway 11/17 and the extension to Harbour Expressway if the route is implemented.

Collision data from that section of Highway 102 indicated that there was an average of 37.6 vehicles involved in crashes, with 12.2 of them being transports. That rate of 32 per cent is significantly higher than the four per cent of transports involved in crashes on the Thunder Bay Expressway between John Street and the Harbour Expressway.

Coun. Trevor Giertuga, who spent 18 years as the McIntyre ward councillor before switching to an at-large position on this term, has been a driving force trying to steer transports off Dawson Road for most of his municipal political

career.

"Many of us campaigned on safety and improving safety in the community. If we can improve safety in any way in any one of our wards and our areas, we would do it," Giertuga said.

"The numbers and statistics are telling us that this is safer. We can never eliminate all accidents. That's not possible, but we can reduce them by putting the trucks on a safer corridor."

Council heard from a number of members of the public, divided between those for and against the designated truck route.

Jim Bailey, who lost his 19-year-old son Dallas in a fatal crash on the Thunder Bay Expressway in October, urged council to lobby the province for advanced warning lights at intersections, reduced speed limits and dividing medians if more truck traffic is going to be added to the highway.

Mayor Bill Mauro, who as a former provincial representative had helped launch design studies for overhauled intersections along the Thunder Bay Expressway between Arthur and Balsam streets, made it clear he has had concerns for a long time about that highway.

"In my heart and my mind, this stretch of roadway was the most dangerous section of roadway within the region of the city of Thunder Bay," Mauro said. "I have felt consistently that stretch of roadway is not a good stretch of roadway already and does not need more traffic."

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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Politics are scandalous

What is going on in Canadian politics these days?

The ongoing SNC-Lavalin scandal, which is threatening to make Justin Trudeau a one-term prime minister, took another turn for the worse for the Liberals, with Jane Philpott's decision to walk away from the cabinet table.

Things are going from bad to worse for Canada's national governing party, whose leader nonetheless this week got the support of the remaining 33 members of cabinet, according to a CTV survey.

But for how long?

Canadians keep waiting for another shoe to drop, and one – or a closetfull – undoubtedly will before all is said and done.

Transparency, Mr. Trudeau. It's what you promised four years ago and it doesn't appear to be what you've delivered as your term winds down.

At the provincial level, it's the Ontario Conservatives who are under fire this week, after OPP deputy chief Brad Blair was sacked.

While Premier Doug Ford will deny politics were involved in the decision, it's rather coincidental that Blair was the guy who opposed the premier's plan to hire his buddy, Ron Taverner, to head the OPP, while also exposing Ford's request for a cushy, custom-built van to travel in.

Political leadership in this country needs to be better, starting now.

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Resolve wood rights issue

To the editor: The Ontario government has given this Abitibi/Resolute power and trees for over a century to build company and communities. Crown use doesn't mean Crown ownership, as former MNR Ministers Bill Mauro, Michael Gravelle and David Ramsay would have you believe. The rights still belong to the people, or at least they should.

Intervention by current Minister of Natural Resources, MNDM and this new Ford government to stand up for the resource-based communities, as publicly stated, such as Fort Frances, need to occur and quickly. They cry their 'Stand for the People' and 'Open for Business' slogans but we have yet to witness that for Northern Ontario or in Fort Frances.

There are resource/economic based possibilities, with the buyer, with this Fort Frances mill, there is wood available, but Resolute holds the strings to its availability and does not want to allow supply.

That is against the Competition Act of Canada, control of supply. We saw Ford holding hands with Resolute in Thunder Bay in October, what's with that, is that why the proposed Fort Frances operation can't get wood and go ahead?

Fort Frances needs to stand its ground, Northwestern Ontario communities and all Northerners stand up to these greedy Corporate Machines such as Resolute.

One only need to look at Iroquoius Falls to witness the ruthlessness and callousness to their former loyal communities, people and Ontario. Needless destruction, intent-full, by 'Ruthless Resolute', now on the rampage again.

Unnecessary, but again planned hurtful intent. We need corporate citizens for Ontario and Northern Ontario, not the calamity show we are witnessing again.

> James A. Brown, Former mayor, Iroquois Falls

Budget too high

To the editor:

A lthough city administration was sent back to reduce the tax levy increase, they were, as we were, shocked that city council directed almost all the savings to the Thunder Bay Police Service. What a shame.

Where are senior citizens and others on fixed incomes to find the extra funds to pay for this wrongdoing? Council also took these funds from the kids fighting to save Dease Pool and gave them to the police.

City staff told council during the 2019 budget deliberations that if the police budget passed as is, it would represent 19 per cent of Thunder Bay's net operating budget.

Not including the \$1.46 million for

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



capital expenditures like SUVs and guns for police, it appears the police want almost \$3 million of the \$4.3-million tax levy increase for this year.

The entire police budget was done in haste, and residents have to pay for it.

First the Thunder Bay Police Services Board supposedly dealt with the police service's budget in closed session due to the nature of the documents provided and the Board passed a motion at their October 16, 2018 Closed Session meeting relative to the budget.

Was it appropriate for the board to pass a motion relative to the budget in closed session, and should there not be transparency in police spending?

Next city administration releases the 2019 budget highlights on Jan. 3, when it claimed one of the major drivers in the budget is expansion in police services, coming in at \$900,000.

However, looking at the police budget, one notes a 5.3 per cent increase, or nearly \$2.2 million, over their 2018 budget.

At a Jan.15 Thunder Bay Police Board meeting, the board approves an additional \$1.08 million in the police budget to cover the costs to implement the Office of the Independent Police Review Director's recommendations.

Later that same day city council was presented with adding this \$1.08-million budget item to the police budget.

Whether council has the authority to add a specific item to the police budget is another matter.

Regardless, in the presentation to city council, the police chief provides a

comparator of the criminal investigations branch with the municipalities of York, Sudbury and Barrie, with a claim that the Thunder Bay Police Service is understaffed.

What the police chief conveniently forgot to mention are the officers per 100,000 population in these municipalities. These can easily be obtained from Stats Canada and for 2017 show 137, 159.9, 158.9 and 197 (Thunder Bay) officers per 100,000 population respectively, for the municipalities mentioned above.

Are they really understaffed?

On Jan. 21, 2019, the police chief provided council with briefing notes, the TBPS jurisdictional profile.

There are not enough crutches in the world to support what is contained in that document.

A prime example is a chart showing Total Police Expenditures as a percentage of municipal expenses for different municipalities in Ontario.

Well wouldn't you know it Thunder Bay has the lowest expenditures as a percentage of municipal expenses.

What is not readily apparent in the chart is the fact that Thunder Bay is the only municipality that lists a telephone utility as a municipal expense. You only have to do the math to see what it does to total police expenditures as a percentage of municipal expenses when you take out the \$160 million for the telephone expenses from the municipal expenses.

On Jan. 30 city council approves the addition of \$1.08 million to the Police Budget to cover the costs to implement

the OIPRD recommendations. Again whether city council has the authority to approve or disapprove a specific item in the police budget is not clear. A reduction in this \$1.08 M was made by using \$249,500 of the stabilization reserve funds to cover some one time costs.

Residents should note that they are being taxed \$500,000 this year so the city can put it into that same fund.

Give with one hand and take with the other.

Last month, council ratified the budget.

An attempt was made by the budget chair to cover more costs of the OIPRD recommendations with reserve funds, specifically to cover the costs of the \$1.7-million body and car cams based on a pilot project currently under way and to end Feb.28.

The results of this pilot project will have a comprehensive review once completed. So until then let us put in \$1.7 million in the budget for body and car cams spread out over five years regardless of the comprehensive review.

Maybe this is something the CIB can look into? Montreal just days ago based on their study rejected the use of body cams as a way to hold officers accountable as being costly and ineffective.

The 2019 city budget was a rush job as city council took no control of the police budget presented them, they could have simply said the amount requested of the city was unacceptable.

> Ron Balina, Thunder Bay

Perspective

The more things change

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

he more things change, the more they remain the same.

I was confounded by this puzzling old cliché until I realized that human behavior has repeating patterns and trends.

For example, it is generally observed that fashions follow a twenty-five year cycle, more or less.

Many of us will eventually see our grandkids wearing the same styles we wore as the Woodstock generation.

Everything that once was chic, from flared jeans to turtlenecks to platform shoes to Nehru collars, will be stylish again one day.

Many of our attitudes and perspectives grow in and out of favour over time as the pendulum of public opinion swings back and forth.

Some behaviours and beliefs that were common a generation ago were abandoned in the name of progress but are now being reexamined.

I came across an example of this re-cycled thinking and it reminded me of being a kid at recess in the Crawford School playground.

The public school pendulum has swung back to a simpler, somewhat more rugged view of what's best for kids.

School playgrounds are being reconsidered as valuable educational resources, essential for growing minds and bodies.

Effective teachers understand the role of physical activity and

On the job

he average hourly wage for Thunder Bay

labourers in the 1930s

was 40 cents per hour

for those who had jobs. Forty per cent of work-

ers were unemployed in the early 1930s.

unstructured play in education. Unfortunately, a misguided effort

to shelter children from all risk and physical challenges effectively turned playgrounds into fun-free zones

I noticed the tide of over-protection as it swept across the playgrounds where our own kids once played rambunctiously.

The snow piles in the schoolyard were like frozen ant hills covered with crawling, falling, rolling human ants, all squealing with delight.

There were a few minor mishaps but the opportunities for interaction, problem solving and physical development

outweighed the risk. And then one day the

scale tipped the other teachers way and snow-related understand outdoor activities were the role of strictly curtailed. physical No slipping or sliding

"Effective

or climbing on snow activity and piles, no snowballs and unstructured especially, no physical play." contact whatsoever.

That effectively ruled out most childhood activities - kids

were bored but relatively risk-free as they safely moped around at recess.

Parents threatened to sue if their kids ever got hurt on the playground and school boards complied, hiding behind a veil of liability.

to school during the rough and tumble years when we were encouraged to be free-range kids at recess.

and sat down at our desks we were red-cheeked and exhausted and (I assume) ready to sit still and learn for a while.

That scenario is now being revived in many Canadian school yards as the importance of physically active, self-directed play is rediscovered

A few schools in Quebec are even creating "rough-housing" zones where more energetic students can playfully shove and jostle each other.

Violent or aggressive behavior is not tolerated but joyful playmates can wrestle freely in the snow like toddlers in a playground.

Fifteen minutes in "the zone" is the perfect recess for more active or restless students who need to burn off excess energy.

The program is a success so far - teachers are seeing calmer, more focused behavior in class and the school community is supportive.

Participation for all kids is voluntary and there are still

plenty of other daring schoolyard activities for the less rambunctious crowd.

Also, another positive development has many school boards increasing the number and duration of school recess.

I love it but for me it's a generation too late.

I still throw snowballs in the back yard just for fun although I have to admit, it's more laughs when somebody is throwing them back. I guess some things never

THUNDER BA

JSEUM





FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY Georgia Penney finds her rhythm early on in the race at the **Sleeping Giant Loppet last Saturday.**

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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Going back a little further, I went When we came back into class change. A look back in history



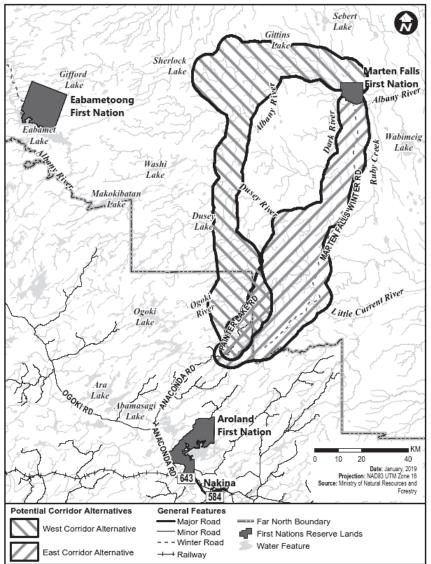
NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION – ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD PROJECT

Project Description and Location:

Marten Falls First Nation is commencing a study under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990 for the design, construction and operation/maintenance of a proposed All Season Community Access Road (the Project). Marten Falls First Nation is a remote First Nation community in the Far North of Ontario, located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki Rivers, approximately 170 km northeast of Nakina, Ontario (see map). The existing winter road access to the community has been determined to be insufficient for community and other transportation needs primarily due to the limited reliability of open winter road access. Therefore, all season road access connecting Marten Falls First Nation to the provincial highway system to the south is required to improve the wellbeing of Marten Falls First Nation by facilitating the transport of goods, services and resources. Two broad corridors (see map) are being considered in determining the location of the all season road.

The Planning Process:

This study will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990. The first step of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference (ToR) which will set out the EA framework and work plan for the addressing requirements under Environmental Assessment Act, 1990, including an outline of the studies and consultation activities that will he undertaken to evaluate alternatives and predict the potential adverse effects of the Project and measures that will be required to avoid, reduce or mitigate these effects. Marten Falls First Nation will consult during the preparation of the ToR before it is submitted to the Minister of Environment.



LOCALNEWS

Local man charged with accessing child pornography

A Thunder Bay man has been arrested and is facing a child pornography charge following an ongoing investigation from last year.

According to a Thunder Bay Police Service release, 64-year-old John Joseph O'Brien has been arrested and charged with accessing child pornography.

Police said Cyber Crime Unit detectives were examining evidence linked to a case involving Ashley Dawn Raymer, 24, who was arrested by police in November 2018 and charged with several offences related to child pornography.

Through their investigation, detectives were able to identify a local man who had received images of child pornography from Raymer.

Investigators also located conversations between the two accused through chat logs.

O'Brien appeared in court Friday and was released with a future court date. The charges have not been tested in court.

Assault with weapon charge laid

An incident that started as a complaint about loud music flared Aup into a spray of aerosol deodorant being ignited, resulting in a Thunder Bay man facing an assault with a weapon charge.

Thunder Bay police were called to an apartment building on Pacific Avenue to respond to a reported assault on Tuesday.

Arriving officers discovered there had been an altercation between two neighbours in the building.

Police said the alleged victim knocked on his neighbour's door to complain about the volume of music. Those knocks weren't answered but after returning to his apartment, the neighbour was at the victim's door.

The victim told police that when he answered the door the suspect attacked, spraying aerosol deodorant and igniting it with a lighter.

Police said the victim did not require medical attention.

A 31-year-old Thunder Bay man was arrested and charged with one count of assault with a weapon. The accused has been released with a future court date.

City police arrest two robbery suspects

Two men are behind bars after a robbery left one man with non-life threatening facial injuries early Thursday morning.

According to Thunder Bay Police Service, officers were dispatched to a hotel in the 1000 block of Dawson Road just after 12:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28 following reports of a robbery.

Officers arrived and reviewed surveillance footage linked to the complaint.

Police say through the course of the investigation, officers identified two accused individuals who assaulted the male victim in a hallway.

Two females intervened to stop the assault.

The victim returned to his room, where he was later assaulted again by the previously identified accused individuals.

Police later found property belonging to the victim in the room of the two accused individuals.

Police say the victim suffered non-life threatening facial injuries as a result of the incident.

Nolan Sinclair Okeese, 21, of Longlac and Randy Raymond Richard Tibishkogijig, 20, of Thunder Bay have both been charged with one count of robbery.

Both accused appeared in court Thursday morning and were remanded into custody with a future date.

Conservation and Parks (Minister) for review and approval. There will also be opportunity for public comment on the ToR after it is submitted to the Minister. If the ToR is approved, the EA will proceed in accordance with the ToR.

Consultation:

Indigenous communities, government agencies, municipal officials, members of the public and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the EA process. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA process and will be communicated through newspaper advertisements, radio, mail-outs and the Project website (www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca).

Contact Information:

To learn more about the Project, or to communicate comments and/or concerns, please contact:

Lawrence Baxter James McCutchon Senior Community Advisor Project Manager Marten Falls First Nation AECOM info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca 800-764-9114 www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990.* Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

Si vous souhaitez une copie de cette notification en français, veuillez visiter le site Internet du projet ou envoyer un email au projet pour en demander une copie.

Structures collapsing due to heavy snow

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

ast Sunday, when dairy farmer Gerrit Cramer woke up to begin his daily work of milking and feeding his cows, he discovered a large section of the roof on his new barn had collapsed.

"When you wake up in the morning, you don't expect that," he said. "You go through a lot of emotions. Since we just got in there, we were really excited, and then this happens. It doesn't do you a lot of good. But you press on."

As a result of the collapse, eight cows were lost and the rest, more than 200, had to be transferred back to the old barn. But Cramer said it could have been much worse if not for the help of the farming community in the Slate River Valley.

"It's great to be part of a community that helps out the way it does," he said. "We would never have got it done.



TERRIBLE LOSS: A section of barn collapsed at a farm in Slate River Valley.

That's something. To lose eight or even one, one is too many. Especially for a new facility. It just doesn't make any sense to me."

With more than 60 centimetres of snow blanketing the region this winter, there has been an increase in the number of structures damaged or collapsing under all the extra weight, and more insurance claims.

"With the amount of snow that we have and the moisture we've had with days of rain, it is compacting and causing some problems and we're concerned for our clients and safety of structures and garages and sheds," said Jeff Jones, president of Jones and Associates Insurance. Fred and Lynn Boulter, who run Boulterdale Stables in Murillo, became very concerned when snow began accumulating on top of their riding arena, not just for the building, but the safety of the horses and riders.

"It's a clear span building and I was a little nervous about it and I heard a few buildings were collapsing in the area, so I got some friends together and we shoveled off the main riding arena which is 50 by 100 feet, and I believe we shoveled off 25 to 30 tons of snow," Fred Boulter said.

Many commercial buildings, barns, and sheds can be built with metal roofs that allow the snow to slide off, but the weather early this winter prevented that from happening.

"This year we got wet rain and snow in December and the metal that usually allows the snow to slide off, held the snow and it just kept building up and building up until it was four or five feet deep," said Lynn Boulter.

Fred and Lynn estimated that there was between four and five feet of snow on the roof of the riding arena and they already had an older structure collapse under the weight of the snow earlier this year.

According to Jones, even a foot or a foot-and-a-half of snow can cause damage to some structures.

Jones is also advising that vehicles inside garages or sheds are not covered under a home insurance policy and damage to vehicles, if not insured under an auto policy, would not be covered due to a collapsed roof.

Jones warns home owners to be cautious because shoveling roofs can damage vents, shingles, and eaves troughs.

"We are concerned about safety," Jones added. "We don't want people getting up on the roofs and shoveling and falling."



School council chair getting frustrated

EDUCATION By Gary Rinne – TB Source

The chair of the school council at Hammarskjold High School is expressing frustration over the absence of information about incidents that have disrupted classes on multiple occasions over the past two weeks.

Classes were cancelled by the Lakehead District Public School Board on Wednesday after an anonymous, unspecified threat that resulted in police being dispatched to the Clarkson Street school just after 7:30 a.m.

It was the second time in less than a week that the school was closed because of a threat.

In addition to the two incidents, Hammarskjold was put in lockdown twice on Feb. 13 after reports that someone may have brought a weapon to the building.

Another incident at the school, last

October, resulted in a declaration of hold-and-secure.

Neither Thunder Bay Police nor school board officials have disclosed details about any of the incidents, a situation Cheri Lappage describes as "no longer good enough."

Lappage, the chair of the Hammarskjold school council, posted a social media message Wednesday morning saying parents and the public "deserve answers."

In an interview, she clarified that she is not concerned with how police and the board are handling the threats, but she is frustrated with the lack of clarity as to the nature of the threats.

"When you have a string of incidents like this with very little information, it's hard to have any surety as to whether these are serious incidents or whether they are benign threats," Lappage said.

Under the circumstances, she said, it's difficult for parents to feel comfortable about sending their children to school or assuring them that they are safe.

HAMMARSK JOLD SCHOOL GRADE OPEN HOUSE BB 37PM Welcome Welcome Welcome Welcome DANGER: Thunder Bay Police Investigate a threat recently at Hammarskjold High School.

"All that we have been told is that there was a threat received, the police are responding, the school is closed, and more information will be provided. And then more information is never provided."

The "rumour mill," she said, has circulated talk about things like bomb threats

and gun threats, but no officials have revealed the specifics of the threats or how much credibility police are giving them.

"This is where additional information would really help. Frame how serious this is, and how much level of concern we should be having. It's definitely a frustration to be having them out of school, week after week," Lappage said, noting that classes have also been cancelled this winter because of weather conditions.

She would also like to see more publicity about the potential ramifications for people making threats, and wants to hear assurances that those responsible for the recent incidents will be held accountable for their actions.

"If these are threats being made by kids or students, there should be very strong repercussions, and somebody needs to be made an example of."

Lappage worries that Hammarskjold's reputation as "a safe and amazing school" is suffering.







STEPPING UP: Vince Mirabelli (back row, from left), Kevin Anderson and Kevin Cernul, last Tuesday Join Emilee Pike, 8, Kamryn Pilkington, 14, Dave Thomas and Johnny De Bakker to launch ticket sales for this year's Easter Seals Celebrity Roast, which will be held on April 18 at the Valhalia Inn.

Thomas ready to be roasted

Well-known local caterer steps up to support annual Easter Seals event

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Dave Thomas has a warning for his friends who plan to roast him in support of Easter Seals – he's got as much dirt on them as they have on him.

Thomas is the latest victim to offer himself up as the centre of attention at the annual event, which to date has raised more than \$600,000 for the organization over its first 15 years.

It's all for a good cause, said Thomas, who owns Salt & Pepper Private Catering.

"It's nerve-wracking for sure, but it's a good time," Thomas said. "It's 15 years strong, this event. It's a lot of laughs, with good people."

He said he didn't really hesitate when asked to be the person being roasted.

"It's for the kids. It's good for the commu-

nity, it's good for the kids and they always needs lots of funds to keep things going, so it's good."

This year's Easter Seals Celebrity Roast, scheduled for April 18 at the Victoria Inn, follows a long-time Thunder Bay tradition, which over the past decade-and-a-half has seen the likes of Colin Bruce, Tom Jones, John Trevisanutto, Jack Mallon, Michael Power, Bruno Niederer, Vince Mirabelli and Dougall Media's own Kathy Harris put targets on their back to help Easter Seals offer a variety of services to children and youth with physical abilities.

Rhonda Harrison, senior development officer with Easter Seals Ontario, said the roast was originally scheduled in November, but moved to April. She's excited to have the event back.

"It's nerve-

wracking for

sure, but it's

a good time."

DAVE THOMAS

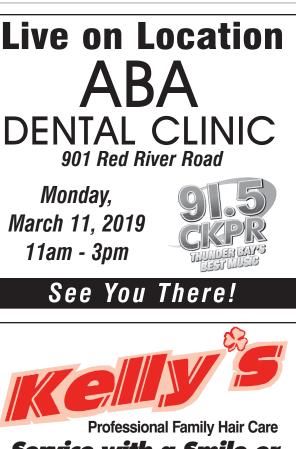
"This is our second-biggest fundraiser, so this is going to raise a lot of money to help the kids."

> Harrison noted it's not easy finding someone willing to put themselves out there to be insulted publicly by the people who know them best.

"It's a lot to ask, so that's why we're very grateful that Dave came forward," she said. "It's hard to find people that brave." Roasters include Mirabelli,

Johnny De Bakker, Damien Gilbert, Darren Webb, Kevin Anderson and one-time mayoral candidate Kevin Cernjul.

Tickets to the roast are \$125 apiece and are available at the Easter Seals Ontario local office and online at www.easterseals.org. Thursday, March 7, 2019 11 Do you have an opinion to share? E-mail the editor at ldunick@dougallmedia.com





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March: time to order seeds for the garden

TBLife

S⁰, first day of March: lion or lamb? My money is on 'lion'. Well, perhaps a frozen lion with gusts of freezing winds that don't let up.

I was returning from feeding the horses in the barn Sunday morning and chanced to look up at the chimney of Casa Jones. Jack Frost and his swirling winds were causing the smoke to dance hither and thither first one way and then another anywhere but straight up. I felt it too, first on one side of my face and then on the other. My wife, Laura, and I, had decided that since the thermometer was reading around minus twenty-three and with the winds a heck-of-a-lot colder, that we'd just toss hay into stalls and feed them their morning grain. The inside of the barn was warm and while refilling water pails the sound of contented munching is what we heard.

Outside sudden gusts were stirring loose snow and possibly forming a crust on top. We feed birds by scattering seed on the picnic table that is across the drive from our 'hoosie'. I was gratified to see a flock of Pine Grosbeaks mixed with Purple Finches all vying for the seed. They all scatter if blue jays show up who, in turn, scatter if the 'Bambi's' (deer) arrive to chow down. They, in turn, scatter if anyone opens the front door to Casa Jones.

There is a lilac bush growing just outside my library window into which I observe chickadees retreating once they have grabbed some seed. They sit up on the branches and crack open the seed with their beaks. Sunday morning (at time of writing) I saw several finches occupying those branches. Great, I got a good closeup of the finches colouring especially the



rose hue on the male's chest. Friday morning as I was seated in my comfy chair in the living room, I looked up and saw through the sliding door that leads to the screen porch, the effects of the rising sun on the spruce trees that edge the western horse paddock. Wow! For a brief minute or two, the snow on the branches reflected the exact same rose hue found on the breasts of male Purple finches.

Regardless of what Ol' Man Winter is doing outside, the first days of March are very important in this household. 'Tis time to order seeds for the garden. After feeding equines and after stoking the boiler and fireplace, I set about cooking some breakfast. As I placed the bowls of porridge in front of Laura and then at my place, I saw that Laura had now figuratively put on her gardening hat and was gleefully pouring over the seed catalogues. Oh, that's right: on the way back from the barn she had mentioned that now was the time to order her seeds both veggie and floral. So, there she was: one hand scooping porridge while the other grasping a pen, was writing out what seeds she wished to purchase. "How many catalogues are you looking at," I asked? "Three in magazine form and three on-line," she answered. Oh.

As Laura was perusing her catalogues, I

looked out the picture window while spooning 'gruel'(yum!) into my maw. Laura had observed how the sunlight seems to play with the snow surface. There were large patches of grey mixed in with equally large lighter ones that reminded me of a lake surface in summer where you get a clear surface and spotting the water, roughed up patches.

Much of the day's conversation was Laura deciding on which variety of veggie seed to buy. "Did you know that there are nineteen varieties of basil?" she asked. I did not. "How many types of basil did you plant last year?" I enquired. "Two," she answered. "You're not seriously thinking of planting all nineteen varieties, are you?" I asked hesitantly. "Good gracious no! Just the same two. They worked," she replied.

Later that night, I stumbled upstairs from my lair in the basement to join her in bed. There she was snuggled under the covers and propped up by umpteen pillows still looking at types of veggie for our garden. "I am trying to find a supplier of a type of bean that grows very long; but so far the only seed is available from the States and I don't want to order from there," she announced. And just as I climbed under the covers, having managed to get Baxter, our large pooch, to move so that I would have leg room, Laura exclaimed that she found a supplier down east in Nova Scotia and that she would order from there. Whew! I guess.

So, seeds for birdies and starving deer and seeds for the garden. Can spring be far behind? Given that Jack Frost is enjoying partying with his freezing winds, I think spring is a wee while away yet.





Thursday, March 7, 2019 13

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HIGH FASHION: The latest men's and women's fashions were on display during the 17th Annual Thunder Bay Wedding show .

Planning for special day with a little help

The Wedding Show offers a glimpse into how local services help create that special day

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Garolyn Mantuso and Jeff Johnson have only been engaged for two weeks but they are already looking at ways to make their special day as memorable as they can, and there is no shortage of options.

"We are starting to plan the big day," said Johnson. "We don't know yet, but probably summer 2020."

"We wanted to get to know all the local vendors and check things out," Mantuso added.

The happy couple was among hundreds taking in the many different ways to make a wedding day as special as possible courtesy of local vendors and businesses during the 17th Annual Thunder Bay Wedding Show on Sunday.

This year there were more than 70

exhibitors, from DJs, photographers, food and wine services, transportation, to dress and tuxedo boutiques.

"This is the real lead-in to the June, July, and August weddings," said Andre Fitzgerald, manager of the Wedding Show. "But we are seeing a lot of 2020 brides attending this show. It's not just for this year."

More than 170 brides registered for this year's show, though Fitzgerald expects that number will probably be higher with couples just coming by to check things out.

"The big thing today is the Last Couple Standing weddings." contest where one lucky couple is going to win a ANDRE FITZGERALD \$7,100 package, including DJ services, photography, videography, and dress,' Fitzgerald said.

Mantuso and Johnson were among the couples competing to be the Last Couple Standing and they said winning the grand prize would go a long way to helping them cover the expenses for their wedding.

They still haven't decided how big

they want to go, but there was no shortage of ideas on Sunday.

"It's overwhelming a little bit," Johnson said. "There are a lot of good options. We are trying to keep it a little smaller, maybe spend a lot on the honeymoon."

But the Wedding Show isn't just for brides-to-be and happy grooms.

Fitzgerald said it really offers a glimpse into the many services available "This is the here in the city to make any real lead in occasion a little more to the June, July and

August

lavish. "We see an array of vendors and businesses other than just weddings are

available here at the show,' he said. "Whether it's limo

services for birthday parties, or anniversary or if

you need make-up or hair services. The Wedding Show can be perfect for the bride to jump into planning, but its also perfect for the general public to come down and see what great opportunities Thunder Bay has for choosing some spectacular services."

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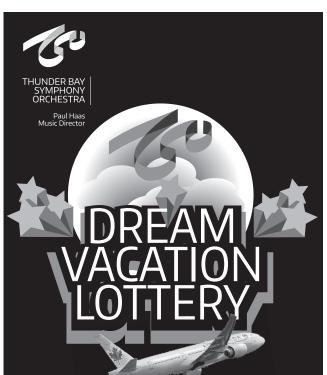


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CHECK IT AND SEE: Foreigner frontman Kelly Hansen is joined by the St. Patrick High School choir on Monday night at the Community Auditiorum.

St. Patrick's choir joins Foreigner during encore

MUSIC By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Foreigner has never been in heavy rotation on Breanne Yesno's music playlist. But that didn't stop the 17-year-old St. Patrick High School student from jumping at the chance to join the '70s and '80s legends on stage on Monday night at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium to sing backing vocals along with the school choir on the band's 1984 No. 1 hit, *I Wanna Know What Love Is.*

"It was kind of surreal. It was super exciting," the Grade 12 student said. "I expected to be nervous, but I was really excited and they made it super cool."

They earned the chance in a city-wide competition, facing off against fellow Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board rival St. Ignatius, winning the contest, sponsored by Rock 94, after learning the song, making a video and promoting it to the public on social media. "It was a lot of hard work," Yesno said. "Our choir teacher really made us work hard for it. We practiced during school two or three days a week. It was really surreal."

The youngster admitted she was a little familiar with Foreigner, but certainly was no expert on their expansive catalogue, which on Monday night saw the British-American act trot out crowd favourites like *Cold as Ice, Hot Blooded, I've Been Waiting for a Girl Like You*, and *Urgent.*

"You know a few songs here and there, like *Juke Box Hero*. You know the big ones, like *It Feels Like the First Time*. But that was pretty much it for me," Yesno said.

"It was still super exciting because we kind of had to learn about them, which was good to do before you went up there."

Founded in 1976 by Mick Jones and Ian McDonald, the band sold more than 80 million records with Lou Gramm singing vocals.

Jones, who was not present at the

Thunder Bay show, is the only original band member left. Foreigner is fronted by Kelly Hansen, and features Thom Gimbel, keyboardist Michael Bluestein, guitarist Bruce Watson, drummer Chris Frazier and bassist Jeff Pilson.

Fifteen-year-old Reece Cates was thrilled to have the chance to sing with Foreigner, a group her parents introduced her

"It was crazy.

I was

pumped with

adrenaline

and it was so

much fun."

REECE CATES

to in her younger years. "It was crazy. I was pumped with adrenaling and it was so

with adrenaline and it was so much fun. Music has always been a part of my life," the 15-year-old said.

"It was everything I listened to growing up. My parents listened to it and it's just a whole different level now."

Hansen, who joined Foreigner in 2005, told the almost sold-out crowd they invite student choirs

to sing with them as a way to help promote the importance of musical education in schools. IN THE **bay**

Grey's Anatomy lands in record books

Iconic medical drama is in its 15th season

G*rey's Anatomy* has finally done it. And by "it", I mean broken the record. Not for the most number of sexual encounters in a hospital on-call room - although I'm sure that's up there. Not for the most over-the-top bizarre medical cases - although the penis fish that swam up a urine stream to become lodged in a man's urethra was particularly memorable.

And not for the hottest doctors although McDreamy, McSteamy, and McHottie have now been added to our vernacular thanks to Shonda Rhimes.

No, Grey's broke the record for the longest-running medical drama in prime-time TV history. And what's more, it's showing little sign of slowing down.



After 15 season, Grev's is still the second most popular drama on television.

In fact, it's never dropped below number three among adults 50 and under since it premiered. Any why?

Obviously, the hot doctors are a solid draw for the series.

Sandra Oh also gave it years of artistic credibility with her Emmyworthy performances.

And who isn't going to tune in to watch a surgical unit remove a live bomb from inside a body only to have the bomb tech walking it away to safety suddenly blow up?

(Kyle Chandler, our time together was short, but ever so sweet.)

Grey's success is a combination of it all. The laughter, the tears, and the ever-present sex has kept loyal viewers tuning in. But it's the manner in which the writers tackle current issues that has contin-PATRICK DEMPSEY uously brought in new audiences.

The drama has also delved into sexism, alcoholism and substance abuse, obsessive compulsive disorder, homosexuality, mass shootings, PTSD, and domestic abuse. Yet, it manages to

WORD SEARCH

hold on to its humour and joy.

Owen's PTSD was dealt with through therapy, social supports, and regular visits to a giant air vent in the hospital basement - where, yes, he had sex.

> After several seasons, Jo was revealed to be hiding from an abusive husband. Ironically, he died by traumatic brain injury after tripping getting out of his hospital bed to attack her.

And since Jo was still technically his wife, she was asked to donate his organs - which left her laughing until she cried.

And last year, the writers touched on unconscious bias in the shooting of a teen boy

The episode ended with two successful black doctors having "the talk" with their son.

However, instead of sex, they explained how he should respond when stopped by the police. And it was heart-breaking to hear the thirteen-year-old boy practice getting on his knees, putting his hands behind his head and saying his name, age, and that he had no weapons on him.

It gave a new perspective to an ongoing conversation. But that's what Grey's does best.

Every season there's a new medical drama. Eventually Grey's will be replaced by another show with scalpels.

But for now, it's found joy in loss, laughter in pain, and healing in disease.

And in this challenging world, I'd say we'd all be healthier if we watched one episode per week as needed.

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Sports

local sports news information coverage



TOP FINISHERS: From left to right: Nicole Gilman, Greta Jenkins, and Samantha Benzing, all Duluth Minn. finished in the top four spots during the 50K classic at the Sleeping Glant Loppet on Saturday.

Local women on top at Loppet

Local women dominate the 50K freestyle, while American skiers take several top spots in the 50K classic and freestyle races during the 42nd Annual Sleeping Giant Loppet

SKIING By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

t was America's year out on the cross-country ski trails, with three of the four top finishers in the two men's and women's 50K races at the Sleeping Giant Loppet coming from south of the border.

"It's the third time that I've raced," said Brian Gregg of Minneapolis, Minn. who finished first in the 50K freestyle. "I finished second to Thunder Bay native Michael Somppi last year, so it's nice to win this year."

For the last three years, local skiers have taken top spots in the men's race at the annual Sleeping Giant Loppet, but during its 42nd year at the Sleeping Giant Provincial Park on Saturday, it was America's turn.

Gregg finished first with a time of 2:13:49, easily edging out the closest competitor, Hannes Stenstrom of Duluth, Minn. with a time of 2:19:28, and Noah Thompson of Thunder Bay, who finished third at 2:24:07.

Last year, Gregg finished second to Thunder Bay's Michael Somppi by just two seconds.

"I had a little bit of a gap right before the furthest road crossing at about 25K, about the halfway point," Gregg said. "While driving up in the morning, I put a fresh water bottle out there, so it was nice to get a little bit of gas."

Several top Thunder Bay skiers were not competing this year as they prepare for national cross-country ski trials, but despite taking the top spot away from local favourites, Gregg said there are never hard feelings among cross-country skiers.

"I got a lot of great friends here in Thunder Bay," he said. "I do a lot of training with the National Training Centre. I like to say we keep the competition on the ski trails."

Local women in the 50K freestyle had a much better day, with the top three spots dominated by Thunder Bay skiers.

Mia Serratore finished on top with a time of 2:37:58, followed by Brook Latimer at 2:40:18 and Alannah McLean in third, finishing at the 2:42:11 mark.

In the 50K men's classic, Tamer Mische-Richt of Duluth finished first with a time of 2:48:12, edging out local skiers Geoffrey Way-Nee, who finished second with a time of 2:53:24 and Paul Inkila, coming in just behind at 2:53:53.

On the women's side, Madison Morgan of Sun Valley, Idaho, took the top spot by finishing in a time of just 3:01:22, followed by Samantha Benzing of Duluth who finished more than 10 minutes behind at 3:13:34 and Nicole Gilman, also of Duluth, who came in just one second behind Benzing at 3:13:35.

This was the first Sleeping Giant Loppet for Morgan, who skis with the Sun Valley Ski Education Centre, and was only her second 50K race.

"It was pretty sweet," Morgan said. "It started off relatively slow. It was pretty cold this morning. But as soon as the sun came out, the snow sped up, the kick was wonderful, the tracks were firm, it was an awesome 50K."

Morgan finished well above the rest of the competition, which she credits to working on her double-pull technique.

"In the past few years, I've really focused on double-pull technique," she said. "This course is awesome for double-pulling. It was pretty snowy, which means great climbs. I think it was a strong push from the start, chasing the guys, and I just kept with it."

Peter Gallagher, coordinator of the Sleeping Giant Loppet, said this year there were 810 skiers participating, with more than 300 hundred coming from outside of Thunder Bay.

"That is the most we've had in a number of years," Gallagher said. "We are very happy with the turnout."

"People love this event," he continued. "It's 42 years old and it has a tradition that people in the United Sates and across Northern Ontario are well in-tuned with and look forward to it every year."

sports NEWS



CLOSE FINISH: Lakehead's Tianna Warwick-Dawkins (left), battles Ottawa's Brigitte Lefebvre-Okankwu for position.

T-Wolves comeback falls short in Ottawa

BASKETBALL **By Leith Dunick – TB Source**

f only the Lakehead Thunderwolves could have a firsthalf do-over.

A flat-footed start that saw the Ottawa Gee-Gees jump in front by 22 points after 20 minutes proved too much to rebound from in the second half, despite a near-miraculous comeback bid that saw the Wolves climb as close as a five-point deficit.

The 68-60 win sent the No. 1 Gee-Gees to the Critelli Cup final against McMaster, where they lost 79-75, but still secured the No. 4 seed. The Marauders, winners of the OUA West, were No. 2.

The Wolves season came to a premature end, with no chance at a wild-card spot at nationals because both Calgary, who they beat at Christmastime, and Concordia are ahead of them in the criteria, which includes season records and ratings performance index standings.

"We struggled to score with the ball and looked tense on offense," LU coach Jon Kreiner said in a release. "We missed shots we normally make and when you miss that much your transition D is going to suffer."

Leashja Grant and Karissa Kajorinne powered the comeback bid, finishing with 24 and 20 points respectively.

Grant. who also grabbed 17 rebounds, had 19 of her 24 in the second half, while Kajorinne buried five of her six three-pointers on the night. Both played the final game of their OUA careers.

Nikki Ylagan was the only other contributor of note for No. 6 Lakehead, finishing with eight points.

It was all Ottawa in the opening half.

The Gee-Gees raced out to a 15-2 lead, bottling up the paint to keep Grant's inside game at bay, while also paying close heed to Kajorinne and Ylagan, the Wolves

main three-point threats.

"At half time I just told them that this could be the last time we play together as a team so just go out there and play hard and for one another," Kreiner said. "We had a great season and gained great experience for our program."

The big difference was the rebounding.

Ottawa out-boarded their opponent 28-18 in the first half, but only 45-42 by the time the final buzzer sounded.

Brooklynn McLear-Fanus led all Ottawa players with 22 points, chipping in 10 assists for the double-double. Sarah Besselink had 14 for the Gee-Gees, while Brigitte Lefebvre-Okankwu had 10.

The Wolves cut the halftime deficit in half by

the time the third quarter ended, down 54-43. Lakehead scored the first six points of the fourth, Ylagan banking in a shot that cut the gap to 54-49.

But it was as close as the Thundewolves would get.

Anne Carr and Lefebvre-Okankwu hit backto-back buckets to extend the Gee-Gees lead back to nine. Grant cut it to seven with a pair of free throws, and later to six with a hoop and a foul conversion. But after forcing a turnover,

to drop that would have made it a one-possession contest and Besselink put it out of reach with a pair

"I wish we played better in the first half," Kreiner said, reached via text.

The Wolves finished the regular season at 20-4, knocking off Guelph in last Saturday's quarterfinal. Ottawa handed Lakehead one of those four losses, an 83-55 drubbing in November.

Thunder Bay's Aliisa Heiskanen is a member of the Gee-Gees, but saw zero minutes of action in last Wednesday's semifinal.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Stars win 10th straight

Dougie Newhouse and the Thunder Bay North Stars show no signs of slowing down.

Newhouse on Saturday made 24 stops to pick up his fifth shutout of the 2018-19 campaign, leading the Stars to a 2-0 road win over the Fort Frances Lakers.

It was the 11th shutout of the season for the Stars, who won for the 10th straight outing.

Jacob Brown, with his 23rd of the season, and Michael Stubbs, with his 21st, scored for Thunder Bay, who improved to 44-3-2. Fifth-place Fort Frances dropped to 16-30-3.

Keighan Gerrie had a pair of assists for Thunder Bay, tying him with teammate Kyle Auger atop the SIJHL points race with 87.

Grant is OUA MVP

Make it 2-for2 for Leashja Grant. The Thunderwolves star forward on Tuesday was named OUA player of the year for a second straight season, after leading

the league with 20.6 points and 12.5 rebounds per game, leading No. 6 Lakehead to a 20-4 record and a spot in Wednesday night's semifinal against No. 1 Ottawa.

Grant wasn't the only Thunderwolves player to take home hardware.

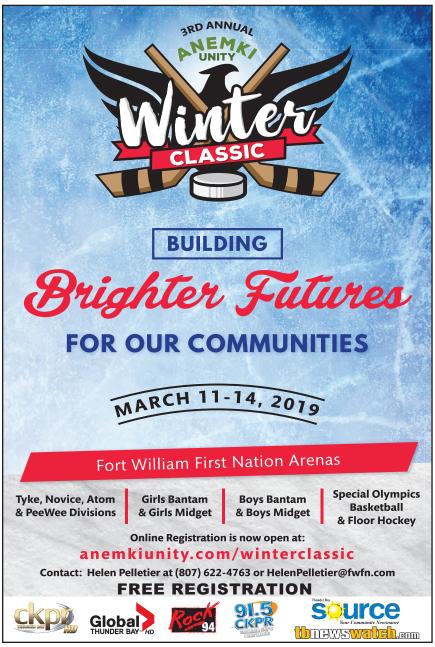
Sharpshooter Nikki Ylagan was named an OUA third-team all-star, while freshman Sofia Lluch was named to the OUA allrookie team.

Thunderwolves coach Jon Kreiner said Grant's recognition was well-deserved.

"Leashja Grant has been absolutely terrific for us," Kreiner said in a release.

"She does what's asked of her by making the extra pass and playing tough defence. Her steals this year are amazing as she leads our team (and our team leads the OUA). She has become a complete player and her teammates have benefited because of that.'

Ylagan finished 20th in the league in scoring, putting up 12.6 points a night, including hitting 37.3 per cent of her threepoint attempts, fifth best in the OUA.



"We struggled to score with the ball and looked tense on offence."

JON KREINER

Tiffany Reynolds couldn't get a three-pointer

from the charity stripe.





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