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### **IN BRIEF** Police seeking answers in teen's death

Ontario Provincial Police in Kenora are investigating the discovery of the body of a 16-year-old near Brinkman Road and Evergreen School.

In a release issued on Monday, police say they are working with the Office of the Chief Coroner, adding there is no concern for public safety at this time. The body was found on Saturday at about 8:50 p.m.

Police have not said whether the youth

was a male or a female.

A post-mortem examination is expected in the next few days. Anyone with information is asked to contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or 807-548-5534.

### Charge withdrawn

The Crown has withdrawn a Criminal Code charge that was laid by Ontario

Provincial Police after a fatal collision in December 2016.

Leonard Dick of Thunder Bay, 46, was charged in May 2017 with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death in connection with a three-vehicle collision on the Thunder Bay Expressway between Oliver Road and John Street.

Gary Maki, 50 years old, was ejected from the pickup truck he was driving.

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SECURED: Police hold the scene on North Cumberland Street.

## **Police investigating** sudden death scene

POLICE

By TB Source staff

Thunder Bay Police are conducting a sudden death investigation on the north side of the city.

Late Monday afternoon, police announced they had been called just after 10 a.m. in regards to the death of an individual at a location in the 400 block of North Cumberland Street.

Officers were assigned to keep the scene secure. No other details were immediately available.

## **Inmate sought**

POLICE By Matt Vis - TB Source

Canada-wide arrest warrant has been issued for a federal A inmate who has been known to frequent the Thunder Bay area.

The OPP issued a news release late Friday afternoon requesting public assistance in locating 39-year-old James Houle, who is being sought by their Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement Squad for being unlawfully at large.

Houle had been serving a sentence of more than three years for four counts of break and enter, four counts of theft over \$5,000, failure to comply with an undertaking, failure to comply with a probation order, possessing a stolen credit card, two counts of drug possession, fraud over \$5,000 and possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

He is known to frequent the Ottawa, Barrie and Thunder Bay areas, police said.



JAMES HOULE

Houle is described as a six-foot-two Caucasian male, weighing 89 kilograms, with a tattoo of a tiger on his left shoulder, Chinese lettering on his right shoulder and a snake tattoo emblazoned on his left forearm.

Anyone who has contact with Houle or has information about his whereabouts is asked to contact the provincial R.O.P.E. squad at 1-866-870-7673, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or call 911.

## LOCALNEWS **Sunshine list grows**

Firefighter's back pay adds greatly to city's membership in the \$100K club

### THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

he lion's share of the 427 City of Thunder Bay's employees who earned \$100,000 or more in 2017 worked in emergency services.

Between the Thunder Bay Police Service, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue and Superior North EMS, a total of 367 employees, including 157 from TBPS, made the annual public sector salary disclosure list, which requires provincial and municipal government departments to reveal the names of those making above \$100,000.

City manager Norm Gale topped the municipality's sunshine list entries, making \$233,821 last year, just \$11 more than Police Chief J.P. Levesque took home.

Levesque spent much of the year suspended with pay while awaiting the outcome of a breach of trust trial that eventually saw him vindicated and the charges dismissed.

Deputy Police Chief Sylvie Hauth, who filled in for Levesque during his legal battle, earned \$221,530, while Fire Chief John Hay made \$184,450.

A large number of the firefighters on the list were there because of back pay earned once their contract was settled.

Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre president and CEO Jean Bartkowiak took home the top local public salary, earning \$375,000, while the hospital's vicepresident Mark Henderson made \$319,999.

A total of 168 employees at Thunder Bay Regional were included on the 2017 sunshine list, 78 more than St. Joseph's Care Group, whose president and CEO Tracy Buckler made \$315,123 last year. Buckler wasn't the highest-paid employee at St. Joseph's Care Group, an honour that went to senior medical director John Haggarty, who made \$365,102. Several psychiatrists also topped Buckler's salary.

Former Lakehead University president Brian Stevenson, who stepped down on Dec. 31, was also one of the city's top earning publicly paid employees, bringing in \$360,041 in his final year at the helm. The university had 334 people who topped the \$100,000 threshold.

Outgoing Confederation College president Jim Madder, who last fall oversaw a five-week, province-wide



WELL PAID: Hospital president and CEO Jean Bartkowiak made \$375,000 last year.

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Lakehead U

Lakehead U

TBRHSC

STJCG

TBRHSC

TBRHSC

City of TB

Con. College

Lakehead U

Lakehead U

Lakehead U

TBRHSC

TBPS

TBPS

TBRHSC

Lakehead U

#### **TOP LOCAL PUBLIC-SECTOR EARNERS IN 2017** Person Title Organization CEO TBRHSC Jean Barktowiak

John Haggarty Sr. Med. Dir. President **Brian Stevenson** Ikrenna Okorafor Psychiatrist Psychiatrist Samer Khalil **Robert Sheppard** Psychiatrist Pamela Johnson Psychiatrist Suzanne Allain Psychiatrist Katalin Gvomorev Psychiatrist Elizabeth Czolpinska Psychiatrist Exec. VP Mark Henderson Psychiatrist Jane Fogolin Tracy Buckler **CEO** Edan Corcoran Psychiatrist **Darryl Vance** Psychiatrist Psychiatrist Peter Braunberger Peter Schubert Psychiatrist Carolina Vidal Psychiatrist Supuneet Bismil Psychiatrist **Tegan Sachevich** Psychiatrist Janet Demille Med. Officer **Chiachen Cheng** Psychiatrist Frank Denson Physician Moira McPherson Provost Exec. VP Stewart Kennedy Angelique Eaglewoman Dean of Law Physician Sunday Adewuyi Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott Exec, VP Abraham Rudnick VP, Research Norm Gale City manager J.P. Levesque Chief Jim Madder President Svlvie Hauth Acting chief Andrew P. Dean VP Peter McGhee Director Sved Islam Professor Katherine Pozihun VP

strike earned \$226,923. A total of 38
college employees made the 2017
list.

Thunder Bay's provincial cabinet ministers were also once again on the spreadsheet. Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle and Minister of Municipal Affairs Bill Mauro each took home \$165,851.

Salary

\$375,000

\$365,102

\$365,000

\$358,776

\$358,325

\$351.840

\$342,129

\$332,117

\$327.513

\$332,117

\$319,999

\$315,762

\$315,123

\$314,684

\$313,713

\$313,698

\$312,913

\$292,369

\$288,323

\$278,419

\$275,355

\$258,144

\$248,576

\$245,041

\$239,999

\$237,665

\$235,671

\$234.691

\$234,000

\$233,821

\$233,810

\$226,923

\$221,530

\$217,041

\$211,752

\$210,954

\$210.041

In total, more than 1,280 Thunder Bay-based workers made the 2017 public sector salary disclosure list for 2017.





# Flood lawsuit claim still unresolved

Litigation still in its early phases, nearly 6 years after disaster

### **THUNDER BAY** By Gary Rinne – TB Source

Five years after a class action lawsuit against the City of Thunder Bay was launched for damages in the May 2012 flooding, the claim remains unresolved.

In fact, a lawyer handling the case on behalf of local homeowners whose basements were flooded after a rainstorm says "we're still going through documentary discoveries."

In civil litigation, parties are required to disclose to each other all the documents they have that pertain to a lawsuit and may be used in a trial.

Won Kim of the Toronto firm Kim

Orr Barristers told Tbnewswatch in a telephone interview that lawyers are also still gathering information on damages caused by the flooding.

"There are hundreds if not thousands

of households that were damaged. We've been working with all the various insurers and individual households to collect damage reports. This is a laborious task," Kim said.

One year ago, Kim indicated that he expected the matter would be "ready for trial" sometime in early 2018. However, he has now clarified that the matter "has to be resolved either at a trial or through mediation."

He expects, he said, to have a better sense by June as to how the case will proceed.

Thunder Bay City Manager Norm Gale had no comment on the matter on Monday except to confirm that it "continues in litigation."

The city is also involved in separate but related litigation with an insurance provider.

**"There are** 

hundreds if

not

thousands of

households

that were

damaged."

WON KIM

Last May, it filed a statement of claim against the Ontario Municipal Insurance Exchange (OMEX).

It sought to recover \$30 million for the cost of repairs to the Atlantic Avenue sewage treatment plant which was damaged in the 2012 flooding.

City officials pegged the total repair cost at \$58 million, but said OMEX only covered a portion, claiming

that some of the work was actually upgrades to the plant rather than fixups.

The city's claim has not been proven in court.



SUIT STILL GOING: An East End resident pours flood water into the streets in May 2012.



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# **Province gives \$1.6B to power plan**

### Premier Kathleen Wynne on hand for Watay Power announcement

### THUNDER BAY By Matt Vis – TB Source

Sixteen remote First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario are on track to be hooked up to the provincial energy grid within the next five years in what is described as the largest First Nations power connection project in Canada.

Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott announced \$1.6 billion in federal funding to Wataynikaneyap Power, a majority owned company by 22 First Nations communities to bring power lines into the far north and end reliance on diesel.

The first phase of the project, which could begin construction as early as next year, would upgrade current transmission infrastructure from Ignace to Pickle Lake with a targeted completion of 2020. The second stage would extend lines north of Pickle Lake and Red Lake, reach the 16 communities, with in-service dates beginning in 2021 and all hooked up by 2023.

### Huge effort

Philpott said the initiative, which will reach more than 14,000 people, is the most expansive Indigenous-led transmission project in Canada's history.

"We cannot overemphasize the importance of this, not just for the 16 communities but for all of us as



COMING SOON: The two phases of development for the Wataynikaneyap Power project.

Canadians," Philpott said.

"I hear so many chiefs talk about what this will mean to the young people who will be able to rely on power. Most Canadian teenagers can't imagine that you couldn't have reliable power every single day of the year but the Canadian teenagers in the north have known what it is like to know that sometimes you may go days without power." Utilizing the provincial energy grid is projected to result in savings of \$1 billion over 40 years compared to using diesel, with the environmental impact equivalent to removing 35,000 vehicles from the road.

Wataynikaneyap Power chief executive officer Margaret Kenequanash, who said efforts to connect the communities to the grid date back more than 25

### WATAYNIKANEYAP PARTICIPANTS

Communities to be connected by the Wataynikaneyap Power project:

- Bearskin Lake First Nation
- Deer Lake First Nation
- Kasabonika Lake First
- NationKeewaywin First Nation
- Kingfisher First Nation
- Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation
- Muskrat Dam Lake First Nation
- North Caribou Lake First Nation
- North Spirit Lake First Nation
- Pikangikum First Nation (announced August 2017)
- Poplar Hill First Nation
- Sachigo Lake First Nation
- Sandy Lake First Nation
  Wapekeka First Nation
- Wawakapewin First Nation
- Wunnumin First Nation

years, said the announcement symbolizes the ability to move forward.

"The line that lights up the north, it's going to benefit not only First Nations but also Ontario and Canada in terms of whatever economic prosperity and opportunities present themselves," Kenequanash said.

"We have to be visionaries in this project. This is a sliver of what our First Nations people can do in exercising that jurisdiction they have, that inherent right to be able to be part of that economic thrust and be part of the wealth generation and be part of the economy of Canada."

The project is expected to create nearly 770 jobs, 220 of which would be based in Northwestern Ontario.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne described the announcement as a major milestone for an incredibly important project, one that sends a clear message.

"It says that you don't have to leave your community behind to find opportunity," Wynne said. "It says you can develop a career in engineering, a skilled trade or as a senior manager in a major construction project because that's happening in your own region."

### Good first step

Having secure and reliable power is the first step in developing solutions to other challenges such as inadequate housing, unsafe drinking water and enhancing the capability of schools and nursing stations in these communities, said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

"The work is not done. This is only the start. We want to begin to fully develop our communities," Fiddler said. "We need roads. We need the proper infrastructure to support the other projects that will be coming."

Philpott said the establishment of corridors for the power lines could likely lead to eventual future infrastructure expansion.

"We now have corridors that are being opened up, transmission towers and power towers that are moving along the lines to these remote communities. It's foreseeable that broadband could at some point in the future be added in here," Philpott said.



## **Editorial**

### **EDITORIAL**

## Let's get a bridge deal

opefully Canadian National Railway is willing to listen.

Last week, it seems, leadership from Fort William First Nation submitted a repair plan to the railway, suggesting a fix that could potentially reopen the James Street Swing Bridge to traffic, nearly five years after a massive fire made it unsafe.

On Tuesday the City of Thunder Bay came out in full support of the plan, saying they are willing to work with whomever necessary to get the refurbishment project under way.

It's long past time to get a deal done.

It's long past time to get traffic moving from Thunder Bay to Fort William First Nation via the shortest and safest route possible.

It's long past time for residents living across the river to not live in fear of how long it takes emergency services to reach their community.

Having one realistic entrance and exit to the community is not safe. How many collisions have occurred on Highway 61 since the bridge closed?

Here's a hint, one is too many.

The James Street Swing Bridge is a vital transportation link between Thunder Bay and Fort William First Nation.

It's good for business on both sides of the Kaministiquia River. Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins once estimated his community was losing \$50,000 a day in lost business.

Westfort business owners also felt the pinch. It's time to get something done.

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### WSIB needs help

To the editor:

The Workers Compensation System (now called the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) was created more than 100 years ago to provide workers that were injured or made sick at their workplace with an income that would sustain them and/or their family for the length of time they were affected by their injury or illness.

The compensation system is an entirely employer funded program that uses no public tax dollars, so there is no money taken out of the public purse to support injured workers.

The system worked fairly well (although not without some problems) and was self-sustaining for decades. In the mid 1990s, however, the Conservative government under Mike Harris decided to help their friends in business and reduced the employer's fees by 30 per cent.

Over the ensuing years the money available to pay injured workers was reduced to the point where there was a large projected deficit called an unfunded liability.

To deal with that unfunded liability, the WSIB hired a businessman, I. David Marshall, who decided the only way to handle the situation was to reduce the money going to injured workers rather than returning the fees to employers to the pre-Harris government days or something close to that level.

In order to reduce payment to injured workers the WSIB tightened and sometimes changed the rules that qualified injured workers for compensation.

As a result there are now thousands of injured workers living in poverty. The ultimate outcome of this situation is that thousands of injured workers are now forced to access the publicly funded health care and social service systems to help them and their family to survive.

The Ontario Network of Injured Workers Group (ONIWG) has been supporting injured workers for years and has decided to step up its support by holding a cross-province week of protest by meeting with local MPPs to explain the plight of the injured workers so that they can force the WSIB to take steps to ensure that the Compensation system returns to a true Compensation system that is employer funded and is not dependant on public taxpayer systems to support injured workers.

On Tuesday, April 3 at noon the Thunder Bay & District Injured Workers Support Group will attempt to meet with MPP Michael Gravelle at his office on Algoma Street and we invite all injured workers and friends of injured workers to come out to support them.

Please help us to give injured workers the opportunity to live with dignity.

Jules Tupker TB&DIWSG board member

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Spring's tourism boost



I'm sure we are all pleased that spring has officially arrived. Temperatures are rising and the snow is starting to melt away. In our riding, that means it's hard not to start looking forward to sunny days spent on the lake, at the cabin, or out walking the beautiful trails we enjoy in the North.

Spring provides the hope that summer is on its way. In Northwestern Ontario, that means the tourist season is quickly approaching and businesses are already preparing.

Tourism provides a significant economic boost for the riding. Each year, tourists from throughout Canada, the United States, and elsewhere, come to spend their time enjoying Northwestern Ontario. In doing so, they support local businesses and create jobs.

There are a lot of jobs directly and indirectly related to tourism in the area.

Fishing guides, lodges, outfitters, and souvenir shops are just some examples of the many businesses who benefit from the arrival of tourists.

In fact, tourism directly or indirectly supports one in 10 jobs in Canada.

With the tourist season approaching, there are hundreds of job opportunities for summer students' right here at home. In the riding last year, there was a total investment of \$900,000 into the Canada Summer Jobs program, which helped to create more than 300 jobs.

That is in stark contrast to the previous Conservative government, when the riding received just \$176,614 and 79 jobs in 2015.

Our government plans on continuing to increase the number of work placements for youth through the Canada Summer Jobs program. These jobs are invaluable.

Not only do they provide work so students can spend their summers at home with their families, they offer real work experience and prepare students for the real world.

Lake of the Woods remains a major draw for tourism in our riding, but there are opportunities for growth elsewhere. Fort Severn First Nation, near the shore of Hudson Bay, is the most Northern community in Ontario.

The community is working on using its unique location to capitalize on a promising initiative involving polar bear sighting tours. I had the chance to go on one of these tours and experienced the excitement of witnessing polar bears up close. This kind of innovating thinking will only increase tourism and help drive economic development.

It's not just Northwestern Ontario experiencing strong tourism numbers. According to Statistics Canada, 20.8 million international tourists visited the country last year.

That is the highest number in Canadian history. The total contribution to Canada's economy through the tourism sector was \$138.8 billion, according to research released by the World Travel & Tourism Council.

Tourism has always been a large part of the economy in our riding. I look forward to our government continuing to invest in Canada's tourism sector and promoting our country, and Northwestern Ontario, to the world.

for the generations that follow them,

If dreams remain alive, the greatness of generations becomes a runaway

That train carries Boomers like Bill

Clinton and Meryl Streep, Gen X-ers

like Barack Obama and Jenifer Lopez

and Millennials like Ashton Kucher

It may have already left the station -

millions protested around the world

students who are literally fighting for

their lives, felling like sitting ducks in

It was a powerful message - at one point school shooting survivor Emma

Gonzales led a silent vigil for six

It was a long, uncomfortable silence but that's exactly how long the horror

lasted at the Parkland, Florida school

Also in attendance was Yolanda

Renee King, 9-year-old granddaughter

of Martin Luther King Jr., who

She has a dream of her own, "Spread

the word, have you heard? All across

the nation. We are going to be a great

Every generation has something

great to offer, including young Ms

The challenge is for each one to

express its greatness in a way that

That's how we can transform inter-

angst

into

restated her Grandpa's dream.

minutes and twenty seconds.

shooting last month.

generation."

King's.

last weekend to stop gun violence. The protest was driven by young

that they will take up the cause.

train, impossible to resist.

and Serena Williams.

school.

## **Perspective** Millennials picking up the protest

Last weekend's March For Our Lives demonstrations show youth still want to make a difference

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

here is a strong undercurrent of dis-satisfaction running through western society that can best be described as inter-generational angst.

Which generation is the greatest the traditionalists, the Baby Boomers, Gen "X", "Y" or "Z"?

I grew up with Baby Boomers and we were the bee's knees, which was an expression our parents used to describe how awesome we were.

We were numerous and symbolized the hope for a better tomorrow, which was why our parents had so many of us.

We were destined for greatness, well-fed, healthy and well-educated and enjoyed a better, richer lifestyle than our parents.

We were young and energized and thought we alone could change the world.

Boomers were no strangers to protest, marching and demonstrating for equality and social justice and fighting to end all war.

We rode a wave of "Peace, Love and Happiness" and expected the rest of the world to hop on the train with us.

Our generation had the best of intentions but the radical spirit started to fizzle out when something else caught our attention.

It was a great ride but as they say, life is what happens to you while you are making other plans.

What happened to the Boomers was good paying jobs, mortgage payments,



ALL FIRED UP: Hundreds of thousands of students marched on Washington, D.C. last Saturday to protest gun violence,

a couple of kids, a career for some and prosperity for all.

We still considered our generation to be the greatest but what we really meant was that being born a Boomer was the greatest luck.

Greatness was our destiny – we were well-fed, healthy and well-educated and guaranteed to enjoy a better, richer lifestyle than our parents.

Our kids would end up being even better off than us and we were counting on them to keep the peace train on the rails and fight for justice.

They were labelled Gen Y or Millennials or the Echo Generation, the genetic offspring and demographic echo of their Boomer parents.

Baby Boomers put away their protest signs to raise families while

THUNDER BAY

trying to shelter their kids from the evils of the world.

They tried, but Gen Y came of age in the era of school shootings and terrorist attacks - peace, love and happiness were elusive.

Gen Y hoped to be the generation to benefits the generations yet to come. finally address the "wrongs" in society

All parents have those same hopes

### **HOW TO WRITE US:**

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

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

# Liberal Gravelle seeking a 7th term

### **POLITICS** By Matt Vis – TB Source

Michael Gravelle wants to add to his unbeaten streak in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

Gravelle, who was first elected to Queen's Park in 1995, on Monday officially secured the Liberal nomination in the Northwestern Ontario riding in his bid to earn his seventh term in the provincial legislature. The nomination was unopposed.

The 69-year-old first represented the former Port Arthur riding and has five subsequent victories in Thunder Bay-Superior North since the electoral districts were redefined before the 1999 election.

The job isn't done, Gravelle said.

"Certainly in a number of the First Nations communities some good things are happening and some great projects are going forward. In all of the communities I represent – from the small ones to Thunder Bay itself – there are some great economic development opportunities," Gravelle said.

"I want to see the completion of the four-laning of the highway between Thunder Bay and Nipigon. That's hugely



BACK ON BALLOT: Michael Gravelle was first elected in Thunder Bay-Superior North in 1995 and has held the seat since it was created.

important for me. I'm excited about our commitment to bring cardiovascular surgery to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences for all of Northwestern Ontario."

Gravelle, who had also battled cancer earlier this decade, took a months-long

leave of absence last year after publicly announcing he was suffering from depression.

That break allowed him to reflect both on life and his political career.

"I'm feeling what a great opportunity it is to be the MPP to work to represent all my constituents as best I can," Gravelle said.

"It's a huge riding. It's one of the bigger ridings in the province and there's no question to have the honour of representing them for a seventh time would be very special. I think my time away allowed me think how important it was to me and hopefully I'll get an opportunity to carry on that job."

Gravelle, a senior member of Premier Kathleen Wynne's cabinet as the current minister of northern development and mines, said the selection of Doug Ford as the new Progressive Conservative leader has sparked concerns that a PC government could undo much of what the Liberals achieved during their 15 years in power.

"I really do fear this will result in significant cuts to public services and that's something we just can't afford. We need to invest more in public services and there's no doubt about that," Gravelle said.

"We need to be very clear about the fact there's a real contrast between the parties. The stakes are high. It's very significant what's going on and this campaign will show that as well."

Gravelle, who won 56 per cent of the vote during his most recent win, will take on second-time Progressive Conservative challenger Derek Parks, who had seven per cent in 2014, and NDP first-time contestant Lise Vaugeois in the provincial election on June 7.

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NEW LOOK: Tourism manager Paul Pepe helps unveil changes to Tourism Thunder Bay's website last week at Wilderness North.

## **Tourism site revamped**

### Launch first phase of planned changes to city's web portals restaurants for those who prefer not as well, to be better ambassadors, to

### By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Catching the eye of today's tourist takes a modern approach.

Travelers are looking for unique shots to share on Instagram and other social media outlets and seeking adventures to awe their friends and family.

Thunder Bay, while off the beaten path, can easily deliver, said Stephanie Reid, a member of the team who helped revamp the city's new-look tourism website, the first phase in a complete overhaul of the municipality's online presence.

As a result, there's a heavy socialmedia presence on the new site, filled with dynamic photos and video of the city and surrounding region and, more importantly, updated and easily navigable links designed to make it more user friendly.

#### **Picture perfect**

"This is what today's market wants, Instagram-able places that nobody else has been, and that's what we are to these places around the world," Reid said, addressing the audience on Wednesday during the website unveiling at Wilderness North.

"Now we have a tool to share our destination with them."

Beyond that, she added, is the business directory, which allows visitors to search and filter through more than 1,300 local businesses that might be of interest to tourists, from bait shops for cross-border anglers to restaurants for those who prefer not to capture their own food.

"You can read a little bit about them, you can see a Google map to where they're located. You can click a get directions button and it will give you turn-by-turn directions to get to that place. It works for restaurants and attractions and hotels," Reid said.

"It makes the experience of coming to Thunder Bay logistically very simple for anyone who

wants to come here. There are no obstacles or barriers in the way of you booking your trip here. And that includes the book online option."

While the city site isn't set up to take bookings, they've instead collected links to do so and situated them in a one-stopshopping section that will allow tourists to quickly reserve rooms, tours and rentals.

Paul Pepe, the city's tourism manager, said the upgrade, which went live this week, was a long-time coming and long overdue.

He added the goal was to offer a fully responsive tool that also worked well with mobile, for visitors to find what they're looking for when traveling to or thinking about traveling to Thunder Bay.

And it's not just for those from away.

"We want residents to use the site

as well, to be better ambassadors, to reconnect with our city and all the great things we have to see and do around the community, and to share it with their friends and family, to encourage their friends and family to come and visit this summer and see all that Thunder Bay has to offer."

#### More to come

Karen Lewis, the city's director of corporate strategic services, said the remainder of the website updates will roll out in

"This is what

today's the second seco

It's been 10 years since the website was overhauled, the only time it's been done since it was initially launched in 1996.

Times have changed, Lewis said. "About half of the visitors

who come to our website, about 5,000 a day, are coming to the site from mobile devices. We needed to have a responsive

website so that it would adjust to the size of the phone and people could see the information properly," she said.

"That's just part of it. Through the city's strategic plan there was a commitment to more engagement with the public, so this website renewal is also a part of creating a website ... that is easier to navigate and provides quick access to the information that residents want about their city."

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## **Countries work on emergency protocols**

### **GRAND PORTAGE, MINN.** By Leith Dunick – TB Source

### he time to make friends is before you need them.

That's precisely what government officials and emergency crews on both sides of the border have spent the past couple of days working on, taking part in the 2018 Cross-Border Minnesota-Ontario Emergency Management Conference, a biennial event designed to find ways to better share resources when disaster strikes.

Mike Morton, director of emergency management with Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, said the goal is to create a much more seamless cross-border emergency response system, so that when trouble, such as an out-of-control wildfire, a tornado or a flood does break out, all sides are on the same page.

"Our goal is to share information, work on process and protocols, so that we can



WORKING TOGETHER: Mike Morton, director of emergency management with Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management.

get emergency response resources to citizens on both sides of the border as quickly as possible, regardless of where those resources might be located," Morton said on Thursday during a break from the conference, taking place at the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino Event Centre.

It's especially important in this region, where populations are often sparse and

resources are few and far between when it comes to disaster and emergency responses.

"As we know, Northern Ontario and Northern Minnesota share something in common, and that's a sparsity of resources across a very large geographic area," Morton said.

Whether it's a fire truck or a back hoe, electrical workers or medical personnel, the ideal is to remove obstacles getting in the way of getting people and equipment from one country to the other.

Topics discussed over the two days include the roles of the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact and the OFMEM, the rollout of the North American Humanitarian Response Summit, law enforcement intelligence and trends of concern in public safety, the role of border patrol versus customs and immigration and a session about this year's public health and infectious disease concerns.

Joe Kelly, the director of Homeland

Security and Emergency Management with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, said bringing a province like Ontario on board is significant, adding that collaboration is often the best way to resolve emergencies quickly and without incident.

"Disasters, emergencies, catastrophes, big events and incidents, they don't really pay attention to the geographic and jurisdictional boundaries that we've got. Floods don't know where the province starts and the state ends and no one has the resources that they need to deal with significant events," said Kelly, adding states have had similar agreements in place for decades.

The next step would be drawing up an agreement stating the obligations expected by each side and laying out compensation when resources from one jurisdiction are used in another. Finding ways to speed up border crossings when emergencies hit is also something to be worked out in any deal that gets signed.





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#### Thursday, March 29, 2018 11



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### LOCALNEWS



SPIC AND SPAN: Workers inspect the James Street Swing Bridge, which closed in October 2013 after a massive fire.

# **City backs FWFN's Swing Bridge plan**

### Mayor says Thunder Bay committed to reopening it to traffic

### THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

City of Thunder Bay officials say they remain committed to finding a solution to re-open the James Street Swing Bridge to vehicular traffic and applaud Fort William First Nation leadership for working to make it happen.

In a release issued on Tuesday, city manager Norm Gale said they were told Fort William First Nation in recent days submitted a proposal to CN Railway, which owns the Kaministiquia River span, to make the necessary repairs to allow vehicles to traverse the bridge again.

The James Street Swing Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic after an October 2013 fire and the railway later won a judgment in court that absolved it of upkeep responsibilities laid out in a 1906 agreement when the bridge was first built.

The courts ruled the railway did not have to maintain the bridge for vehicles in perpetuity, as the agreement stated.

The city appealed the decision in the Ontario Court of Appeal on Jan. 24 and a decision is expected in two to four months.

Gale said the city has yet to hear back from CN about

the newly submitted concept or its feasibility, adding the city remains open to working with all interested parties to get the bridge reopened to traffic.

Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs said reopening the bridge is a win-win for both communities.

"In 2011, the city declared its commitment to work collaboratively with FWFN on outstanding issues that are to our mutual benefit. The reopening of the James Street Bridge fits squarely within what is a 'mutual benefit' to both of our communities. We remain open to speaking with CN Railway on how we can reopen this critical point of

access between FWFN and the city. Council is pleased to offer this statement of support for FWFN's efforts," Hobbs said in the release.

"Council is please to offer this statement of support for FWFN's efforts." КЕПТН НОВВS

# **Council reconsidering Chapples plan**

#### CITY HALL By Matt Vis - TB Source

Plans to add two new artificial turf soccer fields at Chapples Park are being substituted to rebuild the grass pitch for the Tbaytel Field at Chapples Park stadium venue.

City administration had initially planned in 2017 to construct a pair of outdoor turf fields at the north end of Chapples Park where baseball fields are currently situated but that project was delayed by no federal funding envelope being available and higher than anticipated cost estimates.

Cory Halvorsen, the city's parks manager, told council on Monday night that the continued lack of certainty of whether the project would fit funding criteria as well as the addition of two new artificial turf surfaces at St. Ignatius and St. Patrick high schools had lessened the demand to go forward. Instead, administration is targeting to

upgrade its current highest priority renewal, which is the former home of the Thunder Bay Chill. The Premier Development League club had played its home matches out of the Chapples

"Right now we're working with the engineering division to assess the site drainage and come up with preliminary Halvorsen said in an interview

"We're aware that is the root issue on that site, is when it rains and there's a lot of water you basically can't use it. That's fundamental to the design and the rest is to integrate it with the existing features and bring it up to that premier level.'

The field project had originally been included in the 2017 budget, with a \$1.25 million capital debenture for "sports field renewal" that must be spent by August 2019.

Halvorsen said meeting that timeline was a factor in going ahead with the stadium field rather than waiting for clarity on federal funding eligibility.

City engineering director Kayla Dixon said the city would prefer to have an agreement in hand before banking on getting money and added there are possibilities for additional field work.

"There certainly is a need in the soccer community for renewal of these fields and if funding comes forward we can bring that opportunity to council," Dixon said. "There are additional fields that still need renewal and replacement throughout the community.'

Coun. Paul Pugh saw redoing an existing field and not adding new ones as a loss.

"This is hugely disappointing for the soccer community and many others," Pugh said. "I realize this is not what administration wanted to bring forward."





Park stadium for nearly a decade before recurring drainage issues forced its relocation to Fort William Stadium.

design for the field and the site,' following the meeting.





## LOCALNEWS **St. Joe's expands mental** health into community

#### HEALTH By Matt Vis - TB Source

St. Joseph's Care Group is one step clos-Ser to transitioning out of the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital while transforming mental health treatment to a communitybased approach.

The organization on Friday unveiled an expansion to their Victoriaville location that offers mental health outpatient programming and supports, many of which were previously provided at the site of the psychiatric hospital.

Dubbed Health Centre South, the new space is located just across the hallway from the existing St. Joseph's Health Centre that opened in 2007.

"Years ago when we started talking about closing the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital we committed to this community that there would be services in the community and that our clients' needs would be met appropriately in different environments," St. Joseph's Care Group chief executive officer Tracy Buckler said.

"These are all parts of that continuum of care that we need to provide. That's far more appropriately provided in community settings and different environments."

Health Centre South brings the organization's Peer Connections, Employment Options and TeamWerks Co-operative which includes a café, woodworking shop and other skills training opportunities, together with clinical services and a range of medical professionals to meet a variety of individual needs.

Kristine Quaid, now the peer council chair and Peer Connections lead, sought mental health treatment five years ago and said this model gives control to clients.

"When you're stuck in a hospital it's all about the hospital. It's everything, the



NEW SITE: St. Joseph's Care Group CEO Tracy Buckler, Peer Connections lead Kristine Quaid and vice-president of addictions and mental health Janet Sillman helped unveil the new Health Centre.

hospital. They tell you what to do, how to do it, for what length of time to do it," Quaid said.

"It's so very structured whereas here it's a more relaxed environment where you make that choice and determination. It's very selfdirected."

It's even more important for mental health recovery, she added.

"It's all self-direction and self-motivation and things that you decide to do, you're more apt to do them because you have a vested interest in them, not because somebody told you to do it," Quaid said.

"If you can make those choices it instills hope and it just gives you everything that you need to move forward in your life."

Buckler said the capital cost to prepare the

space, which is being leased from the city, was \$1.9 million and was completed in less than a year.

Within the next couple of months the organization is planning to complete the move-out from the psychiatric hospital when the East Wing expansion on the St. Joseph Hospital's is completed.

Health Centre South offers totally different treatments for patients with different needs than the new mental health unit in the hospital will, Buckler said.

"(Here) you go home at night or you come in for an hour or you come in for your shift if you're working as peer support or in some of the co-op businesses," Buckler said. "The mental health rehab program (at the hospital) is 24/7 care, an inpatient program."

## Alley's Variety, Mac's robbed on same night

CRIME **By Leith Dunick – TB Source** 

ity police are investigating a Cpair of convenience store robberies.

In a release issued last Friday afternoon, police say officers responded at about 8:40 p.m. Thursday night after receiving a report that a man with a mask over his face entered Alley's Corner Variety on Franklin Street and demanded cash and cigarettes from the 21-year-old female clerk.

The suspect then fled on foot.

The suspect is described as Caucasian, standing about 5-foot-7 with a thick build. He was wearing grey sweat pants and a black Air Jordan hoodie.

The second incident occurred at about 11:30 p.m. the same night, when a male suspect entered a Mac's Convenience store

> on Waterloo Street, also demanding cash and cigarettes from the 41-year-old male clerk on duty at the time.

The suspect in the second robbery also fled on foot.

Police said the suspect in the later incident entered the store with his face covered and estimate he was about 5-foot-8 and was wearing grey sweatpants and a grey hoodie with the word "Jeep" emblazoned on the front.

Anyone with information is asked to phone police at 684-1200, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or visit www.tipsubmit.com.



SOUGHT BY COPS: This suspect is wanted in connection with a Waterloo Mac's robberv.

**ALLEY'S SUSPECT** 

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SOCK IT TO ME: Danielle, Silas and Darius Fitzgerald are joined at St. Martin School by Eden and Hope Bryson and principal Alma Provenzano.

## **Students rock socks off for Down Syndrome Day**

### Youngsters at St. Martin School raise more than \$1,100 for awareness

### THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Silas Fitzgerald may only be seven, but so the youngster's got a heart of gold, especially when it comes to his younger brother Darius. **"It made me** 

happy that

they

appreciate

people who

have Down

syndrome."

SILAS FITZGERALD

er Darius. Silas, a student at St. Martin School, decided it would be fun to do something to honour Darius, who was born with Down syndrome.

After some careful research online, he decided, with the help of his mother Danielle and her colleagues at the south-side school, to host Rock Your Socks Off, a

dance-a-thon that raised more than \$1,000 which will be donated to the Canadian

Down Syndrome Society for educational purposes.

"Everybody wears different kinds of socks, or three pairs of socks – or they could wear colourful socks," Silas

said. "I wanted to do this for him and for other morels."

for other people." Seeing all his school mates dancing in the gymnasium as a

result made it all worthwhile. "It made me happy that they appreciate people who have Down syndrome," the Grade 2 student said.

Silas had plenty of help with his endeavour, thanks mainly to Eden Bryson, whose younger sister Hope also has Down syndrome.

She said she wanted to do something nice for her sister for World Down

Syndrome Day.

"I thought that people could have a little extra love," she said. "Some people don't know a lot about Down syndrome and I want them to know about it so then they won't have to be scared of it," she said. Seeing the wild and crazy socks tearing up the dance floor brought a smile to her

"It makes me very happy because they're supporting my sister," Eden said.

Down syndrome affects about 15.8 of every thousand babies born in Canada.

People with Down syndrome are often born with an extra copy of the 21st chromosome which can lead to intellectual disabilities and differing physical traits, including low muscle tone, small stature, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the centre of the palm.

Thursda	y, March 29, 2018 19
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# **Still waiting for this spring's thaw**



am waiting for a real spring thaw. It is creeping in slowly. Most nights are still freezing; mornings are still freezing. But I have things to do. I am champing at the bit to get to the spring chores.

So, even though the nights feel warm even until bedtime, in the morning the thermometer has dropped from the zero or near-zero temperatures to minus twelve, even minus fifteen. If I look at the temperature at, say, eleven pm, I ask why we need to bring the horses into the barn?

My wife, Laura, is the horse person

here at Casa Jones. I am merely the 'grunt'. So, I put her with the consult as to whether or not we don our winter boots and jackets, head over to the barn, put the horse feed into the stalls, and bring in the equines. "What is the temperature," she asks? "It is warm," I answer. "Then I must look at the forecast," she replies. "It is going to be cold overnight. We bring them in." Ratz. Okay. And so we do.

#### Some warm nights

Occasionally, we don't have to go to all of that trouble at night. We are able to leave the horses outside. They have round hay bales upon which to nosh; they have water tubs that only require refilling once every couple of days. Easy for us.

I am not yet using the water tub that stands between two paddocks. There are boards that separate these two locations for horses. The tub allows horses on either side to drink. Or it would if I could dig up the extension cord that, while tied to a board at the tub end, is buried under a foot and a half of ice at the other end.

"I'll dig it up," I announce at supper. "No, you won't," Laura replies, "you will injure further your already injured shoulder." Ah, yes, the joys of getting older. So, we would have to wait until Ol' Sol melts the ice sufficiently enough that I can grab the buried end and attach another extension cord and plug it into the wall socket on the outside of the barn. At the other end I plug in a water trough heater. Voila! No more hauling buckets three or four times per day.

A friend told me that he wants one more big snow so that he can play with his snow blower. Right. He has a short driveway in town. I tell him that I am very happy that the melt has gone at a pace such that we can walk on dirt (remember dirt?) with a few exceptions between the house and the barn. No more taking our life and limbs in our hands.

The walkway between the barn and the west horse paddock is still a bit tricky upon which to lead horses. The snow has melted and turned into ice. One has to pay attention so that shod equines don't slip.

#### Equine sense

Even the horses (I have noticed) are aware that they must step carefully to avoid the ice. They actually look down and elect a course that avoids treading on the slippery parts. Once the thaw finishes, at least on the pathways, the horses and I can relax.

With the increasing warmth we get mud season; and that means mud paws for our pooch, Baxter.

When the morning temperatures are sufficiently cold such that the ground is still solid, the dog can trod back and forth doing his morning business and then re-enter Casa Jones without leaving a trail of muddy paw prints. Experience has taught us that soon a towel and a bucket of water will need to be stationed at the entrance in our mud room to wipe paws prior to being allowed further into the house.

With warmer daytime temperatures the ground thaws. Vehicles passing over are leaving ruts. Rut-removal requires both the bucket and blade attached at the rear of Big Red, my old diesel tractor, in an attempt to smooth out those ruts until the ground dries and hardens. But first I must detach the farm, snow blower from the tractor's rear and attach the blade. "Do you think that it is safe to do now?" I ask Laura (and anyone else within earshot). "No, not yet. (they all say...) You never know. We may still get a blizzard," she says. Ratz! She/they are right, of course.

All this may have changed by the time you read this column. Still, I await a full and frank spring thaw.



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**TBLife** 



CELEBRATING WITH CAKE: Members of the CNIB and local dignitaries cut the cake to celebrate 100 years of CNIB in Canada.

# **CNIB marks its 100** years of accessibility

### THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

For 100 years, a nation-wide organization has been helping make communities across the country more accessible to those who experience the world a little differently.

The Canadian Institute for the Blind (CNIB) celebrated 100 years of serving people with vision loss during a local ceremony on Saturday.

"You only turn 100 once," said Tanis Boardman, program lead for peer support and advocacy with the CNIB. "It's also an opportunity to recognize community members who are blind and partially sighted out in our community and getting

involved and the volunteers who dedicate many hours of their time to this organization." More than 100 years ago, the number of people with vision loss was increasing across the country as countless soldiers returned from the battlefields of Europe during the First World War

with partial or complete vision loss and the 1917 Halifax explosion that left more than 850 people fully blind. At that time, people with vision loss were more likely to live a life of poverty because of a lack

of services. But in 1918, five Canadian men founded the CNIB to help people living with vision loss. "That's where it became widespread to ensure there

were services in communities for veterans," said Wendy Wiedenhoeft, a board member with the CNIB. "From that it's grown into a number of people in our communities who are visually impaired, or blind, from newborns with specific conditions all the way up to the elderly."

According to Wiedenhoeft, the CNIB operates on three key pillars: rehabilitation services, foundation services, and advocacy services.

In the last 100 years, services and accessibility have changed dramatically for people with vision loss and Boardman said that is largely due to technology.

"I think the direction CNIB is heading is the focus on the advancement of technology," she said. "Technology has made the lives of people with vision loss or sight loss a little more accessible. CNIB is trying to focus on moving forward with things like Siri on your IPhone, beacon devices, apps you can purchase."

Locally, the CNIB also serves all of Northwestern Ontario, which can be challenging, but it is a service that is very much needed in all communities.

"The Northwest region is a huge region and if you are blind or low vision in an outlying community, you might be the only person in that community with that disability," Wiedenhoeft said. "Which is why it is important that services like CNIB are available to come out and give you some assistance and help you remain in your home community."

But barriers still remain for people living with vision loss and Boardman and Wiedenhoeft said the CNIB will continue to work for another 100 years to eliminate those barriers, but they cannot do it alone.

"As members of our community, it's sort of all our responsibility to ensure documents are accessible, websites need to be accessible, there is a lot of work to be done, but we are advocating strongly for that change," Boardman said.

"I think it's an ongoing issue that we as a community have to focus on," Wiedenhoeft added. "We initiate something, like a bylaw or a strategy in the community, and then we kind of forget that it has to be maintained and it has to be carried on. It's not enough just to say we are doing this bylaw, but we have to make sure that as time goes on, that we continue to meet the needs of people."

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**"You only** turn 100 once." TANIS BOARDMAN

# Bowling for Big Brothers, Big Sisters

#### THUNDER BAY By Matt Vis – TB Source

**O**rganizers of an upcoming fundraiser are hoping to throw strikes for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

The 37th annual Tbaytel Bowl for Kids Sake in support of Our Kids Count's Big Brothers Big Sisters is scheduled for May 5 at Galaxy Lanes, with registration open for teams of four to six bowlers.

The inclusiveness of the sport is a natural fit for the cause, organizing committee chair Jonathan Murphy said.

"Bowling is very much a family centred event so we wanted to encourage families and everyone from all walks of life to come out and bowl," Murphy said at a Thursday morning news conference to announce details of the event.

"The family aspect, the community aspect really brings everyone together and it just supports everyone having a wonderful time."

Teams are required to raise \$400 in pledges as their entry fee. Murphy said the target is to raise \$15,000.

"That money helps attach children who need mentors with mentors, helps increase their confidence and helps increase their overall quality of life," Murphy said.

Big Brothers Big Sisters program coordinator Jennifer Gosselin said their mentorship program pairs youth between the ages of six and 18 with a role model over the age of 18.

There are currently 24 one-on-one mentor partnerships but there are nearly just as many children and youth on wait lists, Gosselin added.

"This is consistently growing. I'm always getting referrals for more children who want to be part of the program," Gosselin said. "Individuals who are caring, wanting to work with children, positive role models and influence and see the power of mentoring."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is also in the process of developing a Legends program, a one-year pilot project for youth with autism that would pair them with a mentor.

In addition to registration costs, there are available sponsorship and donor opportunities, such as the Pin Donor drive which allows the children and their mentor to participate.

"They love community outings. Whenever there's an opportunity for us to all get together to do something and not just be in their one-on-one match it's exciting and they really enjoy it," Gosselin said. "We've had friendships build between the littles or the mentees over time by doing community events like this. Everybody is really looking forward to it."

More information can be found online or by calling (807) 623-0292, ext. 240.



BOWL FOR KIDS: Our Kids Count executive director Gladys Beringer, Big Brothers Big Sisters program coordinator Jennifer Gosselin and Bowl for Kids Sake organizing committee chair Jonathan Murphy announced details of this year's event at Galaxy Lanes.



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# Super Secret Smartphone Sale

### MARCH 16 - APRIL 2

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TB**Life** 

## **Make-A-Wish sends youngster to Disney**

Ryder Hutton has been fighting leukenmia for the past three years

### THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

For the last three years, seven-yearold Ryder Hutton has been on a difficult journey, bravely battling a dangerous illness. But now with that behind him, he is ready to go on another journey.

"I'm excited to go," Ryder said. "I've never been on the roller coasters before."

Ryder and his family will be travelling to Disney World for a much needed getaway after Ryder completed his last treatment for leukemia only one month ago. "It's been over three years since we started this crazy journey when he first got sick," said Ryder's mother, Michelle. "He just completed his treatment a month or so ago. It

"I'm excited

to go. I've

never been

on the roller

coasters

before."

Ryder Hutton

12 O Rock

has been a long three years and went through a lot, he definitely deserves something fun."

The trip was one of Ryder's wishes, and on Saturday, he learned that that wish was being granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"He was thinking about it all morning, thinking about which one was it going to be," Michelle said. "He is a pretty low key kid, but he is definitely excited."

The wish was revealed at Maple Tops with family and friends, balloons, and a cake. Michelle said a trip to Disney World was one of Ryder's wishes because he may want to follow in his mother's footsteps. "He has seen lots of pictures of when

I went to Disney World as a kid," Michelle said. "So grandma and grandpa have showed him pictures, and he's heard of friends from school going to Disney World and the rides and just the fun of it."

And as fun as it will be for the entire family to get away and have some fun on the rides and out in the sun, not only is this trip celebrating Ryder's challenging journey of facing leukemia, it will

also offer a little more. "I want to see my grandma and grandpa because they go to Florida for the winter," Ryder said.



MOUSE BOUND: Ryder Hutton, his dad, Paul, mom, Michelle, and sister, Ally, will be travelling to Disney World after Ryder's wish was granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



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LIFE AND LOVE: lain Stewart and Daniel Krolik are the two cast members in Magnus Theatre's latest production, Bed and Breakfast, by Mark Crawford.

## **Hearts with secrets**

### Bed and Breakfast a highly engaging story about life and love THEATRE

### By Linda Maehans - TB Source

New to this picturesque town by a river, I was asking directions to a bed and breakfast I'd heard good things about.

An aging waitress in the busy coffee shop points. "On the corner, George and Queen. You can't miss it."

Sure enough, there it is: a stately 3-storey darkbrick beauty with graceful semi-circular veranda and flanked by solid oak trees as tall as the house itself. I notice the veranda has been given a fresh coat of paint: moss-green. Perfect.

Magnus' current production Bed and Breakfast by Mark Crawford isn't that easy to describe. Yes, it's a highly engaging story of life and love. Of what the heart wishes for, what it desires and strives to achieve. We've all such hearts. But Bed and Breakfast is also about hearts with secrets to keep. And so it's this that breaks through the light, at times wickedly humorous surface to a darker place where like it or not we've all landed at times, if not in action than certainly with unexpected unwanted feelings and thoughts. Those universal human flaws; but also our true human connection.

Kudos to the two actors who bring an entire town to life for us; well, okay, maybe not the entire town but much of the good folk who remember Maggie, owner of the grand old house on the corner of George and Queen, with the sort of unspoken respect only small-town communities can claim. Until she dies, and leaves her home to her nephew.

#### Like it or not

Iain Stewart returns to Magnus' stage as Brett. In unexpected ways the death of his beloved Aunt Maggie is an inspiration for some of his truest heart; his wishes and desires, interior designing being near top of list.

Daniel Krolik makes his debut at Magnus as Drew. His heart's desire, to leave the grinding rat-race of big city life and settle down for a real life in a small town, unexpectedly seems to appear on the horizon. What the heart strives to achieve, when one is new to a small town.

Considering all the "others", the characters Stewart and Krolik switch into and out of in rapid sequence, nonetheless they demonstrate a good, strong and wonderful balance in their main roles of Brett and Drew. Two people who clearly love and stand by one another. What the heart wishes; what it achieves. In every scene when it is only Drew and Brett, we see and hear the best of human connectedness. It is real.

Aunt Maggie would be happy to explain the difference between real and fake, were she here.

For Bed and Breakfast set and lighting designers Joe Pagnan and Michael Brunet leave much of the story up to our imagination: those darker crevasses into which we'd rather not fall.

Last word goes to the playwright. Mark Crawford captures the essence of what it is to be human, flaws and foibles and all, if we just allow ourselves to regard others in their best true light.

Directed by Thom Currie, Bed and Breakfast plays until April 7: go see it.

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For more information Contact Community Living 622-1099 ext. 0



SEARCHING FOR A NEW READ: A community book sale was held on Saturday at the Waverly Resource Library, inviting local writers and members of the public to buy, sell, and trade new and used books.

# For love of reading

### City's first community book sale brings out bibliophiles

### LITERATURE By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Whether you're a reader, a writer, or just a collector, books always seem to have a place in the home and community book sales are making sure books will always find new places to call home.

The Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library hosted Books from the Community on Saturday at the Waverly Resource Library, offering local writers and members of the public to sell and trade their new and used books.

Diane Piovesana, vice president of the Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library, said it is the focus of the library itself to provide books and reading material to the community.

"This was also an opportunity for members of the community to rent a table and sell their own books," she said. "We have a poet, we have a historian who is giving up some of his collection, and there is an English professor who has a book for sale. It's a way to give them a chance to reach out." While there have been used book sales at local library branches and the Friends of the Library operates a used book store at Victoriaville Mall, community sales like the one on Saturday help get more books back out into the community.

"The mandate for us is encouraging reading in the community, so wherever we can make books possible, that is what we like to do," Piovesana said.

And keeping those old books going not only reduces waste, but gives that book a second life in another home.

"A book can always be enjoyed by many, many people, and it's our opportunity to pass them on to other people and hopefully encourage literacy," Piovesana said.

Piovesana added she hopes to see future community book sales offered, as well as more local authors participating in the event to share their work, their love of reading, and help get more books back into the community. "It's an opportunity for them," she said. "I

realize with local authors sometimes they don't have the same exposure until they are well established. It's another chance for them. Hopefully it is successful today and we will carry on."

"A book can always be enjoyed by many, many people..." DIANE PIOVESANA IN THE **bay** 

## Mr. Rogers made everyone feel special

ast Tuesday would have been Fred Rogers' 90th birthday. For those who think the name sounds familiar, look back to your childhood and *Mr*: *Rogers' Neighborhood*. For those who don't have a clue to whom I'm referring, I am sincerely sorry for your loss.

Fred Rogers was a Presbyterian minister but many didn't know it. After seminary, he was given the go-ahead by the Church to become an evangelist to children. But instead of a pulpit, he chose to speak through television which he felt, until then, was wasting its influence with silly and demeaning game shows.

He created his neighborhood not to convert anyone, but to teach kids the basics – love your neighbour. And your neighbour is anyone around you no matter who they are or what they look like.

Every episode had a moral. And Fred taught it with his friends, his stories,



and his songs. I was always amazed how he got his sweater on and changed his shoes in one short tune.

He purposefully included actors of colour and didn't shy away from difficult current topics. But Mr. Rogers was never preachy or heavy-handed. He was gentle and soft-spoken.

He didn't do flash and special effects. It was PBS, after all, and public television didn't have much money.

And despite this, his little public

broadcasting show grew in popularity against bigger-budget children's programming, becoming one of the longest running TV series in history. His focused discussions with his viewers connected with them – instead of just entertaining them. That's what made him so popular.

So it's no surprise that an upcoming documentary titled *Won't You Be My Neighbor* is coming soon. Directed by an Oscar-winning filmmaker, it follows the PBS show from its black and white start in 1968 to the final episode in 2001. It also includes interviews with Rogers and the numerous actors and producers who worked with him.

Previews are available online but the film is to be released on June 8. If it doesn't make the big screens of SilverCity, hopefully our Thunder Bay Public Library will have a copy for public screening.

But that's just the beginning. Tom

Hanks has signed to play Rogers in a big screen film *You Are My Friend* which begins production this fall. Instead of a simple biopic, the film will follow the friendship between Rogers and Tom Junod, a journalist who was forced to write a story about the TV host.

He considered it a puff piece. Instead, it changed his life.

I guess I shouldn't be surprised that a man who taught children would be equally impactful to an adult. We all have a lot to learn, at any age. And with these two films, Fred Rogers may still have something to teach us years after his death.

It's not always wonderful here in the real world.

But it was always "a beautiful day in (Mr. Rogers') neighbourhood." And he made my neighbourhood, and that of millions of other children, beautiful too.



Thursday, March 29, 2018

27

EVERYBODY'S NEIGHBOUR: TV'S Fred Rogers would have turned 90 last week.

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Yankees

### Rvan LaVia

- Sales associate, Dougall Media
- ◆NL East: Washington Nationals
- ◆NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers



# **Our annual MLB predictions**

### BASEBALL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The vedict is in and it looks like the team to beat in 2018 is the Washington Nationals or the New York Yankees - and not a lot of love for a repeat by the pre-season favourie Houston Astros.

One thing abundantly clear in our annual Major League Baseball predictions - we're all pretty much on the same page when it comes to who will win the divisions, but differ in how it will shake down from there.

Without further ado:

#### Leith Dunick Editor, tbnewswatch.com

- ◆NL East: Washington Nationals
- ◆NL Central: Chicago Cubs
- ◆NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers
- ◆NL wild-cards: Milwaukee Brewers, Colorado Rockies
- ◆AL East: New York Yankees
- ◆AL Central: Cleveland Indians
- ◆AL West: Houston Astros
- ◆AL wild-cards: Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Angels
- **World Series**: Houston Astros over Los Angeles Dodgers
- ◆NL MVP: Nolan Arenado, Colorado Rockies ◆NL Cy Young: Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles
- Dodgers
- ◆NL rookie: Lewis Brinson, Miami Marlins ◆AL MVP: Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels
- ◆AL Cy Young: Luis Severino, New York Yankees
- ◆AL rookie: Willie Calhoun, Texas Rangers

### Ted Jessop

- **Reporter, CKPR News**
- ◆NL East: Washington Nationals
- ◆NL Central: St. Louis Cardinals
- ◆NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers
- ◆NL wild-cards: Chicago Cubs, Arizona Diamondbacks
- ◆AL East: New York Yankees
- ◆AL Central: Cleveland Indians
- ◆AL West: Houston Astros
- ◆AL wild-cards: Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays
- +World Series: Los Angeles Dodgers over Boston Red Sox
- •NL MVP: Bryce Harper, Washington Nationals
- ◆NL Cy Young: Noah Syndergaard, New York Mets
- ◆NL rookie: Ronald Acuna, Jr., Atlanta Braves ◆AL MVP: Giancarlo Stanton, New York
- •AL Cy Young: Chris Sale, Boston Red Sox
- ◆AL rookie: Franklin Barreto, Oakland A's

- ◆NL Central: Chicago Cubs





### TOP PITCHER: Cleveland's Corey Kluber warms up.

- ◆NL wild-cards: Colorado Rockies, Milwaukee Brewers
- ◆AL East: New York Yankees
- ◆AL Central: Cleveland Indians
- ◆AL West: Houston Astros
- ◆AL wild-cards: Boston Red Sox, Seattle Mariners
- •World Series: Cleveland Indians over Chicago Cubs
- ◆NL MVP: Nolan Arenado, Colorado Rockies
- ◆NL Cy Young: Max Scherzer, Washington Nationals
- •NL rookie: Jorge Alfaro, Philadelphia Phillies
- ◆AL MVP: Carlos Correa, Houston Astros
- ◆AL Cy Young: Chris Sale, Boston Red Sox
- ◆AL rookie: Willie Calhoun, Texas Rangers

### Jamie Smith

#### Super (Blue Jays) fan

- ◆NL East: Washington Nationals
- ◆NL Central: Milwaukee Brewers
- ◆NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers ◆NL wild-cards: Colorado Rockies, Chicago
- Cubs
- ◆AL East: New York Yankees
- ◆AL Central: Cleveland Indians
- ◆AL West: Houston Astros
- ◆AL wild-cards: Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Angels
- •World Series: Los Angeles Dodgers over
- Cleveland Indians
- ◆NL MVP: Kris Bryant, Chicago Cubs
- ◆NL Cy Young: Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles Dodgers
- ◆NL rookie: Ronald Acuna, Jr., Atlanta Braves ◆AL MVP: Giancarlo Stanton, New York
- Yankees
- ◆AL Cy Young: Luis Severino, New York Yankees
- •AL rookie: Shohei Othani, Los Angeles Angels

### Matt Vis

Reporter, tbnewswatch.com

◆NL wild-cards: Milwaukee Brewers, New York

◆AL wild-cards: Boston Red Sox, Minnesota

**World Series**: Washington Nationals over

◆NL rookie: Lewis Brinson, Miami Marlins

◆AL MVP: Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels

+AL Cy Young: Chris Sale, Boston Red Sox

◆AL rookie: Willie Calhoun, Texas Rangers

◆NL Cy Young: Noah Syndergaard, New York Mets

**Bryan Wyatt** 

News director, CKPR Radio

◆NL wild-cards: Philadelphia Phillies, Colorado

◆AL wild-cards: Minnesota Twins, Seattle Mariners

◆NL MVP: Bryce Harper, Washington Nationals

◆NL Cy Young: Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles

◆NL rookie: Ronald Acuna, Jr., Atlanta Braves

◆AL Cy Young: Justin Verlander, Houston Astros

Jeff Andreas

**Reporter, CKPR News** 

◆AL rookie: Willie Calhoun, Texas Rangers

◆NL wild-cards: Arizona Diamondbacks, St.

◆AL wild-cards: Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue

•World Series: Cleveland Indians over Chicago

◆NL MVP: Bryce Harper, Washington Nationals

◆NL Cy Young: Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles

•NL rookie: Ronald Acuna, Jr., Atlanta Braves

◆AL Cy Young: Aaron Sanchez, Toronto Blue

◆AL rookie: Shohei Othani, Los Angeles Angels

◆AL MVP: Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels

◆NL East: Washington Nationals

◆NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers

◆AL East: New York Yankees

◆AL West: Houston Astros

◆AL Central: Cleveland Indians

◆NL Central: Chicago Cubs

Louis Cardinals

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◆AL MVP: Giancarlo Stanton, New York

**World Series**: Washington Nationals over

◆NL MVP: Bryce Harper, Nationals

◆NL East: Washington Nationals

◆NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers

◆AL East: New York Yankees

◆AL West: Houston Astros

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◆AL Central: Cleveland Indians

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### sports NEWS



NEW SPORT IN TOWN: Jim Hemlin (far right), a commissioner for Ski-Cross Canada, along withMount Baldy's Kristof Kardas (second from right) amd Loch Lomond's Jason Gerry (third from right) says both hills are suitable for the addition of ski-cross tracks.

## **Ski-cross could hit local slopes**

From a

capacity

standpoint,

we're more

than

capable."

**JASON GERRY** 

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

An alpine sport growing in popularity across the country could be coming to Thunder Bay, with provincial and national competitions arriving at local ski areas in the next two years.

Jim Hemlin, a commissioner for Ski-Cross Canada, toured the Loch Lomond Ski Area and the Mount Baldy Ski Area on Monday to evaluate the suitability of adding ski-cross tracks.

"It's super promising," Hemlin said. "Both hills have ample terrain, lots of open space, and perfect slope angles to host events right up to NorAms."

Ski-cross sees between four and six alpine skiers racing head-to-head down a designated

track. It has been growing in popularity, both for competitors and spectators, since it made its Olympic debut during the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

With Canadian athletes excelling in the sport and bringing home medals from international competitions, Dave Bradley, vice chairman of Lake Superior Alpine, said it is the next big sport that can find a home right here in Thunder Bay.

"We can see on the world stage just how popular ski-cross is becoming," he said. "There is so much more awareness, the medals we are winning in Canada, funding from a sport development level is headed towards sports that are winning."

The addition of ski-cross tracks to local ski hills could bring in high-profile competitions, from the provincial level, to the national level, or the North American Cup. The city is already playing host to major cross-country ski events and Bradley believes "there is no reason why we can't host a major international event here from a track perspective."

"Having these types of environments in Thunder Bay, they have it all and certainly with a proper build, they could be hosting some very high-quality events," Hemlin added.

But the addition of ski-cross tracks at local ski hills goes beyond hosting competition and featuring world-class athletes.

"But also, just in terms of ski hill enhancement and the quality of the experience for the general public and our developing athletes," Bradley said. "Ski cross tracks can be utilized just for creating fun environments on the ski hill."

> Ski area owners are welcoming the news of ski-cross viability. Jason Gerry, general manager of Loch Lomond Ski Area, said installing a track could take about a month to complete.

"From a capacity standpoint, we are more than capable," he said. "Our current infrastructure that we have in place is ready to go and this is something we could do at any point in time."

And while it could bring the thrilling sport of ski-cross to the city, it will

also allow local skiers to try the new sport and get more people involved in alpine skiing. "Something like this is going to just add to

"Something like this is going to just add to our whole new program and revitalizing," said Mount Baldy Ski Area owner, Kristof Kardas. "With two hills, and two young owners, we have a lot of spirit and we want to see some new events coming to Thunder Bay."

## **North Stars sweep Iron Rangers**

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Thunder Bay North Stars are headed to the second round of the Superior International Junior League playoffs.

Brendan Gillis scored a hat trick on Thursday night in Hoyt Lakes, Minn. to lead the Stars to a 7-3 Game 3 win over the Minnesota Iron Rangers and a series sweep of the best-of-five set, earning them a date with the Thief River Falls Norskies in Round 2.

Gillis scored five times in the opening round.

Alex Maticic, Jake Behse, Logan Mihalcin and Avery Siau also scored for Thunder Bay, who put up 23 goals in three games against the Iron Rangers.

Max Sturko, Joel Nagy and Cody Hendrickson scored for Minnesota, who battled back from two goals down in the second to tie the game 3-3, only to have Thunder Bay score four unanswered goals to put the contest away.

Dougie Newhouse allowed three goals on 27 shots for the win, while Tyler Thompson stopped 53 of the 60 shots directed his way. The Stars poured in 50 shots or more in all three games against the last place Iron Rangers.





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63. COMING EVENTS

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+HST

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ginning February 17th ENJOY A NEW

MARKET in Downtown FW. Located in

The Hub Bazaar 507 Victoria Ave. E. Live

Music, free hot chocolate, a kids craft

table, and over 25 vendors weekly! Free

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Attend the Thunder Bay MFRC "SPRING

YARD & CRAFT SALE" Saturday,

April 28, 10:00am-1:00pm. Held indoors

at HMCS GRIFFON, 125 N. Algoma

Street. Admission: \$2. Shop at over

general public. A fundraiser for the

Thunder Bay Military Family Resource

Centre. Call 345-5116 for more informa-

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64. CRAFT & FLEA MARKETS

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PERSONAL INCOME TAX SERVICES. Reasonable rate, E-FILED. Call Ron 767-

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Renovations: bathroom. kitchen. basement or any part of your home or cottage, drywall and tile installation. Call Octagon Contracting at 633-4488 for your free quote

### 63. COMING EVENTS

Community Music Night - PALM SUN-DAY PRAISE - HOSANNA to the KING! An evening of musical worship and praise. Sunday March 25th @ 6:30 pm. Slate River Baptist Church - 80 McCluskey Drive. Special musical guests - Don Shaver & The Mayor's Band. Free Admission. Refreshments. All are Welcome. Free-will love offering for Transport for Christ. For info call 475-5140



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PREVIOUS SOLUTION:

"More men fail through

lack of purpose than

lack of talent."

- Billy Sunday

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2018 Titan Midnight Edition model shown

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