

LOCALNEWS

BioPower saves Atikokan pellet plant

BUSINESS By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A new owner with Northern Ontario roots thinks he'll be able to more than double production at the former Rentech pellet plant in Atikokan.

Mark Guillemette, CEO of Bio Power Sustainable Energy Corporation, on Thursday said he envisions the day when the factory is pumping out 110,000 tonnes of commercial grade and residential heating pellets annually.

The company's current contract with Ontario Power Generation calls for about 45,000 tonnes of pellets each year.

"There's a residential heat market that we're looking to target both locally, here, and worldwide," said Guillemette, who hails from Chapleau, Ont., a community situated about 620 kilometres to Thunder Bay's east.

He added he expects to maintain the 25 employees that work at the plant, saying he's hopeful that number will grow as production increases.

Guillemette said they're currently making slight adjustments to the equipment in order to ramp up production.

Rentech, a U.S.-based company, filed for bankruptcy late last year, but reached an agreement to sell the mill to True North Timber, Bio Power's parent company.

In the run-up to opening the Atikokan plant, Rentech was given a conditional \$1-million grant to open, in addition to \$2.5 million in funding provided for the company's Wawa plant, which was idled more than a year ago.The province is trying to recover the latter amount.

Guillemette said they plan to take things slowly.

"We want to get it up to the proper capacity that it's able to do right now. We do have some capital improvements that we want to do to it right now, that we have planned for mid-summer," he said. "We're hoping to carry that on at the end of April."

He said he expects to be up to full production levels once production contracts have been signed.

"We've got teams of sales all over, some consultants who are working very hard," Guillemette said. "We just went to the trade mission in Italy as well looking for markets over there. There are plenty, but right now we're just doing our due diligence on it and hopefully we'll get up doing that soon."



NEW GOAL: The new owners of the former Rentech pellet plant in Atikokan think they can increase output to 110,000 tonnes annually.

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Thursday, April 5, 2018

LOCALNEWS



BURNED DOWN: Little remained of this house after an early Sunday evening blaze broke out on Feaver Road.

Fire destroys home

THUNDER BAY By TB Source staff

A Feaver Road home sustained extensive damage after a blaze broke out early Sunday evening. Thunder Bay Fire Rescue crews were called to the Feaver Road home around 6:15 p.m. after receiving a report of a house fire. Firefighters arriving on scene found the home fully engulfed in flames. Shortly after their arrival, the roof collapsed. It took firefighters four hours to extinguish the blaze.

There was extensive damage to the home, but there were no injuries reported.

The investigation is ongoing.

Police presence on Home Avenue

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

An incident that caused police to barricade a south side street ended peacefully.

Thunder Bay Police said in a release that they were called to a home on the 1300 block of Home Avenue shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday afternoon after receiving a 911 call from a woman who said she and her boyfriend were being held by a number of men with weapons.

Police secured the scene while gathering more information. The homeowners, who were out of town at the time, were contacted and informed police that there should not be anyone inside the home.

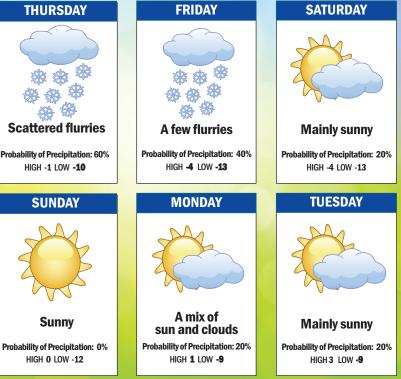
Just after 7 p.m., tactical officers

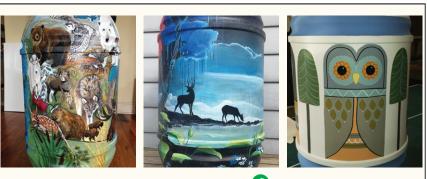


WEAPONS CALL: Police investigate a call about a weapons incident on Sunday.

entered the home and confirmed it was vacant. A search of the home uncovered a firearm and suspected drugs. Police continue to hold the scene and the investigation is ongoing.

Weather Forecast







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LOCALNEWS

City readying for municipal election

Candidates have less time to file, voters more options to cast a ballot on Oct. 22

CITY HALL By Matt Vis – TB Source

n less than a month candidates looking to run in this year's municipal election will be able to formally enter the race.

Candidates for mayor, city councillor and school board trustee in elections across Ontario can file their nomination papers beginning on May 1, a change from previous elections when the nomination window was opened on the first business day in January.

"That's four months later than it has been in past elections," city clerk and returning officer John Hannam said of the new nomination period.



JOHN HANNAM: The longtime city clerk is preparing for the 2018 municipal vote.

"It's a short three-month period for nominations. We're still waiting for nomination forms and candidate information packages the province produces to arrive and hopefully we'll have those (this week)."

The period to register as a candidate will extend to July 27, another change from previous elections when the cut-off was in September.

Another significant difference this year in Thunder Bay will be the introduction of alternate methods of voting, which will allow voters to cast their ballot either online or by telephone, in addition to physical polling stations.

Hannam said this year voters will receive their voter information notices in sealed envelopes, which will include an individual personal identification number required to use either of the new voting methods.

Benefits of the new methods include increased accessibility for persons with a disability to vote from home, audio aids for those visually impaired and the ability for residents to vote even if they're not in the city on election day. "They can vote in the municipal election from wherever they might be," Hannam said. "They don't have to be here in Thunder Bay. They can be away on business, on vacation or students away studying in other towns. They'll have the opportunity to vote remotely and not have to give their votes over to a proxy or miss voting altogether."

Election night in 2014 saw significant delays in results being made available, which Hannam said was attributed to a rush of last-minute voters at four locations that kept those polling stations open for an extra hour.

Shuniah, which used internet voting for the first time, had its results made publicly available almost immediately.

"It'll speed up our ability to report results," Hannam said. "With the internet voting, as soon as we close voting at 8 p.m. as long as all the polls close at 8 p.m. we'll have the internet results instantaneously and we'll be able to post those as soon as the polls are closed and then process the poll voting results as they come in."

Hannam said the company the city is partnering with is conducting alternate voting in about 100 other Ontario communities and has systems developed and in place.

There have been mixed results about whether the ability to cast ballots online or over the phone increases voter turnout, he added. The city had about 46 per cent of eligible voters participate in 2014.

Hannam said the city is planning to have a public awareness campaign in the months leading up to the election which will include demonstrations around the community to show people how the system works and answer any questions.

A candidate information session is scheduled for April 19 at the West Thunder Community Centre beginning at 7 p.m.The election is Oct. 22.



prices

Annwersary

BRICLAND

LOCALNEWS **NDP** acclaim candidate

Judith Monteith-Farrell to seek seat after Rafferty steps down due to health

POLITICS By Leith Dunick - TB Source

udith Monteith-Farrell describes herself as Judy the Justice Warrior. As the newly nominated NDP candidate in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, she'll be turning her attention to a different target for the next two-anda-half months, taking on longtime Liberal MPP and cabinet minister Bill Mauro in the upcoming provincial election.

Monteith-Farrell promised to be a champion of the downtrodden, adding if she's elected she'll spend her time in office fighting for better health care, something she said the Liberal government has abandoned over 15 years holding the

"I think

people are

suffering and

not able to

access the

health care

they need."

JUDITH MONTEITH-

reins of power. "I think people are suffering and are not able to access the health care they need," she said on Tuesday night, accepting the nomination in front of a couple dozen party faithful at the West Thunder Community Centre.

"I think there's also the challenge of the lack of opportunity for our young

people and we need to ensure that there's jobs for them so they can stay in Thunder Bay. And we need to develop the wonderful, but sustainable environment up here."



RUNNING: Judith Monteith-Farrell is running for the first time for elected office.

With Premier Kathleen Wynne stealing pages out of the typical NDP playbook and offering up free daycare and a pharmacare program, Monteith-Farrell said it's

ironic the platform the Liberals plan to run on, seeking a fifth term at the helm on June 7.

"Really, the only things popular about the Wynne government are the things that she stole from the NDP platform, but watered down," Monteith-Farrell said.

FARRELL "And the Conservatives, they're not offering (anything). What they're offering are cuts. They're offering negative messaging. They're not offering hope, they're not offering good will toward the people of Ontario."

Monteith-Farrell, a long-time union worker, said she wants to be the voice of change in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, adding the same-old, same-old isn't working any longer.

It's something she believes she was born to do.

"I have the long experience representing people of all kinds and all different jobs and nature and (working on) different campaigns," she said.

"And I think I can speak to people about their lives. I've lived here my whole life and I've got that experience. I think that's important. And I think people are ready for change and are disappointed by some of the things that the Liberal government did. I believe I'm that person."

Monteith-Farrell also stressed during her remarks that she'd be a champion for the region's Indigenous people, promising the province would take on its fair share of responsibility toward its Aboriginal population and not simply pass the buck to Ottawa.

"I think I have a real understanding of First Nations issues. I've worked with Indigenous people throughout my career and I think I'm able to listen and be a respectful partner in living in Ontario," she said, adding she'll push for more Northern Ontario voices at the table.

Monteith-Farrell is the second NDP candidate nominated in the riding. Former MP John Rafferty was initially handed the task, but bowed out because of health concerns. In addition to the Liberal's Mauro, the PC's have two candidates, Moe Comuzzi and Brandon Postuma, seeking the nomination in Thunder Bay-Atikokan



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Editorial

EDITORIAL

McDonald era ends

Success came early and often for Bill McDonald.

The veteran hockey coach last week announced he was retiring from his latest gig, a five-year stint with the Lakehead Thunderwolves.

McDonald, now 65, didn't enjoy the accolades in his return to his hometown as he did in his first go-around with the Thunder Bay Thunderhawks and Senators of the Colonial Hockey League.

But those early years were nothing short of spectacular.

McDonald won three CoHL championships in his first four seasons with the Hawks and Senators, adding another title with the Fort Worth Fire of the Central Hockey League in 1997.

His success led him to the International Hockey League, where he took over the Dallas Stars top farm-club, the Michigan K-Wings, with whom he coached the likes of future NHLers Aaron Gavey, Jon Sim, Jason Botterill and Marty Turco.

After one year with the K-Wings he spent time with the Stars, then wound his way through the southern United States, coaching in hockey hotbeds such as New Mexico, Austin, Texas and Dayton, Ohio.

McDonald leaves the Wolves in solid hands, grooming Lakehad captain Andrew Wilkins to take the reins and lead the team into season No. 18.

With McDonald as a mentor, the team is in good hands.

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Phones. not guns

To the editor: **C**ould Thunder Bay Police seize some cellphones from drivers instead of holding a gun amnesty?

It would actually make citizens safer, and the resale value could help fund SOS and other noble causes that have gone begging while enforcement budgets have ballooned.

> Mark Zhiha, Thunder Bay Via Facebook

No suspense in vote

To the editor:

he city election is more predictable than Mayweather versus MacGregor.

> Ron Gallinger, Thunder Bav Via Facebook

Premier ignores calls

To the editor:

eith Dunick from Thunder Bay Source reported on Jan. 31 of this year that Kathleen Wynne, at her Town Hall session here in Thunder Bay, was asked by Eugene Lefrancois, a representative of the Thunder Bay and Injured Workers Group and past president of the Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups to meet with ONIWG to discuss serious issues that both groups have with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

The request was specific in that it asked that the Premier herself meet with ONIWG.

It was clear to those present that she said she would meet with them.

We have followed up with the premier's office on numerous occasions since then with absolutely no response.

On Monday, March 26, the NDP Labour Critic, Cindy Forster, asked the Premier in the House if she would meet with the Injured Workers as she had promised.

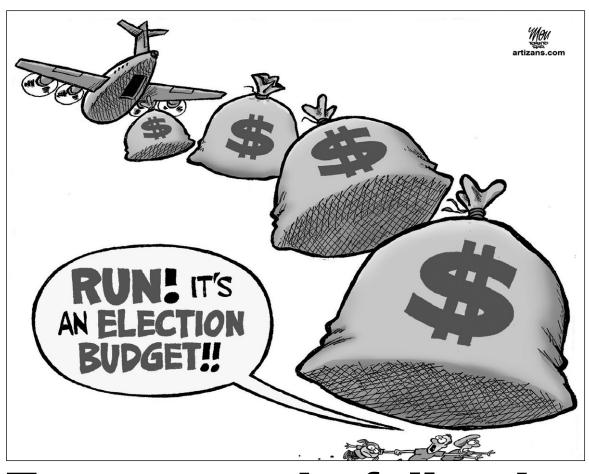
Rather than answer the question the Premier had her Minister of Labour, Kevin Flynn, respond.

The minister of labour did not answer the question but rather responded by talking about his various meetings with the injured workers over the years.

We are left to wonder – why does she refuse to meet with injured workers and when will she personally meet with injured workers as she promised on Jan. 31?

Steve Mantis, Thunder Bay and District Injured Workers Support Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Tax season in full swing

A pril has arrived, meaning it's time to file our taxes. For many Canadians, having to travel to find income tax forms and guides each year can be inconvenient.

This is especially true for people with mobility challenges, or those living in rural communities like ours, who are far away from a post office or financial institution.

Our government wants to make it easier for Canadians to receive the credits and benefits to which they are entitled, no matter where they live. Filing taxes is the gateway to benefits and credits, including the Canada Child Benefit and the Canada Caregiver Credit.

For this tax season, we've introduced two new initiatives to make it easier and simpler to find, complete and file a return on time.

This year, the Canada Revenue Agency mailed paper tax forms and guides to anyone who filed their taxes by paper the previous year.

An estimated 1.9 million Canadians will benefit from this new initiative, especially seniors and those who may not have access to the Internet.

The CRA has also instituted a "File my Return" automated phone service, which will help over 950,000 individuals who are on a low or fixed



income. With these changes they will now be able to file their taxes simply by answering a series of questions over the phone.

There are no paper forms to fill out or calculations to make.

File My Return is free, secure and easy to use.

Canadians who are eligible to use this new service should have already received an invitation letter in the mail around mid-February - if you haven't, please contact your local MP's office

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is another very useful resource to use when you are filing your taxes.

The program helps modest income Canadians get their income tax prepared free of charge.

To help support the great work of these volunteers, Budget 2018 is doubling the investment in CVITP in order to help more Canadians file their return.

This is an excellent example of what can be achieved when Canadians lend each other a helping hand. Last year alone, more than 2,800 community organizations and more than 16,500 volunteers completed more than 768,000 tax returns for eligible individuals.

Each year, hundreds of tax returns filed by the CVITP were submitted through my Kenora constituency office.

If you're filing your personal income taxes and make less than \$30,000 a year, either stop by the office or call toll free at 1-866-710-0008.

Canadians are required to file their taxes every year.

However, too many are still reluctant about filing, especially those who cannot afford the services of a tax professional or are unfamiliar with the tax system.

It is my hope that these new improvements and the successful CVITP will make filing your taxes a less daunting situation.

You can learn more about the free tax help offered through the CVITP, or find a tax preparation clinic closer to you, by visiting the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Perspective

The glass half full

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

n these troubled times it is helpn these troubled times in ful to know that our glasses are still at least half full, probably more.

Current events notwithstanding, human culture has made remarkable progress in many areas over the past few centuries.

It is still happening today and if you look for good news you will find it everywhere but beware this is also true of bad news.

The choice you make will determine the quality of your life.

By some measures the world is much less violent and more prosperous in spite of what you see and hear

This is partly due to our fascination with bummer news – nobody wants to hear about a jumbo jet that didn't crash.

Also, bad things can happen very quickly which is why disasters and terrorist attacks get quick coverage and top billing.

That's also why floods, earthquakes and landslides are reported like reality shows with a new episode every ten minutes.

Terrorism and acts of God make exciting on-the-spot coverage but cause needless anxiety.

Lofty goals like ending world poverty or lowering child mortality take decades to accomplish and make slow, unsensational news.

To many of us it really seems like the world is in constant chaos, moving from one disaster to

Spicer's Tires

another.

Fear not - even though our fragile planet is currently going through a rough patch, there is still room for optimism.

I discovered evidence to support the notion that humanity can solve its current problems and is prepared for future challenges.

For one thing, we live a lot longer than we used to.

In the eighteenth century life expectancy was thirty years - today it's 80 in the developed world and 71 worldwide.

At that time, very few "Even though people could read or our fragile write but now the world planet is curboasts a literacy rate rently going approaching 90% for people over 15. through a We have finally

achieved the global objectives of longevity and literacy and it still isn't dynamic enough for our 24-hour news cycle.

But there are many world-wide success stories worthy of celebration.

Our increasing life span is the result of huge reductions in child mortality and continuing success against hunger, poverty and disease.

If you remember the horror of the Ebola virus in Africa you will be happy to know that a highly effective vaccine awaits the next outbreak.

It was developed at Canadian facilities in Winnipeg, of all places, and is ready for use to prevent another pandemic.

Also in Africa in the country of Malawi, the incidence of AIDS in young children has been reduced by 67% using education and medication.

Much of the good news is environmental - responding to the Paris agreement, India planted 66 million trees in 12 hours using 1.5 million volunteers.

They have pledged to reforest 235 million acres by 2030.

The Giant Panda has progressed from "endangered" to "vulnerable" and the hapless Manatee enjoys that same dubious honor.

Also, the number of tigers is on the rise for the first time in 100 years but don't worry - numbers are still low in the Boreal Forest.

In science, Einstein's theory was proven correct when we detected gravitational waves as they swept past our planet.

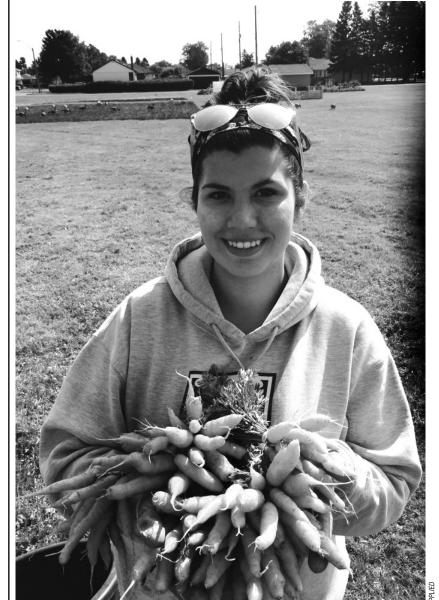
This discovery may lead the way to exploring other dimensions and alternate universes, maybe even find one where everyone looks for good news.

Canada's own starman, Chris Hadfield, is a positive thinker and purveyor of good news who remains an eternal optimist.

To paraphrase Joni Mitchell, Mr. Hadfield has seen the world from both sides now, from down here and up there.

And if he says our glass is half full, or even fuller, I believe him.

JSEUM



CONTINUED GROWTH

KEEPS GROWING Amber Anderson shows off some of the produce harvested last season at the Lillie Street Urban Garden, which is expected to expand in the coming season.

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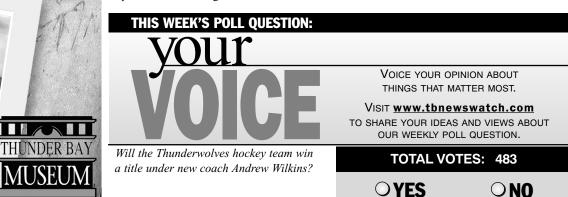
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A look back in history

rough patch. there is still room for optimism."

Spicer

LOCALNEWS

Man found dead after apparent apartment fall

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

The Special Investigation Unit is inves-tigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a 62-year-old man that occurred on the city's north side early Sunday morning.

According to a release issued by the SIU, the incident under investigation took place on Sunday at an apartment

building on South Water Street and Cumberland Street South.

Thunder Bay Police were called to the building at approximately 7:35 a.m. following reports of a dispute in the building.

A man was later found on the ground below the third floor apartment unit. He was transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

City Police did not provide any details

on the incident at this time, saying only an investigation is being conducted.

Two investigators and two forensic investigators from the SIU are assigned to the incident. Anyone with information about the investigation is asked to contact 1-800-787-8529.

The SIU is called into investigate any incident involving police that resulted in death, serious injury, or allegations of sexual assault.

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the Right Agent Add value and style to your home

Updating your home can make the space more livable and beautiful. But giving your home a refresh can also boost your property value. Here are some ideas to consider for your next improvement project, big or small.

Layer the lighting. The secret to making a room look like it came straight out of a magazine is layered lighting. Set the tone with ambient lighting at every height. Try experimenting with wall-mounted sconces, pendants, chandeliers or foot lamps for a brighter space and increased functionality.

Customize your window treatments. Made-to-order window coverings are like a well-tailored blazer — they instantly add timeless luxury and professional sophistication. Opt for a classic look with clean lines that's always in style, like Vignette modern roman shades from



Hunter Douglas. Unlike other roman shades, they can open from the top, from the bottom, or somewhere in-between for the perfect balance of privacy and light. Choose from an array of luxurious textures and colours to transform your windows.

Stage like a pro. Even if you're the only one who will be seeing your home this weekend, style the place like a designer would for an open house. Start with your coffee table - combine one large statement piece like a vase or bowl and stack art books or candles for fashionable flair. Other meaningful touches are fresh orchids, plumping the pillows and draping a throw across the couch.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Modernize your kitchen. Few renovation projects offer a better return on your investment than a kitchen upgrade. This key room is the heart of the home and is often the first place guests look. Even small updates can make a big difference. Try swapping out a dated sink or an ancient microwave for a new energy-efficient model, or painting the cabinets and replacing knobs and handles with a stylish metal like brass. www.newscanada.com





SIU CALLED IN: Police hold the scene on Sunday outside Andras Court.

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



End Of the Roll.

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Thursday, April 5, 2018

LOCALNEWS



GOOD FRIDAY FUN: Zachary Atenucci shows off one of the Easter eggs he collected last Friday during the Hillicity Kinsman hunt.

Egg hunt huge success

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

t didn't take Alexa Dysievick long to forge out a plan of attack for Friday's annual East End Easter Egg Hunt.

The 10-year-old, taking part in the event for the first time, surveyed the field next to the Slovak Legion – a last minute fill-in when the traditional Frank Charry Park site was deemed unsafe – and decided charging full steam ahead was the best approach to ensure she collected the most number of plastic eggs.

It worked out beautifully, the youngster filling her basket alongside her sister Gianna.

"I was just grabbing them one after another," she said. "It was kind of a trail, so you just grab one and grab one and go a little further, and sometimes going right to the middle. Everyone goes around the perimeter, so I grabbed them from the middle."

Her sister, also 10, was thrilled with how things unfolded on Good Friday. "It was cool, it was fun," Gianna

said. "It was cool, it was fun," Glanna said. "It was our first year and there were a lot of people here. I loved collecting the eggs because it's fun collecting them."

Nine-year-old Envy Atwood joined her cousin Blair Murray at the Easter egg hunt, and said she had a blast, despite the blink-and-it's-over frenzied pace each time a new age group was brought onto the field to begin the hunt.

"You get to run around and pick them up. It's so fun," she said.



ON A MISSION: About 1,000 children came out last Friday for the Easter Egg hunt.

"Me and my cousin, we saw a whole bunch of eggs and you just have to go for those eggs. But if someone took them, you just have get the other ones. I got about 10 eggs."

Envy said she had plenty of experience to draw upon. "I've been doing it every year since

I was three years old," she said. Cousin Blair also had a lot of fun

and excitement. "It was fun because I got to collect

so many eggs," Blair said. Hunt chair Joe Woodgate of the

Hunt chair Joe Woodgate of the Hillcity Kinsman Club, who have staged the 25-year-old event for the past decade or so, said they put together about 10,000 eggs which they divided between four age groups, and estimated about 1,000 or so children came out to take part in the free event.

"It looks like a pretty good turnout today," he said, despite temperatures hovering at -10 C.

"It's actually the most fun event we do. We get to see the immediate impact, the smiles on the children's faces. That's what we want to do. That's our goal."

Most of the eggs were stuffed with chocolate, but a few in each category also contained prizes, including bicycles donated by Canadian Tire.

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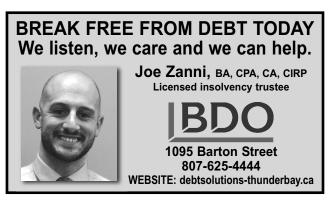


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See You There!





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WEIGHT-FUELED: Andre Vaillant (far right), William Agnew (middle), and Devon Noel were three of 27 bodybuilders competing last Saturday.

Out-muscling competition drives bodybuilders' effort

BODYBUILDING By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

he sport of bodybuilding involves a lot more than just lifting weights. It can almost be considered an art form, where an athlete is both the sculptor and the art.

"Our body is a tool and we are trying to sculpt with it and be the sculptor ourselves

and the portrait at the same time,' said Adrian Lesey, bodybuilder and promoter. "It takes years and years of dedication to create a physique that looks like this."

On Saturday, 27 men and women bodybuilders took to the stage at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium for the third annual Thunder Bay Bodybuilding Championships.

Lesey, who is a promoter for the event, said the competition is through the Canadian Physique Alliance, which is an affiliate of the International Federation of Bodybuilding.

"That means a lot because there is a doorway to become a professional in the IFBB pro league through this show," he said.

According to Lesey, the sport of bodybuilding has been growing exponentially in the last five years in Thunder Bay.

"Five years ago, I was the only competitive bodybuilder at any level, and now we have more than 40 people who compete on a regular basis," he said. "Now that we brought a show here, it is starting to get a lot more notoriety and people are starting to see the

benefits of the life style so we are getting a lot more people interested in it '

And bodybuilding is about more than competition. While many may associate the sport with hours in the gym lifting weights, there's a lot more going on behind the scenes, and competitions are an opportunity to showcase just how much hard work goes into training.

"It is how we go from living a daily lifestyle to actually showcasing what our physiques mean to us," Lesey said. "Everyone thinks it's a very narcissistic thing we do. This is a

lifestyle." Local bodybuilder, Andre Vaillant, has

been training for the last 10 years and has

been competing for the last three years. He said he became drawn to the sport because of how it pushes individuals to reach that next goal.

"You always push yourself to get to that next level in training," he said. "I wanted to create a goal to achieve, so I wanted to push my training to the next level. Competition in bodybuilding or physique is what pushed me to the next level with training."

"The biggest thing when it comes to this is diet," Vaillant continued. "Training is something we do year round and enjoy it, but when it comes down to the actual competition, it comes down to your diet, 100 per cent."

Vaillant has competed in Toronto, but he said having a local competition allows him and other local bodybuilders to share just how much hard work they put in to a sport they love.

"I do enjoy having a local event and being able to show our city and family and friends what I have done and what has taken to achieve where I am today," he said. "When it comes down to health and fitness, I recommend anybody to come out and get healthier and workout."

"It takes years and years of create a looks like this." **Adrian Lesey**

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Thursday, April 5, 2018 11



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Winter's still hanging about, fighting spring

FRED

ONES

RURAL ROOTS

This winter has been a long one. And it isn't over yet although spring is trying to push the Ol' Man out of the way. Welcome to April.

Easter weekend was cold. The night temperatures dipped to minus fifteen or so; the day ones sometimes reached zero or slightly above but then retreated back again. Frustrating. Very. Why?

A new horse arrived a month ago. The rule is that you don't throw the 'newbie' into the herd right away. Not

fair to them and not fair to him, especially if there are mares in the herd. So, we separated the mares from the herd and put them in a different paddock. Don't want geldings kicking each other over possession of the mares. Introduction of the new guy on the block should take place (so my wife, Laura, the horse person,

says) when we can put the herd in a larger area that permit the horses to spread out and get away from each other should an altercation take place. In the winter paddock, that option isn't available.

This paddock in which the mares are now located hasn't been used on a regular basis. Briefly last summer we held some equines there and thus filled the water tub and left it. Of course, the water in it froze. Not to worry, the ice would melt in the spring because we had no use for the paddock. Until now.

What I required was sufficient warmth to allow the ice around the tub edge to melt. Then I could tip up the tub and get rid of the ice chunk, refill the tub with fresh water, and insert the heater to prevent the water from forming ice.

Everything was going according to plan with warmer day-time temperatures and the beginnings of a melt. Then Ol' Man Winter awoke from his snooze and disappeared the warmth. The water that had melted re-froze.

Ratz! And we thought that hauling water pails three or four times per day was over.

So right now that is the major reason why I long for more consistent above-zero days so that I can dispense with hauling heavy water pails. When the horses have large, round, hay bales upon which to feed and a large tube full of water from which to slurp, then Farmer Fred et co. are free to concentrate on other things. Not so far.

Easter weekend was cold as I mentioned. Even when the thermometer reached the zero mark, the winds were vicious. Sure didn't feel like spring!

We have a pair of red squirrels hanging around the wood pile where we put out bird seed. The squirrels don't pass up a free meal and avail themselves of the seed. They are bold enough that I can walk right by them and they don't scatter. Unless Baxter, our pooch-on-patrol sees them and makes an effort to charge at them. He

never catches them. I was looking out of the kitchen window that overlooks the wood pile and observed one of the squirrels sitting on top chewing a sunflower seed. The wind was strong enough that the squirrel's tail was covering it's head and it was teetering a bit.

But a fair amount of the snow has evaporated, at least in the yard in front of the barn.

The cold winds have recreated a crust on the snow such that we can walk on top without suddenly going through. That is nice for carrying the compost bucket out to where we dump it by the garden. No unexpected plunges down up to the top of my boots.

But, I am impatient for winter to retreat and what "green" that has been revealed where the snow has melted will increase and actually turn from the brown we now see to real green. Besides, don't want returning birds to show up and the ground to be covered with ice and snow. They would starve.

So come on, spring! It's April already!



FEEDING THE HUNGRY: Mathew Lesnick (right) and Sandie Hasti-Black, volunteer first responders with St. John Ambulance, collect donations at the Arthur Street Metro during the Fill an Ambulance Food Drive last Saturday.



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The Chronicle Journal CKD Global



SEASON OPENS: Capt. Wilson Walters of CSL Welland, the first ship to arrive in the city.

TBLife First ship arrives in port

SHIPPING By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Capt. Wilson Walters has been sailing the Great Lakes for nearly 40 years, and not once has his ship been first to Thunder Bay in a given season.

That changed on Tuesday night when, with the assistance of local tug-boat crews, he guided CSL Welland, one of the largest grain ships on the Great Lakes into port.

"I never gave it much thought," Walters said on Wednesday morning, after receiving the ceremonial top hat from Port of Thunder Bay board member Charla Robinson.

"It was just into Thunder Bay and then they said, 'Oh, you're going to get a top hat. You're the first boat this year.' I've been second a few times, but I've never been first. The company's pretty proud to have one of our boats here representing (them)."

Getting to Thunder Bay wasn't easy. After wintering in Port Colborne, Ont.,

south of the Welland Canal, the ship took five days to reach Thunder Bay, two more than usual, thanks to heavy ice conditions on the Great Lakes.

It was a bit of a harrowing trip, Walters said, though not as bad as 2014.

Crews were doubled up and they had two navigators on the bridge, when under normal conditions they'd have just one. They also had someone stationed on the bow as a spotter, just in case.

"Navigating in ice, what we do is we try to slow the vessel down and go into the ice on a slow impact. If you go in at high speed, which is about 13 knots, you're going to do damage," Walters said.

The ship took a more northerly route to escape the worst of the ice, though they rediscovered thick ice as they sailed into Thunder Bay's harbour and took things slow and steady to dock at the G3 elevator.

Walters said the record-setting CSL Welland, which in August 2016 took on the largest single shipment of grain in port history, loaded up with 31,064 tonnes of grain.

Wednesday's shipment is headed for Quebec.

Port of Thunder Bay president Tim Heney said the opening of the Great Lakes is a little later than typical, but it's exciting to get the shipping season going again.

"It's always a positive time of year for us. Spring is here for sure," Heney said, adding it's unusual for a ship to arrive before the Welland Canal opens for the season.

"We're looking forward to good things and it's always a time of optimism in the spring."

Heney said all signs are pointing to another good year for the port.

"It's hard to say, but there's a lot more carry over this year than usual. It was a rough winter in the prairies and they had a lot of trouble getting grain across the Rockies to Vancouver, so there's more left over this year than usual, which bodes well.



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Thursday, April 5, 2018 17



FILM By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Nearly half the entries in this year's North Of Superior Film Association's 25th annual Film Festival had a woman at the helm or in a starring role.

While organizers didn't set out to even the gender balance, Marty Mascarin says just goes to show how powerful a force women are becoming in the movie business.

"It wasn't a conscious decision, it was more or less evolving as certain titles became available to us. Then, as more and more titles were slotted, then it emerged that it is becoming very apparent there is a rather distinctive female presence in these movies," Mascarin said on Tuesday, unveiling the 27 films that will make up the roster of this year's festival, unofficially titled the Year of the Woman.

"It was really the vagaries of the marketplace.'

It's an emerging trend in Hollywood, and Mascarin said they're only too happy to follow suit.

"It just seems that the female presence is coming to the fore and deservedly so, with the immense talent that's out there in the arts," he said. "Now they're getting their due and we hope we can maintain that."

Chile's A Fantastic Woman, which won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film, Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story and In Between, described on Rotten Tomatoes as a defiantly feminist movie originating in the Middle East.

Other highlights of this year's festival, which will take place on Sunday, April 15 and Sunday, April 22 at Silver City, include the Canadian-Irish animated production The Breadwinner, Loveless, Loving Vincent, In the Fade and Don't Talk to Irene.

Mascarin said it's a bit of a process picking the movies. Lists of possible titles is provided on a quarterly basis through the film circuit.

"We use that as a guidepost. Then it's some scouting that's done at both the Toronto International Film Festival, as well as Cinefest in Sudbury, which is a major regional festival that follows TIFF," Mascarin said.



UNVEILED: Catherine Powell (left) and Marty Mascarin reveal the film fest lineup.

2018 NOSFA FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

- Thursday, April 12 Their Finest: 6:30 p.m.
- The Disaster Artist: 8:40 p.m.

Sunday, April 15

Novitate: 9:45 a.m. En Pere Du Flic 2: 9:50 a.m. Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story: 10:15 a.m. In the Fade: 12:10 p.m. A Fantastic Woman: 12:15 p.m. Tulipani: 12:20 p.m. Back to Burgundy: 2:25 p.m. Finding Your Feet: 2:30 p.m. The Insult: 2:35 p.m. The Midwife: 4:55 p.m. Loving Vincent: 5 p.m. Foxtrot: 5:05 p.m.

Then it's merely studying what gets released over the course of the year. We always look at the Friday releases and there's various reviews from television and print and online

... to see if there's something new that we're interested in."

To mark the milestone anniversary, NOSFA is throwing a gala party at Bight on Thursday, April 19, following a screening of Oscarnominated Ladybird at Silver City. Tickets are \$20 and the evening will feature hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by the Damon Dowbak Trio.

The gala is open to the public.

Thursday, April 19 Ladybird: 6:30 p.m. Gala Party (Bight): 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 22

- In Between: 9:50 a.m. God's Own Country: 9:55 a.m. Brigsby Bear: 10 a.m. The Leisure Seeker: 12 p.m. Good Time: 12:10 p.m. The House by the Sea: 2:20 p.m. The Divine Order: 2:25 p.m. The Breadwinner: 2:30 p.m. Loveless: 4:35 p.m. Sami Blood: 4:40 p.m.
- Faces/Places: 4:45 p.m.
- *All screenings at Silver City

Festival six-pack tickets are available in advance, as of Thursday, at Fireweed and Wojo's Mojo to NOSFA members for \$36 and via Pay Pal at www.nosfa.ca.

Memberships are \$15 and also available online.

Single admission for invidual screenings are \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members and are only for sale at the theatre prior to each screening.

Organizers remind patrons advanced tickets do not guarantee admission to shows and advise moviegoers to come at least a half an hour early to ensure a seat.





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IN THE **bay**



THE LONGEVITY OF ART: Definitely Superior Art Gallery is hosting its Urban Infill Art in the Core for the 12th year. The event opens on April 7 with a gala opening and runs until April 10.

Art in the Core

ART By Linda Maehans - TB Source

Welve years' creativity going strong; more diversely surprising and inventive every day.

These twelve words attempt to sum up what the membership of Definitely Superior Art and its partners in this city are developing year upon year. It's called Urban Infill Art in the Core. Think of seeds emerging from something solid, bright and resilient: this is Art in the Core of Thunder Bay.

Organizers at Definitely Superior describe it as "the next evolution of creative possibilities". And why wouldn't they. Over this coming weekend into next week more than 400 artists, local, regional, national and international, are pooling their talents on the north shore of a great lake that is definitely superior. You can find them and experience their art in 25 north downtown locations: in existing commercial galleries, fashion houses, private studios, clubs and restaurants, and formerly empty spaces now transformed into vibrant places alive with motion and colour and sound. The positive side of life.

On Gala Opening Night you'll see "window dressing" the likes of which you've not imagined. Maybe climb some stairs and open a door to where an artist works, the real deal; have a conversation; share some ideas. Drop in on a Fringe Theatrical show. For sensation-seekers, the extra-visual-andsensory minded can step into a 360 degree film-and-installation immersion; or how about something called an ocular rift VR experience. I'm guessing virtual reality with wings! Back outside, meet the excitement of Fire-Street performances and other spectacles. Nip into a club or two, where 9 live

Barry Streib

Nayne Haun

or Hearing Centre

😨 Lakehead

Travelodge Memori

VICTORIAINN

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Allure 😋

SOCAN

bands and DJ's will ratchet your pulse up a little further. In need of refreshment? The visual-culinary minded can sample trays of cool colourful treats and delectibles catered by the best in the biz.

After Gala night the creativities of DefSup Membership Show; LU Visual Arts Students and Grads of 2018; Confederation College Film & Multimedia folks; and Neechee Studio, a young Indigenous branch sprouting from DefSup's Die Active New Generation Art Collective, remain on display, filling the north downtown core with fresh new art for three additional days.

Urban Infill showcases creativity to everyone in our community. DefSup's director David Karasiewicz says it suggests a new life style, and can be a model of urban development and planning for the future.

"Last year over 2,500 people enthusiastically embraced this event. A fusion of all art forms working symbiotically with downtown businesses: everyone achieves. Most of the artists are from Thunder Bay and region; however, every year our event is elevated by critically acclaimed national and international artists, illustrating an incredible wealth of artistic talent for a city of our size."

Gee, didn't Petula Clark have a smash hit called Downtown? In 1965 she asked us what we might find there. Can you imagine what, 53 years later, we might find here in 2018?

For details and a map of 2018 Urban Infill Art in the Core, visit Definitely Superior online; or on gala night, let sprite-spunk tour guides guide you on your way.

Gala Night: Saturday April 7; 7-11 p.m. Arty After Party 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. +19

Urban Infill Art in the Core 2018: from Sunday to Tuesday, April 8-10, 12-6 p.m. Go see it.

IN THE **bay** Lighter, brighter Hollywood on its way

fter several seasons of seeming to Acelebrate the dark side in shows like Scandal, How to Get Away With Murder, The Walking Dead and even Lucifer, Hollywood seems to be turning on a little light. This spring, a new crop of TV shows are popping up with surprisingly optimistic premises.

The new Disney comedy, Alexa and Katie focuses on two teen best friends. When one is diagnosed with cancer, they team up to fight the big C in every way possible.

Life Sentence is a new CW dramedy about a young woman who lived for years with a terminal cancer diagnosis only to learn she's been cured. And now her family has to reveal some personal truths they'd been holding back for her benefit. Meanwhile, she's finally learning to live a life with conseauences.

Living Biblically is a new CBS comedy about a man whose impending



fatherhood and the sudden death of his best friend lead him to make some drastic changes. He's going live his life 100 per cent according to the bible. And it's making a lot of people around him uncomfortable.

And this past Easter Sunday, NBC broadcasted a live production of Jesus Christ Superstar with John Legend, Sara Bareilles, and Alice Cooper.

Of course, that's just television. The movie industry is also seeing a

Christian insurgence. We're used to the occasional Passion of the Christ-esque film. But a rather profitable Christian market also currently services 90 million consumers. And although it originally focused on DVD sales, websites and Walmart to reach its target audience, it has started dipping into mainstream theatres too.

Surprise box office hits Heaven Is Real and 2016's Miracles from Heaven managed to snag the star-power of Greg Kinnear and Jennifer Garner, respectively. This helped grease the way for more Christian productions.

And recently, I Can Only Imagine, which tells the story behind a popular Christian rock song, earned a box office haul of \$38 million in just 10 days and shows little sign of slowing down. This has led to the re-release of the 2014 film God's Not Dead in theatres also.

So why the re-direct? Obviously, ratings and the box office are key. If it makes money, Hollywood will produce it. But why are more people watching more optimistic farer now?

Maybe it's because the media has gotten too dark. Maybe it's become impossible to out-do the insanity of today's news. Every day, people tune in to find out what's gone wrong in the world since they went to bed. The violence, anger, suspicions and general fear of each other have hit all-time highs.

Ironically, for decades we revelled in those images of people behaving badly because it was just television or the movies. It wasn't real life.

But to paraphrase Bad Boys 2, "It just got real." So now we need something else to revel in. Something hopeful. Something positive.

And Hollywood is apparently more than willing to supply it.

As long as we're buying what they're selling.



GOING LIVE: John Legend was one of the stars in NBC's Jesus Christ Superstar.

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Go Pro - Fishfinder & TV Raffle 2018 The winners are as follows: 1st Prize - Pam Sawler 2nd Prize - Paul McLaughlin **3rd Prize - Bob Doucet** 4th Prize - Laureen Spilchuk 5th Prize - K. Myllyniemi Lottery License #M786674 Draw date: Saturday, March 3, 2018



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McDonald retires from Wolves

UNIVERSITY HOCKEY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

fter five years at the helm, Bill AmcDonald is retiring as coach of the Lakehead Thunderwolves men's hockey team.

At 65, it was time, said the veteran bench boss, who plans to spend more time with his children and grandchildren as he handed over the coaching reins to long-time assistant and former Thunderwolves captain Andrew Wilkins.

"It's time for me to go and it's time for Andrew. He can't hang on forever. He wants to take that jump and I totally endorse him," McDonald said, explaining his decision.

"He's been a loyal kid and he'll do a good job."

McDonald, whose resume includes three Colonial Hockey League championships, two with the Thunder Bay Thunder Hawks and a third with the Thunder Bay Senators, has spent more than three decades coaching.

His minor-league career took him from Thunder Bay to Texas, New Mexico, Michigan and Ohio before returning in 2013 to take over the Thunderwolves, where his teams would post a 60-62-17 record with McDonald behind the bench during regular-season play and 7-9 in taking LU to the playoffs in four of five seasons.

It was an emotional decision, he said, adding he won't be totally stepping away from hockey completely.

"I love the game and the fans in Thunder Bay, they're great. It's just

time for me to step away,' he said, noting getting to coach the likes of Marty Turco and Brendan Morrow during a brief stint with the Dallas Stars organization is probably the highlight of his career.

Wilkins, who turns 30 in July, spent his junior career on the blue-line, but switched to forward when he arrived in 2009 in

Thunder Bay, where he developed into one of the top defensive players in the Canadian university game.

He said four years as an understudy with McDonald have proven invaluable to his coaching development.

Wilkins said he's excited to take on the next chapter in his hockey career.

"It's obviously a humbling feeling to be selected and to follow a guy like Bill



STEPPING DOWN: Bill McDonald spent five years coaching the Lakehead Thunderwolves, compiling a 60-62-17 regular-season record.

BILL MCDONALD'S HEAD COACHING RECORD

McDonald, who means so much to the history of Thunder Bay hockey. It's a program that I have a lot of passion for, so I'm very excited," Wilkins said. "I came up here 10 years ago as a

player. I didn't know anybody coming up here, I came up here because it was a really good hockey program.'

The Wolves haven't been at their best in recent years, missing the post-season

for the first time in school history in 2016 and Wilkins said he wants to put his own stamp on the team.

"Obviously it's the early stages. As of right now we're recruiting and we're trying to get the best players in. Moving forward it's just putting a plan forward for success and working until you achieve your goal," said Wilkins, adding the team's

top priority is scoring more goals. Captain Dillon Donnelly said he's got mixed emotions about the move, but does approve of McDonald's successor.

"We're definitely a little sad to see Billy leave. He's a great person and a great coach. Speaking just for myself, I owe him a lot. He gave me the captaincy, which has been a big

SEASON	TEAM		GP	W	L	Т	OTL
1991-92	Thunder Bay Thunder Hawks*	CoHL	60	26	28	6	0
1992-93	Thunder Bay Thunder Hawks	CoHL	60	32	24	0	4
1993-94	Thunder Bay Senators*	CoHL	64	45	15	4	0
1994-95	Thunder Bay Senators*	CoHL	74	48	22	4	0
1995-96	Fort Worth Fire	CHL	64	24	34	0	6
1996-97	Fort Worth Fire*	CHL	66	45	16	0	5
1997-98	Fort Worth Brahmas	WPHL	69	41	17	0	11
1998-99	Michigan K-Wings	IHL	82	35	34	0	13
2000-01	Lubbock Cotton Kings	WPHL	71	40	23	0	8
2001-02	Lubbock Cotton Kings	CHL	64	30	23	0	11
2002-03	Lubbock Cotton Kings	CHL	21	11	6	0	4
2002-03	New Mexico Scorpions	CHL	40	19	17	0	4
2003-04	New Mexico Scorpions	CHL	64	32	27	0	5
2004-05	New Mexico Scorpions	CHL	60	27	27	0	6
2005-06	Austin Ice Bats	CHL	64	34	27	0	3
2006-07	Austin Ice Bats	CHL	43	16	17	0	10
2007-08	Dayton Bombers	ECHL	72	29	31	0	12
2008-09	Dayton Bombers	ECHL	72	32	33	0	7
2013-14	Lakehead Thunderwolves	OUA	28	17	8	0	3
2014-15	Lakehead Thunderwolves	OUA	27	10	14	0	3
2015-16	Lakehead Thunderwolves	OUA	28	8	16	0	4
2016-17	Lakehead Thunderwolves	OUA	28	13	13	0	2
2017-18	Lakehead Thunderwolves	OUA	28	12	11	0	5
TOTAL 1249 626 483 14126						126	
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honour, so for me it's been a day of mixed emotions. But to look to Andrew, I think he's up to the challenge," Donnelly said.

"He's excited and to have a guy that's

younger too is going to be a good thing for us. He's ready."

Wilkins, the first full-time assistant in team history, will announce the rest of his coaching staff at a later date.



sports NEWS

Students vote to build athletic centre

Lakehead vote sees 79 per cent in favour of proposed project

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

akehead University students have overwhelmingly approved a new 30,000 square foot athletic centre.

Athletic director Tom Warden on Thursday confirmed 79 per cent of the 2,424 students who cast a ballot gave thumbs up to the proposed project in a referendum that closed on Wednesday.

Warden said the project must now be ratified by the Lakehead University Student Union's board of directors, and if that occurs, there will be about an 18month turnaround to design and build the facility

"What's been interesting through this whole process is watching the passion

that the students have with this concept and watching our student leaders help with this process," Warden said.

According to diagrams posted during the one-week voting period, the new structure will include a basketball gymnasium, an improved

workout area, a pharmacy, a study and nap centre, a student lounge and a meditation centre. "I think it's a bit of a shift philosophically what athletics means to our institution,"

Warden said. "I think now we're a good

place to work out and we provide a lot of programming opportunities for our students, but I think moving forward we

will become a space for wellness, a space where people can relax, a space where people can study, as well as work out, as well as find areas where they can meditate, areas where they can be alone, areas where they can be with their

friends."

"I think it's a

bit of a shift

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TOM WARDEN

Farhan Yousaf, LUSU vice-president of finance operations said he was surprised at the margin of the vote.

"The results speak for themselves," Yousaf said in a phone interview with CKPR Radio.

Yousaf said the board ratification vote will take place in about two weeks.

"Once they're ratified by the board, then they're official and then from there on we'll begin the consultation process on the design of the building," he said

"Our aim is to have two focus groups and we want to make sure the students have a

say in how the design of the building would be, what they want to see in the building."

Warden said it's too soon to provide a budget for the project. It's safe to say it's in the multi-million-dollar range.



MOVING FORWARD: Lakehead athletic director Tom Warden says the new centre would focus on student wellness, as well as being a place to work out and exercise.







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