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LEADERSHIP THUNDER BAY

tbaytel

Judge signs on to run for mayor again

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Shane Judge, the latest mayoral candidate to enter this year's municipal election race, says he is concerned with the direction city council is moving in and he believes voters want to see a change in the council chambers.

Long-rumoured to be running for mayor, Judge declared his candidacy outside Thunder Bay city hall on Sunday. Judge ran in the 2014 election, coming in third with 9,531 votes behind Ken Boshcoff and Keith Hobbs.

During his first run for mayor, the former CBC reporter focused on the proposed event centre and his concerns that a plebiscite was not held to allow the public to decide on the multimillion dollar facility.

"This time, I knew there were problems, of course being a reporter, but over the course of the last four years, I've really been focusing on the economic side of things," Judge said. "Things have just deteriorated."

According to Judge, the city is struggling with fewer housing starts, a lack of new businesses, shuttered buildings, and deteriorating roads. In order to sell the city of Thunder Bay to outside investments, Judge believes there needs to be less focus and spending on projects that are not essential.

"I hold the view that if you want to sell your company to outside investors, it's got to look good," he said. "Just having some nice facilities on the waterfront where most of us only go 20 days a year just doesn't cut it. We have to make where we actually live and work much more attractive if we hope to get investors here."

In order to make the city more appealing to not only outside investments, but the people who live here, Judge said he wants to invest in more trees and gardens, which will not only beautify the city, but assist with storm water management.

When it comes to big-ticket projects, Judge expressed concern regarding the new \$30 million Thunder Bay art gallery on the waterfront.

"I grew concerned that we were heading down a path where we were building these unaffordable and fancy projects that require unbelievable maintenance while our roads and basic infrastructure continue to deteriorate," he said.

Judge also believes the city of

Thunder Bay is over-politicized and he wants to see city council reduced from 13 councillors to nine, which would mean doing away with the ward system.

"We need councillors who are elected by everybody," he said. "Everybody should get to say who sits on that council. Now we have some councillors with fewer than 2,000 votes and getting on council and committing the city to multi-million dollar projects."

Leading up to the election next October, Judge said he hopes to see many new people putting their name on the ballot. He is also hoping that the people of Thunder Bay will give him a strong mandate, which will show that he is not the only one concerned with the direction the city is heading.

"I want the public to send the signal to the incumbents and anybody running for council that if I win, I would like to win strongly," he said. "Send a strong message to council that this is where we want to go."

Judge joins three other mayoral candidates who have filed their nomination papers, including Coun. Iain Angus, Kevin Cernjul and Mariann Sawicki.



TRYING AGAIN: Former CBC reporter Shane Judge finished third in the 2014 mayor's race.



For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

Thursday, May 17, 2018

LOCALNEWS



FIRE SEASON: Thunder Bay Fire Rescue were on the scene of a grass fire under the Main Street Bridge last Saturday.

Dry weather sparks a grassfire increase

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Crews with Thunder Bay Fire Rescue have been kept busy recently with numerous grass fires sparking up around the city. The cause of the fires is most likely due to a dry and windy spring, but human factors can make already hazardous conditions even worse.

Over the last several weeks, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue has responded to numerous grass and bush fires, including a large fire behind the Parkdale area along Highway 61 and one under the Main Street Bridge on Saturday.

According to Thunder Bay Fire Rescue platoon chief, Shawn Merrifield, it is normal at this time of year to have grass fires, but a lack of rain this spring is creating particularly hazardous conditions.

No one cause

"There are a number of reasons why they could ignite," he said. "Sometimes

it's people not being attentive with things that could cause a fire, like smoking materials or working around grass with flames. Often times it is just spontaneous combustion. There was nothing around there and it was just so dry and for some reason heated up enough and caught fire."

And while dry and windy conditions are contributing to more fires this year compared to last spring that saw much more rain, Merrifield said members of the public should be extra careful with anything that could cause a fire, especially smoking materials or lawn burning.

"This certainly would not be a good time to start burning grass," he said. "I don't think it happens as much anymore as it did in the past, but sometimes people like to burn the grass and they think it gives them a better lawn over the summer. I'm not sure if that is true or not, but now

would not be a good time to do that."

Grass fires require large fire crews and a lot of resources to extinguish, Merrifield said, and if the fire becomes too big, as was the case with the fire behind the Parkdale area or the fire on Candy Mountain Road earlier this month, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will be called in to assist.

"The problem for us is the Thunder Bay Fire department is equipped for a certain size of grass fire," Merrifield said. "But if it gets out of hand and it's a windy day and it's dry, the wind will push it along and into a bush area and could start threatening people's property, homes, garages."

The cause of the fires on Saturday remains unknown at this time. Merrifield said unless someone is present to see the cause of the fire or report it, there is often no way to definitively determine how it started.

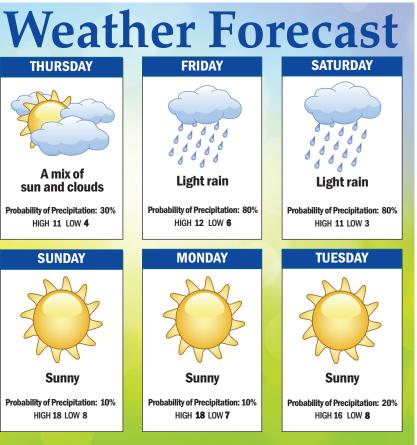
If it is determined a grass fire was started intentionally or was the result of carelessness, the Thunder Bay Fire Rescue prevention division can lay charges. No burning is allowed during a fire ban, even if an individual has the proper permits.

Make the call

Merrifield said if you are unsure about any current fire bans you can contact any fire hall for more information.

When it comes to grass fires or the potential for one, the key to preventing the situation from getting out of control is to be prepared with hoses, shovels, and rakes. If a fire does get out of control, contact Thunder Bay Fire Rescue as soon as possible.

"If it looks as though it is starting to get out of hand you should always call early," Merrifield said. "Calling early is the best way to go because we will respond and if you should happen to gain control of it again, then great. But if it does start to get out of hand and you waited too long, then it becomes much more difficult."





Accessible Municipal Elections

INFORMATION SESSION:

Ontario municipal elections are scheduled for October 22. In preparation for this important date, the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee invites the public to learn about accessible voting options for people with disabilities; the way local government works; and how to run for City council and school board trustee positions. As well, you can meet the AAC members, learn about general accessibility and provide feedback on barrier removal across City of Thunder Bay facilities and services.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre 555 Arthur St. W. Transit routes 4 & 14

KEYNOTE PRESENTER: Linda Douglas, Election Coordinator, City of Thunder Bay



If you require any further information about this event, please email **sgarner@thunderbay.ca** or call Scott at **807.625.2240**. Communication access real-time translation (CART) will be available on both dates.



For more information, please visit thunderbay.ca/living/accessibility

"This certainly would not be a good time to start burning grass."

SHAWN

MERRIFIELD

NOMA's Oliver running in Westfort

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Kristen Oliver says the call for change around the city council table is loud enough to convince her to make her first foray into municipal politics.

Oliver, executive director of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, on Friday filed the necessary paperwork and will take a shot at the Westfort ward, a seat held by Joe Virdiramo since 2003.

"I want to make sure we have change that is knowledgeable, has experience and that can drive a lot of what needs to happen in this community to make us successful," Oliver said.

Thunder Bay needs to be a much more welcoming community, she added.

"While that is a simple statement, what it means is that I want opportunities for our people to have economic development. I want to see developers finding Thunder Bay a place to build and a place to grow,"

Oliver said. "I want to see people choosing Thunder Bay as a place to live. We have a demographic that's aging. We know that. We know we have to find people to move into our community to sustain what we currently have - and for our growing economy. The mining sector is really starting to take off.'

A lifelong resident of Westfort who continues to reside there with her husband and two young children, Oliver said she wants to see

the ward continue on an upward spiral. "I love the community. I feel like you're part of the fabric there. It's a real neighbourhood ... I really like the

nature we provide in that area. We have great stores and great restaurants. It's a real nice community and I really want to see it flourish. I don't want to see empty stores," she said. "I want to see some growth and potential in the ward as well."

As of Monday, Oliver's only competition in Westfort is Frank Scarcello, who finished runner-up to Virdiramo, falling 45 votes short of top spot. Virdiramo has yet to

publicly declare his intentions for 2018, though he is expected to run in some capacity.



RUNNING IN WESTFORT: Kristen Oliver enters the municipal election for the first time.



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"I want to

make sure

we have

change that

is knowledg-

able."

KRISTEN OLIVER

Highway twinning in plan

Liberals promise to four-lane Trans-Canada if they're re-elected

PROVINCIAL ELECTION By Matt VIs – TB Source

A completely four-lane Trans-Canada Highway throughout the province from the Manitoba border to the Quebec border highlights the Liberals' plans for Northern Ontario should the party be elected to a fifth term in government.

Local Liberal candidates Michael Gravelle and Bill Mauro announced the party's northern platform in Thunder Bay last Friday morning, hours before Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne was scheduled to participate in a northern debate with Progressive Conservative counterpart Doug Ford and NDP leader Andrea Horwath.

Gravelle, who is running for a seventh term and has held the Thunder Bay-Superior North riding since it was created before the 1999 election, said the province will put permanent annual funding in place for the multi-billion dollar endeavour and will require support from the federal government.

Lots of work

"It's a huge project and a long project," Gravelle said. "It's one that needs to happen. Northerners need to have the same services and the same safety as those do in Southern Ontario and other parts of the province."

Gravelle said dividing the highway between Thunder Bay and Nipigon, which began in 2010, has already likely carried a \$1 billion price tag and is on track to be completed within the next four to five



ON BALLOT: Liberal candidate Michael Gravelle.

years.

Twinning the highway between Kenora and the Manitoba border, which had been previously promised as far back as 2009, remains a priority, Gravelle added.

"There's been lots of work being done on it and significant consultations have taken place as well," Gravelle said. "We need to continue those discussions but we are keen to move forward with the project."

Mauro, the party's candidate in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, said the Trans-Canada commitment includes continuing the process to overhaul the intersections along the Thunder Bay-Expressway from Arthur Street to Balsam Street.

"We're four years advanced on that project. It began four years ago with \$4 million for environmental assessment work. That's done. Preliminary design is done," Mauro said. "Those six interchanges are very worrisome for me. I travel that road like a lot of us do. We need to change and do something different there."

The platform also incorporates two policy initiatives similar to pledges already announced by the NDP.

The Liberals plan includes the creation of an independent watchdog commissioner to oversee gas prices, whereas the NDP have pledged to regulate prices at the pump.

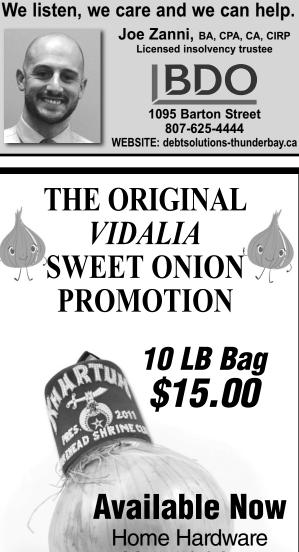
"We've looked at what happens under regulation and prices tend to be regulated at a higher level," Gravelle said. "We think it's more effective to put in place a gas price watchdog commissioner who can have the authority to compel the companies to justify their pricing. We think that will bring prices down in a substantial fashion and we'd like to see it happen as soon as possible."

Public versus private

Mauro and Gravelle said the Liberals would also bring winter highway maintenance back under public control when private contracts expire. The NDP have promised to review contracts to look for early termination provisions to transition highway snow plowing back as a public service.

The platform also includes a goal of hiring 5,500 personal support workers that are desperately needed across the province, particularly in Northwestern Ontario. St. Joseph's Care Group has been unable to open a wing of their Hogarth Riverview Manor long-term care home due to lack of staffing.

"We need to ensure that people that are training (personal support workers) have the capacity to bring on the cohorts that are big enough to meet the demand," Mauro said. "We need to work with the colleges and to some degrees the other institutions to ensure they have the capacity to meet the demand."



Thursday, May 17, 2018

BREAK FREE FROM DEBT TODAY

Memorial Ave.

LAKEHEAD SHRINE CLUB

VIDALIA

ONIONS



Editorial

EDITORIAL

Forest fires real danger

This weekend marks the official start of the summer season, at least in our minds.

The May long weekend is the traditional start to the camping season and the date when those of us with green thumbs feel confident enough to start our outdoor planting, convinced winter is over and done with until November.

A lack of rain in the region means Northwestern Ontario is at high risk for forest fires.

This past week local firefighters have been battling grass fires all around the city, and it seems as soon as one is extinguished, another one flares up.

On Tuesday the Ministry of Natural Resources imposed a restricted fire ban for the region.

It means all fire permits have been suspended until the ban is lifted in affected communities, which as of press time included Shuniah.

Those of you who intend to hit the great outdoors this weekend, whether for an afternoon hike or a few days in the Ontario wilderness, please take precautions while in the woods.

If you need to cook, consider using gas or propane stoves. Coal-burning barbecues are not allowed, unless you're at an organized campground.

It only takes a single spark to start a forest fire, and given the dry conditions, a runaway fire can easily get out of control in a matter of minutes. And, if you see a fire, phone 911.

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Liberal retirement time

To the editor:

t is high time for political change in both Ontario and Northwestern Ontario. The Liberals must not get a (false) majority again in the legislature. But Doug Ford is certainly not the change we want. The Conservatives really worry me if they deliver what Doug Ford promises. The Liberals worry me just as much as they rarely deliver what they promise! I believe that a minority government is quite likely this time, and I am very hopeful that will be the outcome.

The NDP-Green minority government in BC is very effective so far. Past NDP-Liberal minority governments in Ontario have worked quite well.

Here, some sort of minority or coalition including more NDP plus a few Greens would be a good result... two or three foxes watching the henhouse. Then they could force lower regional electricity prices, better democracy, improved health care, and put a halt to the transport of dangerous high level nuclear wastes through northern Ontario.

The recent Angus Reid poll showed that voter intention for the Greens is over six per cent as first choice, and over 16 per cent as their second choice.

Green leader Mike Schreiner is probably going to win in Guelph, and there are several other Ontario ridings where Green wins are likely.

Here in Northwestern Ontario there is a full slate of fine candidates for the Greens, including Ember McKillop, Christine Penner, and John Northey.

I will not be a candidate, in large part because our flawed and antiquated firstpast-the-post voting system hugely favours larger parties.

Many media outlets are biased against small parties (for example, superb Green Leader Mike Schreiner is being blocked from provincial debates by Toronto media consortia). Also, it is time to foster newer or younger candidates.

There are two excellent candidates running in Thunder Bay-Superior North: Lise Vaugeois for the NDP and Amanda Moddejonge for the Greens. Please give both serious consideration.

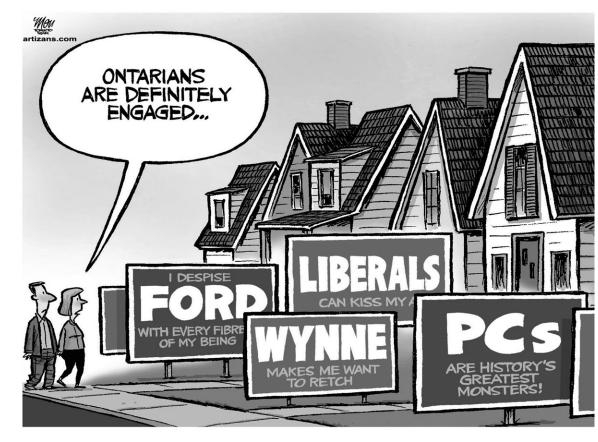
Michael Gravelle has worked long and hard, and it is time to give him a well-deserved retirement.

It would be a shame if the Liberals gained another false majority by one seat.

A change is desperately needed in Thunder Bay-Atikokan.

When I was the federal MP, Bill Mauro was absolutely impossible to work with. He must be defeated. I have long been impressed by the skills, experience, hard work, fairness, and honesty of NDP candidate Judith Monteith-Farrell. If I lived in that riding, I would definitely vote for Judith. She will be a wonderful MLA ... and might just win that magic seat that gains a much-needed and cooperative minority or coalition

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



government, and the chance that Northern Ontario will be listened to.

Hopefully someday we will have the proportional and more democratic voting system long promised by Liberals, but never delivered.

Then we will be able to vote for whom and what we support, instead of feeling forced to vote against what we fear. Then, Ontario will become more truly democratic.

> Bruce Hyer, Thunder Bay

Heritage Party has merit

To the editor:

am a disabled Canadian. I've been in a wheelchair for three-quarters of my life. And yet I still hope to walk again...one day. It won't be today or tomorrow. It might not be for a decade or more but, regardless of the wait, I refuse to give up on the dream. I live on hope.

And so do most Northern Ontarians. Not everyone up here is hoping for a medical miracle. Some hope to get out of debt. Others hope for clean drinking water. There are a lot of frustrated hopes in the North: a living wage, quicker access to health care, drivable roads, more jobs, better opportunities for the young people, the list goes on and on.

Hope is a great thing. It helps us through hard times and lets us focus on a better tomorrow. But what if we're hoping for a better tomorrow? What if we've been given false hope time and again? How are we to keep going when cynicism is the order of the day...when we can't trust the people who are elected to make things better?

Politics is where hope goes to die. Catering to everyone means pleasing no-one. For every partisan crowd cheering a politician there are hundreds of voters at home seething with disappointment.

We at the Northern Ontario Party know we can't please every voter. Even though the North is relatively small in terms of people there are still large differences amongst us. While we may share broad regional grievances we're each unique. One Northerner might stress over our ridiculous hydro prices while another longs for tax cuts, others want stronger laws to protect the environment at the same time as their neighbour prefers less government restrictions.

Regardless where you sit on the political spectrum, however—on the right, the left, or in the centre—hope keeps you voting. Hope that the politicians will finally follow through on their promises. Hope that your party of choice remains true to their principles and doesn't give in to political expedience.

Unfortunately Northern Ontario has been betrayed. Time and again we vote and are disappointed in the results. Not only is our province dominated by Toronto-area politicians but even our own representatives sit shackled, unwilling or unable to help the people that voted them in.

Traditional parties have tried and failed. Vote PC, Liberal, or NDP. They are all the same: willing to say anything, promise anything, believe anything...so long as it gets them elected.

The NOP is different. Our goal isn't just to get into power. We want to provide hope to Northern voters. Win or lose the Northern Ontario Party stands for the North. "Of the North, for the North," that's us.

Not only are our politics different we are different. We operate in a unique way:

Every other party has "whipped" votes...we don't. Our elected MPPs will be free to vote their conscience on every issue. The NOP believes that voting in the best interest of their riding is an MPP's duty.

Every other party tells you what they'll do if elected...we don't. Instead we want you to tell us what's needed. Call, email, heck send a telegram, just get involved. We want our citizens engaged, and not just at election time. An informed and active electorate is Northern Ontario's greatest natural resource. We hope to see an end to apathy in the North, we hope to work with the public, we hope that come June 7 you'll consider voting NOP. Give hope a chance.

> Mat Del Pappa, Capreol, Ont.

Perspective

The best mom ever

Mother's Day proves stressful to majority of country

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

ere I bask in the afterglow of Mother's Day 2018 and as for me, the second Sunday of May is re-emerging as a time-honored tradition.

I am clearly getting more nostalgic – maybe because this year we honored a new mother and a new grandmother.

Joining our celebration for the first time this year was a young lad who already knows and loves both those Moms.

The feeling is mutual because Mothers specialize in unconditional love and have an unlimited supply.

He wasn't impressed with his first Mother's Day but even though he slept through part of the afternoon, he was still everybody's gift.

Family gathering

We got together with family for a pot luck brunch on a sunny, hot Mother's Day with three moms, two grand moms and three grandkids.

Two of the kids already had a few Mother's Days under their belts, not to mention sun hats on their heads, as they played in the sun.

There were flowers, cards and hugs all around, the company was good and the conversation was lively.

The potluck was hardy and healthy, sweet and savory and left us feeling full (with motherly joy, of course).

There was plenty of motherhood to go around and everyone under the sun in our back yard had a motherly glow that day.

I wonder how Anna Jarvis would have felt about our pleasant little extravagance.

After her Mom died on May 9, 1905 Ms Jarvis began a letter writing campaign in tribute to the dedication of mothers everywhere. In 1908 she presided over the

first official Mother's Day celebration at her church in Grafton, West Virginia.

She

1914.

eventually were convinced President expected to Woodrow Wilson to lay out half a declare Mother's Day a national holiday in billion dollars ... for their It was a simple way to mothers.

honor her own mother and the importance of motherhood in the world.

I think she would have been happy at our Sunday dinner but as for the gifts, cards and flowers, that's another story.

Her holiday became more widely popular than ever expected and soon people were spending money on extravagant flower arrangements

She responded by publicly disowning Mother's Day (her own creation) and by condemning florists as profiteers and charlatans. Her unruly behavior got her arrested for public disturbance and she even berated Eleanor Roosevelt for exploiting the sacred holiday.

Anna Jarvis died in a sanitarium in 1948 and her legacy lives on to this day but she wouldn't like Mother's Day 2018.

has been commercialized and exploited as a golden opportunity for the gift and trinket trade.

This year Canadians were expected to lay out about half a

billion dollars for their approximately 10 million

That works out to about fifty bucks per mom but just to be clear, a fifty dollar gift doesn't necessarily mean fifty buck's worth of love.

You can't put a price on a mother's love, so to honor Anna Jarvis maybe Mother's Day should get back to its roots.

What do Mothers really want only four per cent look forward to knick-knacks and flowers while 60 per cent or more just want to spend time with family.

And here's the irony -60 per cent of sons and daughters are stressed out trying to find the perfect Mother's Day gift.

Moms just want to be moms and are happy any time you pop in with the kids to be mommy-fied for a while.



RYAN'S FLYIN'

STAYING ON: Ryan Thomson, who guided the Lakehead Thunderwolves to a 2-12 record after taking over the team following the Christmas break, has been named the Wolves full-time coach.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

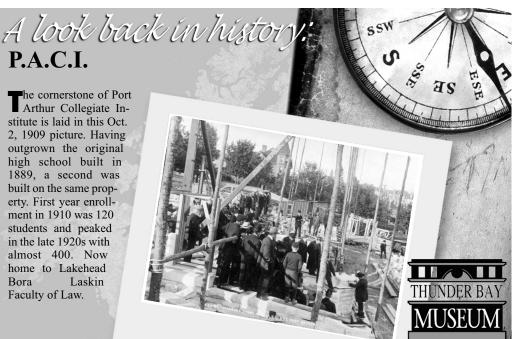
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Despite its humble beginnings, it

mothers.

This year Canadians **On average**

IN BRIEF

Levesque's legal fees cost city \$198K

he nearly \$200,000 legal bill for former police chief J.P. Levesque was picked up by the city.

City officials issued a news release last Thursday, confirming it spent \$198,826 in legal fees for Levesque's defence against criminal charges of



Levesque's contract provided indemnification against wrongful allegations, the city said. The charges

J.P. LEVESOUE

by Superior Court Justice Bonnie Warkentin earlier this year after the case went to trial.

Dougall Media had filed a freedom of information request seeking the amount of the legal costs. The city's

30-day response period would have closed last Friday.

Man's body found

The family of a 57-year-old man missing since last July has said police have told them it was his body found in the area of the regional hosnital.

Michael Quirielle was last seen on July 8, 2017 in the area of the hospital. Last year police conducted extensive, but ultimately unsuccessful search operations, including an intense ground search of the forested and trail areas east of the hospital that involved a K9 unit and dredging a pond, as well as utilizing a helicopter for an air search.

The Thunder Bay Police Service on Tuesday reported that a member of the public discovered human remains on the property of the Thunder Bay

Regional Health Sciences Centre. Police have not publicly released the identity of the remains or said whether the death is being considered suspicious

Victim shot, lives

Police are investigating a shooting at a south side bar Tuesday evening that sent one person to hospital.

According to Thunder Bay Police, officers responded to a south side bar just before 10 p.m. after receiving reports of an assault.

Upon arrival, a 28-year-old male was found who had been shot while standing on the sidewalk with a group of people.

The man was transported to hospital by ambulance with non-life threatening injuries and has since been released. Police say the injuries he suffered are consistent with shotgun pellets.

The scene was held for several hours

Tuesday night but has since been released. The Criminal Investigation Branch is continuing its investigation.

Anyone with information about the incident or who may have witnessed it is asked to contact police at 684-1200 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or at www.tipssubmit.com.

Dangerous driving

hunder Bay Police have been contacted by the motorist who was recorded driving down Memorial Avenue with the hood of his vehicle up.

In the video, posted to YouTube on Friday, the driver appears to be navigating his way down the busy street by peering through a gap between the raised hood and his engine.

Traffic Sgt. Bill Pollock on Monday said he was shocked at seeing such a dangerous act.

"My first reaction was it was kind of a dramatic pause, as I imagine was most people's. I can't imagine someone actually doing that," Pollock said in an interview outside the police service's Balmoral Street headquarters.

On Monday afternoon, police said the driver involved in the incident had contacted them to provide his side of the story.

He stated that he had a mechanical failure resulting in his vehicle needing a boost. The battery was boosted with a portable booster pack which he left in the engine compartment, closed the hood, then proceeded to a garage for repairs.

The man told police the hood blew open en route, and that he chose to continue to drive to the garage rather than pulling over to close the hood.

The video of the incident had more than 45,000 Facebook shares by Monday morning.

Election Day is June 7, 2018.

Polls are open from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. ET / 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. CT.

To vote in this election, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older on June 7, 2018; and
- a Canadian citizen; and
- a resident of Ontario.

To find out where you vote, visit elections.on.ca, check your Voter Information Card or call us at 1.888.668.8683 (TTY: 1.888.292.2312).

Each voting location will have magnifiers, Braille ballot templates and other tools to help you vote.

Don't forget to bring your ID and Voter Information Card when you go to vote.



For more information, visit elections.on.ca, email us at info@elections.on.ca or call 1.888.668.8683 (TTY: 1.888.292.2312). Disponible en français





GOING TO PRISON: Nicholas Necan killed 60-year-old George James Gerard in January 2016.

Necan sentenced

Second-degree murder conviction earns 13 years COURT bility was not high and he argued during the By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

A man convicted of second-degree mur-der in the brutal beating death of 60year-old George James Gerard will spend a minimum of 13 years behind bars.

Nicholas Necan appeared in a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Monday where Justice John Fregeau handed down his sentence.

"Mr. Gerard was brutally and senselessly beaten to death over a period of 45 minutes to an hour while minding his own business in his apartment," Justice Fregeau said while delivering his sentence.

"In my opinion, taking these concepts into account, together with the background of the accused in the context of Gladue and the jury recommendations, it is fit and just that the accused's period of parole ineligibility be increased beyond 10 years and set at 13 years."

Verdict

A jury found Necan guilty of seconddegree murder in February after a six-day trial. A conviction of second-degree murder carries with it an automatic life sentence with no possibility of parole for at least 10 years and a maximum of 25 years.

Following the verdict, the jury submitted parole recommendations that included four jurors submitting no recommendation, three submitting 15 years, two submitting 18 years, two submitting 20 years, and one submitting 25 years.

The incident took place on Jan. 28, 2016 at the Casablanca Apartment complex on Simpson Street where Gerard was living.

Thunder Bay Police Service officers who responded to the scene testified they witnessed Necan beating Gerard with a piece of wood inside his apartment.

During sentencing submissions, defense attorney, Neil McCartney, requested a period of parole ineligibility of no more than 10 years, citing Necan's moral culpatrial that he was too intoxicated to willfully commit second-degree murder.

Crown prosecutor, Gordon Fillmore, argued the brutal and violent nature of the assault that left Gerard with more than 90 injuries to his head, face, neck, and hands calls for a period of parole ineligibility beyond the minimum 10 years and asked Justice Fregeau to impose a sentence of 15 vears.

Thought it over

Justice Fregeau said he took several factors into consideration when determining his sentence, including Necan's upbringing, which included early exposure to drugs and alcohol, as well as violence in the home. However, he also pointed to the violent nature of the crime, the sustained beating Gerard suffered, and the significant and lasting impact his death has had on family members as outlined in three victim impact statements submitted to the court.

"Balancing the character and background of the accused and his diminished level of blameworthiness as a direct result of Gladue factors, with the circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence. I do not accept that a 10 year period of parole ineligibility is fit in the circumstances of this offender and this offence," Fregeau said.

At the sentencing hearing in April, Necan addressed Gerard's family, saying he was truly and deeply sorry for what he had done, which Fregeau also took into consideration when reaching his decision.

"He expressed remorse during the trial and during the sentencing hearing," Fregeau said. "I have no reason to believe it is not sincere."

Necan will also be required to submit a DNA sample, pay a victim fine surcharge of \$200 within 12 months, and has a lifetime weapons prohibition in place. Any pre-trial custody will be credited against Necan's 13 year parole ineligibility.





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Marks Street home in blaze

Damage leaves the home's occupants without a residence

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebois - TB Source

Marks Street house fire forced A the evacuation of five people Saturday morning.

The blaze fully engulfed the twoand-a-half storey structure and left it with extensive damage.

Firefighters arrived at the scene to find the structure fully involved, but the first arriving pumper crew quickly knocked down the flames.

A second alarm was called in due to the size of flame and potential for spreading to neighbouring residences.

Fire officials at the scene confirmed all five members of the house were evacuated safely.

Three pumpers, an aerial ladder, and 23 firefighters were used. The cause of the fire was unknown

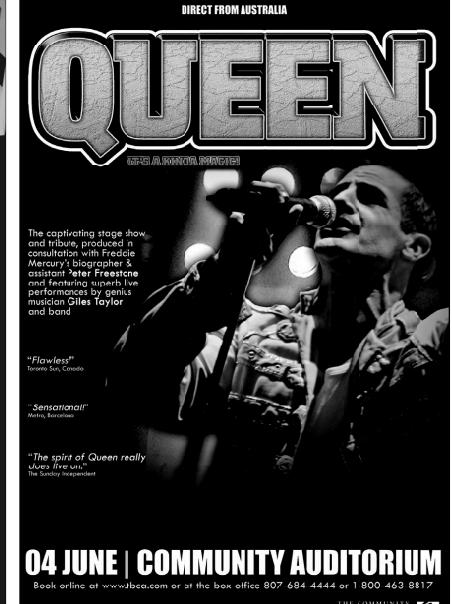
at the time. Fire officials told tbnewswatch.com

that the Red Cross will accommodate the individuals, as the damage left the residence uninhabitable.



ATTACKING THE FLAMES: A firefighter tries to extinguish a fire that caused heavy damage last Saturday to a Marks Street home.





Audiforium



CHARGE IT: Taxi companies in Thunder Bay are now free to set their own rates.

Taxi bylaw passes

CITY HALL By Matt Vis – TB Source

After taking years longer than anticipated to develop, it only made sense the final step in enacting the city's long-awaited new taxi bylaw ran into a few speed bumps.

Thunder Bay city council on Monday night finally approved the new vehicle for hire and designated driver bylaw, which sets new guidelines for traditional taxicab companies as well as new app-based ridesharing services.

The new bylaw first appeared to pass unanimously – quickly and without discussion – during the city council portion of the meeting. However, immediately before adjournment a couple members of council expressed surprised that it had already been voted on and claimed to have not realized the item had been on the floor.

A recorded re-vote was subsequently held which initially failed to have the required two-thirds majority after Coun. Linda Rydholm, Coun. Trevor Giertuga, Coun. Iain Angus and Coun. Andrew Foulds all cast opposing votes.

Another re-vote was held, with Foulds voting in favour that time, allowing the bylaw to ultimately pass.

Coun. Brian McKinnon, who was in the driver's seat during the process to bring the new framework forward, insisted the bylaw gives everybody involved in the

industry clarity on the rules. "It's going to level the playing field because they know what the parameters are," McKinnon said.

"They know what the rules are and they know what they can and can't do. I'm not suggesting it was loose before but this is very prescriptive. Everything from the licencing to the safety of the passengers to now we have a committee that's going to look at any complaints. This was never there before." The process to shift oversight of the taxicab industry from the Thunder Bay Police Services Board to city bylaw enforcement began in 2012. Pricing and availability of cabs – particularly at the Thunder Bay International Airport and during late night hours on holidays and weekends – were two of the driving forces behind the review.

A committee was formed to work on developing the new regulations and after years of meetings and consultations with stakeholders, a draft bylaw was presented last year that proposed removing a cap on rates and having an unlimited number of licences.

McKinnon said allowing companies to set their own rates will result in fluctuation and surge pricing but was optimistic the market will sort itself as customers find the best deal.

"New Year's Eve, absolutely you're going to pay a premium price. I don't care who you're getting ... but it's going to be

the same," McKinnon said. "There's no way to get around that. I don't anticipate there's going to be collusion because I think the market is going to decide how much they can surge price at 1:30 a.m. when the bars are closing."

The bylaw states that traditional taxis must have a meter running to calculate fares and customers of appbased pre-arranged services must be provided with a printed or electronic receipt showing the rate charged, total duration and distance of the trip and

amount paid. McKinnon said Uber and Lyft – two prominent app-based services that aren't currently operating in Thunder Bay – have expressed interest in coming to the city if some minor changes are made to the bylaw.

There are three app-based companies that are currently in business, he added.

City administration had included a modification to the bylaw from its most recent draft in December, increasing the maximum age of vehicles to 10 years from the originally proposed seven.

Man arrested in gun incident

POLICE By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A24-year old man is behind bars after allegedly pointing a gun at a 29-year-old man at about 3 p.m. on Monday in the Intercity area.

Thunder Bay Police, in a release issued on Tuesday morning, said

the suspect was arrested without incident in possession of a weapon that turned out to be a BB gun.

Police said the suspect was asking people for money near the May Street bridge when he pointed the gun at the 29-year-old man. The victim confronted the

suspect, who then walked toward the Silver City theatre, where police arrested him while he was sitting on the steps.

The suspect, who was not named by police, was charged with pointing a firearm, three counts of possession of a firearm contrary to a prohibition order and breach of probation.

He appeared in court on Tuesday morning.



"It's going to level the playing field because they know what the parameters are."

BRIAN MCKINNON



people health home food leisure

Shaving it off may save lives

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebois - TB Source

et. Cst. Robert Miller had been Det. USI. ROUTE Manuel involved in the Cops for Cancer fundraiser for many years, but had never sat down in the barber's seat to get his hair shaved.

That all changed on Saturday at the 22nd annual Cops for Cancer event, where Miller allowed for a full buzz in honour of his late mother who passed away from cancer in September.

"It's good... Just to help out and let me know I'm thinking of her," said Miller.

After receiving the trim, he shared a tender embrace with his family members who were on hand.

"We always keep our [hair] short for our jobs," Miller said. "So management actually allowed me to grow my hair out a little bit for this event."

"It feels a little cold now," Miller said post-haircut.

The emotion is the driving force behind the good will, according to

Maria Cabral.

Cabral, who works as the regional manager of the Canadian Cancer Society, said the event promotes police both as role models and peers.

"Kids look up to our officers as local heroes," Cabral said. "This event gives children the opportunity to be local heroes too by shaving their heads."

The idea for Cops for Cancer was sparked in 1994 when a Edmonton student was bullied in school after undergoing chemotherapy.

"It's designated to pediatric cancer patients, and I think the fact that a lot of kids are affected by it brings up the inspiration," Cabral said.

Thunder Bay Police joined the cause 22 years ago, and have participated in the fundraiser every year since.

The fundraiser raised \$15,487 for the Canadian Cancer Society this year.

"It brings all [police] together as a family, and shows how we can function as a family," Miller said.



BALD IS BEAUTIFUL: Det-Cst. Robert Miller was given permission to grow curly grey locks in preparation for a Cops for Cancer buzzcut.

MAY 22 – 26, 2018

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The tent will be located after the weigh scales, near the public drop off bins.

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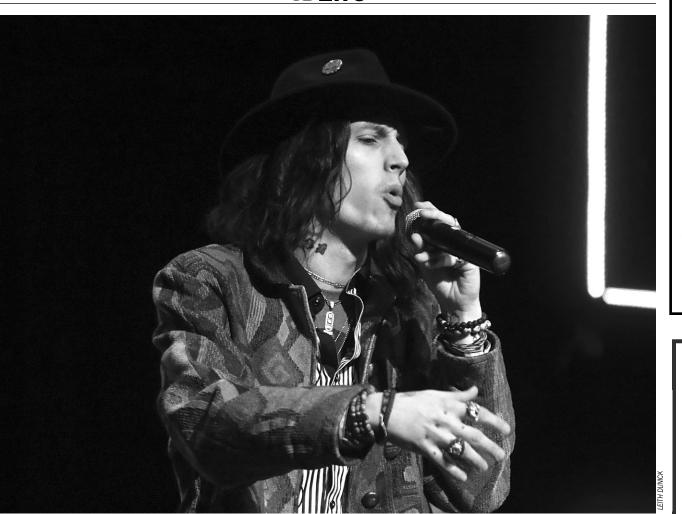




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Thursday, May 17, 2018 13





MUSICAL SALUTE: Thunder Bay rapper Benjamin Murray performs at last week's Everyone Matters Day celebration at Redwood Church.

Teaching everyone matters

EDUCATION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Olivia Paradis says the message she took from Everyone Matters Day is that everyone has a purpose in life.

That's why it's important to recognize and celebrate people's differences, not ostracize and bully them because they're not the same as everyone else, the Grade 6 Claude E. Garton Public School student said.

The youngster on Wednesday joined 300 other students from four Lakehead Public schools at Redwood Park Church, where through music, art and real-life experience they learned about why it's important to follow the golden rule.

Great idea

It's a fun way to learn, she said. "Some people, they get presentations at school, but don't really understand what it's all about. Here there are actually people who have actually experienced it," Olivia said.

Fourteen-year-old Aiden Fisher, a Grade 8 student at Ogden Community Public School, admitted he wasn't thrilled at the idea of spending the day learning why everyone matters, but listening to the music of Thunder Bay rapper Benjamin Murray helped form a new perspective.

Murray's song told the story of how the country's Indigenous peoples had their culture torn away, words that struck a chord with



RIVETING TALK: About 300 students from four schools took part in Everyone Matters Day.

Aiden.

Schools are filled with bullies and something needs to be done, he said.

"Every day kids just get picked on and that's

not fair. They do this to teach kids that you can be different," he said.

The message will stick, he believes, though he's not naïve enough to think it will stop bullying in its tracks. But it's a start, he said. "I believe that some kids here will see other

bullies and they'll try to put a stop to it," Aiden said. "They'll get the message here and they'll stick up for people who are getting picked on."

The more, the merrier

That's the idea behind Everyone Matters Day, which in its third year in Thunder Bay expanded beyond the classroom, said Jeff Upton, the education officer at Lakehead Public Schools who also serves as chair of the city's Crime Prevention Council.

"In past years we've gone to certain schools and held assemblies. But this year we wanted to up what we were doing. We've invited four schools to this venue and we've made it a workshop and conference-type of event," Upton said.

"We wanted a professional event for the kids, so as they work on learning more about issues around anti-bullying and how to stop bullying in their schools and in our communities, that our workshop presenters will help them."

Other presenters included Thunder Bay Police, high school and elementary students and Taylorpedia, who discussed her antibullying initiatives.





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Warming weather helps trees go green

TBLife



t has begun: the greening of the trees. The buds have burst; the branches are sprouting.

It was on Sunday while driving with son, Doug, to our local store that he suddenly exclaimed: "Look! Leaves! Green! Yay!"

I hadn't noticed, my eyes fixed upon the road. I looked up and sure enough, the poplar branches were now coloured with noticeable leafy green. Tiny they are at this point and coloured lime green for now.

The pussy willows have been decorating willow branches for the past couple of days as well. And then soon the Saskatoon bushes will be festooned with their white flowers. I always vow to attach a piece of ribbon to them as I drive down our side road so that when the flowers fall off, I will be able to recognize which are the berry-bearers as apart from all the other bushes that look the same. But it is akin to making a New Year's Resolution – you almost never keep it.

Working in the yard

I was cleaning up the lawn around Casa Jones, picking up birch bark blown by the stiff winds off the woodpile and then with pail and shovel, walking in search of doggiedoo left over the course of the winter by our pooch, Baxter. I took the pail with its contents down to the swamp, well away from the water lines that the dowser said feeds our well. This area is thick with tag alder, bam, young poplar and even some black ash. The electric, rope fence that encases a horse paddock was down in places which, at the end of a winter, is not unusual. The weight of snow and ice break the tag alder that crashes down across the fence.

Ah, but not this time. What I discovered were two fallen poplar trees, not very large, that had fallen across the rope fence. Did they topple as a result of winter? They did not.

Surrounding the trees were many freshly gnawed stumps. Aha! The beavers have been busy. I investigated and soon learned that the resident rodents had created a couple of channels from the beaver pond to this stand of trees. I knew that the pond was inhabited, that the lodge had tenants. On one recent trek to my lookout spot, I saw that the water level was right up, that the dam was in excellent shape.

Good thing that I like our resident beaver just as I like our resident ravens who, by the way, have successfully produced very noisy offspring unlike the disaster of last year.

My friend Dave came out for lunch a week ago. He had never seen nor heard a Sandhill crane. After our repast, I noticed that the crane pair were in our outdoor, riding ring. We stepped out onto the screen porch for a better looksee and then the male crane let loose with that distinct call. The female echoed his trumpeting. Dave stood listening and then announced that I had one more spring chore: "Those cranes need oiling. Get on it."

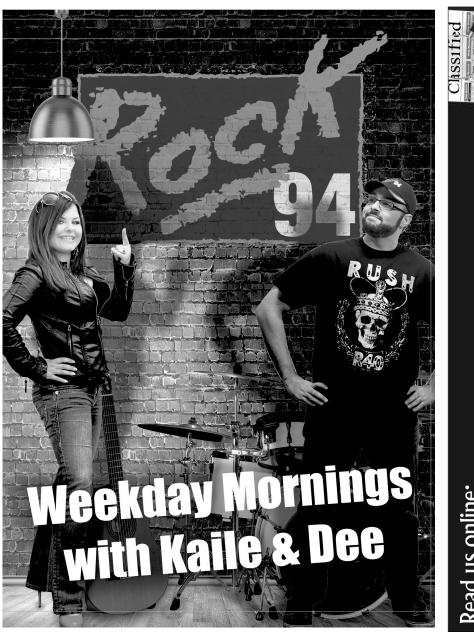
Blackfly indicator

Bob Christie, former chairman of Lakehead University's Outdoor Recreation department, who was a semi-regular guest on my radio program and who, along with his wife, Carol, became close friends of Laura and me, once told Laura that when the poplar leaves reach the size of a mouse ear, then the blackflies appear. Oh joy. Not so far but soon, I suspect, what with this heat.

Son, Doug, and I are working at bucking, splitting, and stacking firewood from the ten cords of mixed birch and black ash we had delivered a month and some ago. I doubt that we will finish before the swarms of blood-suckers arrive to torture us. Tradition has it that they are gone by the end of June. Sure, and we've even seen them in late August! The mosquitoes have crept in – not many yet – but at night when the winds have died down, and if we venture outside, that tell-tale whine is apparent.

So, too, is the trilling of the spring peepers. The chorus is quite audible when we step into the night.

It is all good. We have the wherewithal to avoid the worst of the pests. Best of all, we can enjoy the rich smells and sounds that have replaced the silence of winter.







Thursday, May 17, 2018 15





HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE: Students from grades 5 and 6 attending St. Elizabeth School have performed the play three times since December.

Students unveil the history of Mount McKay on stage

Students at St. Elizabeth School perform Anemki Wajiw: The Story of Mount McKay, which uncovers a fresh side of history concerning the storied Thunder Bay landmark

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebols - TB Source

What's in a name is everything. That's what sixth-grader Thomas Hardie learned during the production of his school's play: Anemki Wajiw: The Story of Mount McKay.

Thomas and his grades 5 and 6 classmates at St. Elizabeth School performed the play for the third time on Wednesday.

The play narrates the history of Mt. McKay in theatrical fashion, detailing the story of how the mountain was stripped of its Ojibwe name, Anemki Wajiw. "In this play we're looking at white settler colonialism," artistic director Lila Cano said. "We're sort of unpacking that at a level these kids can start to understand."

Cano said the play took months of research and collaboration with members of Fort William First Nation.

The students even got the chance to go to the mountaintop and see the historical significance of the landmark for themselves.

"I always looked at that mountain as Mount McKay," Cano said. "The gist of the play is that it didn't need to be renamed. It had a name. And it was Anemki Wajiw." Cano said this side of history will soon be implemented in the local curriculum.

"The experience was great," Thomas said. "I learned a lot about Indigenous culture, a lot from the elders, a lot from being up on the mountain."

The production carried a message that served as a historical lesson that could be applied to everyday moral philosophy.

"If someone changed your name you wouldn't like it," Grade 6 student Raven Parrkilbern said. "Just don't call other people something they wouldn't want."



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IN THE **bay**

Television's merciless spring clear-out



's been a veritable bloodbath in Hollywood.

This is the season of programming cuts and fall show promotions from the networks. Originally, only industry advertisers, local stations, and critics got to see previews for the new shows this early. The rest of us mere mortals had to wait for the launch of the new fall season

But in recent years, new show trailers started popping up online for everyone to see, Tweet, and discuss for the next four months. A few of the pilot episodes might even be aired during the summer months to tease viewers further before the official network fall launch.

However, given the number of shows that have recently been axed, some of this may be just to avoid audience backlash. When it was announced last week that the CW had taken a pass on the excessively-hyped Supernatural spinoff Wayward Sisters, social media users started a letter writing campaign asking the network to reconsider.

And who wants to deal with that? Of course, some shows have to be cut. Unless someone wants to create another workday in the existing 7-day week, how else will viewers get new shows without dropping something from the primetime schedule?

So it was little surprise that low-rated comedies such as 9JKL, Alex Inc.,



BACK IN SERVICE: Brooklyn Nine Nine was picked up by NBC after being cancelled.

Great News, Superior Donuts, and Me, Myself & I were given their marching orders. However, CBS surprised everyone by also cancelling its number four comedy, Kevin Can Wait.

On the drama side, viewers must say

WADD CEADOU

goodbye to The Brave, Lucifer, Scorpion, Taken, and The Exorcist. Also cancelled are the once criticallyacclaimed Rise, Quantico and Designated Survivor.

Surprisingly, the low-rated Elementary, which only just began a shortened season six, has already been greenlit for a season seven. Furthermore, Shonda Rhimes' baby, For the People, was also renewed despite having lower ratings than the now-defunct Deception, Kevin (Probably) Saves the World, and The Crossing.

Not surprisingly, there's a lot of politics in Hollywood. So some networks giveth after others taketh away. ABC dumped Last Man Standing last year only to have Fox pick it up for Fridays this fall. Then Fox dropped Brooklyn Nine-Nine only to have NBC swoop in to add it to its schedule.

Meanwhile, Lethal Weapon has riled up its fans by dismissing its star Clayne Crawford, who played the titular role of Martin Riggs. After on-set complaints about the actor, Seann William Scott (American Pie's Stifler) was hired as a new partner for Detective Murtaugh. But if there's no Riggs, can there be a Lethal Weapon?

And then there are the hotly prepromoted reboots of Cagney & Lacey, a Bad Boys spinoff led by women and a Greatest American Hero with a black female in the lead role! The studios gave them all a pass despite starstudded casts and timely girl-power themes.

So the networks had better come through with some stellar programming this fall. With this kind of carnage, they're going to need a good redemption storyline.

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RACING TO THE TOP: Trevor Zimak crosses the finish line in first place in last year's Firefighter's Ten Mile Road Race, held annually over the Victoria Day weekend.

Road Race set for Monday

RUNNING By Michael Charlebois - TB Source

Alocal nursing home worker spent his Friday morning dressed in a Batman costume, promoting the value of running, and anticipating his fourth appearance in the upcoming Ten Mile Road Race.

An unusual twist to a familiar event; the race is Canada's third-oldest with the 85th edition of the most well-known event on Thunder Bay's running calendar ready for the starting gun a little more than a week away.

Local running enthusiast Chris Hoard attended as Batman, in the hopes of portraying himself as a superhero to the youth.

Our younger generation is so focused on computers and iPhones, they don't realize how important it is to get out and run," he said.

His story is not unlike a superhero. Hoard lost nearly 100 pounds in four years after immersing himself and his family in Thunder Bay's running community.

He's looking forward to the Victoria Day race in which he and an estimated 600 runners will come out to run.

As race director Meghan Shanks says, the race extends beyond the community of Thunder Bay.

Twenty runners from Sandy Lake First Nation will lace up once again, with all of the proceeds

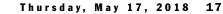
from this year's race helping with the travel costs. "It's a huge financial barrier for them," Shanks said.

The fly-in First Nation is located 600 kilometers from Thunder Bay, but their athletes have become regulars in recent years.

"We felt they weren't getting the coverage and support they deserved," Shanks said. "The amount of dedication in terms of training and fundraising needs to be promoted."

As far as registration numbers, Shanks is expecting a higher turnout than last year, with the current tally sitting at roughly 520 individuals, and 30 relay teams.

Registration closed Monday at midnight.





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73. INFORMATION

ANSWERS TO

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Thursday, May 17, 2018 73. INFORMATION

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