



25-year-old assault victim dies from injuries /3



Inaugural Mud and Suds a huge success /12 NEW TO THE PACK



Thunderwolves welcome NCAA forward /21



National Aboriginal Day helps celebrate culture and heritage of region's First Nation's people **/5**

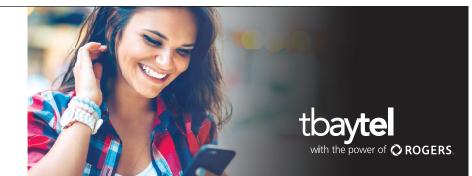


TRADITIONAL DANCE: Thousands gathered last Wednesday at Marina Park for National Aboriginal Day celebrations.



"Refreshing"

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LOCALNEWS

Citizens say roads city's top priority

Just 38 per cent of all survey respondents approve of road work

CITY HALL Bv Matt Vis - TB Source

he state of the city's roads are an increasingly primary concern for residents.

Forty per cent of respondents ranked transportation - with 36 per cent specifically identifying roads - as the most important issue in Thunder Bay, according to the results of the most recent citizens' satisfaction survey which were presented to city council on Monday night.

The rate of satisfaction with the city's maintenance of streets plummeted to 38 per cent from 53 per cent in the previous poll, which was conducted in 2015. Only seven per cent indicated being very satisfied with maintenance of streets while 28 per cent were not at all satisfied.

As well, the 69 per cent who were either very or somewhat satisfied with snow removal on roads and sidewalks was substantially lower than the 80 per cent in 2015.

The focus on roads continues steady, major increases compared to previous editions of the survey when transportation was only deemed most important by six per cent in 2011, 23 per cent in 2013 and 30 per cent in 2015.

There was near unanimous support -96 per cent – for ongoing infrastructure renewal, including roads, bridges and storm water drainage. There was a decline in support for Phase 2 of Prince Arthur's Landing waterfront development, falling to 57 per cent from 62 per cent in 2015 and 66 per cent in 2013.

Racism and discrimination were acknowledged by 84 per cent to be serious issues in Thunder Bay, with 55 per cent strongly agreeing. One third responded they did not feel Thunder Bay is a relatively safe city, with only 19 per cent strongly reporting the city to be relatively safe.

Overall, 87 per cent of respondents rated the quality of life in Thunder Bay as either very good or good, down from a high of 92 per cent in 2013.

The survey was conducted by Ipsos between April 27 and May 10, where 525 residents were randomly called with 60 per cent of respondents reached on landline while 40 per cent contacted on their cell phone.



NOT ENOUGH: Residents would like to see more work done on city streets. Only seven per cent are very satisfied with current progress.

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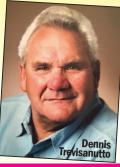
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I would like to thank the thousands of customers who have supported Creekside Nursery this spring. Our bedding plant crop this year was one of the best we have ever had, thanks to our dedicated staff, under the guidance of my operations manager, Steve Fontaine. We presently have a fresh crop of bedding plants in our greenhouses and the hanging baskets and planters are beautiful. A good selection of perennials, pond plants and trees & shrubs are also available. Our summer hours are now in effect: Monday to Saturday = 9:00 AM

effect: Monday to Saturday – 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and on Sunday we are open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Our second location, Creekside Nursery Northwood will remain open and the same hours will apply. We know there are many choices out there for your gardening requirements. We sincerely thank you for choosing Creekside Nursery and appreciate your confidence and patronage over the past forty-three (43) years.



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LOCALNEWS



ON SCENE: Police hold the scene along a pathway behind the Landmark Inn where a 25-year-old was found severely injured.

Injuries prove fatal

CRIME By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A 25-year-old man who was the victim of an assault on a pathway behind the Landmark Inn died Monday night in hospital after being taken off life support. The man, identified as 25-year-

old Marlan Patrick Chookomolin, was

rushed to hospital after police received a call of an unresponsive injured male behind the Landmark Inn early Sunday morning.

A post mortem examination will be conducted in Toronto on Wednesday, June 28. Det. Joe Dampier said the investigation is ongoing.

"Right now we're investigating an incident that took place behind the Landmark (Inn) on the footpath," Dampier said on Monday. "A male

MARLAN PATRICK

CHOOKOMOLIN

was located on the footpath, conscious, but non responsive. "He was taken to Thunder Bay

Regional by ambulance." Dampier said police have not publicly identified any suspects, and are turning to the public to help them piece together what might have happened to the victim before

he was found. "Yesterday the area where the male was identified was processed by our forensics unit and a grid search was conducted by members of the emergency task unit," Dampier said.

"We spoke to a number of witnesses yesterday and we're going to continue to locate and speak to witnesses."

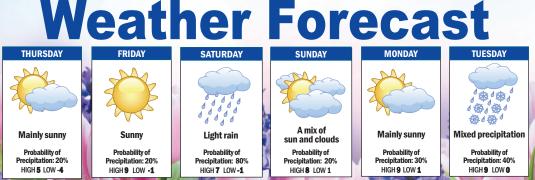
Investigators are asking anyone who may have seen Chookomolin in the evening hours of Saturday to contact police at 684-1200, so they may be able to timeline his activities prior to being located on the pathway and assist with determining what may have occurred.

"Anyone that has information with regards to what Marlan Chookomolin may have been doing on Saturday, specifically Saturday evening, we'd like them to come forward and speak with us so we can try to establish exactly what did take place Saturday evening."

Anyone who may wish to remain anonymous may also report information to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.tipsubmit. com. Police are also looking for any surveillance video from businesses in the area that might exist.

Police, who waited two days to make the assault public, advised the public to use caution while using pathways around the city.

"We want people to be safe and use them when they're safest," Dampier said.



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Coroner seeks York police help

POLICE By Matt VIs – TB Source

The chief coroner of Ontario has enlisted an outside police agency to assist with the investigations into the deaths of Tammy Keeash and Josiah Begg.

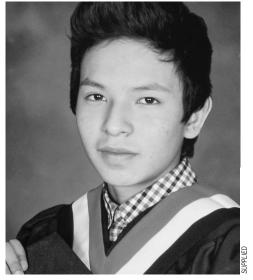
Dr. Dirk Huyer on Thursday confirmed he has requested the York Regional Police assist with the ongoing coroner's investigation into the deaths of the two Indigenous teens, who were found in Thunder Bay waterways last month.

Huyer said the involvement of the York Regional Police is not an indictment of the investigation initially conducted by the Thunder Bay Police Service but instead an opportunity to utilize a fresh perspective.

"This is not a review, this is not a re-investigation," Huyer said.

"This is engaging York Regional Police under my authority and reporting to me to take the necessary investigative steps they believe are required to give us the best answers to the circumstances of these deaths. Their investigators, I've asked them to become involved. They will learn what information has been currently identified by the Thunder Bay Police Service and by other investigations that have occurred from our office. They will take that information, they will determine what are the next steps they need to take."

Both teens were last reportedly seen on the night of May 6. The body of the 17-year-old Keeash was found in the Neebing-McIntyre River on May 7, hours after she was reported missing to police. A media release issued within a week of her death said the coroner determined the cause of death to be consistent with



TEEN TRAGEDY: Joslah Begg disappeared on May 6 and his body was found a dozen days later in a local river.

drowning and there was no evidence of criminality. The body of the 14-year-old Begg was found in the McIntyre River on May 18, nearly two weeks after his disappearance. On May 24 the lead police investigator said there was no evidence how Begg entered the water.

"From what I've heard from the community, people are wondering how these deaths occurred, how the two youth ended up in the river, what circumstances may have led to that," Huyer said.

"All of these questions are continuing to be present and these are the kinds of questions that we deal with death investigations on a routine basis. None of these are routine deaths but it's trying to understand fully the circumstances."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler has previously called for the RCMP to take over the investigation into the deaths, and has said Thunder Bay has a "crisis in policing."

The Keeash family, in particular, has significant questions about the investigation, Fiddler said.

"I really hope that they will go beyond what's been done so far," Fiddler said. "I think it's important every angle be looked at and that all the circumstances that may have led to these tragic deaths be closely examined and as a result provide some answers to the families."

Fiddler referenced the Thunder Bay police investigation into the October 2015 death of 41-year-old Stacy DeBungee, whose body was also found in the McIntyre River. Police publicly stated there was no evidence of foul play before the identity of the body had been publicly revealed.

That case has been subsequently been reviewed by the OPP, though its findings have not been disclosed. Huyer said he decided to request the services of the York Regional Police last Monday and met with officials from both police agencies last Wednesday, where he received indications the Thunder Bay police will

"work collaboratively and cooperatively." "These are significant occurrences and these are very serious tragedies," Huyer said.



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Aboriginal celebration

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk –TB Source

t is a day to celebrate and share a culture and heritage that not only continues to flourish to this day, but is woven into the historical fabric of Canada.

Last Wednesday, thousands of people gathered at Marina Park for National Aboriginal Day to celebrate the history, culture, and heritage of Indigenous people.

"It's an important day for us as First Nation people as we learn and share our history with the non-Indigenous," said Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins. "Today is about the recognition and the commitment that First Nation people made to this country. As Canada looks to celebrate its 150th birthday, I remind people that we made a strong commitment to helping build Canada to what it is today."

The day included a grand entry, drum circles, and dances as people of all ages gathered to share in a heritage that has existed for thousands of years and continues to be passed down generation to generation.

Dancer Alanis Esquega was performing as part of the grand entry. Her red regalia was made by her grandmother and included jingles from her aunt's dress.

"I just think it really brings out your true colours as a person," she said. "For my regalia, I picked red because people tell me I look good red and my Granny told me she has dreams of me in red, so that's why I decided to go with red."

For Esquega, participating in National Aboriginal Day is important



DANCE MODE: Dancer, Alanis Esquega, performed as part of the Grand Entry..

because it helps bring awareness to her culture, which she says is beautiful.

"It makes me really happy to see all these people here and wanting to take part in Aboriginal Day," she said. "And it makes me happy to see all these different cultures here."

Several schools from the Thunder Bay Catholic School Board also participated, with many young students saying the day is an important way of preserving Indigenous people's rich heritage.

"It's to show that you respect and want to keep the traditions going of the Aboriginal culture," said 13-yearold Miranda Schulz, a student at E.Q. Jennings School. "It's dying down and not many people know the true meaning of being Aboriginal."

"You get to show you are part of the Aboriginal culture and you get to dance and listen to music," added classmate Erica Lachinette.

"I'm always excited to see all the people have come, the most important part I see is the young people who come from the schools to participate here today in the practice and be part of our culture and our traditions," Collins added.





Editorial

EDITORIAL

Reducing, recycling

Thunder Bay this week will put an end to allowing three items at the curb for garbage pick up. It's about time.

Not only should this help convince the public to recycle more than they already do, it will help extend the life of the John Street Landfill by a number of years.

Landfills are expensive to maintain. They're even more expensive to build. Just finding a place deemed acceptable by residents can be a task-and-a-half.

Simply put, people don't want a dump in their backyard.

Taxpayers are already stretched thin, with increased taxes an annual event in Thunder Bay.

With citizens saying roads are their number one priority for council to spend their hard-earned money on, keeping the current landfill in operation will help adminstration and our elected officials make that happen in a more timely manner.

Recycling is not a bad thing.

Separating your trash only takes an extra second or two.

It helps preserve our natural resources and is the right thing to do. Unfortunately there are still some of you out there who can't be bothered.

Hopefully this is the kick in the pants you need to join the fun.

And if you absolutely must put a third item at the curb, at least you'll be paying for the privilege out of pocket.

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Item-limit issues

To the editor: We only recycle cardboard and paper and we still only have one bag a week.

This could be a good and bad thing. Some people will start recycling more and watching their carbon foot print while others will dump garbage else where (which isn't anything new any how).

> Ella Scavarelli, Thunder Bay, Via Facebook

50th a success

To the editor:

want to say that this day could never have happened without all of the students who helped and the parents/grandparents who brought the food for all to enjoy!

We're all looking forward to the opening of the splash pad and also, in the not too far future, I hope, the roofed permanent boarded rink. Thank you to all.

> Barbara Kukko, Thunder Bay Via Facebook

Thank you Border Cats

To the editor:

hanks for coming for our kids/youth Border Cats.

Chris Chikane, North Caribou Lake First Nation Via Facebook

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'CELEBRATING' CANADA







Lumber industry a gov't priority

OPINION By Bob Nault – Special to TB Source

With the House of Commons rising last week, I feel it is important to reflect on what has taken place in our nation's capital over the past session. Passing new legislation and laws can be a tedious task at times, however we successfully introduced new legislation that will positively impact people across the country including in our riding.

I was pleased to see our federal government step up to defend Canada's softwood lumber industry. With extremely unfair duties being imposed by the United States, the forestry industry needed strong support. Our government responded by announcing an investment of almost \$1 billion in financial assistance for the softwood lumber industry. I remain hopeful that we can reach a long-term agreement on this issue soon.

Due to the rural nature of the North, the region presents unique infrastructure needs. Last month, our government committed more than \$2.1 million towards eight projects in the riding to ensure residents have access to modern, reliable water and wastewater services that meet their needs.

Just last week, the Senate passed a Liberal government bill that creates a National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians. This fulfills our promise to create an all-party committee to monitor the activities of spy agencies and other government bodies related to national security. By doing this, we are upholding our commitment to keep Canadians safe and protect their rights and freedoms. In April, we announced \$25 million over the next five years for FedNor, to support communities, businesses, and First Nations. This funding will be invested in projects with the greatest potential to create new jobs and business opportunities for Northerners.

The House of Commons may be off for the summer, but I can assure you my hard work is just beginning. This year, my summer tour kicks off right here at home with a truly special celebration on Canada Day to mark our country's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

I look forward to spending this summer working hard alongside all of you. Over the next few months, I will be hosting constituency and passport clinics across the riding. Keep up to date with where I'll be this summer through my Facebook page or by calling our toll-free line 1-866-710-0008.

Perspective

City has shady past

Racist undertones have always lurked in the shadows

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

s a lifelong resident of Thunder Bay I have a vested interest in this community and the well-being of everyone here.

In many ways, it's very different from the city of my childhood.

When I was a kid playing with my buds in Westfort I was blissfully unaware of the menace of bigotry and racism.

It had to be all around us - we didn't earn our racist reputation without a long history of cruelty and mistreatment of minorities.

But thankfully (I guess) my childhood was sheltered from racism and the term "hate crime" had yet to be coined. I just assumed that every-

body was having as much fun as I was and we were all protected from the harsher side of life. Not so.

True tale

Years later as I gained more life experience and reflected on my idyllic youth a different story emerged.

I remembered what was said and done in school, in playgrounds, in our back yards and around the neighborhood.

They were mean-spirited little actions and comments directed at those who were seen as different or less deserving of compassion. I was sad and confused at the time -I didn't know why these people were being singled out and mistreated.

The past weeks, months and years have revealed more than ever that something was, and remains fundamentally broken in our community.

Families are being destroyed, lives are being lost and even though it's not my family or my life, my city is in desperate trouble.

The longer I live here the more I enjoy it and like many other families, we take advantage of the good life in Thunder Bay.

Don't take it from me - I often hear first-time visitors being

envious of our little Boreal oasis here in the middle of "Families are Canada.

One traveller from Vancouver felt right at home, nestled between Mount McKay and Lake Superior, just like between the Rockies and the Pacific. Surprisingly, many find

our city cleaner, newer and more spacious than their own crowded, dirty, worn-out urban jungles.

Business people and tourists from big cities across the country are always amazed by the natural beauty of our surroundings.

And yet...

being

destroyed,

lives are

being lost ... "

Those who linger here for a while and get a better sense of the community are troubled by one fact.

The citizens of Thunder Bay are no longer sheltered from racism, discrimination and violent crime.

Is there a single person in this city who can honestly say they aren't affected by our very troubled past and the heartbreak of current events.

Like many of us, visitors are also sad and confused by what they read and hear, which begs one question.

Is our community prepared to reflect on its shady past and take action to construct a more compassionate future?

Recommendations

The Seven Youth Inquest made 145 recommendations and the City of Thunder Bay responded with a list of efforts so far.

It says "the city sent a letter of intent", "we are working on requests," and "we continue to take part" - all platitudes.

The Thunder Bay Police Service is currently under investigation for allegations of systemic racism.

First Nations chiefs say the Thunder Bay Police Services Board should be disbanded and the RCMP should investigate the teen deaths.

First, to paraphrase Stuart Smalley (Al Franken) from Saturday Night Live, let's be careful not to "should" all over ourselves.

However, the board itself is being investigated for failing to police the police.

There is no mention that our only chance for a safe, compassionate future rests in the hands and hearts of all citizens.

Will we respond appropriately or will it be as it has always been mostly platitudes.



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HARDER THAN IT LOOKS Gil Ishaky, a grade 12 student at Blyth Academy in Toronto, discovers working at a grain elevator is a lot harder than it looks during a tour of Western Grain.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author.

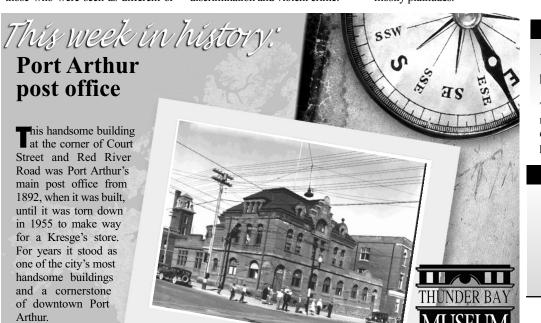
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8

PAPER





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LOCALNEWS

IN BRIEF

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Spraying Black Spruce, Dog River-Matawin and Lakehead Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources** and Forestry (**MNRF**) invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide spray projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Black Spruce**, **Dog River-Matawin and Lakehead Forests** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about **August 1**, **2017**. The herbicide Weed-Master, registration P.C.P. #29009 Pest *Control Products Act* will be used.

The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection at the respective SFL holders' office and on the MNRF public website at **ontario.ca/forestplans** beginning **July 1, 2017 until March 31, 2018** when the Annual Work Schedule expires. ServiceOntario Centres at 435 James Street South, Suite 114, Thunder Bay and 5 Wadsworth Drive, Nipigon provide access to the Internet.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff at the MNRF District or Area Offices to discuss the aerial herbicide project.

For more information, please contact:

BLACK SPRUCE FOREST

Bertha Strickland, Management Forester

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South, Suite B001 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-475-1147

DOG RIVER-MATAWIN FOREST

Peter Wiltsey, Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South, Suite B001

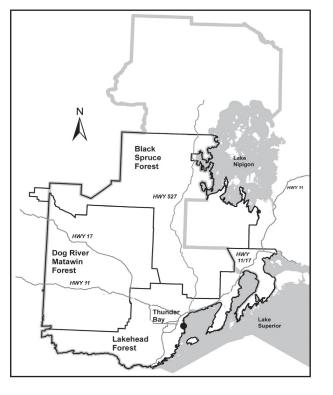
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-475-1145

LAKEHEAD FOREST

Vishnu Kowlessar, Management Forester

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South, Suite B001 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-475-1163

or call toll free: 1-800-667-1940 and ask to be forwarded to one of the contacts above.



Joel Gerry, RW Forestry Inc. (agent for Resolute FP Canada Inc.) 2001 Neebing Avenue Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3 tel: 807-475-2757

Joel Gerry, RW Forestry Inc.

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Jean MacIsaac, Silviculture Manager

Greenmantle Forest Inc. 179, 25th Sideroad Thunder Bay, ON P7K 0B9 tel: 807-939-3147

Ontario



BIG BUST: Police recovered 45 pounds of marijuna last Friday.

Pot seized

City police have made a major pot seizure.Nearly 45 pounds of marijuana, worth an estimated \$400,000, was confiscated on Friday from several locations on the north and south side of the city, including a home on Pioneer Drive.

Two motor vehicles and two motorcycles were also confiscated as part of the raid, along with other assets.

Police, in a release issued on Monday, say four men were arrested and charged with a variety of drug-trafficking offences: Tyler Carruthers, 32; Ronald LaVia, 28, James Marozzo, 34 and Kevin Pearce, 39. All four are from Thunder Bay.

Double stabbing arrest made

A22-year-old man has been arrested in connection with a double stabbing Wednesday night at a North Vickers Street residence.

Police, in a release issued on Friday, said Jonah Lawson Yellowhead was taken into custody on Wednesday evening on a bail violation and faces two counts of aggravated assault.

A 23-year-old female and a 26-year-old male remain in hospital recovering from injuries received in the alleged stabbing.

The suspect remains in custody and is expected to appear in court on Tuesday.

Fire destroys Gull Bay home

The chief of the Gull Bay First Nation says he's concerned that for the second time this year, someone has set fire to a house in the community.

The most recent arson occurred last week and levelled an unoccupied dwelling that had recently undergone extensive renovations.

Wilfred King says the back door to the home had been kicked in and "someone had set the place ablaze."

King told Tbnewswatch the previous incident involved an older, abandoned house.

The arsons, he said, "Really cause me concern, because we have a volunteer fire department, and we view arson as very, very serious because people could obviously get hurt."

The other thing that's upsetting, King added, was the house destroyed last week "was still very much in livable condition....We had done extensive repairs to that unit."

He said the incident remains under investigation by police, and he hopes the culprits are identified and brought to justice.

Thursday, June 29, 2017

LOCALNEWS

Council OKs ambulance CAMPGROUNDS IN CITY PARKS

CITY HALL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The emergency call for reinforcements from paramedics has been answered by Thunder Bay city council.

Funding for Superior North EMS to add an additional 12-hour crew to run every day beginning July 1 was unanimously approved by council at their Monday night meeting.

The paramedic service has been overwhelmed by escalating 911 calls, going from 21,000 per year in 2011 to projections exceeding 28,000 this year.

Wayne Gates, chief of Superior North EMS, said the last expansion to the number of ambulances on the road came in 2012.

"Society has changed its view on when to call 911 now. We're seeing a lot of 911 calls where 20, 30 years ago people didn't call an ambulance," Gates said. "They did whatever they could to get to the hospital. We're seeing a change in culture with millennials and other age groups where they tend to call 911 more often."

Gates said the city's aging population is also a likely factor behind the spike. While intoxication and overdose calls have driven up numbers in previous years, those incidences are trending downward so far in 2017, Gates added.

Starting in April, Superior North EMS began using a new deployment model that has a minimum of five ambulances on duty during times of low call volume and a maximum of eight during peak call volumes. The strategy also involved the reduction of non-urgent patient transfers, which have since decreased by 63 per cent.

There were 60 code black occurrences where an ambulance was not available during the first two months since the new deployment model was launched. Those occurrences – nearly one per day during April and May – averaged 20 minutes with 11 lasting longer than 30 minutes.

"Very few of our calls are down to getting there in seconds. The real important ones are people having heart attacks and having strokes," Gates said.

'We have some minutes with them but in this day and age, my paramedics starting next month are going to be talking directly to a cardiologist when there's a heart attack. They'll be going straight to the (catheterization) lab, they won't be going to (the emergency room) anymore. Those people are the people we really make a difference and the same thing with patients having strokes."

The operating costs of the additional crew for the second half of the year were pegged at \$315,000, which will amount to a cost of \$252,000 to the city after factoring in the 20 per cent charged to surrounding municipalities who also utilize the paramedic service.

The extra ambulance in Thunder Bay will likely be a benefit to the surrounding area.

"Currently with the call demand we're seeing the Shuniah units and the Conmee units are being drawn into the city more often leaving their areas uncovered," Gates said

"This makes those resources more available to them as well."

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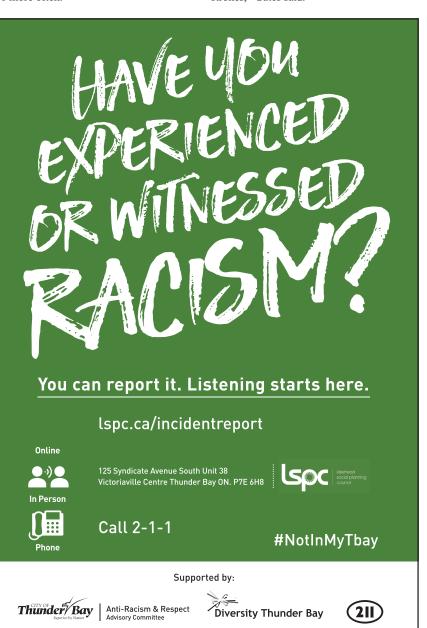
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Thunder Bay







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BY BRAD KING, M.S., MFS - Testosterone levels in men begin to diminish around age 30. In fact, by the time men are 60 years old, they typically produce 60% less testosterone than they did at age 20 (a man's sexual peak). As testosterone levels decline, men tend to notice a loss in muscle mass and strength, and a gain in body fat-especially in the abdominal region (the old "beer belly syndrome"). Abdominal fat also happens to be the most dangerous place to store fat due to its proximity to your vital organs. Conversely, as testosterone levels rise, lean body mass increases and obesity decreases.

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LOCALNEWS

Salvation Army gets \$500K from city

CITY HALL By Matt Vis - TB Source

The Salvation Army is one step closer towards bringing their planned Journey to Life Centre to reality.

The organization was successful Monday night in its request to Thunder Bay city council for \$500,000 towards the replacement of their North Cumberland Street men's shelter.

Maj. Lori Mitchell said the new facility will provide opportunities for those involved in the program to move towards independence.

"Right now, we have a lot of clients who have cycled because of the root issues of homelessness," Mitchell said following the vote by council.

"Homelessness is more than just not having a home. By being able to work with each of them individually, by being

able to have proper program space and teaching space, then we'll be able to really work with them to move them forward in life so they're not just going through the same cycle of poverty and homelessness they've been doing for a number of years."

Mitchell said the Journey to Life program would combine education, job skills, life skills and living skills.

The new building would have the 20

apartment-style units for those in the Journey to Life program as well as 20 emergency shelter beds.

"We're hoping that because we'll also have the Journey to Life program that will reduce our need for the overflow," Mitchell said. "Our vision is that some of the men who are currently in the shelter could easily move into our Journey to Life program. The numbers aren't changing as much as the capacity of what we're doing with those numbers."

The approval from the city brings the total amount of committed money to nearly \$8 million.

The national and regional headquarters of The Salvation Army have combined to contribute \$5.75 million while the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board has pledged \$1.3 million.



5:30 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. Festival & Fairs. Featuring Thunder Bay's largest annual fireworks display and the return of the Canada Day Parade

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rce

Cruiser Day Antique Car Show 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Gateway Casino

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Pow Wow warm ups, Inter-Tribal Dances

Canada Day 150 Car Show 2017 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. West Thunder Community Center

Canada 150 Celebration 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Music, local talent, lots of games and activities for families, great food! Celebrate Canada Day in Westfort. West Thunder Community Center

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Happy Canada 150!

Let's take this time to reflect on our past and look towards the future Thunder Bay.

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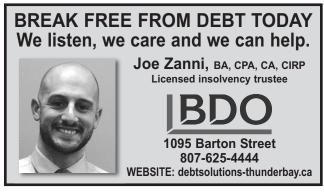


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people health home food leisure



DOWN AND DIRTY EVENT: Hundreds took part in last weekend's Muds and Suds Run at Mount Baldy in support of Camp Quality and cancer research.

Messy, muddy fun

Muds and Suds Run raised about \$60,000 through fundraising efforts

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebois – TB Source

t takes something special to get people to roll around in mud and still enjoy themselves, but the Muds and Suds race seems to have it figured out.

The sixth annual Mud and Suds run took place on Saturday, with Mount Baldy being the scene for this year's event.

As a result, it was an uphill battle for participants who had to sludge through a whole lot of mud to finish the race.

Over 800 racers braved the task to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society and for Camp Quality. "There's apex walls, there's mud pits, there's rope swings," volunteer Ryan Gibson said. "Anybody can get through this but it's challenging. But you feel good after you do it because you've accomplished something."

One team which relished the accomplishment was a group of grade eight students from Claud E. Garton Public School.

Four girls raced in support of their teacher who survived cancer.

"I feel like supporting this cause will really help her, and make her feel good about herself," said Mariah Meredith, an eighthgrade student.

In total, the girls raised \$500 and claimed the race was both entertaining and rewarding ..

"Before the obstacles, we were talking and asking ourselves 'Is it worth it?," Emma LaForme-Curry asked. "It totally was. It's just a really fun experience."

Gibson said the amount of donations were sitting at the \$50,000 mark on Saturday, with more expected to come later in the weekend. "I think it's important to note that all dona-

tions stay in Thunder Bay," said Gibson. "I think that's why people are encouraged... The money raised is coming back directly within the community."

Saturday's race featured the adult section, while the "little muckers" event took place Sunday.

Celebrating end of Ramadan

TBLife

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

b mark the end of Ramadan and a month of fasting, a feast is held with family and friends, and this year, the Muslim community of Thunder Bay welcomed many new members to its family.

On Sunday, the Thunder Bay Masjid celebrated Eid al-Fitr at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition Coliseum building. The feast is meant to mark end of Ramadan, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, where Muslims around the world fast for between 29 and 30 days.

"We are here and fasting," said Abdullah Syed, one of the feast event planners. "We know that we are going to get the meal, but there are many people who are unfortunate and do not know when they will get that next meal. We do a lot of charity. Everyone is supposed to donate to a charity.'

More than 400 people took part in the feast Sunday afternoon and Syed said the celebration has grown dramatically in the last year.

"Normally we do it at the other hall, but because our community in Thunder Bay has grown dramatically this year, and the Syrian families that have arrived, we needed a bigger place," he said.

Syed said there are between 100 and 150 Syrian refugee families in Thunder Bay and



MILESTONE DAY: Taha Bhaboa, a grade 8 student from Syria celebrates his first Eid al-Fitr in Thunder Bay with Imam Hikma of the Thunder Bay Masjid.

he was pleased to see so many of them attend the feast

"And a lot of the families are actually here,"

he said. "We are under one roof and we get to meet them and this is their first festival in Thunder Bay."

Mohamed Ashkara, a Grade 12 student from Syria, speaking with the help of a translator, said he was so happy to be at the feast with all friends and families.

"When I came to Canada I had two dreams. I have achieved one of them and I am still waiting on the other one," he said. "My first dream was to go to university and to graduate. The second dream is to meet Justin Trudeau and thank him for receiving people like me in Thunder Bay and all my family. But that might be too hard.

Being his first Eid al-Fitr away from Syria, Ashkara said there are many differences, but he doesn't feel all that far away from home.

"Back home the whole family is there from my dad and my mom's side," he said. "But here, it's kind of different but all the people around here make me feel like home.

For Syed, seeing the many families from Syria celebrating such an important holiday in the community is very exciting and he hopes that through these celebrations, they are feeling more and more at home in the city of Thunder Bay.

"They loved it, they love the community," he said. "They mingled, their kids are having fun, they are just having a remarkable time."







Do you have an opinion to share?



тв**Life**



GENEROSITY: Chruchill students collected money for cancer research.

Relay raises about \$15K

EDUCATION By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Students at Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute weren't sure what to expect when they agreed to host this year's scaled down Relay for Life event.

The final results were more than they could have imagined.

More than 200 students took part in the Canadian Cancer Society fundraiser, which took the place of a much larger event traditionally held at Fort William Historical Park, and collected \$14,791, far surpassing what they thought they'd bring in.

"We were expecting a lot less than that, and for the amount that we got, we were very happy to see the community gave so much toward the movement," Lane said.

This despite some complications with their fundraising website that delayed the start of collecting pledges.

Lane said students at the school, slated to close a year from now, like the idea of being the keeper of the Relay for Life Flame.

"I think it's very important to keep it alive because ... when we go away we'll be remembered for that," said Lane, who promised to try to keep the event alive when he switches over to Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute in 2018.

That's news Dani Ashley likes to hear.

A Relay for Life youth co-ordinator with the Canadian Cancer Society, she works with students to help make localized events a success.

It was exciting to hear that students at Churchill wanted to help the cause, she said.

"It's been a blast working with them," she said.

"We're really excited to see what the students have accomplished this year. That's going to go toward programs we have throughout the community, provincially and nationally, as well as different research program that we have.'

Lane said it was an easy choice to get involved for many of the teens who took part.

"It was an event that was particularly special to some here because we have people who have had family members who were affected by cancer," Lane said.

Principal Ryan McDonnell said that's the type of attitude he tries to foster.

"Cancer is one of those things that is everywhere, that touches all of us. Many of the kids in our community have had really close experiences with cancer. Several kids have lost parents to cancer, so this really hits close to home and they wanted to do something about it," McDonnell said. "It was a great community event for our school and a great leadership opportunity for the students on the committee."

SCHEDULE FRIDAY, JUNE 30

6:00 pm Pow Wow Warm Ups 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Inter-Tribal Dances

SATURDAY, JULY 1

5:30 am Sunrise Ceremony 1:00 pm Opening Ceremony & Grand Entry **4:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Pow Wow Feast

7:00 pm Evening Grand Entry

SUNDAY, JULY 2 1:00 pm Grand Entry

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Summer rains have plenty of pros and cons



So I had to ask the question: "Is it me for is it nature?" What had prompted the question was driving home from town on a sunny day and being dazzled by just how vibrantly green the canopy of passing trees appeared to me. Was there something different going on? Was it my perceptions or had Ma Nature especially brightened up her wardrobe?

The green seemed to come on suddenly. When my wife, Laura, and I were visiting southern Ontario recently for a family re-union, the trees were in full foliage, not like the hesitant spring up north. We noticed more trees in leaf around Sault Ste. Marie and obviously when we arrived at our destination in Stratford where dwells one of my brothers-in-law. Gorgeous. But as we drove back home the leaves became smaller. They hadn't yet fully flushed on the branches. But now?

Now summer. And very green, and very wet. I posed this question about the extra daubs of vertiginous colour to Laura who posited that the incredible amount of rain we've been getting might explain why everything - every bush, every tree, every blade of grass is so lush.

I suppose that I shouldn't grouse about all of the rain that we've received and with which we are still being 'blessed'. My friend, Dave, and I correspond daily through the miracle of e-missives and he complained last week of the grass being so long in his front and back yards that he'd soon have to braid it. Apparently thee 'wet' was constant and he couldn't get the lawnmower on to cut it.

Then the sun came out and the 'warm' and we both were able to zip around to groom the grass.

Then it rained again and has been (as I write this Sunday. Deadline for Rural

Roots being Monday) for three days. The 'pluses'? Precious little threat of

forest fires; everything remaining glowing green when the sun manages to sneak a peek through the clouds; and the gardens not requiring watering which, out our way, is a blessing since the best time to water is either late evening when the scorching sun (the what?) is setting or early morning when Ol' Sol is just beginning to think about rising, the time when the nasty no-seeums fill the air. So having Nature do the watering-of-thegardens is a plus.

Laura, The Gardener, also says that when the garden soil is wet, it makes it very easy to weed, to get all of those thistles and dandelions and other unwelcome vegetative intruders extracted.

She has laboured long in getting rid of the ever-present quack grass that takes over everywhere, from the flower gardens such that we can now distinguish between flowering plants legitimately permitted in those spaces.

The irises are particularly lovely now. We built an outdoor riding ring before we built the indoor one, the barn/stable, or the house. Laura wanted to teach riding which she did while the other buildings were being erected. The surface of the ring began as dirt. Over time grass has self-seeded and now the footing is green. We have kept telling each other recently that we should be mowing it down if only the rain would cease long enough to allow the riding mower to do its job without bunging the blades.

Saturday night when we let the horses out of their stalls to graze (As I have mentioned in previous Rural Roots columns, during the season of ferocious biting bugs, the horses are in the barn for the day), belatedly I realized that the gate to the trails was open.

Now I ain't as fast as I once was. They beat me to the trail gate before I could reach and close it.

They were supposed to head straight down to the open gate of the main paddock, their destination for the night; but they charged through the trail gate and into the outdoor riding ring. Fair enough. Laura shouted orders to a panting Farmer Fred to close the riding ring gate and leave them in there to 'mow the lawn' as it were. So I did.

Sunday morning they were still confined to the riding ring munching on the long grass. The trouble is, unlike cattle or sheep, horses are lousy lawn mowers. Cattle and sheep will munch down every last blade of grass. Horses are very picky eaters. You discover entire patches of grass left un-grazed. You can almost hear the fussy equines saying "No, we don't like that patch there but we do the one beside it." What? But they look identical to me. There is no accounting for taste.

So when the heavens let up on the showers and the sun dries the grass, I will be mucking what the horses left in the riding ring and then finishing the mowing job they started. At least the rain is helping fill the new, improved swimming pool that is finally up and almost ready for summer that, as the joke goes, we hope will arrive on a weekend this year.



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



arts entertainment culture

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SELF PORTRAIT: Cree Stevens' striking display, Raven of Copper, is a representation of herself according to the artist.

Gallery exhibit has a take on Canada 150

"What people

are seeing is

a blend of

what was,

and what is

in the

culture."

ALASTAIR

ART By Michael Charlebols – TB Source

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is doing more than simply celebrating Canada's birthday.

Their newest exhibition, Perspective From Here, will be on display at the gallery all throughout the summer, and will feature the perspectives of 150 different artists across the region.

The commentary of the artwork gives different perspectives as to what the meaning behind Canada's history is.

"In each gallery you have a congregation of these artists that paved the way in terms of expression, whether they're Indigenous, or from the region, or from the city," said communications and marketing director Alastair MacKay.

"What people are seeing is a blend of what was, and what is in the culture," MacKay said. "It's kind of a meaningful bridge between our origins in a

very harmonious and uplifting way."

Cree Stevens is a local Indigenous artist, who can't get behind the celebration of Canada 150.

"I'm uncomfortable with the idea because we've been here longer than 150 years," Stevens said.

"The thought that we're celebrating the beginnings of Canada feels awkward when there was this entire history before that."

Steven says her display, *Raven of Copper* (pictured above), allows her to take pride in her culture, which she believes is the true meaning of Canada 150.

"I can integrate materials, ideas, thoughts, and stories into my work, but bring it into future... It's about being present, saying 'This is who I am."

Similarly, Aaron Veldstra's work challenges the utopian celebration by referencing the natural resource industry.

"I wanted to challenge the idea of the north and the wilderness," Veldstra said. "The Group of Seven established this myth of 'untouched beauty,' but after working in the resource

industry... I wanted to reference some of the things I've seen.

Veldstra's 3D display is a not-fully-closed circle of wood chips, titled *Carbon Cycle*.

Film takes honest look at racism in city

THUNDERSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS

Youth discuss racism and discrimination in new film Coming Together to Talk

FILM By Doug Diaczuk -TB Source

Racism, discrimination, and vio-lence are never easy things to talk about, especially for youth still trying to discover who they are and where they fit in. But a group of local filmmakers are providing Indigenous youth with an opportunity to speak up and share their stories.

Coming Together to Talk, a Thunderstone Pictures film by Ardelle Sagutcheway, Casha Adams, Savanna Boucher, and Michelle Derosier explores issues and realities facing Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay and how they would like to see change.

The film was screened at the Redwood Park Church on Monday, to coincide with the anniversary of the inquest into the deaths of seven Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay.

According to Sagutcheway, the film is essentially about racism and discrimination in Thunder Bay because "that is something the youth constantly talk about, what they go through here in Thunder Bay in all areas, in school, with authority," she said.

Assisting with the film was Indigenous filmmaker Michelle Derosier, who created the Walk-A-Mile film project. Coming Together to Talk is an hour long film that examines issues of racism, connections to the land, and missing and murdered Indigenous women through three personal stories.

Sagutcheway, originally from a remote northern community, travelled to Thunder Bay when she was 13years-old to attend high school. In the CHI PI KAAKI TOO YANG **ቦለ**ሰላ የ **COMING TOGETHER TO TALK**



HONEST TALK: Coming Together To Talk provides honest discussion on racism.

film, she talks about her experiences during that time.

"I struggled with my mental health

and drinking and I think a lot of youth still face that," she said. "I talk about that, but I also talk about my experience with racism at the hospital and the stereotype is still very real, the drunk Indian stereotype is still real to this day."

Sharing personal stories and reflections was not easy for Sagutcheway, but she believes it is important, especially for the youth, to speak up and make these stories heard.

"That's a pretty big step for all of us, for everyday youth who also shared their stories," she said. "The way we see it is, we are kind of making a space for the younger generation to share their stories, too. I think because it's their lives and they have to live with it on a daily basis. As older adults we need to be more supportive of them."

But throughout the making of the film, Sagutcheway and the other filmmakers found that Indigenous youth in the city have a voice and have something important to say, particularly in light of recent tragic events.

"The youth are willing to talk with people and that they have the opportunity to be more than what is expected of them," she said. "I think of Tammy and I think of Josiah. They unfortunately, won't be able to finish high school or go onto university and I think that is pretty sad. I want people to realize that this is their reality, this is the youth's reality."

The film was first screened last December and received a strong showing of support from the community. Sagutcheway believes the positive reception comes from the honesty that is portrayed by the people in film.

"There was a lot of people just kind of in awe," she said. "We don't hold anything back when we discuss some of the stories and some of the experiences. I think people were just kind of amazed that people could be that honest."



IN THE **bay**

Litigation and chasing a giant squirrel

Robert Murray, CEO of Murray Energy Corporation takes his mining company and his reputation very, very seriously. It is for this reason that said CEO had his lawyers send a "cease and desist" letter to cable comedian and political commentator John Oliver after learning that Oliver's show, Last Week Tonight, would focus on the coal industry and his company, in particular. One of Murray Energy's mines collapsed in 2007 and this past year, Murray has appeared on numerous television shows to promote his friend, Donald Trump (Oliver's favourite target) and the mining industry.

Now if that isn't waving a giant red flag in front of a bull while singing "Na, na, na-na, naa", I don't know what is.

So on Sunday night, Oliver charged and Murray's lawyers retaliated. John Oliver, his writers, HBO and Time Warner (because they have more money) are being sued for defamation. The suits



claims that Oliver "executed a meticulously planned attempt to assassinate the character of and reputation of Mr. Robert E. Murray and his companies." Furthermore, they say the show has damaged his already failing health and will likely kill him.

Hoo-kay. Mr. Oliver, hats off to you, sir. That's some power.

Murray has sued many news agencies for similar transgressions. And the implosion of "fake news," Russian hacking, and "alternative facts" has certainly made it hard to know what to believe. But Oliver's show is not a news program. I repeat: Not a news program. It takes points from news stories and gives them a comedic perspective. (Note: news programs don't usually include audience laughter.)

Much of what Oliver questioned was Murray's televised comments versus employee testimony and published formal reports after the Crandall Mine collapse. Murray's legal team says Oliver ignored the various documents which they personally supplied.

Instead, his team chose to reference the Mine Safety and Health Administration's 472-page official report. The MSHA contradicted Murray's claim that an earthquake caused the collapse and cited numerous structural and procedure failures by the company that all-but guaranteed a collapse.

Oliver also shared a story from the



FIRST AND COAL: Mr. Nutterbutter has helped get John Oliver in legal hot water.

United Mine Workers of America Journal that claimed a talking squirrel told Murray to start his company. Of

course, Oliver agreed, it likely did not happen. But later, he did invite a giant squirrel on the set who told Murray to "eat sh t" — which was apparently a coded directive for viewers to crank call the CEO and hack the company's website with a similar message.

So obviously Robert Murray is suing. Oliver used Murray's own words against him. He used official reports to contradict him. He used a giant squirrel for comedic effect.

He called him "Bob."

And according to the suit, "nothing has ever stressed [Murray] more."

Nothing. Not the mine collapse. Not six employees dying. Not laying off hundreds of employees or cutting health benefits. Nothing.

Maybe it was a hatchet job. Maybe Murray was unjustly targeted. But given Oliver's well-documented "alternative facts," Murray's better off going after the squirrel.



Sudoku

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ENGINE CRYPTOGRAM and provers from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. <i>Hint: "Y" = "E"</i> "JY NJT ZYMOQW NMFJMQ JMGWYAV UQX ZLAYW JMW DUWWMTQW, XYWMZYW UQX VYUZW MW GTZY FJUQ U RMQO." - CTJQ GMAFTQ PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." - Rumi @2017 Satori Publishing															

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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Border Cats travel to North

BASEBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Cartney Beardy says he'd never picked up a baseball bat in his life before Saturday.

He certainly showed he knows what to do with one.

The North Caribou Lake First Nation youngster was one of the first to overcome his initial shyness, and joined a dozen players and coaches from the Thunder Bay Border Cats in a rag-tag practice session on a rugged ball field at the remote fly-in reserve, situated deep in Ontario's north.

It was a blast, the 11-year-old said. "It's awesome," he said.

"It feels amazing when you hit for the first time."

Lucius Kakekeyash said he'd played the game a couple of times before, but nothing too serious.

The 13-year-old quickly mastered the art of hitting, belting the ball with power to all corners of the field, one of two roughly kept diamonds in the community.

He even managed to impress some of the Border Cats brought in to provide baseball lessons, nine Americans and one Canadian who had no idea what to expect when they volunteered for Saturday's adventure.

"My favourite part was when I hit the ball," Lucius said, thankful the Border Cats players were willing to spend the morning putting on a free clinic for the community's children.

"They came all this way to help us play baseball."

Montreal native J.F. Garon, who grew up in the Montreal suburbs and is hitting .289 as an outfielder with the Border Cats in 2017, said it's important to give back and teach the game to the next generation, regardless of where



BALL LESSON: Border Cats pitching coach Matt Cartwright teaches North Caribou Lake First Nation's Lucas Kakekeyash about baseball.

they might happen to live.

"I think I fell in love with the game because people did it with me, so I just think it's important to do so too," said Garon, a former member of Canada's junior national men's team.

"I was blessed to have people influence me in my baseball career. I just want to be a role model. It's baseball, it's fun and I'm just trying to have fun with the kids."

He was a little surprised just how much talent was waiting to be found in North Caribou Lake First Nation. "I think most of them are still young. One of them was 10 and has a cannon for an arm. I was trying to back him up on the mound and he could get the ball there," Garon said.

Border Cats manager Dan Grant said the excursion evolved from discussions with mining company Goldcorp, who provided the plane and donated boxes full of ball gloves, baseball caps, bases and helmets as a legacy of the visit.

It's something the team's owners have wanted to do since they bought the Cats a year ago. "We kind of fast-tracked the plan and it's been awesome so far, I think the kids are having fun."

It's the kind of venture the Border Cats hope to remain involved in, Grant saying he views Northwestern Ontario as one giant community.

Clearly, he liked what he saw, on and off the field.

"I see some skill so far. I think once they got a couple of lessons in they started hitting the ball a little better," Grant said. "We always have openings."









sports NEWS **Chill sweep Winnipeg**

PDL squad erupts for nine goals in capturing two wins SOCCER By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Giving up a goal almost seems like a loss these days for the Thunder Bay Chill.

They don't like it.

The top defensive team in the Premier Development League, the Chill on Saturday conceded just their fourth goal of the season, a Moses Danto second-half penalty kick, but can live with the lapse after knocking off WSA Winnipeg 4-1 at Fort William Stadium.

The victory earned the hometown Chill a share of second place in the Heartland Division and leaves them a point behind the top-ranked Des Moines Menace with a game in hand. It wasn't the clean slate they were hoping for, but looking at the big picture - securing a post-season berth

- they'll take it. "It's tough. We always want to

secure the shutout. We emphasized a lot this season on our defensive effort and I think it's showing with how many goals we've had against," said the Chill's Abraham Villon, who subbed in the second half and scored the game's final goal, tapping home the ball a few steps away from the goal line.

Not worried

Midfielder German Alfaro, who

scored on a 20-yard free kick to open the scoring in the eighth minute, said allowing a goal just makes the Chill that much more determined to keep the ball out of their net going forward.

He's not about to dwell on one goal.

"Our defence did a really good job. Winnipeg had

NHL

Senators.

their opportunities, but we shut them down," said the first-year Alfaro, who

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

hunder Bay's Tom Pyatt has a new two-year, \$2.2-million deal

to remain with the Ottawa

Pyatt, 30, returned to the NHL

last fall to play with the Senators,

dressing for all 82 regular season

games and 14 playoff games as Ottawa made a surprising run to the Eastern Conference final. The deal pays Pyatt \$1 million in 2017-18 and \$1.2 million in 2018-19, according to a release issued on

Monday by the team. He had nine goals and 23 assists during the regular season, adding two more goals during the playoffs,

the 89th, potting a rebound Winnipeg keeper Evan Barker was unable to corral, seconds after Eddie Sanchez nearly connected on an acrobatic kick just outside the box.

Tough test

The Chill (5-2-1), needed to prove to themselves they could score, before hitting the road for St. Louis, where they'll take on the St. Louis FC U23 on Thursday and the St. Louis Lions on Friday and Sunday.

Villon said getting the offence rolling means the Chill will be tough to stop.

"We definitely wanted to come in and attack and try to create a lot of chances. I feel like we've done that. We've just got to keep going. It's a long season," Villon said.

Brandon Swartzendruber had the Chill's other goal, heading home a Rolli crossing pass in the 31st minute. It was his fourth goal in two games.

Pyatt signs 2-year deal with Sens

after spending the two previous seasons in Switzerland.

He was drafted by the New York Rangers in the fourth round of the 2005 NHL Entry Draft and was traded to the Montreal Canadiens in 2009, for whom he made his NHL debut that fall.

Pyatt has 36 goals and 77 points in 327 career games.

The goal isn't what concerned



THESE EYES: German Alfaro (11) celebrates a goal with Evan Sawula (right).

left with a lower body injury in the second half.

Thunder Bay coach Giovanni Petraglia.

They're going to happen, he said.

"I liked the reaction. It was a very good reaction and we closed right after to get six huge points," Petgralia said.

Danto's 11-yard penalty kick awarded in the 58th minute when the

"It's tough.

We always

want to

secure the

shutout."

GERMAN ALFARO

officials ruled the Chill's Mattia Rolli was too harsh with his shoulders while battling Danto for ball possession - sparked a reawakening of the Thunder Bay offence. Four minutes later Luca

Mastrantonio headed home a corner kick off the foot of Thunder Bay's Evan Sawula

Villon, handed a yellow card with 15 minutes to go, iced the contest in

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Thunderwolves land NCAA DI forward

BASKETBALL **Bv Leith Dunick – TB Source**

America's loss is Jon Kreiner's gain.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball coach on Wednesday announced the OUA team has landed Leashja Grant, a 6-foot-2 forward who spent the 2015-16 season as a starter for the Texas Tech Red Raiders, but could not return in September 2016 when visa problems kept her from returning to the United States.

Star-in-the-making

Grant, a Bahamian native, averaged 7.7 points and 6.8 rebounds in her lone season at Texas Tech, a slight drop from her junior college season at Trinity Valley, when she averaged

12.1 points and 12.9 rebounds a game.

"Wow," Kreiner said when asked on a team that two years

ago went to the OUA Final Four on the back of another NCAA star recruit, Jylisa Williams, who captured CIS player of the year honours in her second and final season with the Thunderwolves.

"She's a legit NCAA Division I post. She's undersized by NCAA LEASHJA GRANT Division I standards, but

oversized with respect to her rebounding ability. She's a beast inside and the type of player that we've been looking for to complement our shooters and the talent we

already have.'

According to a 2016 report on the Red Raiders website, Grant's troubles about the impact Grant should have arose when she went home to the

Bahamas to renew her FI Visa that would allow her to study in the U.S. as a foreign national. She was denied the visa on four separate occasions. School officials weren't sure why Grant, who scored 26 points and added 15 rebounds in her Texas Tech debut, was turned down.

Kreiner said the comparisons to Williams, a

high-scoring guard, are inevitable. But they're different players with different roles.

"It's going to be hard to ever compare anyone to Jylisa. But

Leashja will be her own self, her own player. Her strengths are going to be controlling the paint at both ends of the floor. She's a big-time rebounder and kind of gives our shooters a little bit more leeway to let loose a little bit," Kreiner said.

"Also we'll look at getting the ball inside and playing that inside game."

Kreiner said he was tipped off by former Lakehead player Mike Connolly, who now coaches at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Northern Alberta and his assistant coach Donnie Moss, who was also from the Bahamas and knew of Grant's predicament.

The 23-year-old Grant, who went to school with budding Sacramento Kings star Buddy Hield, had dreams of being drafted into the WNBA out of college, but unable to continue her university career south of the border, said she thought Lakehead was a really good fit. "Canada, on the whole, was an amazing experience. I really enjoyed the environment and people I met in Thunder Bay and in the Thunderdome," she said in a release issued by the school's athletic department.

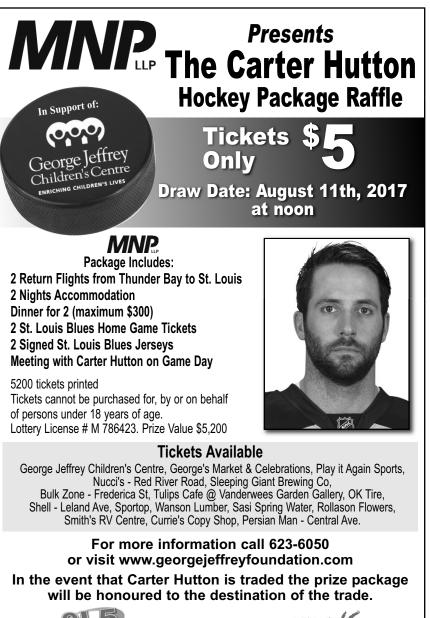
Liked what she saw

"The coaching staff and teammates all showed me what Lakehead was about, nothing but greatness and the chance to accomplish goals. I hope to accomplish a lot both on and off the court and I have confidence that will happen at Lakehead U. I am looking forward to a great first year at Lakehead with a fresh start.'

Grant will have two seasons of eligibility remaining in Canada.









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