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Soccer-plex moves ahead

CITY HALL By Matt Vis – TB Source

A proposed new multi-million indoor sports centre will take its first concrete step forward, though the direction to include tennis courts has been removed from city administration's mandate.

The estimated \$30-million project, which has been percolating for the last few years, passed a key checkpoint late Monday night when Thunder Bay city council voted to ratify its decision from last month to provide inprinciple support.

That vote authorizes city administration to proceed with \$4.25 million of preliminary work, including site investigation and engineering studies, to prepare tender documents that would advance the project to the shovel ready stage.

Though the decision does not bind the city to build the facility, Soccer Northwest president Michael Veneziale recognized Monday's outcome as the first concrete step to get the ball rolling, though he's keeping his hopes from getting too high.

"We're going to try to promote the idea that this is a massive victory but until the shovel is actually in the ground, I'm going to remain worried about it," Veneziale said.

"I love the fact that we can move forward with this step but we're going to continue to do everything we can to make it happen, including fundraising efforts. We want to make sure this happens. It's not just for the soccer community that I'm representing but it's really for the community."

The discussion on Monday largely looked ahead to the decision down the road of whether to construct the facility, rather than just the commitment to do the planning.



TURFED: The proposed indoor soccer facility won't include tennis, for the time being at least.

Coun. Andrew Foulds (Current River), who was around during the city's ill-fated event centre pursuit, argued that project's unsuccessful outcome shouldn't deter council from trying again.

"I don't think we should let past decisions render this council impotent or fearful of making another big decision," Foulds said.

At-large Coun. Mark Bentz, who ended up being the only dissenting vote, said he supports the overall project but questioned the urgency and lack of definitive answers.

"We're really putting the cart before the horse here. We're actually trying to decide if we're going to move forward with a project before we have the answers on funding, on who our partners are, how the tennis club might contribute, how the soccer club might contribute," Bentz said. "I've never seen anything like it. This would be one of the largest projects that we embark on in a very long time if we are not successful in getting funding."

Mayor Bill Mauro said the city could put forward as much as \$15 million without raising taxes, between the \$4 million already directed into a standalone indoor turf reserve fund, nearly \$7 million from the federal government's one-time enhanced gas tax funding and future municipal accommodation tax revenue.

"I hear people say we don't have the money, I always think you do so have the money. You just have to decide how you want to spend it," Mauro said.

Coun. Peng Yu called for a plebiscite.

"If taxpayers say no, that means no," Peng said.

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LOCALNEWS

NDP leader makes Bombardier push

POLITICS By Matt VIs – TB Source

The leader of Ontario's Official Opposition has had enough of the federal and provincial governments blaming each other for the looming slowdown of Thunder Bay's Bombardier plant.

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath, during a Friday morning news conference in Thunder Bay, called on both the federal Liberals and Ontario Progressive Conservatives to work together to advance public transit projects, which would increase the need for new mass transit vehicles.

Earlier this month, Bombardier announced that 550 employees at its Thunder Bay factory – half of its workforce – would be laid off in early November with the company wrapping two major projects at the end of the year.

A war of words quickly erupted between federal Labour Minister Patty Hajdu, who also serves as the Liberal Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP, and provincial Economic Development Minister Vic Fedeli, with each pointing the finger at the other level of government for failing the plant. Ontario Premier Doug Ford also chimed in, accusing the federal Liberals of sitting on their hands.

Despite Bombardier's checkered corporate record in failing to meet deadlines, which has drawn the ire of both the Toronto Transit Commission and Metrolinx, Horwath stood behind the local plant.

"I think the workers deserve the work," Horwath said. "At the end of the day, the workers deserve the work and Ontarians and Canadians deserve to see your tax dollars putting our families to work and providing good jobs for folks so that they can provide a good life for their families. These are the kinds of jobs that they can buy a house, send their kids to college or university. They have benefits. They're able to contribute to the broader local economy."

The news conference came after Horwath and MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell (NDP, Thunder Bay-Atikokan) met with a group of local Bombardier employees on Thursday night.

Monteith-Farrell said she has heard that many people are already leaving to seek other employment.

"These workers don't need levels of government throwing bombs at each other," Monteith-Farrell said. "What they need is concrete help."

Prior to the announcement of the layoffs, provincial Northern Development Minister

Greg Rickford helped facilitate a proposed order of 36 Metrolinx bi-level cars to guarantee some production at the plant. While union officials welcomed the possibility of new work, they hoped it would only serve as a bridge leading to more substantial contracts.

Local union officials had often pointed to flawed parts supplied by the company's operations in Mexico as a significant factor in falling behind production schedules, which has prompted calls to increase Ontario's requirement that mass transit vehicles procured with public dollars be built with 25 per cent Canadian content.

Horwath, who noted that she is from one of Ontario's



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GO LOCAL: NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says Ontario workers deserve to work on projects paid for with provincial money.

major steel producing cities in Hamilton, said ideally raw materials mined in northern Ontario should be turned into steel in Hamilton or Sault. Ste. Marie, which could then be used in manufacturing facilities within the province.

Infrastructure built with public dollars should use local workers, she insisted.

"If there's nothing that requires the company to ensure that the product has got significant amount of Ontario or

Canadian content then they're going to source it from wherever," Horwath said.

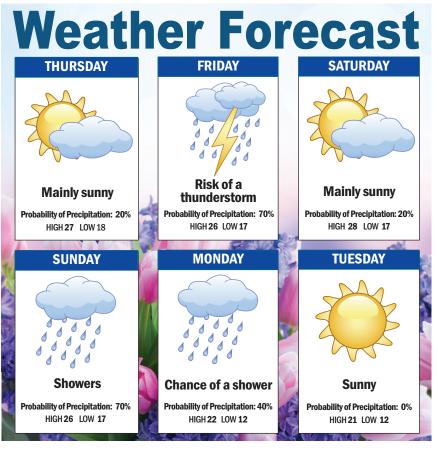
"We have to have a vision from the federal and provincial level that ensures that we're getting the kind of quality product that we know these very skilled workers here in Thunder Bay can provide."

While not firmly committing to bringing an enhanced local content bill to the legislature, Horwath suggested there should be an examination of measuring both the percentages of dollar value of the work, as well as labour hours.

Monteith-Farrell pledged to work the various ministries to ensure affected workers will receive support, including making sure their children get added to OHIP+ and there are available counselling services.

"Losing those jobs is one thing for Bombardier workers but there are a lot of other small industries that are supported by Bombardier in our community," Monteith-Farrell said.

"What is that going to look like? Is it short term? Are we going to maintain those skilled people and resources here in Thunder Bay? Those are the questions people are struggling with at this point and probably have been struggling with for over the last six months."



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"I think the workers deserve the work." Andrea Horwath

LOCALNEWS

Feds formalize support for power project

The federal government and 24 First Nations have formalized a partnership that will see 17 communities connected to Ontario power grid

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

More than a dozen communities will soon be connected to the 'line that brings light' after the federal government and 24 partnering First Nations finalized the terms of the \$1.6 billion Northern Ontario Grid Connection Project.

Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Indigenous Services, was in Fort William First Nation on Monday to formalize the Canadian government's support for the project with Wataynikaneyap Power, which he calls monumentous.

"Not only is it a \$1.6 billion project involving the Canadian government and the Ontario government, this is one that is Indigenous-led and will eventually lead to full Indigenous ownership," he said. "And that's really important. That is the way things



MOVING FORWARD: The Northern Ontario Grid Connection Project will connect 17 First Nation communities to the Ontario energy grid by 2023.

should be."

The federal government committed funding in March 2018 for the Northern Ontario Grid Connection Project to connect 17 First Nation

communities between Ignace and Red Lake to the Ontario power grid. Last December, Pikangikum First Nation became the first community connected to the grid, ending its reliance on diesel-powered generators.

"Basically, what this allows us to do is eventually, it is Indigenous led at the moment, and over the course of years, Indigenous parties will be able to take over control of the project itself."

The project was more than 10 years in the making and involves 24 First Nation partners of Wataynikaneyap Power, with industry partner, Fortis, a Newfoundland and Labrador based utility company.

"I see the line to the finish line where we can begin construction," said Margaret Kenequanash, chief officer executive with Wataynikaneyap Power. "We are so close to having this done and we are hoping to see shovels in the ground this fall."

Kenequanash added environmental assessment approvals have recently been received and there are ongoing discussions with contractors that she

expects will be finalized in the near future. With work expected to begin this fall, Kenequanash said the entire project should be complete by 2023 and no later than 2024.

Work on the 1,800 kilometres of transmission line to connect the communities is expected to create nearly 800 jobs and First Nation leaders are hopeful it will provide ongoing opportunities for Indigenous youth in the north.

"We have been training some young people from up north who could potentially work on this project and preparing them," Kenequanash said. "There are a number of trainings that are happening today. We recently graduated a youth mentorship program where we are encouraging the youth to pursue various opportunities in energy and hopefully start the various training that is required for them to be able to be part of the job."

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LOCALNEWS



DANGEROUS: Thunder Bay was the murder capital of Canada in 2018.

City among most violent

CRIME By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Thunder Bay not only maintained its title as the murder capital of Canada in 2018, it also proved to be one of the country's most violent communities, according to date released on Monday by Statistics Canada.

The city reported the second-highest score under the national violent crime severity index, at 159.7, trailing only Winnipeg (161.4) in the category, which measures the overall volume and severity of violent crime. The figure is nearly double the Canadian average of 82.4 among census metropolitan areas.

It marks the eighth straight year Thunder Bay has finished in the top three in the dubious category and the score represented a 12 per cent increase over the community's 2017 score.

Thunder Bay also had the third highest violent crime rate in the country, with 1,545 incidents per 100,000 people, trailing only Lethbridge, Alta. (1,842) and Moncton, N.B. (1,596).

The Northern Ontario community once again led the way atop the murder-rate chart, with eight homicides reported in 2018, an average of 6.38 murders per 100,000 people.

Brantford, Ont., with five homicides in 2018, was second with a 3.36 rate, while Regina, which also experienced eight murders, was third at 3.10 and Abbotsford/Mission B.C. finished fourth with six homicides, or 3.07 per 100,000.

Among CMAs, communities and neighbouring municipalities totaling a population greater than 100,000, the national average was 1.86.

Thunder Bay's total crime severity index score grew nine per cent to 94 from 2017 to 2018, but it's still down 12 per cent from 2008, mirroring a Canada-wide trend, which has seen a drop of 17 per cent nationwide over the past decade.

The country's average in the category is 75.

Statistics Canada listed a number of reasons for the growth, including increases in break-and-enters, robbery, fraud, trafficking, production and distribution of cannabis (pre-legalization), attempted murder and homicide.

The city's non-violent crime severity index also grew by seven per cent, to 71, leaving it slightly under the national average of 72.

Thunder Bay did see a six per cent drop in its police-reported crime rate, triple the national average decrease, and a one per cent reduction in violent crime, which nationally grew by three per cent.

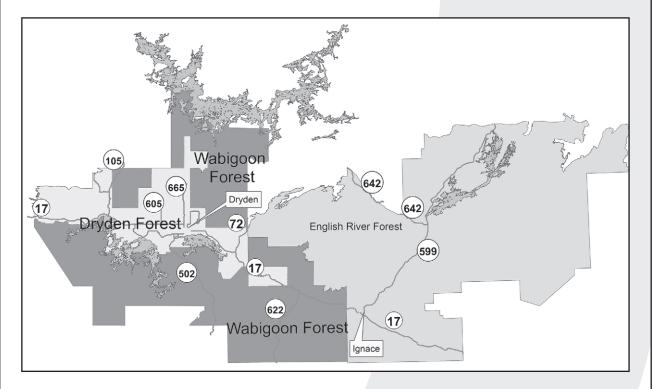
However, property crime grew by four per cent, double the national average, and drug offences increased by 24 per cent, the highest increase in Canada from 2017 to 2018. Canada-wide, drug offences were down 11 per cent.

Overall, total crime is down 33 per cent from 2008 to 2018.

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Dryden, English River and Wabigoon Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Dryden, English River and Wabigoon Forests** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: **August 1, 2019**.



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at Dryden Forest Management Company for the Dryden Forest, Resolute FP Canada Inc. for the English River Forest, Domtar Inc. for the Wabigoon Forest and on the Ontario government website at **www.ontario.ca/forestplans** beginning **June 26, 2019 until March 31, 2020** when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

NOTE: For the English River Forest, the Aerial Spray Plan will be conducted under the authority of the new 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan and Annual Work Schedule (AWS) pending approval. Otherwise it will be conducted under the already approved AWS.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Dryden District Office 479 Government Street, P.O. Box 730 Dryden, ON P8N 2Z4

DRYDEN FOREST

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WABIGOON FOREST

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EDITORIAL

Editorial

Look up, way up

Fifty years ago, man accomplished what many believed was impossible, when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, uttering his now famour words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Twenty minutes later Buzz Aldrin followed him down the steps of the lunar lander, the *Eagle*.

It was a historic moment for the American space program, coming just 66 years after the Wright brothers first lifted off the ground near Kitty Hawk, N.C.

A little more than three years later Apollo 17 became the most recent manned mission to land on the moon. We've never been back.

The good news is that several countries, including the United States, China, Japan and Russia have plans to send humans back to the moon over the next two decades.

U.S. President Donald Trump, has set out an ambitious goal to plant a flag on Martian soil by 2033 - a goal most experts say is unfeasible.

What's important is at least someone is trying.

Humans are natural explorers, and it only makes sense that we should start branching out into the universe.

The stuff of Star Wars may be centuries away, but space exploration has to start somewhere. Half a century ago, we conquered the moon. With the right mindset, the sky is literally the limit when it comes to outer space.

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The recent announcement of pending layoffs at the Bombardier Thunder Bay plant creates tremendous hardship and uncertainty for the employees and their families. This decision will also be felt by the employees and families in the local plant's supply chain of over 550 companies, some located here in our city and many in southern Ontario.

The announced November layoffs' impact on the local supply chain will dramatically impact the economy of Thunder Bay and Region.

Everyone connected to the Bombardier situation has been made aware of the existing contracts nearing conclusion. Beginning immediately after the last municipal election, and in collaboration with other stakeholders including our Thunder Bay Economic Development Commission, our city council through the city's



Mayor seeks Canadian content

intergovernmental affairs committee, worked hard to ensure that the new provincial government and other stakeholders were aware of the situation. We have met directly with the Chair of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and the CEO of Metrolinx.

I have spoken directly with the mayor of Toronto, John Tory, as well as a number of relevant Ontario government ministers on this file.

We have heard clearly that the demand for mass transit vehicles in the Greater Toronto Area is strong. When the City of Toronto, through the TTC, and the province of Ontario, through Metrolinx, move forward to meet that demand there must be two key elements in place: first, a commitment from the provincial and federal governments to help fund the purchase of these vehicles; and second, there must be a commitment to Canadian content requirements.

Government funding is vital but without ensuring that Canadian content requirements remain in place, the chance of future contracts coming to Thunder Bay may be greatly diminished. Asking for Canadian content requirement policies is not corporate welfare. It is asking our governments to put in place/maintain policies that mirror those that exist in other jurisdictions.

The recent federally tendered \$1billion Via Rail contract was awarded to Siemens in Germany and these vehicles, I am told, may be built in California.

A similar situation could occur if the Canadian content policies are not maintained, if, and when, the TTC and Metrolinx move forward with the purchase of more vehicles.

The Greater Toronto Area continues to grow rapidly in population. That growth fuels the continuing demand for more mass transit procurement. Our plant and its workforce are well positioned to meet that demand as they have in the past.

It is true that American content requirements (Buy America Act) on mass transit procurement have inhibited the ability of Bombardier to successfully win American contracts. However, changing that policy is a long term play.

The focus needs to remain on a

Canadian content policy being in place in Ontario, recognizing that even with American content requirements in place we have successfully created a workforce at Bombardier's Thunder Bay Plant that peaked at close to 1500 men and women.

It's been clear that the government of Ontario recognizes the importance of Bombardier to our local and provincial economies.

We are pleased with the Province's commitment to mass transit as was evident in their plan to spend nearly \$30 billion on the expansion of mass transit in the Greater Toronto Area.

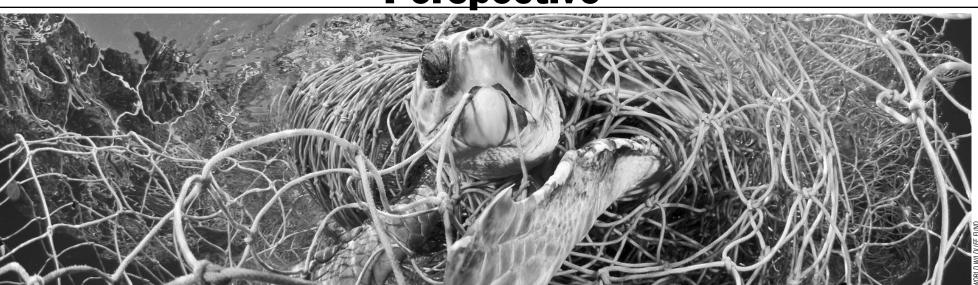
Their commitment to the Thunder Bay plant was clear when they issued a directive to Metrolinx to negotiate the purchase of 36 additional vehicles.

While we hope for a successful conclusion to the Metrolinx negotiations, we also recognize it to be a short-term solution.

We are committed to continuing to work with both the provincial and federal governments, and Bombardier management, to ensure a long and prosperous future for Bombardier in Thunder Bay.

Bill Mauro is Thunder Bay's mayor.

Perspective



DEADLY: It's estimated that about seven million tonnes of plastics make their way into the Earth's oceans each and every year, a treacherous and often deadly obstacle for sea creatures living in every body of water on the planet.

Plastics killing 100 million animals a year

OPINION By J.R. Shermack Special to TB Source

Canadians are about to discover the difference between a problem and an inconvenience.

The problem dates back to the 1950s when manufacturers first introduced plastic to the consumer market.

Plastic use grew from 1.7 million tonnes in 1950 to about 300 million tonnes today – only 10 per cent is recycled and seven million tonnes ends up in the sea every year.

Plastics break down into small particles in the environment and those smaller than a sesame seed are called micro-plastics.

These are the bits consumed by sea animals resulting in the horrible death of an estimated 100 million creatures every year.

Plastic can be even more fragmented

into nano-particles that are 1000 times smaller and can easily pass through biological membranes.

A recent study by the World Wildlife Fund has confirmed that micro and nano-plastics have contaminated the human food supply as well.

The scientific community doesn't know the long-term effects but one day humans may go the way of dying sea turtles and dead, beached whales.

The evidence of this contamination is right where you would expect to find it.

Human stool samples from eight countries all contained micro-plastics - researchers found 20 plastic particles in every 10 grams of stool.

Think about that the next time you eat your potato salad with a plastic fork.

To put things in perspective, a few particles get flushed down the toilet but the average Canadian consumes

74,000 particles each year.

Nano-plastics are small enough to be taken up by cells in the lungs and gut - the effects on human health are unknown.

Hopefully, manufacturers and consumers will be motivated to change their behavior now that we all have plastic in our poo.

More than 60 nations are taking steps to reduce single use plastics with outright bans and taxes on its continued use.

By 2021 the EU will ban single use plastic items, many of which wash up on shore to litter popular European beaches.

India, the world's second most populous country, has declared its intention to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022.

China, the most populous, stopped accepting the world's plastic waste and quickly upended the global recycling market.

Countries like Canada were forced to manage their own single use garbage and to deal with the environmental problem..

We had to face the consequences of irresponsible plastic manufacturing and our addiction to the convenience it provides.

Prime Minister Trudeau recently announced measures to ban single use plastic in Canada as early as 2021.

Canadians understand the menace of single-use plastic but we ease our conscience with recycling and reusable grocery bags.

But these measures are just a diversion, busy work to create a false sense of security about our wasteful, destructive lifestyle choices.

Meanwhile, humans continue to infect every ecosystem on the planet with micro-plastics and each particle could be a ticking time bomb. So, now that we understand the problem, let's talk about the inconvenience Canadians will soon face unhappily, reluctantly and inevitably.

Harmful, single-use plastics like grocery bags, water bottles, straws, stir sticks, cutlery and plastic packaging are already on the naughty list.

This will have a huge impact on the fast food industry which has always relied on the versatility and convenience of throwaway plastic.

Welcome to the new era of paper coffee cups and wooden stir sticks – the more things change, the more they remain the same.

The accumulation of tiny plastic particles in our food, our water and inside every human body on Earth, is a problem.

The solution, the ban of single-use plastic, is merely an inconvenience. For our own good it's time we learned the difference.

A look back in history **Jame Street** fire station The James Street fire sta-tion was nearing completion on this day. The city's first station was organized in Port Arthur in 1884 with Fort William following suit in 1892. In those first years, equipment consisting of hose reels and ladders were moved by hand. Horses came next, pulling such items as steam - powered pumpers, ladder and THUNDER BAY chemical wagons. Horses were retired in JSEUM Feb. 12, 1976 the late 1920s.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project 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 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, 2019.

The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the respective Resolute FP Canada Inc. and Greenmantle Forest Inc. offices and on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans beginning July 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020 when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

BLACK SPRUCE FOREST

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DOG RIVER-MATAWIN FOREST

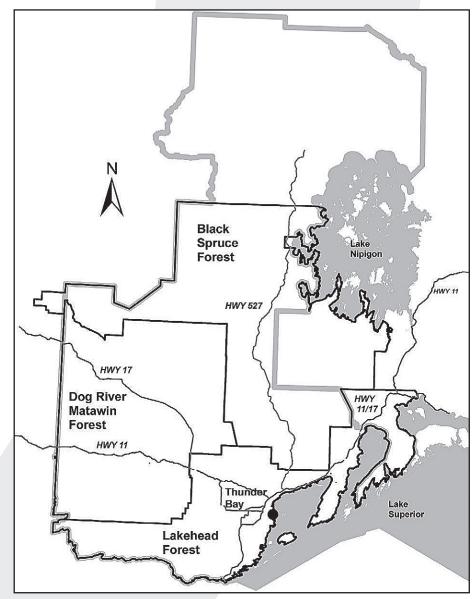
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LAKEHEAD FOREST

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Jean MacIsaac, Silviculture Manager Greenmantle Forest Inc. 179, 25th Side Road

Rosslyn, ON P7K 0B9 tel: 807-939-3147

Ontario 😵

pulled inside. Police said the man was able to free himself from the occupants of the vehicle

The suspect vehicle is described as a black van. Police said the vehicle was reported to have four occupants - two black men and two white men.

LOCALNEWS IN BRIEF **Ten arrested** after assault

Thunder Bay man faces drug traffick-Aing charges and nine others were also arrested early Saturday morning after a disturbance at a Vickers Street home.

Police. in a release issued on Monday, say officers arrived at the residence, in the 400 block of the south-side street, after receiving a report that a male had allegedly threatened another male living in the dwelling, with a handgun.

The victim was also allegedly assaulted by the suspect.

Garrett Allan Tremblay, 36, was charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking, proceeds of crime over \$5,000, assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, using an imitation firearm in the commission of an offence and resisting arrest.

Nicholaus Richard Blake Patterson, also 36, was charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking, proceeds of crime over \$5,000, assault and breach of probation.

A further eight people, three from Toronto, four from Thunder Bay and one from Atikokan, were charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and proceeds of crime over \$5,000.

Car fire spreads

o injuries were reported after a car No injuries were reported and fire spread to an adjacent Picton Avenue home early on Saturday morning. At approximately 4:10 a.m., Thunder Bay Fire Rescue was deployed to the scene, where they discovered flames from the vehicle fire had ignited the structure's siding.

The fire was knocked down by the first arriving unit. No occupants were in the home at the time.

Platoon chief Harold Spitoff said over the phone on Saturday that the fire setting the house ablaze was "simply the result of a car being too close to the residence."

A second alarm was called, and a total of five pumpers and an aerial ladder was used. No significant damage to the residence was reported.

Abduction avoided

City police say a 29-year-old man was narrowly able to escape after being pulled inside a van. In a news release, the Thunder Bay

Police Service said the intended victim was walking in the area of Arthur and James streets just after 5 a.m. on Thursday when he was approached by a vehicle and

and escape.

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CULTURAL FUN: Malina Taneja involves the crowd during a group dance session at the Festival of India last Saturday at Marina Park.

Festival of India keeps growing in popularity

THUNDER BAY **By Michael Charlebols – TB Source**

he Festival of India, which started as a The Festival of India, when a small gathering in the Bora Laskin building 10 years ago, has grown in ways nobody could have expected.

Thousands of people attended Marina Park on Saturday to enrich themselves in the Indian culture that is growing year by year in Thunder Bay, the festival being a reflection of it.

Organizer Dr. Prashant Jani has seen the changes over the course of a decade.

"There are about 40 or so families and 600 students. It's always growing.'

Jani said the festival gives Indian families, or students living away from home, a rare chance to reconnect with Indian culture.

"There are very few opportunities where so many people come together ... Especially

in Northwestern Ontario, it's kind of in the middle of nowhere so when students and people choose to come here, that's a positive point for them."

This year's event featured more than 22 artists performing on the main stage, including dancers from Florida and

> California, and musicians from Toronto and Calgary. Traditional snake-charm dancing was the highlight feature according to Jani.

> He said dancing is a vital part of reconnecting with community and heritage in the Indian culture.

> Los Angeles-based freelance dancer Malini Taneja made her third trip to Thunder Bay for this year's Indian Festival.

She says it's always a memorable experience when she comes to perform.

"It's a really solid Indian community who really love their culture and want to share their passion," she said.

Taneja's dancing is an adaptation of tradi-

tional folk dance from the East Indian state of Rajasthan.

She's one of only 20 professional dancers in North America who perform this specific style.

"I grew up doing other Indian dance styles... but with Indian dances, it's very interconnected. You might learn one style, but there's similarities in a lot of them.'

Taneja describes it as an energetic, vibrant, and celebratory dance style.

"We pay homage to the women we learned it from. I love Indian dance for its storytelling element and its spirituality. Dance is not just meant to be an entertainment, it's meant to connect to divinity."

With Thunder Bay's burgeoning Indian community and a strong sense of cultural tradition, it makes for the perfect combination to celebrate.

"For a small town to be able to put on something like this, I think that's rare," Taneja said. "I don't even think you can find something like that in a big city... it's very inclusive here."

"We pay homage to the women we learned it from." Malini Taneja

Baxter's close encounter of a Pepe kind



n the life of any country dweller, any dog-owning rural rooter, that said pooch will have a 'close encounter of the 'Pepe' kind, a.k.a. a skunk ('Pepe': after the Warner Bros. cartoon starring that French rascal, Pepe Le Pew). Our pooch, Baxter, met with one very early this past Sunday morning. Oh joy.

We are dog lovers. Both my wife and I have had a dog since before we met. When we got together, each of our dogs came along too, the more the merrier. Alas, our beloved canines at some time all encountered a Pepe, sometimes by accident, often in an encounter in which dog thought it was defending territory against this striped invader. Invader always wins, or, at least, gets off unmolested. Great defence, that smells-like-burnt-tire- spray.

I had fallen asleep in my easy chair: book open and across my lap, in my library in the basement when my wife, Laura, summoned me out of a deep dream (can't remember what).

"Coming, dear. What's the matter?" I stuttered as I rebounded off the walls and up the stairs.

"Can you smell it?" she asked.

"Smell what?" I replied although I guessed what it might be having been rudely woken at 1:30 Sunday morning.

Stinky situation

Once I reached the mud-room entrance to Casa Jones, sure enough, I caught a strong whiff of 'Eau de Pepe'.

"Is Baxter outside?" I asked.

"Unfortunately, yes," Laura answered. So, then it was a matter of getting him inside, at least as far as the mud-room. Laura called and out of the pitch-black, Baxter appeared. Laura was already armed with a bottle of Skunk Off.

I had closed the door between the mudroom and the rest of the house. Then we attempted to determine just where the Pepi broadside had hit. "I don't think that he is badly skunked," Laura said.

I volunteered to lean down and put Baxter with a thorough inspection sniff. "He got it on his chest," I announced as I stood up. Laura then tried to squeeze the liquid Skunk Off on Baxter's chest. Baxter was having none of it. Then we squeezed the stuff on our hands and rubbed it liberally on pooch's fur. And so, it went.

When we opened the mud-room door, he raced into the living room and commenced to slide on each side across the carpet.

"Oh well," Laura observed stoically, "the carpet needed washing anyway."

We went to bed first closing the bedroom door.

As we prepared to climb under the

covers, Baxter was heard to scratch at the door seeking admittance.

"No, Baxter, Go and Lie Down!"

Which he did. Eventually.

On the living room couch where he usually sleeps until early morning when he traditionally comes into our bedroom and leaps up to join us which he is allowed to do. Not this Sunday morning.

I got up and wandered down into the living/ kitchen area to find him outstretched on the couch.

Confused pooch

He lay there looking at me wondering what he'd done wrong that caused us to yell at him.

I always go to him and give him lovies and pats before I head into the kitchen to make morning coffee.

I did so this morning as well and also to sniff to see how badly he had been blasted. Afterall, I had been only half awake when we went through the ordeal of getting him inside and de-skunked. He didn't smell as bad as in Pepeencounters past.

After bringing the horses into the barn as the nasty, biting bugs had awoke with the rising sun and begun to harass the equines, we came back inside to enjoy our firsts mugs of java and have some breakfast, and then, after I vacuumed to get up all of the shed, dog hairs (pooch is shedding a lot. Must be the heat), Laura used a carpet cleaner.

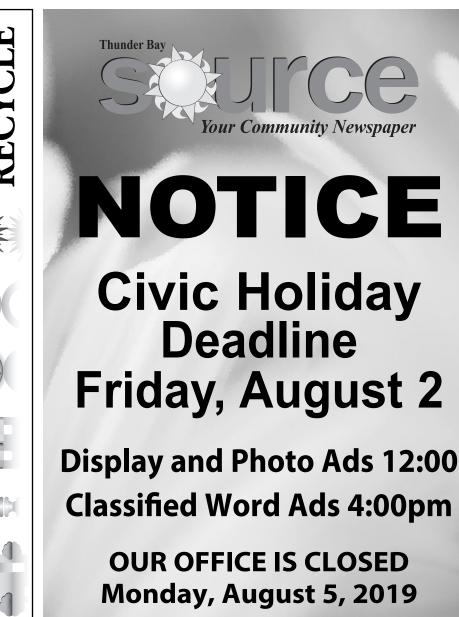
Then she removed the throw-blankets we use to cover the couch and put them in the laundry machine. And the mudroom where the Pepe-stink is strongest? I vacuumed and washed the floor.

Now, the carpet looks brand new; the couch is Pepe-stink-free; the mudroom will take some time but, eventually, only the merest whiff of 'Eau de Pepe' will betray Baxter's meeting with Monsieur or Madame Le Pew.

So, until the next time (and there will be a 'next time').

You can't be a rural rooter, have a dog, and not have to deal with a 'Close Encounter of a Pepe Kind.'





Local charity benefits African nation

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebols - TB Source

Thunder Bay's imprint on a West African nation is larger than most people know.

Through the impact of the Medical Equipment Modernization Equipment, a volunteer-run Christian organization that provides medical equipment to countries with lowquality health care, shipments have benefitted the health and well-being of "millions" of people in Liberia, according to James Ngenda.

"Thunder Bay has been a blessing to many people in Liberia," says Ngenda, a Christian missionary affiliated with MEMO and the Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission.

In 2015, MEMO sent a shipment of supplies to a hospital in Liberia.

The shipment mostly contained medical equipment, but also



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: James Ngenda on a new tractor recieved from a 2015 MEMO shipment.

contained well-drilling equipment, and agricultural equipment to help the overall quality of life for Liberians.

Liberia, a predominantly Christian

nation with a population of around five million, has had a recent history of social crises leaving the nation's economy and health-care crippled.

In the 1980s, two civil wars resulted

in the deaths of an estimated 250,000 people. An Ebola outbreak in 2004 claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people.

As of 2015, when the MEMO shipment first arrived in Liberia, 83 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line per the World Food Programme.

Ngenda, who grew up in Liberia, says "the health care system is not in any way adequate."

"If you can imagine a country that has gone through war, lost all of their infrastructure, lost all of their supplies and equipment, anything that you can bring in if it's in good working condition is going to be of use," said Kathleen Ngenda, the wife of James.

James and Kathleen Ngenda have been in Liberia since 2001 and have seen the impact the containers have made in the community, and in their own home. "One of the things that came in the container was a gas propane stove," Kathleen said.

"Maybe that sounds simple but for me and my home, that was really a blessing. The equipment you buy in (the) country doesn't last. Getting something that's well made and valuable, you can't explain how that makes life easier for you."

MEMO has also provided James with a tractor, which he says is widely used by pastors in his missionary to grow fresh produce.

"Most people struggle a lot with food, and it's something that brings people together as well."

Through MEMO and the Thunder Bay-based charity LifeWater which provides Liberians with access to clean drinking water, the efforts of Thunder Bay aren't going unnoticed.

"A lot of people have heard about Thunder Bay, they play an important role in our lives."



IN THE bay arts entertainment culture



RAINBOW REWARDS: Thousands of people descended on Prince Arthur's Landing on Sunday to take part in Festival of Colours event.

Colourful fun in the park

Festival of Colours participants throw worries into the air at annual event

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Cassie Brannan said she wasn't even planning on leaving the house on Sunday, but luckily she was talked into joining in on one of the city's most popular festivals where she threw all her worries to the wind.

"I wasn't even going to leave the house today, so I will say yes, I definitely threw away all my worries," she said. "I was forced out and I am grateful that I was because it was super fun and made me smile. Good job, Thunder Bay."

"It was a lot of fun," Jennifer Wilson added. "It was chaos and colour."

Thousands of people took part in the chaos and colour of the annual Festival of Colours at Marina Park on Sunday, closing a weekend of Indian culture that began with the 10th anniversary of the Festival of India on Saturday. "Yesterday was a gorgeous day," said Prashant Jani, festival organizer. "Thousands of people came and today we can see we have thousands of people here. Everybody is enjoying the colour throw, there are a lot of young children here, I am really happy to see all the people here."

The ancient Indian festival known as Holi began as a celebration of spring and the colour throw is meant to represent throwing all your worries into the air to be taken away by the wind.

"When you throw the colours in the sky, which means throw the worries in the wind, live your life joyful and happy, love each other, serve each other, make your life wonderful," Jani said.

When the festival first began four years ago, there were only 40 people and last year more than 3,500 people came out to participate.

And everyone was there, from young kids throwing handfuls of colour at one another,

entire families, to Ontario Provincial Police recruitment officer, Justin Cancelliere, who might have some explaining to do when it comes to his newly coloured uniform.

"I think it's great," he said. "I wish I had participated in this before. I'm glad I did this year. I think it's really important, it's a good sense of community, it brings people together and I'm glad I took part in it."

For Paige Lambert and her friends McKenzie Kostiuk, Annie Mallon, and Mia Steele, the colour throw was a lot of fun, but so was learning some new Indian dance moves and words.

"It was fun because you can learn new things and it's interesting to learn new cultures," Paige said.

"It's great to see everybody out for a great cause and doing the same thing," Brannan added. "People are working together, people are smiling together, and people are having fun together. It's wonderful to see. I love it." Thursday, July 25, 2019 13

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



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WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Rynestone Magician 7:30 p.m. JayDee (Hypnotist) 9:30 p.m. Sass Jordan

THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. Rynestone Magician 7:30 p.m. JayDee (Hypnotist) 9:30 p.m. Chilliwack

FRIDAY 6:00 p.m. Rynestone Magician 7:30 p.m. JayDee (Hypnotist) 9:30 p.m. Harlequin

SATURDAY

6:00 p.m. Rynestone Magician 7:30 p.m. JayDee (Hypnotist) 9:30 p.m. Nick Gilder and Sweeney Todd

SUNDAY 6:00 p.m. Rynestone Magician 7:30 p.m. JayDee (Hypnotist) 9:30 p.m. The Sensational Hot Rods

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IN THE **bay**



FUN SHOW: Little Shop of Horrors opens on July 30 at Maple Tops.

Murderous and musical

THEATRE By Linda Maehans – TB Source

t's summertime and the living's easy. Especially for lush green plants soaking up the sun, literally sprouting new tendrils by the minute.

But in a certain part of town there were no lush green plants; only cracked uneven sidewalks, dingy alleyways and a few forlorn-looking store fronts. I was looking for Mushnik's. Had I been given the wrong address?

My eyes were still adjusting to Mushnik's shadowy entrance, when a most lovely bloom in human form approached me. I took one look at her curvaceous features and irresistible smile, decided then and there I would purchase any and every house-plant Audrey Fulquard recommended. I think I fell under some sort of spell, or something.

If anyone reading this has not heard of *Little Shop of Horrors*, be forewarned. It is a true story of botanical darkness from which your instincts will recoil even as your eyes are taking in the unimaginable appetite and growing power of a lush green plant. It's alive and well at Mushnik's. Too bad the same can't be said for some humans there.

But don't worry, you should be safe enough if you stick close together as an audience at Maple Tops-on-Court, where Badanai Productions presents *Little Shop of Horrors* in all its lurid colour and glory.

Back to Audrey, played by Tegin Menei. "This neighbourhood? We're one of those hidden little gems, definitely worth popping into." Those eyes, that smile. "It all started with one of Seymour's exotic plants we put in the front window. And now, well business is booming.

Seymour? And me? Oh no, I don't deserve a guy like Seymour!" Audreyk sighs. "He's sweet. Considerate. And, well, just between us girls, I've got a bit of a past." Audrey clams up. I mention I've heard she's got a boyfriend who is a dentist. "Yeah, Orin Scrivello, DDS," she intones. "Yeah, he has a good job, makes good money. Not a lot of pickin's here in Skid Row." The sun goes behind a cloud. "Green thumb, me?" Audrey's smile falters. "No, all I do is wrap and glitter."

Well, glitter sure comes to mind when in the next instant a real live Doo-Wop girl appears in the shop, heads our way. She's pretty and perky, just like Audrey. Actor Jessica Hayes tells me she's Audrey's little "mini-me". I nod. That's obvious.

"Us Doo-Wop's don't actually work at Mushnik's, but we're always lookin' out for Audrey's best interests. It would be nice if she got together with Seymour, instead of what's-his-name. The plants here? Well, our main attraction is Audrey 2; she's a little tropical experiment Seymour cooked up in the back."

Lawrence Badanai sports a wicked grin, and why not? He's codirecting this show with Spencer Hari, and so another forewarning: be prepared for FUN with a capital F.

"We've got that campy B-movie feel, and summertime rock n' roll sets the perfect mood for a deadly plot where a plant can and really does grow beyond wildest expectations!"

Experience *Little Shop of Horrors* Tuesday through Thursday at Mushnik's/Maple Tops between July 30 and Aug. 15. Phone (807) 344-4080 or get your tickets at the door.

IN THE **bay**

Social media digs claws into Cats

ast week, the trailer for the new Cats musical hit the Internet and people lost their minds.

Starring the likes of Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen, Grammy winner Jennifer Hudson, Idris Elba, cat-lover Taylor Swift, late night's James Corden and comedy star Rebel Wilson, the movie reboot of one of theatre's longest running and most ground-breaking plays should arrive with much fanfare.

Instead, social media has lit up with descriptions like "terrifying" and "the stuff of nightmares" for the trailer.

So let's break this down.

56

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For those who have no memory of the 1980s when the play ran for 18 years on Broadway and 21 years in London, Cats is based on the poetry of T.S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats.



The play was loved by adults for its mystical appeal and the manner in which audiences were brought into the world of the cat.

From the audience perspective, the fur- and spandex-clad dancers and singers became cats.

The oversized sets gave a new perspective on stage. And the music was legendary.

So why are today's audiences freaking out on social media? The complaints - in no particular order are as follows:

The cats are furry, but have strangely human faces and hands. The inbetweenness is "deeply disconcerting."

Well, that's because they're played by humans.

Apparently, nobody on social media has ever worn an animal costume for Halloween.

The female cats have breasts. So do post-partum mama cats.

And if the CGI-added fur is disturbing, why would you want to flatten out the girls too? (Ironically, no one has complained about the lack of "boy bits" on the males. Most street cats aren't neutered."

The tails are coming out of the dancers' rears instead of above it.

WORD SEARCH

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Really?

The prima ballerina, Francesca Howard, executes a flawless pirouette and you're checking for a feline butthole?

Some have suggested that if producers were going to use technology to make them more cat-like, they should have just gone all the way with it like the new The Lion King did.

It's making millions with life-like talking wild animals plotting against each other - not unlike a bad acid trip into George Orwell's Animal Farm.

And yet, Taylor Swift singing in a cat-suit is "creepy and weird."

Computer-generated special effects on television and film is spoiling audiences.

We suspend anything remotely related to reality with flying characters and non-human villains.

Yet "digital fur technology" has critics in a fluff.

Apparently, we've lost our natural childlike ability to imagine. Ironically, if technology doesn't create it digitally over a greenscreen, it's not real enough. (Let that soak in for a moment.)

But that's the joy of live theatre. The costumes and lighting and actors and story give the audience just enough to pull us into their imaginative world.

Then we do the rest with our imagination and become part of the experience.

That's the magic producers are trying to recreate in this film.

Maybe audiences will get it when Cats premieres in December.

For now, they've got the Orwellian nightmare with Mufasa.

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Sports news information | coverage

Chill reflect on playoff miss

SOCCER By Michael Charlebols - TB Source

The Thunder Bay Chill, a perennial contender for the USL2 crown, are sitting on the sidelines of the postseason in consecutive years for the first time since 2006.

After a glimmer of hope remained for the final road trip of the season, the Chill travelled to Des Moines and Green Bay needing to win at least two of their final three contests. Ultimately, they lost all three games, sealing their fate and finishing five points out of the final playoff spot in the Heartland Division with a record of 6-6-2.

"We are very disappointed," said head coach Gio Petraglia on Friday.

The standard for the Chill and Petraglia has been high since he took over the job in 2015. A run to the league title game under Petraglia in the 2017 season was a continuation of a decade's worth of success which saw them win seven division titles, and make four championship appearances, winning one in 2008.

"This club in the last 12 years have made a statement which they will always be in the playoffs. Not making it for two years in a row is unacceptable," Petraglia said.

The Chill started the campaign on the wrong foot, dropping two road games against Kaw Valley and St. Louis before settling for a draw in their home opener against lowly WSA Winnipeg.

Petraglia acknowledged that the disastrous start to the season made things difficult moving forward.

"It was very frustrating. That's just a lesson for us to understand how this league works," he said.

Rapid fashion

The prospect of missing the postseason came suddenly, and each game moving forward had the pressure of a playoff game.

Petraglia said an attacking style of football was implemented at the very start, and then quickly reverted to a conservative style after the early results.

"Tactical-wise, we started in a certain way in the first few games and realized it wasn't the way to go," Petraglia said.

The team responded well with their backs against the wall, earning a point in a home contest against

first-place Des Moines before reeling off three straight victories to keep their playoff hopes alive.

With their season on the line, the Chill controlled their destiny, needing to win at least two games. Unfortunately their archrivals, the Menace, took no mercy on Thunder Bay, handing them two straight defeats to dash their playoff hopes.

"The urgency to not make any more mistakes started to affect us, especially against Des Moines," Petraglia said.

Sullivan Silva, a longtime Chill forward and undisputed team leader, put it more bluntly. "This season we had to face it: they were better



HOPEFUL: Sullivan Silva (Left) says he expects the Thunder Bay Chill to regain its championship form in 2020.

than us," said Silva.

"But as Gio has mentioned before, the best teams don't always win games. Depending on the intensity we put in the game ... if we focus, if we work hard, we have a chance to win those games."

Both Petraglia and Silva believe the low rate of returning players factored into a lack of chemistry and togetherness on the pitch.

"If you look back at years where we were successful, those were the years that we brought players back," said Silva, who only scored twice after tallying six goals in 2018. "In this league, it's a short season and we really don't get to know each other until the end. But I don't want to use that as an excuse because other teams do the same thing.'

Moving forward, the team is determined to get back to contention.

"Next year our goal at minimum is to make the playoffs, and we want to be able to return to the championship," Petraglia said.

Petraglia expects roughly eight players to return to the team in 2020. Recruitment is the most important factor because of the lack of opportunity players have to develop in the USL2, he added.

"The way this league is structured, it doesn't give us much room to work on the field," Petraglia said. "A deeper roster with all players able to keep up a certain level of soccer; that's the first thing we need to do to match the gap."

Expects to bounce back

Silva, who would return for his ninth season with the Thunder Bay Chill in 2020, still holds the legacy of the club in high regard, and expects the team to return to championship form as soon as possible.

"If for three years we don't make the playoffs, I don't think the players deserve to play for a club like the Thunder Bay Chill. Including myself, including all my friends.

"We need to start having that feeling that we are able to bring this club up again."



Hockey builder Ab Cava dies

Former Port Arthur Marrs coach led team to Memorial Cup final OBITUARY

By TB Source staff

longtime figure in the local hockey Acommunity has died.

Albert (Ab) Cava, who coached the 1967 Port Arthur Marrs to the Memorial Cup final, passed away on Thursday.

Cava joined the coaching ranks after his playing career, which was highlighted by being a 22-year-old blueliner on the Port Arthur Bearcats squad that travelled to Europe and captured the Ahearne Cup in 1962.

"I don't think I've ever seen a more exciting game than that," Cava said in 2012 of the team's 5-3 win over Djugardens in the final, which was played in Stockholm. He subsequently transitioned to the senior ranks, coaching the Thunder Bay Twins from 1978 to 1981, earning success in the Ontario Hockey Association senior league and competing in Allan Cup playdowns

before serving as the team's president later that decade. Cava was also involved with the Colonial Hockey League's Thunder Bay Thunderhawks and Thunder Bay Senators, along with the Thunder Bay Thunder Cats when the league was rebranded as the United Hockey League.

Cava was inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame as a builder in 2017.



DEDICATED TO SPORT: Albert (Ab) Cava spent a lifetime coaching and in management with several local hockey teams.



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