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Students seek action

Hundreds demand politicians take climate change seriously

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

There is no Planet B." "Science, not silence." "You'll die of old age. I'll die of climate change."

Students from around the carried these messages and hundreds more on Friday, taking part in a global climate strike, walking out of classes to demand change from politicians they don't believe are taking the crisis seriously.

"I learned how bad it really is last year, and ever since then I've tried to reduce the amount of waste I use, just to help the wildlife," said 12-year-old Anastasia Calaiezzi-Kluensch, who carried a sign that read Save the Earth, stop climate change.

Seeing more than 600 people show up to the Red River Road rally was inspiring, she added.

"It means a lot to me because it's showing that everyone is really getting involved and people do care," the youngster said.

"And it kind of seems that more people are learning about it too, because a couple of years ago I don't think this would be happening."

Julia Cross, 17, a Grade 12 student at Hammarskjold High School, said she's concerned that if politicians and business leaders don't take action soon, it will be too late.

"We only have one Earth and without it we don't have a home, so we need to protest against it and make sure everyone is aware of the problems going on, on our Earth and how to fix them. I think it's awesome that so many people are getting together and raising awareness for such a big problem," Cross said.

Olya Wright, 13, arrived from Grand Marais, Minn.

The teen has presented a zero-emissions plan to her community, challenging leaders there to meet the target by 2040.

"This is important to me because it's threatening people and animals



SPEAKING UP: Students rallied against climate change on Red River Road.

and displacing people and changing our environment. I really enjoy the environment so I want to protect it," Olya said.

Millions of students from around the world took part in Friday's climate strikes, including teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, an inspiration to aspiring activist Olya.

"She's just found a simple way to take action and it's really making a big difference," she said.

Kelsey Sanders, a student at Lakehead University, helped organize the Thunder Bay event, and spoke to the crowd from the stage.

"Today is about telling politicians that their partisan issues mean nothing on a dead planet," she said. She's bothered by politi-

cians and voters more worried about their bank balances than they are about the future of the planet and the cost to combat climate change through a move away from fossil fuels and carbon taxes. "If you're more worried about the money in your pocket, remember that you can't eat money. When all the plants are dead, when you can't get access to food, it doesn't matter how much money you make. When your house gets destroyed by inclement weather and water is unsafe to drink, I don't care how much money's in your pocket. You're still going to die like the rest of us."

Alina Cameron's six-year-old daughter Elizabeth is who convinced her to attend the local climate strike. A scientist herself, she and her children are worried for the future of the planet.

"We believe that science above silence is important and I want my children to have a future and that includes a healthy planet. Nothing else really matters if we don't have a healthy planet to live on," Cameron said.

"And my daughter has been paying attention to Greta Thunberg. She likes her message and she wanted to come today, so I pulled her out of school and here we are."



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FB Source columnists wanted

ey, are you an aspiring writer? Are you part of the local minor hockey, soccer or curling scene, a gardening expert or a car buff?

Do you spend your days and nights working your way through the latest video games? Are you an astronomy buff or a historian? Maybe you're a chef with some great recipes you'd like to share on a regular basis or a music or movie fan who has always wanted to write reviews and let the world (or at least Thunder Bay) know what you're thinking.

Thunder Bay Source might be the perfect landing spot.

We figured our regular columnists, Fred Jones and J.R. Shermack, might like some company on the pages of the paper, so we're issuing a call to potential columnists to submit proposals for a regular column spot in our weekly newspaper.

Send us your pitch, preferably along with a sample of your writing and let us know why the Source might be a great fit for your talent.

Email us at ldunick@dougallmedia.com. We'd love to hear from you. Politics, pets, physical fitness, if it interests you, it probably interests our readers too.

"If you're more worried about the money in your pocket, remember that you can't eat

money."

Kelsey Sanders

For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

LOCALNEWS

Man reunited with dog after 4 years

THUNDER BAY By Gary Rinne – TB Source

When Mike Plas's phone rang on Friday afternoon, the Thunder Bay man was hardly expecting it would turn out to be "the greatest phone call" he'd ever received.

At the other end of the line was a staff member at Winnipeg's Centennial Animal Hospital, asking him if he'd owned a dog named Jack.

Plas hadn't seen Jack since the husky/shepherd mix disappeared four years ago from the place they were living in Sunshine, west of Thunder Bay

Last Thursday, he was picked up by a motorist in Winnipeg and taken to the animal hospital, which was able to track Plas down the next day with the aid of the dog's microchip.

An overjoyed Plas drove to Winnipeg the next day for a reunion recorded by his girlfriend Mackenzie Cutler. The video already had close to 800,000 views by Monday afternoon. It was an emotional rendezvous for

both Plas and his dog.

It "instantly felt like my life was back to normal. Life without him has never been the same," he posted on Facebook. Plas believes Jack was picked up by someone.

In an interview with tbnewswatch.com, he said, "He would never have left my house for that long. Somebody saw him and picked him up, and that was it. He's a very friendly dog."

At the time of his disappearance, Jack was wearing a perimeter collar designed to discourage a dog from leaving a yard, but the devices can sometimes fail.

Until the day he vanished, he had never left the yard for more than an hour, Plas said.

On Facebook, he told others who have lost animals to "never ever lose hope. I didn't, and after four years apart in different provinces, we are together again."



PUPPY LOVE: Jack the dog grins on the ride home with Mike Plas and his girlfriend Mackenzie Cutler, after a four-year separation.



LOCALNEWS



GETTING POLITICAL: Thunder Bay-Rainy River candidates Amanda Moddejonge (Green), Marcus Powlowski (Liberal), Linda Rydholm (Conservative) and Yuk Sem Won (NDP) take part in an election forum last week put on by the Thunder Bay Real Estate Board.

Candidates react to Trudeau in blackface

FEDERAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

ocal Liberal candidate Patty Hajdu says it's unfortunate party leader Justin Trudeau chose to wear racist costumes in his not-too-distant past.

But the Thunder Bay-Superior North hopeful and former cabinet minister believes Trudeau's apology was sincere and a step in the right direction.

"I think this is an important step that the prime minister has taken to acknowledge how much pain it's caused for people that face overt and

systemic racism in their everyday lives," Hajdu said last Thursday, less than a day after *Time* magazine broke the news that Trudeau, in his previous life as a teacher, showed up in brown face at an Arabian Nights-themed party at the private school where he was employed in 2001.

Two other instances of the Liberal leader wearing inappropriate costumes have since been made public.

Asked if she thought Trudeau was still fit to be leader, Hajdu said everyone deserves a second chance.

"I think part of leadership is owning your mistakes. Part of leadership is admitting we all have episodes in our lives that we would rather not maybe done or we would have done differently if we had new information. "I think back to when I was a teenager or in my 20s and I'm sure I said hurtful things and did things that were most likely not well received by the person on the other end."

First-time Liberal candidate Marcus Powlowski, seeking the seat in Thunder Bay-Rainy River, said Trudeau owned up to the mistake and it's time to move on.

"It was a big mistake and he very much regrets it and he's unconditionally apologized. I'm not sure what more somebody can do under that situation."

Conservative Frank Pullia, running to unseat Hajdu, was diplomatic in his response, calling it an

unfortunate situation.

"I am very

hurt by this."

Anna Betty

ACHNEEPINESKUM

"We have to be accountable and responsible for our actions and the voters, at the end of the day, will decide."

Green Party nominee Amanda Moddejonge, running in Thunder Bay-Rainy River, said Trudeau is starting to sound like a broken record.

"He seems to be making an awful lot of apologies all the time," she said. "The

words that he's saying, I believe he actually means them. And he's rehearsed them enough that it could be part of the reason he does believe them. I'm not really sure."

"I think it's kind of important that we recognize the fact that it's coming out now. These are pictures and images that have been available for a very long time that are only coming out now. So we're only now finding out who the real Justin Trudeau is."

Former MP Bruce Hyer, seeking to regain the Thunder Bay-Superior North seat he lost in 2015, was more harsh in his analysis.

"I'm very disappointed in him. Not once, not twice, but three times. I don't think he's really a racist, but I do think that Justin is entitled. He's an entitled, rich white man and he disappoints me in many, many other ways which are far greater than this one," Hyer said.

Thunder Bay-Superior North NDP hopeful Anna Betty Achneepineskum called the revelations hurtful.

"As an Indigenous person, I'm a person that believes in honouring people of all nations and genders. We are in a country where we should be living in harmony and respecting each other's culture and ancestry. I am very hurt by this," she said.

"I do realize it's an old picture, but still, if you are a person who believes in respect and integrity, then that's a value you live through all your life." Fellow NDP candidate Yuk-Sem Won (TB-RR) said she's disap-

Won (1B-RR) said she's disappointed that Trudeau thought it was an appropriate costume choice. "I feel bad because for people to be

able to see their leader doing that and actually re-feel some of the racism they've experienced in their lifetime, that's the biggest disappointment," Won said. "His apology is there, but really, it shows the two sides, one that's the public and one that is really who he really is."

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EDITORIAL

Both sides of Trudeau

Maybe the Conservatives are onto something with their campaign ads that say, "Justin Trudeau, not as advertised."

One has to wonder what in the world the Liberal leader was thinking, at 29, wearing an Aladdin costume, complete with brownface makeup, to a privateschool party some 18 years ago.

Or the fact that he's been found to have worn blackface on at least two other occasions.

It was wrong in the mid-19th century, when it was first popularized in traveling minstrel shows, and it was definitely not OK in 2001, nearly 40 years after the civil rights movement swept away Jim Crow in a tide of equal rights for all.

Once could be forgiven, perhaps, as a momentary lapse of judgement. Three times is a pattern, and one that proves hurtful to millions of Canadians, including more than 1.6 million Indigenous peoples from coast to coast to coast.

Trudeau is not a racist, at least not the yellow-vest wearing, burning crosstoting kind. But he does seem entirely oblivious to the damage wearing blackface and brownface does. He also doesn't seem to have really learned a lesson over the years, judging by his attire on his now infamous India trip.

Cultural appropriation is not OK by anyone, but especially not a prime minister. Canada expects better, Mr. Trudeau.

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Vote your conscience

To the editor: Canadians are intelligent people. They are highly educated.

So why is there a need for employers telling Canadians how to vote?

After a little research, let's let our consciences guide us and vote for what is right and good for our whole nation.

Remember that the vote is by secret ballot, so no matter what someone else has told us, when it comes to the

vote, we mark the X where we want it. No one else is there with us in the voting booth.

Let us vote for the person who most exemplifies honesty, goodness and integrity, righteousness and justice.

Let's get out and vote: each vote is so important.

Constance Gambriel, Lakeshore, Ont.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Fountain repairs put on hold

CITY HALL By Matt Vis – TB Source

Atwo-century-old fountain in Waverley Park will need repairs likely costing at least \$50,000 to again be operational, but a decision on its restoration isn't expected to happen until 2021.

The historic Hogarth Fountain, a centrepiece of the north side park, has not run in the last two years and will need rehabilitation to return to working order.

In a report presented to Thunder Bay city council on Monday night, city administration outlined three potential options to recommission the fountain, with projected price tags ranging from \$50,000 to \$450,000. Administration proposes bringing the matter to council during their 2021 budget deliberation process.

"It's a lovely piece of history for the city and I think we're all going to want to maintain this in some way, shape or form," Mayor Bill Mauro said. "The question would be how much money we're going to spend on it."

The two-century old fountain, which dates back to England in 1790, was installed in the park in 1965 after being donated to the city in the memory of MPP Major General Donald McDonald Hogarth.

An assessment of the fountain's condition found that while the concrete pool floor and walls have deteriorated, the exterior stone panelling has some damaged but appears to be in relatively good condition and the centre sculpture and base appear to be in generally good condition.

The least expensive option is restoring the existing fountain and mechanical systems, which would include repairing leaks in the concrete structure, installing a new access chamber and installing a backflow preventer.



OUT OF ORDER: The historic Hogarth Fountain has not been operational at Waverley Park for the past two years.

The middle tier option, which is estimated to cost between \$125,000 and \$150,000, includes connecting all drain and water line systems to a new equipment chamber, separating the irrigation and fountain water lines, as well as repairing the fountain structure.

The priciest option, projected at \$450,000, would include upgrading the fountain to a powered re-circulating water system with a new equipment chamber, rebuilding the fountain pool walls, added lighting features and the possible installation of a sanitary drain line for treated water.

"At this point, it looks like the structural condition of

the walls does support all three options, including Option A essentially being to just fix the top portion of the crack in the wall which would stop the leaks," said Cory Halvorsen, the city's manager of parks and open spaces.

The fountain has also been enclosed by a metal fence to protect it from vandalism.

Coun. Brian Hamilton (McKellar) asked whether there are plans to remove the barrier.

"Ideally we would be able to provide better access in a secure away. At this point, we don't have an alternate option determined," Halvorsen said.

Perspective Future generations deserve better

Greta Thunberg leading a climate-change revolution

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

t is often said that we must act on climate change to secure the planet for future generations.

Well guess what folks - those generations are already born, they're mad as hell (and afraid) and they won't take it anymore.

Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are taking to the streets - when all else fails you have to take matters into your own hands.

That's what Greta Thunberg did last year in response to her feeling of constant dread about the perils of climate change.

Ms Thunberg is a Swedish climate activist and the unlikely champion and spokesperson for millions around the world.

When she was eight years old she was frightened by global warming now at the ripe old age of 16 she is skeptical beyond her years.

Create your own hope

But what can you do when the guardians of your health, safety and security can't be trusted to safeguard your future?

This is especially challenging when you are only sixteen years old and you have no economic or political power.

Greta came up with a very simple plan - she skipped school every Friday to protest the "childish behavior" of world leaders.

She began last August as a quiet, humble, individual protestor holding a sign, "School Strike for Climate'

Instead of attending classes, she spent Fridays on strike outside the Swedish parliament, demanding government action on climate change.

She had no idea what would happen next - her lonely vigil prompted a worldwide response.

Greta Thunberg hit a nerve among young climate activists as her message was carried by social media to the far reaches of the realm.

Kids rely on responsible adults for protection but millions of young, well-informed children around the world feel let down and abandoned.

Greta's mission soon inspired other student activists around the world to play hooky from school on Fridays.

She created a wave of passionate concern among students who felt deeply distressed and disappointed by world leaders.

Striking students were admonished and urged back to class but Ms. Thunberg was quick to point out the irony.

"Since you adults don't give a damn about my future, I won't either."

Why should students prepare for a future that is uncertain, dangerous and life-threatening?

This is what happens when four million young people are forced to throw a worldwide climatic temper tantrum.

It culminated in a climate strike that swept the planet last Friday with 2,500 events scheduled in 160 countries on all seven continents.

Proudly, hundreds of Thunder Bay students were part of this global protest.

These kids aren't misbehaving they're scared and powerless and they really are the future generations at risk right now.

Greta Thunberg is soft spoken, meek and mild, but she delivers a clear, concise and very chilling message as she scolds world leaders.

Scary stuff

The generations she speaks for must be terrified - some even speculate about the possibility of human extinction.

The days of youth should be carefree and untroubled and kids growing up should not face an existential threat.

When innocent boys and girls are tucked in at night they should not have to worry about dying before they wake or before they are grown. Greta is harsh in her criticism.

"If world leaders choose to fail us, my generation will never forgive them.'

Adults say kids are the most valuable part of life and yet they ignore this threat to children.

We aren't securing the planet for the future generations - we're robbing them of their childhood and leaving them the nightmare of climate change.

What will our kids and grandkids be dreaming about tonight as they try to fall asleep?



WORLDWIDE EFFORT: Two-year-old Isabelle Cameron joined her older sister Elizabeth and mother Alina at a climate-change rally held in Thunder Bay last Friday on Red River Road.

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. Address them to: **Thunder Bay Source** 87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

Email: ldunick@dougallmedia.com Visit our website: www.tbnewswatch.com



The Royal Edward Hotel

he former Royal Ed-ward Hotel at the corner of May and George streets is familiar to most. The 105-room hotel was built through the enthusiasm of its planners and some 800 local share holders of the Fort William Hotels Ltd. Built at a cost of more than \$500,000, the endeavour opened slightly more than a year after financing had begun. It was named in honour of the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VIII.



LOCALNEWS

Neskantaga evacuees start to return back home

THUNDER BAY By TB Source staff

A bout 200 residents of Neskantaga First Nation living in Thunder Bay for the back to their home community. The first flight was scheduled for late this morning.

According to a statement issued by Nishnawbe Aski Nation on behalf of Neskantaga, laboratory tests on water sampled on Sept. 18 and 19 from various locations in Neskantaga's distribution system showed the water quality is "acceptable."

"All required conditions have been met to guarantee that the drinking water supply is of an acceptable microbiological quality," the statement said.

INSPECTION

past week after the leadership declared a

state of emergency are starting the journey

Inspection of MNRF-Approved Prescribed Burn Plan for Slash Pile Burning - Black Spruce and Dog River-Matawin Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning that will be carried out in the **Black Spruce and Dog River-Matawin Forests** (see map).

As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNRF's *Prescribed Burn Manual.* The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between **October 21, 2019** and **February 15, 2020.**

The approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning, including specific locations and maps, is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the office of Resolute FP Canada Inc. and on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans 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 prescribed burn plan. For more information or to discuss the prescribed burn plan, please contact:

BLACK SPRUCE AND DOG RIVER-MATAWIN FORESTS

Sean Horan

Valley Fire Protection Services 811 Victoria Avenue East Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1B2 tel: 807-475-3330

Black Spruce Forest

Bertha Strickland, R.P.F. 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



John Lawson

Resolute FP Canada Inc. 2001 Neebing Avenue Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3 tel: 807-475-2440

Dog River-Matawin Forest Peter Wiltsey, R.P.F.

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





TIED TO HISTORY: The 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion Canadian Expeditonary Force has been memorialized at Current River Park.

Monument hounours war victims

MILITARY By Michael Charlebols – TB Source

An important chapter in Thunder Bay's military history has now been engraved in stone.

A new monument honouring the 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force was unveiled at Current River Park on Saturday.

The monument shows the official fatal casualty list for 743 soldiers in the batallion who died during the First World War.

Lt. Col. David Ratz, commanding officer of Lake Superior Scottish Regiment, said honouring the soldiers has been a long time coming.

"This has been a long build-up to fill this void in our military commemoration and rememberance," Ratz said.

"It's been over 100 years since these men have died, it's about time they have been recognized."

The batallion was raised in Northwestern Ontario through 1915, and went on to fight in most of the major battles in the First World War including the Battle of Somme, Passchendaele, and Vimy Ridge.

During the war, the batallion were reinforced so often that 4,100 officers had passed through by the end of the war. They were awarded 18 battle honours, and 380 personal awards, including one Victoria Cross.

Logistically speaking, the monument was a two-year process, and relied on public donations.

"It's been a community effort in that regard. It's the senior people, the retired people from the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment who've helped build this monument," Ratz said.

During the ceremony, military members welcomed Lt.Gen. Omer Lavoie, who serves as the deputy commander of NATO's Allied Joint Forces Command in Naples, Italy.

Lavoie joined the Canadian Forces in 1983 as a private soldier in the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment.

"It's an extraordinary privilige and honour," he said.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams it would come full circle and I would get this invitation to come to this dedication, especially being posted half way across the world and coming back to where I started 37 years ago."

Thursday, September 26,

LOCALNEWS



HOME SWEET HOME: This 15,000 square-foot residence was designated as the city's first heritage home in 1984.

Murphy mansion hits 100

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebois - TB Source

One of Thunder Bay's most remarkable residences is turning 100.

The James Murphy residence, located on the city's south side on Selkirk Street, commemorated the occasion last Thursday.

On the prestigious front lawn of the mansion, property owner Bruno Valente reflected on his decision to purchase the building in 1986.

"I'm not sure if I knew exactly what I was taking over," he said. "It was really challenging to keep that beauty.

The three-and-a-half storey home was completed in 1919 after the First World War.

The building is named after James Murphy, the first owner of the home, who is known for establishing a local coal company, serving as president of the Superior Printing Co., and publisher of the Fort William Daily Times Journal. He was elected as the first mayor of the City of Fort William in 1907.

"He was a major community developer for this side

of town," said Andrew Cotter, chair of Thunder Heritage Advisory Committee.

His imprint beyond the house includes the Murphy block on Simpson Street, and remnants of the coal dock in the East End, and his former residence.

The 15,000 square-foot building has an eclectic architectural style with characteristics reminiscent of Late English Gothic and Chateau. Parapet gable walls, terra-cotta roof tiles, Simpson Island stone, and corbelled brickwork are all in the home's make-up.

Designated as the city's first residential home with heritage status in 1984, Cotter says there aren't many homes of this age that are still in pristine condition. He credits Valente for the up-keep he's provided to

keep the home in spectacular shape.

"A lot of people don't realize Thunder Bay has a home like this, they used the best material in the world at that time," Valente said.

"It's challenging, it's a lot of work, and expensive to maintain," Valente said. "That's why I keep the traffic down... I visited the home with my parents and wife years ago, and knew from that moment I was going to buy it.'

Police say vehicle approached boy

CRIME By Leith Dunick - TB Source

City police want the public's help to track down suspi-cious vehicle after a 10-year-old boy was approached last Friday at about 8:30 p.m. by a man and his female passenger.

Police, in a release issued on Monday, say the boy was playing hockey in a driveway on Cuthbertson Place when the vehicle in question drove toward him eastbound from Selkirk Streeet South.

The female passneger, who was in the backseat, rolled down the window and began asking the boy personal details.

At that point, the boy retreated toward his home. The vehicle fled the scene and was last spotted travelling westward before heading north onto a laneway between two houses on the north side of Cuthbertson at the corner of Selkirk.

It was dark at the time of the alleged incident, but the boy believes the car may have been off-white, yellow or beige.

The female passenger was described as Caucasian and possibly in her 20s. He had on a black hat or toque and a beige sweater.

The male driver had darker skin, a thin build and was possibly in his 20s. He had on a grey baseball cap and a large sweater at the time of the incident.





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Save a Heart raffle back

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

After taking the past couple of years off, the Save a Heart Car Raffle is back.

Glenn Craig, president and CEO of the Thunder Bay Health Sciences Foundation, said over the years the draw has helped raise about \$200,000. With the community on the hook for about \$13 million of the expected \$60-million cost to bring cardiac surgery to the city, the money is just as important, if not more important, than it ever was.

"Who doesn't want to start the new year off with a brand new car in the driveway? It's really a great prize," Craig said.

The top prize in this year's Save a Heart Car Raffle is a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross, valued at more than \$35,000.

Second prize is a trip for two to anywhere that Porter Airlines flies, while the third-place prize is a Panasonic entertainment package, donated by the Power Centre.

The impact – and support – of the draw is phenomenal, Craig said.

"Every draw we seem to sell more and more tickets. We've probably raised close to \$200,000 over the years with these draws and that money has gone in to buy the equipment for our cardiovascular program," Craig said,



GIVEAWAY: Thunder Bay Mitsubishi's Jeff Witiluk is happy to help the cardiac program.

"making sure that we have the right tools to put in the hands of our professionals to take care of our family and our friends."

The vehicle was being donated by Thunder

Bay Mitsubishi.

Jeff Witiluk, the general manager at the dealership, said they decided to bring back the Save a Heart Car Raffle for a number of reasons, the most important of which was a personal connection to cardiac care.

"This is a big thing for us. My dad had to have open heart surgery and we had to go away to Ottawa a few years ago. We went down for a few days and we weren't able to stay with him for the whole time or go visit him every day," Witiluk said.

"We think it's something that's important to have in the city of Thunder Bay."

Having his father at home before, during and after surgery would have lifted a heavy weight off the entire family, he added.

"It would have been a huge relief," Witiluk said. "Traveling alone is stressful, let alone traveling to go see someone who is kind of fighting for their life. Having (cardiac surgery) in the city of Thunder Bay would be an amazing thing."

Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50 and are available at Thunder Bay Mitsubishi, Balmoral Park Acura, the hospital foundation donation centre, J&J Sports, the Porter Airlines counter at the Thunder Bay International Airport and the Power Centre. The draw is on Jan. 9.

Toys for Tots Ride an ongoing tradition

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebols –TB Source

t's never too early to think about Christmas. Last Saturday, the 36th annual Toys for Tots motorcycle was held to raise money and gift donations for families in the area.

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents are in need of a helping hand on Christmas.

Maj. Lori Mitchell, executive director of the Salvation Army, says it's the event that kicks off the Christmas season for the organization. "It's definitely a Christmas event even

though it's in December," she said. The donations are distributed to The

Salvation Army Christmas Toy Campaign. The charity hosts a dinner event in December where recipients of the program can pick out toys for their children.

The event is organized in conjunction with biker groups who make monetary and toy donations as they ride across the city.

They teamed up to donate over 100 toys. "People see guys in leather on Harley-Davidson's and have a certain image in their mind. So to see them coming together is very heartwarming," Mitchell said.

"All the riders I know are an altruistic bunch



SANTA IN STYLE: Michael Abbott rides through town after the Toys for Tots Ride last Saturday.

of people, and we want to go out and have fun with other bikers, and support the community," said Michael Abbott.

Abbott is part of the 'biker gang' Widow's Sons, an international motorcycle organization that requires all members to be master masons.

He donned a red Santa outfit underneath his black leather biker jacket, and rode around town with a stocking of toys on his back. He says he's already in the spirit of giving.

"We support almost everything we can with kids. In this case, everybody wants to have a special Christmas."

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Crane's gone

have written about a pair of Sandhill cranes that suddenly appeared on our property about four or five years ago. They would nest somewhere around the beaver ponds and venture into our southern paddocks to forage.

At first, we would see the pair and then after a couple of weeks only one. Using the binoculars I could determine when it was the male and when it was the female poking for whatever they eat – grubs, frogs, and vegetative stuff. Then we would see an addition to this duo as a small, orange fuzzball would be accompanying the adults. Sometimes it was two such "colts" as the young cranes are called. Unfortunately, before the summer was over, only one colt would grow into adulthood probably as its sibling had been snatched by a predator. Last summer neither colt survived. This summer one of them grew successfully to wing its way south with its parents when the time came for them to depart.

Both this summer and last, the cranes got brave and eventually were grazing around Casa Jones and even the dad crane pecking at my



basement at ground level. I was thrilled when the cranes returned each spring. Daily I looked for them. They have the strangest call, unmistakeable. Often, I would hear them calling early in the morning or see

library window in our

them midday suddenly call and take off to fly back to their nesting area, those huge wings slowly flapping.

One early September, I happened to be driving along Monteith Road in the Slate River Valley and As I approached Boundary Drive, I saw at least a hundred cranes in a field. I learned that they come together just prior to taking off for their winter home down in Florida or Texas. What a sight! Groups of four and five would take off like they wee squadrons of Lancaster bombers. I fantasized filming them and then putting the sound track of said bombers as they took off. Didn't do it but I reckoned that it would make an interesting film.

We belong to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Our membership includes a monthly magazine with articles of interest although mainly for crop-growing, cattle-raising farmers. But when the latest issue arrived, I was shocked to learn that Sandhill cranes are not loved by farmers. The article reported that the cranes absolutely wreck farmers' fields. They don't just nibble at the tops of grain, they pull the entire plants out of the ground. A flock of ten or more cranes can destroy an entire field of corn or barley, wheat, or oats.

A week ago I was at the feed store and I was chatting with the manager, Christine, about wanting to see the gathering of the cranes in the fields at the corner of Monteith and Boundary Drive, but when I drove there, I observed that the fields were still covered in corn and wheat.

They had not yet been harvested. I was told that everything is late this year and that the rain we've been receiving has prevented the farmers from harvesting.

Understandable, they don't want to wait too long or the crops will spoil. At any rate, when I mentioned my desire to see the crane gathering, Christine echoed what I had read in the *Better Farming* magazine: Sandhill cranes are a bane to farmers.

When I mentioned I loved watching our pair return each spring and then observe their young grow, she wondered if they wreck my fields. I told her that we aren't growing any crops in our horse paddocks so we don't see any evidence of the birds' destructive pecking. I guess that we are lucky that way and thus knew not the cranes' nastier side. They are a protected species in Ontario and can't be hunted, unlike in Texas where they are considered to be ribeye-in-the-sky. Christine did say that she heard that they don't taste all that great.

So, the cranes are gone. We see the occasional 'vee' of geese honking overhead heading south. A pileated woodpecker is making a lot of noise in the northeast of our property; don't know why. The ravens are a constant here but then we like them. They, too, are not farmers' favourites if they peck out the eyes of young sheep or calves that they have known to do. Fortunately, our ravens aren't near any such livestock. And our cranes aren't near any crop fields. So, as long as they stick around our place and don't venture to cause any farmer grief, they are welcome.



TBLife

TOXIC?: This is what a blue-green algae looks like.

Blue-green algae found

GORHAM TOWNSHIP By TB Source staff

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit says routine water test earlier this month showed the presence of bluegreen algae at Surprise Lake.

The tests, conducted on Sept. 17, were done by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, which is conducting toxin samples on the water sample.

Until the results are known, the health

unit reminds the public that when bluegreen algae blooms are present, and for about two weeks after they dissipate, it's wise to avoid the water as a precaution and not swim in it, drink it or use it for household purposes.

The public is also reminded to keep pets away from the water, because their smaller size makes them more vulnerable to potential toxins.

Blue-green algae are microscopic organisms that are naturally present in lakes and streams.



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Female riders bring world relay to town

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

CAustralia, has been travelling across the globe on two wheels and when she rolled into Thunder Bay with dozens of fellow riders, she was reminded that not only has it been a fantastic way to see the world, it's also about taking the sense of freedom that comes with riding and sharing it with all women.

"It's a fantastic way to meet people and actually live with the people, meeting the biker girls and living in their homes and meet all the different people," she said.

"For me it's more about the women empowerment, women are meeting other women. Literally now we can go anywhere in the world and find a woman to give us accommodation. It is just opening so many doors and it has



MOTORS RUNNING: Female motorcyclists take part in the Women Riders World Relay.

just empowered women to step up and arrange things." Tindall Edeling was one of 35 women

s one of 35 women Fox Lookout Th way east as part

motorcyclists who stopped at the Terry Fox Lookout Thursday morning on the way east as part of the Canadian leg of the Women Riders World Relay.

The relay began in Scotland in February and has since travelled through Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Canadian leg began in Vancouver earlier this summer.

The idea was developed by Hailey Bell in the U.K., who wanted to see if a baton could be passed around the world entirely by women riders. She put out the call on social media and has more than 19,000 women following her Facebook group.

There are more than 250 riders participating in the Canadian portion of the relay and the 35 riders who stopped in Thunder Bay will continue on to Wawa. Julie Doughty of Thunder Bay and who is helping to organize the Canadian portion of the relay, said more and more women are riding motorcycles and its time the industry takes notice.

"Women are now a huge piece of the market in the motor industry," she said.

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"We wanted to highlight that, our determination. We are strong women and we want to show the market that we need clothes that fit and we need bike parts that adjust to our size."

Ashley Smit of the Netherlands participated in the Dutch relay and she decided to continue on for a portion of the Canadian leg.

"This is part of showing the world that it is uniting women all over the globe, so I thought why not fly out to Canada and join the Canadian girls because it's a wonderful country," she said.

"It's nice to make a statement, especially out to the companies that make clothing for us. It's really hard to find anything that fits well and is not pink," Smit continued. "We are a big group. It's hard to believe that still people think it's just men riding. But there are women all over the globe as you can see like this, women do ride and do care and want to wear protection."

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IN THE bay arts entertainment culture



OH YEAH!: Rocket Raccoon, from the Guardians of the Galaxy series, made an appearance last Sunday at this year's ThunderCon event.

ThunderCon keeps growing

Pop culture event featured plenty of television villains on this year's guest list

THUNDER BAY By Michael Charlebols – TB Source

Winter is coming... and while winters are harsh beyond the walls, they may be even worse in Thunder Bay.

So it's a good thing that Richard Brake, the actor who played the Night King on HBO's award-winning *Game of Thrones*, paid a visit to town on a warm September weekend.

"They invited me, and I said 'Definitely.' I've never been to this part of the world before. And the people here are so nice," he said.

Whether out of fear, admiration, or genuine kindness, fans welcomed one of TV's most notrious villains as the headline guest of this year's ThunderCon.

In its fifth year, ThunderCon moved venues from the Valhalla Inn to the

Canadian Lakehead Exhibition grounds ag

due to the events growing popularity. Fans took the opportunity to "geek out" and visit vendors in Diagon Alley to add to their outfit, play board and card games, take part in a cosplay contest,

video game demos, virtual reality, and scavenger hunts. From the world of *Star Trek*, a group of Klingons took the time

to reflect on the growth of the event. "We started it off with a Monday event just to test the

Monday event just to test the waters, and it's really grown by leaps and bounds," said one man who is part of the Klingon Assault Group.

Gillian Jiez, dressed as Enchantress from the movie *Suicide*

Squad, says the growth has been encour-

rounds aging. tv. "It's definitely getting

"It's definitely getting bigger... you see cosplayers and celebrity guests now, and people take notice. You need some time for it to continue to build up," she said.

Organizer Toller Madsen says he expect the total of attendees to climb to over 3,000 people.

If the Night King's appraisal of the event is any indication, he'll be back.

"This one seems to be just absolutely booming, there was a line out the door yesterday to get tickets. The cosplay is some of the best I've seen," Brake said.

"Us actors talk amongst ourselves and say 'What was such and such place like...' I will most

definitely be saying this is ones of the best cons I've been to."



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"This one seems to be just absolutely booming..." Richard Brake



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IN THE **bay**



BACK IN TOWN: Tommy Chong (left) and Cheech Marin last peformed in Thunder Bay in 2013.

Cheech & Chong lead weekly Top 5

Saturday

Beatles vs. Stones (Thunder Bay Community Auditorium): Growing up in the 1960s, you were either in love with the Fab Four or enthralled with the Glimmer Twins. John and Paul, Mick and Keith, there's never been a more fierce rivalry in the music business – other than maybe Tupac and Biggie, but that's a different story. The show's producers call it the ultimate tribute show to the two bands that led the British Invasion and whose music still resonates more than 50 years later.

Saturday

Death Becomes Her Halloween Drag Show: Billed as the ultimate Halloween Spooktacular, organizers say get ready to trick and get your treat as they bring Thunder Bay a night of 'ooky, spooky, kooky and creepy drag.' The show features a fiercely frightening cast of Fantasy Haus scream queens and kings, a few ghastly guest and a hauntingly hilarious hostess, Ms. Molly Poppinz. The show runs from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Black Pirates Pub and is open to anyone 19 and older.

Sunday

In Conversation: Michael Christie (Chapters): Award-winning local author Michael Christie will spend an hour discussing his latest book, *Greenwood*, which has been longlisted for a prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize. Christie is also the author of *If I Fall*, *If I Die* and *The Beggar's Garden*, a collection of stories. Time: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday

Cheech & Chong: Marijuana's legal in Canada and the world's two biggest stoners are back in town as part of their O Cannabis Tour. The duo rose to fame in the 1970s and 1980s with such classic comedies as *Up in Smoke, Cheech and Chong's Next Movie, Nice Dreams* and *Still Smokin*'. The comedians parted ways in the '80s, Cheech Marin going on to star in TV shows like *Nash Bridges,* Chong taking his stoner character to *That '70s Show*, but they've reunited and bringing back their classic bits, like Basketball Jones, to the Auditorium stage.

Sunday

The Fall Outdoors and Gun Show: If you're an outdoor enthusiast, the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition is the place to be on Sunday. It's your chance to buy, sell or trade firearms and ammunition, reloading supplies and accessories, knives and other outdoor equipment, fishing gear, boats and motors and recreation vehicles. Tickets are \$5 for adults and children 12 and under are free. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Located in the Coliseum Building.

IN THE **bay**

Binge watching can be harmful to health

A new season of television has begun. It's like Christmas in September. You get to throw away the repeats you've practically memorized by now and play with new episodes, new stars and new shows.

But network television isn't the only place launching new seasons. It's also happening online but in a different way.

Traditional network television introduces new episodes one week at a time. And for some, that's not good enough. "I don't want to have to wait a week to see what happens next. I don't believe in delayed gratification. I have no self-control and I want everything now!"

And that means binge-watching an entire season at once – which is certainly your prerogative if you subscribe to the numerous digital platforms. But let's look at this objectively.

Binge watching is, according to



most medical professionals, not a healthy activity. Or inactivity, so to speak. And doing so regularly can lead to a risk of heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

Sitting also curves the spine into a C-shape.

Hours in this position can cause muscles to cramp and squish organs. (Hint: that's not good.) It also diminishes lung capacity by one third.

Binge-watchers tend to exercise less



SITTING STILL: Watching all of Stranger Things at once can be hazardous.

and over-eat. They often have trouble sleeping afterward because the blue

light from televisions or monitors inhibits the natural release of melatonin, a hormone that helps people fall asleep.

So weekly television episodes – which cannot be binged unless you've PVR'd them for several weeks and are just now catching up – are automatically a healthier option.

But let's go back to the point about decreased lung capacity. That means less oxygen to your brain and less mental focus. And television already has a reputation for turning people into mental zombies.

And if your brain isn't working well, how much are you going to remember of the show you've been viewing for several hours? It becomes like eating an entire bag of potato chips without realizing it.

Will you remember names? Details? Will you be able to recite favourite lines like an episode of *Friends*? Where's the fun in watching if it doesn't stick with you for decades? Binge-watching is also found to be related to a lack of socialization. Especially when you have to avoid everyone else for fear of hearing or sharing spoilers from the current season of *The Walking Dead*.

When there's an entire week or two between episodes, there's time to discuss it ad nauseam with co-workers around that infamous watercooler. Or complain about it on social media.

I want to be able to discuss an episode of *Evil* that freaked me out or relive a Stumptown storyline with my gal-pals.

And with the myriad of programs to explore on TV right now, it's a good thing it's only one episode per week. No one has time to binge-watch entire seasons of the over 40 new and returning shows on our local stations.

As it is, I'll be curving my spine and decreasing my lung capacity just keeping up with premiere week.

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Sports news information coverage

Vikings open on winning note

FOOTBALL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

ast season didn't end the way the Hammarskjold Vikings had hoped it would.

But a loss to the St. Ignatius Falcons in the high school football senior final left the players and coaches looking for answers.

If Friday's season opener at Fort William Stadium was any indication, they found them.

Quarterback Zack Kuzik ran one in from 15 yards out and connected with receiver Ethan Porter on a pair of touchdown throws and the Vikings coasted to an easy Game 1 triumph, crushing the St. Patrick Saints 48-0.

Kuzik said there's no question he wanted to let the rest of the SSSAA circuit know that Hammarskjold means business this fall.

"We came into Week 1 thinking everyone is thinking, 'Hey, two years in a row you guys can't win the final.' This was definitely a huge statement, saying we're here and we're going to punch you in the mouth all the way to the finals," Kuzik said.

Porter, who leapt into the air late in the first to grab a six-yard score, added his second touchdown of the day late in the second, a 10-yard toss from Kuzik, set up by a phenomenal 77-yard run by Michael Goegan.

Goegan, who looked like he was going to score himself, was hauled down by St. Patrick's Jadyn Young.

"We had good blocking all around," said Porter. "Everyone was making good plays."

If the Vikings offence was firing on all cylinders, so too was the defence.

The Saints, who opened with a pair of Colin Wiseman incompletions, mixed the run and pass game well, but just couldn't penetrate deep enough into the Hammarskjold side of the field.

With the game already out of reach, Wiseman's biggest mistake cost the Saints another six points in the third, Justin Pucci snagging the attempted pass



NOTHING SWEATER: St. Patrick's Cam Monty (right) hauls down Hammarskjold's Michael Goegan last Friday.

the Hammarskjold lead to 38-0.

Justin Nadon, with an 11-yard scamper, and Ryan Laukka, who hit from 18 yards out in the fourth, also had scoring majors for the Vikings.

Hammarskjold coach Mike Judge said his troops were just glad to be playing an a meaningful opponent.

"We did get an exhibition game up in Winnipeg, but it's not the same as when you get a real game and go out their firing on all cylinders," Judge said. "The kids were eager."

As well as the offence played, he was equally happy with the team's play without the ball.

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"There's no doubt the defence is the strength of this team," Judge said. "We're big up front and that just sets the tone for us every game. That front eight for us are just so important.'

St. Ignatius 40, Westgate 19: Jordan Maki connected with receiver Trent Savard for touchdowns on throws of 46, 13 and 12 yards to lead the defending champion Falcons to the win. Brendan Hall had three touchdowns on the ground for the Tigers.

out of mid-air and darting to the goal line to extend

Local sports scene ready to start ramping up

t's been a relaxing few weeks since the Border Cats season came to an end in mid-August, but this weekend the local sports scene wraps up in a big way.

In addition to Week 2 of the high school football season on Thursday and Friday, the Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball team hits the court on Friday and Saturday night for a pair of games against an always tough Calgary team seeking revenge for a tournament loss last Christmas.

This will be a new-look Thunderwolves team. Gone are Leashja Grant, the two-time reigning OUA most valuable player, and Karissa Kajorinne.

Do I think the Wolves will compete for an OUA championship this season? Probably not. But I still think they're going to be a fun team to watch.



Second-year guard Sofia Lluch has never met a no-look pass she doesn't like and brings back a little international experience garnered this summer.

Fellow guard Tiffany Reynolds is the key.

Easily the best defender on the team, if she can add a little more offence to her game, she might be able to draw attention from sharp-shooter Nikki Ylagan, in my opinion the best three-point shooter in the OUA.

If women's basketball isn't enough, local sports fans can also check out the latest edition of the Lakehead Thunderwolves hockey team, which hits the ice on Friday and Saturday night, albeit a week late at the under repair Fort William Gardens.

The Wolves finished 12-15-1 last season and missed the playoffs by a point.

Coach Andrew Wilkins has had a busy recruiting off-season.

There's nine new faces on the roster to start 2019-20, but the one I'm most interested in seeing how he adjusts to life in the OUA is former Thunder Bay North Stars defenceman Kyle Auger.

The local product tied Keighan Gerrie atop the SIJHL scoring parade last season with 102 points and it will be interesting to see just how Wilkins employs him at the university level.

Auger was more like a fourth forward for the Bill Salonen Cup champion North Stars last season, but will probably be asked to pay a little more attention to the defensive end with the Thunderwolves.

Speaking of the Stars, they kicked off their championship bid last weekend with a pair of wins over the Wisconsin Lumberjacks.

But their expansion hosts were no pushover, taking the Stars to overtime in their first meeting and erasing a threegoal deficit in the second before going on to lose 6-3 on three unanswered goals in the third.

Leith Dunick has covered the local sports scene since 2002. Follow him on Twitter at @LeithDunick.

Champion Saints sink Vikings

FOOTBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Moments after the defending champion St. Patrick Saints secured a 38-0 win in their junior high school football opener, Manerplaw Winning had cautionary words of his advice for his teammates.

"It's only one game," the team's star running back said.

For a team with a target on its back, it's good advice. Titles aren't won in September, but messages can certainly be sent.

The Hammarskjold Vikings got one loud and clear on Thursday afternoon at Fort William Stadium, turning the ball over four times, including a 65-yard pick-six by Saints defensive end Ryder Bodnar, who leapt into the air to snag a Jake Kuzik pass and didn't stop running until he'd crossed the goal line.

Winning, who scored from five yards out after the first Vikings turnover gave the Saints the ball on the Hammarskjold 20, and dashed home with another score from 29 yards out in the second quarter to up their lead to 28-0, said the win is something to build on.

"One game doesn't define a championship," the Grade 10 student said.

"We've got to take it one game at a time. We can't get too caught up on this win, so tomorrow we'll reset and get ready for Westgate."

Winning spent part of his summer in Kamloops, B.C. playing at the western nationals as part of Team Manitoba, and looked every bit the star he showed himself to be last year, leading the Saints to a 5-1 regular-season record.

"I've been playing all summer since Kamloops, so it was fun getting back into it. I'm in Grade 10 now, so I have to lead by example, so I just have to show up every game."

After forcing the Vikings to take a knee in their end zone for a first quarter safety to take an 8-0 lead, the Vikings scored on the ensuing drive, quarterback Iene Auger moving the pile from one yard out across the goal line.



BIG TACKLE: Hammarskjold's Dylan Halls is hauled down by a pair of St. Patrick defenders last Thursday.

The Saints stormed deep into the red zone thanks to a 32-yard run by Winning, who also hooked up with Auger for a nine-yard catch-and-run that left the with a goal-to-go from the one.

Bodnar's interception came on the Vikings ensuing drive, as he scampered all but untouched down the field for the score.

"That pick, I just read it in my zone. There was great blocking by my team," he said, noting his other defensive teammates also had great games.

"Paul Lecuyer played fantastic today with a sack and seven tackles. It was perfect defence today."

Kiran MacKenzie scored the Saints final touchdown of the day, providing the lion's share of the offence before scoring from one yard out, having delivered the ball 42 yards on two rushes to deliver the ball to the Hammarskjold goal line.

St. Patrick coach Dave Battistel called it a great all round effort and a great start to the 2019 junior season.

"The guys came out ready to play. I was really impressed with their effort. Kudos to Hammarskjold for playing a great game. I don't think the score was indicative of what was going on," he said.

St. Ignatius 42, Westgate 14: Tyler Robertson had scoring runs of 80, 52 and 20 yards to lead the Falcons to an opening day win.

Steed back to lead Cats

BASEBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Souvce

familiar face is back as manager of the Thunder Bay Border Cats.

Mike Steed, who guided the Northwoods League team in 2010 and 2011, also serving as pitching coach in 2009, has agreed to a three-year deal to manage the ballclub.

The Beamsville, Ont. native has served most recently with the Ontario Blue Jays program in a variety of capacities.

Steed replaces Eric Vasquez, who spent one year as the



one year as the Border Cats skipper. Vasquez's squad finished 24-47 in 2019, the secondworst record in the league.

Steed's teams finished a combined 60-78 over two seasons.

"Mike has tremendous ties and connections throughout the college game in the United States and also has a solid recruiting list of Canadian talent through his work with the Ontario Blue Jays program and his connections with Baseball Canada," Valente said.

Steed said he leapt at the opportunity to return to Port Arthur Stadium.

"After I received the call ... with the commitment from the local ownership group and upgrades to the organization, myself and family wanted to jump on board. Having coached and managed in the NWL prior made the decision that much easier. Not only because of the Border Cat organization and people of Thunder Bay, but the quality of the league as a whole and the organizations that play in it," Steed said.





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