

City tests out tabulators ahead of election /2





Magnus presents Rocky Horror Picture Show /23



Thunder Con, The Hunger join forces this year /22

Murder suspects arrested in 2016 death

Trio charged in Justin Duncan's homicide and a fourth suspect is still at large, according to Thunder Bay Police. /3

MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES: Justin Duncan disappeared in 2016 and police believe he was killed.



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New voting era set to begin

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Matt Vis – TB Source

The first ballots in this year's municipal election will be cast in less than a week. Advance polls for the Thunder Bay municipal election began on Tuesday, with two days scheduled at the West Thunder Community Centre followed by two days at the 55 Plus Centre on Oct. 11 and Oct.12.

Online and telephone voting, new options introduced for this election, opened Tuesday and will be available continuously for 24 hours a day until polls close at 8 p.m. on Oct. 22.

City clerk John Hannam last Thursday provided candidates with a demonstration of the tabulator machines that will be counting ballots during the election.

The electronic counting enhances the accuracy of the results compared to hand counting, Hannam said.

"People make mistakes and machines don't. We can run the ballots through 100 times and they'll give us the same result every time. I could give three people three piles of ballots and I guarantee you they'll come up with different counts," Hannam said.

"Tabulated votes and online votes are far more accurate as well as quicker."

There have been no reported vote discrepancies since the city switched to tabulators from manual counting, Hannam added.

After marking their ballot, voters will present their concealed ballot to an election worker, who will insert it into the tabulator. The tabulator will accept the ballot or notify the worker if the choices can't be read, there are too many candidates selected in a FthTextTex

race or if the ballot has been left blank.

"Tabulated

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online votes

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quicker."

JOHN HANNAM

During the previous election, voters who filled a ballot with fewer than five at-large candidates were told by election workers they did not pick a full slate. Some voters who did that intentionally were not appreciative of that message.

"We got lots of feedback from voters last time that they didn't need to be reminded that they undervoted. They did so deliberately," Hannam said.

"It's a feature that is available to us with the devices but usually it's turned off. We used it last (time) and people were upset by it so we've responded and we're not advising if they under-voted. If they only vote for two candidates at-large or they don't vote for a ward candidate or school board, we won't be alerting them to that fact. It's their choice."

Hannam said showing the candidates the process of how ballots will be cast and answering any questions allows them to know what's happening.

"It's so they have a good understanding of what it is we're doing with the polls and hopefully have confidence in the way the election is being managed," Hannam said. "If needed they can answer questions of voters as to what they can expect when they come to the polls."



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LOCALNEWS

Police arrest three for Duncan murder

Three Ottawa men charged with first degree murder, a fourth is still at large; police still seek information about location of body

THUNDER BAY By Matt Vis - TB Source

Three people have been charged with killing Justin Duncan, nearly two years after the 23-year-old Ottawa man had been last seen.

Thunder Bay police on Thursday announced that three Ottawa men are in custody on murder charges while a fourth has an outstanding nationwide warrant, a breakthrough in what they described as a lengthy, multi-jurisdictional investigation.

Jonathan Ranger, Noel Perez and Emrah Ahmeti – all from Ottawa – have each been charged with firstdegree murder. A Canada-wide arrest warrant has been issued for Muhamed Alhasi, a 28-year-old Ottawa man, who is also charged with first degree murder.

Duncan had been last seen in the area of the Limbrick Street housing complex during the early morning hours of Nov. 22, 2016. Police released surveillance footage that showed at least six people that investigators had said they believed to be involved or knew what happened.

Known criminal activity

Investigators had said Duncan was known to have been involved in criminal activity in both Thunder Bay and Ottawa and was a member of a gang they referred to as the Ottawa crew, though it was not known whether that was directly tied to his disappearance.

In March 2017, police confirmed they were investigating Duncan's disappearance as a homicide and had conducted a ground search in the Fort William First Nation area.

In the Thursday announcement, police said the investigation also received support from the Anishinabek Police Service as well as members of the RCMP and Winnipeg Police Service.

Previous arrest

The 35-year-old Ranger had been previously arrested in Thunder Bay in January 2017 on an outstanding Ottawa homicide warrant. He appeared in court last Thursday morning and remains in custody.

The 22-year-old Perez and 22-year-old Ahmeti appeared in court last Friday.

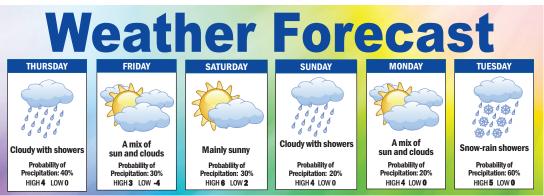
Police said the investigation remains ongoing as they seek information about the location of Duncan's remains.



BODY NOT RECOVERED: The location of the remains of Justin Duncan is still unknown.



IN CUSTODY: Jonathan Ranger is one of three suspects charged in the death of Justin Duncan.



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Fire service welcomes 7 new members

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Before officially welcoming the newest members to the service, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue chief, John Hay, first thanked the family members of the recruits and then apologized to them.

"The apology is for the missed birthdays, the missed holidays, school events, Christmas, New Years, all those things that are missed because of shift work," he said.

Despite those soon to be missed days, there was nothing but pride from the family members at a graduation ceremony held on Saturday to welcome seven new recruits to Thunder Bay Fire Rescue

Kari Rikkonen, this year's class valedictorian, said he was honoured to speak on behalf of his fellow recruits and he said there could not have been a better group of firefighters with which to endure the 14-week training program at



READY TO SERVE: The city's newest firefighters from right to left: Kari Rikkonen, Van Bailey, Dale Watson, Jay Gilbert, Aaron Blake, Justin Grochowski, Eric Breukelman.

the Thunder Bay Fire Rescue Training Centre.

"It takes a lot of work, a lot of passion and a lot of hours in order to get on with the fire department," he said. "It takes years of certifications and practice to get on and once you get on, that's not when the work stops either."

Rikkonen believes he and his fellow recruits are up to the challenge. He added that he has wanted to be a firefighter for many years and for a number of different

"The number one reason I wanted to be a firefighter is to help people of our community and to give back to a community that has provided me so much," he said. "And accepting the dynamic challenges that come with the job.'

What sets Thunder Bay Fire Rescue apart from most fire departments across Canada is fire crews are tasked with responding to a number of different emergencies.

"We are a small city and we have so many things to respond to as far as highangle rescue on a mountain to water rescues on Lake Superior, so the training allowed us to open up our mind to the different calls we would be responding to," Rikkonen said.

Several long-serving members of the fire service were also recognized during the ceremony on Saturday. Johnny Doughty, who retired last February, received his Long-Term Service Award

for 30 years and he said from the time he started with the service to now seeing the new recruits welcomed, a lot has changed in firefighting.

"Because of our affiliation with the police and the paramedics, we do see a lot of things that I didn't at the beginning of my career," Doughty said. "They are going to see some things that are going to disturb them. We have everything in place to make sure they are looked after. And to take advantage of it, talk to each other, stay connected with each other, and don't internalize anything you've seen that would bother you."

And that is why Hay thanked the families of the new recruits.

"We've recognized that even though there is a great family in Thunder Bay Fire Rescue and a great family at each hall, the support of their families in some of the things they are required to do and see and have to deal with is huge," Hay said. "I can't emphasize enough that their family is part of our family."

DANONE





FUNDING EXPECTED: Hogarth Riverview Manor, a St. Joseph's Care Group long-term care home, has had an unused wing serve as a transitional care unit to alleviate overcapacity at the regional hospital.

Health care funding

Hosptial and Hogarth listed by province as facilities targeted for additional spending

HEALTH CARE By Matt Vis - TB Source

Approvincial funding announcement touted to ease hospital gridlock appears to ensure the continuation of a transitional care unit for hospital patients at Hogarth Riverview Manor.

Premier Doug Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott on Wednesday announced \$90 million to "address hallway medicine," which will create more than 640 new beds and spaces along with continuing to fund beds already operating within the hospital and community sectors. The provincial government news release specifically mentioned the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and the St. Joseph's Care Group long-term care home. The transitional care unit, which was established in January, was originally said to be a temporary solution through the end of March after a harsh flu season contributed to the hospital having as many as 84 patients above its 375-bed funded capacity. Patients had been housed in temporary overflow locations, including ambulatory care, pediatric outpatient and recovery units.

More than 30 alternate level of care patients were transitioned out of the hospital to a wing of Hogarth Riverview Manor that was unused because of a shortage of personal support workers that St. Joseph's Care Group would need to hire to operate the beds. As many as 20 hospital staff members were brought over to work in the unit.

Details are scarce about the local implications of the announcement, as neither the hospital nor St. Joseph's Care Group made any officials available for comment. Both organizations issued statements, applauding and welcoming the announcement while expressing commitments to work with their partners once more details become known.



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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Crime is top ballot issue

Crime and public safety seems to be the No. 1 issue voters are worried about as they sit down to make a decision who to vote for in the upcoming municipal election.

Many have suggested a return to community policing is the answer.

Others wish to tackle the root causes of crime, the addictions and poverty that have riddled many in the community.

And some want to push to hire more officers to work the streets, or reallocate current resources to have more boots on the ground.

There's one thing that's certain - residents have had enough.

This quiet little city has gotten increasingly violent over the past decade.

Our murder rate routinely ranks as the highest in Canada and gangs from southern Ontario, Quebec and Winnipeg have targeted Thunder Bay as an easy mark.

We never used to see shootings in the city. These days it's happening on a regular basis, as gang members battle for the lucrative drug turf.

While council can't do it alone, they can help guide the direction of the city's efforts to clean up crime and make the streets safe for young and old to enjoy once again.

Ask the candidates what they plan to do to lower the crime rate, and ask for concrete examples. If they can't come up with anything but generalities, they might not be worth voting for after all.

CONTACT US:

87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5V6 Ph: 807-346-2600

Editor: Leith Dunick 346-2650 ldunick@dougallmedia.com

Reporter: Doug Diaczuk 346-2622 ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com

> Sales Manager: Kathy Harris 346-2510 kharris@dougallmedia.com

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Supporting Pullia

To the editor: have stepped up to publicly support Frank Pullia in his campaign for Mayor of the City of Thunder Bay, for a number of compelling reasons. There are many candidates, all with differing education, experience and skillsets. How do we best choose?

As someone who has known Frank for more than 35 years, I have seen him mature into an intelligent, caring, concerned and involved citizen who works tireless for the community. Improving our community always has been, and always will be, his top priority.

His educational degree in accounting, MBA and professional accounting designation have helped him understand, advise and influence his colleagues when discussing and making decisions involving the complex city budget.

I believe he has truly helped influence decisions that have balanced city budgets, kept tax increases close to inflation and produced year-end surpluses the last three years he has served as chair of the Budget & Finance committee. A better run, sustainable city is one of his main priorities.

Frank is not only experienced in budgets and finance, but he is also experienced with strategic management, business funding, economic developinfrastructure projects, ment. international business partnerships, ran his own successful consulting firm; and has experience on council, as many of us know.

Frank also is well connected to the youth, the elderly and to leaders throughout the city as well as civil servants and politicians throughout the province and the country.

His nonpartisan municipal-focused perspective will continue to help the city open doors to politicians in power regardless of their political party. Partnerships with all levels of government, First Nations leaders, labour and the business community, are how he will help achieve his stronger and safer community priority.

He does not want to be mayor to "toot his own horn", nor to cross something off his "bucket list". He does not want to be mayor for lack of "nothing better to do".

Frank cares, period.

When someone cares, it shows. And it shows in spades for Frank Pullia. When someone's actions match their words, it builds our trust.

A growing number of voters and I, trust that Frank has the education, the experience, the proven leadership skills, to best move our city forward.

Frank Pullia – putting Thunder Bay first!

> Mike Gallagher, Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



No party ideology, please

To the editor:

Unlike the federal and provincial elections, each candidate of a municipal election should be elected to represent the community not a "political" ideology.

The individuals you elect must show how they will make decisions based on the needs and values of residents, not the needs of any ideals set outside their community.

We must never allow a formal introduction of party politics into the municipal level of government.

Allowing party politics to infiltrate our municipal government can only cause a divide in the community not unity. The mayor and council of a municipality should represent all ideological lines and all residents, make decisions based on the values of the community; not of a particular political ideology.

A candidate should never be confrontational to any political party in power at the provincial or federal level. This confrontation would only hinder our community from economic prosperity and growth.

Municipalities are tasked with providing safety, services, infrastructure and facilities within its boundaries. Some of the services and budgets of Thunder Bay include: local police services, social services, water supply, storm water drainage, roadways, waste disposal, electricity, street lighting, parking, parks and recreation, libraries, museums and community centres.

These should not be set by provincial or federal or special interest group's political ideologies.

I encourage you all to get out to the debates, seek out the candidates to ask them how they are going to ensure Thunder Bay grows and prospers as a community.

What we need is a mayor and council who will look after our city's best interest first and not that of a political party ideology.

Remember, your vote counts. If you don't vote, you are letting others decide for you who will be your mayor and your community councillors until 2021. Be part of the solution for our community.

Get out and vote.

Louise Ewen, Thunder Bay

Panetta great candidate

To the editor:

f you judge a man solely by the clothes he wears or how he wishes to wear his hair, this says a great deal about you, not him.

Peter Panetta gives 100 per cent of himself to the care and welfare of the children/teens in his area.

He walks the walk.

He isn't one of those kind of candidates that "slum" it at election time then dash home to their comfy homes.

He lives and breaths trying to help the young people of our city.

He is honest, and compassionate about children in his care. He knows the streets..he lives the streets.

We could learn a lot from people like this, like compassion. inclusion, acceptance, tolerance and kindness.

> Tricia Quinton, Thunder Bay Via Facebook

Crime is happening

To the editor:

Perceptions of crime are influenced by reporting the issues, instead of pretending they don't happen. Losing faith in those who we hold responsible to keep us safe occurs when we perceive the threats. This is further exacerbated when those who we hold to keep us safe keep telling us there's no problem... We all see a problem, stop pretending it's not happening. Stop telling us how to think and start doing something about it.

> Jonathan Racine, Thunder Bay Via Facebook

Perspective

Gritty storms NHL

Philadelphia Flyers new mascot may survive after all

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

have a few observations and predictions for the coming NHL season, beginning with this important hockey story.

The Philadelphia Flyers were looking for a new mascot.

A successful mascot is a source of in-game frivolity and long-term team loyalty, not to mention merchandise revenue streams.

But the Flyers had been playing hockey without a mascot since the brief appearance of Slapshot in 1976, who only lasted one season.

A bold, flashy and aggressive looking eagle, also named Slapshot, has been the Washington Capitals mascot since 1995.

Philadelphia kept looking, although three NHL teams do have the same mascot - one ferocious, one cuddly and one snuggly bear.

But there would not be a second Slapshot.

The Flyers considered more than 100 options including bats, bulls, dragons, tough guys and yetis before deciding on a new mascot.

They got branding advice from Dave Raymond who originated the "Phillie Phanatic" for the city's ball team in 1978 and brought it to life.

For 15 years he was the green, potbellied, red-tongued, big-beaked, ATV-driving mascot that rallied and inspired fans with his antics.

He has since been immortalized (the Phanatic, not Mr. Raymond) as

Central School

the most recognizable mascot in North American Sports.

Philadelphia was looking for its own lovable mascot, one that kids would want to hug and Flyers fans would embrace for decades.

Perhaps something like Toronto's Carlton the Bear or Montreal's Youppi, or the L.A. King's Bailey the Lion, the No. 1 NHL mascot for 2018.

Bailey earned top spot because he is rambunctious, instantly recognizable and most importantly these days, he has a strong Twitter

presence. I assume that's what the "His googly Flyers had in mind when eyes were they did their research and consulting, but that's rumoured to exactly what be the result happened. of years of

drug use."

Apparently they decided to go in a different direction altogether.

not

They finally chose Gritty as their weird, unidentifiable mascot, a big, dumpy, seven foot monster in a size 58 Flyer's jersey and size 33.5 skates.

His debut last month was met with universal ridicule and the poor, unrecognizable creature was showered with derision.

The reviews ranged from comical to downright creepy - nobody knew how to react to this giant, hideous Muppet gone wrong.

According to some, the Flyers ended up with a menacing, crosseyed monster, a seven foot "orange hellion with an unnerving maniacal grin".

His googly eyes were rumored to be the result of years of drug use. At first glance it seemed like Gritty

might join the Flyers original Slapshot in mascot obscurity as a one season wonder.

But as soon as he skated on the ice and fell on his furry butt, it was clear that he had what it takes to overcome his apparent imperfections.

When you consider the Philly Phanatic's phenomenal success at the ball park, Gritty appears to be headed for success at the rink.

I checked out some other interesting mascots to find out

exactly what that looks like. It really is a mixed bag there's Chance, the hideous Gila monster from Vegas and Winnipeg's Mick E. Moose with his sinister, toothy grin. Toronto has cuddly Carlton the Bear, St Louis has Louie

and the Bruins skate behind a determined looking bear named Blades.

And get this - Milwaukee Brewers games feature nightly races between five mascot sausages -- Italian, Polish, bratwurst, hot dog and chorizo (in a sombrero).

The lowest rated mascot, the Oilers Hunter the Lynx, appears even scarier than Gritty.

Look for Gritty to develop a winning persona this season - all he needs is an ATV and a t-shirt cannon and the sky's the limit.

That completes my in-depth analysis of the coming NHL season.



ONLY IN PHILLY: Gritty was one of more than 100 options the Flyers considered for their mascot.

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

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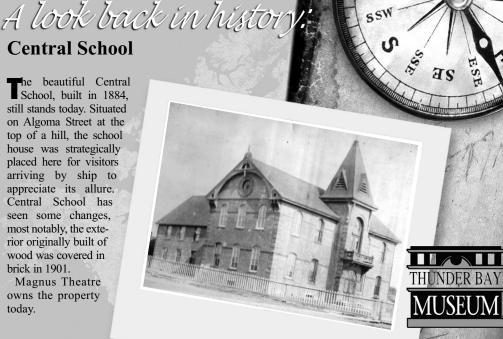
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WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST. VISIT www.tbnewswatch.com TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION. Should police officers be allowed to TOTAL VOTES: 835 smoke pot when they're off duty?



Magnus Theatre owns the property today.



Candidates discuss Boulevard Lake

MUNCIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

took nearly 90 minutes, but the Current River candidates did eventually get around to answering ward-specific questions.

Not that it was their fault.

With the floor open to the 40 or so people who attended the two-hour session, the first raft of questions dealt with city-wide issues like taxes, municipal salaries, crime and safety and youth retention, posed to candidates Dick Waddington, Andy Wolff, Jamie Cressman and incumbent Andrew Foulds.

Eventually someone stood up and asked what the city council hopefuls would do to make improvements at Boulevard Lake.

Wolff, running for the third time in Current River, said it's time to get the dam refurbished, a multi-million-dollar project that's been put off several times, the money earmarked for it shifted to infrastructure projects elsewhere in the city.

"Obviously with the dam there are a lot of legalities involved in that as well as the engineering reports. But we have to get started on this. We've been waiting for so many years," Wolff said. "We probably would have gotten it done if we didn't spend all this money down at the waterfront, spending money on specs for a new event centre.'

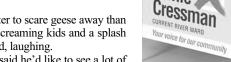
But it's much more than the dam, he added, saying a splash pad like the one installed recently at the North End Recreational Centre, site of Wednesday night's forum, could serve a dual purpose.

"What better to scare geese away than a bunch of screaming kids and a splash pad?" he said, laughing.

Cressman said he'd like to see a lot of the infrastructure in the area spruced up.

when I was 10 years old," the 49-yearold entrepreneur and former Oliver Paipoonge administrator said.

"The dock's the same. We could use a new dock and new floating devices, down to the lifeguard chairs; upgrades on the tennis courts, the basketball



"It's all the same stuff that was there



CANDIDATES: Andrew Foulds (from left), Jamie Cressman, Andy Wolff and Dick Waddington.

courts. I'd like to see beach volleyball courts there. A splash pad would be perfect and new playground equipment, perhaps a band shell. The parking lot needs to be redone," Cressman said.

"There has to be a master plan devel-

oped. It can't all be done at once ... but let's start doing the work."

Foulds, who has fought for the dam repairs, only to be rebuffed time and time again by council and city administration, said the environmental process,

and hence the master plan, has been jammed up in red tape.

But it's the top ward priority, he said, adding the No. 1 concern from public consultations already held is the area's trails.

"When's the last time our trails have been upgraded around Boulevard Lake? When's the last time you've seen a roller-blader? The trails are in rough shape. We can have all this other stuff, but we've also got to take care of what we've got and make sure we treat Boulevard Lake like we treat our cars," Foulds said.

"I'm prepared to fight tooth and nail to make sure the recommendations from the environmental assessment are budgeted for and implemented."

Waddington, who helped bring the trails to Boulevard Lake during a 21year stint on city council, said it's time to get to work on the dam and stop putting off the project.

"I would also like to see the corner of the lake, down by St. Ignatius, cleaned up. It's an eyesore and it's really a disgrace."

Notice to Municipality of Neebing Ratepayers and Residents 2018 Municipal Election

If you are a ratepayer or resident in Neebing, you have 4 opportunities to cast your ballot. The election in Neebing is being held by paper ballot only, at two, fully accessible locations.

- There is an advance poll being held **THIS SATURDAY**, October 13th, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Municipal Office located at 4766 Highway 61.
- There will be another advance poll held next Saturday, October 20th, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Gillies Community Center located at the intersection of Highway 608 and Highway 595
- Two polling stations will be open on election day, Monday, October 22nd, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. • to 8:00 p.m. One will be at the Municipal Office, and the other will be at the Gillies Community Center.

The Neebing Municipal Election is for all ratepayers and residents who are eligible to vote in a Municipal Election. Ballots will be cast for the office of MAYOR. There are two candidates running for this office, Mr. Erwin Butikofer and Mr. Dick Facca. All of the other Council seats have been filled by acclamation.

Neebing ratepayers may also cast ballots for School Board Trustees for the English Language Public School Board (Lakehead Public Schools) or for School Board Trustees for the English Language Separate School Board (Thunder Bay District Catholic Schools),

If you require further information, please contact the Neebing Municipal Office. Telephone 807-474-5331 or email clerk@neebing.org or visit 4766 Highway 61, Neebing, Ontario between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays.

October 11th, 2018 Rosalie A. Evans Solicitor-Clerk **Returning Officer for** The Municipality of Neebing

IN BRIEF Shooting suspect arrested, charged

26-year-old Thunder Bay man has been arrested and faces Amultiple charges in connection with a south-side shooting incident on May 5 that sent a man to hospital with injuries.

Police say Jordan Joshua Kenneth Thomas appeared in court on Thursday to face a litany of charges, including attempted murder, reckless discharge of a firearm, two counts of possession of a firearm contrary to a prohibition order, careless use of a firearm, pointing a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, unauthorized possession of a firearm licence, knowledge of unauthorized possession of a weapon and having a prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition.

In a release issued on Thursday, police say members of the department's plain-clothed, community response team spotted the suspect walking in the area of McMurray Avenue and Ogden Street just before 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

He was taken into custody without incident.

In the original release, police say the victim, a 28-year-old male, was taken to hospital with injuries consistent with shotgun pellets, after the incident, which took place outside a notorious south-side bar.

Thomas has been remanded into custody and the investigation is ongoing.

Murray to donate \$30 per save

att Murray will be making his saves count for more than onice performance this season.

The Pittsburgh Penguins netminder last week announced a new charitable commitment to donate \$30 for each shot he turns aside during the upcoming National Hockey League regular season.

Calling the program Saves MATTer, the Thunder Bay native will be donating half the money raised to be split locally between the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Services and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, while the other half will go to the Ward Home in Pittsburgh.

MEET THE CANDIDATES: RED RIVER Brown wants to repair city hall

"People

would like to

see fresh

ideas brought

forth "

DONNA BROWN

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Donna Brown fixes computers for a living. She's also hoping she can help fix city hall, from the inside. The entrepreneur is one of three candidates running for the Red River Ward seat, looking to topple longtime city councillor Brian McKinnon, who has held the seat since 2006.

Brown says there are plenty of improvements that can be made to the way the city operates.

"I am passionate about the community and I have fresh new ideas backed by 24 years of working at PC Medic. I'm heavily involved in the community through active volunteerism," Brown said, explaining why

she'd make a good councillor. Of those new ideas, tourism is an area she'd like to see the city take a

different approach with. She pointed to the recent opening of the Alexander Henry as an example of a tourism success story, one she'd like to see the city build upon.

"I think if we can improve our tourism, that'll bring dollars into the city and that will help business as well," Brown said.

"I'm looking at new businesses that are starting up, smaller ideas like walks downtown through the

Custom Granite CARPET&FLOORING

community. It gives people a way to see our community and be active.

Speaking of business, there's too much red tape aimed at business, something that needs to change.

"I've had to wait months for certain items to get done, so that I could move on and improve my business. And I'd like to cut through that red tape," Brown said.

An avid wildlife photographer in her spare time, Brown was adamant that the city must do whatever it can to get actively involved it Thunder Bay neighbourhoods.

"I think we have to talk to constituents and see what their needs are and address them." she

When it comes to spending, pot holes and the crumbling sidewalks must come first.

"I know one resident had to replace two of their tires because they parked too close to the curb and scraped up against the crumbling concrete."

Brown is pleased that the city seems to be growing in places, particularly the downtown north core, but said still more needs to be done to attract and keep young families.

One thing's for sure, Brown is convinced voters are looking for change this time around.

"People would like to see new fresh ideas brought forth, and I believe I could do that with my experience.'

The municipal election is on Oct. 22.

CUT RED TAPE: Donna Brown want to improve the way the city does business.



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"I (also)

really want to

emphasize

beautification

in the city,

starting with

the image

routes."

BRIAN MCKINNON

LOCALNEWS **MEET THE CANDIDATES: RED RIVER McKinnon has work to finish**

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Brian McKinnon says he's got too much unfinished business to walk away from city council and the Red River Ward.

The retired school principal has served the north-side ward on council since 2003 and said there are a number of infrastructure projects he's championed still on the books, most notably the Junot Road extension.

"I want to push for that," McKinnon said. "We lost it this year because of the work that had to be done on the Main Street bridge."

McKinnon, a one-time candidate

The parkettes, in particular, are important to residents in the ward.

"It's critical to quality of life," McKinnon said. "When you've got little kids, you don't want to have to walk two miles to go to a park where there's a swing or there's a

slide. So it's important for the neighbourhood to have their own park."

On a larger scale, McKinnon, who sits on the Police Services Board, would like to see more emphasis put on safety and security, not just in the ward itself, but certainly in the city.

"I have some ideas that I'm the neighbourhood policing. I

As a member of the Police Services Board, McKinnon says he's got the ear of both the chief and the executive. giving him powerful access to help push for better community safety.

"When I approach them, I think they listen to me because I'm a pretty straight shooter. I work hard for them

on their behalf and also with the province to ensure that our police force and services has its fair share," he said.

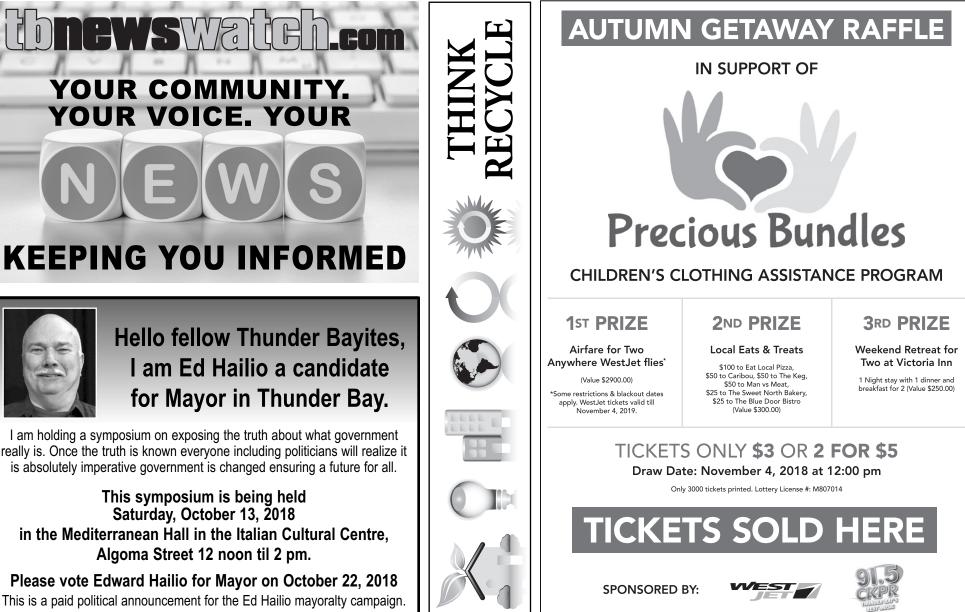
McKinnon is also keen on seeing Phase 2 of the waterfront development plan instituted, a project he's been heavily involved with as a member of the waterfront development committee.

"I (also) really want to emphasize beautification in the city, starting with the image routes. There are three that

we're going to be emphasizing,' McKinnon said.

The municipal election is on Oct. 22.





For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

Thursday, October 11, 2018 11

LOCALNEWS MEET THE CANDIDATES: RED RIVER



LOOK AHEAD: David Noonan wants to find ways to keep young people here.

Noonan wants safer streets

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

David George Noonan says if he's elected to represent Red River Ward, he won't treat the job like a part-time hobby.

There's too much of that on city council these days, said Noonan, seeking the seat for the second straight municipal election.

Noonan, 38, said first and foremost he wants to see meaningful action taken to make the city's streets and neighbourhoods safer. It's got to start there, he said.

"Some neighbourhoods are very safe, but at the same time other neighbourhoods we've had a lot of issues with gangs being there, with higher drug use, and our city council seems to be very silent on the issue.

"We need to change that. We need to address the issue and make sure that our police service has the tools neces-

"We have to find ways to incentivize companies to come here or stay here." DAVID GEORGE NOONAN sure that our police service has the tools necessary to do the job appropriately." Noonan, who arrived in Thunder Bay in 2005

from southern Ontario, has been a very active member of the community since moving to the city.

After the 2014 election he joined the Thunder Bay Police Service's Zone Watch program, and has served on a number of committees as well as being a member of SHIFT.

DAVID GEORGE NOONAN A former union leader who ran for the NDP provincially in 2003 in Brant, he later worked in retail management. Noonan today works for Superior Fine Foods, where he has been a strong advocate for locally made goods and services.

As someone familiar with the local business community, he'd like to see the city do more to show potential entrepreneurs and companies that Thunder Bay truly is open for business.

"We have to find ways to incentivize companies to come here or stay here. That's a major issue. We've got to make sure that the city has options for businesses to be able to hire more people, because our city isn't growing as it is," Noonan said.

"We need to make sure that young professionals are staying in the city. We need to make sure we find ways for people to move here and find more local business and more small business."

If elected, Noonan promised to return all phone calls and electronic communications, adding he plans to be a visible presence in the riding.

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LOCALNEWS **MEET THE CANDIDATES: AT LARGE Bentz has a city-wide** vision for Thunder Bay

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

ark Bentz is looking to make a city council come-back.

Four years after being bested by Shelby Ch'ng in Northwood, the long-time municipal representative has joined the 26-candidate at-large race, saying he wants to continue to make a difference for the people of Thunder Bay by helping forge the city's long-term future.

Bentz, a former chair of council's budget committee, who helped spearhead the vision behind Prince Arthur's Landing as chair of the waterfront development committee, was first elected in Northwood in 2003, serving 11 years on council.

Before that, he was a trustee on the school board.

The 52-year-old high school teacher says he's dedicated his life to public service and said he believes his experience would be an asset at city hall.

"I really have a focus that encapsulates the whole city. I thought that I really want to have the big picture this time, rather than just the ward," Bentz said, explaining his switch from ward to at-large bid.

encapsulates One of those issues is community safety.

> While Bentz doesn't see it as a huge budgetary issue, it will take a great effort to create the necessary collaboration to tackle the city's growing crime rate and overcome its root causes, things like addic-

tion and poverty.

"I really have

a focus that

the whole

city."

MARK BENTZ

"There are lots of organizations that can assist and are assisting. We just need to maybe enhance some of that because city council, the police department, they certainly can't do it all alone," Bentz said. "They need the help of the community."

He added there is a heightened sensitivity toward crime in the news, and it's telling in his campaigning.



EXPERIENCED: Former budget chair Mark Bentz was first elected in Northwood in 2003 and served until 2014.

"I'm walking around and I'm hearing about breakins, I'm hearing about gangs emerging in Thunder Bay, drug trafficking increasing throughout our community," he said. "It's something that is growing, from what I'm hearing. I didn't hear gangs so much four years ago when I was campaigning."

The homicide rate must also be addressed. The city routinely captures the dubious murder capital of Canada title, and that's got to change, Bentz said.

"This is something that needs to be addressed for our city to feel safe and to be perceived as a safe place," he said. "I think we certainly have a role to play. City council is representative of the citizens, we help facilitate things and the police department enforces the law. But these two groups cannot act in silos." The municipal election is Oct. 22.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES: AT LARGE

Paras tough on taxes

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick TB Source

ori Paras says her passion for the city of Thunder Bay is what led her to enter this year's crowded at-large race. One of 26 candidates vying for just five spots, Paras joked she told her mother when she was a young girl that she intended to enter municipal politics, but the timing just never seemed right.

Things are different in 2018, Paras said. "I think I felt I needed to contribute

more to the city and now I feel I have and think I have the right to put my name in the ring," Paras said, promising to bring fresh energy to the role.

Her platform includes plenty of big promises, including killing spending of tax dollars on projects the city can't afford, working to find ways to decrease city water bills and fighting to end Thunder Bay's endless cycle of commercial and residential tax increases

She also wants to work alongside the city's Indigenous community to foster the reconciliation process.

"We've got to

take care of

our most

vulnerable "

LORI PARAS

As a businesswoman, Paras said there's a lack of respect in the city toward the entrepreneur, another thing she'd like to change from the inside.

"Basically there's a culture in there that needs to change and it needs to be one of respect and welcoming of the entrepreneur," she said.

Paras said first and foremost the social fabric of Thunder Bay needs mending.

She's got a plan to help further that goal along.

"We've got to take care of our most vulnerable, whether that's the addict who is homeless on the street, or a paramedic, police officer or firefighter. They're also vulnerable on the street. They're our frontline workers," Paras said.

> "So I have stepped out and said I want to build a treatment centre here in Thunder Bay, a community care centre where when the addict is ready to get well, we can bring them through a system that has no cracks that they'll fall through."

Paras said the crime and gang activity must also be addressed.

"It's our city, we need to be involved. We need to look at what's going on, find a

solution, build that strategy and give a date (for completion)," Paras said.

ead us online

The municipal election is on Oct. 22.



READY TO RUN: Lori Paras brings business experience to the 2018 at-large ballot.



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- Contact a local sexual health clinic
- Call the Screen for Life Coach at (807) 684-7777 or 1-800-461-7031

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- your health care provider

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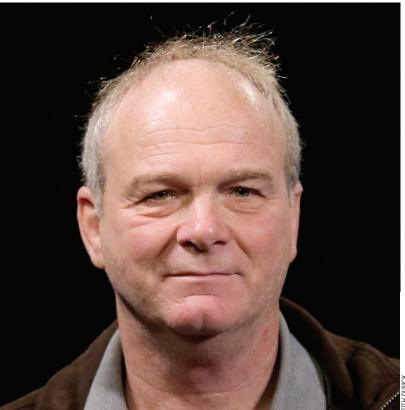
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LOCALNEWS **MEET THE CANDIDATES: AT LARGE**



TOO EXPENSIVE: Outrageous water bills and high taxes are issues Norm Staal wants to tackle.

Staal tired of too many obstacles

Third-time candidate says business mired in red tape **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

"I feel there

are too many

managers."

NORM STAAL

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Norm Staal is fed up. As a property owner and entrepreneur, the 58-year-old thinks the city needs to learn to do business differently, or face having a lot less opportunities to do business at all.

He knows from experience.

Staal, who has twice before ran unsuccessfully for a seat at the council table, says there's just too much resistance put forth in Thunder Bay when it

comes to getting things done, resistance he doesn't see in surrounding communities.

"If you have that type of attitude, that you can't do that or only a certain few can do certain things in Thunder Bay, it chases investors away," Staal said, noting he's purposefully bought rental properties outside city limits on occasion because those communities welcomed him with open arms.

"I just find a lot of aggravation in Thunder Bay. Water bills are higher than the gas bills now, and it's just hard to make a buck. If you go to other municipalities, they're willing to work with you. They're willing to help you and their taxes are half.

It's just easier to make money in other municipalities and I think that's a shame."

Those same water bills and high taxation are the two issues that routinely come up when Staal is out talking to potential voters.

When it comes to spending, the third-time candidate, who finished in the middle of the pack in the 2010 at-large contest, said the city and its councillors need to take a long, hard look at the books and decide where savings can be found.

"I feel there are too many managers," Staal said, calling the municipal corporation top heavy.

"City hall is bursting at the seam with managers. Why is this happening? I don't know. Does it come from the council level? Does it come from the city manager level? I feel city management often comes from government and often have no private enterprise background. I feel we should get a city manager who has run a company, who was successful running a corporation and I think a private-industry back-

ground will help running publicly," Staal said.

The municipal election is on Oct. 22. A total of five at-large spots are up for grabs, in a field of 26 candidates.

Timko loves helping people

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Even though he's been off city council for a dozen years, Lawrence Timko says he's still got plenty to offer the voters of Thunder Bay.

The 81-year-old was first elected as the McKellar Ward representative in 1979 and served continuously on council for 27 years, switching to the at-large race in 1986.

In 2006 he fell just short of re-election, edged out by current Coun. Aldo Ruberto for

the fifth and final at-large berth, a scenario that repeated itself in 2010. Four years ago he slipped to seventh, but undaunted, is back again, seeking an 11th term.

"I just can't quit wanting to be there," said Timko, a father-of-three.

"It is satisfying when you can go out and establish some major projects and support them and try to do it a responsible manner and try to do it for as low a cost as you can."

At the one-on-one level, Timko said he loves helping people solve issues that may not be major in the scheme of the city, but are important to that particular person or family.

"I love doing that," Timko said, promising to host regular town-hall meetings if he's elected to office on Oct. 22.

He said he wants to put an end to the hiring of endless consultants, instead preferring to turn to the public for input on major projects and not just pay them lip service.

"They're doing everything backwards," he said. "For years and years I've said we should give the public a chance to vote on any major project. That's why I think."

Timko is also done with rubber stamping of issues behind closed doors and vowed to work to change that attitude.

"We're not really getting enough information. I feel like I've got the energy to do it, I've got the interest and I think I can get to what's happening there and I want to be there," said Timko, who lists gardening and fitness among his many interests.

The veteran former councillor says wasted spending is the biggest issue facing taxpayers in 2018, with the city's crumbling infrastructure and roads a close second.

"Those millions spent on consultants could pave a lot of roads," Timko said.

He added he's in favour of an indoor soccer complex, stating there's clearly a need in the city for such a facility.

But it has to be affordable, he added.



PUBLIC SERVANT: Lawrence Timko was first elected to city council in 1979 and served until 2006.





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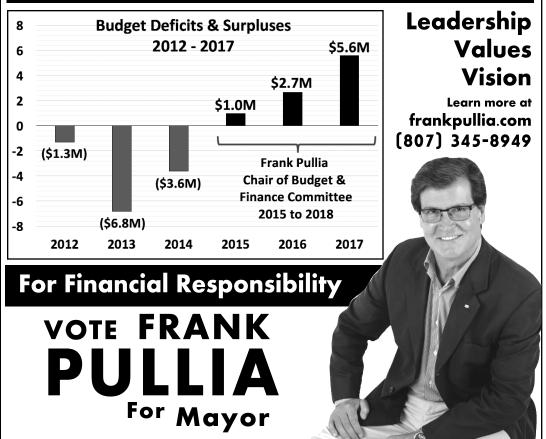


"I just can't quit wanting to be there." LAWRENCE

Lawrence Timko

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Hello fellow Thunder Bayites, I am Ed Hailio a candidate for Mayor in Thunder Bay.

I am holding a symposium on exposing the truth about what government really is. Once the truth is known everyone including politicians will realize it is absolutely imperative government is changed ensuring a future for all.

This symposium is being held Saturday, October 13, 2018 in the Mediterranean Hall in the Italian Cultural Centre, Algoma Street 12 noon til 2 pm.

Please vote Edward Hailio for Mayor on October 22, 2018

This is a paid political announcement for the Ed Hailio mayoralty campaign.

LOCALNEWS **MEET THE CANDIDATES: AT LARGE**



SOLID BASE: Margaret Wanlin has a background in community economic development.

Wanlin loves city, plans to improve it

"We need to

strengthen

the economy

in all of the

various

sectors."

MARGARET

WANLIN

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

argaret Wanlin had a bird's-eye view of politics at the federal level for seven years.

Her husband, Bruce Hyer, was the NDP and Green Party MP for Thunder Bay-Superior North from 2008 until 2015.

This time around, it's Wanlin who is seeking political office, having thrown her name into the 26-candidate at-large race in a bid to become one of 13 members on Thunder Bay's city council.

A consultant with background in community economic development, mediation and facilitations, the 62-year-old Wanlin says she decided to join the crowded race because she loves the city, but thinks council and the community could do better and be better. She wants to be part of that

change, starting on the business front.

"We need to develop our economy, because everybody knows a good job is a good foundation for a good life," she said.

"We need to strengthen the economy in all of the various sectors. We've lost a lot of industrial jobs the past decade or two and we really need to work hard to try to grow those type of jobs, as well as jobs in the commercial sector and the government sector.'

To get there, Wanlin said the city can't

pretend it can return to the pre-forestry collapse days. But there are solutions.

"You hear about concerns about planning issues, so certainly we need to look into those. It's not a free-for-all, but neither should it be too tied up in red tape. It's finding the right balance between those two," she said.

A long-term outlook on the future of the community is also needed, along with a plan to get there.

Community safety is another issue she's hearing concerns about while on the

campaign trail, and Wanlin says it's clear the city needs to have safe neighbourhoods, that will lead to a Thunder Bay where everyone can become a success.

Further to that, Wanlin said it behooves the city to do a better job helping people coming to the city, particularly from the far north, make a seamless transition.

"I think it's not just a city issue. For example, people moving from the far north - the communities are very different from Thunder Bay need transitional help in a way

that's similar to what refugees coming from another country might need," Wanlin said. "And I think Thunder Bay has to work with the federal and provincial governments on issues such as that to make those transitions successful.

The municipal election is on Oct. 22, with online and telephone voting starting on Oct. 9.

MEET THE CANDIDATES: MCINTYRE Aiello: 'I will fight for what's right'

First-time candidate says public office is a way of giving back

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

As the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Thunder Bay, Albert Aiello has gained keen insight into the issues facing the city's residents.

No longer willing to sit on the sidelines, in 2018 he decided to file his nomination papers and seek the soon-tobe-vacated McIntyre Ward seat, one of three candidates looking to replace 18year veteran Trevor Giertuga, who jumped to the at-large race.

Aiello, 52, said everything fell into place allowing him to run, his kids a little older and less dependent on father, while also getting the approval of his board of directors to seek elected office.

"I have 29 years experience working with the city, trying to better the Boys and Girls Club and I've seen issues arise. I've been part of good decisions, bad decisions, and I continue to fight for what I believe is right," Aiello said.

"It's a way of contributing back. I've always dedicated myself to community service and to making Thunder Bay a better place, particularly for children and youth, and I just want to continue that work on into the community."

Aiello said McIntyre is not only the largest ward, it's also the fastest growing. The issues are often complex, from chipand-seal road issues in the more rural areas of the ward, to community safety in the more urban areas.

"I'm learning every day and I'm talking to the people, which I think is important. I'm getting a good handle on the issues and what concerns people, and it would be a privilege to be

their voice at council," Aiello said. Asked about what council could do to initiate community safety in McIntyre, Aiello said it depends on where one resides.

In some areas, thinning out trees and adding lights along trails should be the priority.

"I see that as a pretty simple thing," he said.

Elsewhere it could be speed bumps, designed to slow traffic down.

"Some things I believe are simple fixes, some things are more complicated..."

Albert Aiello

"Speeding is an issue on some streets. And then again, we have the whole Dawson Road safety issue and the warning lights that people have really wanted for a very long time," Aiello said, acknowledging the city would need co-operation from the Ministry of Transportation.

"Some things I believe are simple fixes, some things are more complicated, but overall everybody has a right to be safe

and feel safe, wherever they live." The municipal election is on Oct. 22, with advance Internet and telephone voting beginning on Oct. 9



WELL-KNOWN: Albert Aiello is the long-time executive director of the Boys and Girls Club.



LOCALNEWS MEET THE CANDIDATES: MCINTYRE Gulbinowicz runs to give back to city

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Adam Gulbinowicz says the reason he decided to take a shot at running for city council is because he's a lifelong resident of McIntyre ward and believes he can make a difference.

What impacts residents, also impacts him and his family.

"This community has given me so much. I feel the need to give back. With success in business and a professional real estate investor, I was once told, if you can handle tenants, contractors, bankers, insurance agents, government agencies, etc., then you can definitely handle city hall," Gulbinowicz says in his profile on the city's official Thunder Bay Votes website.

First and foremost, if he happens to emerge victorious on Oct. 22, Gulbinowicz wants to focus on how the city spends residents' money.

Both council and administration could do better on that front.

"I believe we need a more common sense approach at city hall on how our tax dollars are allocated and gauge their effectiveness. We need to improve transparency, with (the) people we work for, meaning those who elected us, as the city runs on their hard-earned money," Gulbinowicz said.

"I will start by holding administration accountable when it impacts spending taxpayers' money. I am not afraid to ask tough questions (and) those questions will continue at city hall because we cannot accept the status quo.

Gulbinowicz went on to say his immediate focuses will be social, economic and infrastructure improvements, adding it's too late to sit back and keep deferring action.

"As your city councillor for McIntyre, I will be working for you. I am accountable to you and I will not only listen to your issues and concerns, I will take action. I will answer your calls and be transparent when it concerns your tax dollars," he said.

"I look forward to bringing my ideas to reality within the McIntyre ward and watch my vision for its growth come to pass within a short time and shape a better tomorrow."



THRIFTY CANDIDATE: Adam Gulbinowicz says he'll pay close attention to how the city is spending taxpayers' money if he's elected.



LOCALNEWS MEET THE CANDIDATES: MCINTYRE Ramage will grow city

MUNICIPAL ELECTION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Wesley Ramage has been itching to get back on the municipal ballot for the past four years.

The runner-up to long-time McIntyre Ward Coun. Trevor Giertuga in 2014, the 33-year-old elementary school teacher wants to build on that result on Oct. 22 and help guide the city and his ward into a more prosperous future.

With Giertuga moving to the at-large race, it creates a sure-fire opening on council and Ramage said he believes he's got the background and the passion to fill the role seamlessly.

First, he wants to find a solution for the truck traffic on Dawson Road.

"I hear about the transport trucks all the time and the safety concerns around

that," Ramage said. "They are running lights or going too fast, things like that, as well as using County Fair parking lot as a truck stop. That's the one I probably heard 15 to 20 times the past couple of days."

Ramage said he's in favour of banning trucks from Dawson Road, but understands it can't be an all-out ban.

It just wouldn't work, he said.

"I'm well aware of some of the issues that revolve around it as well, as there are a number of businesses along Dawson Road or shortly off of Dawson Road that access transport trucks all the time – gravel companies and stuff like that – that would need to have access still," Ramage said.

A married father of two, Ramage also wants to see better treatment of rural roads, another huge issue for those living in the expansive McIntyre Ward, whether it's better grading, chip-sealing or even paving the dirt roads.

A McIntyre councillor is uniquely positioned, he added, having to balance the needs of rural constituents with those in an urban setting.

He said he's up for the task.

"The fact that I live almost in the middle of those really residential areas and the rural areas gives me a good feel for both," Ramage said. "I come to the city all the time and I see the concerns that are there and I live out on one of those dirt roads, and I see those concerns all the time there."

Ramage said he'll press for more activities city-wide for youth, and will fight to keep new businesses in the city with discounted taxes for a period of time to help them get established.



Thursday, October 11, 2018 19

SECOND TRY: Wesley Ramage was the runner-up in McIntyre in the 2014 election.



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To be eligible for installation prior to the Freeze up date, a service must have a Thunder Bay Hydro site visit and an Electrical Safety Authority inspection completed prior to October 16, 2018.

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For any further information and options, please contact Thunder Bay Hydro Power Systems at 343-1176.



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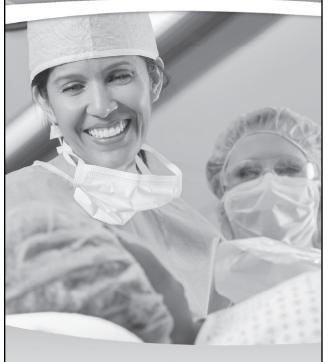
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SERVICE WITH A SMILE: From left to right: Harley Martin, Van Balley, Justin Grochowski, and Karl Rikkonen serve up a Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Salvation Army last Sunday. The dinner has been held at the Salvation Army for the last 21 years.

Serving up a special meal

Salvation Army and the Thunder Bay Firefighters host Thanksgiving Day dinner

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

n one of their first acts as Thunder Bay Fire Rescue firefighters, new graduates were busy putting one of the most important aspects of their training into action – lending a caring hand to those who need it most.

"It's a great first day on the job for me," said Justin Grochowski, one of the newest Thunder Bay Fire Rescue firefighters. "The community always looks up to you and as firefighters especially we want to have positive image with the community and it's a great way to have that image represented by the department."

Grochowski, along with new Thunder Bay Fire Rescue members and seasoned members, were busy in the kitchen at the Salvation Army to serve up a delicious Thanksgiving Day meal to the community.

The annual dinner, which has been hosted by the Salvation Army with the help of the Thunder Bay Professional Firefighters Association for the past 21 years, included seasonal staples like turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and of course, a choice of apple pie or pumpkin pie for desert.

"It's one of our favourite days here," said Anne Antenucci, a community engagement assistant with the Salvation Army. "We allow the community to come in, we don't ask any questions, we simply open our doors and say welcome."

The annual meal usually sees more than 300 people taking in some good food and some good company.

"Everyone is happy, everyone is thankful, everyone really enjoys sitting together having a great smelling, great tasting home cooked meal," Antenucci said. "Some people just don't have the money or don't have anyone to have thanksgiving with, so we just open our doors and welcome anyone in to sit down and have a meal."

More than 20 firefighters and family members have been busy in the kitchen for the last three days preparing the meal along with Salvation Army staff. And they were even busier on Sunday

dishing out and serving plateful after plateful.

"It's a good way to give back to the community, get the members and their families an opportunity to come out and serve to the people who need it most," said Kevin Anderson with the Thunder Bay Professional Firefighters Association.

"The firefighters are so wonderful," Antenucci added. "They love the Salvation Army. One of our mandates is if there is a major event in Thunder Bay, we will take the soup van and we will help take care of the first responders. So anytime we need their help, they are always right there to help us."

Anderson said as first responders, firefighters often deal with people when they are at their most vulnerable, so it is not

only important to help in an emergency, but also make them feel welcomed and like a part of the community.

This is something that the new recruits are taught during their training and they were all busy doing their part to help out the team and help out the community they serve.

"They came on Friday and peeled all the potatoes and some have come back today that were available, so right from the get go they are involved," Anderson

said.

"It's really

important to

help others,

not only on

shift, but also

off shift."

JUSTIN GROCHOWSKI

All those who help out are off duty and volunteering their time, but for Grochowski and his fellow graduates, helping others is what the job is all about, no matter when or where, and sometimes it's as simple as preparing a warm meal and serving it with a smile.

"We're all passionate people about this," he said. "It's really important to help others, not only on shift, but also off shift and giving back to the community is a great way to do it like this."

TBLife

All the fall colours and some more snow

think that we can safely assume that there is no longer any "normal" when it comes to the weather. The news is full of extreme calamities around the world and thank goodness we are not subject to these dangerous extremes but only to slight interruptions.

One 'slight' interruption occurred at the beginning of this Thanksgiving weekend. Friday morning we awoke to see a winter wonderland out our window: three inches of the white stuff on the ground and still coming down. The pine trees looked splendid wearing their white winter coats but the deciduous trees looked wrong. They still had most of their leaves attached, some in full colour, some just turning, and an occasional one still undecided. Tag alder and young poplar were bent over from the weight of the new, heavy, wet snow.



Like the snow that had "blessed" us the previous week (a mere dusting), we sincerely hoped this preview of what was to come and stay, did not.

And it didn't. By the afternoon, most of the snow had melted. Two days later, the only evidence of snow lay along the edges of the bush. I was heartened to see that the deciduous trees were not the worse for wear and that the young poplar had assumed their upright positions. Good. Too dang early for a full winter landscape, pretty though it be. In town they only received rain. In the lower regions of the country, they received less than us. Up in the higher regions like where Casa Jones is situated, we got the full-blown treatment. But, as I mentioned, it did not stav.

The snow was a warning for us to get our snow tires on our cars just in case.

The horse paddocks are a mess with all the rain and then snow. Horses are standing in mud; lower areas are now small ponds. Two times per year we get "mud season": spring and Fall. We are well into the Fall mud that can make walking a tad treacherous especially when leading equines in and out of paddocks. It also now requires a ragged towel to be handy at the front door for the pooch's paws. Unlike our late, beloved Todd who was so understanding and compliant when we had to wipe off mud from his

paws, Baxter thinks that we are inflicting torture. Too bad, Dog. The mud room floor now requires more sweeping and washing as we track in grit and whatever from outside

I came home from town the other day to discover clods of dirt decorating the staircase leading up to the front door. I noted that son, Doug's rubber boots were caked with the 'lovely' clay that passes for soil in this neck of the woods. We live in Gillies Township and us locals refer to the clay as the "Gillies Gumbo". When wet, this stuff is sticky and heavy making walking a workout. Inside the house was more evidence of hard labour that took place in the garden where Doug and my wife, Laura, had spent several hours uprooting crab grass roots in preparation for planting garlic. Even in the bathroom there was granular

evidence from jeans that had been knelt upon while labouring at the task.

I wrote in a previous column that when we harvested our potatoes, some of them had crab grass roots growing through them. Laura does not want crab grass roots growing through our garlic bulbs.

With Halloween approaching, we don't need a John Wyndham "Day of the Triffids" type of horror movie with intelligent, evil crab grass roots taking over and trying to kill us. You'd think that if garlic keeps vampires at bay, wouldn't it have the same effect on evil crab grass root creatures?

The Fall colours are in full swing. And though only occasionally has Ol' Sol peaked through the clouds to give us an incredible light show in blazing Fall technicolour, those moments are worth it.

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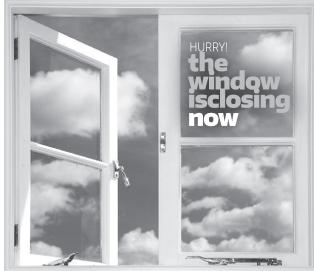
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Halloween fun times two

This year, The Hunger and Thunder Con will link events together

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Hunger and Thunder Con are joining forces later this month.

Organizers of the two events say it was a natural fit, given they'll both fall on the final weekend of October this year, and there's plenty of crossover between the two.

Heather Dickson, media director for the four-year-old geek fest known as Thunder Con, said at first they thought they'd be splitting audiences, forced to schedule it for Oct. 27 and 28 at the Valhalla Inn because of guest availability.

"Because the demographic is so similar, it's a natural," Dickson said.

"It's just fun. As adults, we don't play enough and it's just an excuse to play. With The Hunger, and it's so close to Halloween, we thought why not? You can buy a costume right now. You can make a costume, whatever you want. It's just a form of self expression and a bit of play."

Essentially The Hunger, the Definitely Superior Art Gallery's major fundraiser for the year, will serve as Thunder Con's afterparty, a 19-plus event for adult attendees who want to continue the party until 2 a.m.

In its 13th year, the eight-venue party features 54 different musical acts of all different genres, and encourages the public to don their best Halloween costumes and take part in an event like no other in Thunder Bay.

Renee Terpstra, development administrator at Def Sup, said with Thunder Con drawing 2,500 people last year, and The Hunger attracting about 3,500, it just made sense to come together.

"We realized we had this common, 19-plus demographic – though Thunder Con is also all ages. They wanted to offer something more, they'd had requests for the 19-plus, something different," Terpstra said.

"This is something we offer that they wouldn't have to create or produce themselves. We already do it. So we've become the official after-party, basically the after-dark option for Thunder Con attendees, as well as the general public, who come out every year."

The massive downtown Halloween party is \$20 to attend, which gains access to all participating venues. Entertaiment, including a grinding exhibition, can also be found outside the venues, which include Black Pirates Pub, The Sovereign Room, Crocks, The Foundry, El Tres, Red Lion Smokehous and Atmos.



FIERY PERSONALITY: Dee Marie performs her grinding act as part of The Hunger on Oct. 27.

This year's Thunder Con features special guests like Tony Amendola, who played Bra'Tac in Stargate SG-1, Paul McGillion, who played Dr. Carson Beckett in Stargate Atlantis, and Gary Jones, who played Walter Harriman in Stargate SG-1. Weekend passes for Thunder Con are \$40 in advance, \$60 at the door, and \$15 for children age seven to 10, in advance, or \$25 at the door. Children six and younger are admitted free of charge. Single-day tickets are available as well.

IN THE **bay**

Rocky Horror hits Magnus

Toast tossing cult favourite will appeal to a very broad audience

THEATRE By Linda Maehans - TB Source

agnus Theatre's next curtain rises to a dark and stormy night.

Rumbles of thunder in the distance are first felt as light goose-bumps along the arms, rather pleasant to be honest. Yet soon turn into prickles on the back of one's neck. A silverycold full moon has all but disappeared by churning clouds backlit by wondrous flashes of palest-blue sheet lightning.

Hopefully Janet and Brad can make it back on the road and gain their bearings. Car trouble is no fun on a night like this, I tell them, as I pour water into their radiator at the only petrolfill station this side of that silvery-cold moon. I don't have the heart to warn them. These two innocent lovebirds have no idea what awaits.

Actor Kayla James, as Janet, isn't the slightest worried. Instead, this shy Blondie in her creamy beaded sweater-set is a vision of softness. She gazes adoringly at her new fiancée, then to me standing by her open window of the car.

"Oh, how I've been waiting and waiting for this moment! Earlier tonight, when he stopped the car, well, I thought it might finally be the proposal. And, as I had caught the bouquet at the wedding we'd just been at as guests, yes this evening is perfect!"

Another pale blue sheet of lightning, lowest growl of thunder.

"If things get drastic, of course I would do anything for her." Brad

"Well, yes there might be a storm coming but," leaning in closer toward the dapper young man at the wheel, "I trust Brad with all my heart. I know he can fix the car if need be. Worst case scenario, he'll go knock on a door somewhere and ask to use the phone.'

I have to say, Colin Simmons, as Brad, does look good in his argyle cardigan, button-down shirt and bowtie.

Even better is the perfect soft light in his eyes. I notice it each time he turns back to me after looking into Janet's eyes with such

earnest longing.

"Well, the weather appears a bit dark just now but on a night like this nothing could dampen my spirits! I've got my beautiful fiancée Janet beside me and," another loving glance, "I think whatever comes, I think we can face it if we are facing it together. I was hoping she would say 'yes' and, well, here we are!

Nervous about this storm?

Brad shrugs slim shoulders. "If things get drastic, of course I would do anything for her!"

It is hard to meet the gaze of this guy because there is none. Sullen. He is unnerving because there doesn't appear to be any light in his eyes.

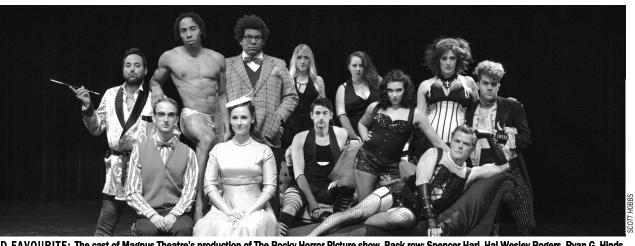
I don't know who he is because there is no gaze.

Dean Deffett, as Riff-Raff, didn't respond to my questions about what it's like to live in a castle.

Until he heard that rumble of distant thunder. Some spark of lightning?

Finally. Slowly he spoke out loud; his voice a low monotone.

Yet, that steady gaze. And, finally, with an unnerving laugh that sent me back into that cold-silver moon.



OLD FAVOURITE: The cast of Magnus Theatre's production of The Rocky Horror Picture show. Back row: Spencer Harl, Hal Wesley Rogers, Ryan G. Hinds, Alishia Suitor, Michele Shuster, Amy Sellor; Front row: Colin Simmons, Kayla James, Josh Graetz, Chelsea Preston, W. Joseph Matheson, Dean Deffett



IN THE **bay**

TV's role models or real-world icons

A recent CNN op-ed claimed that Law & Order: SVU's Olivia Benson is "the role model we need right now."

The author called Benson "fierce and fragile" as she has spent nearly 20 seasons battling personal demons while trying the catch the real monsters of the world.

Furthermore, actress Mariska Hargitay, who plays Olivia, continues much of the character's work and beliefs off-screen.

She's the founder of an organization that helps survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. So you can see why Olivia Benson is so powerful an icon for the author who is, herself, female.

But Olivia's not real. Real-life role models are trickier.

There are the athletes. Like Roberto Osuna who was charged with assault. Or Michael Vick who supported a dog-



fighting ring.

Lance Armstrong came back from cancer to become a world champion, until he was later shown to be doping, cheating and bullying anyone who might expose him. And Tiger Woods opened the all-white golf kingdom to black youth.

But he was living a double life as a dedicated husband and father while regularly cheating on his wife.

We love our actors. There's Oscar-



TV ICON: Is Law & Order's Mariska Hargitay the role model we need right now?

winner Kevin Spacey who spoke so eloquently and yet abused his coworkers and may have molested a teenager. Or America's favourite TVdad, Bill Cosby, who is now serving three to 10 years for sexual assault as a violent offender.

Comedians are trusted to pull back the mask and reveal the truth while poking fun at us. That's why Louis C.K. was so popular. His pro-women demeanour always seemed to support women's rights; that is, until he admitted to his ongoing sexual misconduct off-stage.

And there's nothing more inspiring than a celebrity who uses his or her status to improve the world. Matt Damon heads an organization that works toward clean drinking water in underdeveloped countries. But when the #MeToo movement went after his friend Harvey Weinstein, Matt couldn't stop opening his ill-informed mouth and sticking his foot in it.

It was certainly a lot easier back when my role models were Mr. Rogers, Wonder Woman, and Dr. Who. Even today, I can rely on the late friendly neighbour, cartoon Amazonian, and alien time traveller.

It's dangerous to put a real human being in the position of role model.

It guarantees eventual disappointment. Especially since it requires that they be perfect from the get-go. There's no room for growth and learning.

But shouldn't a role model learn too? That's why TV and movie characters

are perfect for the job. We forgive them so much. We allow for them to grow and become better people. And there's no ugly reality hiding around the corner.

We need to remember that. Reality is not – and never has been – a part of it. A role model should simply be an ideal that inspires us to always try harder. Not a real person we can – or should – become.

Because then, once you do and you're on top, you've got nowhere to go but down.

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Pinty's Tour Challenge draws closer

CURLING By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Kevin Martin knows a thing or two about curling.

Routinely called the greatest curler of all time, owner of four Brier championships, one Olympic gold medal and one world championship, the 52-year-old says next month's Pinty's Tour Challenge stop in Thunder Bay should be electric.

More importantly, it's a chance for local curling fans to get a first-hand view of 60 of the top curling teams in the world.

That's a rare opportunity, Martin said.

"You've got the best of the best, the top 15 men's teams, the top 15 ladies teams from around the world, battling it out in Tier 1," said Martin, who made a quick stop Tuesday in Thunder Bay to promote the nearly sold-out, \$300,000 event, scheduled to begin on Nov. 6 at the Tournament Centre.

"But really important to me, and to curling, is the Tier 2 event, because these are the up-and-comers. They will be the best in the world, they're just not there yet, they're too young."

Among the skips expected to lead teams at the Thunder Bay event are Newfoundland's Brad Gushue, Sault Ste. Marie's Brad Jacobs and Kevin Koe of



ON AIR: World champion curler Kevin Martin will be in the Sportsnet broadcast booth for next month's Pinty's Tour Challenge.

Alberta on the men's side, and reigning Olympic champion Anna Hasselborg, Ottawa's Rachel Homan and defending world champion Jennifer Jones on the women's side.

Martin, who will commentate up to 27

hours of live action on Sportsnet, owners of the Grand Slam of Curling, said the action will be fast and furious, but it'll also leave an impact on the community after the final shots have been made.

"The curlers are really easy to talk to.

They will talk to the young athletes and curlers. They will spend time with them," Martin said. "So you get all of these people excited about curling and you see a bump in the membership at the junior and the adult level at the local clubs. You always do.

"And that will happen again and that's exciting because you get new people coming out to the clubs and healthier curling clubs with more young people."

At least one local rink is expected to take part.

The team led by former Scotties Tournament of Hearts runner-up Krista McCarville is guaranteed a spot, though it's yet to be determined whether they'll be in the Tier 1 or Tier 2 division. The top 15 teams on the world curling rankings get first dibs on the top draw. McCarville's squad is currently 20th.

Committee co-chair John Cameron said while the weekend draws are completely sold out, there are about 244 single tickets left for the round-robin portion on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

With a month left to go, Cameron said things are looking good.

"I think we're in good shape as far as the logistics of the event. There are going to be a few unseen things we may not have thought of, and the site visit by Sportsnet today will maybe point out some of those out to us," he said, adding they already have 280 volunteers in place, 100 more than they originally sought.

Limited sponsorship opportunities, at the \$2,500 and \$5,000 level, also remain.





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