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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

INSIDE MMIWG INQUIRY



Familes and loved ones speak out about loss /4



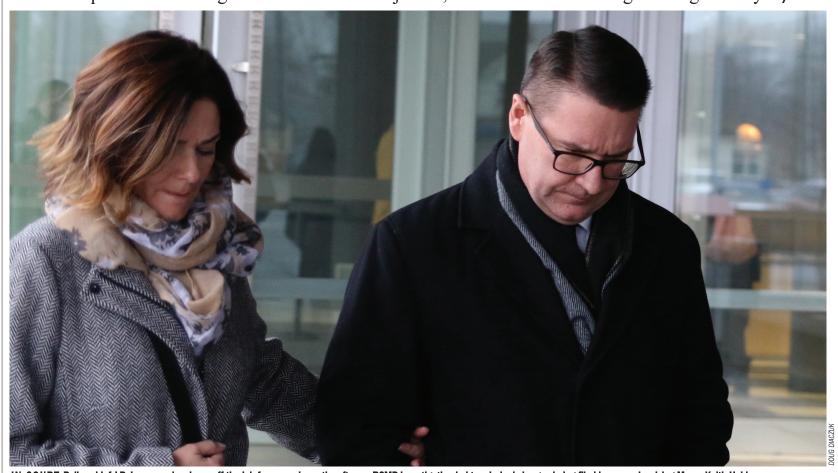
Latest royal bride-to-be captures imagination /7



Thunder Bay Olympian looking for gold again / 19

Chief's trial begins

J.P. Levesque has been charged with obstruction of justice, related to criminal charges facing the mayor /3



IN COURT: Police chief J.P. Levesque has been off the job for several months after an RCMP investigation led to criminal charges being filed in a case involving Mayor Keith Hobbs.

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Levesque trial begins

Witness says police chief told mayor of an investigation of which he was a focus

COURT By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

wo RCMP officers said they were stunned when they heard Thunder Bay Police Chief, J.P. Levesque, say he disclosed information to Thunder Bay mayor, Keith Hobbs, about an ongoing investigation of which he was the focus.

During the afternoon session on day one of Levesque's trial for charges of obstructing justice and breach of trust, counsel for the prosecution, Jason Nicol, called RCMP const. Daryl Waruk and RCMP Cpl. Ron Miller to testify.

Waruk was one of three RCMP officers who first met with Craig Loverin at a local car wash, including Loverin's longtime friend, Mike Rozic. Loverin told the officers about interactions he had with Hobbs regarding family friend and former lawyer, Alexander Zaitzeff.

Loverin said during his testimony in the morning that Hobbs requested to meet with him in a parking lot late at night to give him a memory stick that contained videos showing Zaitzeff making profane comments to then partner, Mary Voss. Loverin said he believed Hobbs wanted him to help persuade Zaitzeff to purchase a house for Voss.

Zaitzeff was arrested Nov. 21, 2016 and charged with several counts of sexual assault. According to Waruk's testimony, he received several phone calls from Hobbs on Nov. 23, stating he had aided the police in the arrest of the former Thunder Bay lawyer.

Waruk continued that Hobbs called again about a possible investigation targeting him as a result of a complainant coming forward and if that complainant was Loverin. Waruk, along with Cpl. Ron Miller, who was leading the investigation into the complaint, met with Thunder



ON TRIAL: Thunder Bay Police Chief J.P. Levesdque is in court this week.

Bay Police Staff Sgt. Norm Roy on Dec. 22 to discuss how Hobbs obtained that information.

Levesque was contacted by phone during that meeting. According to Miller and Waruk, Levesque explained that during a retirement party for deputy chief Andy Hay, he took Hobbs aside and told him the Ontario Provincial Police are investigating a statement made by a complainant without giving a name.

"I was quite shocked," Waruk said. "I didn't expect someone to divulge that he [Hobbs] is a target of an investigation.'

Miller also testified regarding the meeting and phone call. During cross-examination by Brian Gover, who is representing Levesque along with Fredrick Schumann, Miller added that Levesque made no attempt to conceal this information and was quite open with it, but it still came as

"I didn't know what to say," Miller said. "There was nothing to say. For 15 to 20 seconds we all just looked at each other. Did Levesque tell Hobbs about this investigation?'

The RCMP met with members of the Thunder Bay Police, including Levesque, earlier in the month on Dec. 14 to discuss the investigation into Hobbs and suggested another law enforcement agency take it over. Levesque agreed another organization, possibly the OPP, should head up the investigation.

Following the meeting on Dec. 22, the RCMP decided to refer the investigation directly to the OPP.

Levesque was first charged in May of this year with obstructing justice and breach of trust. Hobbs, along with wife, Marissa Hobbs, are facing charges of extortion and obstruction of justice, and Mary Voss, is also facing a charge of extortion. They were first charged in July.

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THURSDAY

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A few flurries Probability of



Scattered flurries HIGH -5 LOW -10

** 份份 A few flurries Probability of Precipitation: 40%

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Thursday, December 7, 2017

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LOCALNEWS

Stories shared at MMIWG inquiry

Up to 50 families were expected to speak while commissioners in town

THUNDER BAY
By Matt Vis - TB Source

Beginning with police waiting three days after her 16-year-old daughter went missing to become fully involved in the search, Anita Ross remains unsatisfied with the investigation into her disappearance and death.

Her daughter, Delaine Copenace, was found dead in Lake of the Woods in Kenora on March 22, 2016, about three weeks after she was reportedly last seen. Her death was determined by police and the coroner to be an accidental drowning.

"I don't believe my daughter's body was there the entire time she was missing," Ross told the national inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women during the public community hearing in Thunder Bay on Monday.

"I believe my daughter was abducted and held against her will."

As many as 50 families and survivors are expected to share their stories with the inquiry, represented by commissioners Brian Eyolfson and Michele Audette, while in Thunder Bay through the two public sessions on Monday and Tuesday, as well as privately on Wednesday or through statement gatherers. Before arriving in Thunder Bay, the inquiry had received 594 testimonials at seven hearings.

Ross, who spent more than two hours and often fought through tears, was the first to provide testimony publicly.

The teenager's body was found off the Lake Street docks, mere steps from the Ontario Provincial Police detachment in Kenora.

After the body was found, Ross said one of her shoes was found about 40 feet away. Neither the body nor that shoe had been discovered when police dive teams and underwater search resources combed the lake less than two weeks earlier.

"We watched those divers," Ross said. "Four whole days we saw them diving in and out of there."

Ross also raised concerns with post-mortem examinations conducted by the coroner, saying she believed the autopsy took less than an hour to complete. Other issues included several bruises to the right side of the body that the pathologist seemingly couldn't account for or injuries she observed at the funeral home that weren't documented.

The pathologist suggested the bruises resulted from Delaine being intoxicated and falling over, a notion that Ross still doesn't agree with.

"I believe somebody hurt my baby," Ross said tearfully.



TRAGIC DEATH: The body of Delaine Copenace was found on March 22, 2016.

Ross first sensed something was wrong on Feb. 28 when her daughter, who was described as a happy, artistic and loving child who became timid and shy into her pre-teen years, was not at home around 6 p.m.

"She was always home," Ross said. "Her bedroom was her safe haven. I never had to worry about her because she was always there."

After about three hours, she contacted police and was told Delaine was in custody. However, when she went to the station to pick her up, Ross learned her older daughter had told officers she was Delaine.

They drove around for the next few hours and reported to police Delaine was missing at 2 a.m. Ross said officers didn't come to her home until more than 12 hours later, when one officer told her not to worry and that her daughter was most likely drunk or out

Audette noted law enforcement officials have previously said the 48 hours after a person goes missing is the most critical time to search.

Concern about the quality of investigations has been a recurring theme raised during the inquiry, Eyolfson told reporters during an early afternoon break.

"We've been hearing a lot of concerns about policing, police investigations, response time to people raising concerns about their loved ones being missing," Eyolfson said. "We've been hearing these sorts of truths across the country in various locations."

On March 14, 2016, after the water search concluded, Ross was told police were suspending the search.

"That broke my heart," she said. "They only searched for her for 14 days. It was like they gave up on her."

Renters not happy with higher tax rate

City charges 2.3 times as much as residential rate for 6-plus multiplexes

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

A partment dwellers in Thunder Bay say they're paying nearly 2.5 times as much property taxes as single-family homeowners do - and they want to know why.

Julia Wojciechowski says it's unfair for the city to charge property owners of buildings with six or more units a higher mill rate, with the added taxes being passed on to tenants - often seniors or low-income earners – in higher rents.

A former condo owner, Wojciechowski said it doesn't make sense.

"It's mystifying. It's sheer discrimination against the tenants," she said on Thursday, following a meeting of the recently formed Thunder Bay Coalition Against Tax Discrimination.

According to figures available on the city's website, residential ratepayers are charged a mill rate of 0.01684145, while multi-residential owners are charged a mill rate of 0.03924319, 2.3 times as much as those falling under the residential rules.

Much lower

The Ontario average is twice as much, though a number of communities have reverted to a 1:1 ratio, including Vancouver, Red Deer, Alta. and Calgary.

Wojciechowski said Thunder Bay should consider doing the same.

"We found out that as of 1998 the city knew about this, so it's a long time coming," she said.

Fellow renter Linda Williams, a Current River resident, said she's not upset, but does want the city to make good on an inequitable tax situation in Thunder Bay.

"I was flabbergasted that we were paying two-and-a-half times what the average homeowner was paying," Williams said.

"We don't get to really see that reflected in our rent. A lot of people didn't realize that rent includes property tax. If we can get together and approach the municipality and ask why this discrepancy is here, then it'll be a bonus for us as tenants."

Landlords, under Ontario law, must pass on property tax decreases of 2.5 per cent or more to their tenants by dropping their rents accordingly.

Susan Cepanec, the landlord representative with the coalition, said renters are an easy target.

"Even the provincial government has recognized that this is not fair," she said. "I can speculate and say the reason that cities may have adopted this decades ago

was because it's a lot easier to overtax somebody who doesn't see a tax bill than to overtax somebody who does.

"But that would be speculation."

Well-attended

After about 70 people showed up to Thursday's public meeting, and with hundreds more signing a petition opposing the tax policy, Cepanec said she's hopeful the city will listen.

"I think the city, once they understand that maybe this isn't good policy, that by taking this this type of policy they're not doing the city any favours. You obviously want to encourage density. Urban sprawl is a problem," Cepanec said.

"If you're taxing multi-residential at a different rate and making it less attractive, you're not encouraging multi-residential.'

City officials were contacted for comment, but were not immediately available.



SEEKS FAIRNESS: Julia Wojciechowski wants the city to use a 1:1 taxation ratio.

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W. Gifford-Jones, MD (age 93)

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Coronary arteries are under more pressure than any other artery in the body. The heart beats around 100,000 times every 24 hours and over 2 billion times if you live to 70 years of age. Without sufficient vitamin C and lysine this constant pounding causes minute cracks in collagen, resulting in atherosclerosis, blood clots or rupturing of a weakened artery, resulting in a stroke.

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I started taking high doses of vitamin C and lysine after my heart attack 20 years ago: I still enjoy travelling, writing my columns and I also rappelled down Toronto City Hall to help raise funds for Make-A-Wish® Canada this year. Not bad for 93!



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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Election is on its way

he next six months should be inter-

With a provincial election scheduled for June 7, 2018, expect to see plenty of attention paid to the region by the Big 3 party leaders.

All will claim they love the North more than the other two.

Conservative Leader Patrick Brown will tout the number of times he's been to the region since taking over from Tim Hudak.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will continue to promise they'll take better care of the North than anyone else.

Meanwhile you can bet local MPPs Bill Mauro and Michael Gravelle will have plenty of exciting announcements to make on behalf of Premier Kathleen Wynne between now and election day.

In other words, and Donald Trump aside, the political silly season is about to begin.

The North doesn't need platitudes from politicians. The North needs actions that create jobs and long-term sustainability.

Why has the Ring of Fire not progressed as planned? What can be done to truly revive the forest industry. What will each party do to actually lower the cost of energy, to make setting up shop in the region a viable opportunity for large-scale companies?

Who has concrete plans to solve gridlock at Thunder Bay Regional?

Answers, not more questions, please.

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Fighting racism expensive

To the editor:

was privileged to be part of a delegation that met with city councillors recently to discuss racism in Thunder Bay. The Regional Multicultural Youth Council sits on the city's Anti-Racism and Respect Advisory Committee to provide an inclusive voice and youth perspective on diversity.

Being a Middle Eastern Muslim young woman in high school, I am familiar with being stereotyped, teased and harassed because of who I

I wear a hijab which represents my faith, gives me identity, comfort and

Unfortunately, I have endured negative encounters for wearing my head-scarf.

Ignorance and assumptions have led to hurtful comments such as: "My parents force me put on the hijab," "I hate non-Muslims" and so forth. Fortunately, through the RMYC I have met other young people with similar experiences, and we share positive stories about our backgrounds and growing up in our multicultural society.

We talk about common Canadian values, our hopes and dreams for a brighter and better future for everyone.

We respect each other as human beings and learn how to get along.

At the meeting, councillors heard from past RMYC members who started a reception and orientation program to welcome First Nations students to the city, help them to meet new friends, stay in school and graduate.

They trained peer leaders, and created role models who used positive influence to make a difference.

They hosted forums to discuss issues of mutual interest and workshops to develop strategies to tackle issues together.

The council engaged youths in schools, city neighbourhoods and First Nations reserves to make them part of the solution to their problems, and organized camping trips with the police to establish trust and improve relations with officers.

The RMYC did this with money from fundraising bingos and roving Monte Carlos which dried up after the Casino opened down-town.

Funding criteria put in place by the city prevented small groups such as the youth council from accessing the limited grants available.

A thriving and active youth group was forced to downsize and run shortterm projects.

We blame the casino for taking away an easy source of revenue for our youth-led initiatives that involved children and youth in positive activi-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



City hall cannot tackle racism alone and more resources are needed to address deteriorating race relations that have put Thunder Bay on the map.

If the city is serious, action-oriented grassroots groups with a proven trackrecord on anti-racism work should be recruited and their services purchased accordingly.

Children and youth should be included to break the cycle of racial hatred, intolerance, prejudice and discrimination among future genera-

The RMYC wants to be involved, but as a dependent population we need funding to restore our capacity to help.

> Yamaan Alsumadi RMYC co-president. Thunder Bay

Men dying too

To the editor:

e: MMIW Inquiry, About Time They Listened?

Listened to whom?

The last I saw, the majority of our victims of Aboriginal violence are still being ignored by the media, by our Elders, and by our own people. That being the men.

Indigenous men are murdered at a rate that is almost three times that of Indigenous women, and yet no one seems to care.

Heck former Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chief Harvey Yesno was more than happy to sit by and watch from the sidelines as our people murdered each other, while refusing to come to the Crime Prevention Council, as he didn't see this violence as his problem.

What type of society do we live in when our leaders are complacent to sit on the sidelines while their people murder each other?

The silence needs to stop. Take a look at the murder history in the city of Thunder Bay alone.

In the last 15 years, almost every single victim has been a First Nations male, yet no one seems to care. Not one single chief, not one elder, nor

the media has called for a stop, has called for our people to come to their

The murder rate of First Nations men in Canada is atrocious. In a period of Truth and Reconciliation, this is far from

> Dale Bolton, Thunder Bay

Sewers work leads to rats

To the editor:

t's not a mystery where the rats are coming from.

We disturbed the sewers which is where the rats lived. Therefore they came above ground to live and once

they make a new homes rats do not like to leave. They continue mating and building nests/homes within people's yards.

> Jayna Walsh, Thunder Bay Via Facebook

Health-care flasco

To the editor:

'll believe health-care improvements when I see them,

I was at the hospital with my 81-yearold mother who arrived by ambulance only to be put in triage for six hours. She was finally brought in a room to be

Then she was put in a hallway with 26 other people. The nurses and doctors deserve medals for their extremely hard work and dedication. They take the brunt of everyone's frustrations about this overcrowded hospital.

It would be nice if management comes out and takes everyone's complaints. How in the world does a person keeled over in pain have to wait in triage for so long? It's absolutely a disgusting situation. Causing unnecessary extra stress to an already ill patient shouldn't be

> Laura Chimenti-Pucci, Thunder Bay Via Facebook

Meghan effect a lucrative reality

Prince Harry's bride-to-be should capture the imagination of a world enraptured by royal romance

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

There was delicious news from the palace last week about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the soonto be Princess.

Nothing like a royal wedding to chase the blues away, except perhaps a new baby, and royal watchers are suddenly awash with both. In the face of a gloomy economic

future Great Britain is once again counting on the Royal Family to turn things around. They are jumping on that old,

familiar royal wedding bandwagon and they anticipate an influx of cash close to a billion dollars.

The Brits have pulled this stunt before and it always works because behind all the pomp and circumstance lies a sound financial strategy.

Whenever the country needs a few bucks to balance the budget or, whatever, they throw a Royal birthday party or get one of the Royal grandsons hitched.

Will and Kate's 2011 wedding brought an extra 800,000 visitors to the country, all eager to pay for food, lodging and memorabilia.

The "Kate effect" still brings in hundreds of millions of dollars every year through unofficial endorsements.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012 contributed well over half a billion dollars to the British economy.

And now it is expected that once Harry and Meghan tie the knot, all these numbers will be eclipsed -

River Road.



ROYAL ENGAGEMENT: Prince Harry and his flance Meghan Markle announced last week they were getting married.

Royals pay big royalties when they

The "Meghan effect" is already working its economic magic.

At her first official public appearance Ms. Markle carried an expensive designer handbag - it quickly sold out (for \$800) on the website.

She has the Midas touch for any brand of clothing she wears or any accessory she carries, including the

The monarchy is hoping she will have the same uplifting effect on their own somewhat saggy brand.

They are also hoping that the happy event will inspire the mood of the entire country.

Observers in our country are not enthralled like our British cousins although some have tried to make a Canadian connection.

How's this - Meghan Markle used to be a brand ambassador for Reitman's Canada.

Even more impressively, she is currently a global humanitarian ambassador for World Vision Canada.

It was her humanitarian work that attracted her to Prince Harry while she was promoting a clean water campaign in Africa.

She is proud to be a woman and was

seen hanging out with fellow-feminist Justin Trudeau at a summit conference in Ottawa.

Toronto claims to hold a special place in this royal romance as the backdrop for their first public Royal

It happened during the Invictus Games in that city – Harry publicly planted one right on the lips of his betrothed openly, in front of the cameras.

Their relationship was long suspected but this display of affection confirmed the rumors and caused an internet frenzy.

Ms. Markle spent years in Toronto while filming the TV series "Suits" she calls that her "seven Canadian

She gave up her day job to make time for her new Royal gig but unfortunately, she will never be a princess.

That title can only be acquired by birth and the best she can hope for is the title of "Duchess" once Harry becomes a Duke.

Royalists around the world are giddy with excitement over the coming Royal nuptials, saving their pennies and pounds for commemorative plates.

On Harry and Meghan's wedding day we will all hear the carolling of bells, a 21-gun salute and off in the distance, one loud "cha-ching".

That will be the ring of a cash register, otherwise known as "the Meghan Effect.'

It should help the Brits pay the wedding expenses with a little left over for a modest honeymoon.



HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

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Wal-Mart helping kids

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - Tb Source

Wierlynn Lunn grew up in a household dedicated to volunteering with the Children's Aid Society of Thunder Bay.

It's a tradition she's continued to instill in her own children, who on Friday helped launch the organization's annual Christmas Wish campaign.

The program encourages shoppers to select a snowman off a tree at the entrance to Thunder Bay's Memorial Avenue Wal-Mart and purchase a suggested toy for a child in need.

Participants can choose the age and gender of the child they're shopping for, the goal to collect 500 presents for children under the care of the Children's Aid Society.

Getting a gift brings plenty of joy to everyone involved.

"It's not only the children's faces, it's the caregivers too. Sometimes they're put into a financial bind. They take in a child and sometimes it's through kinship and sometimes it's through the goodness of their hearts," Lunn said.

"Having one extra person around and getting to know them and finding out

their likes and wants is sometimes a little bit difficult. Having the community come together and picking out a snowman and delivering a gift is the true meaning of Santa Claus."

Executive director Brad Bain said the program has been working with the community for 28 years to ensure children and youth from disadvantaged families have an opportunity to experience Christmas in a way most people take for granted.

Gifts, once purchased, can be left in the collection bins at Wal-Mart and volunteers will then wrap and deliver them.



GIVING BACK: Paislee Lunn, 20 months, mother Vierlynn Lunn, Evan Freeman, 9, and Jason Freeman, 7, launch the Christmas Wish cmpaign at Wal-Mart on Memorial Avenue.

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Assess your space. Regularly check for any damage —even if it's minor — to the walls, ceiling, floors, countertops, windows and doors. Make sure to check under sinks for leaks or other issues with your pipes. The earlier you catch these problems, the easier they will be to fix. If you have a balcony, inspect it for damage from the elements. Even an adjacent unit, for example, can have water run-off from the balcony and can cause rust stains.

Check your appliances. The kitchen is usually the room with the most complex



wiring. Check for burn marks around the plug and socket for appliances like your dishwasher, fridge, washer, dryer and air condition system. If you're using an extension cord for any one of your appliances, make sure you use the right one for the job — there are special cords rated for use with appliances, and also ones specifically for outdoor use. If you're renting, don't rely only on your landlord to do

these checks — do them yourself and let your landlord know if there are any issues that need attention.

Get the appropriate insurance. If you own the unit, you'll need condo insurance that also covers the immovable parts of your condo like your countertops, bathtub and sink, and any improvements you've made like laying in new flooring or renovating the kitchen. If you are a tenant, make sure personal contents are covered, as well as any additional living expenses you would incur should your condo become unfit to live in due to a claim. With the right insurance plan you can avoid unwanted, costly surprises. Companies like Belairdirect can help navigate and determine the right type of insurance for your condo-living needs.

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\$1000 Bonus Draw	Gregory Tait	0937
\$1000 Bonus Draw	Phil Davies	0338

\$10,000

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IN BRIEF



CHARRED BOARDS: A pellet pallet caught fire Monday at St. Ignatius.

Fire at school

Students at St. Ignatius High school were placed under a shelter in place order on Monday morning after a small fire broke out near the facility's new artificial turf field.

According to a statement front the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, smoke was seen rising from a pallet of rubber pellets stored next to the field.

Police and fire crews responded to the small blaze, which was quickly brought under control.

The shelter order remained in place until 10:35 a.m. when it was clear there was no environmental risk.

The investigation continues.

Plane crashes in Sioux Lookout

Investigators are looking into the cause of a plane crash on Monday at the Sioux Lookout Airport.

Two occupants of the plane suffered minor injuries, with one being taken to the hospital for precautionary measures and later released.

Ontario Provincial Police say the plane, which crashed while landing, was leaking fluids that were cleaned up by Sioux Lookout Volunteer Fire Services crews.

Public board enrolment down

Inrolment numbers are down at public board schools this year. Lakehead Public Schools on Friday released its student numbers for 2017-18, showing that 76 more students have enrolled in public elementary schools this fall, but 139 fewer students are attending the Lakehead board's four high schools. All told, 8,813 students attend classes at public board schools, a 0.7 per cent drop from the 8,876 students enrolled the year prior.

High-school enrolment dropped from 2,866 in 2016 to 2,727 this year, a decrease of 4.8 per cent. The board had 3,022 high-school students enrolled in 2015.

The good news for Lakehead Public Schools is their elementary number continue to climb, if ever so slightly.

The board in 2016 boasted 6,010 elementary school students, which grew 1.3 per cent to 6,086 in 2017, a second straight year of increases.

Giving Tuesday good to Lakehead

akehead University raised \$57,725 on Giving Tuesday, thanks to the generosity of alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University.

Giving Tuesday is a relatively new Canadian initiative for charitable giving. Seen as the opening day of the giving season, it is when individuals, groups, and organizations, join together to share their commitment, rally for their favourite charitable causes.

"We're thrilled with the turnout," said Deb Comuzzi, Lakehead University's vice-president, external relations.

Four arrested in north side drug raids

Cash, crack and cocaine seized in dual searches

POLICE
By TB Source staf

police have four men in custody on drugrelated offences following an execution of two search warrants at two north-side apartments.

Police, in a release issued on Monday, say two search warrants were executed simultaneously in two apartments on the 100 block of South Court Street Thursday around 8:30 p.m.

Officers seized \$57,000 in cash along with cocaine, crack cocaine with a street value around \$15,000 and \$600 worth of percocets.

They also seized an imitation handgun and

ammunition.

Twenty-one-year-old Thunder Bay man Abdul Wahab Sheikh, 24-year-old North York man Bernard Owereko-Ampomah, 24-year-old Thunder Bay man Jaymz Keir Hancock and 35-year-old Thunder Bay man Christoper Manning are all facing drug-related charges.

All have appeared in court and were remanded into custody.

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Horwath takes aim at hospital cuts

POLITICS By Leith Dunick - TB Source

DP Leader Andrea Horwath says her government will immediately implement a moratorium on cuts to hospital budgets to help end overcrowding at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Flanked by local candidates Lise Vaugeois and John Rafferty outside the hospital, Horwath on Monday said a decade of cuts and budget freezes has caused a huge crisis in the hospital system across Ontario.

Timeliness matters

People deserve quality health care delivered quickly, she said, which isn't happening in many communities across the province, especially in Ontario's north.

The health-care horror stories have to stop, Horwath said.

"People are in hallways for days on



ELECTION: Candidates Lise Vaugeois and John Rafferty flank NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

end with bright lights, with people moving back and forth. Other stretchers bang into (them) as they're on their way

to different parts of the hospital," she said.

"There's a complete lack of privacy.

People should be able to have care in hospitals where their own personal health-care situation doesn't become the topic of conversation amongst everybody else that's lying around in the hallways on stretchers.

Horwath, in full-on election mode, acknowledged there is a serious alternative level of care problem in the province and promised to help alleviate the problem.

She blamed the governing Liberals, in power since 2003, for not having the foresight to plan for an aging population.

Thunder Bay Regional is in near constant gridlock, crossing the threshold 90 per cent of the time between April 1 and Aug. 31, a 20 per cent increase over the same period a year earlier.

"The Liberals have been in office for 14 years. They've done nothing to prepare us for the growing, aging population in this province," Horwatch said.

"So yes, New Democrats will be

looking at not only long-term care, but making sure we have a home-care system that's functional and that can actually help people stay at home with dignity and the quality of care they deserve."

Smarter spending

Asked where she'll get the money to pay for more health-care services, Horwath suggested both the Liberals and Conservatives have been wasteful with government coffers, noting that efficiencies can be found to cover the costs

Vaugeois said she's seen far too many long waits at the local emergency department not to act.

"Once people get in, they get good care. They have wonderful staff here," she said. "But the wait times are far too long and both Liberal and Conservatives governments have consistently made a point to cut from the core health services."







people | health | home | food | leisure

CP's Holiday Train a hit

THUNDER BAY By Matt Vis - TB Source

It may have been unseasonably warm with only traces of snow on the ground, but the CP Holiday Train reminded hundreds of people in Thunder Bay on Friday that Christmas is right around the corner.

The festively decorated train rolled right on schedule to a resounding chorus of cheers at the CPR station on Syndicate Avenue, welcomed by potentially one of the largest crowds to turn out in the city in the past few

Kirsten Lavoie said she tries to see the train every year, not matter the weather conditions.

"It's fun. I like coming. We have a blast every time we come," she said.

"Usually we're dancing to keep warm but now we're dancing for fun."

The train, which had travelled along the north shore of Lake Superior with visits in Marathon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay and Nipigon earlier in the day, made its way through the city to its east end destination where an eager crowd had been building for more than an hour awaiting its arrival.

Alana Wallace, who came to catch a glimpse of the train for the first time, was already in the holiday spirit.

"I love Christmas. I was ready for Christmas in September," Wallace said. "I love it. I loved dancing and having fun."

People who came to welcome the train were treated to performances by Toronto singer Emma-Lee and Canadian rocker Colin James.

The train boosts local food banks along its



journey, with Canadian Pacific Rail presenting the Regional Food Distribution Association with a \$13,000 cheque.

Volker Kromm, the executive director of Regional Food Distribution Association, said people seem to have a strong connection to the train.

Volunteers collected non-perishable

donations, which Kromm said were greatly appreciated.

"The timing couldn't be better," Kromm

"As we're running up towards Christmas we're finding ourselves desperately short this year. We've had a lot of requests looking for hamper help."

Power Centre giving gifts

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

he Power Centre has put a 50-inch, Samsung 4K smart television up for grabs in an effort to make Christmas a little brighter for Thunder Bay's homeless population.

The TV is the grand prize in the retailer's Power of Giving campaign, which asks customers to donate a Christmas gift for Shelter House clients, who are often overlooked during the holiday season.

Power Centre general manager David Radford said it's the company's

DAVID RADFORD

meaningful way.

"I thought it was a wonderful idea," Radford said. "The Shelter House is a great organization, we all know that. Thunder

Bay is a very giving city and I just love how people love to give especially Christmastime.'

Getting in on the chance to win the grand prize is simple, Radford added.

Just drop off a gift in return for

He's hopeful as many people as possible take part.

"Hopefully everybody brings something in. We'd like to see so

many gifts it would be crazy. I'd like to see chance to give back to the community in a dump trucks worth of gifts.'

Michelle Jordan, the acting executive director at Shelter House, said they're looking for a variety of presents for their clientele, as well as those who access their community kitchen.

"We just want to make sure that everyone who comes through our doors at Christmastime has a gift to open, especially the kids that come."

She's looking for a wide range of

"Anything really," Jordan said. "Necessity things, but we also expect to get things like board games, maybe for teenagers or decks of cards. For children, toys and for adults maybe things they can use throughout the year, like mitts and hats and the like.'

The contest will run through Dec. 20.



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Santa Bus food drive a tradition

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Santa Bus is ready to roll. The festively decorated Thunder Bay Transit coach will be travelling around the city this week encouraging riders on all buses and routes to donate non-perishable goods to help feed the hungry this Christmas season.

It's a tradition that Transit workers find easy to get behind, said Ken Koza, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 966.

"Transit operators, we see all sides of the city of Thunder Bay. We see there is a great need for food banks in the city and we just really want to do whatever we can to help support that," Koza said on Monday, moments after the bus rolled out of Transit's Water Street headquarters.

The Santa Bus is one-of-a-kind, adorned with hundreds of Christmas lights, penguin and snowman figures

placed at the front of the vehicle to guide the driver's way.

Koza said last year they managed to collect more than 11,000 pounds of food and about \$2,000 in cash. He's hoping to be somewhere in that neighbourhood again in 2017.

"Last year we blew away other years," he said

"As much as I'd like to say let's beat the 11,000 pounds, I would really like to see if we can meet that again. Of course if we could exceed the 11,000 we would just be ecstatic."

Koza said collection bins will be placed on every city bus this week where donations to the Thunder Bay food bank can be made.

"Then on Saturday, Dec. 9 we're going to be at No Frills on Edward Street between noon and 8 p.m. Santa Claus is going to be there, so bring out the kids and get some pictures," Koza said. "Then on Sunday, Dec. 10 we're going to be at Metro on Arthur and James."



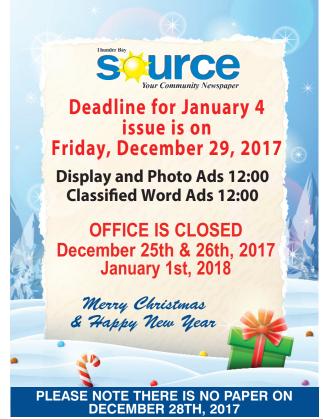
READY: Amalgamated Transit Union Local 966's Ken Koza says he hopes bus drivers collect close to the 11,000 pounds they got last year.



LET US HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT GIFT FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!







"...our food

liaison was

able to strike

some really

good deals

for us."

JOLEENE KEMP

Christmas Cheer sets \$116K target

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Christmas Cheer has dropped its 2017 target by 10,000 from last year - and the charity is making it even easier for people to make a dona-

Joleene Kemp, the organization's

chair, said they lowered their goal to \$116,000 partly to help other food-based campaigns succeed and partially because they have found efficiencies that mean they don't need to spend as much money this year.

"We recognize how many other charities, in particular food banks and other organizations, are trying to raise money at this time," Kemp said on Friday at the launch of this year's Christmas Cheer campaign.

"We took a look at how much our grocery bill was last year, how much the bill was for bringing in all of the

hampers, purchasing bags, which are basically our costs. We decided we could cut it \$10,000 because our food liaison was able to strike some really good deals for us.'

Each year Christmas Cheer provides hampers containing a week's worth of food, as well as toys for children through the Thunder Bay Professional

Firefighters Toys for Tots campaign.

Kemp said the organization has to show the public it can do more with less.

They've also found added help in the local school system.

"They talked about how they were getting their programs started earlier and we're anticipating really powerful numbers from our schools," Kemp said.

"We've also expanded to the arenas, to the public libraries. Those are sites that we didn't have last year. Those are locations where people who don't have children in the system can donate and we really think it will help."

To ease the donation process, Christmas Cheer officials have partnered with Tbaytel to set up a method of donating through one's smart phone.

"You text 20222 and then in the message box you text CHEER. You press send and a message will come back asking if you wish to donate \$10 to Christmas Cheer. You say yes and it automatically goes to your phone bill," Kemp said.

Christmas Cheer will also be holding a donation blitz on Dec. 18 at the CLE Coliseum. Donations may be made until Dec. 20. Non-perishable goods can also be dropped off at any branch of the Thunder Bay Public Library, who will wipe out \$1 of library fines for each item given.

Donations can also be dropped off at any Scotiabank location in Thunder Bay, at the Chronicle Journal or at the Christmas Cheer's CLE offices.

Hampers will be given out on Dec. 19 and Dec. 20.



SCALED BACK: Christmas Cheer chair Joleene Kemp with this year's \$116,000 goal.



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The case of December's missing snow



am probably going to earn the ire of many readers this time. I'm asking that we all pray for snow. There, I've said it. OK, Jones, why?

There are a couple of reasons for requesting that Ole' Man Winter shake the snowflakes down upon us.

It is December after all and as of this writing, the snow that has fallen to cover the land is rapidly retreating. Large patches of green are now being revealed.

Sure, carting the compost bucket to the compost heap is now a lot easier – no threat of having to strap on snow-shoes to make the journey.

And while the snow cover that allowed for safe passage twixt hoosie and barn turned to skating rink ice, I managed with Big Red, my tractor ancient, to grab several bucketsful of sand and spread it such that two-footed types now have firm footing to the barn and back and also four footed or, I should say, hoofed creatures can also get from paddock to barn without mishap.

Pros and cons

And yes, travel along our trails is easier especially when we discovered that the recent winds knocked down yet more trees that need to be cleared.

So why am I griping?

If this warmth and melt continues and the temperature drops to seasonal ones as promised last I looked, then I worry about our septic tank freezing.

A Good snow cover insulates the tank and the plumbing that leads from Casa Jones to the tank.

One year back in the early 2000's, we had very little snow cover and I had to go and purchase straw to spread over the septic field.

While layering the straw on top of the field prevents any interruption in the normal working of the tank and field, it leaves a royal mess to be cleaned up in the spring.

Freezing septic fields are a major concern for rural dwellers and, fortunately, most winters we are blessed with enough of the white stuff to prevent any such interruption.

We are also fortunate here in that our water well has never frozen.

I know of some rural neighbours who have required an expert come out and thaw the well.

A good snow cover and/or rain in the spring usually ensures that rural wells will have a good supply of water.

Another reason why snow cover is important is for the wee creatures who use the cover in which to hide from predators. Moles, mice, etc. depend on deep snow to act as a barrier to the foxes, wolves, and raptor birds from having easy pickings.

Tractor fix

Big Red wouldn't start today so my up-the-road mechanic (how handy) came and determined that the starter needs repair.

While assessing the trouble I mentioned that I thought we needed snow in the worst way before the severe cold arrives.

He totally agreed that we rural rooters would be in big doo-doo regarding our septic fields without a good snow cover. Not that we are keen on ploughing, mind.

We were spoiled during that first, big snowfall before Halloween. A winter wonderland greeted us that morning. It happened again during early November, if memory serves. Now it is December, the Christmas month, and a winter wonderland would be very welcome.

The son of my friend, Dave, lives in Squamish, B. C.

He sent a picture of his six-year old, smiling son standing beside a huge snowman they had made recently after they received a big dump of snow, a very uncommon phenomenon in that part of the province.

Lucky guys.

As I write, it is foggy and rainy. So, pray for snow. Pray for enough such that we can have a white Christmas. I don't want to have to buy straw to protect the septic field.

But wait! My wife, Laura, has just entered my lair and announced that we can expect snow this week, maybe even a lot of snow. So, by the time you read this, Ole' Man Winter may have heard my plea.

Hope so. Come Christmas, I don't want to be singing a bad Bing Crosby impression.







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3 draws - \$1,000, \$500, \$375 cash prizes

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3 draws - \$1,000, \$500, \$375 cash prizes

3 draws - \$1,000, \$500, \$375 cash prizes

3 draws - \$1,000, \$500, \$375 cash prizes 1 draw - \$50,000 cash prize

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Parade of Lights cuts through fog

Organizers say they were hoping to match last year's fundraising total, which collected \$25,000

THUNDER BAY

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

t was a foggy Christmas Eve when Santa asked Rudolph to guide his sleigh, but dozens of trucks didn't need a magical reindeer to bring the spirit of the season to thousands of cheering people looking on through the fog.

The 19th Annual Parade of Lights made its way through the Intercity area on Saturday night, with thousands of people lined up along the route from Main Street, down Memorial Avenue and Fort William Road, and ending at Water Street.

Greg Stephenson, chair of the Parade of Lights, said there were 86 trucks and 20 jeeps registered for this year's event, which is on par with past years.

"It's awesome," he said before the start of the parade. "There's lots of trucks in the lot, there's lot of people lining the route. It's going to be a fantastic event."

The Parade of Lights is a fundraiser for the Thunder Bay and District chapter of Autism Ontario, the George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Special Olympics Ontario, and the Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association, with all



BRIGHTENING THE SEASON ON WHEELS: Parade of Lights participants wave to the crowd last Saturday night.

the money raised being divided equally.

"We are hoping to raise at least \$25,000," Stephenson said. "That is what

we raised last year and I know the citizens of Thunder Bay and area are very generous and hopefully we will be able to obtain that goal."

And the fog wasn't going to dampen Stephenson's spirit, in fact, it helped make things a little brighter.

"It helps with the lights," he said. "You couldn't ask for better weather."

And while the sight of massive trucks decked out with lights and decorations is a sight to behold for the people lining the streets, for those riding on the trucks, like Debby Dick and Zena Ariganello it's just as exciting.

"We've done it for the last three years," Dick said. "The kids get involved and it's just lots of fun. We make the decorations and get the lights. All the kids enjoy it."

While Dick has been on the truck in years past, this was Ariganello's first time waving to the onlookers.

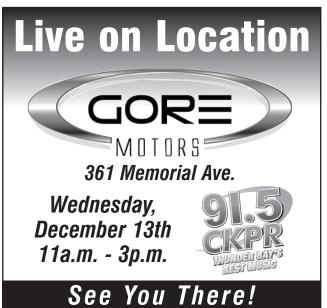
"I'm really looking forward to watching my kids experience it because they've never been on the float," she said. "We've watched it from the road but this is a whole new experience."

As the trucks rolled past, blowing their horns and the Christmas lights cutting through the fog, the crowds were ready to welcome the holiday season.

"Thunder Bay is truly blessed, because we have two significant parades," Stephenson said. "This is basically 23 days until Christmas, so this is kind of a kick off and this is a wonderful event."

Do you have an opinion to share?

E-mail the editor at ldunick@dougallmedia.com





Symphony offering up holiday concert

MUSIC By Linda Maehans - TB Source

n preparation for Christmas just around the corner, this city's premiere orchestra and Symphony Chorus invite the community out to a very special evening of holiday sound, music and dance

Holiday Pops is a wonderful show for an audience of every age. This year's program is once again sure to enchant and delight; together with the musicians and voices of the TBSO the performance includes guest vocalist Tiina Flank, St. Paul's Handbell Choir, the Stringlings, and the graceful moves of Dance Dynamic Studio.

TBSO's relatively new conductor-inresidence is excited to be leading all the on-stage talent. Simon Rivard arrived in Thunder Bay from Quebec just this past September; since then he's been out and about and in classrooms where lots of students are benefiting from the educational component of Rivard's role with the orchestra. He was asked how he plans to make next week's holiday concert magical.

"This is my moment to put it all together. I'm really looking forward to bringing everyone in the community together for a huge Christmas party.

I'd like to introduce the audience to my world a bit," he continued. "Christmas is such an important event for me; we have all these different influences this time of year: from Britain, with Messiah, with the more informal American carols, or with the traditional carols; the kids with their dancing; the choir with their singing. I hope people will share the festive spirit of the evening. I think it's going to be great!"

Diana Hannaford-Wilcox's involvement with the St. Paul's Handbell Choir spans nearly two decades. As musical director she oversees the mechanics of the sublime sound this group delivers on special occasions in church. "A church congregation is very diverse; choosing music that moves everyone is impos-



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops is on Dec. 16.

sible, but if I can find that perfect classical piece or arrangement of an old hymn I've done well. The handbells help with that meaningful experience."

It was especially interesting for me to learn a little about how bells are played.

"Handbell music looks similar to piano music, with exceptions to some of the techniques. Each handbell ringer is assigned two notes, including the sharps and flats that go with these two notes. The trick is knowing how to count.

I have a group of more accomplished ringers who will play in a quartet; here each has many handbells to ring, sometimes having to pass the bells from one person to the next."

I asked Diana if the concentration required to ring individual notes prevents her group from enjoying the beautiful overall sound a congregation or an audience hears. Various members of the handbell choir offered the following: "whenever I am transported by the sound I stay there for a few seconds while the music moves ahead as it should; not good! Something I'm aware of and try to avoid."

"Yes, the concentration has to be exact. I think when we play well and everything comes together, at the end we are aware of it. That goose-bump feeling."

Nicely said. Plan to attend TBSO's Holiday Pops concert at the Community Auditorium next Saturday evening, Dec.16. Family-friendly show time is 7 n m.







Def Sup looking for manifestations

Art gallery's juried exhibition showcasing the work of 50 different artists, their largest exhibit yet

ART By Linda Maehans – TB Source

The Oxford Dictionary, eleventh edition, defines manifest as "clear and obvious".

How appropriate then that Definitely Superior's Regional Juried Show, the 29th, declares "Manifestation" as its theme.

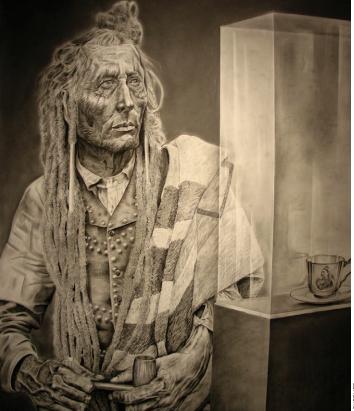
Gallery director David Karasiewicz muses on why this annual call for submissions from visual artists throughout northwestern Ontario just keeps improving year upon year.

"The juried exhibition can be daunting for the jurors. When we have such a high number of submissions, this year it was over 90, and then to have to pare it down to those works best fitting the theme, while demonstrating artistic excellence, is really challenging. And of course the biggest challenge belongs to the artists. The 50 artists selected for this year's show is our largest output ever. Tells me there is a very strong level of artistry happening in our region, and we should be proud of that."

Consider the many meanings the word manifestation conjures in an imagination; leaves it wide open, doesn't it. Now take a slow saunter through the first two galleries of DefSup and see what you think, what you didn't expect, what you couldn't have expected. Yet so clear and obvious

Soon as we walk through the main





NEW THEME FOR SHOW: Definitely Superior's Regional Juried Art Show, Mainfestations, will be on display until Jan. 13.

entrance our attention is fairly arrested by a huge and brightly menacing acrylic titled "Ocean Guard". We feel dwarfed by an underwater flotilla of rainbow, zebra-mosaic-patterned fish, jaws open so we can note those sharp teeth. We notice aslanted fin along their backs. Sharks. Our eyes dart here and there, outward to the perimeter of the canvas where watery currents snake beside the

fish. But we keep returning to the centre of the canvas: to a see-through creature, a hole seemingly blasted right through its torso.

With alarm we gaze at markings in

lurid magenta and orange around this poor creature's face and sides. Electricity gone wrong; electrocution, or poison springs to mind.

In contrast, no colour whatsoever, but equally effective for one's imagination is a wire drawing on the next wall. Yes, it is exactly that: an outline achieved via bent wire, here and there lifted away from the wall up to an inch or so, so as to create shadows: delicate outlines that might be telling us the real story behind this clever piece the artist has titled "What the". As you gaze at the surprised, chagrined expressions on these faces, allow your imagination free range.

No surprise, in DefSup's third gallery one of the cleverest of film presentations for the imagination this viewer has ever encountered. Its simple title: Façade.

The film's creator Piotr Skowronski, now an internationally recognised cinematography/photography artist, is an alumni of Confederation College's Film Production program.

In black and white, no sound whatsoever, we are compelled to watch expressions: the manifestations in people's faces. Eyes, lips, foreheads, eyebrows, throats, teeth, back to the eyes. What are they looking at? Note how it changes. In our imaginations we are right there.

Manifestations at Definitely Superior Art are up until Jan. 13. Go see, and imagine for yourself.





Christmas classics are twisted tales

Holiday movies and shows have a darker side than we think

At this time of year, the networks are filling up with holiday specials and movies to help us get in the mood to overspend on items nobody needs but everyone just has to have.

There are two types to choose from. The first have Christmas as a sub-title, the not-so-Christmas classics.

For example, Die Hard is a holiday hostage situation and While vou Were Sleeping has a woman pretending to be engaged to a guy in a coma.

And who could forget Lethal Weapon in which a hooker is killed to the tune of Jingle Bell Rock.

Then there are the movies that are



all about the holidays.

And despite a multitude of Christmas classics to choose from, there's always new fare on the menu.

Candace Cameron Bure is taking time off Fuller House to star in Switched at Christmas as a set of estranged twins.

Meanwhile, Glee's Amber Riley

stars as a college student who tries to hire a family for the holidays in My One Christmas Wish.

These are nice little films. Yet, they don't quite meet the standards that were set by my juvenile heart so many Christmases ago with films like It's a Wonderful Life and Miracle on 34th Street. Those were magic.

Or were they? My ultimate Christmas classics include a suicide attempt and locking up Santa in a psychiatric ward. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Even the true children's classics are rife with questionable content. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was ostracized by his peers and only accepted after he could prove his value.

Charlie Brown's Christmas focuses on a neurotic kid and his pathetic

E N N O C II N N V

little tree. And Frosty the Snowman involves theft and a murdered snowman.

In 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, Santa holds a grudge against an entire town for the comments of one loudmouth idiot. (Hopefully Kim Jong-un isn't watching.) And don't get me started on the Grinch.

Of course, in the last few decades, some new classics have popped up. Everyone loves The Santa Clause.

A guy steals a dead man's red suit and as a result, is blackmailed into giving up his life for this new job.

It was followed by The Santa Clause 2 in which the same guy is now forced to find a wife who is then emotionally blackmailed into giving up her life too.

In Home Alone, Macauley Culkin

is "accidentally" left behind when the family leaves town for the holidays. But don't be afraid children. That sound you heard downstairs

was actually someone breaking in while the cops ignored your pleas for Elf wears green tights. Should be

fun, right? Except he's sent away from everything he knows by his adoptive family.

Then his biological father shuns him too. (Can anyone say DACA?) And what's the holiday without

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation and an electrocuted cat?

OK, so perhaps our Christmas classics are as twisted as our tendency to over-shop and complain about it. But at least we're watching them together.

ABAA MOWN

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DATES

SITIAID BUNCH

NERA

30 ____ Rive 31 Television

channel 33 Girl's name

35 Legendary Celt 38 Noose 40 Reek

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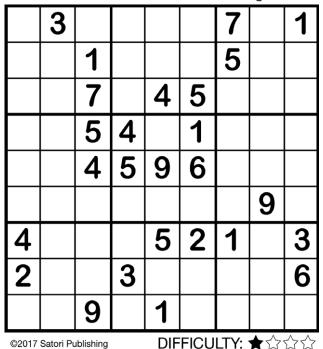
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WORD SEARCH

G	R	ı	Р	S	ı	E	N	N	O	S	U	N	N	Υ	
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Sunsets Cawed Sadness Longish Claret Sample Surged Loops Cries Males Saver Tests Crooned Sheer These **Evokina** Neglects Shrill Trendies Grieves Pools Snout Vacillate Hoaxing Proxv Sonnets Visas Splice Lamentation Pushe

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Leakages

ENIGMA **CRYPTOGRAM**

Burst

TM Enigma cryptograms are created from guotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "R" = "O"

Sunny

"BUF ZBLSB LN ORF ARRJ ERD FBI MII-BLQI SUOORF MI ARRJ ERD FBI MIIN."

- PUDSWN UWDIKLWN

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" - Abraham Lincoln E221 ©2017 Satori Publishing

CROSSWORD PUZZL **ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE** direction

44 New York river

46 Characteristics

(abbr.) 50 Backward 53 Become

Admin. (abbr.)

49 Grand Old Party

insignificant 56 Civil Aeronautics

57 Airplane 58 Pounds per sq.

inch, diff. (abbr.) 59 Soviet Socialist

Republic (abbr.) 60 Attention getting

sound 61 Spring

ACROSS Civilian

Conservation Corps

(abbr)

4 Bean cheese 8 Label

11 Glass (pref.) 13 Twist

14 River (Sp.) 15 Zulu warriors

16 Sneaking 18 Retail liquor

dealer (abbr.)

20 Measuring

instruments

21 Without a country 24 Fortunate (India)

25 Receipt (abbr.) 26 Disseminate 28 Arrange as

hangings 32 Occipital

protuberances 34 Federal Bureau of

Investigation (abbr.) 36 Ancient Gr. city

37 River into the

Tobacco, and Firearms (abbr.)

41 Illicit drug

39 Bureau of Alcohol

22nd Greek letter

Cymric (abbr.) Strauss opera Township (abbr.)

Propel Jumpina

amphibians

School course (abbr.)

ASS DOWN 9 Senior (Fr.)

10 Swamps

A L P S L A

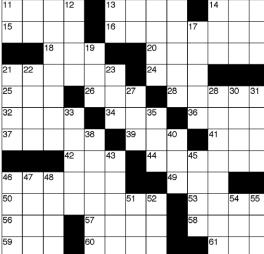
12 Bagpipe hole 17 Shrine (Fr.) 19 Some (Fr.) 21 Sister of Ares

22 Ohio city 23 Defense (abbr.) 27 Boxing org. 29 Cenis (2 words)

43 Colorado park 45 Cup to hold a gem 46 Muscular spasms 47 Royal Naval Air Service (abbr.) 48 Caucasian

language 51 Hesitation sounds 52 lota 54 Edge of crater

55 Girl's name



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local sports news | information | coverage



TWO-TIME CHAMP: Thunder Bay's Haley Irwin won women's hockey Olympic gold in 2010 and 2014 for Team Canada.

Irwin seeks triple gold

Thunder Bay forward healthy after concussion, hip surgery

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Since winning Olympic gold a second time in 2014, it's been a struggle for Haley Irwin to stay

After Sochi, Irwin was knocked out of action with a nasty concussion that cost the Thunder Bay forward nine months. She returned to action, only to have surgery on her hip that sidelined her for another lengthy stretch.

Add in a minor injury at the start of the current campaign and it's been tough to find playing time in order to impress the coaching staff and prove she belongs on the roster in search of a third straight Olympic title.

The 29-year-old, a 10year veteran with Canada's national women's hockey program, shrugged off her

injuries as a bump in the road. Not once did she considering giving up her Olympic dream.

"I just didn't want to go out that way. I just felt like I had more to give and more fight in me. It was about becoming a healthy individual and a healthy athlete," Irwin said on Sunday, following Canada's 2-1 overtime win over the United States in St. Paul, Minn. in an Olympic tune-up at the Xcel Energy Center.

"I'm just taking it one step at a time."

The injuries were a reminder that hockey careers aren't forever.

With a new group of youngsters aiming to put an end to U.S. dominance of late on the women's hockey stage, Irwin said her third attempt at

"I just didn't

want to go

out that

way."

HALEY IRWIN

an Olympic team spot is that much more special, knowing very well the Pyeonchang, Korea Games could be her last.

She wants to savour each and every moment.

"I think I'm a different player and person because of everything I've gone through and for the better," Irwin said.

"I'm grateful and understand the opportunity that's in front of me and I want to make sure I take full advantage of it."

Irwin, who plays for the Calgary Inferno, is one of 15 forwards vying for a spot on the Canadian roster, one of 12 returnees from the 2014 squad.

Her coach, Laura Schuler, called Irwin an incredible, feisty and smart player.

"She helps us control the game and I think you saw that tonight in her play. She can calm things down for us, for sure, and she's a presence on the bench and in the locker room and just an overall good round person," Schuler said.

Irwin said she's still got plenty left in the tank, and believes she can play an important role for Canada when the Olympic tournament rolls

Against the Americans she played in just every situation imaginable, including time on the power play. Whatever it takes, Irwin said.

"We're a good hockey club, full of a lot of players that are very talented," Irwin said. "At any time you can get the tap to go out there. It's about understanding what your role is at the moment and what your

"Whether that's standing in front of the net on the power play or going to battle or shooting pucks or scoring goals I think you just have to be prepared for anything."

Canada opens its Olympic title defence on Feb. 11 against Russia.



CONGRATULATIONS to this week's Grand a Day Winners!

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sports **NEWS**

Feller returns to manage Cats

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

lanager Mitch Feller is back for a second go-around with the Thunder Bay Border Cats.

The Northwoods League team on Thursday announced Feller had agreed to return to guide the team again in 2018, a season that saw the club start the season with a three-week road trip because of ongoing construction at Port Arthur Stadium.

The Cats finished 27-43 under Feller in 2017.

"It was quite the introduction to the Northwoods League this past summer for Coach Feller with all the issues but he did a great job and I feel learned a lot from the experience," Cats general Manager Dan Grant said in a release.

"We feel he will build off that experience and help put together a competitive squad and lead Thunder Bay to a third league

Feller said he's excited at the opportunity.

The Thunder Bay community and Border Cats fans are second to none. The Border Cats organization is doing something special." Feller said.

"It is a pleasure to work with Dan and I look forward to working with him again in 2018. We have been able to build a good foundation and will continue our mission to bring a championship to Thunder Bay."

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TOP SCORER: Eric Staal had 23 points in his first 26 games with the Minnesota Wild this season.

Staal rebounds

Second season with Wild even better than first

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

t's easy to forget just how long Eric Staal has been in the National Hockey League.

One look at the game notes provided by the Minnesota Wild in the media box is a quick

Since entering the league in 2003, Staal ranks second in shots, third in games played, sixth in goals, seventh in points and 10th in assists amongst active players.

And he's showing no sign of slowing down. Now in his 14th season, the 33-year-old has 23 points in 26 games and had 11 points in his previous nine games entering Saturday's 2-1 overtime win against the visiting St. Louis

"I've been fortunate to have been put in some great spots with some great players here," said Staal, in his second season with the Wild.

"We've got a great nucleus of forwards who can make a difference. It's been fun to join and be a part of hockey down here and looking forward, hopefully, to a lot more time."

One of just a couple of handfuls of active players who can boast a 100-point season, a group that includes the likes of Sidney Crosby, Alexander Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin and the latest, Connor McDavid, Staal welcomes the NHL's offensive explosion, which in part can be attributed to new rules that limit slashing and have also led to more power plays being assessed.

Despite his advancing age, the veteran forward doesn't seem to have any issues

"I think you have to adjust with the game. The game's definitely turned even more uptempo and fast-paced. It's tight checking, but there are opportunities to find some areas. For me, fortunately it's been going well and I've been enjoying it. So I want to keep that going," Staal said.

The situation doesn't seem to matter in 2017-18.

He's got a couple of power play goals this season and is tied for tops in the NHL with three shorthanded points, his two shorthanded goals tied for third.

Staal, who has 363 goals and 869 points in 1,037 NHL games, isn't too worried about individual numbers - unless team success comes along with them.

The Wild (13-10-3) may be in sixth place in the highly competitive Central Division, but they're in the thick of a wild-card race, a point back of Vancouver and just six points behind third-place Nashville, last year's Stanley Cup finalist.

"We're keeping our head above water here. We had a lot of injuries at the beginning of the year, and we dropped three or four guys a couple of weeks back," Staal said.

"And we're missing some key players for a while. We're starting to get a little bit healthier now. But you have to fight. It's a tough division. There are a lot of great teams. We'd like to get on a roll with a bunch in a row to get ourselves into the upper echelon of teams."

That's the tricky part. But Staal thinks the Wild have what it takes, especially if they find a way to turn around a 5-7-1 record away from the Xcel Energy Centre.

"I think we can continue on the road what we've done at times. It's just about consistency and getting healthier. If we can get (Jared) Spurgeon back and Zach (Parise) back and help fill out our lineup, it'll make a difference for us and we'll become deeper and tougher to play against," he said.

"That's the NHL now. You've got four lines that can play and you need to have everybody on board because when you don't, it's a tough league to win in."



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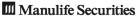
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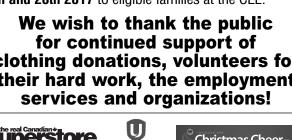


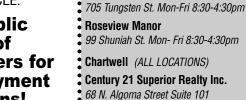
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Gerrie off to a strong start

SIJHLBy Leith Dunick – TB Source

n the Superior International Junior Hockey League, Keighan Gerrie stands alone.

At 16, he might not yet be the best player in the six-team circuit.

But he might have the best hockey prospects.

He had a chance this week to measure himself against some of the country's best, the lone SIJHL invitee to the Canada West World Junior A Challenge tryouts that wrapped up Tuesday in Calgary.

"It's obviously a huge honour to be selected for this camp, not only the camp but being the only player from the league as well," said Gerrie, one of 60 players who will skate in Calgary, a group that includes one NHL draft pick and six players on the NHL Central Scouting Bureau's watch list.

"I'm feeling really pumped about it and I'm excited to go."

A recent seven-game goal-less slump aside, Gerrie has been one of the top freshmen in the SIJHL this season, putting up 10 goals and 22 points in 23 appearances.

A graduate of the AAA Midget Kings program and 2017 12th-round pick of the London Knights, Gerrie said it took a while to adjust to a faster pace of play, going up against 20-year-olds, but he thinks he's caught on.

"It was a tough jump at the start, but I got my feet wet a little bit and then



ROOKIE RAGE: Keighan Gerrie has 10 goals and 22 points in his rookie campaign.

everything started flowing from there. My line-mates started clicking," Gerrie said. He was held off the score sheet in his first four games, then rattled off a three-game scoring streak. He later scored

points in eight straight contests, including three three-point affairs in a four-game stretch.

North Stars coach Rob DeGagne, a veteran of the local hockey wars, said it's pretty impressive for a 16-year-old from Thunder Bay to get the call.

"He's the only guy that got invited from this league. There are, I think, two or three other guys that are 2001 (births). If you think about it, he's only a 16-year-old kid. He's going to be playing mostly with men, 17-, 18- and 19-year-old kids," DeGagne said.

"He's a special player. He's got a different gear. Not too many guys can skate and then have a different gear. He just turns it on."

One doesn't learn that, it's natural, DeGagne said, adding he planned to tell Gerrie just to enjoy the experience and not to let expectations weigh him down.

"That's probably the biggest thing. Don't get too nervous, don't worry about anything. Just control what you can control. Control the way you play, the way you back-check, the way you fore-check, making smart plays with the puck," DeGagne said.

"There are going to be plenty of talented players there. There's going to be a lot of distractions. There's going to be a lot of scouts. The NHL is going to be there. The OHL's going to be there. Colleges are going to be there. You just have to focus on playing the game, enjoying the experience and having fun."

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



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- 68. Death/Funerals

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30. MISC. WANTED

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For Scrap Vehicles DAN'S EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE

On the spot for your scrap cars, trucks, vans and SUV's. Same day pick-up with CASH.

Call Marcel 624-7242 or 626-0161

A.Szczomak Auction since 1995. Buying silver, US coins pre-64, Canadian pre-68, silver bars and gold coins, US cash. Appointments available. Call Alex: 627-

CASH PAID for World War I and II military items, and WW2 P.O.W. art (ships, ships in bottle etc.). Call 977-2977.

CUT & SAVE **CUT YOUR OWN FRESH** CHRISTMAS TREE

9-5 Fri./Sat./Sun. in December #801 Hwy 130 Slate River, Ontario





with coupon

LIFE-CHANGING DEBT SOLUTIONS GET OUT OF DEBT ONCE AND FOR ALL

We have the answers today for a debt-free tomorrow."

⊕ ⊕ #DefeatDebt

TANYA REYNOLDS, CIRP, LIT

MNPdebt.ca

31. CARS

A 2008 Toyota Yaris, 2-door, auto, air, stereo, 190 KM. Safetied, ultra dependable, fabulous gas mileage, the best car you will ever own. Asking \$6,000. 767-

FREE CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION

807.623.2141

32. TRUCKS/SUVS

LUXURY SUV FOR SALE 2010 Lincoln Navigator - Totally Loaded! Premium Audio/Video package, retractable running boards, auto-lift tailgate, sunroof, after market car starter, heated & A/C leather seats, and many more! Beautiful vehicle, only 141,00 km. \$18,900. Please call 621-1298.

46. HEALTH

LUCIE'S MOBILE FOOTCARE! Certified Basic, Advanced and Diabetic Foot Care Nurse Specialist. Clean and assess feet, Trim and file toenails. Reduce thickened nails, callus, corn/wart removal, and Ingrown nails. Phone: 807-622-8219 Text: 8 0 7 - 6 3 0 - 5 5 1 1 luciesmobilefootcare@gmail.com http://luciesmobilefootcare.com. 9am-7pm daily

Attractive, healthy, energetic 60 years young female seeking "male companionship." Look forward to getting acquainted - in time for festive season, lets meet for coffee! Box #19 87 N Hill St, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

ing male friendship. Let's meet for coffee and look forward to the upcoming Holiday Festivities. Box #20 87 N Hill St Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

53. GENERAL SERVICES

#1-A Snow Blowing Services

A1 TREE REMOVAL SERVICE, from take down to clean-up. In town rural or at the cottage. + + experience very reasonable rates, free estimates, and seniors discounts. Call 345-4363

Read us online @ www.tbnewswatch.com

50. PERSONAL

50. PERSONAL



LIQUIDATION SALE OF THE CENTURY!

MACHAR AVE. 345-5558

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 11 A.M. 'TIL MIDNIGHT NOBODY DOES IT LIKE EXXXXTACY, NOBODY !!!

50. PERSONAL

THUNDER BAY,

210-1205 Amber Drive

Sincecere female in her early 70's seek-

Driveways, sidewalks, Dump runs, junk/trash pick-up/clean-up! Inside/outside, and odd jobs. Frank 628-5919 or

Christina's Home and Garden, yard cleanup, flowerbeds, trimming, reno's, handyman, siding, drywall, painting, flooring housecleaning, fences, decks, much more, quality work & great customer service, 621-1505

Fences, decks, sheds, skid-steer work, or any outside project built for you by Octagon Contracting, Call 633-4488 for

Norm's Northern Auto Body and Paint, 903 Northern Avenue. Since 1984! Business Hours 8am-5pm. Estimates provided between 11am-5pm MON-FRI! Weekends by Appointment only. All work done on hoists For better coverage on all lower areas! 939-2873.

54. HOME IMPROVEMENTS

AFFORDABLE and QUALITY RENOVA-TIONS! Kitchens, bathrooms, painting decks, windows, doors, and drywall! Insurance compensation. FREE ESTI-MATES! 35yrs exp. Call Ron 632-6671

Flooring: laminate, ceramic, hardwood, competitively priced and installed by Octagon Contracting. Call 633-4488 for your free quote.

Renovations: Working Carpenters/Partners with extensive renovation experience. We're reasonable and reliable. PC Construction. 252-9114

Archon Construction - Complete renovations for new and existing homes. Additions, basements, flooring, ceramic, hardwood, laminate installations. Drywall, painting - Winter Rates. Call for free estimate 286-3366

DAN'S HOME SERVICES Renovations -Drywall, plaster, tape, painting, decks, fences, small jobs, FREE ESTIMATES! Professional Service 344-8092 or 627-

Renovations: bathroom, kitchen, basement or any part of your home or cottage, drywall and tile installation. Call Octagon Contracting at 633-4488 for

63. COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MUSIC NIGHT - A Musical Celebration of Christ's Birth. Sunday Dec. 10th @ 6:30pm at Slate River Baptist Church - 80 McCluskey Drive. Musical Guests - Grace Parker, Passin' Thru, and sing-along with River Praise. There will be a free will love offering for Lorraine & Kgotso of Mashongoane Ministries in South Africa. Come and get into the true spirit of Christmas. Admission is Free. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments & a time of fellowship afterwards. Call 475-5140 for more info.

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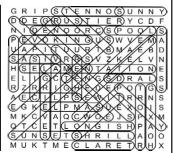
Engagements. Anniversaries, Birthdays, etc... More exposure at less cost!

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ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES



3 2 8 6 9 7 4 1 8 7 2 3 5 6 9 4 1 6 9 7 1 4 5 8 3 2 9 8 5 4 3 1 6 2 7 2 4 5 9 6 3 1 8 1 6 3 2 8 7 4 9 5 7 6 9 5 2 1 8 3 2 1 8 3 7 4 9 5 6 3 5 9 6 1 8 2 7 4



PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "That which is not good for the bee-hive cannot be good for the bees." - Marcus Aurelius

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Real Estate Listings

Looking for a new home?

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- · Check out what homes are scheduled for open houses at a glance with the Open House ticke
- Browse listings at work, home or on the run; Real Estate Listings support desktop, tablet and mobile phone viewing.



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Recycling saves energy Recycling uses

less space in landfills Recycling saves

trees Recycling helps climate change

Recycling reduces pollution Recycling saves

money Recycling creates jobs

Deadline for Dec. 21, 2017 Paper RETAIL: Monday, December 18th, NOON

CLASSIFIED: Monday, December 18th, 4:00pm **Deadline for Jan. 4, 2017 Paper**

RETAIL: Friday, December 29th, NOON CLASSIFIED: Friday, December 29th, NOON

HOLIDAY SEASON OFFICE HOURS

December 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 2017, 8:30am - 5:00pm December 22nd, 8:30am - Noon

> **Closed December** 25th & 26th, 2017

December 27th & 28th, 8:30am-5:00pm

December 29th, 2016. 8:30am - Noon

Closed January 1st, 2018

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year







Vickers Heights Community Centre THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 17th

from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. A whole family event. Holiday songs, kids crafts, Santa and tea, coffee and company for the adults.

Free event - donations for the Food Bank.



Putting you in touch with the right business.



Brentwood Hair Design + Spa

Would like to welcome Cathy Benwick to our team.

We invite all current and new clients to visit Cathy at her new shop.

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24



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REMAINING **ROGUE** MODELS

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LEASE^A A 2017 S FWD FROM \$240 MONTHLY WITH \$1,895 DOWN THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY

WEEKLY \$

60 MONTHS

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OR GET A 2017 WITH

ON **REMAINING QASHQAI** MODELS

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Half-Way

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345-2327

1-800-665-7207

halfwaymotorsnissan.com

Offers available from December 1, 2017 - January 2, 2018. \$2,000 Total Standard Rate Finance Cash applies to new and previously unregistered 2017 Qashqai models and consists of: (i) \$1,500 Standard Rate Finance Cash+; and (ii) \$500 NCF Cash+. +Standard Rate Finance Cash discount of \$5,500/\$1,500 will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and is applicable only to customers financing any 2017 Rogue SL/2017 Qashqai through Nissan Canada Financial Services Inc. ("NCF") at standard rates. The cash discounts $cannot be combined with lease or finance subvented rates or with any other offer. $$500 \, NCF \, Cash is available only to eligible customers$ who, in the 90 days preceding the date of lease/finance of a new and previously unregistered 2017 Qashqai ("Eligible New Vehicle") through NCF: (i) have leased, financed or owned a 2007 or newer Nissan brand vehicle; and/or (ii) have leased, financed or owned a 2007 or newer competitive brand vehicle (an `Existing Vehicle'). Proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle'). The proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle'). The proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle' (and `Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract for the Existing Vehicle' (and `Existing Vehicle') and the proof of current of the Existing Vehicle' (and `Existing Vehicle') and the Existing Vehicle' (and `EVehicle will be required. NCF Cash can be deducted from the negotiated price of an Eligible New Vehicle after taxes. ^Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2018 Roque S FWD/2017 Qashqai S FWD MT at 2.49%/2.99% lease APR for 60/60 months equals monthly payments of \$283/\$240 with \$1,995/\$1,895 down payment, and \$0 security deposit. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$18,948/\$16,275. Lease Cash of \$0/\$0 is included in the advertised offer. 🛦 Models shown \$38,420/\$31,575 selling price for a new 2018 Rogue SL Platinum (AA00)/2017 Qashqai SL AWD (AA00). All Pricing includes Freight and PDE charges (\$1,795/\$1,950) air-conditioning lewy (\$100), applicable fees, tire tax, manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable. ©2017 Nissan Canada Inc.