

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.17 No.39

Classroom case

Ecole Gron Morgan Public School student kept home after exhibiting COVID symptoms /3



BOUND TO HAPPEN: Thunder Bay's first confirmed COVID-19 case in a school was discovered last week in a student who attends Ecole Gron Morgan Public School.

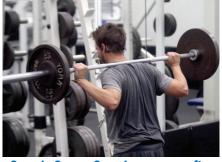
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REVIEW

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Review of Proposed Operations for a Contingency Plan Armstrong Forest 2021-2023 Contingency Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **NorthWinds Environmental Services** and the **Armstrong Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to review and comment on the 2021–2023 proposed operations for the Contingency Plan for the **Armstrong Forest**.

Why is a Contingency Plan Required?

The Contingency Plan (CP) is required to ensure the continuity of forest operations between April 01, 2021, and March 31, 2023, when the new 2023-2033 Forest Management Plan is expected to be completed

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to review and comment on

- the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 2-year period of the plan;
- the proposed corridors for new primary and branch roads for the 2-year period of the plan; and
- the proposed operational road boundaries for the 2-year period of the plan; and
- To request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

How to Get Involved

The detailed proposed operations for the Contingency Plan will be available electronically on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans (click the link at the bottom of the webpage labelled "Other Approved FMP Products and Materials for Public Review", then click on "Information Centre Materials – Review of Proposed Operations") and at the NorthWinds Environmental Services office at the location noted below, by appointment during normal office hours for a period of 30 days starting **October 26, 2020 to November 24, 2020.** Comments on the proposed operations for the Contingency Plan for the Armstrong Forest must be received by Robin Kuzyk at the MNRF Thunder Bay District Office, by **November 24, 2020.**

The following information will be available: Information available as described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual*) *FMPM (Part A, Section 2.3.3.3)* https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-forest-management-planning-manual-en-2020-07-08.pdf

The Information Forum related to the review of Proposed Operations for the Contingency Plan will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

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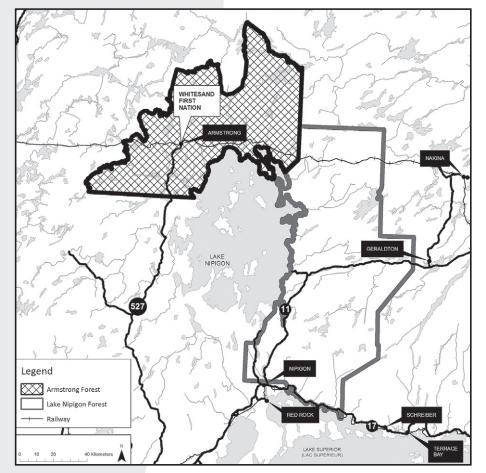
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Don Plumridge

c/o MNRF - Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South Suite Boo1 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the (2020) *Forest Management Planning Manual, Part A Section 2.4.1.*



Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit the following link:

https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/ how-get-involved-forest-management

The tentative scheduled date for submission of the draft CP is **November 2020**. There will be two more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage Four – Review of Draft CP Stage Five – Inspection of the MNRF-Approved CP November 2020 February 2021

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Robin Kuzyk at robin.kuzyk@ontario.ca.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or NorthWinds Environmental Services, to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Alison Dupuis at 807-475-1512.



LOCALNEWS



FAST-ACTING: The health unit's Dr. Janet DeMille says they mobilized once a positive COVID result in a school was detected.

COVID hits classroom

Student at Ecole Gron Morgan Public School tests positive to COVID-19 and provided them with instructions and

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The medical officer of health at the District Health Unit said she's confident the proper protocols were in place at a local elementary where a student last Wednesday was found to be infected with COVID-19.

Dr. Janet DeMille said as soon as the positive result was confirmed the health unit began mobilizing, working to complete extensive contact tracing to confirm whether or not the person, a young student, was an isolated case.

It's the first positive COVID-19 result in a Thunder Bay school, and while it was inevitable, the student and family involved followed protocol and as soon as the symptoms showed themselves the patient isolated at home while awaiting test results.

"We immediately connected with the school. The school has a lot of measures in place, including how to respond when this kind of event happens. This was, of course, the first time we've gone through all of this in a real-life example," DeMille said.

Anyone who might have been exposed to the virus, at the school or elsewhere, will be identified and contacted.

Unfortunately, at a school, that contact tracing can be a bit more involved.

"But with the information that we were provided by the school, we were able to follow up pretty much with everybody who would have been labeled as a close contact. High-risk is another way of putting that," DeMille said.

"We followed up with everybody yesterday and a couple of additional people this morning, and are moving through the process of going through the investigation, making sure we've identified anybody that might be at risk."

DeMille said the health unit communicated directly with the families or individuals who might have been exposed to COVID-19 and provided them with instructions and answered their questions. They also had discussions with the broader school community, particularly the families of those in the affected student's cohort and staff at the north side school.

It will not require the closure of the entire school, however Lakehead Public Schools issued a statement late last Wednesday afternoon saying the student's cohort/class has been closed for a 14-day quarantine period.

"At this time, there is no evidence of spread to anyone else within the school setting," the statement said.

A case at a school was bound to happen, given Ontario's rising case numbers. The region has done reasonably well since the pandemic struck, with just 106 confirmed cases, and only two of those considered active.

There has been one death.

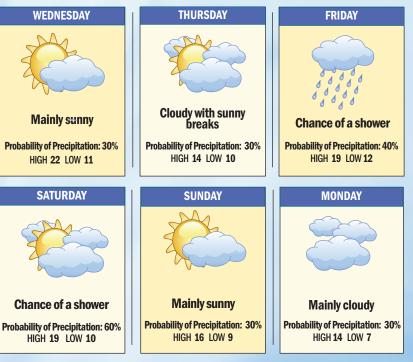
"Certainly we knew it was likely going to happen at some point, that we would have a case associated with a school. We just kicked into gear yesterday to do the follow-up we would normally do," she said. "We treat this as a significant situation, absolutely, because we know the implications for the school, for others that may have been exposed in that kind of setting."

At the moment, the Ecole Gron Morgan Public School case is the only one being investigated in the local school system.

Rumours began circulating last Wednesday night that cases had been found in other schools, but DeMille quickly quashed them the following day.

"Sometimes rumours happen or people maybe get ideas and they're shared very quickly through social media," she said. "But we have not received any reports of any additional cases. We do know there are a number of children who have symptoms who are staying at home and are seeking testing," DeMille said. "Certainly that's an issue, but we don't have any other confirmed cases."

Weather Forecast



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"Certainly we knew it was likely going to happen at some point." DR. JANET DEMILLE

LOCALNEWS

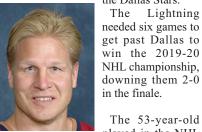
Hrkac wins **Stanley Cup**

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

NHI

Thunder Bay's Tony Hrkac is a Stanley Cup champion again.

Hrkac, a scout with the Tampa Bay Lightning, will have his name engraved on the Cup for the second time, having won the trophy in 1999 as a player with the Dallas Stars.



The Lightning needed six games to get past Dallas to win the 2019-20 NHL championship, downing them 2-0 in the finale.

played in the NHL TONY HRKAC from 1986 to 2003,

scoring 132 goals and 371 points in 732 games over 13 seasons. He also won a Calder Cup championship in 2004 with the Milwaukee Admirals of the American Hockey League.

Hrkac also won an NCAA Division 1 championship in 1987, playing for the University of North Dakaota. He won the Hobey Baker Award that season too.

Hrkac has been a scout with the Lightning since 2015.

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Not even jolly old Saint Nick himself can escape pandemic fallout.

Because of gathering restrictions imposed province-wide, and the uncertainty of where COVID-19 numbers will be in mid-November, the Fort William Rotary Club has decided to cancel this year's Rotary Santa Claus Parade.

It's disappointing, said parade chair Dawn Sebesta on Tuesday, announcing the difficult decision to cancel the popular event for 2020.

"We've been talking about the Rotary Santa Claus Parade for probably the last month, trying to make a decision what to do. We ended up contacting the city and they contacted the Thunder Bay (District) Health Unit, and we've come to the conclusion that with the COVID-19 restrictions that it's just not possible because it falls under the social gathering clause of Phase 3," Sebesta said.

Under newly announced regulations, outdoor gatherings are now limited to 25 or fewer people, while indoor gatherings are restricted to 10 or fewer.

There was just no way to guarantee social distancing along the parade route, Sebesta said.

Santa Claus parade is cancelled

"We've kind of gone backward on that anyway and there's no way we'd be able to have those crowds out on the streets. Regretfully, and we're very regretful because we were really hoping to have this - we thought it would be such a nice thing for families with everything going on – that we have to cancel it this year," she said.

"We're going to go full force in 2021."

Sebesta said she's hopeful the event can be held next year, saying it's a year away and a lot can happen between now and then.

"It's very disappointing, especially for me. It's one of my favourite things to do throughout our Rotary year, to work on this. I've managed the floats the last couple of years and I've met a lot of nice people and it's a lot of fun," she said. "So I'm very disappointed and I'm disappointed for the families."

The website for the Parade of Lights still indicates it will be going forward on Dec. 5. A request for confirmation to parade organizers has been made.



SITTING OUT: Santa Claus will not parade down Memorial Avenue in 2020.





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Contact : Dana Piccinato dpiccinato@manitoulintransport.com or cell phone 807-621-3985



LOCALNEWS Scotties fate up in air

CURLING By Leith Dunick - TB Source

he head of the Thunder Bay The head of the dum Community Economic Development Commission may have jumped the gun when he told council on Monday night the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts won't be held in Thunder Bay.

Eric Zakrewski told council the CEDC, which oversees Tourism Thunder Bay, will work with local organizers to help them stage the 2022 event instead.

"Unfortunately, due to the pandemic I think everyone's well aware that's been pushed back.

"Our board has maintained their commitment to fund that to Curling Canada as a fully-attended event in January of 2022. We've committed to continuing to maintain that event for January of 2022 as a fullyattended event," Zakrewski told city council during the CEDC's annual report to the elected body.

However, a spokesman for Curling Canada denied a decision has been made about the event, which will likely be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, including crowd sizes.

Ticket sales have been strong for the Canadian women's curling championship, which is slated for February at Fort William Gardens.

"We have not made an official determination or announcement about the status of the 2021 Scotties in Thunder Bay. I would describe the statement made to council as

THUNDER BAY VEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ERIC ZAKREWSKI: The CEO of the CEDC told council the 2021 Scotties is a no-go for the city.

premature," said Al Cameron in an email response.

Local organizer Rick Lang earlier this month told tbnewswatch.com the group behind the successful 2021 Scotties bid

would prefer a postponement should it be determined fans cannot attend the event. Gathering restrictions in Ontario are severely limited because of rising COVID-19 numbers in the province.

Council to take second look at word sign

CITY HALL By Ian Kennedy - TB Source

hunder Bay's city council has hit pause on a letter sign project intended to boost tourism and city pride for its 50th anniversary. Council originally approved the project, set

to cost up to \$150,000, in a contentious 7-6 vote on Sept. 14.

In ratifying that meeting's decisions Monday night, however, council opted to delay approval of the sign until 2021 budget deliberations early in the new year.

The motion, put forward by Coun. Mark Bentz, was deemed passed by deputy city clerk Dana Earle on an apparent 6-6 tie. Tbnewswatch has reached out to the city clerk's office for clarification of the results.

Voting in favour were Couns. Bentz, Giertuga, Hamilton, Johnson, Oliver, and You; voting against were councillors Ch'ng, Foulds, Fraser, McKinnon, Ruberto, and Mayor Mauro (Coun. Aiello was absent).

Modelled on famous versions elsewhere around the world - Toronto's is estimated to be the city's second-most-photographed landmark - the large three-dimensional sign

was proposed for the waterfront as a symbol of pride and a prime selfie spot.

Proponents argued the project could boost the city's brand on social media and draw cross-country travellers – and some of their dollars - into the downtown.

However, its price tag raised objections from councillors nervous over the city's finan-

cial state, especially in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city had initially budgeted \$300,000 for a 50th anniversary "legacy project" redeveloping the four quadrants at May Street and the floodway – near the former boundaries of Port Arthur and Fort William - to include more trees and green space, pedestrian links, and public art.

That idea was shelved due to COVID-19.

Bentz cited a shortage of information on the letter sign-details on its design, location, and estimated life span, for example - as he sought to delay the decision Monday night.

"What I found last week is we just didn't have enough answers - we had a lot of concepts and maybes," he said, noting constituents had expressed concerns over the process.

A decision during the budget deliberation would still leave plenty of time to order the sign for the summer if approved.

Others found scrutiny over the project's cost misplaced, saying it would have little to no impact on the coming budget and arguing the 50th anniversary was a milestone worth celebrating.

"This isn't a 2021 budget item," said Coun. Andrew Foulds. "This is an item we've planned for.3

The project was to use \$100,000 in Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) revenues the city didn't spend in 2018. The remaining \$50,000 would come from the Clean, Green and Beautiful committee and the Community Economic Development Commission - though the latter has yet to officially approve its requested \$25,000 contribution.

"We have 10 community members that make up that (50th anniversary) committee," said Foulds. "This is their work and their recommendation on how to spend money we put aside in years past. Yes, we could spend it on something else, but it is part of our strategic plan to celebrate our 50th year."

"We really do need to celebrate something, and I'm hoping we can agree this is the project," said Coun. Shelby Ch'ng.









26 WEEKLY DRAWS APRIL 2 TO SEPTEMBER 24, 2020



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MARK BENTZ

<u>Editorial</u>

Feeling safe in schools

COVID-19 in the classroom was bound to happen.

It's simple mathematics, really. The key is how to deal with the situation

when the issue arises.

From first glimpse, it appears all three local school boards are doing things properly.

Students and staff who show signs of illness are being asked to stay home until they are symptom-free.

Staff who interact with students are now being asked to wear face protection over and above the face masks they've been supplied with.

Once the initial case was confirmed to be COVID-19, Lakehead Public Schools, together with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, sprang into action, contact tracing anyone deemed high risk and letting them know they should be tested.

The biggest issue the city faces at the moment is testing capacity. Long waits for tests are not acceptable, which is why Thunder Bay Regional is looking at testing centres in a pair of schools, and why Confederation College will be a new testing site.

It's all got to be done to keep as many students in the classroom as possible. That's where they do their best learning, and where teachers do their best teaching. But both staff and students must also

feel safe in the environment too.

It's not a perfect system, but we're getting there.

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Geese and putting the garden to bed

There were three of them, now there is one. In our horse barn we have a resident chipmunk. Very cute, almost tame except for our new puppy, Lily.

We adopted Lily from the Humane Society not knowing her breed. She has to be a mix which includes terrier. Terriers were bred to catch rats and other vermin.

When in the barn, if she spots `Chippy`, off she goes trying to catch. So far, she has not. Chippy has several

bolt-holes through which it can escape. But there have been a couple of very close calls. Whew! I like our Chippy.

One of the "Chippys" was discovered drowned in a water pail, the other flattened in a horse stall. I doubt that Lily had anything to do with their demise.

Saturday afternoon we saw another face peering out of one of the favoured bolt holes: a stoat!

Lily happened to be in the barn and she saw it too. She was a sudden blur of fur as she dashed to the bolt hole. She sniffed and tried to see if she could get at the varmint. Then we saw the creature outside the barn door.

Escape route

Hah! Must have an exit to the outside. So, does this mean that we now have two furry residents? I don't mind. The chipmunk is cute; the stoat (to be named at some future date) will help with any mouse problem, it is hoped.

The colour is progressing apace. More and more poplar trees are sporting the orange hew and the birch leaves are yellowing. I am impressed with the number of maple that have turned that fire red/orange blaze especially when the sun hits them. Drive down Highway 61 and take a gander at the Nor'westers. You will see pockets of maple in full colour. They seem to be the first to don a different garment but also the first to shed their leaves especially if a couple of stiff winds blast through.

Speaking of 'ganders', we were working in the vegetable garden Saturday and Sunday, putting the

beds to bed for the winter having gathered almost all of the veggies. Saturday afternoon I heard one 'honk' and then another and when I looked up, a huge vee of geese was winging its way south. Then Sunday morning in full sun, another vee of geese flapping its

way to winter quarters.

And it was on the weekend that I first observed falling leaves as I drove to the dump. I remember one fall driving with daughter, Beth, and as we came down a hill on our road, the wind must have loosened a whole bunch of leaves that fluttered down upon our vehicle. "Holy flying leaves, Batman!" Beth exclaimed. I remember having a bit of a struggle maintaining control of the wheel as I was laughing so hard.

Usually almost all of the deciduous trees – birch, poplar, and those occasional maples - are in full autumnal display before the tamaracks change clothes. Only a couple of tamarack trees have begun to go gold. We have quite a few specimens on our property. When they fully go-for-gold and the sun hits them, wow!

If you get to drive along the expressway just west of the city, on either side of the highway are stands of tamarack that, when they have put on the gold, looks like someone set a match to them when the early morning or late evening sun hits them.

Tuesday last week was the firs official day of Autumn. My wife, Laura, and I took the afternoon off and drove our boat to Whitefish lake. She hoped to catch a walleye; I just wanted to be on water and explore.

Great weather

It was amazing; we were wearing t-shirts, it was so warm, while blasts of fall colour greeted our eyes along the shoreline.

There is a large island of wild rice in a bay that, of course, only the native people can harvest, and when we reached that patch, sure enough, there were two canoes with native folk, the bow person polling through the rice stalks while the stern chap bent the stalk over the canoe to collect the rice.

I was amazed at the contrast of incredible warm temperatures while Nature was busy painting the land with fall colours.

Until further notice, we work in summer-weight clothing and selfishly pray we get lots of snow and spring rain to make up for the drought we had this summer so that next year's vegetable garden does a lot better than the one we grew this year.

Sunday morning the wind was light. By the evening, the wind had-picked up and I saw that all of the leaves on our crabapple trees had been blown off. Driving down our country road we noticed lots of leaves being released from the branches of their trees. So, by the time you read this missive, many more branches will be bare and the ground will be blessed with a new and colourful carpet.



Perspective

Naming our storms

Will heat waves and blizzards be next on the name list?

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

Everybody talks about the weather and we often attach human traits and qualities to severe storms and other record-setting events.

We even give names and personalities to weather events as if storms had free will to rain on our parades, flatten our crops with hail or bury the countryside with snow.

But even though climate change seems to be out to get us it isn't personal and extreme weather is a random, natural occurrence with no evil intent or ill will.

Still, we personify our storms by naming them and giving them human characteristics as we wait while they decide for themselves how they will behave.

Centuries old

We've been doing it for hundreds of years and the ritual continues to this day during hurricane, typhoon and cyclone season in all the oceans of the world.

The Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1 and will run until Nov. 30 and each qualifying storm will get the next available name.

You might say that the 2020 hurricane season in the Atlantic has been a wild ride because by mid-September the National Hurricane Centre had already run out of names

They began with 21 names listed alphabetically and alternately male and female, starting with Arthur and Bertha, and ending with Vicky and Wilfred.

Due to the small number of names beginning with Q, U, X, Y and Z, these letters are not used sadly, there will never be a hurricane Ouigley or Xavier or Zoey.

Once tropical storm Wilfred formed on September 18 all the names were used up for only the second time, the first being in 2005, the most active season ever.

So now, according to hurricane protocol everything after Wilfred will take a name from the Greek alphabet.

Tropical storms Alpha and Beta were quick to follow Wilfred - in 2005 we got as far as tropical storm Zeta but Hurricanes Eta, Theta and Iota may yet be seen in 2020.

Tropical storms and hurricanes are given short, distinctive names to help meteorologists tell them apart, especially now that the number of storms is increasing.

It is also an effective way to increase public awareness and facilitate emergency preparedness in advance of approaching storms.

It was a public relations success and hurricanes soon had extensive media coverage featuring daredevil reporters being blown and battered by the wind.

But wait a minute -- hurricanes are getting full coverage but what about the other climate-change fueled weather disasters.

According to a new international coalition, the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance, the silent scourge of heat waves is not getting its fair share of attention.

This group of public health and climate experts has a notion to name and rank heat waves just like hurricanes, their extreme weather cousins.

That would increase awareness of the largely unseen and unreported danger of extreme heat that kills thousands every year in the U.S.

Name game

Naming and ranking heat waves could develop a culture of preparedness the same way hurricanes acquired a certain "cachet" from the media exposure.

A list of hot names for heat waves has not yet been created although the 2017 heat wave in Europe took on the dramatic and descriptive nickname, Lucifer.

And of course if heat waves can be named, so can snowstorms and blizzards.

The Weather Channel began naming winter storms in 2012 starting with a disruptive nor'easter called Snowstorm Athena.

Winter hardy residents of Northwestern Ontario may soon be dealing with Frosty the Snowstorm or the Abominable Blizzard.

We will continue giving whimsical names to our weather, but unfortunately we still have to shovel the snow, deal with violent storms and cope with extreme heat.



SIGN OF THE TIMES: The city of Thunder Bay has placed Look, Listen, Live decals near a railwaycrossing over the Neebing Floodway in an effort to keep pedestrians safe.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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McKellar Park (now the location of McKellar Park School) was the city of Fort William's major playground for many decades. The arena on the right was later demolished and replaced by a post office and the Fort William Gardens. That's Vickers Street in the foreground.



TBLITE people | health | home | food | leisure

Canada Games Complex reopens

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

he city was still shrouded in darkness, but that didn't stop at least 10 eager exercisers from lining up outside the Canada Games Complex early Wednesday morning.

The city-owned facility has been shut down since mid-March because of COVID-19, and while other fitness centres have been able to open in recent weeks and months, Kim Begin said it took them a little longer to get going.

First and foremost, they needed the OK from city council, which arrived in late August.

Then they needed to work on recalling staff, many of whom had been redeployed to other departments during the pandemic, and institute regular training.

Changes

The facility has reopened, but regular users should expect to see a few changes, starting at the front door, where each guest must undergo a brief screening process – which can also be completed ahead of time online before being allowed inside.

Members and the public are also being asked to pre-book times for certain activities, including use of the pool and squash courts, and aquatic and fitness classes, which won't begin until next month and open for booking on Friday.

Begin, the supervisor of aquatics, wellness, children and youth for the City of Thunder Bay, said they've also used the time to make upgrades to the Complex, including new floors in their main fitness room, renovate the weight room, and painting of some of



PUMPING IRON: A weightlifter works out last Wednesday at the Thunder Bay Canada Games Complex, which reopened after more than six months of being closed due to COVID-19.

the squash courts.

It'll be a little different, but at its core, it'll be a similar experience, Begin said.

"It's open to anybody who wants to come. We're encouraging people to our website. visit www.thunderbay.ca/cgc, that has all of our reopening information. For people wanting to use the pool or squash courts or fitness classes, you're being asked to pre-book, which is available online or by calling the building directly," Begin said.

"That's our biggest change. To be

able to come and use the fitness area or weight room or track, there's no pre-booking required."

Capacities are strictly limited in each room and area and Begin said there will be staff working in each area to ensure the numbers are adhered to by users

"They'll also be maintaining the cleanliness and making sure people are physically distancing ... For swim times, there's an allotted amount of people in the pool per swim time. For example, for length swimming, it's one person per lane, unless you're

from the same address and then it's two people per lane."

Like all fitness centres in Ontario, masks are required while in the facility, except when actually taking part in a physical activity.

Good to be back

Kyla Strickland, who returned to the Canada Games Complex a couple of weeks ago, after being redeployed to Pioneer Ridge during the shutdown, said it's great to be back and it's been nothing but smiles and grins from guests returning to the facility for the first time in months.

"I'm super excited to be back. It's super awesome. I've heard a lot from the public. They're really excited to hop back in the pool and get back into the groove. It's been a little difficult. I know there are a lot of challenges being a lifeguard, but we're overcoming them and we're getting a little bit better every day."

Begin said the added screening was necessary under provincial rules to allow them to permit more than 50 people inside the building at any one time.

Hospital to stop doing surveillance testing for COVID-19

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

COVID-19 testing at Thunder Bay Regional is being limited to those experiencing symptoms, vulnerable populations and contacts of known cases.

The move, announced on Thursday, comes at the behest of the provincial government, which released new testing

guidelines in the wake of long lines and delays across Ontario. In Thunder Bay, the wait to get a test is more than a week. "The health and safety of all patients, staff, professional staff, care partners and the community is our utmost priority," said Dr. Zaki Ahmed, chief of staff and medical specialist for the hospital's

COVID-19 response, in a release issued to local media.

"Appropriate testing for COVID-19 is

an important aspect to limiting the spread of infection by allowing for the rapid identification and follow-up of individuals who have COVID-19. Based on the current status of the pandemic, limiting testing to only those who are experiencing symptoms or who have had exposure to a known case is a necessary adjustment in order to reduce the backlog of testing and wait times that are currently being experienced across the province, including our hospital."

The Regional Health Sciences Centre's emergency department will also no longer provide COVID-19 swab testing for patients who do not require admission for respiratory or other illnesses indicating the need for COVID-19 assessment.

As a result, the general public is being asked not to present themselves at the emergency department as an alternative testing site to the assessment centre. Anyone needing to schedule a COVID-19 test is asked to phone the assessment centre at 935-8100.

Anyone with questions about the coronavirus can contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit at 625-5900 or tollfree at 1-888-294-6630.

Until last Thursday anyone wanting a COVID-19 test was able to schedule one.

Know That...

Did You

TBLife

Fishing not necessarily costly



'm just starting out, what should I use to catch a fish?"

It's a question I hear often. It is also a fair question, considering the endless choices one is faced with when browsing the aisles of a fishing tackle store. So, to simplify things, here is a list of five lure choices that will provide anglers with a versatile assortment of options capable of catching just about anything that swims. Stock a small tackle box with these, and you are well on your way to falling in love with the sport of fishing.

• 1.The jig: A tungsten or lead head provides the weight that allows this lure to sink quickly. Thread a scented plastic body over the hook to add action and texture to the offering.

Even better, I like to tie jig flies with a combination of colourful and flashy materials and marabou feathers that pulsate under water. Hint: tie it directly to the line without a snap. Be sure to vary your retrieve with random twitches and drops to make it dance.

Tip your jig with some live bait for heavy-pressured fish in popular lakes. • 2.The spinner: Tie one to the end of your line and cast it into rivers to catch trout and salmon. Let it sink for a couple seconds and use a steady retrieve just fast enough to keep it off bottom. Hint: tie a barrel swivel in about 18 inches above the lure to prevent line twist. I like Mepps, Blue Fox, and Panther Martin brand spinners.

3.The spoon: Spoons are heavy and can be cast a long way from shore. They are deadly on trout and salmon but other fish like bass and pike appreciate their wiggle too. Hint: Vary the speed of the retrieve to trigger strikes. I like Little Cleos and Luhr Jensen Krocodile spoons.

• 4. The minnow bait: Probably the easiest artificial bait in the bunch for an angler to use because the clear plastic lip at the front of the bait will do all the work.

Cast it from the dock or troll it behind your canoe while you paddle along the shoreline. Few species can resist how these lures dive and wiggle like wounded baitfish.

A steady retrieve works well, but a few twitches can coax a curious follower into striking. Hint: these lures can be expensive so consider using a very thin steel leader if you

NOT THAT EXPENSIVE: Fishing is a fun outdoor activity, but one that doesn't necessarily have to break the bank to take part.

are fishing pike-infested waters.

I prefer Rapala brand baits and keep a variety of different body shapes and colours in my box.

5. The hook and split shot: This may be the most simple, economical and productive option of them all.

Keep the split shot a couple feet away from the hook and use worms, minnows, leeches as bait. Fish tend to inhale live bait, so avoid using it

when catch and release fishing.

Hint: Let your bait dangle enticingly under a float and you will avoid snags and have the added bonus of a visual indicator to signal even the lightest bites.

It is also smart and ethical to make sure live bait is legal in the water body you are fishing. Hooks are inexpensive so I always buy the good ones - I like Raven Specialist, Blackbird Sabertooth, or Gamakatsu Octopus hooks.

With these few lures, an angler will be able to catch just about anything that swims. Present it with a six- to seven-foot spinning rod and reel loaded with eight-pound test monofilament and you've got a highly effective set-up that dispenses with all the complexities that can overwhelm a new or occasional angler.

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TB**Life**

Year-round fresh-food market operates weekly

THUNDER BAY By TB Source staff

Relation Community Community Community Community Health Centres have partnered to create a year-round, community-based food market offering affordable fresh produce to people living on produce to people living on the people livin

low incomes.

The Community Food Market operates every Tuesday afternoon at the Limbrick Resource Centre.

Funding for the project comes from the Community Food Centres Canada Market Greens program.

In an announcement Monday, Roots to Harvest said the project has three objectives: make fruits and vegetables more affordable and accessible, increase fruit and vegetable consumption, improve health and wellbeing.

A unique aspect of the Market Greens program is that it allows some individuals to use a "green prescription" for the NorWest Community Health Centre for nutrition which subsidizes fresh fruit and vegetables in order to help families make healthier choices.

Research shows that people living on low incomes are disproportionately affected by diet-related illnesses and chronic conditions.

Registered dietician, Kim McGibbon – the food and kitchen director at Roots to Harvest – said the green prescription goes to clients struggling with illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure, who don't have enough money to buy nutritious food.

NorWest staff will make referrals for the prescriptions, and develop food and nutrition-related resources and health education programs.

When COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, the program will also provide nutrition education and cooking skills in community kitchens at both the Limbrick Resource Centre and Roots to Harvest.

Monday's announcement quoted a client who's already used the market as saying "It keeps me from going to the grocery store. It's nice to have fresh produce. Food banks don't really have that kind of food."

The market greens initiative receives funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Maple Leaf Centre for Action on Food Security, and the Arrell Family Foundation.

Ontario in 2nd wave

With cases of COVID-19 surging in Ontario, Premier Doug Ford said Ontario is officially in the second-wave, and how severe this wave will be depends on the actions of everyone in the province.

"Ontario is now in the second wave of COVID-19," Ford said during his daily media briefing on Monday. "We know this wave will be more complicated, complex, and worse than the wave we faced earlier this year."

The declaration follows Ontario reporting 700 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, which is the highest daily reported number of cases since the pandemic began.

The majority of new cases are in Southern Ontario and 60 per cent of cases are in people under the age of 40.

Forecasts indicate the province could see 1,000 new daily COVID-19 cases by mid-October with no interventions.

Ford said several times on Monday that the second-wave will be worse than the first wave in the spring.

"What we don't know yet is how bad the second wave will be," he said. "The reality is it's up to each of us. Our collective actions will determine if we face a wave or a tsunami."

Dr. David Williams, chief medical officer of health, said he does not believe it will be a tsunami and the province is experiencing more of an undulating wave, but it will be up to the people of Ontario to keep it from reaching those levels.

INSPECTION

Inspection of MNRF-Approved Prescribed Burn Plans for Slash Pile Burning -Black Spruce, Dog River-Matawin, and Armstrong Portion of the Lake Nipigon Forests

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

As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNRF's Prescribed Burn Manual. The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between **October 29, 2020** and **February 15, 2021**.

The approved prescribed burn plans for slash pile burning, including specific locations and maps, are available electronically for public inspection by contacting Resolute FP Canada Inc., the MNRF, and online. The **Black Spruce and Dog River-Matawin Forests** plans are available on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online and the Armstrong Portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest plan is available on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans until **March 31, 2021**, when the Annual Work Schedules expire.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the prescribed burn plan. For more information, please contact:

BLACK SPRUCE FOREST

Robin Kuzyk, R.P.F. Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 South James Street, Suite Boo1, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-475-1471 e-mail: robin.kuzyk@ontario.ca

DOG RIVER-MATAWIN FOREST

Kim Mason, R.P.F.

Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 South James Street, Suite Boo1, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-475-1471 e-mail: kimberley.mason@ontario.ca

ARMSTRONG FOREST

Raymond Weldon, R.P.F.

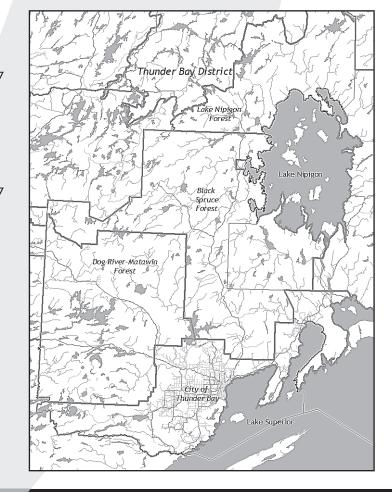
Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry Nipigon District Office 5 Wadsworth Drive, P.O. Box 970, Nipigon, ON PoT 2J0 tel: 807-887-5000 e-mail: raymond.weldon@ontario.ca COMPANY CONTACT

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Niall Scarr, R.P.F.

Resolute FP Canada Inc. 2001 Neebing Ave., Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3 tel: 807-473-2843



Ontario 😵

IN THE Dav arts entertainment culture

Enola Holmes headlines mystery romp



Enola Holmes (Netflix) is a surprising-ly engaging entry in the Sherlock Holmes oeuvre, thanks to the one-two punch of its feisty star, Millie Bobby Brown (TV's Stranger Things) in the titular role, also serving as producer, and director Harry Bradbeer, (TV's Fleabag, Killing Eve) who imbue the proceedings with a cheeky, buoyant tone, with writer Jack Thorne adapting from the first of several young-adult novels by Nancy Springer.

The story centres on Sherlock's teenage sister Enola (spelled backwards reads, 'Alone') who awakens on her 16th birthday to discover that her mother Eudoria, (Helena Bonham Carter), has vanished.

Given her sleuthing pedigree, Enola is bent on finding her mum, who has been independently home-schooling her daughter in a variety of arts, from jujitsu to chemistry to wordplay to (curiously) indoor tennis and archery, most of which will serve her well in this adventure, together with a cipher Eudoria's left behind along with a wad of cash.

Standing in Enola's way is the return of her older brothers at the family manse, detective Sherlock (Henry Cavill, Justice



FOLLOWING HER BROTHER: Millie Bobby Brown stars as Enola Holmes, the 16-year-old sister of famed detective Sherlock Holmes.

League,) and stuffy Mycroft (Sam Claflin, The Hunger Games), the former passively concerned but legally unable to do much, the latter bent on tossing his upstart, disheveled ward into a finishing school for girls, at the unyielding hands of headmistress Miss Harrison (Fiona

Shaw, Killing Eve).

Enola conspiratorially addresses the audience, explaining her close relationship with her mother, outlining her analytical thought processes, apologizing for her face-plant with a bicycle.

Enola manages to sidestep her brothers

and heads off to Victorian London, bent on hunting down mum. On the train she runs across young Lord Tewksbury (Louis Partridge) who's fleeing familial and political threats himself, possibly with murderous intent. Enola bails him out but despite their situational similarities and his boyish appeal, she insists that they part ways upon reaching London.

These two plot strands will weave together in this irreverent affair. Aside from Enola breaking the fourth wall, there are other humorous touches played to satirical effect, including pop-up figures and rickety newsreel cards. The period production renderings and cinematography are excellent, complemented by Daniel Pemberton's jaunty score.

Central to the film's appeal is that the script and cast are well matched in establishing the characters, especially in the fraternal nattering between the Holmes boys, while keeping salient details straight. A political feminist theme is prominent within the plot, which explains Eudoria's furtive conspiratorial actions.

Director Bradbeer also demonstrates nuance with an inquisitorial glance or arched eyebrow. Unlike the hyperactive David Copperfield, Holmes finds an amenable balance between frothy satire and credible mystery and threat, though it runs a wee bit long.

Ultimately, the film holds up thanks to charismatic Brown who carries off her character's contradictions (self-assured sleuth one moment, unworldly naïf the next) and she avoids getting too cute while addressing the camera.

It's all a bit of a stretch but it's an exuberant, witty one. One wonders if the novelty will hold up for Netflix franchise considerations?

Country Market perseveres in spite of pandemic

half an hour

online."

HENRIET

DEBRUIN

BUSINESS By Ian Kaufman -TB Source

merging from the most difficult Esummer in its 25-year history, organizers with the Thunder Bay's Country Market say the experience while undeniably challenging - demonstrated the institution's surprising resilience.

They credit remarkable support from customers and a spirit of collaboration amongst vendors for seeing the market, which offers products from local farmers and artisans, through unprecedented times.

Henriet DeBruin, a co-owner of DeBruin's Greenhouses who helped found the market and sits on its board, recalls the early, harrowing days of the

pandemic, which forced the market's closure in March.

Along with the shuttering of restaurants, it left her family's hydroponic farm with few sales outlets just as production was beginning.

"It was a bit of a ride - you go from thinking, this is going to be a great year to, oh my goodness, we have nothing,' she recalled.

DeBruin reports the farm is roughly on track for an average sales year - a remarkable turnaround.

The market had wasted little time in adjusting to the shutdown, creating a new online store within weeks. A brief attempt to reopen physically at its location on the CLE grounds in late March proved unsuccessful. but online sales helped bolster many producers.

The early success of the online store was impressive, DeBruin said. "We

sold half of our crop in half an hour online," she said - something that normally takes a full "We sold half market day. "It was really of our crop in overwhelming to hear the support from the local customers... that was very moving."

The Saturday market reopened to the public in late May.

Customers at first came back in a trickle that grew steadily through the summer.

Sales at the online store, which reached around 200 orders per pickup at their peak, declined as in-person traffic picked up, leading the market to suspend it in August, instead reopening on Wednesdays evenings.

While the online store came with its share of challenges - without fridges or freezers of its own, the market had to use those of vendors to store orders, for example - market manager Annet Maurer called it a positive experience.

"We did get feedback that a lot of people found products online that they didn't even know we had," she said. "So they tried them for the first time, and now it's one of their regular items."

Given the uncertainty around the pandemic, it was also reassuring to know it could be done again.

"If there is a next wave, because our processes are in place, we'll still be able to get that product to the customer," DeBruin said.



STAYS STRONG: The Country Market has done well, despite the COVID-19 restrictions.

IN THE**BAY**

Being famous not what it used to be

Social media and the pandemic made stars out of a lot of people

recently came across an entertainment article that listed all the celebrity couples who had broken up during the COVID pandemic. And it made me realize two things.

First, entertainment reporting isn't what it used to be. Over the last two decades, Hollywood reporting has gone from what shows are in production and hints about upcoming episodes to someone's recent haircut or a lost puppy.

Social media meant the public didn't have to wait for the stars' manager or representatives to make a statement. It came straight from the horse's mouth. Followed by a next-day apology for



said statement.

And while we once loved to check out the latest styles and hairdos on the red carpet, it seemed that Britney Spears' 1999 salon shave-down in front of paparazzi was just the beginning of a new trend. Suddenly, getting bangs made headlines.

Then with everything shut down during the pandemic and Hollywood

relegated to their lonely mansions, the stars found more reasons to make entertainment "news" for the most arbitrary of reasons. Some coloured their hair

without professional assistance. (Say it isn't so!) Some danced in a field at a farm. (Thank you Jennifer Garner. You are so, so inspiring.)

But that was all we had. There was no real Hollywood news. No shows in production except for a handful of daytime and latenight programs being shot like an independent college film. So entertainment reporting has to get creative and more flexible in what made it covered.

Obviously, for many of us this has made for some very dull waits in the grocery store checkout. It's also led to the cancellation of NBC's E! News

WORD SEARCH

after 29 years on the air, along with a recently-debuted morning celebrity news show and an afternoon celebrity interview series.

So what is considered "news" is now up for grabs. The second thing I realized looking at that pandemic break-up list is: I don't know who most of these people are.

Celebrities used to be those we saw on television or in the movies. Then came those who got 15 minutes of fame for something.

That led to reality television which made stars out of

people for dropping their drawers on a deserted island.

The popularity of internet videos made it even easier to become famous with just a sex tape or an extraordinarily round butt.

The monetization of YouTube meant even more people were trying to get noticed.

Then add Snapchat, Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter and the hundreds of social media and online options that can transition a virtual unknown to a "star" ... well, the number of so-called "famous" faces is mind-boggling.

And right now, they're focused on attacking each other for supporting – or not supporting – the right political party, social conscience movement, protestors, or bean company. (Sorry Goya.)

2020's lack of formal media production and the increase in literally home-grown stars has made everyone and anyone "famous" to some extent. So yay for online equality!

But sometimes I wish they'd just post a picture of their new haircut and be done with it.

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Whitewater captures first Kam Cup

Ryder Cup-style event showcased top golfers from two local clubs

GOLF By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Kam Cup will spend the next year alongside the river for which it's named.

The team from Whitewater Golf Course won seven of 10 singles matches on Sunday, playing on their home turf, to take the inaugural edition of the Ryder Cup-style event 9.5 to 5.5 over the team from Fort William Country Club.

It's a great feeling to take home the championship, said Whitewater's Jeff Hunter, who knocked off opponent Kevin Ariano 3&2.

Playing at home probably gave them an edge, he added.

"It's a difficult course and a lot of us play a few times a week, so it's definitely a big advantage when you come to play a course like this and you're comfortable with it," Hunter said.

It was club champion versus club champion, not much to choose between the two golfers.

"I played really well and Kevin played really well. Trading wins with birdies is fun," Hunter said.

Barry Caland, one of the most decorated local golfers, also came out with a point for the winning side, downing organizer Robbie Untinen 3&2.

For Caland, used to playing against



CHIPPED IN: Whitewater's Evan Littlefield downed Fort William Country Club's Jeremy Kirk to earn a point on Sunday.

SUNDAY'S SINGLE RESULTS

- Albert Drake (WW) 4&3 over Jackie Palmer (FWCC)
- Chris Gardner (WW) 2&1 over Michael Throm (FWCC)
- Jeff Hunter (WW) 3&1 over Kevin Ariano (FWCC)
- Evan Littlefield (WW) 4&2 over Jeremy Kirk (FWCC)
- Barry Caland (WW) 3&2 over Robbie Untinen (FWCC)
- Trevor Lafreniere (WW) 2&1 over Mark Backor (FSWCC)
- Walter Keating Jr. (WW) 5&4 over Fletcher Anderson (FWCC)
- Nicholas Throm (FWCC) 2 up over Nathan Mercier (WW)
- Kevin Jackson (FWCC) 3&2 over Connor Carr (WW)

Don Zatti (FWCC) 2&1 over Mark Colosimo (WW)

the field, playing in a team event was different -- but delivered as advertised.

"It was competition, but it was more about camaraderie than animosity or anything like that," said Caland, a Carr (WW) cou to (WW) It

seven-time winner of the Strathcona Invitational.

Home-course advantage helped, but not that much, he added.

"We're lucky we can play here all the

time and get the nuances of the course, but at the same time, you're hitting the golf ball. If you're anything like me, that hamster gets spinning the wrong way a few times, you hit a few bad shots and you get down in your match," he said.

Teammate Trevor Lafreniere edged Fort William's Mark Backor 2&1, putting away the final match on the course on the second-to-last hole.

It was fun, he said, something to build on for future years.

"It was a little bit of a battle out there today, but I played well," Lafreniere said. "My playing partner and I battled all day. It came down to the 17th and I was fortunate enough to sink a sevenfooter for birdie to end the day." He's already looking forward to next year.

"I think any of us who play golf realize the significance of the Ryder Cup format and the camarderie and the pride of trying to win for your country. For us, it's more winning for your course. Definitely it's nice to win the first one," Lafreniere said.

The Fort William Country Club team weren't all that distraught at the lopsided singles results, which came after they battled back on Saturday at their own course to halve the day at 2.5 points apiece.

Jeremy Kirk, who fell 4&2 to Whitewater's Evan Littlefield, said it was great to be out on the course.

"I ended up losing the match, but both Evan and I hit the ball well. Evan hit the ball especially well on the back nine and he deserved the win," Kirk said.

"It was great. We all know each other and the rivalry is alive. I'm sure there will be many matches to come."

Whitewater's other wins came from Albert Drake, who downed Jackie Palmer 4&3, Chris Gardner, who edged Mike Throm 2&1, and Walter Keating Jr., who stopped Fletcher Anderson 5&4.

Fort William's wins were delivered by Nicholas Throm, who finished off Nathan Mercier 2-up, Kevin Jackson, who closed out Connor Carr 3&2 and Don Zatti, who beat Mark Colosimo 2&1.

Participants for next year's event will be chosen on a points-based system.

Staal leaving Rangers in trade with Red Wings

Veteran blue-liner goes to Detroit for future considerations NHL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Marc Staal is on his way from Broadway to the Motor City.

The veteran NHL defenceman on Saturday was dealt by the New York Rangers to the Detroit Red Wings, along with a second-round pick in 2021, in return for future considerations.

Staal, 33, has spent his entire NHL career with the Rangers, scoring 43 goals and adding 145 assists for 188

points in 892 contests.

The Thunder Bay native has played the sixth-most games in franchise history, and helped the Rangers advance to the 2014 Stanley Cup final, where they lost to the champion Los Angeles Kings.

Detroit general manager, hall-of-famer Steve Yzerman, said the acquisition helps the Red Wings in several ways.

One, as part of our rebuilding process we're trying to add draft picks, prospects, young players and future assets to help us down the line. That's kind of where we are," Yzerman said in an interview posted to the team's website.

"In this trade, we get a second-round pick in the '21 draft but also we have to ice a team. We're trying to be competitive, we're trying to improve at the same time. In this deal not only do we get a defenseman who'll go right into our lineup, that plugs a huge hole for us, but we add future assets as well."

He's the second Staal brother to be traded this summer. Older brother Eric was sent to Buffalo earlier this month in return for Marcus Johansson.

Younger brother Jordan remains with the Carolina Hurricanes, where he's played the past eight seasons after spending the first six years of his NHL career with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

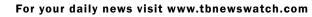
Staal had a no-movement clause in his contract with the Rangers, meaning he had to waive it in order to be dealt.

The veteran blueline has one year left on his deal, worth \$5.7 million.



VETERAN: Marc Staal spent 13 seasons with the New York Rangers, playing 892 games.

Ariano (FWCC) emy Kirk (FWCC) oie Untinen (FWCC) Aark Backor (FSWCC) Fletcher Anderson (FWCC)



sports NEWS



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PLACE TO PLAY: Youngsters test out the turf at Rink 2 of the Tournament Centre, a temporary home for indoor soccer in the city.

Tournament Centre to host soccer clubs

Thunder Bay Chill sign two-year deal for indoor space **SOCCER** the dome at Confederation College but it collar

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TONY COLISTRO

By Leith Dunick –TB Source

ndoor soccer has a new temporary home. The Thunder Bay Chill have reached an agreement with the management group that runs the Thunder Bay Tournament Centre to lease Rink 2 for two years.

Cushioned turf already covers most of the former ice surface and Chill president Tony Colistro says the goal is to be up and running as early as this week.

With so much uncertainty surrounding the fate of indoor soccer in the city, when the opportunity arose, Colistro said he leapt at the offer.

"We knew we were looking for a place to play. The last four years has been quite challening for our club. We've been using school gyms and the Lakehead University Hangar and trying to run moderated programs, which caused a lot of challenges because obviously there was not enough room to accommodate all of our athletes," Colistro said.

The goal is to use the Tournament Centre, which was not planning to open the second ice pad this winter because of COVID-19, for two years and hopefully move into the proposed \$33-million indoor turf facility the city has agreed to build should it be ready for use at that time.

Colistro said it's great to have a place to call home. The organization had its own indoor facility on the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition grounds, then moved into the Sports Dome when it stopped being a strictly golf-only facility.

However, when the bubble deflated in late 2015, indoor soccer was forced into a nomadic life. There was

the dome at Confederation College, but it collapsed and was scheduled for removal at any rate. A site on Maureen Street had been chosen, but city officials would not give the green light due to the condition of the building.

Colistro said without the Tournament Centre location, which they've dubbed Plex 2, it was going to be tough to offer programming to his 2,000 or so participants.

"This will give not only our club, the Thunder Bay Chill, but the other three clubs under Soccer Northwest umbrella, with the men's and the women's (leagues) and the Lakehead Express, an opportunity to have a little bit more time to play," Colistro said.

"It won't accommodate all of us, but it's definitely a win-win in the present times right now."

Cliff Friesen, who heads the management group that runs the Tournament Centre, said it was a great way to meet a need in the community for indoor soccer and make use of a facility that likely was going to sit vacant for at least the current hockey season.

"This year, as it relates to COVID-19, you're not going to see the hockey tournaments that we've seen other years and that's what we've thrived upon," Friesen said. "It would have meant, for us, probably no ice in here period. This was a really good positive opportunity for both the Chill, the soccer community and ourselves."

A dual-bubble indoor site is planned for a property off Golf Links Road, and site clearing has begun, but progress appears to have stalled.

Program registration information can be located on the Thunder Bay Chill website. For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com



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