

Thunder Bay

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Local student uses free time to make masks for anyone in need /5

isolate coronavirus patients /5

CHILL OU

United Soccer League Two team taking one-year hiatus / 13

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.17 No.16 **COVID-19 spreads**

JICE

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

Coronavirus cases crop up at the hospital, a local grocery store and at the Lac Des Iles Mine /3, 4, 8



GROWING: A hospital support worker, an employee at the Real Canadian Superstore and at least six Lac Des Iles Mine workers have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past week.

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LOCALNEWS Lac Des lles mine closed by COVID-19

HEALTH By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Expedited testing of employees at Lac Des Iles Mine has uncovered an additional five cases of COVID-19

The Thunder Bay District health unit said there were 13 negative tests, adding some results are still pending and further testing was being done on Easter Sunday.

The mine was placed under quarantine over the weekend after an employee tested positive. Impala Canada, the owners of the mine, which is located 85 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, at the time sent five crew members home to self-isolate.

Initially employees on site were told to remain at the mine until Saturday, but were later told they could go home, but must self-isolate until April 27. Those who can't get home are being asked to self-isolate at a designated hotel. The remainder are allowed to self-isolate at home.

"All individuals with symptoms are in self-isolation. Significant measures were put in place to reduce the likelihood of further spread of the virus at the mine site," the Health Unit wrote in their Sunday evening post.

"We are working with Lac Des Iles and Impala Canada regarding the removal of workers from the mine site which is scheduled to begin tomorrow (April 13). Public Health staff will be on site at the mine during this process to provide guidance, support and education to anyone leaving the mine site. Public Health staff will continue to follow up with individuals as indicated."

All individuals who were on the mine site on or after March 30 are being told to self-isolate for 14 days from the last day they were on site.

"If an individual develops symptoms during their selfisolation period, they should contact TBDHU or their local public health unit to arrange assessment and testing."

A Lac des Iles spokesperson confirmed a couple of the postive tests were still on site. The others were at home.

"Two of these individuals are on site, in self-isolation and have been receiving medical care. Three individuals are at home in self-isolation.

"Testing is underway for two additional symptomatic individuals who are on site, in isolation and under care by our Health Centre. Anyone showing any cold or flulike symptoms is also in self-isolation. Our thoughts and concerns are with those members of our team infected



OUTBREAK: Six employees at Lac Des lles Mine have COVID-19.

with the virus," said Impala Canada's Erin Satterthwaite, via email.

The mine will shutter most operations on Monday as a result.

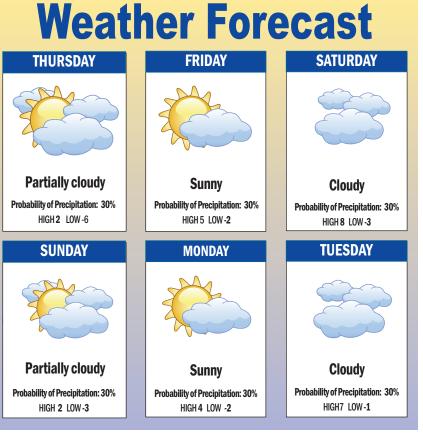
The mine on Monday switched to a temporary care and maintenance schedule.

"The mill and surface projects are completely shut down ... A small care and maintenance crew will remain on site and all existing pandemic response protocols will be strictly followed," Satterthwaite said.

Three of the cases were assigned to the Thunder Bay District, bringing the total to 36 as of Monday afternoon.



BLOWN OVER: A smoking shelter at a Memorial Avenue hotel blew over Monday onto the hood of a car parked next door.





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LOCALNEWS

Doctor's family targeted by racism

THUNDER BAY By Gary Rinne - TB Source

doctor working in the ACOVID-19 care unit at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre says her family has been subjected to racism.

Dr. Jehan Zaib decided to go public after her husband and son were yelled at while they

were out shopping last Thursday. Despite the distressing

experience, she said this won't stop her or her family from contributing to the community, but Zaib feels particularly upset for her son.

people DR. JEHAN ZAIB "Random [were] questioning why they were there. My son

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said he didn't understand what was going on. He looked around. He thought he was not maintaining any physical distance, but that was not the case. They both were wearing masks," she said Monday on 91.5 CKPR's morning show. Zaib is originally from Pakistan

but her 18-year-old son was born and raised in Canada. "Canada is the only country he

identifies with. Now he's hearing and seeing the hatred of some people for no reason," she said. Her son is having a difficult time

dealing with the incident.

"He's a very hardworking student...he's put in close to 2,000 volunteer hours for the Alzheimer Society, RFDA, Shelter House. For Shelter House he would go door to door collecting clothes for them," Zaib said.

Another of her children founded Snow Angels, a volunteer group that clears snow for people needing help, and which is currently delivering groceries to protect seniors from COVID-19.

Zaib said she wishes people making racist remarks knew how much her children are doing for the community.

"At a time when humanity should shine, sadly, some people have forgotten basic kindness that one would have learned in Kindergarten," she said.

It's not the first time she and her family have been subjected to racism.

Zaib recounted one incident in which a patient made an extremely derogatory remark "because I was wearing a scarf. I still treated that patient because I believe in humanity. I am a doctor."

She said she's pleased to contribute by participating in the hospital's COVID-19 care unit.

"This is my job. I am there to help people. I'm not scared. Thunder Bay is very, very lucky. They have dedicated nurses who volunteered for the unit, to take care of coronavirus patients, and dedicated physicians.'

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Superstore worker contracts COVID-19

Staff member worked in PC Express on March 30

HEALTH

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

he Thunder Bay District Health Unit The Inunder Bay District and Says it's likely only Real Canadian Superstore Customers who used the PC Express service on March 30 are likely to have come in contact with an employee who later tested positive for COVID-19.

The company on Thursday announced the employee had not been at the store since March 30 and that they were undergoing a deep clean and should reopen at 7 a.m. on Saturday.

The health unit, in a Facebook post, said they have investigated the potential virus transmission and determined only those who used the service between 10

a.m. and 6 p.m. on the day in question face any risk.

"This risk is deemed to be low and individuals will be contacted directly by TBDHU staff," the health unit states. "The Real Canadian Superstore will be providing to TBDHU the list of people who ordered through PC Express on that day.

"TBDHU is also following up with the Superstore regarding other staff who may have been exposed."

PC Express allows customers to order their groceries online, then pick them up at the store.

Anyone with questions about this incident is encouraged to phone the COVID-19 line at 625-5900. Nurses will be on hand to provide guidance and answer questions.

LOCALNEWS



GIVING BACK: Olivia Young says word has been spreading about her homemade masks.

Making masks for all

THUNDER BAY By Gary Rinne – TB Source

With her classes at the University of Waterloo cancelled due to COVID-19, Olivia Young returned to Thunder Bay and found herself with time on her hands.

So the graduating optometry student decided to help friends who are front-line workers by making and donating cloth face masks to reduce the risk of spreading the virus in the community.

Word quickly spread on social media, and Young started getting requests from others.

That's when she decided on a way to help people suffering from the impact of COVID-19.

"I just thought it was a good way to give back to the community," Young says.

She's contributing her time and materials to the project, and in turn is asking residents to make a financial contribution that she'll pass on to Roots to Harvest.

"It's because they're doing a lot of cool stuff right now to promote food access in the community. A lot of people are struggling right now, a lot of kids who rely on food programs through their school don't have that. A lot of families are struggling to put food on the table," Young told Thunder Bay Source.

As of Monday morning, she had made 100 masks, with 70 more orders in the queue.

COVID-19 unit opens

HEALTH By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Responding to a growing number for cases in the region, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre opened a dedicated COVID-19 unit Monday.

The hospital converted its 3A surgical wing to create the new unit. It's one of several "hot zones" where confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases will be treated, with controls in place to minimize contact with other areas of the hospital.

The unit can accommodate up to 36 patients. Dr. Stewart Kennedy, who is heading the hospital's COVID-19 response, said plans are in place to expand it if necessary – an outcome he considered likely. Those plans will go into effect if the unit hits 75 per cent capacity.

There were two patients in hospital with confirmed cases, and 28 with presumed cases, as of Monday afternoon. Any patient who is tested for the virus is considered a presumed case until results are received.

Many of those presumptive cases were admitted for pre-existing medical conditions such as pneumonia or COPD, Kennedy said, but needed to be tested after failing the hospital's initial COVID-19 screening. That could mean they had two or more common symptoms of the virus, or recent contact with a



READY TO GO: A 36-bed COVID-19 unit is in place at Thunder Bay Regional.

confirmed case.

Staff working in the new unit will not work outside of the hot zones, and will operate with full personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. Chief of Staff Dr. Zaki Ahmed said that precaution is key to avoid spreading the virus to other parts of the hospital.

"The whole point of having a COVID-19 unit is to really

restrict who comes in and who goes out of that floor," he said in a video update Sunday. "You don't want to take the disease out of that unit, and at the same time you don't want people coming in and possibly being infected."

Hospital leadership acknowledged staff assigned to the unit had concerns, but expressed confidence in measures put in place to protect them.



Editorial

EDITORIAL

It's time to be friendly

Sloan has a song called *The Good in Everyone.*

The sentiment, if not the actual song meaning, has never been more relevant than it is today.

Thankfully we're starting to see it on a daily basis in Thunder Bay, whether it's a student making masks for health-care workers and then expanding to the rest of the community, or people donating food to isolated COVID-19 staff at Thunder Bay Regional.

Every one of us has that goodness inside and it's never been needed more than now.

Face it.

People are suffering. They've lost their job or a loved one is sick. Many of us are self-isolated, some are under quarantine. Many need help, and it's time to show

why we're the city with the giant heart. Check in on your family and neighbours. See if they need anything, and if

you can provide it, do so. If they're not allowed to leave their homes, offer to get them groceries or take a trip to the pharmacy to pick up their medicine.

And, when you're out, show some kindness. Don't yell at grocery clerks because your favourite pasta has been cleaned off the shelves. Smile, and thank them for standing in danger's path.

Salute your first responders, for staying on the job to keep us safe. Remember the old adage: if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all.

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Feeding the hungry

To the editor The COVID-19 crisis has affected us all in our homes, communities and places of work - but the impact has been different for each of us.

The directive for physical isolation and to stay inside can be a welcome opportunity to slow down and spend quality time with loved ones, but for many, it has brought immense economic, social and emotional challenges.

As a network that is focused on the health and well-being of all people involved in our regional food system, the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy (TBAFS) is committed to addressing immediate food related needs along with the underlying concerns about food security, food supply and long-term sustainability.

We are also committed to supporting Indigenous peoples' access to their land and waterways to access food and medicines, and the autonomy to protect their communities. A swift, reflective and respectful response to the current crisis will help to ensure we can identify and fill existing gaps while contributing to a more equitable and sustainable food system for all.

The Covid-19 crisis has exposed the lack of resilience in our local food system because of our dependence on imports from outside our community. The "just-enough, just-in-time" food system and long supply chains dominated by large corporations are fragile at the best of times.

The COVID-19 global pandemic may lead to additional supply shortages, higher food prices, and a widening gap between those with economic means and those living in poverty. People that are most vulnerable are experiencing more significant impacts.

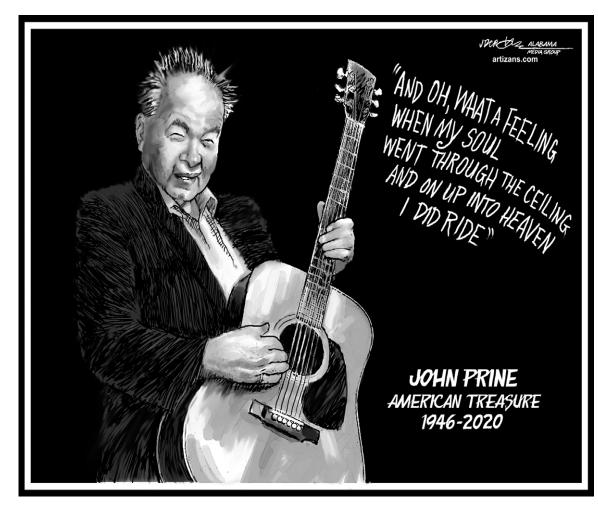
For example, low-wage workers are losing their jobs, people's time and energy are being stretched to take care of children and other dependents, public spaces that offer critical warm places are limiting access, while food banks, meal programs, and other city services are closing or reducing availability.

The emotional strain is causing additional pressures. Personal safety for those in abusive relationships and in precarious circumstances is severely undermined. While many of us yearn for a "return to normality", for too many in our community, normal was already at a crisis point.

Never has the importance of an equitable and resilient food system been so apparent. During this unprecedented and difficult moment, many individuals and groups from the public, private, nonprofit and charitable sectors have stepped up to the challenge.

We recognize governments at all levels that have implemented economic response plans that include financial support for individuals and families, those facing unemployment, students

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



and seniors, businesses, and Indigenous peoples. We also commend the healthcare professionals and frontline workers that are taking great risk to ensure the health of the broader population.

However, the well documented structural changes that are needed in the current food system and in our society seem even more difficult to attain now. The core purpose of the TBAFS remains to continue to provide a solid vision and framework for the creation of an equitable food system, especially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TBAFS has been tracking and supporting the work of our members to address both short-term and long-term solutions. Our collaborative work will be especially critical when we need to rebuild lost social and financial infrastructure post-pandemic.

We need to continue to work together, now more than ever, in a spirit of collaboration and respect. It is vital that we consider those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and support the most vulnerable.

We call on all sectors across the food system in the Thunder Bay area to support our communities' immediate needs in ways that ensure our food systems are more equitable and sustainable today, and into the future.

We call on social service providers to: • Ensure all users of emergency food services are treated with respect and dignity (for example, that recipients do not face degrading reporting requirements);

• Work in solidarity with other partners to ensure cross-sectoral coordination of services and responses, especially in a time when services are limited;

• Continue providing much-needed emergency food services, while advocating for longer-term equity and justice (e.g., poverty alleviation, publicly funded social services, a more resilient food system); and,

• Operate according to health and safety guidelines, as outlined by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, to protect employees, volunteers, service users, and the community.

We call on businesses to:

• Provide support, compassion, and accommodations when workers are sick or taking care of family members;

• Ensure relevant government supports provided are redistributed among workers;

• Support products from local food producers, harvesters and processors, as much as possible; and,

• Operate according to health and safety guidelines, as outlined by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to protect employees and the community.

nity. We call on municipal governments to:

Advocate for regional food system

solutions as critical services - e.g. urban agriculture, farmers markets, etc.;

• Support innovative local food distribution platforms and systems;

• Consider how all new emergency measures and policies impact food systems; and,

• Continue to fund social services and community work to ensure a strong social safety net.

Written and Signed by the Executive Committee of the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy

Karen Kerk, Coordinator, Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy

Erin Beagle, Roots to Harvest Jeff Burke, Brule Creek Farms

Sue Hamel, EcoSuperior

Charles Levkoe, Canada Research

Chair, Sustainable Food Systems,

Lakehead University

Jessica McLaughlin, Indigenous Food Circle

Ryan Moore, Community Economic Development Commission

Dan Munshaw, City of Thunder Bay Kristen Oliver, Councillor, City of Thunder Bay

Gwen O'Reilly, Northwestern

Ontario Women's Centre

Brandon Postuma, Councilor,

Oliver Paipoonge Silva Sawula, Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Perspective PM can't avoid speaking moistly

Trudeau's choice of words had led to a YouTube remix and plenty of teasing from the public

OPINION By J.R. Shermack Special to TB Source

Did you ever say something in sort of an awkward way that just didn't sound right and you felt immediate regret over your choice of words?

This can cause embarrassment or misunderstanding or it may bring an unpleasant image to mind and in the case of public officials it often prompts a good-natured ribbing.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the victim of a self-administered verbal gaffe recently when he uttered the words "speaking moistly" in response to a question about face masks.

The instant that phrase passed his lips you could tell by the look on his face that even he was a little rattled by the graphic image created by his descriptive phrase.

You may recall this disturbing illustration yourself from a commercial you've seen for sinus medication or antihistamines.

It features a slow-motion replay of a powerful sneeze that launches an infectious spray of snot, spittle and sputum six feet or more through the air.

Any number of micro-organisms could be living in those tiny globules of phlegm and any eyes, noses or mouths within range could be their next home.

Anybody in the line of fire when the snot storm hits will be showered and possibly infected with any number of pathogens including COVID 19.

That's the scenario that prompted the Prime Minister's words and those who ignore the danger of speaking moistly are also freaking out public health officials.

Trudeau is well-known for his daily COVID 19 updates, his platform for spreading public health information loud and clear, and as widely as possible.

Television networks cover his comments live and they are posted online to hundreds of thousands of additional viewers and listeners.

He appears concerned and compassionate but occasionally gets frustrated and angry when his insistence on hand-washing and physical distancing are ignored.

"After a few

initial cringes

and double

takes,

Canadians

began their

good-natured

teasing."

He allows occasional hints of cautious optimism but the numbers continue to rise amid grim predictions by public health officials.

During one of these updates the PM was questioned about protective equipment and he suggested that face masks prevent people from speaking moistly to others.

Immediately after the illadvised ad-lib his facial expression and body language might best be described as a grimace, or a shudder or perhaps even a wince of remorse.

If Trudeau was expecting a backlash he was not disappointed – it was a regrettable choice of words but "speaking moistly" was also fodder for humor and sarcasm.

Amid the COVID 19 pandemic most

Canadians are deadly serious but even during these trying times, Canada is using its national sense of humor to ease the tension.

The PM's new phrase evoked a "terrible image" of airborne viruses, but after a few initial cringes and double takes, Canadians began their good-natured teasing.

The next day his words were immortalized in a YouTube remix entitled Justin Trudeau Sings Speaking Moistly..

Justin (Trudeau, not Timberlake) has a new hit single with a bullet - a catchy tune with what has been described as "an interesting '80s synth-pop vibe."

It has become an instant Canadian classic and has been suggested as our new national anthem and a Juno Award nomination.

And somewhat ironically, it appears to be going viral online.

But putting all levity aside, Trudeau has successfully (and inadvertently) created a catch phrase and a graphic image that is both amusing and motivating.

Who among us hasn't spoken moistly on occasion – if I stood beside you while you talked, what would I see flying out of your mouth or your nose when you sneeze?

Speaking moistly, that really does make you cringe.

Stay safe and be aware of the moist blizzard of boogers that the PM brought to our attention.

THUNDER BAY

SFUM



DAMP DISCUSSION: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks in Thunder Bay last year.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author. Address them to: Thunder Bay Source 87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

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





EXER

The Grant L. Morden shown here in dry dock, was the largest ship built at the Lakehead when it was launched at the local shipyard in 1914. At 625 feet long, the bulk carrier, owned by Canada Steamship Lines, was also the largest Canadian ship in service. She was later renamed Donnacona and was scrapped in 1969.

LOCALNEWS

Hospital employee tests positive

Support worker is now in self-isolation

HEALTH By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A n employee at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre has tested positive for COVID-19.

Hospital officials confirmed the diagnosis on Friday, stating the unidentified staff member is isolating at home

"First thing this morning we were notified of a positive health-care

"This is not unexpected." DR. STEWART KENNEDY

support worker who has had a number of shifts within our facility and certainty at this point in time our staff member is doing quite well," said Dr. Stewart Kennedy,

HAS VIRUS: The first confirmed positive COVID-19 case found in a Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre employee has occurred.

District Health Unit and hospital the hospital's lead on its COVID-19 response team. administration to try to determine who Kennedy said the employee has been they might have been in contact with

in touch with both the Thunder Bay virus.

since becoming infected with the

"Certainly at this time I would like to reassure the hospital staff that the exposure to other staff and patients is very minimal with our initial investigations, which will continue," Kennedy said.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

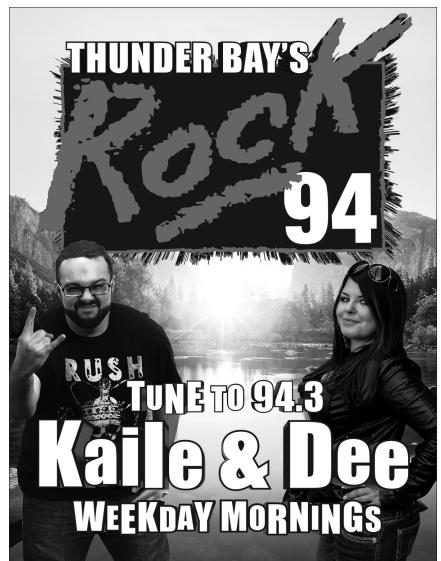
NEGATIVE CASES: 698
UNDER INVESTIGATION: 698
RESOLVED: 13
TOTAL TESTS: 905
Total number of cases
THUNDER BAY/AREA: 31
DISTRICT: 4
FIRST NATIONS: 1
As of Monday, 5 p.m.

"This is not unexpected. We know in some case reports 30 per cent of health-care workers can get this disease transmitted to them. The vast majority have a good, positive outcome. But this again heightens the anxiety with our hospital workers, with our health-care workers, in all facilities, not only here at Thunder Bay Regional Hospital, but certainly throughout other long-term care facilities and in other facilities in Northwestern Ontario."

Kennedy called it a difficult reality, but something for which hospital officials have prepared.

It was inevitable, Kennedy said.





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Choosing the right axe



Each spring, I split wood so we will have plenty of dry fuel for the following winter. We burn wood for ambiance at home, and for heat throughout the winter at camp. In addition, our sauna runs on wood, so we go through quite a bit of it.

As I was chopping wood the other day, I realized that I always tend to reach for the same axe. I am lucky enough to have several, ranging from a hatchet to a big splitting maul, but I almost always reach for one particular medium-sized axe.

This specific axe came from KBM Outdoors in Thunder Bay and when I purchased it, the employee who helped me took the time to ask what I would be using it for and then demonstrated how to check the quality of the wood in the handle. The axe we chose has a balanced feel that allows accurate strikes each time. It is equally adept at felling small trees and chopping wood.

It is light enough to carry all day, and I didn't have to sharpen it for over a year. Everyone should have such a tool. So, what should we look for when it is time to select a new axe?

Choosing the right size axe for your needs is a good place to start. If you are camping, cutting relatively small pieces of wood for fire or shelter, you'll want something light.

If you're going to be splitting logs for firewood, you'll want a bigger axe or even a maul. If you are taking down large trees, you will need a felling axe with good cutting (instead of splitting) ability.

Regardless of the axe you are looking for, paying attention to the handle is key. Stéphane Audet, a Registered Professional



RIGHT FIT: Look for axe handles that have a continuous grain running vertically along its length.

Forester here in Thunder Bay, emphasizes the importance of choosing an axe with a strong handle.

"Whether you are shopping at Canadian Tire or a specialized axe shop, you should pay attention to the wood grain on the axe handle.

Look for handles which have a continuous grain running vertically along the entire handle length. When looking at the base of the handle, the wood ring direction should be parallel to the axe head."

Once you have selected an axe, keeping it in good condition is essential. Ben Jackson, a renowned timbersports competitor for Sault College in the 1990s, stresses the importance of a sharp edge for efficient cutting.

"You want to make sure both sides of the blade are sharpened to the same depth" says Jackson, who recommends counting your strokes and sharpening with an arclike motion from the top down to craft a perfectly symmetrical blade.

Audet adds that keeping the axe indoors and oiling the handle periodically will help extend its lifespan.

Finally, a word on the material choices available. Composite and reinforced plastic handles are popular these days, and I admit that I own a couple. Yet, I much prefer the feel of an axe with a good wooden handle.

I avoid varnished handles as they can be slippery.

Instead, I rely on oil to preserve and enhance the grain while still allowing the natural texture of the wood to remain for grip. Reach for an axe with a wooden handle and you are sure to agree that they are extremely satisfying to both the hand and the eye.



money part of the Social Services Relief

The majority of the money, \$148 million,

is being provided through the Ministry of

Municipal Affairs and Housing and its

Consolidated Homelessness Prevention

Fund.

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB source

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Board has an extra \$584,150 to help vulnerable people in the city and surrounding area.

The money is part of the provincial

government's \$200-million commitment to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, the Fifty pe

Fifty per cent of the allocation is available immediately, with a review of the remainder of the funds to be conducted in the coming months.

Under the program, the TBDSSAB will be eligible for up to \$1.16 million in 2020-21.

Thursday, April 16, 2020



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How I spent my Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday: The Gardener, fiercely keen to get planting outside, inveigled son, Doug, and me to a wee bit of construction – a green house, supposedly temporary, extending off our back, basement door.

My wife, Laura, aforementioned Gardener, has been impatient to transfer the trays of plants – onions, leeks, kale, peppers – into this green house and set them on shelves. She has also dug wellcomposted manure into Tupperware bins into which she will plant the seed potatoes that sprouted a couple of weeks ago. "Once we have the frame covered with vapour barrier, it will be sealed and if the temperature outside is cold, we can open the basement door to let heat into the greenhouse," Laura said. OK.

So, She and Doug (I am *not* handy) built the frame from lumber we had lying around, erected it, and on Easter, we wrapped it in the vapour barrier. I was sceptical at first but Easter afternoon the wind was blowing from the northeast and the sky had filled with storm clouds. I got cold standing while holding the plastic while Doug stapled it to the frame.

Then he screwed in boards to prevent the vapour barrier from being ripped off if a strong wind should dare to tamper with my wife's greenhouse. So there.

I mentioned that this structure initially was supposed to be temporary. Thus spaketh The Gardener. That was until it was up. "You know, I think I like it here and we just have to make a door to allow us access to the swimming pool," she declared. And so it is.

Unlike the dog pen, greenhouse we erected in the vegetable garden last summer, this one will not have any plants in the ground. All will be in bins, pots, or growing in trays set upon shelves.

The trays are already sprouting their provender. "They will get more sun and heat during the day and grow more quickly and...we will have our view out our living room windows back," Laura beamed.

Good thing we got the new structure covered and more or less sealed. By eight o'clock Easter night, it was snowing.

Meanwhile I had but one cord of wood left to buck with my chainsaw and then all ten cords would be ready for splitting. Trouble is, while the splitter is now free of snow, where we pile the firewood is not. I cover the wood in winter with a couple of very large tarps. Over the course of the winter, more and more snow collects on the tarp and as I grab wood from the rows to throw down into our basement to feed the wood boiler, the tarp gets covered under a large weight of snow.

Add a couple of warm days and the snow melts to form ice that really secures the tarp to the ground.

Thus, I must either wait for Nature to "do her thing" and melt the ice and snow or subscribe to some heavy labour and dig out the tarps. I choose Door No. 1. I'll let Ma Nature take charge.

Then let the splitting begin! And then the stacking. This is the earliest I've ever done it and it didn't seem quite the dreaded task of years before. "That is because you aren't cutting in the heat of July and August," Laura said. Oh yeah, she's right. And there are no biting flies...yet. The advantage of getting the wood done now is that it allows for more time to dry and age before we have to use it in the autumn.

After the wood, the next task will be to fix fences.

Meanwhile, we are blessed with birds. Their music surrounds Casa Jones. At the feeder are Redwing Blackbirds, a couple of grackles, Blue Jays (of course), chickadees (perennially), and sparrows. The other morning, I walked outside with puppy and heard geese. Four of them took off from the beaver pond and flew off over the trees. Poor honkers: no open water yet. Over to the west, I heard that unmistakeable call of a Sandhill crane. You're kidding? But, no, unmistakeable.

And then we receive another four inches of snow! Poor birds. What kind of 'welcome home' is that? Well, at least the dogs' paws will be clean for a while.





Melodrama Waves makes big splash



Before the screens dimmed at SilverCity, a trailer was running for *Waves*, a feature that enjoyed popular buzz at the Toronto International Film Festival and is currently showing up on Shaw pay-per-view.

Set in south Florida, *Waves* is a stylish melodrama about an upwardly mobile African American family who are confronted by tragedy.

The film is essentially comprised of two parts, each devoted to the teen offspring. The first half follows star athlete Tyler (Kelvin Harrison Jr.) who's aspiring to a wrestling scholarship, chafing under the determined tutelage of his demanding dad (Sterling K. Brown) but is happily distracted by his loving girlfriend, Alexis (Alexa Demie).

Tough breaks

The future seems bright for Tyler but things go sideways quickly as events conspire against him all at once, sending him into a self-destructive spiral leading to a senseless act and tragedy.

This section is most impactful, stylishly rendered by director Trey Edward Shults. Initially, the images are all about music and motion, snappily cut together, conveying the heady adrenalin rush and optimism of youth.

This is best illustrated in scenes where the camera spins 360 degrees within the kids' vehicles, as they cruise around and riff to heavy-throbbing music, all smiles



STAR CROSSED: Kelvin Harrison Jr. and Taylor Russell star in Waves, a feature that can be seen on pay-per-view with theatres closed.

with little care in the world.

But beyond style, Shults' infuses substance within the characters, especially Brown who's bent on instilling the proper values within his kids that will overcome obstacles of race, resulting in a more promising future. He may be unyielding but is not abusive.

Tyler feels so much pressure not to let

anybody down that he cannot bring himself to divulge his realistic struggles to anyone, including his parents, much to his detriment.

The film's second half downshifts into a more conventional, less intense narrative as the family tries to recover from the shock of nuclear fallout. The parents find themselves at odds, grappling with pain and disillusionment.

There is greater focus on the daughter, Emily, (Taylor Russell) who finds a nerdy new love, Luke, (Lucas Hedges), an older teammate of her brother. The film gives these two characters time to slowly come together in their shy interracial romance. They help each other grapple with their respective family

WAVES

Director Trey Edward Shults											
Cast											
Taylor RussellEmily											
Kelvin Harrison JrTyler											
Lucas HedgesLuke											
Sterling K. BrownRonald											
Renee GoldsberryCatharine											
Alexa DemieAlexis											
Clifton CollinsBobby											
Vivi PinedaElena											
Bill WiseCoach Wise											
David GarelikRyan											

issues.

The pace here is more pensive and reflective. The 'motion and music' motif is still there, but is more moody and dream-like.

Plot works

This all may sound rather trite, but this section comes off credibly, buttressed by raw, touching scenes such as one involving Brown and Russell having a heart-to-heart, with both characters letting their respective guards down. Dad apologizes for not being attentive, and expresses concerns about his marriage, while daughter feel betrayed by her brother and rages at him. It is a difficult scene but both actors are up to the challenge.

If recovery, acceptance and healing come, it will take time and definitely won't come easily.

Director Shults makes full use of effective cinematography and soundtrack, and deftly manages changes in mood but he is particularly successful in eliciting outstanding performances from a stellar cast. *Waves* is worth checking out.



Cliffhangers cut off by coronavirus

Usually, at this time of year, your favourite shows are wrapping up. Storylines are being finished. And more importantly, big changes are being teased.

Dramatic twists and characters killed off are part and parcel to the annual season finale. But what happens when production is suddenly halted?

That's what happened this year for many television favourites. *Grey's Anatomy* still had a couple of episodes yet to complete.

New Amsterdam had a special multiepisode arc that focused on a flu pandemic in New York City. A rather unfortunate topic that was shot but scrapped for now – possibly forever.

But what is key is that the sudden closure of Hollywood has meant no cliff-hangers for most shows.

So for the first time in, well forever, Grey's has no mass shooting, plane crash, surprise wife or sister or declara-



tion of love to keep us up at night until the new season. Meanwhile, *New Amsterdam* just ... stops.

Suddenly, it's 1980 again. That was the year someone shot J.R. and *Dallas* kept most of America talking and coming back for the new season just to identify the villain behind the gun.

While *Dallas* writers didn't exactly create the cliff-hanger, they certainly used it like never before. Until then, most shows ended each season rather

benignly and viewers just went about their lives until the fall premiere of the next season.

But we've gotten used to – and demanded – the twists and turns brought about by the annual cliff-hanger.

What would the summer of '98 have been without Ross screwing up his wedding vows on *Friends* by saying Rachel's name instead of Emily's?

Of course, the big question was: what would he do next? We had to wait four months for that answer.

Meanwhile, Benedict Cumberbatch fans watched Sherlock Holmes throw himself off a roof at the end of Season Two. And although viewers saw him in the shadows at the last second while Watson cried at his grave, we still had to wait two bloody years for answers. (And dedicated fans did.)

Buffy the Vampire Slayer killed herself in order to save the world at the end of Season Five. And while this may not seem shocking now, since the show was on the cancellation bubble at the time, fans of the Scooby gang were screaming in fear that this was actually it. (It wasn't.)

No, viewers have become very demanding of their shows.

We want twists we didn't see coming despite the fact that we've pretty much seen it all.

And with many people now at home binge-watching everything they can get their hands on, there will be little out there that we missed.

So what will television do for future seasons? Will they pre-plan for the next pandemic? Will medical dramas be walking on eggshells lest they accidentally stumble on the next world-ending outbreak?

With no end to COVID in sight, only time will tell what we will see and when it returns. And ironically, that's the biggest cliff-hanger of all.



NO END IN SIGHT: Freema Agyeman on New Amsterdam.

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Chill out for 2020 soccer season

SOCCER By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Tony Colistro says he was looking forward to a return to a refurbished Chapples Field in 2020.

The excitement will have to carry over to 2021.

The United Soccer League Two franchise, who won the PDL championship in 2008 and played in the league final in 2010, 2013 and 2017, on Friday announced they were taking a one-year hiatus.

Colistro, the Chill's president and former coach, said it was actually a fairly easy decision to make, as painful as it might have been.

Colistro said cross-border concerns – the Canadian and United States mutually agreed last month to temporarily close the border between the two countries – and the ongoing fear of COVID-19 meant it was going to be all but impossible for the Chill to put a team on the field this summer.

"It's a new world that we're living in now and I'm just hoping we'll get to some sort of normalcy that we can get back," Colistro said.

"It's bittersweet. We were really looking forward to moving to Chapples this year and we had a strong contingency of players coming from all over the world. We really worked hard in the offseason to make sure that we were able



ON HIATUS: Thunder Bay forward Sullivan Silva (left) will be on the sidelines in 2020 with the rest of his teammates.

to get back to the playoffs."

The Chill, who have played at Fort William Stadium full time since 2015, made the postseason every year but once from 2007 to 2017, but have missed the past two playoffs.

Colistro said it's the right decision. The

health of his players, coaches, staff and fans is too important to risk during the pandemic, which has killed more than 100,000 world-wide and infected at least 25 people in the Thunder Bay area.

"It's just something we can't be a part of this season."

He's hopeful the team can return as strong as ever in 2021.

The move has no impact on the team's standing with USL2, Colistro added.

"Absolutely not, the league is very understanding. We're not the only team. Some divisions just cancelled completely. They're really leaving it open to making a division announcement or a team announcement.

The 82-team league had already announced a delay to the start of the season, pushing the start back to May 10. The Chill weren't scheduled to open their 2020 campaign until May 29 against FC Manitoba, another team that won't be playing USL2 matches this summer, along with expansion Peoria City.

The five remaining American teams in the Heartland Division – Chicago FC United, the Green Bay Voyageurs, the St. Louis Lions, Kaw Valley FC and the Des Moines Menace, are looking at ways to play meaningful soccer this summer, though the teams have not yet indicated what that might look like.

The league said the Chill will be welcomed back with open arms next season.

"We absolutely support the Thunder Bay Chill decision," said USL Vice President Joel Nash. "At the end of the day, it was about much more than soccer and we look forward to welcoming them back even stronger in 2021."

Colistro said he will begin speaking to sponsors about options and promised full refunds for season ticket holders. Decisions must still be made about the team's coaching staff and the organization's youth program for the upcoming outdoor season.

Falcons Willmore to play for Thunderwolves

St. Ignatius forward led team to another championship victory

BASKETBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Lakehead Thunderwolves have added a little local talent to their recruiting roster.

The men's basketball team on Thursday announced St. Ignatius Falcons star forward Ethan Willmore has agreed to join the team this fall.

It'll be familiar territory for the incoming freshman.

"Growing up in Thunder Bay, I've had the opportunity to participate in Lakehead's developmental program, Blaze basketball. The Men's Basketball team has a major presence, which makes it a natural transition," Wilmore said in a release issued by the team.

"Lakehead's basketball program has succeeded in recent years, and I am excited to be a part of everything the program has to offer. The coaching staff is remarkable and I know they will help me maximize my potential as a student athlete. I would also like to thank all of the coaches, teammates, and other individuals who have helped me reach this level."

Coach Ryan Thomson said Willmore's ability on and off the court should make him a great addition to the Thunderwolves family.

"Ethan is a fantastic student-athlete who will be a welcome addition to the Thunderwolves program," Thomson said. "Ethan's ability to shoot the ball and make smart team-first plays is a skill that can translate to the next level."

His high school coach, Dino Buset, agreed with the assessment.

"Ethan is a great kid with a high basketball IQ. He made a huge impact in his 4 years representing the St. Ignatius basketball program. We look forward to seeing him suit up for the Thunderwolves and continue to grow under the guidance of Coach Thomson and Coach Erdman" Buset said.

Willmore is the second recruit the team has added in the past week.

The Wolves last week announced the signing of 6-foot-1 guard Chris Sagl, who played for Oakville, Ont.'s St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

"I chose Lakehead because of the relationship I've built with Coach

Ryan, with us both being from St. Thomas Aquinas made it an easier decision," said Sagl.

"I felt that it was the best opportunity for me to achieve my goals of winning championships, finishing my degree of concurrent Ed and then playing professionally."

Thomson called his first recruit an unselfish, hard-working winner, the foundation of what good programs are built upon.

His determination and commitment to improving his game is incredible," Thomson said.

"He's won at a variety of levels both at Aquinas and in the AAU circuit including the prestigious CNIT 17U tournament last summer with the Mississauga Monarchs. We're excited to get to work with Chris and help him continue to improve."



MOVING UP: Ethan Willmore starred for the St. Ignatius Falcons.

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Richards voted best LU player of all-time



f you'd asked me two weeks ago who the best player in Lakehead Thunderwolves history was, it would have come down to Jeff Richards and Joel Scherban.

Statistically, they're No. 1 and No. 2 on the team in goals and points, one of the top pair of teammates not only in LU's 19-season return to university hockey, but also in OUA history.

Looking back at the duo, to compare them to a pair of NHL teammates, they're a lot like Mike Bossy and Bryan Trottier, a pair of hall-offame teammates who led the New York Islanders to four straight Stanley Cup wins to start the 1980s.

Bossy was the pure goal scorer.

Richards was a born sniper with the Thunderwolves, scoring 92 goals in 106 games,

including a team record 28 in his rookie season in 2002-03.

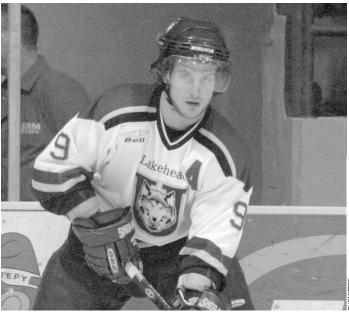
Scherban, on the other hand, embodied what it meant to be a Thunderwolves player.

A gentleman on and off the ice – he was assessed just 10 minor penalties between 2001 and 2006,

his 79 goals and 179 points are second in team history. His 100 assists tops all T-Wolves players.

In 2005, he was named the CIS player of the year, 25 years after Vince Friyia turned the trick for the Nor'Westers.

So when I set out to do my own



TOP DOG: Jeff Richards is Lakehead's all-time leader wit 92 goals and 185 points.

version of a bracket challenge on Twitter to keep hockey fans entertained during the COVID-19 sports

drought, I assumed it would be Richards and

Scherban in the final. I guess I must have underestimated the lasting appeal of Jouni Kuokkanen, whose fan base spoke loud and clear during the voting process. Kuokkanaen, who spent two seasons with the

Wolves after a season in

the Netherlands, upset Carson Dubchak, Matt Caria, Grant McCune, Chris Whitley and Joel Scherban along the way to the final,

where he finally lost out to Richards. He's now a teacher in Thunder Bay at McKellar Park Public School and is a beloved hockey coach helping the next generation of young hockey players find their way around the rink.

Richards also beat out Scherban in a secondary poll, conducted to ensure we had an answer to the question I think most fans wanted answered.

Former coach Pete Belliveau was following along and praised all three players.

"Jeff brought lots to the program with his AHL skill set, plus he convinced a lot of overage players to come to LU," Belliveau said.

"Both Joel and Jeff were instrumental in our first five years of success, at the gate and on the ice."

Belliveau also noted that in five years, Scherban never lost once on home ice in the postseason.

"Jouni was a good player too," he said.

By the way, visit the Thunder Bay Chill website, where they're doing their own poll to pick their top 11.

Lakehead lands Timmins star Burke

BASKETBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

on Kreiner's gone back to his roots for his first recruit of the 2020-21 campaign.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball coach on Friday announced the team has signed 5foot-6 point guard Ally Burke from his hometown, Timmins, Ont.

Burke won a pair of OFSAA gold medals with the O'Gorman Knights, winning bronze this past season at provncials. "I chose Lakehead because the campus was stunning and everyone I met on my visit was incredibly welcoming and friendly. The faculty, team and coaching staff instantly made Thunder Bay feel like home. I know that Lakehead is an environment that will provide me with all of the support I need to be successful both academically and athletically," Burke said in a release issued by LU.

A member of the Timmins Selects program, she had dedicated the past six years to preparing her game for the university level. "She is a perfect role model for all student athletes in the North that with hard work, sacrifice and dedication, you can achieve success, even from a small town like Timmins. She has been an absolute pleasure to coach and wish her all the best in her next chapter at Lakehead University," said her club coach, Jamie Lamothe.

Kreiner said he knows he's got a winner in Burke.

"Ally has competed and excelled at all levels and does this with a teamfirst attitude. The coaching staff and I couldn't be more happy."



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