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MAKING IT WORK



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Border Cats manager Mike Steed still getting ready for baseball /13



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Stay the course

Health officials, Premier Doug Ford urge public to maintain physical distancing measures /3



SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Members of the public have left some inspirational signs at the entrance to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Thursday, April 23, 2020

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LOCALNEWS



NOT YET: Dr. Stewart Kennedy is encouraged the province may be flattening the curve, but says it's too early for normal to return.

Public must stay wary about COVID's spread

too early to

do any

to work.

to normal

activities "

Dr. Stewart

HEALTH By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

espite new modeling data showing that Ontario has Dikely reached the peak of community spread COVID-19 infections, health officials and the government are warning that we are not out of the woods yet and relaxing public health measures is still weeks away.

"I still think it's too early to do any getting back to work, getting back to normal activities, because of the amount of asymptomatic cases out there," said Dr. Stewart Kennedy, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's COVID-19 lead.

There are currently more than 50 cases of COVID-19 in the Thunder Bay District and Kennedy said based on testing of symptomatic people, there has not been an increase of cases and the curve may be flattening. "I think it's

However, new research suggests that there may be many more people infected with the virus who are asymptomatic.

"Sometimes we initially thought maybe 30 to 40 per cent of patients who had COVID-19 had no symptoms," Kennedy said. "Now there are some reports that 60 to 80 per cent of patients who have COVID-19 are asymptomatic."

Kennedy said more testing of asymptomatic people needs to be done before the province can say the curve is truly flattening

KENNEDY "We're going in the right direction, but that's why it's so important to keep on with your physical distancing and staying at home because you don't know how many in Thunder Bay have no symptoms and have COVID-19," he said.

At the provincial level, Premier Doug Ford said while there is hope coming out of the data on Monday, the province is still a long ways away from returning to normal.

"Nothing is going to change until we see the curve continue to flatten or hopefully go down," Ford said during his daily media briefing on Monday. "Don't sit back on your laurels and take this for granted. We are far

from over.'

On Monday, public health officials released new modeling data that shows Ontario is trending towards a best-case scenario and may have reached the peak of COVID-19 community spread.

While this offers some sense of hope and optimism, reopening the economy and relaxing public health measures too soon could quickly see those numbers start to climb again.

"I do not want to put a date on this," Ford said. "This could bite us in the backside in about 10 seconds. It could come up with a second wave again. I'm very concerned about the flu season in the fall. There is no one out there who wants to open the economy more than I do, but we just have to hold off on this."

Ford said reopening the economy will need to be done in stages in order to evaluate the impact and any new rise in cases.

During the release of new modeling data, public health officials warned that a peak can often be prolonged and there can still be bumps in the road. So while it is encouraging, getting back it does not mean the pandemic is over, or even easing. getting back

The situation in long-term care facilities, which are still seeing an ongoing increase in confirmed cases and deaths, is cause for concern and the province is working to shift healthcare resources from acute care that did not see a surge in cases to assisting these facilities.

Ford said a more detailed framework for reopening the economy will be released in the coming days, but he is advising that the only reason the province is seeing the positive trend it is in terms of community spread is because of the actions being taken by all Ontarians, who need to continue to do so for a while longer.

"The numbers clearly show that the steps we have taken as a province are working," he said. "They are working because of you, because we have all come together, because we are taking this fight very seriously. We are throwing everything we can at it."

Weather Forecast





LOCALNEWS

Council not running business as usual

CITY HALL By Ian Kaufman -TB Source

t's clearly not business as usual at city hall, as the municipal government works to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday night, that left city council debating just how much normal business can be accomplished in the coming weeks and months.

Council passed a motion restricting the items it will deal with through the end of May, citing a strained municipal workforce and a limited ability to seek public input. But some councillors expressed concern over limiting city business strictly to crisis management, wanting to see the city move forward on key items like the designated truck route despite the pandemic.

Only items that meet certain criteria will make it to council agendas through the end of May.

Those criteria include whether the issue is urgent or time sensitive; required for compliance or legislative reasons; if it's a matter of public interest requiring consultation that cannot be achieved during the pandemic; and whether there are sufficient staff resources to prepare reports and complete the work.

City manager Norm Gale said the city's capacity to handle normal business was greatly diminished.

"We face a monumental world



SHORT STAFFED: City manager Norm Gale says the city's focus has been diverted.

crisis," he said. "The fact of the matter is that senior leadership is consumed by the COVID-19 response. We have several members whose normal duties have been placed aside so they can focus on the COVID-19 crisis."

City administration had proposed empowering city clerk Krista Power to deterine which items are appropriate for council and committee agendas, based on the stated criteria. But councillors were not entirely comfortable giving city staff final say on which items would be debated and which

would not. A successful amendment from mayor Bill Mauro ensured the clerk would make those decisions in conjunction with meeting chairs, which include a number of councillors. Power suggested the chairs would have been included in any case as part of normal practice.

Major items that were set to be considered before the end of May include the long-debated designated truck route, a proposed new police headquarters, and Fire Rescue's strategic master plan. Those may now

be delayed.

Two councillors, Trevor Giertuga and Cody Fraser, expressed their desire to see a vote on the truck route go ahead.

"I'm very concerned that despite the fact we're in a crisis... we need to get things done," said Fraser, calling the truck route by-law "low-hanging fruit" that could be dealt with despite the pandemic.

Giertuga, a long-time champion of

"I don't want

to see us

stop doing

business

completely."

TREVOR

GIERTUGA

the issue, concurred, saving necessary consultations had already been completed, and all that was required was a council vote.

"I don't want to see us stop doing business completely," he said. "The world is still moving forward, we still need to make decisions.'

Coun. Shelby Ch'ng agreed, saying council needed to continue planning for the medium- and longterm, or it could create more problems in the future.

"It's a bit of a dereliction of duty if council cannot put items [forward] to be voted on," she said.

"Understanding that administration's time is taxed, I think council should be very aware of not putting forward anything too frivolous ... I'm worried about limiting things to just crisis planning, and missing some other key items that may come up.'

Gale told councillors administration was working to resume non-COVID-19-related work where possible, as evidenced by items on Monday's agenda like the approval of bids for city road and sewer work.

Coun. Mark Bentz argued council should allow the machinery of government to focus on addressing the pandemic.

"The last thing I want to happen is people start championing projects they

want and distracting administrators - or even council, for that matter - from the issues at hand," he said. "If we've learned anything in this crisis, it's that we have to focus on the fundamentals. It's not business as usual, as much as we'd like it to be. We have to accept that, at least for the next month or two.'

Bentz predicted the pandemic could derail council's plans, and urged his colleagues to accept that.

One possible reason to hold back, the impact of the pandemic on the city's finances, is not yet clear. Coun. Rebecca Johnson inquired about the issue Monday. Administration was not yet ready to present that information, Gale said, but promised a report in the coming weeks.

Ch'ng, Fraser, and Giertuga were ultimately the only votes of dissent on the motion to limit council's agendas.



www.legacygivingthunderbay.com

LOCALNEWS

Hospital staff to wear cloth masks

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Staff at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre will begin wearing cloth masks in an effort to prevent potential spread of COVID-19. The masks will not be used in patient care, the hospital says.

"Cloth masks are to be worn by staff when performing non patient care activities or when leaving their units and physical distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained," according to a spokesperson for the hospital.

The move follows recommendations by Canada's chief public health officer, the hospital added, intended to reduce the risk of transmission by pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.

IN BRIEF

An order for 10,000 masks has been

placed with local company The Whole Nine Yards, the first of which were delivered this week. The masks consist of two layers of 100% cotton, with a polypropylene filter in between.

Dr. Stewart Kennedy, the hospital's COVID-19 incident manager, emphasized that staff will still don medical-grade PPE when

dealing with patients. "Cloth masks

"In patient care, that will be removed, and they'll have a worn by stafff surgical mask and PPE applied as appropriate to infectious disease protocol," performing he said. non-patient

Valarie Midgley, designer and owner at The Whole Nine Yards, said her business has been hard-pressed to keep up with demands for masks, both from health

institutions and individual customers. In her case, that's due more to high demand and a difficulty finding skilled labour than shortages of sewing materials.

"I saw early on what this was going to look like, and ordered my supplies," Midgley related.

"I happened to catch it just at the right time and got some of the last of the supplies in Canada."

Sought-after material like small sewing elastic is now nearly impossible to come by nationally, Midgley said, but her own supplies are holding up, for now.

At the moment, she's more concerned with finding skilled workers to meet rising demand.

"We don't have a large labour pool that specializes in the garment industry," she explained. "It's been a dying trade that went overseas 30 years ago. When you have a whole industry that has not been nurtured for 30 years, it's difficult to get the qualified people who know what they're doing."



NEW RULES: All hospital staff will be wearing some form of mask when with patients.

OSSTF reaches new deal

are to be

when

care ..."

Dr. Stewart

KENNEDY

eachers and education workers with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation have reached a tentative deal to end a labour dispute with the province.

Union president Harvey Bischof said their priority has always been the protection of the education system and finding a deal that ensures students get the best possible education.

Teachers spent months conducting rotating strikes across the province, regularly walking the picket lines during the dispute.

It wasn't easy, Bischof said, but the fight was worth it.

"With the support of the public and our members, we mounted a strong public awareness campaign that highlighted the government's dangerous approach to education. As a result of our combined efforts, this government, although early in its term and holding a majority, was pushed back from some of its most egregious proposals.

Minister of Education Stephen Lecce said his government's priority has always been to strike a deal that advances the priorities of students and parents, adding he feels this is what the agreed upon tenative deal does.

"We will remain focused on the government's dual priority of keeping students safe while ensuring the continuity of education. Moreover, we remain determined to continuously strengthen teacher-led learning and virtual learning for the benefit of our students, and we continue to look to our educators to rise to the challenge and deliver quality education to every child, wherever they may live," Lecce said in a release issued on Monday morning.

The ratification vote is expected to take place next month.

The union has been without a contract since

last summer.

The OSSTF is the last of the four major teacher and support worker unions to reach a deal with the province.

LeBlanc joins Sens

hunder Bay's Anthony LeBlanc is back in the hockey business.

The former co-owner of the Arizona Coyotes has been named president of business operations by Senators owner Eugene Melnyk.

LeBlanc, who was with the Coyotes from 2011 to 2017 as president and CEO, in addition to his ownership role, most recently was part of an ownership group trying to bring the Canadian Football League to Halifax.

He was also involved in an attempt to bring minor-league hockey to Thunder Bay prior to that.

He's also a part owner of the Thunder Bay Border Cats.

"I am thrilled to be appointed to the position of president of business operations with the Senators. Having been a diehard Senators fan since the Sens rejoined the league, this opportunity is truly an honour," LeBlanc said in a release.

I look forward to working closely with the entire staff as we prepare for an exciting chapter in the history of the Senators. I am confident that my experience in the NHL, as well as my sales and marketing background in the technology sector, will be put to good use here in the National Capital Region."

LeBlanc, who ran for the Progressiive Conservatives provincially in Thunder Bay in 2011, finishing third in the Thunder Bay-Superior North race.





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THE COMMUNITY

Editorial

EDITORIAL

Senseless tragedy

Sunday was a tough day. Much of Canada awoke with little or no idea of the horrific events that took place across a swath of Nova Scotia.

By Monday, the massacre was the worst mass killing in the country since Confederation.

Eighteen people dead. The killer too, but few, if any, are shedding any tears for such a monster.

RCMP officer Heidi Stevenson was gunned down doing the job she'd done so well for 23 years.

Teachers, nurses, parents - innocent each and every one of them - killed for no reason.

Sixteen crime sites. Five fires. And a death count that will almost certainly grow.

The number, wherever it lands, is staggering.

This doesn't happen in Canada.

At least not very often.

It's been more than 30 years since 14 women were killed at Ecole Polytechnique a day that will live in infamy.

Sadly, so too will April 19, 2020.

To Emily Tuck and your parents, Jolene Oliver and Aaron Tuck; to Lisa McCully and Joey Webber, to Gina Goulet and Corrie Ellison and Heather O'Brien; to Kristen Beaton and Jamie and Greg Blair; and to Sean McLeod, Alanna Jenkins, Tom Bagley, Heidi Stevenson and all the other victims of this senseless crime, may you rest in peace.

Today, we're all Nova Scotia strong.

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Meals on Wheels rolls on

To the editor: et's give a community virtual hug to our dedicated Volunteers who keep Meals on Wheels running five days a week.

Daily these volunteers, numerous who are seniors themselves deliver lunch time meals to community members who are seniors, shut-ins for numerous reasons, or who have no means to obtain groceries or the ability to prepare their own meals. Many times this one meal that is delivered feeds the person both lunch and dinner.

These volunteers have built a bond with their clients they deliver to. These volunteers are front line workers compelled to carry on and deliver these meals as they know they are serving our communities most vulnerable. Many times this volunteer is the only person this housebound person sees or talks to each day.

They look forward to a friendly smile and human contact. Some of these volunteers have picked up extra days to deliver as some of the volunteers must self isolate due to being vulnerable themselves.

Let's not forget these senior volunteers during these unprecedented times when they give of their time.

Please stay safe and a big thank you for checking in on and delivering meals to our elderly and shut-ins.

Margaret Veltri-Robb, Thunder Bay



^{may} FedNor here to help business

For Canadians, the COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a torrent of uncertainty and anxiety. It is certainly the case for our country's small and medium-sized businesses and their employees. Over the past weeks, we've heard from many of them – with different settings and characters, but a very similar script. These people work hard, play by the rules, and do

all the right things, only to now be confronted by an economic tsunami no one could have imagined. The backbone of

our communities, these businesses are a source of local jobs – but also local pride.

We stand at a unique juncture in Canada's history. More than ever, our decisions will ensure not just the success of our economy, but of our communities. More than ever, the personal is political. More than ever, we must get it right.

This means frank, honest conversa-

tions, the kind we've been having during a series of virtual town halls with businesses, associations and individuals nationwide. This means listening more than talking.

With over 130 meetings across all 13 provinces and territories – from the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce to the Montreal Chamber of Commerce and the Surrey Board of

MELANIE

FROM THE HOUSE

Trade – that's exactly what we've been doing. Put simply: we want to know what we don't know.

What have we heard? Our efforts are having a tangible

impact. Thanks to the largest economic aid package in our lifetime, we've put money in the pockets of Canadians and spurred companies to bring back laid off workers. But, no matter how wide we extend the safety net, many businesses still risk falling through the cracks. And that means too many people and their families are anxious and uncertain about whether they'll get help. The best way to help our communities is through a source they already trust. That's why we will be working with those who know local economies best: our six Federal Regional Development Agencies. They're well suited to assist workers and businesses because that's what they already do.

With nearly a billion dollars in aid, the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund is here for you. We are supporting businesses who do not qualify for existing programs. Canada's businesses are as diverse as Canadians are, and the fund's immediate, concrete help will be tailored to those unique needs. Specifically, it will provide \$675 million to support regional economies and \$287 million for the network of Community Futures Development Corporations, which play a vital role in rural communities. Most importantly, it will relieve immediate pressures and help local businesses to both pay employees and cover cost. In the months to come, it will position them to play a meaningful role in our economic recovery.

For decades, FedNor has helped ensure the voice of Northern Ontario is heard in Ottawa, and that our local businesses get the support they need to grow and prosper. Rather than navigating a bureaucratic maze, people count on it as a "one stop shop" for everything they need.

FedNor also knows where our additional support is needed most: making sure businesses do not fall through the cracks.

Already a major presence in our communities – with a footprint across Northern Ontario – FedNor stands ready to "scale up" its efforts to meet the moment.

In this era of upheaval and uncertainly, Canadians can rest assured that their government has their backs. Our message to Canadian workers and businesses is clear: we're here with concrete measures and supports in all regions of our country. We'll be here for you in the weeks and months to come. And we'll get through this, together. We've got your back.

Melanie Joly is the federal minister of economic development.

Perspective

Canada's new normal

The country will be forever changed by the pandemic

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

Canada has been living the "new normal" for over a month now and even though there is finally some reason for optimism, the challenge continues.

I spend a lot of time at home these days and after dark I often look at the night sky for inspiration.

I've been looking up ever since I was a kid – the vista is always impressive and it helps to soothe frazzled nerves during troubled times.

The sight of all those planets, stars and galaxies, not to mention the occasional shooting star, is somehow comforting and reassuring.

Our on-going public healthcare emergency has given us pause to think about who or what is really important and we have made rapid and drastic changes.

The threat of serious disease motivates Canadians to protect the well-being of family, friends and neighbors and safeguard the health of our communities.

That alone should be cause enough to take such extraordinary measures but there may be another compelling reason to keep the human race healthy.

Earthlings have been distracted of late but while we wait for things to get back to normal on this planet, out in the cosmos everything remains the same.

On a personal level we have changed our behavior in many ways but in the fullness of space and time it's pretty much business as usual.

The universe is still expanding, galaxies are still colliding and if advanced civilizations decide to make first contact with Earth, COVID 19 will not stop them.

Of course, if they do visit our planet we must insist on a twoweek quarantine – no exceptions for ET.

If aliens are trying to communicate with us we have to make sure we are still healthy and focused as we check for messages from the great beyond.

For example, physicists are still trying to trace the origin of a tantalizing series of signals that originated from a massive galaxy 500 million light years away.

Powerful signals known as fast radio bursts (FRB) have been detected from somewhere out in deep space and their actual source remains unknown.

However, it has fueled a lot of speculation because for the first time ever a signal from outer space is repeating itself at regular intervals.

It was first detected by scientists at the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment which is used to study the origin of these powerful pulses.

They are extremely intense but short-lived, lasting only a millisecond making them difficult to trace.

It may be a stretch to call this proof of advanced, extraterrestrial life but then again, the available evidence does not disprove that conclusion either.

And it gives us something else to think about other than...you know.

These fast radio bursts were first discovered in 2007, then again in 2012, four more in 2013 and thirteen in 2018, all from distant reaches of the universe.

Many theories emerged to explain the initial discovery including the violent collapse or collision between neutron stars. pulsars, white dwarfs and black holes.

The only thing scientists knew for certain was that these intense radio waves are powerful enough to be detected on Earth, billions of light years away.

Some far-out thinking physicists even suggested that they could be messages from ancient alien civilizations, sent out billions of years ago.

That is definitely a long-shot but the signals are regularly spaced over a 16-day cycle and that fuels speculation about alien origins.

Now I have two things to think about - "insanely powerful microevents" on the far side of the universe and extremely virulent micro-organisms only six feet away.

In both cases it's a good idea to keep your distance.

THUNDER BAY

SEUM

SUSPICIOUS FIRE



LOOKING INTO IT: Police were called to a fire early Sunday morning at Barb's Laundromat on Cumberland Street. No one was injured in the fire, but the business suffered heavy damage.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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During the isolated winter months of the mid 1870s two handwritten newspapers were started in Thunder Bay, one in Fort William (The Perambulator) and one in Prince Arthur's Landing (the Thunderbolt). They poked good-natured fun at each other, a practice that turned nasty in the decades to come.

TB Life people health home food leisure

Is the 2020 fishing season in jeopardy?



While I made my first open-water fishing trip in March, as I always do, the experience was shockingly different this year. I was fishing "with" my friend Kyle Stratton, but we were never together. We drove in separate vehicles, we stood fifty feet apart, and when he hooked the first fish, I offered no assistance with the net. We didn't share bait or celebrate those first fish of the year with a high five. We had to speak loudly as we socialized from a healthy distance. This is the new reality of angling in the year 2020.

As I write this article, many boat launches, parks, camping areas and public access points to popular fishing spots have already been closed across Ontario. Our premier says he expects the popular walleye fishing season will open as planned next month, but as we know, things are changing on a day-to-day basis right now, so even the most optimistic anglers are surely worried about losing the chance to fish this year.

Stay the course

In reality, whether we continue to be able to go outside and enjoy activities in the solitude of nature largely depends on our behaviour.

If we are responsible in staying up-todate and following all the precautions suggested by government and health officials, opportunities like fishing will remain in place. However, if anglers are travelling or congregating in groups, we will surely lose those opportunities. Here is a short list of common-sense precautions we need to follow this spring and summer:

Only go fishing with members of your family or others you are living with.
Maintain physical distancing (of at least 2 metres or 6 feet) from other individuals you come across.

• Do not share vehicles or equipment with individuals outside of your family or those you are living with.

• Fish and hunt locally while also observing all travel advisories and self-isolation requirements.

• Sanitize your hands frequently, especially around communal spaces such as parking areas, or after touching things like gates and hand rails on bridges.

• Adhere to all municipal, First Nation community, provincial and federal closures (e.g. parks, camping areas and boat launches).

Looks good for now

Right now, we are fortunate enough to still be able to get outside for some fresh air, sunshine, exercise and to enjoy recreational activities like fishing.

However, as Covid-19 continues to spread, bringing illness and death in its wake, the idea of cancelling our fishing season is not inconceivable. Look at the state of Washington, where reports of anglers travelling between cities and overcrowding piers, boat launches and beaches has led to comprehensive closures and a complete cancellation of their fishing season.

So, as we head out on the water over the next few months, let's all check the daily updates, use common sense, exercise extreme caution and keep our distance from each other.



SOLO SPORT: Social distancing measures mean Kyle Stratton is forced to net his own fish in the early spring.





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Melting snow brings plenty of spring work to do

TBLife



Showly the snow is disappearing. More bare ground is revealed. And then it snows. But, each time it does, the snow does not linger. Can spring be truly on its way?

The white-outs come and go. We may have three or four within a four-hour period like we did Sunday morning. By eleven o'clock blue sky was competing with the clouds still menacing but who cares when the sun shineth upon the land?

My wife, Laura, is unphased by the weather. She is ensconced in her newly

constructed greenhouse, built to allow burgeoning plants to grow to the point when they can all be transplanted into the vegetable garden. Meanwhile., a wee injury temporarily prevented me from completing the sawing of the firewood. And then it snowed. This time we got lots and I used my injury excuse to wait until the snow had melted before strapping on safety apron, stepping into safety boots, and donning safety helmet to chainsaw the rest. Then, as I have mentioned, the splitting takes over. Hope the gas splitter will start.

Splitting the pieces is not the problem once I get the splitter fired up. The problem is the stacking.

I cover the wood in the autumn with a couple of large tarps so that the wood remains dry throughout the winter. But since I was advised to space the rows of stacked firewood apart such that the wind can push air through the stacks thus hastening the drying process, rain water tends to collect and its weight can drag the tarp down. If I am unable to somehow get the water to run off then it freezes.

This phenomenon occurred at the back of the woodpile and I couldn't get at it. A huge repository of water gathered and then froze pinning the tarp to the ground between rows of stacked wood.

So, when I tried to drag the tarp free of the remaining wood from last year, I could not. Solution? Let Ma Nature melt the sucker.

Of course, with the melting of snow comes the obvious need for picking up what our two doggies have bequeathed.

The saw of wood near Casa Jones has resulted in a lot of wood chips scattered all over the place. Those chips adhere to boots and shoes and get tracked in the house. Though we take off our boots in the mudroom, occasionally someone

sead us online:

needs to grab something before exiting again. Aforementioned pooches also track in wood chips. The vacuum cleaner has been very busy.

My son, Doug, has just completed his university exams. He is supposed to begin a summer job in May, but with the pandemic, there's uncertainty. Even if it is, I have some tasks for which I need his ability to lift heavy things.

The cover of my large tractor shelter has come undone on the west end. A wire is threaded through gromets that allow one to tighten the cover over the metal frame.

Unfortunately, the strong west winds have, over the years, ripped those gromets from the cover. As well, the door that is material fastened to that framework has also come undone. While re-fastening the cover will be a major undertaking, re-fastening the door will not. It is a simple task of leaning the

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of Mourning

April 28~2020

Remember Those killed

Renew Our commitment to

worker health, safety and well-being

or injured in the workplace

Be Safe.

 $\mathbf{0}$

Local 73

tall (and heavy) ladder against the frame and re-tying the door.

The cover will require burning holes in the material through which the metal wire can be snaked and then tightened. The alternative is expensive requiring a brand, new cover.

I am hoping that Doug and I can at least get the door back on to protect our boat, the tractor, and my tools that I store inside.

And each morning when I let the dogs outside, I see and hear the birds all grouped in the bushes and crab apple trees near where I deposit bird seed. So, out I go with seed to scatter on the picnic table across from the house. Soon, the table is dark with feathered things all vying for the seed. Good!

Now we long for warm spring days when buds appear on bushes, when the chorus of spring peepers in our wet land and beaver pond fills the night.

THINK

RECYCLE



IN THE bay arts entertainment culture



NEW ERA: American Factory, available on Netflix, explores the dynamics of a plant once run by American owners, but now under Chinese control.

American Factory: Cultural outlooks don't always mesh



n the fleeting wake of the Academy Awards, several winners and nominees can still be found among the various specialty channels. Netflix currently offers American Factory which won the Oscar for best documentary along with 17 other awards.

American Factory is a parable on the perils of globalization by filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar. The film is actually a continuation of their preceding documentary short, *The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant* which detailed the dying days of the auto plant in their hometown of Dayton, Ohio. This film actually opens with said factory publicly being given last rites in 2008.

Cut several years later where that same plant is finding new life, re-opening under the banner of Fuyao, a Chinese company specializing in automotive glass, with factories around the world.

Thanks to the established familiarity with

the plant, the filmmakers manage to get incredibly intimate access to both Chinese and American camps, on executive and labour levels, exposing the evolving dynamics of what starts out as a relationship brimming with optimism but soon sinks into bitter disappointment and guarded expectations.

Storm clouds seem to be inevitable, given the intrinsic differences between both working forces. The Americans are accustomed to health and safety safeguards, collective bargaining, and environmental regulations whereas their Chinese counterparts are more devoted to the collective goal of generating output. Unions merely add to inefficiency.

The film's central section offers some amusing comparisons of operational cultures, where Chinese supervisors are briefed on American predilections, including their preference for 'big, comfortable cars,' 'casual attire' and need for praise. Conversely an American delegation to

China is treated to regimented factory methods and a stage presentation where festive performers in colourful costumes joyously sing songs laced with company corp-speak. (It's unclear if the Americans get the translation.) A tiny handful of Chinese workers chat about long hours and few holidays to visit their families in their

hometowns.

The third section sets up a showdown between non-union forces led by the "Labor Relations Institute" and the pro-union UAW. "You can go on strike and not get fired," warns one LRI man employed by Fuyao,"but the employer has the right to permanently replace you." There is cold evidence of what happens to targeted prounionists.

Meanwhile, the Chinese CAO privately exudes an apparently genuine crisis of conscience as he frets over bygone simpler times and what his many factories may be doing to the environment. In the closing stages, the spectre of automation also rears its head, offering even more uncertainty for the workers.

There is no voice-over framing narration or much printed commentary. The filmmakers simply unfurl a series of revealing scenes that are intended ostensibly to give an even-handed view of two forces yearning for equanimity, but are hamstrung by cultural realities. Both sides are shown to be guilty of jingoism. Both sides have execs and workers lamenting better times. Both sides desire success.

By film's end, it is undecided whether these camps will ever find such common ground. Answers are not going to come easily in *American Factory*.





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Trio of novels delve into relationships



E*lizabeth Costello* by J.M. Coetzee is about an Australian writer of international renown.

Famous principally for an early novel that established her reputation, Costello has reached the stage where her remaining function is to be venerated and applauded.

Her life has become a series of engagements in sterile conference rooms throughout the world -aprivate consciousness obliged to reveal itself to a curious public: the presentation of a major award at an American college where she is required to deliver a lecture; a sojourn as the writer in residence on a cruise liner; a visit to her sister, a missionary in Africa, who is receiving an honorary degree, an occasion which both recognize as the final opportunity for effecting some form of reconciliation; and a disquieting appearance at a writers' conference in Amsterdam where she finds the subject of her talk unexpectedly amongst the audience.

She has made her life's work the study of other people yet now it is she who is the object of scrutiny.

But, for her what matters is the continuing search for a means of articulating her vision and the verdict of future generations.

Reproduction by Ian Williams is a surprising and seductive novel about the way families are invented, sometimes by accident. It is so light on the surface that I found myself laughing or humming a '90s pop hit that I didn't notice was woven right into its fabric.

But watch out for what's lurking under its wildly original surface.

A profoundly insightful exploration of the bizarre ways people become bonded.

Reproduction insists that a family isn't a matter of blood, or even love, at least not on the surface.

The characters bring this novel alive – feisty Felicia is more than a match for Edgar when they meet at a flooded hospital where their mothers are being treated; Armistice, also known as Army, is both at peace and war with himself and those around him; and Riot, shortened from Chariot, is ably named as his home made movies disrupt the lives of his family and college.

In the final section of the novel Williams inserts (in small type) dialogue into the narrative which links the beginning to the end of this powerful human story. *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo follows 12 characters, most of them black British women, moving through the world in different decades and learning how to be.

Each character has a chapter; within the chapters their lives overlap, but their experiences, backgrounds and choices could not be more different. There's Amma, a lesbian socialist playwright, and non-binary Morgan, who uses the internet to navigate their gender identity – but also Shirley, a teacher who feels alien in Amma's community, and Winsome, a bride who has arrived from Barbados to an unhappy marriage.

Many of the characters are close – friends, relatives or lovers – while others simply visit the same theatre on the same night, or argue with each other on Twitter. This novel provides profound insight into race, class and gender.



TABLES TURNED: Elizabeth Costello is about a writer now under scrutiny herself.

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Cats Steed still prepping for baseball

BASEBALL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

ike Steed doesn't know if the Thunder Bay Border Cats will get a season in.

Like most of baseball, he's waiting for the OK from senior levels of government to start allowing sporting events to take place, the COVID-19 pandemic having shut everything down indefinitely - including the college baseball season south of the border.

What Steed, who returns to the Cats after a nine-year absence, is certain of is that when the sanctions are lifted, he'll have a full lineup of players raring to hit the diamond and get the 2020 Northwoods League season started.

Steed, who served as pitching coach for the Border Cats in 2009 and managed the team in 2010 and 2011, says not a single one of the 34 players signed has suggested they won't come north if and when the schedule is allowed to begin.

Cause for concern?

"I thought this might have some kids or families worried about them traveling. But we have 34 players right now on the roster and we haven't lost one, right now," said Steed, reached via Skype earlier this week.

"It's been very encouraging that way."

Part of it has to do with the fact the college season ended so abruptly.

Many players, depending how their teams fare, are playing in the days and weeks before the Northwoods League seasons kicks off at the end of May each year.

This year, there will be a three-month



gap.

Steed said his guys are itching and eager to go. He acknowledged it won't happen

overnight, even when they get the thumbs up. His players are all sticking to routines, but it's tough to stay motivated with no coaches around hounding them daily.

"I think it's going to be two or three weeks, at the very shortest, that they're going to need to be in game shape,"

Steed said.

"With the extended rosters and the couple of extra pitchers we were able to bring in, I think that's going to be everybody's concern, just being able to manage your pitching staff and keeping them healthy ... That's first and foremost. They recognize they have to get out and pitch, but we also don't want to put anybody in harm's way.'

As for what the season might look like, that's still up in the air.

The Canada-U.S. border is still closed to all but essential traffic, and Ontario still has strict COVID-19 protocols in place that wouldn't allow games to be played under current regulations.

Hopeful to play

Steed said he's operating under the assumption the league will play games this summer, adding the league is holding off making any rash decisions until they see what the situation is like in a month or so.

"I know they're talking about it and it's in the back of their minds - safety for our players and the best for the organizations. I think they're going to do everything they can to play baseball this summer in the Northwoods League, if it's in tune with what the world tells us.

Steed also didn't dismiss the possibility of playing a single half, if things are pushed back.

"Sure, I think so ... If we can push it back to give ourselves a little bit more time, I think everybody is in favour of that. If we can get half a season in and still render a playoff and a champion, I think that would be a big bonus and a win for everyone involved."

Northwoods League won't start its 2020 schedule on time

BASEBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

he Northwoods League says it won't be possible for a league-wide Opening Day on May 26.

That's disappointing news, said Thunder Bay Border Cats general manager Tony DiPaolo.

"Ever since this started we've had conversations with the league and their whole indication was that they we were going to start on May 26, obviously dependent on what was happening in the world. It came down today that the May 26 league-wide

start date will not be happening, due to the fact Wisconsin extended its Safer at Home order until the end

of May," DiPaolo said. With nine Wisconsinbased teams in the league, the decision essentially wipes out the entire schedule until the teams are permitted to take the field.

DiPaolo said it's really just a waiting game until decisions are made at the state TONY DIPAOLO and provincial level, not to mention the need to reopen

the Canadian border to non-essential wants to think about, but the reality is

travel. "Depending on what the governments of each of those province and states say, will factor in to when Opening

Day will happen," he said. DiPaolo said the Northwoods League has suggested it needs to play at least 40 games for a season to happen. Internally, the Border Cats have discussed the possibility of no season

at all. It's not something he there. At the moment, the team and its players wouldn't be able to cross the border, for starters.

There's also the issue of finding host families to house players over the course of the season, a long-shot at the moment with social distancing measures in place.

"It is a concern for us," he said. "The league is going to ever evolve in how the season turns out. I don't know, but they may make the decision that Thunder Bay will not be in this year's season and they can continue on with just the teams in the States. I don't know if that's a possibility or a

thought."

DiPaolo stresses the possibility of a Border Cats-less season is not something that the league has brought up, but it's a possibility the team ownership has floated about. Last week the Thunder Bay Chill announced it was pulling out of the United Soccer League 2 campaign for 2020, but vowed to return in 2021.

"We could foresse it being a possibility, because they really want the season to start. Canada is obviously very concerned about the health of its people, and fair enough. It should be that way," DiPaolo said.



STAR PLAYER: Brandon Swartzendruber's arrival with the Chill changed the team's fortunes.

Chill choose all-time 11



ast week, we brought you the Lakehead Thunderwolves top player of all time, as chosen by my Twitter followers

This week, we've got the Thunder Bay Chill's top 11 of all-time, as voted on by their fans online. The Chill, who won't be playing in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, held a vote on the team website, asking each fan to pick a single player at each position.

None of them really come as a huge surprise.

Up front, it was Sullivan Silva, Brandon Swartzendruber and Gustavo Oliveira.

Silva is the former Premier Development League most valuable

THE CHILL'S TOP 11

Forwards Sullivan Silva Brandon Swartzendruber Gustavo Oliveira Midfield **Dominic Roberts** Pedro Adan Nolan Intermoia Defence Mitchell Osmond

Alex Sjoberg Wilson Neto Lee Nishanian Goal

Steve Paterson

player.

Swartzendruber scored the winning goal in 2008 with his team down two men against the Cleveland Internationals to help propel the Chill into the Heartland Division semifinals.

I was there in Pontiac, Mich. and it might have been the greatest effort I've ever seen by any local sports team.

The midfield is led by Dominic Roberts, a talkative but talented player who led all vote-getters with 581. Pedro Adan and Nolan Intermoia join

him.

On the back end, Wilson Neto, Lee Nishanian, Mitchell Osmond and future MLS defender Axel Sjoberg earned spots on the team.

And of course, in net it's none other than Thunder Bay's own Steve Paterson, a stalwart on the team for so many years, including the championship season of 2008.

That's a pretty solid soccer club.

I think the only change I'd make would be to switch out Nishanian and swap in Zetroy Robertson on defence.

For the record, I voted and cast my ballot for Swartzendruber up front, for his consistent body of work. Silva is more talented, but has battled too many injuries.

I also selected Intermoia, one of my favourites, Sjoberg and Paterson.

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tbnewswatch.com

Wolves land English NCAA guard

BASKETBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

on Kreiner has never been one to shy away from bringing toplevel NCAA talent to boost his team's chances.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball coach may have done it again, announcing on Friday that England's Rhianna-Mae Laing will suit up for the team starting this fall.

The 5-foot-10 guard comes to Thunder Bay from Florida Atlantic, a Division One school, where she red-shirted in 2017-18 before returning home to England.

Prior to that she spent two seasons with the Cowley Tigers, averaging 9.1 points per game in 2016-17.

"I decided to choose Lakehead as I felt most comfortable with the coach. He has helped me through some difficulties and has been one of the most open coaches, with a balanced and prudent mindset," Laing said. "I also appreciated the ease I had speaking to the team whilst making my decision."

Laing has a long list of basketball achievements.

In 2011 she played for the English national U16 team that took silver at the European Division B Championships and two year later she captained the 2013 squad. That same year she competed at the Youth Olympics in Australia and then in 2014 she was a member of the English national U18 team at the European championships.



NCAA PAST: Rhianna-Mae Laing red-shirted in 2017-18 at Florida Atlantic.

"We are getting a very experienced and well-rounded student-athlete in Rhi. She has played at the National level for her country and had great success at one of the top Community Colleges in the United States," Kreiner said in a release.

She had some very unfortunate events happen to her which kept her from playing NCAA D1 ball but she is looking forward to the opportunity to play in Canada while earning a degree of her choice.'

Kreiner has had plenty of success with previous NCAA recruits.

Atlanta's Jylisa Williams won national player of the year honours in 2015, while Leashja Grant was an OUA most valuable player in 2018 and 2019. Laing will have three seasons of eligibility at LU.

The men's team also announced a signing from the U.S. college ranks, landing Ottawa's Jevon Westcarth.

The 6-foot-6 wing spent the past two seasons in the NJCAA rankings, most recently with Jacksonville Community College in Texas.

Westcarth averaged 5.8 points per game last season off the bench.

"Jevon is a great kid who will make an immediate impact on our program with his length and ability to shoot the ball." said LU coach Ryan Thomson.

"We're excited to get on the court and help continue to improve as a player."

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Thursday, April 23, 2020 15



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D COVID-19

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