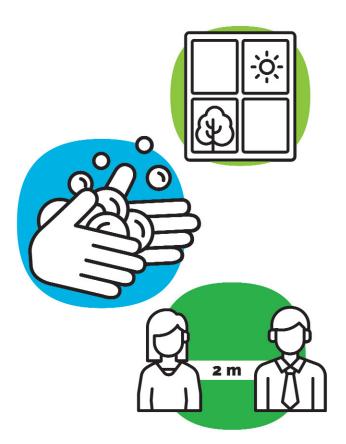


REMEMBERING KAYLIEGH: A shrine has been established outside Kayliegh Ivali's Arundel Street home after the teenager's body was found last week near Boulevard Lake.

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Ontario, your efforts to beat COVID-19 are making a difference.



To stop the spread, we need you to continue to:

Stay home whenever possible

Practice physical distancing of at least 2 metres

Wash hands thoroughly and often

We need your continued determination and cooperation to stop the spread.

COVID-19 can be deadly.

Don't put your family and friends at risk.

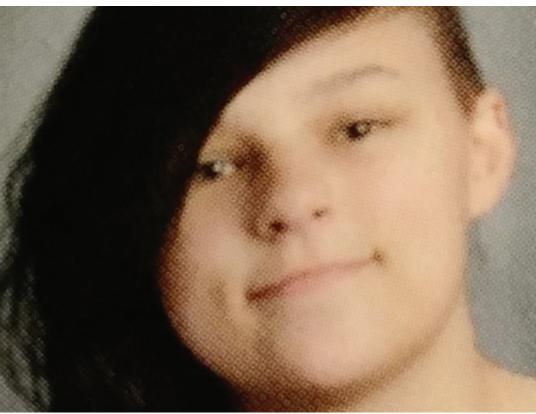
Stay home. Stay strong. Save lives.



Learn more at ontario.ca/coronavirus

For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

LOCALNEWS



UNTIMELY TRAGEDY: The body of Kayliegh Ivali, 14, was found last Monday near Lyon Boulevard and Arundel Street.

Police say teenager's killing wasn't random

CRIME By Karen Edwards and Leith Dunick - TB Source

Thunder Bay Police say they don't think the murder of 14-year-old Kayliegh Ivall was a random act of violence.

The body of the teenager, who was reported missing on Monday, was discovered later that day in a wooded area near Arundel Street and E. Lyon Boulevard. Almost immediately police said there was no immediate threat to the public. She was last seen on Sunday near Claude E. Garton Public School.

"We do not believe this to be a random event where somebody else could be at immediate risk," Thunder Bay Police Service Det.-Insp. John Fennell said last Wednesday.

Police could not comment on if a suspect has been identified, but interviews with witnesses are still taking place.

"I believe there is people in the community right now that know the story of exactly what happened," Fennell said.

Fennell said the discovery of Ivall's body came as a shock to investigators and family.

"It's tragic. The family is going through a great deal of pain right now so of course, we are trying to give them as much privacy as we can understanding that we still have some work to do," Fennell said.

A Go Fund Me with a target of \$15,000 was launched in memory of the teenager, raising more than \$20,000 by Monday afternoon.

An impromptu memorial has also been set up in front of the 14-year-old's home, at 366 Arundel St.

Her aunt, Richele Ivall, created the fundraiser on Thursday afternoon.

"Understandably, her parents are devastated and her whole family is reeling from shock. It is hard enough losing a child, but imagine it being caused by malice," Richele Ivall said in the Go Fund Me post.

"Further, imagine not being able to say good-bye in a meaningful fashion, not be able to provide a proper service and a celebration of life?"

Every contribution will make a difference, she added. According to the post, Kayliegh Ivall was out playing in her Current River neighbourhood on Sunday night, riding her scooter.

She never returned home and 36 hours later, police knocked at the door, informing her parents the

teenager's body had been found in a forested area near Arundel Street and E. Lyon Boulevard in the Boulevard Lake area, not too far from her home.

"Kayliegh was beautiful, kind, sweet and oh my goodness did she love to sing.

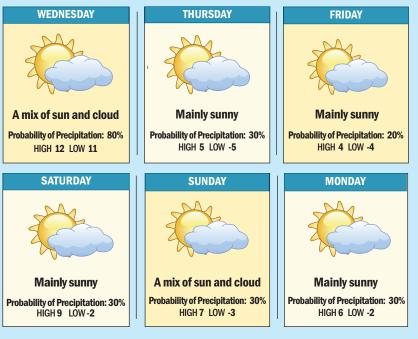
"But most of all she was Mom and Dad's little girl, and MacKenzi and Kodi's baby sister. She was loved intensely by her entire family near and far. And then she was ripped away from us," Richele Ivall said.

Kayliegh's aunt invited the public to pay tribute to her niece.

"If anyone wants to drop off flowers or message signs, (you're) welcome to. Would be much appreciated."

Hundreds of people throughout the city on Saturday placed candles in their windows in memory of the slain teenager.

Weather Forecast



HEALTHCARE HERO OF THE WEEK May 7th - 14th

VANESSA MASTERS

Health Promotion and **Communications Planner**

TANDOUT

"There have been numerous new roles created at the Hospital with all the changes due to COVID-19. One of them is the additional screening at the entrance to the building. I have been lucky enough to work with Julie Vinet to assist with the coordination of information and staff at these screening stations. It has been a rewarding experience knowing that I can help reduce the spread within our Hospital and do my part for our community. My perseverance comes from the influence of those around me including Julie and all that she has done with these screening stations. Working as part of an amazing team makes it easy to come to work each day."







"It's tragic. The family is going through a

pain right now..."

great deal of

JOHN FENNELL



UNDER-UTILIZED: Dr. Stewart Kennedy says there has never been more than nine patients on the hospital's COVID-19 isolation ward at any given time during the pandemic.

LOCALNEWS

COVID unit downsized

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is downsizing its COVID-19 isolation unit from 36 heds to 15

Dr. Stewart Kennedy, who's heading up the hospital's pandemic response, said the move comes as hospital occupancy starts to inch upward, from a low of 62 per cent to 72 per cent as of Monday afternoon.

The hospital currently has two confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital, one in the intensive care unit, and 27 presumptive cases awaiting test results.

Higher-priority surgeries are expected to resume this week at Thunder Bay Regional and Kennedy said the excess beds, which aren't being used, could be better served elsewhere at the 389-bed facility.

"We've designed the 15 beds to a

certain unit, so when we have to ramp back up, we can do it within a day, Kennedy said.

"Also it's been done quite safely. We've isolated an area for the 15 patients that's still part of the hospital, but can be isolated with doors and security and an extra nursing station." The work will take place relatively

quickly, Kennedy added.

"It's going to be done this week sometime. We have a whole team working on it. We have infectious control and policies working on it. So when you come to the COVID-19 unit, certainly all precautions will take place," Kennedy said.

"And when you come to any beds outside that unit, there are still infectious disease protocols that are followed (so) that the patients are safe if they're exposed anywhere close to that unit.'

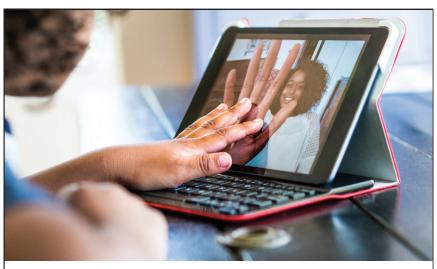
Kennedy said in addition to the return of some surgeries, patients are also starting to return to the hospital's emergency room for treatment.

"Individuals have held on for quite some time with their other medical problems and they're coming to the emergency, which is a good thing. When they come to emergency, their acuity level is up, and when their acuity level is up, then they're being admitted to the hospital to make sure they're getting the care that's needed," Kennedy said.

Prior to the pandemic's onset, the hospital normally operated at about 110 per cent capacity, so there is still plenty of room for new patient admissions, whether for COVID-19 or other afflictions.

As of Monday afternoon, there were 75 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Thunder Bay District, with 58 of them being considered resolved. Sixteen were listed as active. There has been one death attributed to COVID-19 in the district.





Apart, but still connected

We will continue to find safe ways to work, to support essential community initiatives, and to keep our network strong, so that you can stay connected.

We're in it together

🚯 🎔 🞯 tbaytel.net/covid19



LOCALNEWS



STAYING SAFE: Precautions have been put in place at Hogarth Riverview Manor after a positive COVID-19 test.

Outbreak at HRM

Staff member at long-term care facility tests positive for COVID-19 THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source This does not rule out the possibility that some residents could have contracted the virus since the testing

COVID-19 outbreak has been declared at a

A Thunder Bay long-term care home, after a staff member tested positive for the virus. A frontline worker at Hogarth Riverview Manor,

A frontine worker at Hogarth Riverview Manor, operated by St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG), recently tested positive for COVID-19, the organization reported in a release issued last Saturday evening.

Tracy Buckler, president and CEO at SJCG, said the organization became aware of the positive test result earlier the same day, and reached out to inform affected families before the outbreak was announced.

The outbreak was declared specifically for the fourth floor of the care home, where the staff member works. Buckler said the employee did not experience any symptoms and had been on the job earlier this week. No residents or other staff have been identified as having symptoms.

All 64 residents who live on the fourth floor were tested for COVID-19 earlier this week, as part of a recent initiative to ramp up local testing at long-term care homes. All returned negative results. Residents on the floor are now in isolation in their own rooms. This does not rule out the possibility that some residents could have contracted the virus since the testing took place, Buckler acknowledged. Residents will be monitored for symptoms, while all staff working on the fourth floor will don full personal protective equipment (PPE) when interacting with residents. Buckler said staff on the floor had access to "more than sufficient" supplies of the needed PPE.

It will be up to the health unit whether residents will be retested for the virus, Buckler said.

Buckler said staff on the fourth floor of the home do not work elsewhere in the building, and did not believe there was any increased risk to residents on other floors. "I'm very confident the risk is low," she said.

Provincial guidelines require the declaration of a COVID-19 outbreak when one or more staff or resident tests positive.

That prompts the formation of an outbreak management team, which will see SJCG work with the health unit to monitor and manage the situation.

SJCG had already implemented measures such as screening staff at the beginning and end of each shift, including temperature checks, assessing residents twice a day for symptoms, restricting visits, and requiring all staff and essential visitors to wear PPE.





Police probing man's serious injuries

City police have called in their major crimes unit after a serious incident that ended at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

IN BRIEF

Police, in a release issued on Monday, say a man was seriously injured and arrived at hospital claiming he'd slammed into a barrier on the facility's property.

A subsequent investigation suggests the man was injured during an incident prior to his arrival at hospital.

The incident took place at about 10:20 p.m. on Sunday night.

Balmoral awarded

A rebuild of a section of Balmoral Street tops a list of over \$11 million in road and sewer projects approved by city council Monday evening.

Work on the half-kilometre stretch of Balmoral from Hewitson Street to Alloy Drive is expected to cost the city around \$5.3 million.

The work includes the addition of multi-use trails on both sides of Balmoral and double left turn lanes at the intersection with the Harbour Expressway, along with a protected left turn.

The work will also include asphalt resurfacing, storm sewer installation, and reconstruction of the intersection. Nadin Contracting was awarded the contract.

EDITORIAL

Border can stay closed

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau must do what's best for the people of Canada and keep its borders with the United States closed for now.

For those of us who love to hit Miller Hill Mall in Duluth, pick up a package at Ryden's or head to the Twin Cities for a ballgame or concert, it's going to hurt.

But despite U.S. President Donald Trump telling the world he's got a handle on the COVID-19 pandemic in his country, he really doesn't.

The United States is ground zero, with more than 1.18 million confirmed caseS and nearly 70,000 deaths. A key coronavirus model on Monday revealed that number could grow to 134,000 by the end of June.

And some states are already starting to lift sanctions and are attempting a return to somewhat normalcy.

That's anything but under control.

Canada has just crossed 4,000 deaths from COVID-19, more than 17 times fewer deaths than the United States – with about 10 times fewer people. So relatively speaking, we're doing much better than they are.

We don't need the risk of irresponsible Americans, fuelled by the very unscientifc Donald Trump and his followers, or Canadians going stir crazy, crossing the border and potentially bringing new COVID-19 cases into the country.

There will be plenty of time to visit Olive Garden or Menards down the road, when it's safe to do so.

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City must find savings

To the editor: This would be a good time for the city to address the high municipal taxes and rent that have become unaffordable for many of our citizens.

Thunder Bay has the highest taxes in Northern Ontario, according to the Chatham-Kent BMA report.

Many city employees I have talked to have stated the city is too top heavy with management.

And still management continues to hire consultants to do their job.

The hiring of consultants needs to stop.

Through attrition, many management positions should be eliminated and job descriptions should be combined to help in this process.

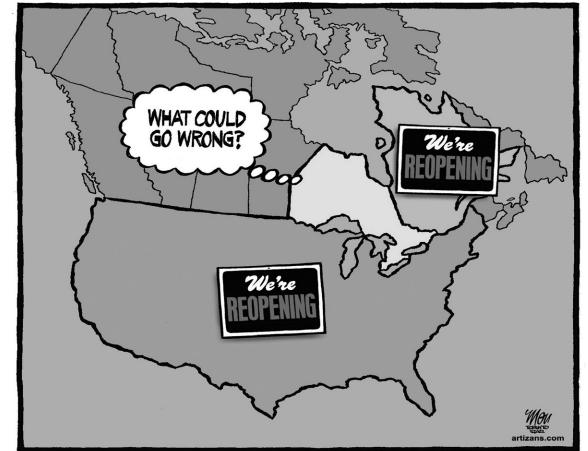
Each year at tax time administration states they need to cut services or raise taxes.

They never mention what really needs to happen.

This would include a substantial reduction in their salary, about 30 per cent, a freeze on hiring more managers and eliminating consulting fees.

> Ray Smith, Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Poetry and photographic tales



met Mary Moore Easter at the Grand Marais Book Festival.

She read several pieces from *The Body of the World* which leads us through the tangled past and bristling present of race, slavery, gender and cruelty in China, France, and America. She offers beauty, breath and hope while battling racial wrongs with fiery grace.

In *Wrong* she describes a white cop crouched on a black girl's back while she cries 'Mama!' into the grass and he spews the seed of his hatred:

'No inner eye in him sees the men / who fathered and grandfathered him like this / crouched on a black woman's back / for the satisfaction of his power.'

Part 2 of her poem about the Charleston Massacre is called *In the Garden*: 'I blot the seep with chamomile / pluck stem and fragile leaf / from pebbled soil / Near roots,



PICTURE PERFECT: A portion of the cover of Cynthia Reyes' Twigs in My Hair.

near sedum, iris, lily crowns / near corn and rhizome, taproot, bloom.'

Annette Pateman was born in the UK to Jamaican parents.

She grew up listening to Jamaican folklore and stories told by her father. Her mother often used Jamaican sayings and proverbs to give advice on life.

Annette has enjoyed poetry from an early age and *Spectrum* is her first collection of poems.

Many of these are about racism, identity and what it is to be a black woman. In 'Yes I am Black' she asks 'Yes I am Black / what is wrong with that? We are varied and different / a beautiful creation.'

And in *The Other* she describes the energy and resilience it takes just to be a black woman in a white man's world: 'Why are you here? / how did you begin? / these are the questions you ask my kin.' Many of these questions involve the never ending fascination that white people have with black hair: 'Oil, twist / part, plait / this is my hair / and how I do that / This is my hair / Afro, frizzy, dread and locs / yes, this is the crown / I wear in town.'

I have not met Cynthia Reyes but, after reading *Twigs in my Hair: A Gardening Memoir*, I feel I know her and her family:

'Today I pretended it was normal to lie on the grass, face down and weed. Dirt flew up my nose and there were twigs in my hair, but I kept going.'

These delightful stories, beautifully illustrated with photographs by Hamlin Grange, are in two parts: *Living With Nature* has memories of Cynthia's childhood and her mother's garden, while *Growing With Nature* includes the trials of a mature gardener, such as *Man Against Squirrel* and *The Rabbits Attack – Again.* Each chapter is introduced by a quote from garden lovers and writers such as Gertrude Jekyll and Frances Hodgson Burnett.

This homage to Mother Earth is also about people and family and love: 'Gardens can help us to accept love and to love more deeply than we thought possible.'

Perspective

Get back to basics

Baking bread a tasty way to survive the pandemic

OPINION By J.R. Shermack

Special to TB Source

any Canadians have been deal-ing with the many challenges of pandemic living by getting back to basics.

For those with culinary skills this means baking their own bread from scratch while those with a green thumb are growing their own vegetables.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of loved ones tops our list of wants and needs but there is now an increased sense of urgency and anxiety.

"Nothing

soothes the

than the

smell of

house "

A look back in history

Job losses and layoffs have disrupted family finances and made it difficult, sometimes impossible, to cover mortgage, rent and groceries.

The trials and tribulations of quarantine, business closures and social distancing are keeping us at home and things we once took for granted are now keeping us busy.

For instance, although grocery stores have remained open during this health crisis many new (and essential) physical barriers make instore shopping tedious and stressful.

Many stores offer online shopping and curbside pick-up which is convenient but you may have to wait a week or more until your order is filled.

And be prepared for shortages and

Kings Garden

In 1899 Joseph G. King of

Port Arthur acquired a fine

residence on North

Algoma Street bordering

profession, King had a passion for city beautification. He started with his own property, turn-

ing raw bush into a

fabulous private park,

known locally as

which became a

tourist attraction fea-

tured often on post-

King's

cards.

Gardens,

McVicar Creek. An elevator man by

substitutions as Canada's food supply chain scrambles to meet increased, often unreasonable consumer demand.

You could tell there was going to be trouble a few weeks ago when a spike in panic buying and hoarding left an alarming number of grocery store shelves empty.

Surprising to me, it started with toilet paper but it wasn't long before there were shortages of basic foods like fresh produce, sugar and canned goods.

Also surprising was the disappearance of yeast from store shelves as

home bakers, in anticipation of an imaginary bread shortage, bought up all the baking supplies.

Nothing soothes the soul quicker than the smell of soul quicker freshly-baked bread in the house and the taste of warm bread and butter is a freshly-baked proven tonic for frazzled bread in the nerves.

Getting back to basics can be very tasty.

While Canadians wait patiently at home for the crisis to pass, they depend on the availability of groceries, including comfort foods, to ease the burden of isolation.

And although there have been periodic shortages on the shelves, experts agree that Canada's food supply chain is safe, reliable and robust.

There is enough food to go around in this country and empty shelves caused by the initial consumer panic buying are being re-stocked.

However, COVID 19 has revealed some vulnerabilities in the system that may be problematic as time goes on and a new "normal" is achieved.

Canada has the capacity and ability to produce its own food supply if only the crops can be planted in time, harvested when ready and distributed to an open market.

Spring is planting time but a twoweek mandatory quarantine has caused disruptions and delays for the 60,000 foreign workers travelling to Canada every year.

For example, the asparagus patch is ready and farmers are desperate to start planting, pruning and harvesting but their hired help is isolated for two weeks (with pay).

Due to the greatly diminished demand from restaurants potato farmers are faced with a 200 million pound surplus of spuds normally used for frozen French fries.

During the COVID crisis Canadians are buying more table potatoes and potato chip sales are up 23 per cent but it will be daunting (and delicious) to eat all those surplus fries.

Faced with these agricultural challenges many urban consumers have decided to grow their own veggies this year in back yard gardens.

Canadians will enjoy the satisfaction and security of growing their own food much the same way they enjoy the comfort of a fresh, warm slice of homemade bread.

Getting back to basics may soon become our new "normal".

SEUM

THUNDER BAY

SPREAD YOUR GIANT WINGS



HIGH IN THE SKY: The Canadian Forces Snowbirds flew over the city during a refueling stop at Thunder Bay International Airport last Friday. They're on a cross-country COVID-19 tour.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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

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Do you agree with the federal government's decision to ban 'assault-style' guns in Canada?

VISIT www.tbnewswatch.com

TOTAL VOTES: 1,921

○YES ○NO ○DON'T KNOW

2.03%

66.58% 31.39%

LOCALNEWS

Alleged drunk driver slams into house

A 34-year-old woman faces a number of charges after allegedly slamming her vehicle into a County Boulevard home.

Police, in a release issued on Monday, say they arrived at the home at about 5:45 a.m. on Saturday morning to find the exterior and interior of the home severely damaged.

According to a source, the minivan the woman was allegedly driving crashed into the house, then backed up and slammed into a utility pole.

Police say the woman fled the scene, but the vehicle was quickly located in the 400 block of Wentworth Crescent. The suspect was also located and arrested, after showing multiple signs of impairment by alcohol.

She was taken to police headquarters without incident.

The suspect is charged with operation while impaired, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop after an accident and failure to comply with an undertaking.

Crash injures cop

An uninsured driver picked the wrong vehicle to crash into.

Police, in a release, say the driver of an SUV travelling southbound on McKenzie Street crossed into the path of a police cruiser, striking it along the passenger-side door.

A police officer was injured as a result of the crash and sought treatment at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

A 27-year-old woman was charged with careless driving and driving without insurance.



RUDE AWAKENING: Repairs are made on Saturday morning to a home on County Boulevard after a minivan crashed into it earlier.

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COMMUNITY NOTICE Annual Vegetation Management Program

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way from any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

As such, for safe railway operations, the annual vegetation control program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified applicator will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16-feet gravelled area). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be fulfilled.

At this time, we expect that the program will take place from May to October 2020.

Visit cn.ca/vegetation to consult the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

Safety is a core value at CN and in the actual context of the COVID-19 pandemic, our employees and contractors are taking all measures to stay healthy and to protect the communities in which we operate. For more information, please visit **cn.ca/covid-19-update**.

For more information, please contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.





Youngster bikes for hospital

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

ichael Vita may only be nine years old, but Mhe's got the community spirit of someone twice his age – and then some.

The youngster also isn't letting the COVID-19 pandemic get in his fundraising way.

Rather than sit inside and play video games while schools are closed, Michael is giving new meaning to putting the pedal to the metal, challenging himself to bike at least 1,000 kilometres this spring and summer to help raise money for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, the hospital charity where his mother Heather works.

He figures he'll attempt to ride at least 10 kilometres a day over the next four months, or at least 50 kilometres a week.

He's asking friends and family and anyone else who wants to donate to pledge at least five cents a kilometre to help out the hospital foundation, which if he completes the full 1,000-kilometre distance, amounts to \$50 a person.

"A lot of people are staying home and a lot of people are getting sick," Michael said, asked why he decided to undertake the effort.

"I want to help the hospital. There are a lot of people who are sick and I want to give the money to the area of highest need."

An avid skier and cyclist, Michael won't be riding alone - at least not most days.

Cycling is a family affair for the Vitas and Michael's mother and father, as well as his younger sister Emily, all plan to join him as much as they possibly can.



WILD RIDE: Michael Vita, 9, is cycling 1,000 kilometres this summer to raise money for the hospital foundation

His father, Domenic Vita, said seeing his son show a sign of philanthropy fills the entire family with a sense of pride.

"He mentioned that he wanted to help people during the COVID-19 crisis and we thought this would be a great way to do it," Domenic said.

"Both kids have donated several times now for

different occasions and reasons and it just seemed like a natural fit for them. They're happy to do it and we're happy to support them.'

Donations, which total \$1,410 to date, can be made through the foundation website at www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/michaels1000k mride



PRESBYTERIAN

Lakeview Presbyterian Church 278 Camelot Street The Rev. Harold Hunt, Minister The Rev. Susan Mattinson, **Interim Moderator** Sunday Worship @ 10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery Provided All are welcome! 5 Phone: 345-8823

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By Gary Rinne - TB Source

Thunder Bay-based clinical psy-Achologist who's a leader in his field has received a Champions of Mental Health award from the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health.

Dr. Christopher Mushquash is one of seven recipients of the alliance's awards for 2020, given to individuals and organizations whose work has advanced the mental health agenda across the country.

He won the award for the innovation - researcher or clinician category.

Among his numerous professional roles, he is a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous mental health and addiction, an associate professor in the department of psychology at Lakehead University and the division of human sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and the director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research at LU.

Mushquash, an Ojibway and member of Pays Plat First Nation, also provides assessment, intervention and consultation services for First Nations children, adolescents and adults at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

The alliance described him as a generous volunteer who meets frequently with First Nations communities, organizations and students to discuss mental health and addiction.

"Through his work," it said, "he champions culturally and contextually appropriate mental health and addiction services for First Nations peoples, and for individuals living in rural and northern communities."



HONOURED: Dr. Christopher Mushquash won a Champions of Mental Health award.





Plenty of spring chores to keep busy



Spring has been picking up speed as it settles in, sweeping winter out of the way, making itself at home – familiar but involving lots of work. At our farm there are several tasks demanding attention.

All ten cords of firewood have been bucked and this past weekend we began splitting and stacking.

First, I tossed the several wheelbarrow loads of dry wood left over from last year into the basement boiler room. Splitting and stacking will take some time.

It is not a job one rushes as one's back quickly complains.

Another task has been to create raised beds in the vegetable garden into which the plants will go. Son Doug had begun making raised beds on Friday, but there was still snow on the ground preventing him from completing them.



BACK AGAIN: Blue jays return in spring.

He was able, though, to make several beds at the top of the garden that was snow-free.

But by the next day the heat had melted the remaining snow and I took shovel in hand and added to Doug's efforts. I also made five more beds.

Saturday, Doug and Laura began resurrecting the dog-pen greenhouse they'd erected last year.

The winter wasn't kind to the wrapping of vapour barrier and the roof had to be

rejigged before covering it.

That was a task that son, Doug, undertook. The boards we'd used, being the only ones available, were one by six inch by 12 feet. The weight of the rain water on the plastic was very heavy.

If you did not get inside the greenhouse soon after a big rain to push upon the plastic in the hopes that the accumulated water would gush over the side, the boards would warp.

Several times I received an unsought, cold shower as holes had appeared in the plastic.

"We won't be able to use these boards again in this shape," I suggested. Doug said that the solution was simple: turn the boards upside down so that they now form a curved ridge.

Cut some poplar poles and shove them up against the boards in the middle of the greenhouse. There, the boards now have support and since the boards warped into a curved shape, the rain water should run off the sides. Good.

Last year when I was shoving with all my strength the sagging plastic between the boards where the water had collected, I got soaked. Wasn't seeking an impromptu shower. Sunday, my wife, Laura, and daughter, Beth, planted carrot seed in one of the newly-made beds.

Then after seeing a video about mulching to prevent weeds, Laura asked that I fetch the loose hay that lies upon the floor of the hay-storage area in the barn.

"We will spread it in the aisles between the beds and hopefully it will keep the weeds down," she said.

I hope so too since last year I was on my hands and knees digging and pulling up quack grass roots. Not fun.

So, splitting and stocking firewood, making more raised beds for the transplanting of all the vegetable plants Laura began indoors, and making sure the greenhouse in the garden stands up to the weight of summer rains.

Oh, and that was another wee task Laura requested I do: set up the pool or, at least, attach everything to make sure no parts were missing.

Again, Doug helped me haul out the solar heaters, the hoses, the pump, and the top to the pool filter.

Everything fit together nicely but I

want to wait a couple of weeks before removing the winter cover and topping up the pool water necessary before we can turn everything on.

After all, we've only just chugged into May.

But spring is chugging – wait! Spring doesn't "chug," Fred. Spring glides. OK the spring is gliding into place changing the set-design.

By the time you read this missive, all the snow on the trails will be gone making walking a pleasure again. I tried it with our pooches on Friday and it was still a slog where there was still deep snow.

And with spring, we get the returning birds – redwing blackbirds, grackles, blue jays, occasional sparrows (I think), even briefly a mourning dove, all congregating at the table where I put out bird seed.

Sunday morning as Laura and I were getting breakfast before heading out to the barn to feed the horses, Laura asked if the birds hadn't heard about social distancing, ha,ha,ha.

Tsk, tsk. But the cacophony of bird song is music to my ears.

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Ready to hit the trails



The last bits of snow, hidden in the darkest shadows of Trowbridge Forest are finally melting away. Soon it will be time to hit Thunder Bay's mountain bike trail mecca known as Shuniah Mines. In anticipation of spring riding, I reached out to Michael McKenzie, the vice-president and Trail Development Chair for the Blacksheep Mountain Bike Club to ask about our trail system.

KA: Tell me about our current trail network.

MM: In Shuniah Mines we currently have 21 kilometres of singletrack. All of our trails are located in Trowbridge Forest, which is the combination of Kinsmen Park (Trowbridge Falls), Shuniah Mines, and Centennial Park. The best way to access them is to park at Kinsmen Park, cross the river and take Conveyor Belt all the way into the heart of Shuniah Mines.

KA: What is the vision for the future of this trail network?

MM: Our goal is to make Thunder Bay a destination for mountain biking as the terrain we have can support some world class trails.

We are currently working on securing funds for our Trowbridge Forest Master Plan which will add an additional 20 kilometres of singletrack. Some of the highlights in the three-year plan include a new trailhead on Balsam Street, a downhill zone with four gravity trails, and a lookout trail with views of the giant and surrounding area.

The plan also entails upgrades to Kinsmen Park that include a bike park with jumps, a pump track and skills features, a shade structure, and a new playground. We will also be upgrading and repairing some of the existing trails. To successfully complete this masterplan we need to raise \$1.5 million to construct everything to the highest quality. With this investment in the trails we will be putting Thunder Bay on the map as a mountain biking tourism destination.

KA: What kind of investment are the Blacksheep making in this trail network?

MM: Blacksheep invests over 1,000 hours of labour each year. The club also invested \$33,500 in trail development last year with the help of the Thunder Bay CEDC, Destination Northern Ontario, Thunder Bay Parks and Open Spaces, our sponsors, membership, and donors.

KA: The old Shuniah trails were rough and didn't flow well.

They were fine for advanced riders, but scary for others. How are the new trails you are building different?

MM: Trail construction has improved a lot over the past few years. Some of the new trails we are building are machine built, which speeds up construction and allows us to build larger features and better drainage. When we do build by hand, we use modern techniques to build more enjoyable trails. The new trails planned include everything from beginner trails to a downhill gravity zone. Our goal is to expand the riding opportunities for everyone and develop a trail system that offers plenty of growth for rider development.

KA: I'm excited to ride right now, but I know I need to wait until things dry out. Can you explain why this is important?

MM: Each spring the trails become susceptible to damage as they thaw out. Using them when they are too soft can leave ruts that harden and are

difficult to repair. The trails also widen when users go around puddles, which doubles the amount of work taken to repair the area. If you start to leave damage to a trail the best thing to do is turn around and choose a different one.

When the trails do open later this month, it is important we continue to respect social distancing protocols by riding solo or with the people we live with. In the meantime, those interested in helping grow our trail system can become a member of the club, donate, sponsor, or volunteer for trail development days. For more information check out blacksheepmtb.com or shoot them a message on facebook or at info@blacksheepmtb.com.



OUT FOR A RIDE: Brooke Alley takes the Conveyer Belt Trail to Shuniah Mines.

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IN THE bay

A disturbing decent into male madness



Given this period of 'self-isolation' and simmering cabin fever, it would seem timely to explore *The Lighthouse*, (available on Shaw payper-view) starring Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson as two lighthouse keepers going stir crazy on a remote windswept rock in the 1890s.

Filmed in stark black and white by co-directors Robert and Max Eggers (*The Witch*), and inspired by a true story, *The Lighthouse* is an unsettling gothic horror movie that won kudos at the Toronto film festival.

Cape Forchu, Nova Scotia serves as the unnamed setting for this foreboding film where lumberjack Ephraim Winslow (Robert Pattinson) arrives for a four-week sojourn as a lighthouse assistant. Seeking an escape from "the bush" and a monetary stake for his future, Winslow quickly finds he's getting more than he bargained for, having to haul coal by wheelbarrow, clean up malodorous cisterns, swab floors, repair shingles, and whitewash the lighthouse tower while dangling on haphazard rigging.

But worse, he has to put up with the needling of the chief lighthouse keeper or "wickie," Thomas Wake (Willem Dafoe) who relentlessly finds fault with Winslow's dutiful efforts. Wake, all craggy beard and similar demeanor (Dafoe seems to be channeling a demented Sterling Hayden) is an exsea captain and ex-family man with a bum leg, prone to sea-doggy rhymes and recollections, and spouts a gnarly patois, sounding like an eccentric Captain Ahab.

Wake also has a sadistic side as he pulls the rug out from under Winslow on a few occasions, resulting in needless, soul-destroying exhaustion and near catastrophic injury for the hapless new man.

Wake is also mysteriously guarded about access to the lighthouse main deck which arouses Winslow's curiosity.

Wake and Winslow's dingy candlelit dinners together are edgy jousts of contrasting sensibilities, wobbling from deceptive camaraderie to growling taunts to near brawling. Wake is a prickly tyrant; Winslow is coiled, laconic surliness.

Wake also discloses that his former assistant apparently died from madness, "ravin' about sirens, merfolk, omens, and the like." Is Wake a malevolent madman himself?

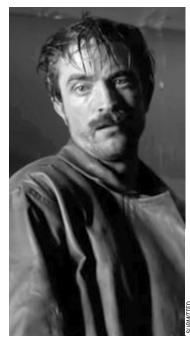
Winslow scoffs at Wake's "tall tales" upon being warned that potentially injuring a pesky seagull will bring bad luck. But Winslow himself becomes beset with his own visions and nightmares of mermaids, tentacled creatures, mythical sea gods, and ghostly apparitions that hint at his own guilty past.

It doesn't help when expected relief is delayed by unceasing raging weather, as besieging roaring waves and driving winds heighten their claustrophobia. With little recourse, the men resort to drink whereby their angst—and ours—deepens.

Jarin Blaschke's Oscar-nominated austere cinematography, Mark Koven's eerie, startling soundtrack, and Damian Volpe's deep-bass sound design (with droning foghorn) all combine to heighten the ominous atmosphere and sense of dread.

Dafoe and Pattinson give inspired performances of largely unsympathetic characters, which may be a turn-off for some tastes along with the deliberate nebulous ending. The Lighthouse is not an easy film to like. But give the brothers Eggers credit for remaining true to their bleak, haunting vision of male madness isolated in the extreme.

Marty Mascarin is president of the North of Superior Film Association.



ALONE TIME: Robert Pattinson stars in The Lighthouse with Willem Dafoe.

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Mountainview and St. Patrick's Cemeteries



ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES SAAL TABU ZEAL ELBA 8 1 4 3 9 7 5 2 6 UGH Е 5 7 2 6 1 8 3 4 9 RAILBIRD ILEX 3 2 9 4 7 BONER YAP 5 6 8 1 TATUTEREK 9 6 7 5 2 1 4 3 8 F A D E T A T A D A I L E G E T B Y R A D A 1 5 3 7 84 926 829 3 6 5 1 7 4 ASONERAVE 4 8 1 59 2 3 7 6 ULM ABEAM MARL SRIL OCUL GABI ACRO RYND S R I L A N K A G A B I A E R 2 9 5 8 371 6 4 3 6 4 2 1 8 9 5 <u>) ο ς) κ ε (τ) s</u> ρ WRS TARR PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "There is no such thing as perfect security, only varying levels of insecurity."- Salman Rushdie

Have TV executives cancelled hope too?

Regardless of the earlier-thanexpected season finales, one thing hasn't changed this spring.

Cancellations and decisions about this fall still have to be made.

God Friended Me, which survived two seasons on CBS, has been cancelled. Fortunately, producers were given fair warning so they could shoot a somewhat satisfactory ending for the show. And leave it open a crack should another network decide to take it over.

But what are the odds? *GFM* was about an atheist who received friend suggestions from a social media account named "God" that led him to people he could help. No dead bodies, bad guys or conspiracies. No dark twists. Just everyday people doing small things to help a stranger which often had a ripple effect to others.

The idea was that we're all connected and by helping one, you're helping



many. It's reminiscent of the biblical verse in Matthew 25: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

But that doesn't always make for great ratings. Positivity is a hard sell on television today despite *GFM*'s small but dedicated following.

Another one of the shows at risk for cancellation is NBC's Zoey's



TWO-YEAR RUN: Brandon Micheal Hall stars in God Friended Me as Miles.

Extraordinary Playlist. This feel-good dramedy is about the face we show the world and the feelings we're too afraid

to reveal - but should.

It, too, aired its season finale recently. Zoey's father passed away and she sang *American Pie* about "the day the music died." This could either wrap up the story completely or act as a catalyst for season two. The network still hasn't decided.

Many shows are in a similar limbo amid the COVID pandemic because nobody knows when they can start shooting again or under what conditions. Also, writers like to be timely with their stories. But what topics will be appropriate or even realistic over the next few months?

However, this is when positive stories would resonate the most. And when they're needed the most.

Yes, it's strange to call *Playlist* a positive show when I spent the finale sobbing as I relived the last hours with own my father at his bedside. However, the show reminds viewers

that even before social distancing, we kept each other at arm's length. But if we open up or reach out to others and try to connect on a deeper level, life can be better.

Ironically, connecting has become harder and thus, more precious in this quarantine atmosphere. Now, making eye contact with a stranger, offering a smile or even just a nod, is becoming almost as welcome and intimate as a hand-shake.

So while the network schedule has certainly relied on the darkest of stories in the past for its ratings – *Criminal Minds, American Horror Story, Riverdale, Evil* – now would be a good time for a re-set. Not just for the environment or for more sustainable economies.

Post-COVID, we too will be a blank slate that has the opportunity to start fresh on a positive note. If only the networks will support that.

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Courses get go-ahead to start prep

GOLF By Leith Dunick - TB Source

olfing and sailing may be on the Ghorizon.

The City of Thunder Bay last Friday announced it would allow marinas and golf courses to begin preparaton for the upcoming season, after the province charted a course to relax some of the restrictions put in place to control the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any preparation work must be done under strict safety guidelines, with no public access until the province gives the go-ahead.

That's good news for Fort William Country Club general manager Brian Bruni, whose maintenance staff has been busy removing green covers and starting to clean up the Mountain Road course in anticipation of the start of the season.

They've also started the hiring process and Bruni said they'll likely be ready to go at a moment's notice once they get the OK.

"We are trying to plan and prepare for an eventual opening and we're using the current emergency shutdown date of May 12 and 13 in terms of a target that we're looking for," Bruni said.

"While the business is not open, we are certainly trying to keep things moving from an administration point of view, from a planning and preparation perspective and anticipating that we will hopefull be able to get out there and start playing in the near future."

Golf won't look the same as it did in 2019, he cautioned.

Golfers will be expected to make some

accomodations in order to play. Bookings and any payment required will have to be made in advance. There will be limited access to the clubhouse, if any at all, and sit-down food and beverage service will not be available - though take-out is an option being considered.

Changes will be felt on the course too, Bruni said, noting they'll be following best practice guidelines put in place by the industry, on top of any provincial regulations.

"We'll be minimizing touch points as much as possible, so having no pins removed. We'll have a cup that will be raised above the normal level so there is no need to reach down deep into a cup to remove your ball," Bruni said.

Ball washers and garbage cans will also be removed from the course.

Carts will likely be single-rider only and washed thoroughly after each use.

"We are looking at increasing the time between tee offs to minimize the opportunity for gathering to keep that six-foot social distancing. We're looking at no access to putting greens and no access to the driving range facilities."

Finally, only groups of two will be allowed out during the early stages of the season.

"And we will be monitoring activity on the golf course to make sure that groups are not too close to each other and a lot of sanitation and cleaning," Bruni said.

Courses in British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and New Brunswick are already open, while courses in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador will be open by mid-month at the latest.



ITCHING TO GET ON THE COURSE: Chris Gardner captures the Keg District Open last July at Fort William Country Club.

Jordan won titles the old-fashioned way: he earned them



Watching ESPN's *The Last Dance* has been a great trip down memory lane.

Of course, it's the chronicle of the Chicago Bulls final championshp season in 1997-98, but the 10-part documentary is so much more. It's an homage to the Michael Jordan era.

It's also settled my mind on the Jordan

or LeBron debate - not that I've ever really been anything but Team Jordan all along.

The proof is in the championships. But not just the sheer number. For now, Jordan wins that debate hands down, by a 6-3 count.

Hypothetically, had Jordan not 'retired' for two seasons in the mid-'90s, odds are good he and the Bulls might have won eight in a row. That's Bill Russell territory.

Now Hakeem Olajuwon and the Houston Rockets might argue differently, but it's safe to say the Bulls would have been in the mix those two years.

That, however, is what might have

been.

Jordan went to six finals and won them all. James has three championships, including a stunning upset of the Golden State Warriors in 2016, rallying the Cavaliers back from 3-1 down in an NBA Final for the ages.

James has also been to six other finals and come away empty.

For me, one of the deciding factors is how those championship teams were built

Jordan's teams were built the old fashioned way, through the draft and shrewd trades. Yes, it took him seven seasons in the league before he won a title, but he also faced some pretty talented Boston

Celtics and Detroit Pistons teams along the way.

James, on the other hand, has never won a championshp he didn't orchestrate himself.

Remember The Decision?

James, Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade ushered in the era of the super team, joining forces to build a Miami Heat team that won back-to-back titles, but also lost to Dallas and San Antonio.

Ironically, it was another super team, the Warriors, that denied him three of four potential rings when he returned to Cleveland in 2015.

James just doesn't seem to elevate his teammates the way Jordan did.

Charles Barkley agrees, leaving James out of his top five all-time last week. I wouldn't go that far.

One on one, James in his prime might very well beat Jordan in his prime.

But that's not what the the title greatest player in NBA history is about.

Jordan had his faults. He liked to gamble and had he not walked away for two seasons to try his hand at baseball, I'm not sure this would even be an argument.

He took the reins from Magic and Bird, strapped on his Air Jordans and soared to heights those two superstars could only dream about.

LeBron still has a few hills to climb.

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