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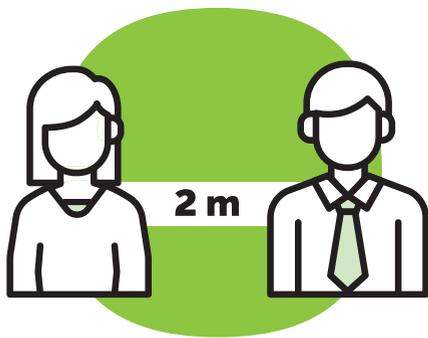
HIGH IN THE SKY: The Canadian Forces Snowbirds flew over Thunder Bay on Monday as part of their Operation Inspiration tour to help lift the country's spirits during COVID-19.

BLAIR WRIGHT

# **We're Making a Difference**

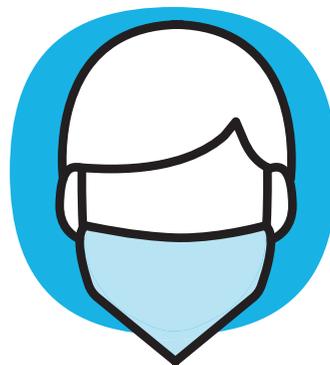
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# LOCAL NEWS



LEITH DUNICK

**LOOK UP, WAY UP:** Thousands peered upward on Monday to watch the CF Snowbirds bring Operation Inspiration to Thunder Bay.

## Flying high in the sky

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

For Lt.-Col. Mike French, Operation Inspiration's stop in Thunder Bay was a homecoming of sorts.

The commanding officer of 431 Demonstration Squadron, better known as the Snowbirds, said family ties makes him quite familiar with the city.

French, who on Monday afternoon led a nine-plane formation on a highly anticipated flyover of Thunder Bay, said he's been to the Lakehead many times in the past. His father's from Fort William and his grandmother lived here while he was growing up.

"It's weird. I've never lived in Thunder Bay, but I always feel like it's a bit of a homecoming when I come here, only because of how much time we spent out at Shebandowan or Kakabeka Falls with my relatives, with my Grandma here. We always used to come and visit as a kid," French said, his team making a brief refuelling stop at Thunder Bay International Airport before continuing on to Winnipeg to resume the cross-country tour.

French said Operation Inspiration isn't necessarily about the airplanes themselves as much as it is about raising people's spirits during the COVID-19 lockdown.

It's surpassed even his wildest imagination of what the tour could



LEITH DUNICK

**FAMILIAR TERRITORY:** Snowbirds Lt.-Col. Mike French's father and grandmother hailed from Fort William.

accomplish, drawing people outside their home to share in the experience.

"This is big, and it's much bigger than even we anticipated. The reception we're getting from Canadians online, and even at the airport in physically distanced groups, is amazing," said French, wearing a navy blue face mask while being interviewed.

"It's overwhelming for us, really. It's a much bigger thing than we ever anticipated."

A couple of dozen people lined the fence at the airport on Monday, with hundreds gathering a Hillcrest Park and Prince Arthur's Landing hoping to catch a glimpse of the famous flying troupe.

Among the crowd at the airport

were brothers Johnny and Kaleb Faiers.

Johnny, armed with his camera, was taking close-up shots of an 11 CT-114 Tutors, parked a short chip shot away on the tarmac.

"I'm not huge into aviation, but just the technology that goes into the planes and the formation and training, I just find it very interesting," the 15-year-old said.

His younger brother, Kaleb, 11, thought it was pretty cool too.

"I've never seen a jet before – well up close," he said. "I like how they fly so close together and don't crash."

The youngster said it was awesome that the Snowbirds were doing the tour.

"It's really cool because everybody can't go anywhere, so you can see it from outside," he said.

The Snowbirds goal is to fly past as many residential neighbourhoods and hospitals as possible during each stop, which along the way has included Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Sault Ste. Marie, the latter of which also enjoyed a show on Monday.

"We get to see the Maritimes. We get to see the Canadian Shield and now we're heading out into the prairies and then into the Rockies and coastal mountains," French said. "We're very lucky in that sense because not a whole lot of Canadians get to do that and they certainly don't get to do it in a week-and-a-half like we are."

# Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p><b>A mix of sun and cloud</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 14 LOW 7</p>	 <p><b>Rain</b> Probability of Precipitation: 80% HIGH 8 LOW 6</p>	 <p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 15 LOW 6</p>
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 <p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 0% HIGH 12 LOW 6</p>	 <p><b>A mix of sun and cloud</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 13 LOW 6</p>	 <p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 12 LOW 7</p>



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Two arrested in teen's murder

### COURT

By Karen Edwards, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Thunder Bay police investigating the death of a 14-year-old girl have not ruled out the possibility that there could be more individuals connected to the killing of Kayleigh Ivall.

Ivall's body was found in a wooded area near Arundel Street near Lyon Boulevard on April 27. She was last seen alive the day before at approximately 8 p.m. near Claude Garton school.

Since then, Thunder Bay Police Service have arrested and charged a 14-year-old female youth and 21-year-old Jarrett Brandon Sainnawap with first-degree murder.

Both accused persons were known to each other, police say.

Last Wednesday, Thunder Bay Police Service Det.-Insp. John Fennell told media personnel the investigation remains ongoing as police continue to go through forensic evidence.

"I can't rule anything out at this time," he said when asked if there is a possibility there are more people involved in the homicide case.

"With the evidence coming forward, yes, you never know where it can go

as evidence identifies itself, we will go from there," he said.

The youth suspect's identity is protected by a provision under the Youth Criminal Justice Act preventing anyone including police from publishing her name.

Fennell expressed concern last Wednesday regarding individuals in the community who may not be aware they are possibly breaching a section of the act when they post information online.

"We do not say names because there is legislation preventing us," he said. "The public has to understand they are under the same rules we are and ignorance is not an excuse of law."

Posting real names of a young person accused of a crime on social media platforms such as Facebook

could potentially result in criminal charges, he said.

"If they were to post real names to Facebook or divulge information leading to the identity of an accused person, they can be charged as well," he said.

"I realize the public is upset with this but they really need to understand there are rules to follow.

Both the youth suspect and Sainnawap have court appearances later this week in Thunder Bay court.

**"I can't rule anything out at this time."**

**JOHN FENNEL**



FACEBOOK

**CHARGED:** Jarrett Sainnawap is one of two suspects who have been charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Kayleigh Ivall.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Backyard chicken bylaw flies the coop

**CITY HALL**  
By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

A proposal to reconsider allowing urban residents to keep chickens was soundly defeated by city council on Monday, with even a long-time champion of the idea turning against it.

The motion failed on a 10-3 vote, with only Couns. Andrew Foulds, Cody Fraser, and Shelby Ch'ng, who moved it, voting in favour.

Ch'ng had supported a 2016 push to amend city bylaws to allow urban chicken keeping, along with Foulds, Rebecca Johnson, and then-councillor Linda Rydholm. On Monday, Johnson said she could no longer support the idea.

"I was certainly a cheerleader in 2016 for this whole issue – I felt very strongly about it," she said. "I can't say I'm in the same position in 2020. I'd rather defeat this at this point in time, because I don't know the community is ready to go



**FEATHERS RUFFLED:** A backyard chicken bylaw was also defeated by council in 2016.

forward. The research has changed considerably since 2016, and I just feel this is not in the best interest of the

community at this point."

A proposed amendment from Johnson to defer consideration of the question

until September was also defeated.

Several councillors questioned the point of re-litigating an issue that underwent significant study, consultations, and debate four years earlier. Ch'ng's motion would have directed city administration to advise on what it would take to update that work so the issue could be reconsidered.

"I think I know what I need to know about it," said Coun. Mark Bentz. "I've gotten a lot of feedback from folks in the community, [much] of it non-supportive. Yes, there are merits to the idea, but I think there's more downside than upside to bringing livestock into urban areas."

Public sentiment to the idea has cooled since 2016, suggested Coun. Aldo Ruberto. The at-large councillor voted against it four years ago, but recently suggested he'd be open to considering it

if proper enforcement was in place.

"I've had numerous calls, more so than in 2016, [when] I got a lot of calls in support," he said. "This time, it's the exact opposite. People are saying, why are you bringing this up now, we don't want this – and they're adamant about it."

Infectious disease was the primary concern for Coun. Brian McKinnon, while he also worried the practice of keeping chickens would create nuisances like smell, noise, and pests.

"When I was a kid, we had lots of chickens in the city," he said. "But we had lots of rats, too."

Ch'ng cited threats to food security from the COVID-19 pandemic as the primary reason the issue needed a second look, while noting council's composition has changed significantly since the previous vote.

**"When I was a kid, we had lots of chickens in the city. But we had lots of rats, too."**

**BRIAN MCKINNON**

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# Editorial

## EDITORIAL

### Spend local to help city

On Monday, Premier Doug Ford gave the OK to local retailers with street-front entrances to start offering curbside pick-up.

It's imperative the people of Thunder Bay do what they can to support these businesses.

Amazon doesn't need your money. Founder Jeff Bezos has a reported net worth of \$143 billion. He's gonna do OK.

Many of our local mom and pop shops might not.

COVID-19 has crippled the country's economy from coast to coast. Small businesses are being hit hard.

Many were just getting by to begin with. Most don't have huge bankrolls to help them survive long shutdowns.

Government programs have helped, but unless they get up and running soon, that lifeline's not going to be enough.

If you need to shop, do your best to source what you need locally. It may cost you a few more dollars, but it may just help keep your neighbour employed. It might even save you cash.

Local workers spend money in the community. Lots of it.

We can guarantee Jeff Bezos won't.

If local employees don't have jobs, they won't have much extra money to spend, and the trickle-up effect will be devastating to the local economy. Maybe even more so than COVID-19.

#### CONTACT US:

87 North Hill Street,  
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5V6  
Ph: 807-346-2600

Editor: Leith Dunick 346-2650  
ldunick@dougallmedia.com

Reporter: Doug Diaczuk 346-2622  
ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com

Reporter: Ian Kaufman 346-3558  
ikaufman@dougallmedia.com

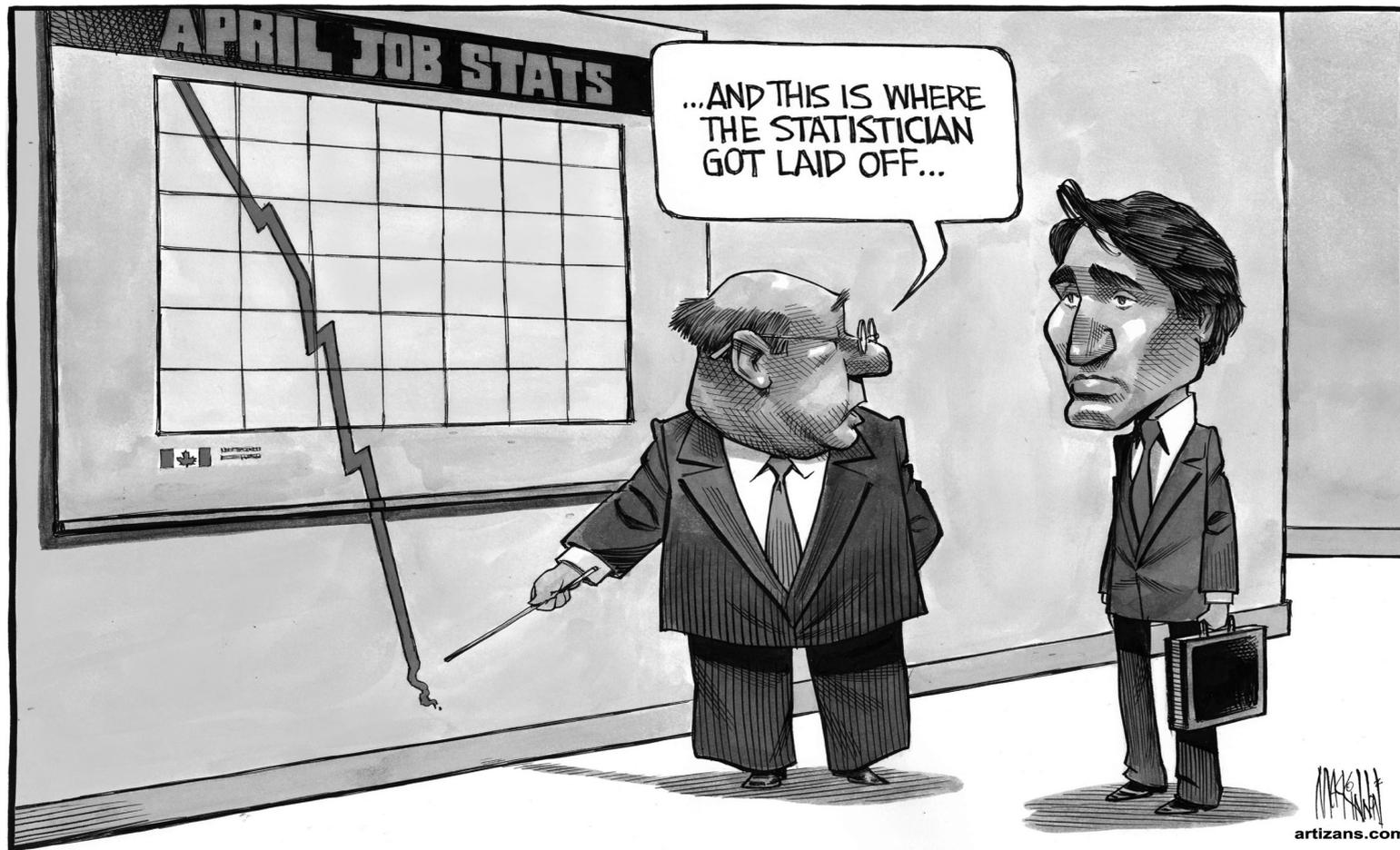
Reporter: Karen Edwards 346-2591  
kedwards@dougallmedia.com

Sales Manager:  
Kathy Harris 346-2510  
kharris@dougallmedia.com

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#### IN BRIEF

## Ginoogaming Chief Celia Echum dies

Ginoogaming First Nation Chief Celia Echum has died unexpectedly.

A councillor for more than 25 years, Echum was first elected chief in 2007 and was re-elected last August for a seventh term.

"We are very saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend Celia Echum. Her sudden death comes as a shock to all of us, and words cannot capture the grief that we share with her family, friends, and the Ginoogaming and Matawa communities," said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler in a release issued on Saturday.



CELIA ECHUM

"Celia believed in a better future for her community and the people of NAN. She made tremendous efforts to improve her community and strengthen our Nation, and her leadership and friendship will be greatly missed by all of us.

"While our ability to grieve together physically is limited during this time, we want the community to know that we join them in prayer, and we will find other ways to offer comfort to the family."

Echum, who was predeceased in 2013 by her husband, longtime chief and councillor Gabriel Echum, was a driving force behind the ongoing Ginoogaming First Nation Treaty land entitlement claim against the federal and provincial governments.

The funeral took place on Wednesday and the community held a funeral procession following the

service, which was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### Dump cam shows lineups

The City of Thunder Bay is urging residents to check a live camera before visiting its Mapleward Road landfill site. The move is intended to discourage crowding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city emphasized residents are asked only to visit the site when absolutely necessary and maximize loads to minimize trips. It is also asking visitors to pay using the tap function with debit or credit cards if possible.

The live camera feed is available online and shows the length of lineups at the landfill.

### Drive-through food banks

The Regional Food Distribution Agency will continue with drive through food banks at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition for the month of May.

Volker Kromm, executive director at the RFDA, said with a number of food banks closed indefinitely, it made the most sense to host a collective pick-up, noting it's worked well the past two times they've held one.

The move was a consensus decision after representatives from local food banks met this week to discuss how to proceed under rapidly changing COVID-19 protocols.

"The majority of the food bankers still feel uncomfortable opening up their own locations, citing

volunteer and staff fears over safety.

"We will be using a month decision window which will be revisited every two weeks. Making rapid changes in scheduling and locations will cause confusion. We need time to communicate with our food bank visitors, co-ordinate deliveries, rentals; and most importantly, our volunteers that assist us on site, need to be consulted," Kromm said.

### Bail given to child-luring accused Vincent Varney

A man facing charges related to online child luring has been granted bail in Thunder Bay.

Vincent Varney appeared by video in Thunder Bay bail court last Thursday, and was formally read a charge of telecommunicating with a person under the age of 16 for the purpose of facilitating an invitation of sexual touching.

Crown counsel consented to Varney's release without a surety with a promise to pay \$1,000 without deposit which was endorsed by Justice of the Peace Marcel Donio.

Varney's defence counsel Robert Habjan requested a temporary publication ban which prevents the publication of any evidence presented at Varney's bail hearing last Thursday. A separate court-ordered publication ban protects the identity of the complainant involved, requested by Crown counsel.

The terms of the accused's bail require them to have no contact with the complainant and is also to not be in the company, either physically or electronically, with any person under the age of 16. — Karen Edwards, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

# Perspective

## What's in a name?

Elon Musk, Grimes have given their baby a doozy

### OPINION

By J.R. Shermack  
Special to TB Source

Shakespeare wrote, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" and the same could be said about the cuteness and sweetness of babies.

They are all adorable and irresistible, even when celebrity parents choose bizarre baby names like Dweezil, (Frank Zappa) Seargeoh (Sylvester Stallone) or Huckleberry (Bear Gryllis).

And while mom and dad may be pleased with the cachet created by peculiar names for their children, the kids may have some explaining to do once they start school.

When the teacher checks attendance in class there may be questions about the correct pronunciation of a student named Saoirse or Aoife or Clytemnestra.

### Recess quandary

There may be more awkward questions from classmates on the playground who have never before heard names like Ixchel or Quvenzhané or Tychicus.

Nevertheless, some new parents go way off the beaten track in search of the most unusual, original and unique names for their kids.

Babies are always sweet and cuddly but moms and dads often push the envelope and saddle their unsuspecting kids with weird, unwieldy and strange names.

Many countries have strict baby-

naming laws and some names have been completely banned but eccentric (and often wealthy) parents refuse to pay by the rules.

Eccentric billionaire Elon Musk and Canadian pop singer Grimes (real name, Claire Boucher) took to twitter last week to announce the birth of their bouncing baby boy on May 4.

They were pleased to welcome their son, named X AE A-12, to the world with full celebrity fanfare.

X AE A-12(?) – this is just an approximate spelling because not only is the name impossible to pronounce, it can't be typed unless you are familiar with the Elvish Alphabet.

Apparently the suggested pronunciation is "X Ash A Twelve" and the couple offered a somewhat convoluted explanation of how they came up with such an odd name.

The "X" is a math reference to the "unknown variable" and in a sense that is a reasonable way to describe any newborn baby as they grow and learn and reveal themselves.

The "A/E" is Grimes' Elvish abbreviation for artificial intelligence – Mom says it is pronounced "A.I." but Daddy Musk claims it is spoken as "Ash".

The A-12 is a reference to the couple's favorite aircraft, a cool spy plane that holds the record for the highest altitude and fastest speed for a non-rocket powered aircraft.

Obviously the proud parents have high hopes for X AE A-12 as he grows into his name but there is a

hitch.

In California where the birth is registered, the name was rejected because that state prohibits anything other than 26 letters of English alphabet.

How unfair – also excluded are numbers, Roman numerals, accents, umlauts, any other symbols or emojis and in particular, there is no allowance for the Elvish language.

The State of California has a problem with fanciful alpha-numeric titles like this one which "fails the basic job of being a name."

### Unlikely to change

Elon and Grimes might appeal the decision but have little chance of success – in the meantime there will be no birth certificate and no social security number issued to X AE A-12.

Elsewhere in the world some specific names are banned altogether - a New Zealand couple was forbidden to name their newborn twins "Fish and Chips".

A French judge disallowed "Nutella" as a name because it would lead to "mockery and disobliging remarks" - he suggested "Ella" instead.

Also banned are the names "Lucifer" in Iceland, "Cyanide" in Wales, and in Sweden someone was stopped from naming their child "Brfxcccxmnpccclllmmnprxvclm nckssqlbb11116".

No kidding – it's pronounced "Albin" but seriously folks, what's in a name?

### TAKE ME TO THE PILOT



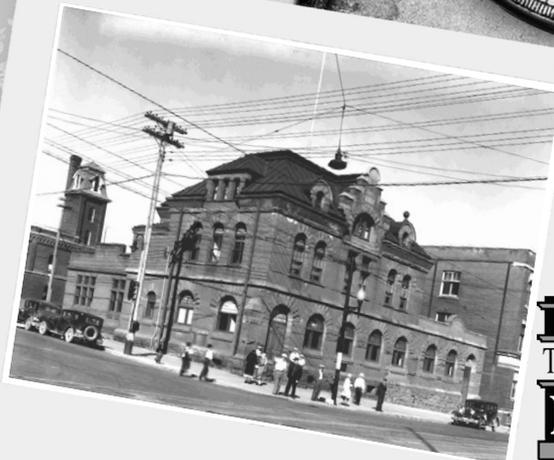
**WELL-DESERVED REST:** Snowbird pilots and crew march across the tarmac on Monday at Thunder Bay International Airport, after doing a flyover as part of Operation Inspiration.

LEITH DUNICK

## A look back in history:

### Port Arthur Post Office 1925

This handsome building at the corner of Court Street and Red River Road was Port Arthur's main post office from 1892, when it was built, until it was torn down in 1955 to make way for a Kresge's store. For years it stood as one of the city's most handsome buildings and a cornerstone of downtown Port Arthur.



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# TB Life

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ON THE DRAW: The Creative's Steve Gerow puts the finishing touches on a painting used as part of an art kit sent out to Kingsway Park students.

## Students learn art online

### EDUCATION

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Students and Kingsway Park Public School aren't letting the COVID-19 pandemic stifle their artistic creativity.

Last Thursday, about 18 students in the fine arts academy at the Thunder Bay school joined artist Steve Gerow of The Creative for an online art class, a classroom activity they've been looking forward to for several weeks.

"It's such a great way for us to come altogether," said Robyn Tenkula, a teacher in the Grade 7 and Grade 8 program.

"If we were back in the classroom, we would be out doing this kind of work anyway... So I just thought how could we make this so it could be happening at home for our kids, who are probably bored or wanting to socialize with their peers. This gives them the opportunity to do some art, to be able to talk and chat with their friends, and to be able to chat to me and ask me questions."

Students have been learning from home since mid March, when the province closed

all publicly funded schools to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, a measure that will be in place until at least the end of May, if not longer.

Gerow, who developed a love of art as a child while trapped in a full body cast, said it's the perfect time for youngsters to explore their own affinity for being creative, adding he's glad to be a part of the learning process.

Teaching online isn't the same as doing it face to face, but when all is said and done, it's not really all that different, he said.

"I was nervous," he admitted. "I did the first class with Fort William First Nation and it was amazing. The feedback was really good and I had a blast. I can't wait to do more."

Gerow said the goal is to encourage students to have an appreciation for being creative and the process behind it.

"It's an escape from anything that might be bad or bothering you. If you can get to doing something creative, it'll make you feel good. It's a pat on the back for yourself. For me, it's an appreciation of First Nations culture in Canada," he said.

The online classes have also helped Gerow and his partner, Deena Kruger, salvage their business, which has been a labour of love for the past couple of years.

The two artists have been putting together unpainted kits, featuring Gerow's Indigenous-inspired drawings, complete with paint and brushes, and shipping them off to students to learn the fine art of painting.

Kruger said she expected to ship possibly 100 kits.

They've already packaged up about 600, with inquiries coming from around the country.

"You can just paint at home and you can watch Steve online on our Facebook page. We've done step-by-step videos of him, so you've got some help. You're not just doing this alone."

Kruger said taking the time to do art, especially when everyone's lives are upside down, is important, like going to the gym or committing to eat more salad.

"It's a form of self-care. It really is. You are taking time to be creative and kind of release whatever it is you're thinking onto that canvas and taking that time for yourself," she said. "And then you're creating something that's really beautiful in the end."

**"It's such a great way for us to come altogether."**  
ROBYN TENKULA

# Paddle board season will soon be upon us



**KEITH  
AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE

Last weekend, the final remnants of ice disappeared from our lake, so it is finally time to wet a paddle. Our line-up at camp includes a canoe, a kayak, and a row boat, but my first choice is always one of the two stand-up paddleboards. This ancient form of surfing, which originated in Hawaii, first made some minor waves on the surf scene in the 1960s.

However, it has now exploded in popularity around the globe – likely due to the fact that, compared to regular surfing, it is relatively easy to master, with beginners finding immediate success as soon as they step on the board.

A stand-up paddleboard (SUP) looks a lot like the surfer's longboard from which it originated.

Most are made from glass-reinforced plastic with polyurethane foam in the

core.

There are also inflatable models which make storage and transport easier, but lack the quickness and durability of regular boards. Regardless of what they are made from, boards are generally three to four meters in length, with a surfboard-style fin in the stern for tracking.

Paddles are constructed from fibreglass or carbon fibre, with a flat blade on the bottom and a handle on the top and most are adjustable to accommodate different sized users.

My advice to new paddlers is always the same:

1. Start by kneeling on the board and finding your balance before standing up.
2. Keep a little bend in your knees.
3. Position yourself in the "sweet spot" near the middle of the board.

This keeps the nose from plowing through the water and the stern from dragging below the surface.

4. When (not "if") you fall, try to fall away from the board, not on it.

5. Alternating the side you're paddling on is the easiest way to steer.

6. When paddling, pull through the water with a straight lower arm and a

slow punching motion of the top hand.

7. Wear a PFD (personal flotation device), as SUPs are classified as vessels. While the Canadian Coast Guard only requires us to have a PFD on board, it is obviously more effective when we wear it.

Adventure-seekers of all ages are falling in love with SUPs and the sport has now become the fastest growing water surf activity.

Reasons for the surge in popularity include the relative ease of this water-sport, the core workout it offers, the "coolness factor" of the sport, and the health benefits derived from the cardiovascular workout SUPing provides.

Where stand-up paddleboarding really separates itself from similar sports is with the amazing versatility of the boards: paddle the surf on Lake Superior one day, explore the shoreline of an inland lake the next, then dump it into a river to tackle some current or maybe even some small rapids.

Head out solo or take your kids (or dog) for a ride.

The variety of possibilities are a big part of the excitement a SUP offers and your experience can be as easy or intense as you desire.



ON THE WATER: Marilyn Ailey paddles on a stand-up paddle board

SUBMITTED



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## Tick checklist: How to avoid a bite on your next outdoor adventure

(NC) Canadians are born explorers. With most of us cooped up at home due to physical distancing guidelines, warmer weather can now mean it's time to head outside. Fortunately, we have endless kilometres of land to explore across our beautiful nation, but our next escape can even be as close as our own backyards. Here are some tips to reclaim the outdoors while staying safe:

**BEFORE: Plan your route:** Are you going for a leisurely stroll around the neighbourhood or on a strenuous hike? Map out your destination and ensure you know how you're getting from point A to B. Ticks hide in high grass and bushes. If possible, walk on paths to limit your exposure.

**Dress the part:** Limit your exposure to ticks and mosquitoes by wearing permethrin-based clothing. Mark's WindRiver tick- and mosquito-repellent clothing is the first of its kind in Canada. These apparel and accessories provide invisible and odourless

protection against ticks and mosquitoes.

**DURING: Enjoy the outdoors:** From beautiful British Columbia to the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador and the rivers, mountain ranges and national parks in between, take in all that Canada has to offer. Practice safe physical distancing from your peers.

**AFTER: Perform a tick check:** Ticks are

good at hiding. Take off your clothing outside your home to loosen any unattached ticks. Grab a mirror and closely inspect the following areas: head, hair, under your arms, groin area, behind your knees and between your toes.

**Clean up:** Taking a shower may loosen any unattached ticks to your body. Feel around for bumps or dark spots. If you find a tick and are unable to remove it with tweezers, contact your physician.

[www.news.canada.com](http://www.news.canada.com)



## Trick the ticks with permethrin-treated clothing

(NC) Some guides recommend doing everything and anything to avoid ticks, even if it means staying cooped up inside until the summer is over. Let's face it – no-one wants to lose out on the precious hot months. Fortunately, if you're tired of sticky bug repellents and homemade remedies that fall short, there is a way to protect yourself against ticks.

Show the bugs who's boss this summer with WindRiver tick- and mosquito-repellent clothing, available exclusively at Mark's. You can now wear, instead of spray, your invisible and odourless barrier against bugs.

This specialized clothing is treated with permethrin for long-lasting protection against ticks and mosquitoes. No longer do we need to defer adventures as dictated by uninvited pests. We can now embrace the short but sweet Canadian summertime and reclaim the outdoors.

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TB Life

## Spring peepers

Well, I get to finally check off another sign of spring: the peepers are peeping. The wee froggy creatures have come out of the over-wintering mud in the beaver pond and have set up a nightly chorus. I hear them when I return from the barn after putting the horses 'to bed' for the night.

Still cold as I write but with a promise for the temperature to edge up to something like what we are used to for this time of year. My wife Laura, along with our son, Doug, built a small greenhouse attached to Casa Jones out the back door of our basement.

The veggie plants love it, better than on shelves in our living room. But still we bring the trays of plants inside for the night since the thermometer in the greenhouse can get down to, or below freezing. The recent dip in temperature required her to also bring in the large pots of potatoes she planted that are also doing very well.

Meanwhile, we are now splitting the ten cords of firewood I bucked. Tis a slow slog – splitting a pile then stacking. I am very particular about how the pieces are stacked so it takes me some time, a kind of slow boat to China process.

Laura and Doug moved to the dog-pen greenhouse they erected in



**FRED JONES**

RURAL ROOTS

the vegetable garden last year. The roof was very temporary and so they have built a sturdier one for this season. The back-of-the-basement-door greenhouse contains shelves upon which the tray's of plants are positioned for

the day. The Dog-Pen greenhouse has a dirt floor and Laura plants veggies in the ground there, things like peppers and any other plant susceptible to the cold.

For over a month our quad didn't work. Oh no! We use the quad to pull a cart into which we fork the manure from the horse stalls. Then it is a simple task to drive the cart out of the barn and up onto Mt. Crumpet where we dump it. We have been doing this daily chore for 19 years.

During that period, we've had almost all of the pile removed to be taken to various gardeners. In order to accomplish this task, we hired a gent with a bulldozer and a big dump truck to do the job. Unfortunately, the chap's dozer is dead, has been for several years.

We use wood shavings as stall bedding and the shavings take five years to break down but when they do, mixed with the horse poop and hay, we get phenomenally rich soil.

Ah, but how to get at it. Mt. Crumpet is divided into two sections. The new stuff gets dumped on the right; the old stuff lies on the left but, again unfortunately, it is covered with a thick layer of quack grass. Since my ancient Tractor, Big Red, is only two-wheel drive and has been known to get royally stuck, I can't take it onto the Mount without being a repeat offender. So, I drive the quad and cart up to the left side and with a long-handled spade, dig away.

Not fun but the rewards are great when at last I can deliver a full cart of rich well-composted soil to my wife, The Gardener.

So, without the quad working, we were forced to muck the stalls into wheelbarrows and dump it outside. That means that I must fire up Red and ferry the stuff to a different dumping area that I call Crumpet 2. This area is well away from 'hoosie' and barn and I need not get bogged down in the soft shavings.

But now the quad is running again and so mucking and dumping on original Mt. Crumpet are back on schedule. Having the quad running means that now that the snow on the riding trails has all but disappeared, I can tootle up the trails, chainsaw at the ready and claim some of those "cheekos", the standing dead timber usually consisting of either spruce, balsam, or Jack pine trees. That wood is dry inside and perfect for our fireplace with the crackle and that heavenly aroma (for me). Laura calls the trail wood "fun wood" as opposed to the arduous of preparing ten cords of mixed birch, black ash, and the occasional poplar for the coming winter. I guess that pleasure of getting "fun wood" should wait until I think that I've split and stacked enough wood so that I won't feel guilty for sneaking off into the woods.

When the temperature hopefully rises to warm the soil in the gardens, then all those trays of plants Laura began first in our living room, then moved into her new greenhouse, can be carted out to the garden and transplanted into the soil.

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# IN THE bay

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## Cyrano de Bergerac given modern touch


**MARTY  
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**MOVIE TALK**

For most of its running time, Alice Wu's *The Half of It* (Netflix) is a charming teen version of the Cyrano de Bergerac story told with a twist—a credible gay angle—that benefits greatly from its cast and the director/writer's inspired script and comedic visual style.

The story is seen through the eyes of 17-year old Ellie, (Leah Lewis) a studious Chinese-American immigrant who provides the opening narrative, wittily observing the familiar pitfalls of high school societal hierarchy, while bemoaning the typical constrictions of small-town life, in this case the fictional, God-abiding town of Squahamish in Washington State.

Ellie helps to supplement the family income with her widower dad, a station master (Collin Chou) by writing essays for her classmates, illicit activities that are tolerated by her English teacher (Becky Ann Baker) if only to see her talented student save enough money to escape to college out of town.

### Has other ideas

Ellie is seemingly independent and nonsense, apparently immune to being a social outsider, but chafes at the prospect of signing up for the mandatory senior talent show, even though she's a capable keyboardist for the school band and local church, and a closet guitarist and singer-songwriter.

Ellie is engaged by a sweetly boyish, intellectually dim second-string footballer, Paul, (Daniel Diemer) to write a romantic missive to the school's 'pretty girl,' Aster, (Alexxis Lemire) who's in a dry-docked

relationship with the self-absorbed well-off lad Treg (Wolfgang Novogratz). Paul may harbour some creative ideas about his family's sausage business but around the ladies, he's terminally stunted and tongue-tied.

Enter the twist: Ellie is closeted in other ways. While masquerading as Paul in text communiqués, Ellie finds herself increasingly drawn to Aster, who belies a similar bemused sensibility. Is she a kindred spirit? Or does she really dig guys? Therein, as they say, lies the rub.

### Teen angst multiplied

Drawing from personal experiences, director Wu takes the familiar theme of teen angst up a notch mixing a novel approach with a clever and amusing visual dexterity, especially when aligning character reactions to on-screen text messaging.

Proceedings move breezily enough, as the three characters evolve in their new relationships. Ellie may be becoming confident enough to break out of her self-imposed societal exile thanks to her friendship with Paul, who in turn demonstrates empathy by salvaging Ellie's talent show performance while realizing a new awareness due to her tough tutelage.

It's Aster who's short-changed a bit by the script. She is far more than the mere 'It' girl, hamstrung by familial expectations. Though she demonstrates some sensitive depth, there is ambiguity in her actions in the latter stages, especially in a jarringly dubious scene in the film's last act, when certain situations hit the fan openly.

All things considered, Wu can be forgiven for falling prey to the hoary element of coincidence at a crucial moment and a climax that is at odds with the assurance, originality, and nuance in plotting that preceded it. She does, however, recover nicely to provide plausible considerations in the penultimate scene. And hats off to young Lewis, Diemer, and Lemire for their wonderful performances.



FINDING HER IDENTITY: Leah Lewis plays the studious high schooler Ellie in Netflix's new release, *The Half of It*.

## Graduation ceremonies up in air

### EDUCATION

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Graduation ceremonies at Lakehead Public Schools have been postponed indefinitely.

The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board has yet to make a decision.

Public board graduation dances will be postponed too, while school and board scholarships, awards and bursaries will still be determined in June.

"Our schools are committed to providing

some form of these special ceremonies and celebrations," said director of education Ian MacRae in a letter to graduating students.

"All efforts will be made to determine alternate dates for graduation activities.

The Catholic board is weighing its options. "Although we know gatherings in large groups won't be possible and convocation ceremonies at the Auditorium cannot take place, we are currently working with our graduation committees on creative plans," said director of education Pino Tassone.

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# Sports

local sports news | information | coverage



MOVING EAST: Allison Read is the younger sister of Lakehead Thunderwolves basketball player Samantha Read.

## Read picks Algoma

Two-time Westgate MVP to play for T-Birds next season

**BASKETBALL**  
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Westgate's Allison Read is heading to Sault Ste. Marie to continue her basketball career.

The Tigers most valuable player has agreed to play for the Algoma Thunderbirds under coach Ryan Vetric.

Read, the younger sister of Lakehead University veteran Samantha Read, said picking a post-secondary school was a tough decision, but Algoma was the right one when all was said and done.

"I chose Algoma University after my visit to the school and meeting Coach Ryan. Algoma is a school that

offers a safe and supportive learning environment. Coach Ryan and his coaching staff along with the team were very welcoming and they will help motivate me to become a student-athlete at the U Sports level," Read said in a release issued on Tuesday by the school.

"I see myself being able to work hard on and off the court to become an impact and contributing player to a successful Thunderbirds women's basketball team. The team is a great fit for me and my skill set."

Read, who was named rookie of the year in 2017-18, was also the Tigers most valuable player in 2018-19.

As a member of the Junior Wolves program Read led her team to an Ontario Basketball Association title at the U19 championship.

"We are excited to have another solid product out of Thunder Bay. We have had some success obtaining players from the city and all of them have had success both in their high school seasons as well as through the Jr. Wolves club program," Vetric said.

"The program is getting a very skilled and all around player in Allison. She has the ability to shoot, pass and create at the guard position and will be able to compete at this level immediately.

"She is family oriented and will be impactful in our community with the younger generations as she likes working with the youth."

**"The team is a great fit for me and my skill set."**  
ALLISON READ

## Fighting Walleye add new coaches

Dylan Butler, Rylan Henley join new team's staff

**SIJHL**  
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Kam River Fighting Walleye have turned to a pair of familiar faces to fill out the expansion team's coaching ranks.

The team last week announced former Lakehead Thunderwolves assistant captain Dylan Butler and one-time SIJHL defender Rylan Henley have been added to coach Matt Valley's staff.

The 27-year-old Thunder Bay-born Butler had 17 goals and 64 points in 116 regular season games with the Thunderwolves.

"I'm super excited to join Matt and the rest of the staff. Having been coached by Doug Colbon; I'm particularly excited to learn from him in a coaching capacity now as well," Butler said in a release issued last Friday by the Fighting Walleye

"I've been fortunate to have some great coaches throughout my career and I'm looking forward to passing along all the great lessons I've learned to Junior A level players."

Valley said Butler will be a welcome fit on his staff.

"I believe Butler will bring an understanding of, and passion for, the offensive zone in addition to the skillsets that are integral to our success up front," Valley said.

"He's another hungry young local coach that Junior A caliber players will benefit from working with."

Butler said his playing career, which also include three seasons in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, helped prepare him to move behind the bench.

"Not being a huge guy or the most physically gifted I think I was able to excel further and further into my hockey career because of my ability to understand the cerebral aspect of the game," Butler said.

"So, I can't wait to be able to teach the next generation everything I've learned with this exceptional staff that the Walleye have welcomed me into."

Henley and Valley are former teammates with the Thunder Bay North Stars in 2010-11, who also played together with the Thunder Bay Kings in bantam and midget.



FAMILIAR: Dylan Butler played for the Lakehead Thunderwolves from 2014 to 2019.

"I'm very excited to begin this new journey and build off of what coach Matt and I did this past season with the minor midgets. I feel like we had a perfect coaching relationship so it felt natural to jump on board with the Fighting Walleye" Henley said in a release.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting the recruits and starting to put some serious work in this fall. As well as contributing my hockey knowledge I am also looking forward to learning from an experienced coach in Doug Colbon."

Fighting Walleye general manager Kevin McCallum said Henley is the perfect fit for the coaching staff.

"He fits our philosophy of surrounding the organization with passionate, energetic and hard-working people to help build us into an elite junior hockey program."

Veteran Doug Colbon was already named an assistant under Valley early on in the hiring process.



RYLAN HENLEY

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TSN TURNING POINT: Pittsburgh turned the Penguins around when they drafted Mario Lemieux.

# Tanking for Mario

Two awful teams raced to the bottom in 1984



**LEITH DUNICK**  
SPORTS SHOTS

Mike Bullard, only managed to win seven of their final 43 contests, including just two of 14 down the stretch.

After beating the Devils 13-4 and picking up a career-high eight points in November 1983, Gretzky labeled New Jersey a Mickey Mouse organization.

It may have been the difference-maker in the Lemieux sweepstakes.

New Jersey went on to collect 10 points in their next 10 games, after starting the season 2-20-0.

I always thought the Penguins had more talent than the Devils did that season. In addition to Bullard they had Ron Flockhart, who two seasons earlier had 33 goals for Philadelphia. Doug Shedden and Mark Taylor had 20-goal campaigns, and Rick Kehoe, a holdover from some pretty good 1970s teams, was still a pretty good NHLer.

And Randy Carlyle was only three years removed from a Norris Trophy win. Thunder Bay's Marc Chorney had a four-game stint that season too.

A teenage Pat Verbeek was probably the most memorable New Jersey player, on a team that included the likes of Don Lever, Bob MacMillan and Rick Meagher, a personal favourite who used to play for the Nova Scotia Voyageurs and would go on to win the Frank J. Selke Trophy with St. Louis in 1990.

The consolation for the Devils, in those pre-lottery days, was Kirk Muller, a pretty fine NHLer in his own right. The Kingston, Ont. native spent seven seasons at the Meadowlands, putting up three straight 30-goal campaigns and setting a then team-record 94 points, a mark that stood for 13 seasons until Patrik Elias came along.

By then the Devils and Penguins had multiple Stanley Cup wins and that season of ignominy was long in the past.

Teams are always accused of tanking. The Miami Dolphins were a lock for the top spot in the NFL draft, until they started winning games. The Philadelphia 76ers weren't too shy about covering up their race to the bottom a few seasons ago.

But in my memory, the worst case of tanking had to be the Pittsburgh Penguins and New Jersey Devils in 1983-84.

The Devils were awful.

The Penguins, who finished with three fewer points, it turned out, were even worse.

Combined the two teams only won 33 games and collected 79 points, which would have left them 14 points behind the fourth-place New York Rangers in the old Patrick Division.

The prize, of course, was Mario Lemieux, who put up 133 goals and 282 points for the Laval Voisins that season and was said to be the next Wayne Gretzky.

New Jersey, with Glenn (Chico) Resch and Ron Low tending goal, lost their final eight games that season, and 11 of their last 13, picking up just three points during that stretch. Their fatal mistake in the chase for the Magnificent One, was a three-game winning streak in early March, downing Vancouver, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh.

The Pens and Devils evened things up three times in that fateful contest, Bob Hoffmeyer and Gary McAdam, who scored twice that night, finally pulling New Jersey in front for good.

The Penguins, led by 51-goal scorer



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