



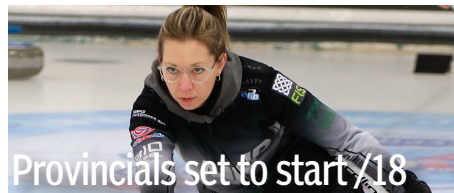
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Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 20 No. 3

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Fans lined the shores of Lake Superior last Sunday to watch the heats and races put on by the Thunder Bay Autosport Club. Racing continues every Sunday until mid-March. (Leith Dunick)



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# Taxpayers upset

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

It's not often taxpayer watchdogs and the politicians they're watching see eye to eye on anything.

In Thunder Bay, there was at least one area that the Concerned Taxpayers of Thunder Bay, a small group of residents unhappy with the prospect of a 6.2 per cent tax-levy increase, before growth, and Mayor Ken Boshcoff agree upon.

Both would like to see the city's 2,220-strong workforce pared, and both believe it can be done via attrition, combining jobs and eliminating redundancies to create a sleeker municipal machine that helps slash the city's bottom line.

"You have to find out what may not be useful anymore," Boshcoff told a crowd of about 15 residents on Saturday at a feedback session put on by the Concerned Taxpayers at the Mary J.L. Black Library.

Ray Smith, the long-time head of the taxpayer group agreed, saying even when you remove the city's police force from the equation, Thunder Bay is still top heavy.

"Five-hundred-and-forty alone are on the Sunshine List, and that's only a quarter of the total workforce. It's not sustainable and some of the people are having a hard time paying taxes. They're strapped. They only have so much money coming in," said Smith, who in the past has opposed closing Fort William Gardens and replacing it with a new arena and was against the development of Prince Arthur's Landing a decade-and-a-half ago.

## Undercounted

However, the third-term mayor said it's not as simple as just cutting jobs. As he's said multiple times since being elected, the city likely has 20,000 to 25,000 people living here unaccounted for in the census, which Boshcoff said needs to be recognized by Queen's Park.

"We, as a regional centre, require provincial designation as a regional centre," Boshcoff said, noting the city could then access funding to help cover the cost of additional service currently being underfunded.

"It's a door that needs to be knocked open." Boshcoff, who was joined by first-time Couns. Greg Johnsen and Kasey Etreni, took questions from the crowd, the debate getting heated at times.

Suggestions included a hybrid fire department, made up largely of volunteer firefighters, and putting to rest, at least for now, major projects like the indoor turf facility, the waterfront art gallery and a planned \$11-million revamp of the city's downtown north core.

Shane Judge, a former journalist, mayoral and at-large candidate, said he'd like to see organizations like Synergy North, Tbaytel and the District Social Services Administration Board combine administrative forces in areas like realty, payroll and human resources to trim the fat.



Ray Smith founded the Concerned Taxpayers of Thunder Bay.

"We could eliminate a lot of jobs, providing the same services, without firing people because of all the retirements. We could work out a system where we could save money, without laying a lot of people off."

"But you people have to actually step up. This is going to be the great test for this council. Is somebody going to come forward with an idea for change, or are you going to rubber stamp as administration has refused over the years to change the status quo?"

Etreni asked for patience while the newly elected council, which includes five new faces, works its way through the budget process.

## Discussions have started

She assured Judge that cost-saving ideas have been discussed, just not publicly yet.





"Right now, I'm trying to gather the information to see if that even makes sense," Etreni said.

Judge, who thinks the city should dip into reserves to help limit the looming tax increase, said residents must send a signal to politicians and the rest of the community, as activists, about where they believe the city should go.

"We have to start at the top and it starts at city council," he said.

Boshcoff has said he'd like to limit the tax levy increase to under two per cent, while Smith said he wants no increase at all and agreed with Judge about using reserves to offset the city's planned increased spending. The tax levy is the amount of money the city needs from all taxpayer groups to cover the budget, and does not necessarily reflect the actual tax-rate increase.

# WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
<b>Cloudy</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>
Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-5</b> LOW <b>-12</b>	Precipitation: <b>20%</b> HIGH <b>-7</b> LOW <b>-14</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-5</b> LOW <b>-8</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-4</b> LOW <b>-8</b>

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# Ice racing season under way

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The weather was warm, but not too warm, which suited Jordan Kiiskila and Rob Dawe just fine on Sunday afternoon.

The duo had just put the finishing touch on their Thunder Bay Autosport Club ice racing entry, and were getting set to test the car out in its first competition.

Kiiskila, who spent four years racing in the rubber-to-ice category, and Dawe, who is new to the sport in 2023, said it was something they wanted to do together, the former saying his past racing career is what sparked interest in joining forces.

“(Rob) decided to build a car and come join me,” said Kiiskila, ceding the driving responsibilities to Dawe in the studded car category.

“I’ve been racing for four years, minus four years for the pandemic when we had only a couple of races. It’s been great fun and I’ve really enjoyed it. The ice definitely adds another element to it when you’re



About a dozen drivers took to the track on Lake Superior last Sunday near Chippewa Park.

out sliding around trying to avoid snowbanks and other cars. It’s just a lot of fun.”

For Dawe, it’s a new experience

altogether.

“The last lap that we went was the first time I’ve ever driven a car around an ice track, let alone a

studded car that’s got some horsepower to it. It was great fun,” he said. “It’s a little intimidating, for sure. You’re coming into the corners and you don’t know the track all that well initially, so you’re trying to figure out where the corners are and how quickly to apply the brakes

“There are definitely some challenges. I would say there’s a little bit of an intimidation factor to it.”

The pair haven’t set expectations too high, which is probably a smart plan, given their Audi had to be towed off the track after taking the first corner of Sunday’s first studded-car heat.

“It’s just to get through it,” Dawe said.

“I thought it was to win,” Kiiskila interrupted.

“It’s a brand-new car, so I expect there will be some gremlins to deal with, so just getting through it and having a blast.”

Veteran racer Gary Adomko, who also happens to be president of the Thunder Bay Autosport Club, said

it’s great to have the weekly races, which run through March 12, back in full force, with pandemic restrictions in the past.

A year ago the club did run a weekly series, but because of crowd limits, decided to do it without an audience. This year, more than a hundred people lined the shores of Lake Superior near Chippewa Park to watch the afternoon action.

“We’ve got a fantastic group of people who have shown up for our first ice race of the season,” Adomko said. “Sometimes we’re delayed due to Mother Nature, but today we’re right on track opening up on the 15th of January. It’s beautiful temperatures and it’s a great group of people.”

Adomko said 12 racers took part in opening weekend, with the expectation of more joining the fun once parts for the cars come in. He added they plan to do a two-day series of races on Feb. 18 and 19, with several American teams confirming entries.

Racing begins on Sundays at noon.



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# Guilty plea in 2019 boat crash

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

A man operating a boat while impaired that hit a break wall and sent several people to hospital with injuries has pleaded guilty to a single impaired operation charge.

Gary Wenzel appeared in a Thunder Bay courtroom last week where he pleaded guilty to one count of operating a conveyance with blood alcohol over 80mg/100mg of blood.

Wenzel was originally charged with five counts of impaired operation causing bodily harm and five counts of dangerous operation causing bodily harm.

The incident took place the evening of Aug. 22, 2019 on Lake Superior. Officers with the Thunder Bay Police Service responded to reports of a boat colliding with the break wall outside the Marina at approxi-



GARY WENZEL

mately 11 p.m.

First responders, including the Coast Guard, attended the scene where six people were located with various injuries. The victims were transported to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre for treatment.

The investigation by the Thunder Bay Police Service's Traffic and Forensic Identification Units determined Wenzel, the operator of the boat, was impaired by alcohol at the time of the collision and he was charged in November 2019.

As a result of the guilty plea, Wenzel was sentenced to 30 days in custody to be served intermittently, a one-year prohibition from operating a vessel, and 12 months of probation.

All other charges were withdrawn at the request of the Crown.



A crane was used to remove a boat that crashed into the breakwall in Thunder Bay Harbour on Aug. 22, 2019. (FILE)

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# Ford to tackle surgery wait times

## Province will look at privatizing some medical services

By TB Source staff

Premier Doug Ford has announced the details of a three-step plan which the government says will reduce wait times for surgeries and other medical procedures.

The plan involves utilizing private clinics — referred to in an announcement Monday as community surgical and diagnostic centres — a move that five major healthcare unions quickly rejected, saying it will damage access to public health care.

### Faster for patients

The government announcement stated that its plan will better integrate these existing state-of-the-art facilities to speed up how quickly Ontarians are able to get surgeries and procedures using the health card.

The first step is aimed at a backlog for cataract surgery, a procedure

that has one of the longest waitlists.

New partnerships with private facilities in Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo and Ottawa will lead to 14,000 additional surgeries each year, or about 25 per cent of the current waitlist.

The province will also invest more than \$18 million in existing centres to cover care for patients needing MRI and CT scans, cataract surgery, other ophthalmic surgery, minimally-invasive gynecological surgery, and plastic surgery such as soft tissue repair to hands.

According to the government, this will help return surgical wait lists to pre-pandemic levels by March 2023.

In step two, the province will expand the scope of private facilities with a continued focus on cataracts, as well as MRI and CT imaging and non-urgent, low-risk colonoscopy and endoscopy procedures.

The government said this will shorten wait times while allowing hospitals to focus on more complex and high-risk surgeries.

Step three will see clinics conducting more MRI and CT scans, and by 2024 the expansion of surgery for hip and knee replace-



Some surgeries could be done at private clinics in Ontario in the coming years.

ments. Private surgical and diagnostic centres already perform 26,000 OHIP-insured surgeries and procedures annually.

The government said the expansion of services in private facilities will be done with measures in place to protect the stability of health human resources at public hospitals, including requiring new clinics to provide detailed staffing plans, and requiring a number of physicians at these centres to have active privileges at their local hospital.

The Ontario Medical Association and Ontario Hospital Association welcomed the announcement.

"It is essential that the expanded use of community surgical centres into new areas of clinical activity take place in a planned manner with appropriate change management and risk management measures in place ... by working together as Team Ontario, we can overcome any challenge and deliver on our shared commitment to strengthening our public healthcare system," Ontario Hospital Association president Anthony Dale said.

Ontario Medical Association president Dr. Rose Zacharias said experience elsewhere has shown that providing outpatient surgeries and procedures in the community greatly improves the patient experi-

ence.

"We look forward to working with the government...to make sure these new centres do not take resources away from hospitals or exacerbate existing health human resources challenges," she said.

### Oppose plan

Healthcare unions were prepared in advance to respond to Ford's announcement, and almost simultaneously released a joint statement saying it will risk lives and significantly worsen staffing shortages.

The labour groups — which included the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Ontario Nurses Association, Ontario Public Service Employees Union, SEIU Healthcare and Unifor — said for-profit clinics have already cost Ontarians "enormously" and have seriously worsened the staffing shortage in the public system.

"With rising living costs and inflation, Ontarians need investment in publicly-delivered health care, not a model that will use public funds to generate private profits while decreasing access to all," they said.

# Misconduct ruling

By TB Source staff

A once prominent lawyer has been found to have engaged in professional misconduct and will have his license suspended for at least one more year, but his counsel admitted he is unlikely to practice law again.

Chris Watkins appeared before a Law Society of Ontario Tribunal panel for a disposition hearing last Thursday.

The panel, consisting of Jay Sengupta, Geoff Pollock, and Eva Krangle found the facts presented in the disposition established a finding of professional misconduct and that Watkins does not currently have the capacity to undertake the obligations of a law license.

The panel heard details of 14 allegations against Watkins, some dating back to 2005, with the majority of the more serious allegations occurring in 2017

and 2018.

The first allegations date between 2005 and 2011 when Legal Aid Ontario discovered billing irregularities relating to Watkins work as a legal aid lawyer in the amount of \$169,000.

Law Society of Ontario counsel Joshua Elcombe outlined that Watkins failed to abide by Legal Aid Ontario's requirements and there was found to be instances of double billing, more than 10 hours of work recorded in a day, inadequate details provided, and billing for proceedings that did not take place.



CHRIS WATKINS

"Repeatedly for a period of roughly six years from 2005 to 2011, the respondent failed

consistently and repeatedly to review the accounts submitted on his behalf to Legal Aid Ontario. Rather he delegated it to law clerks. It is evident the law clerks made mistakes."

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EDITORIAL

# Tough choices

City council has some tough decisions to make.

On the one hand, costs are going up. That should come as no surprise to anyone, even as inflation rates, year-to-year, dipped to 6.3 per cent in December.

The one thing council can't do is keep pushing infrastructure deficits down the road.

All that does is push the payment to your future self, or worse, to your kids and grandkids.

Thunder Bay is facing a \$20-million infrastructure deficit shortfall.

And it adds up. Don't do the necessary work for five years, and you're looking at \$100 million that's needed to repair or upgrade roads, sewers.

At some point, this work has to get done.

At a meeting last Saturday, attended by Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Neebing Coun. Greg Johnsen and at-large Coun. Kasey Etreni, a group of concerned taxpayers expressed

frustration about administration's proposed tax-levy increase, a 6.2 per cent jump before growth.

While the mayor has said he'd like to cut spending to a two per cent increase, members of the group want no increase and for the city to dip into reserves to offset the costs.

That might work this year, but what about next?

It's this line of thinking that got the city in the mess that it's in right now.

A little short-term pain may be what's needed to help the city catch up. The city does have \$17-million set aside for an indoor turf facility, which is a want, not a need, at this point in time.

Perhaps leave \$7 million in the pot and use the other \$10 million to help cut into the infrastructure gap.

Then do the actual hard work needed to erase the annual infrastructure deficit, be it through staff reductions and reduced services, or consider selling off money-losing assets to the private sector.

## Stop the insanity To the editor:

One of Thunder Bay council's newest members says change is coming to city hall. But at-large Coun. Kasey Etreni says taxpayers are going to have to be patient.

Etreni made the comment Saturday at a gathering of taxpayers concerned about the 6.2 per cent increase in the tax levy in this year's proposed municipal budget. They held their meeting at the Mary J.L. Black Library.

The new councillor says the new members of council are doing their best to absorb a mountain of new information about city hall operations contained in the budget documents.

The implication is that the new council is unlikely to be able to do much about reducing the costs of running the city this year.

That wasn't what meeting organizer Ray Smith wanted to hear. Smith said if taxpayers have to wait until next year to see council reduce costs, the politicians should dip into reserves to buy time and reduce this year's levy.

Smith pointed out that last year the city reported it had a \$10.9 million

dollar surplus in 2021 that was socked away into reserve funds. He urged Mayor Ken Boshcoff, who was also at the meeting, to use those funds to reduce the levy.

Mayor Boshcoff said he considers reserves 'rainy day' funds. For many taxpayers dealing with the effects of inflation, Smith says it's a rainy day right now.

The politicians were offered some ideas to reduce this year's budget, including combining back-office services such as payroll and realty services with TBaytel and Synergy North and delaying the \$11 million North Core reconstruction project by one year.

For his part, Mayor Boshcoff says he hopes to find savings by some close questioning of city hall staff during the budget debates.

Ray Smith says he wants to help city council with those deliberations. That's why he's hosting another meeting of concerned taxpayers this Saturday, January 21st.

This time he's asking taxpayers, including city hall employees, to bring their ideas for making cuts to this year's budget.

Not sure where to start? To prime the pump, I offer some possibilities: de-fund all ad hoc and advisory

committees at city hall; sell Chippewa Park to Fort William First Nation—we're already in talks to hand it over; freeze design work on proposed new police station; reduce recreation department staffing and pay third parties such as Our Kid Count or the 55+ Centre to deliver recreation programs.

Mr. Smith wants your ideas. But he also wants to help the mayor with his questioning of administration. He'd like to know what questions you'd ask city hall staff about the budget and city spending.

For example, why has city hall never published an organizational chart of who's doing what job... to help councillors with their deliberations?

Can we set up a hybrid fire department that includes professional firefighters and volunteers? Could civilians operate automated speed traps and enforce the Highway Traffic Act instead of sworn officers?

Mr. Smith says he'll make sure all of your proposals and questions get to city councillors. Join him between 9:30 am and 12:30pm this Saturday at the Mary J.L. Black Library.

*Shane Judge,  
Thunder Bay*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Eye-witness account of Lawrence book trial

*The Trial of Lady Chatterley's Lover* by Sybille Bedford is an eyewitness account of Regina v Penguin Books Ltd (1960), the trial in which D.H. Lawrence's famous book became the test of the new Obscene Publications Act.

This Act was designed to criminalize 'obscene publications' which were defined as works that might 'tend to corrupt' those who read them. One defense against this law was 'literary merit' and that was the line pursued at the Old Bailey when *Lady Chatterley's Lover* – rather than its author (who was dead) or its publishers – was put on trial.

The notion of putting a book on trial seems strange or at least not

consistent with the laws of a democratic western country. This kind of thing happened in Russia or China but not in Britain, the bastion of democracy. But it did happen in England in 1960 and Bedford's coverage of the trial makes for some fascinating reading.

The trial was as much about social class as it was about obscenity or literary merit. This became clear when the prosecuting barrister asked the jury if *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was the kind of book that they would allow their wife or servant to

read. The Sixties were not yet Swinging but this trial opened the door to a more relaxed and liberated society.

The prosecution failed to find a single person who was willing to say that *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was obscene or ethically or morally damaging and yet this is the argument that was pursued in court. The focus was only on the sex scenes and the use of swear words; the rest of the book was mere padding.

The defense, who were able to call a long line of expert witnesses who

attested to the literary merit of the book, pointed out that the sex scenes only made up some 30 pages of the 300 page novel. More importantly, the sex scenes were not gratuitous but central to the novel.

Lawrence wanted to honestly explore human relationships and emotions and he knew that he couldn't do this without including sex. He was the first modern writer to do so explicitly. He did not set out to offend or titillate but to explore and understand.

The case came about because Penguin wanted to publish a cheap paperback edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* that would be made available to the masses. In the

eyes of the ruling class this was a threat.

They could read their own expensive lavishly produced private editions but the working class were not to be trusted with it. After all, it was a seditious book in many ways, and who knows what that might lead to.

The ruling class wanted to control the reading habits of the 'deserving poor' and it is no accident that just four years after the *Lady Chatterley's Lover* trial the Public Library Act was passed, making public libraries a statutory responsibility of local councils. Public libraries have always been state agencies of social control.



**John Pateman**  
BOOK BANTER

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# Order of Canada ignores most

By JR Shermack

Most people are capable of doing extraordinary things, sometimes once in a lifetime and sometimes repeatedly over an entire lifetime.

Many unsung Canadian heroes go unrecognized for the selfless and compassionate deeds they repeat every day without complaint and usually without much recognition.

There are no accolades or rewards for overcoming the challenges of everyday life and always rising to the occasion for the benefit of families, friends and others in need, even strangers.

If there was an award show for simple, selfless acts of kindness most Canadians would be on the guest list and the program would run for years.

Ordinary Canadians do extraordinary things routinely in their everyday lives and for them, kindness is its own reward when it improves the lives of loved ones.

They endure life's hardships quietly when troubles occur and they celebrate quietly and gratefully

for each thankful smile and heartfelt hug they receive in gratitude.

That is the ultimate recognition - these Canadians aren't motivated by awards and don't need their accomplishments publicly recognized.

Nevertheless, high achieving individual Canadians for from all walks of life and from all across the country are nominated for the Order of Canada each year.

The nominations are all considered carefully and thoughtfully and a select few Canadians are appointed to the Order of Canada by the Governor General.

The Order of Canada was first established July 1, 1967 on the 100th anniversary of Canadian Confederation - since its creation more than 7,600 Canadians have been honoured.

It is considered the cornerstone of Canada's Honour System, recognizing achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation.

Canada also honours and awards Medals for Bravery and Meritorious Service, the Polar Medal for contri-



Sidney Crosby was named an officer of the Order of Canada late last month.

butions to Canada's north and The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteer Service.

Gov.-Gen. Mary Simon recently announced 99 new Order of Canada appointments for 2023, mostly

ordinary Canadians except some with recognizable names.

NHL star Sidney Crosby was named an officer of the Order of Canada for his achievements as a hockey player and his support of community service initiatives for youth.

This is a revealing choice in a country that uses the sport of hockey to express so much of its national character.

Comedian Eugene Levy was first nominated in 2011 and then promoted in 2023 to Companion of the Order for "elevating the stature of Canadian television on the international stage".

Obviously a good Canadian sense of humor goes a long way and in Mr. Levy's case, all the way from spoof newsman "Earl Camembert" to Companion of the Order of Canada.

Order of Canada appointments are made for three levels of achievement, Member, Officer and Companion - promotions are possible if you are as funny as Eugene Levy.

Membership can also be revoked for bringing dishonor to the Order and to date there have been eight terminations for inappropriate behavior including criminal activity.

When it comes to dishonourable behaviour the governor general is not amused.

Being appointed to the Order of Canada is a great honour in this country, recognizing extraordinary and sustained positive contributions to community, country and world-wide.

The insignia features a red centre containing a stylized maple leaf set inside a six-pointed snowflake that has come to symbolize our northern heritage and diversity.

The Latin motto *desiderantes meliorem patriam* translates as, "They desire a better country."

As for me, I do what I can just like millions of regular Canadians making unheralded contributions quietly and sincerely, and so do members of the Order of Canada.

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## The Bay

To submit an event, email [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com).  
Please include details about the event, including any cost

### January 20/21

#### Thunderwolves Hockey

Lakehead is just a point out of first place and looking to move up in the OUA West, welcoming the Guelph Gryphons and Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks to Fort William Gardens on Friday and Saturday night.

The Wolves were winners of seven straight before an overtime loss to Laurier on the road last weekend.

The puck drops at 7 p.m. on both nights. Only four regular-season home games left. Don't miss out.

### January 21

#### Darrin Rose Comedy Tour

Comedian Darrin Rose celebrates our chance to drink in public again with new material about marriage, having a baby, getting sucker punched in Halifax and much more.

He's one of Canada's most popular comedians, and an award-winning writer and actor. Audiences know him best for playing Bill on the hit

CBC sitcom *Mr. D* for eight seasons, as the host of *Match Game* on the Comedy Network for four years, and as Doc on the hit show *Letterkenny*.

The show takes place on Saturday night at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Theatres. Tickets are available through eventbrite.ca.

### January 21

#### Jean Paul De Roover Concert

Join acclaimed local musician Jean-Paul De Roover and the Bandaid Solution at Black Pirates Pub for an evening of great music.

Special guests include Page 38 and Hopeless Ghost.

This 19+ event will start at 10 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

This show was originally scheduled for Dec. 22.



Jean-Paul De Roover. (Shannon LePere)

### HOW TO WRITE TO US:

Letters 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**  
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WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the city reduce its staffing levels through attrition?

TOTAL VOTES: 1,990

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
83.52%	10.35%	6.13%



# Council for drug decriminalization

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay will officially call on the Ford government to take a number of significant actions, including decriminalizing simple drug possession, to confront a worsening overdose crisis that has hit the city perhaps harder than any other in the province.

After a unanimous vote of city council on Monday, the city will advocate for the province to adopt policies - like increased funding for safe supply programs - that just years ago would have been seen as bold, but have since gained broad support from the public, politicians, and even police.

Some of those policies are likely to remain controversial, however - at least one councillor voiced her discomfort Monday with seeing the city back the decriminalization of all hard drugs.

The council vote put the city's support behind a package of policy positions outlined by the Drug Strategy Network of Ontario



Thunder Bay's city council voted Monday to call on the province to provide expanded funding for harm reduction services including safe supply and addictions treatment programs.

(DSNO), which represents 41 local drug strategy groups across the province, including the one led by the City of Thunder Bay.

Centred around four "pillars," the campaign seeks expanded funding

for services like addiction treatment centres and safe supply and consumption programs, as well as calling to decriminalize the possession of drugs for personal use.

The motion passed Monday will

also see the city ask the province to declare the drug poisoning crisis an emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, and create a provincial task force empowered to recommend policy changes to confront it.

The DSNO is also calling on the province to regularly publish comprehensive real-time data on drug poisonings and related indicators, as well as government targets to reduce mortality.

A copy of the resolution passed by council Monday will be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, a number of municipal associations, and each individual municipality across the province.

Kristen Oliver, chair of the city's intergovernmental affairs committee, called attention to how the city has been "disproportionately impacted" by the opioid crisis, in a memo to council.

Where morphine and methadone had previously accounted for a majority of the city's fatal drug

poisonings, by 2018, fentanyl was present in 90 per cent of deaths - and was driving the total number of overdoses far higher.

Opioid-related deaths across the Thunder Bay district have risen steadily from 16 back in 2008, to 122 in 2021.

The Thunder Bay district's rate of 78.8 opioid-related deaths per 100,000 people was more than triple the rate of 19.2 for Ontario as a whole that year.

"While we have a wide range of harm reduction, treatment, prevention and community safety programs [and] services available in our community, we continue to experience gaps in service and underfunded programs," the memo states.

Councillors said Monday's vote reflected a need for immediate action on overdose and addictions, with several saying the issue had been near or at the top of the list of local residents' concerns during the recent municipal election.

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# Kinsmen draw offers up a boat and side-by-side prize

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Last year, the Hill City Kinsmen's Sportsman Dream Draw raised about \$52,000 for local charities.

They're back again in 2023, looking to do the same.

This year the \$32,898 top prize is a 2023 G# Boat Guide V14 and a 2022 Uforce 600 Classic Model side-by-side with roof, from Intercity Power Sports.

The second prize is a one-week family vacation and the third prize is a \$500 Canadian Tire gift card.

There will also be an early-bird \$1,000 cash draw on Feb. 28.

Wes Case, registrar for the Hill City Kinsmen, said the draw can have a major impact for local

organizations, which this year include Wilderness Discovery Centre, Our Kids Count, the Thunder Bay Service Battalion Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps and the George Jeffrey Children's Centre.

"The Hill City Kinsmen Sportsman Dream Draw gives us a chance to raise funds and give funds back to the community and to some great organizations," Case said on Monday, launching ticket sales for the June 29 draw, which will take place at the Canadian Tire on Fort William Road.

"Last year we raised more than \$52,000 to give back to the community."

The prizes should catch the eye of ticket buyers in Thunder

Bay, where for many the outdoors is their second home.

"Thunder Bay is a huge outdoor community. I know in the past we've sold out prior to our deadlines. These are definitely things people are going to spend a lot of money on buying anyway, so to be able to offer a prize like this is great for the community," Case said. "And ultimately everything goes back to support local organizations."

Only 5,000 tickets, at \$20 apiece, are being sold, with more than 300 already purchased.

They're available at the Canadian Tire on Fort William Road, or online through a link on the Hill City Kinsmen Facebook page.

Ticket sales close on June 25.



Wes Case, registrar for Hill City Kinsmen, says the Sportsman Dream Draw raised \$52,000 last year.





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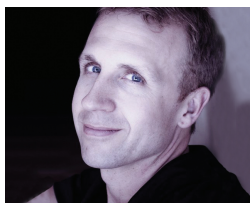
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# Double rod, double chances

In almost any interaction between anglers in the proximity of water, there is always one question that comes up early in the conversation: "Any luck?"

If the answer is yes, then the inevitable follow-up question will be "what did you catch them on?"

It makes sense of course, especially when we are ice fishing. On the ice, it is easy to see where another angler was having success as there will be a lot of disturbed snow, some freshly drilled holes and likely some blood. Add in the knowledge about what bait was working, and it is wise to assume that success will come your way



**Keith Ailey**

the GOOD LIFE

too.

What about the times when there are no other anglers around, or at least nobody willing to share their secrets? Well, when fishing through the ice, we are allowed to use two rods on most bodies of water. The key to unlocking success may be in the way the two rods are used. I would suggest setting one up as a "still line" with a live minnow, and then using the other as a jigging rod.

The still line is simply lowered to the lake bottom, or maybe lifted just above the bottom, and then left alone. The live minnow will slowly swim around and around, fighting the weight of the hook.

This subtle action is time-tested and proven to entice even the most lethargic fish. Adding a small bell to the rod tip will alert you to any bites. Stay close so you can make a quick dash to the hole and set the hook when that bell rings.

In the second hole, actively jig with a lure to target more active fish. The jigging action also serves to attract the attention of any gamefish swimming by and draws them in for a closer look. Even if they are not interested in committing to the aggressive lift and drop jigging that lured them in, they will often sniff out the nearby minnow at the end of the still line and pick that up.

When it comes to selecting a lure for the jigging rod, I would recommend focusing on the visibility as well as the action of the

lure. To ensure this jigging lure will draw in fish from the peripheral area, select something big and bright that flutters or circles as it falls. For lake trout, I would pick a big silver spoon or white tube jig. For walleye, I would select a Jigging Rap or a rattle spoon to tie on. Adding a minnow head or tail to dangle on the hook could make the difference in whether you get a strike on this lure from a curious fish.

Typically, we drop the jigging lure to the bottom of the lake, then give it several big lifts before letting it settle. Follow up the big movement with some smaller jigging and maybe a shake to try to entice a bite. If nothing happens, repeat the lift-jig-shake until your arm gets tired or you catch your limit.



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# Puppy experiences her first heat

Sophie, our black Labrador pup, newest member of our canine clan, got her first 'heat' last week. I had never experienced a female dog in heat before but fortunately, my wife, Laura, had. She knew what to do.

Obviously we now had to watch Sophie when she went outside so that she didn't come in contact with any unneutered male dogs.

While I don't think that there are any such dogs roaming around, there are wolves and/or coyotes who would service young Sophie if given the chance. It is one of my worries that our dogs meeting with wolves would be the losers. Wolves will kill dogs unless the dog is a bitch in heat. So far, we've been fortunate in no wolves

or coyotes seen around Casa Jones. Foxes, yes, but no wolf tracks near the house. Whew!

Anyway, Laura informed me that while Sophie is in the house, she has to wear a diaper until there is no more sign of blood.

No more blood means that she is through her heat (can't wait). Just so happens we had a stash of diapers in the barn so they were brought into the house. Then an assembly line was created to cut holes in the diaper through which we could insert Sophie's tail; then wrap

the taped parts under her hind legs and attach. Voila!

Turns out we have two different brands of diapers.

Why, I know not but we discov-



**Fred Jones**

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# Fresh, new Northern art

By Linda Maehans - TB Source

After two winters of empty wasteland, a huge and hugely inspiring juried exhibition returns to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery with more verve and spirit than ever before. Clearly the artists of northern Ontario haven't been daunted or thwarted by COVID-gloom.

The opposite. This viewer can't recall a more vibrantly colour-filled show: so many beautiful paintings, scenes near-deer; sculpture and ceramics; bead-work and natural materials taken to another level of personal expression.

NWO, NOW fills both first and middle galleries with bright life and wondrous regard for the northern splendour so abundant and accessible to everyone in this region. There's little to no negative environmental or social "commentary" as can occur when visual artists "speak up" about what they observe. Such a refreshing change. And burst of energy for viewers perhaps in the doldrums-of-January: a whisper of

the lightness of spring or summertime seemingly a long ways off.

Here's what I mean.

Stand before two large panels, acrylic-on-canvas, by an artist from Kakabeka. *Bluebells* and *Wedding* cannot impart anything but joy, pure and simple.

Not so simple, nearby, are two small canvases, these ones in oil. *Piece of the Pie* and *The Leopard Hunts at Night* don't depict what you might think from these titles. Both display a great handling of light-and-dark; symmetry; even temperature. Gaze at that silent sunset, a familiar vista: does it feel chilly? Then, in moonlight, that phosphorescence almost seems warm.

Another oil-on-canvas, *Memories of MacKenzie* calls to mind the chunky textured brush-strokes of The Group of Seven.

Contrast this to a watercolour artist's rendition of "Mystic" (from Rossport). Note how the frame, sinew'd woodwork, fits around this scene. Next to this, *Picture Lake*



Eric Lahtinen's Snowy Owl is on display at NWO, NOW at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

reminds this viewer of what's called, or used to be called the Indian Pictographs. Along the shore of Superior, between White River and Wawa. As said, reminiscent of Group of Seven.

Part of the inspiration in this show are the artists' works involving natural materials.

A *Métis Needlework Sampler*, furs/pelts, leather/hides, wood, beads, fabric and threads, journeys us back-in-time.

As does *ka-POW*, a revenant constructed of metal, wood and paint.

Yet what do you see, within an ink-and-watercolour-on-paper titled *Eye*

*Count*. Back to the delicate, I suppose. What's in a gaze? An expression? Are, as asked, the eyes truly the windows-of-the-soul?

*The Hunter*, a different kind, is made of birch-bark, porcupine quills, and another sort of animal altogether.

It is hard to imagine the Snowy Owl, much less its wingspan, silent flight. A Thunder Bay sculptor portrays two owls, and an arctic fox. The surfaces and curves of these works are near perfect, impossible not to touch. Admire. How can an artist capture it? How can a human think as a snowy owl? No chance.

NWO, NOW involved over 200 works by near 100 artists. Only 72, and 60 artists made the cut.

"We had some hard decisions; the result is a beautiful view of the north, its people, land, nature, and animals, through the artist's eye." Anong Beam & Maria Hupfield, Jurors

NWO, NOW is up until March 19, 2023.



Katie Comeau (right) plays Sharpay Evans and Callie Kok stars as Ryan Evans in St. Ignatius High School's production of High School Musical Jr. The show was staged on Tuesday and Wednesday. (Leith Dunick)

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# Fraser helps save The Whale

Few films lately are seeing such divisive reaction as *The Whale*, (SilverCity) a much anticipated title due to the buzz surrounding Brendan Fraser's triumphant return to the big screen after a long absence. It's a love-it-or-hate-it movie.

There are many caveats found in Samuel D. Hunter's script, adapted from his own play, getting overwrought help from director Darren Aronofsky ("The Wrestler").

But beneath the theatrical artifice, questionable character motivations, unlikely plot contrivances and unearned sentimentality, there is the faint heartbeat of humanity thanks to

the vulnerability and pathos exuded by Fraser.

Fraser is Charlie, a morbidly obese, reclusive online college creative writing instructor who's trying to reconnect with his estranged adolescent daughter, Ellie (Sadie Sink) before he succumbs to congestive heart failure, potentially imminent.

The estrangement stems from Charlie having entered a gay relationship several years prior with a student, leaving behind Ellie and his wife, Mary, (Samantha Morton).

Charlie's relationship ultimately ended tragically—religion's the culprit-- sending him on a

downward spiral of grief and self-loathing, realized through dietary abuse.

Upon Charlie reaching out, Ellie shows up, bursting into her father's apartment still seething with rage as if Charlie abandoned her yesterday, let alone years ago.

Ellie's nihilistic and angry. She's on the verge of flunking out of school. To make amends, Charlie offers to ghost write her essays, including one about Melville's 'Moby Dick.' Charlie identifies with the novel. Charlie also promises her a chunk of cash he's saved.

Mary has somehow prevented Charlie from contacting Ellie until now. Mary has her say too, airing past grievances. Their past life together, however, is underwritten. Granted, both women are

entitled to feel hurt, but shouldn't they have moved on by now? They could use some therapy themselves.

The movie's more credible moments happen between Charlie and his nurse, Liz (Hong Chau) a tart-mouthed no-nonsense caregiver stymied by Charlie's suicidal refusal to get hospital care. She was the sister of Charlie's lover, hence her grudging support.

Much of this story about guilt, redemption and forgiveness simply doesn't ring true. The *Moby Dick* metaphor is murky. Sink and Morton are one-note harridans.

The most dubious business involves a young evangelist (Ty Simpkins) who oddly sticks around, hoping to reconnect Charlie with his spiritual self. He exists as a weak plot device to

show Ellie's actually capable of helping someone else.

Charlie exhorting his students to write about what they feel is hardly profound. His Zoom ID square with his class remains blank. Okay, he's ashamed of his appearance but he couldn't use a younger photo, an emoji? The film's cinematography makes it look like it was shot through an aquarium.

Yet, there's Fraser wringing some empathy through his whispery voice, grieving eyes, and gentle demeanor, overcoming his character's obese objectification, gross suicidal food binges and clunky dialogue. Oscar favours characters with afflictions.

Grumpy carping aside, it's still fortunate that *The Whale* has even made it to Thunder Bay.



**Marty Mascarin**  
MOVIE TALK



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# Unexpected wild encounters

By Linda Maehans – TB Source

I cut the outboard motor and nudge up to a secluded strip of smooth sand. From this angle I can't see the remarkable glass-fronted A-frame I'd spotted from the lake earlier: the type of dwelling featured in luxury wilderness-glamour real-estate photos. You know. We can all dream about living there.

I've startled the man on the dock; he wasn't expecting anyone. We shake hands, exchange names. Ken is tall, well-groomed and exudes good manners. Yet I sense a wound-up spring somewhere behind those keen eyes brimming with smarts.

*Dock Spider* by Bonnie Green is Magnus' first presentation of 2023, and a world premiere. No, this comedy isn't necessarily about large arachnids that skitter out of sight to spin their webs; but yes, our story takes place by a big lake under blue skies. On an island. And a dock. That's all you get for now.

Back to Ken.



Cliff Saunders rehearses a scene for Magnus Theatre's *Dock Spider*. (Bonnie Green)

"Fantastic view, isn't it. Well, I'm here because a friend of mine has invited me." Actor Michael Spencer-

Davis folds a windbreaker. "No, I can't tell you. It's rather confidential. Business. But you're

right, I don't come to these sorts of locations often.

A woman? Out here?" This one keeps his cards close-to-chest. "I told you it's confidential. But, yes, I'm confident things are going to go very, very well.

OK, sure, there's pressure in hedge-fund markets; fluctuations, financial uncertainties, killer-inflation...I'm sure you understand." My eyes have glazed over. Ken goes on. "It's a stressful time in my line of work these days, and, well, sometimes I lose it." A chuckle. "But I try, desperately, not to. Do that."

I mention the other guy I saw in the cove. Suddenly Ken is uneasy. "I didn't see anyone else landing. I'm a bit surprised if you're telling me there's someone else here." Ken blinks. "I may need to investigate that."

The other guy, still by the cove, has movements quick and agile as a fox. His smiling eyes match the bright sunshine. I'd guess Chuck is as at-home in the wilderness as he is on

the streets; where, he tells me, he runs a chip-truck. Yummy.

"Oh, I saw you." He grins. "Didn't wave back cuz I weren't sure who it was.

Yeah, it's my friend's island. Thought I'd pop in, make sure everything's okay. Mebbe do some fishin'. I'd rather be outside than inside, and that's a fact." His next smile, like the look in those eyes, is definitely flirtatious. He has me blushing.

"Am I single? Oh my dear, that's complicated. When I'm here, well, I feel confident. Up to something? Nooo. All I'm up to is makin' the world a better place. Enjoyin' the sunshine, takin' a dip in the lake, watchin' the animals. I won't say anymore." Actor Cliff Saunders flashes me another 200-watt smile and clams up.

Join the dock spiders for some unexpected encounters in the wild.

*Dock Spider* opens Jan. 26; cavorts until Feb. 11. Catch all the surprising fun.

March 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

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# T-Wolves sweep No. 10 Toronto

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Don't tell the Lakehead Thunderwolves they don't belong in the national top 10.

Well, actually they don't really care.

They're more focused on peaking in time for the OUA men's basketball playoffs and winning on the court, not where they stand in some formula-based ranking system that booted them out while on a bye coming out of the Christmas break.

They made their case, knocking off the No. 10 University of Toronto Varsity Blues 98-85 last Saturday night, six players hitting double digits in the game that saw LU lead by as much as 20 in the opening half.

NCAA transfer Tyler Hagl, who joined younger brother Chris on the Thunderwolves roster, led all LU players with 17 points off the bench,



Lakehead's Chris Sagl guards Callum Baker.

one of six Lakehead players to hit double digits in the game.

"We just did our job. We just came in and did our role," said Tyler Hagl, the bench contributing 38 points, double the Toronto bench's production.

"We played hard defence, moved the ball like we could, shot the ball."

Younger brother Chris, in his second year at Lakehead (9-3), finished with nine points, including a three-pointer, the brothers hitting back-to-back from distance in Lakehead's 31-point second quarter.

It was a lot like back in the day at home in Oakville, Ont., said the older Sagl, a transfer from Marists College, who led all MAAC freshmen with 8.5 points per game in 2019-20.

"It was a nice little bit of chemistry added to the lineup," he said.

Having his older brother on the team was something Chris Sagl had been dreaming about since arriving in Thunder Bay in 2021.

"It took me a lot to get him here, but I love it. It's really special to play with my brother. We played

growing up a little bit, and we had a little break away from each other, and now we're back together, so it's really nice. I bet my mom loves it too – only one game for her to watch," Chris Sagl said.

The back-to-back three-pointers were two shots to remember, he added.

"We both felt it in our hearts and we both felt it at the same time. We gave each other a little look and a little head nod and we just laughed," Chris Sagl said. "It's fun to play with each other."

It was Alton Harris who provided the spark in the opening quarter, putting up 11 points in a starting role. Where he left off, Nathan Bilamu picked up, scoring a pair of key long-distance shots that helped the Wolves open a 28-20 lead.

Two more Bilamu treys and

Lakehead led 40-24, ultimately jumping out in front 46-26.

The Varsity Blues weren't ready to concede defeat, especially with a pair of long-distance bombers of their own on the court.

Callum Baker and Ryan Rudnick each hit from beyond the arc down the stretch as Toronto closed out the half on a 13-4 run, trailing 56-46.

They'd close to within five early in the third, but Tyler Sagl put up a quick five points to stretch the LU lead back to double digits and the Thunderwolves took a 76-64 advantage into the fourth. Lakehead never led by less than eight again.

Michael Okafor, Harris, Dylan Morrison, Bilamu, were also in double figures, as was Laouis Msambya, who completed the double-double with 10 points and 13 assists.

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2022-2023 SEASON

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### HOCKEY

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TORONTO VARSITY BLUES

**JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
GUELPH GRYPHONS

**JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
LAURIER GOLDEN HAWKS

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
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# LU women get 1st win

First and foremost, I owe a huge apology to CBC's Logan Turner, whom I misidentified as Logan Potvin in my column last week, outlining Turner's great work on the Jon Kreiner situation at Lakehead University.

Logan Potvin, for the record, is a former Dougall Media reporter, so anytime I hear the name Logan, my brain must think it's him.

Again, sincere apologies. Speaking of the women's basketball team at LU, they put on a heck of a show last Friday night, led by fifth-year guard Tiffany Reynolds.

She gutted out 26 points and was phenomenal in the T-Wolves 78-71 win over Toronto, as was sophomore Eva Guilera, who set a career high with 19 points and Lily Gruber-Schulz, who hauled in 15 boards (adding a dozen more in Saturday night's loss).

□□□

The men's team belongs in the top 10. I'm not sure I've seen this much depth at the Fieldhouse since the days of Scott Morrison. Brothers Tyler and Chris Hagl were incredible in last Saturday's win.

Six players hit double digits. Michael Okafor and Laoui Msambya get most of the attention, and well deserved it is, but there may not be a more valuable piece than fourth-year forward Dylan Morrison.

Things were getting tight in the fourth and I turned to announcer Chris Prystanski and said, "They need to get Morrison on the court."

Seconds later coach Ryan Thomson made the call and right away Morrison completed a three-point play and landed a thunderous alley oop dunk that stretched an eight-point game to 13.

□□□

Congrats to Kakabeka Falls Curling Club's Team Rylie Paul, skip Claire Dubinsky, lead Lily Agrinello and second Bella McCarville, for their runner-up finish at the Northern

Ontario U18 girls championship last weekend in North Bay. And kudos to 11-year-old Josh Hari for being competitive in multiple matches, despite his 0-4 record.

□□□

According to the Sudbury Star's Ben Leeson, the OHL's Sudbury Wolves will retire defenceman Marc Staal's No. 14 on Feb. 3. Staal played four seasons in the Nickel City, and was a first-round pick of the New York Rangers in 2005. He's gone on to play 16 seasons in the NHL, most recently with older brother Eric this season with the Florida Panthers.

□□□

Dryden's Chris Pronger was formally inducted into the St. Louis Blues hall of fame.

The former Norris Trophy winner was inducted alongside the likes of Brett Hull, Red Berenson, Scotty Bowman, Al MacInnis, Bernie Federko, Glenn Hall, Brian Sutter, Garry Unger, Bob Gassoff, Bob Plager, Dan Kelly and Sid Salomon III.

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ITKRUKICX KW YCBIAY Y QKUX."

— VONLYW IYKRX

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### ACROSS

- 1 Latitude (abbr.)
- 4 Isle of Napoleon
- 8 Alternating current/direct current (abbr.)
- 12 Presidential nickname
- 13 Reimbursed
- 14 Cold Adriatic wind
- 15 Dulcimer
- 17 Hindu stringed instrument
- 18 Alpaca
- 19 Lake near Sea of Galilee
- 20 Namaycush
- 22 Glossary (abbr.)
- 24 Prod
- 25 Rank
- 29 "Faerie" lady
- 30 Huge
- 31 No (Scot.)
- 32 Mine
- 34 Money drawer
- 35 Toward shelter
- 36 Of birth
- 37 Skin layer
- 40 Saltwort
- 41 "The Time Machine" people
- 42 Bleach
- 46 Shepherd's prophet
- 47 Verse
- 48 Flap
- 49 Prescribed quantity
- 50 King of the Huns
- 51 Move back

### DOWN

- 1 Exudate plant
- 2 Mother of Hezekiah
- 3 Skull bone
- 4 Excess of solar year
- 5 New sugarcane
- shoot
- 6 Biography (abbr.)
- 7 Admiral (abbr.)
- 8 Head nun
- 9 Coconut fiber
- 10 Bond movie (2 words)
- 11 Heddles of a loom
- 16 Telegraph speed unit
- 19 Majority
- 20 Gangster
- 21 Biggest little city
- 22 Valley
- 23 Wool (Lat.)
- 25 Move (pref.)
- 26 Open
- 27 FDR's dog
- 28 Scot. island
- 30 Double-curved molding
- 33 Smock
- 34 Lotty
- 36 Mother-in-law of Ruth
- 37 Late
- 38 Borden calf
- 39 Ger. landscape painter
- 40 Eur. canal
- 42 Environmental Protection Agency (abbr.)
- 43 Youngster
- 44 Price
- 45 Subside

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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# Curlers get ready for playdowns

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

It hasn't been the most consistent curling season for Krista McCarville, but the Thunder Bay skip hopes her team is ready to peak at just the right time.

McCarville, who lost a heart-breaker at Fort William Gardens in last year's Scotties Tournament of Hearts championship, in 2023 is seeking her 10th berth at the national women's curling championship, taking on six other teams from Jan. 24 to Jan. 29 in Kenora in the Northern Ontario play-downs.

They'll be one of seven teams in the field next week, the first time a Northern Ontario Scotties has been staged since 2020. The past two years the Scotties representative was chosen by the Northern Ontario Curling Association.

"We haven't played provincials in

a few years, so it's exciting knowing that we're going to a competition, we're going to provincials. It's exciting knowing there are multiple teams and there's new teams too, that are out there," McCarville said.

"That's what we play for. We play for the provincials. We play to get to the Scotties."

Since 2015, the Northern Ontario winner has received a direct berth at the Scotties, an honour in the past won only by McCarville and Tracey Fleury. Krysta Burns was given the 2021 berth when Team McCarville – including lead Sarah Potts, second Ashley Sippala and third Kendra Lilly of Sudbury – declined.

The 40-year-old McCarville said they're not taking anything for granted in Kenora.

"Any team can beat anyone out there. We know that it's easy to



Krista McCarville seeks her tenth Scotties bid.

struggle. It's easy to play your game and still not do so well, so we need to go out there and we need to be focused, we need to be ready and I think we are," she said.

Aside from Burns, also in the field are Thunder Bay's Nicole Westlund-Stewart and Jennifer Briscoe, Stratton's Jackie McCormick, Sudbury's Bella Croisier and Fort Frances' Hailey Beaudry.

The men's side is even more crowded, with Brad Jacobs joining Jordan Chandler's team in search of his 12th Northern Ontario crown in 14 years. Tanner Horgan is looking for his first title, and four Thunder Bay rinks will also be in the 11-team field, including squads skipped by Brian Adams Jr., Trevor Bonot, Kory Carr and first-timer Dallas Burgess.

Bonot, a former Canadian mixed champion, said he expects Jacobs and Chandler will gel, but it doesn't mean they can't be beaten.

"Together, who knows? They're all individually great curlers, so we're going to expect them to be a great

team. And Tanner Horgan is playing in the Slam right now, so we're going to have to go in there and play like we can. If we do that we're going to be in a tough game and hopefully the right things go our way," Bonot said.

Adams Jr. said it'll be a challenge, but one his reformed foursome is ready to take on.

"To beat those guys, you've got to make a lot of shots and you have to play well with a lot of consistency. I think we're capable of doing that," he said.

Burgess, who won the Northern Ontario U18 title last year, said he's looking forward to getting back into competitive play.

"We haven't played together too much this year, but when we played together, we played really well. I'm looking forward to just keeping that momentum going into the Men's."



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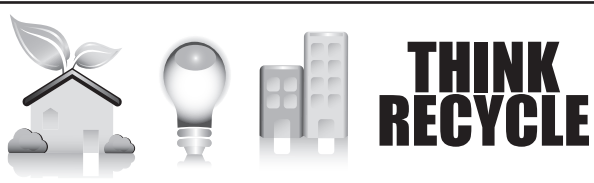
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