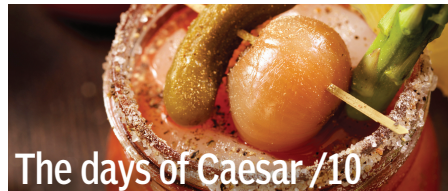




Gallery contract awarded /3



Remake redundant /12



The days of Caesar /10



Chill coach resigns /14

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# HOMICIDE ON JOHN



**Thunder Bay police  
investigating city's first  
murder of 2023 /2**



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Thunder Bay Police stand guard at a John Street residence, where they allege a shooting death took place on Sunday afternoon. (Ian Kaufman)



# Police ID 2023's first murder victim

By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

A 23-year-old Thunder Bay man has been identified as the victim in the city's first homicide of 2023.

The Thunder Bay Police Service responded to calls for assistance Sunday afternoon at approximately 3:30 p.m. at a housing complex on the 700 block of John Street.

Officers who attended the scene discovered a male with injuries consistent with a shooting. The male was transported to hospital and was pronounced dead at approximately 9 p.m.

Det. Insp. Jeremy Pearson with the Thunder Bay Police Service identified the victim as 23-year-old Dallas Bannon of Thunder Bay.

A 17-year-old male from Hamilton has been arrested and charged with second-degree murder in connection to the shooting.

"The investigation remains ongoing, however, what we learned to date is this was not a random incident," Pearson said. "These are individuals who came into contact

with one another around a set of circumstances."

However, Pearson added that at this point in the investigation, the actual incident itself does not appear to be connected to the illicit drug trade in the city.

"The investigation into this homicide does not suggest a link between this act of violence and the illicit drug trade," Pearson said.

As to why the youth was in the city is still under investigation, as well as the firearm used in the fatal shooting.

"We do have a scene secured and search warrants being prepared for execution," Pearson said.

The suspect was under a weapons prohibition from a separate criminal incident in Southern Ontario, which Pearson said is a source of frustration among investigators.

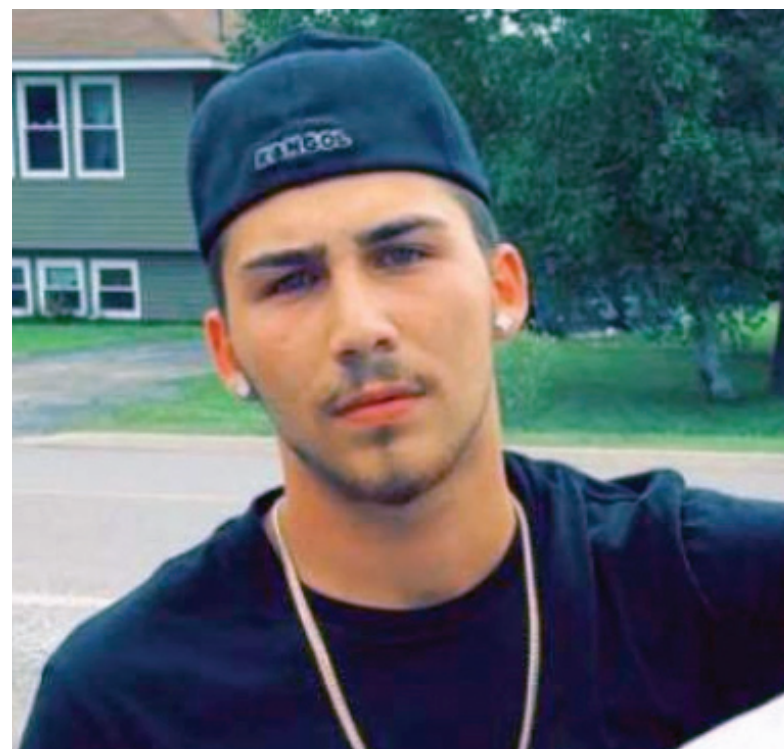
"When you have someone who is bound by a prohibition but still finds himself accused of a firearm-related homicide, it speaks to something being broken doesn't it?" Pearson said.

The fact that it is a youth involved, as well as firearms being used in an act of violence, is also a growing concern for police.

"It's a matter of grave concern when you have young people, and I would argue the fact that we are now encountering firearm violence as the rule as opposed to the exception, the fact that it is now so common in our community, is a source of concern above and beyond the shocking fact that it is a youth accused," Pearson said.

But Pearson also praised the police response to the incident, including the officers who first arrived on the scene and assisted the victim while also securing the scene and area in search of a suspect.

"The police response to this incident was effective, timely, and it was to my mind successful," he said. "I am very proud of the work all officers involved did in this incident and while this is a shocking and unfortunate and a tragic event, the police response is something I hope the community takes solace."



Dallas Bannon, 23, has been identified as the victim of a John Street shooting death.

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An artist's rendering of the city's new waterfront art gallery, scheduled to open some time in 2025. (Submitted illustration)

# Contractor chosen

## Work on waterfront art gallery will start in a few weeks

By Gary Rinne – TB Source

After years of planning, work on the new waterfront Thunder Bay Art Gallery will begin in the coming weeks.

The announcement came Monday as the gallery revealed it has hired Tom Jones Corporation to be the construction manager.

The project was initiated in 2009, and by 2012 there was a proposed opening date of 2019.

But that fell by the wayside for a variety of reasons, including environmental investigations, the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges obtaining funding.

A key funding hurdle was passed in June 2022 when MP Patty Hajdu announced that the federal government had approved almost \$20 million from the Green and Inclusive Communities Building Fund.

The announcement that the project is ready to proceed came the same day that Art Gallery director Sharon Godwin's retirement plans were revealed.

After 42 years of service, she'll step down from her role as executive director this June, but will stay with the gallery as the waterfront project lead until it's completed.

Godwin has headed the campaign to relocate the art gallery from the grounds of Confederation College to the waterfront.

In a statement Monday, she said the economic impact that the construction and operation of the new building will have on the city will be substantial, and that it will attract tourists and people from around the world.

Godwin said reclaiming the brownfield site on the waterfront lands will also provide additional

access to the shore of Lake Superior for local residents "in both indoor and outdoor spaces" planned for the new gallery.

Parker Jones, president of Tom Jones Corporation, said the company looks forward to collaborating with the art gallery to help it achieve its vision, "which will contribute significantly to our community's cultural life and economy, and serve as a beacon of creativity and inspiration for all who visit."

Site and foundation work are scheduled to begin soon, with completion expected by 2025.

In addition to federal funding — which amounts to 70 per cent of the total cost — the province and the City of Thunder Bay have each contributed 11 per cent.

About \$2.5 million has also been raised locally, and a community fundraising campaign will kick off this spring to obtain the balance.

City officials said last week that the city is continuing to work out the details of an agreement for the art gallery to lease the property where the new facility will be built.





"It has been a very long project, with lots of ups and downs," Godwin said in an interview. "The community's been very patient. We're working through and being very careful about how we proceed so that we have a successful project. We're all very happy that we can actually get going on site."

Christine Bates, chair of the gallery board, noted Godwin's "exemplary" contribution to the arts.

She said the board appreciates her willingness to oversee the project during construction.

The nationwide search for a new executive director is already underway.

# WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
<b>Mostly Cloudy</b>	<b>Flurries</b>	<b>Mostly Cloudy</b>	<b>Mostly Cloudy</b>
Precipitation: <b>60%</b> HIGH <b>-11</b> LOW <b>-15</b>	Precipitation: <b>40%</b> HIGH <b>-6</b> LOW <b>-21</b>	Precipitation: <b>20%</b> HIGH <b>-17</b> LOW <b>-27</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-18</b> LOW <b>-25</b>




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# Turnout down, not for access

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Turnout in Thunder Bay's recent municipal election may have dropped sharply, but the city reported more encouraging results Monday on how accessible the election was for voters with disabilities.

A review of accessibility measures in the 2022 election, mandated under provincial law and carried out by the city clerk's office, recommended expanding accessibility training for poll workers and identified problems with how the city used accessible voting software.

Overall, however, the report presented to city council Monday identified few serious complaints, indicating accommodations are largely meeting voters' needs.

"I would say overall we're really



City clerk Krista Power says there were few serious complaints about accessible voting.

pleased with the results," city clerk Krista Power said in an interview. "We think for the most part we had a very accessible election [that]

allowed opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be engaged in the voting process. We did see some flags for things we can

improve upon for 2026."

Making elections accessible ranges from the mundane – ensuring Tbayvotes.ca meets web accessibility standards – to the more creative, like offering a free public transit pass to get to and from a polling location.

As part of its accessible elections plan, the city also offers magnifying devices and ImageCast accessible voting machines at polling places and inspects polling locations for physical accessibility.

That resulted in upgrades for the Kinsmen Youth Centre, North End Community Centre, and North McIntyre Recreation Centre last year to remove barriers, paid for through the city's accessibility fund.

The review stated the ability to vote online, exercised by over 60 per cent of Thunder Bay voters last year,

had been welcomed by many in the disability committee.

Nearly 600 people also cast their ballots at special voting locations such as long-term care homes.

The city received just over 70 individual requests for accommodation in 2022. All received before the deadline of Oct. 13 were met, while five received after the deadline were not.

Among the lessons to be learned? Expand accessibility training to all poll workers.

Only four city staff were trained on the ImageCast voting system and other accessibility supports, the review stated, though other city staff had received some form of accessibility training.

Voter feedback indicated additional training is necessary for temporary election workers.

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# Fire damages Amelia Street home

By TB Source staff

Thunder Bay Fire Rescue responded to a 911 call for a report of a house fire in the 300 block of Amelia Street East at approximately 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

The initial dispatch to responding units was that a caller from the home said there was a fire in a bedroom and occupants were evacuating the residence.

When fire fighters arrived they discovered heavy smoke coming from a window at the rear side of the structure where crews initiated a rapid fire attack from the exterior of the home.

As additional fire fighters arrived on scene, they quickly moved to the interior of the home to conduct a search for possible occupants and to completely

extinguish any remaining fire in the residence. All occupants were located safely outside the home.

Heavy fire damage was contained to a single bedroom of the home, with extensive smoke and water damage throughout the remainder of the home.

The four tenants who were living in the house were subsequently displaced as a result of the fire.

An on-scene investigation by fire officers determined the fire was caused by unattended candles left burning in the bedroom.

A total of one pumper rescue truck, five pumper trucks, one aerial ladder truck and a platoon chief responded to the incident.

There were no reported injuries to civilians or fire fighters as a result of the fire.



Firefighters battle a fire at a residence on Amelia Street East this past Sunday. (Donald Caldwell)

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## EDITORIAL

### Keep it public

The decision to contract some health-care services to the private sector is one that needs extraordinary scrutiny.

Surgical clinics, for example, require licensed surgeons, qualified nurses and a wide range of operating room techs.

Ontario is already facing a shortage of doctors and other medical personnel.

Does Premier Doug Ford have a handle on where these doctors and nurses, etc. are going to come from?

Will the private clinics simply raid the public system, leaving it to fall even further behind?

Will the public be able to pay their way to the front of the queue?

While it might make sense to contract out some services, such as imaging, to a private corporation, keep in mind that all these companies are set up for one reason - to earn a profit for their shareholders.

How many corners will they cut in order to achieve it - while not jacking up the price of health care and forcing the province to take more out of the public-sector budget?

This one needs a lot more thought before it's implemented.

### Don't privatize health To the editor:

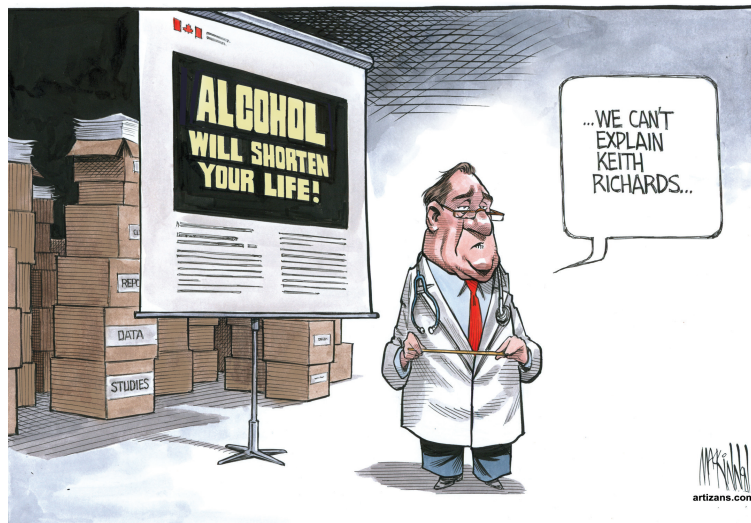
Like many people in Ontario, I am appalled at the Conservative government's plan to spend tax dollars to set up for-profit surgery clinics. We've known for decades that privatizing essential services leads to worsening outcomes and higher costs for everyone. Need proof? Look at the disastrous long-term care privatization that happened under Mike Harris.

Countless people needlessly lost their lives during the pandemic due to understaffing, poor quality of care, and the lack of an effective COVID mitigation plan. Do we really want to do the same to our healthcare system?

It is important to recognize that the problem in hospitals is not a lack of space in operating rooms, but a lack of staff.

We have a finite number of health care workers and private facilities will be poaching these workers - leading to even greater short-staffing in the public system. Nursing contract agencies have already been poaching health care workers with many northern hospitals using contract workers to fill

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



the gaps. Contract workers are paid up to 3 times the wages of hospital staff though, costing taxpayers more and creating resentment because those on staff are restricted to the low wages imposed by Bill 124. Arbitrary wage caps also exist for management, based on legislation and patchwork changes that didn't include everyone, meaning there are big gaps in the ability of some of the hospitals to be able to effectively recruit leaders.

The Ford government's own documents acknowledge that Bill 124, recently declared unconstitutional by the Ontario Superior Court, has been pushing health care workers out of the profession.

Will it be any wonder, then, if workers leave public health to work at for-profit clinics with easier case-loads?

Our health care crisis has followed the standard conservative playbook: underfund the public system until it is on the brink of

collapse; make working conditions impossible; and then declare privatization as the only solution.

Private facilities thrive on extra hidden fees to generate profits. For-profit facilities also mean that those with the means can jump the queue: one standard of health care for the well-to-do - or the desperate - and a lower standard for everyone else.

Year after year, Canadians have named Universal Health Care, accessible to everyone equally, as a core Canadian value.

Indeed, health care must be seen as a human right. When this government tried to remove fundamental rights from education workers, insurmountable pressure from the public forced them to back down. Together, we can do this again.

It is time for each one of us to stand up in support of public health care, refuse the Ford government's false solutions, and fight to restore our public health system. For ourselves, our families, and the generations that follow, this is a battle we can and must win.

Lise Vaugeois,  
NDP MPP,

Thunder Bay-Superior North

# Finding your inner office-power hedgehog

*Your Inner Hedgehog* by Alexander McCall Smith is a 'Professor Dr Von Igelfeld entertainment'; and very entertaining it proved to be. But first I must declare an interest in this novel.

The title of the book includes a British mammal which is very important to my Romany Gypsy culture. Hedgehogs feature strongly in the folklore of England's Indigenous People.

The theme of this book is office power and politics, which is something that I know a lot about after my forty four year career in public libraries.

In this hilarious tale of intrigue and deception our hopelessly out-of-touch hero, is forced to confront

uppity librarians, the rector of the university and a possible hostile takeover, all while trying to remain studiously above it all.

The professor and his colleagues pride themselves on their unwavering commitment to intellectual excellence. They know it is their job to protect a certain civilised approach to the scholarly arts.

So when a new Librarian, Dr Hilda Schreiber-Ziegler, threatens to drag them all down a progressive path, they are determined to stop her in the name of scholarship - even if that

requires von Igelfeld to make the noble sacrifice of running for Director of the Institute.

But politics is never easy, and in order to put his best foot forward, von Ingelfeld will be required to take up a visiting fellowship at Oxford and cultivate the attentions of a rather effusive young American scholar.

He also has a bizarre encounter in the wine cellars of Oxford University with a mysterious young man called Blunt who insists on being called 'B'.

Still, despite these difficulties von Igelfeld has always heeded the



clarion call of duty, especially when it comes with a larger office.

Librarian characters in fiction always interest me and Hilda is definitely a fellow professional who I can identify with. She comes to the University determined to shake things up by leading a fundamental and sustainable deep change process.

The powers that be regard her as a dangerous radical. For example, she thinks she has the right to use the Senior Coffee Room which is reserved for academic staff only.

Hilda also has some progressive ideas about collection management. She has noticed that there are lots of duplicates and dead wood on the shelves which she plans to sweep

away through a root and branch right-sizing program.

These revolutionary concepts threaten the power and privilege of the elite senior academics who conspire to get rid of her. Their Machiavellian plan is successful and Hilda is maneuvered out of the university by some very sketchy deals.

This clears the way for Von Ingel to assume the position of Director which gives him ultimate power and control. The old order has been restored.

In fact it's a poisoned chalice. He is not qualified for the position and is forced to make way for a Librarian to take over his duties, while he pulls strings in the background.

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# The quiet EV revolution

By JR Shermack

Canadians in the market for a new vehicle have many things to consider such as cost, mileage, maintenance, etc. before they can make an informed choice.

Concerned motorists face one more important decision before they choose what to buy and it is based on environmental concerns – go with gas or embrace electric vehicles (EV's).

You are free to use gasoline for as long as it is available but for a growing number of consumers, electric is the way of the future and they will happily drive there in an EV.

## Moving on

Either way, the times are changing and the roar of gas guzzlers in the streets is slowly being silenced and replaced by the purr of electric motors.

Our aging gasoline infrastructure will become obsolete over the next several years as gas stations and

conventional garages go the way of livery stables and blacksmiths.

For future generations of Canadians who find themselves shopping for a new personal vehicle their decision won't be "gas or electric" but rather, "which EV to buy".

There is a quiet revolution already well under way and many car buyers worldwide are advancing from internal combustion to electric vehicles (EV's).

Globally electric vehicles captured ten percent of new cars sold in 2022 – there were over 20 million light duty plug-in vehicles on the roads of the world last year.

This should be no surprise to anyone – we can plainly see an increasing number of electric vehicles on city streets even if we can't hear them coming.

That's because they do run pretty quietly – one advantage of EV's is that fewer moving parts generate much less noise, especially at low speeds in full electric mode.

When they first appeared on the market electric vehicles were



By 2035, all new cars in Canada will be zero-emission vehicles.

viewed as experimental alternatives that were good for the environment, if you could afford one.

But it was expected that as the technology developed and EV's were mass produced they would

become more acceptable, more affordable and would eventually replace gas vehicles.

It was hoped that one day these vehicles would become an important part of Canada's revitalized automotive sector and would be built here by Canadian workers.

It would be part of Canada's global commitment to a greener economy.

That actually did happen just last Dec. 5 when General Motors Canada opened its first full-sale electric vehicle manufacturing plant in Ingersoll, Ontario.

The facility will be making BrightDrop fully electric delivery vans – your next package from Amazon may be delivered silently to your door by an electric powered courier.

In Canada 60 per cent of new vehicles sold will be zero emission by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2035 – these are ambitious goals dependent on a number of factors.

But once we overcome barriers like battery capacity, charging times, limited driving range, infra-

structure and the relatively high purchase price, EV's will be the only choice.

Still, it could be an awkward transition – Canada is lagging behind with only 1.5 per cent of global EV sales compared to China (56 per cent), Europe (28 per cent) and the United States (11 per cent).

## Less pollution

The strongest selling point for EV's is the reduction in tailpipe emissions which directly addresses climate change and air quality issues.

Electric vehicles are more efficient, inexpensive to operate, require less servicing than gas vehicles and some models qualify for government incentive grants.

As for me, my next vehicle will be as electric as possible – here in Northwestern Ontario we already plug in our vehicles so a plug-in EV should be no big deal.

You might soon see an EV on a street near you, but as I said, it's a quiet revolution so you probably won't hear it coming.

what's happening  
in and around...

## The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

### January 28

#### Thunderwolves Hockey

The Lakehead Thunderwolves are in a battle for top spot in the OUA West and can clinch a playoff spot with a win over arch-rival Western on Saturday night.

The Wolves split their games last weekend, and have a chance to solidify their spot in the standings as they chase a first-round bye.

The puck drops at 7:30 p.m. at Fort William Gardens.

### January 27

#### Live at Loch

Come in from the cold to the Loch Lounge for the talented Sara Kae, backed by Jake Laakkonen on guitar and Wyeth McCormick on percussion.

They will feature a light, upbeat showcase of songs filled with new and old covers as well as some originals.

Sara brings a fun performance that

will have you wanting to join in!

Show is free of charge at Loch Lomond, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday night, and open to the public.

### January 28

#### Beer Drinking Women

Come one, come all to the first ever Society of Beer Drinking Ladies event in Thunder Bay.

They can't wait to build a community of beer loving women in Northwestern Ontario.

Join them at NWO Outpost Bevy0001, on Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Lakehead Beer Co. at 206 Park Ave.

Tickets are \$19.56 and available at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).

### January 29

#### Banff Mountain Film Festival

Every year, the Banff World Tour team licenses about 30 films that feature a range of styles and themes, including climbing, skiing, kayaking,

biking, adventure, culture and the environment.

The screening starts on Sunday night at 7 p.m. at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

Tickets are \$24, plus fees, and are available through Ticketmaster.

### January 28

#### Tony Yayo Live

Tony Yayo of G-Unit Live will be at NV Music Hall on Monday night for a show you're not going to want to miss.

The American rapper formed G-Unit with his childhood friends, 50 Cent and Lloyd Banks, releasing their multi-platinum album Beg For Mercy in 2003.

He's since gone solo, realizing success with his debut single, So Seductive.

Tickets are \$39.90 for the show and they're available at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).

The show starts at 8 p.m. and doors open at 7 p.m.

## 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.

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## THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the city cut down on its number of outdoor rinks?

TOTAL VOTES: 2,004

☐ **YES**  
41.97%

☐ **NO**  
49.80%

☐ **DON'T KNOW**  
8.23%



# Dry bar set for downtown

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Jody Loos has attended more addiction-related funerals than he can count – or at least that he cares to count.

A bartender for the past 25 years, and someone who struggled with sobriety himself, he decided he wanted to be part of the solution.

Loos plans to open a dry bar on Cumberland Street South, a place where those at every leg of their recovery journey can venture for a night out on the town, without the pressure of alcohol in every direction tempting them to jump off the wagon.

“This space is going to be a place for people to come and socialize, mingle, network, dance, sing karaoke, take in comedy shows, fashion shows – anything

that would happen in a really popular bar setting. But this is going to happen in a setting that’s conducive to no alcohol sales,” Loos said on Monday, days after the entrepreneur was handed the keys to the building, a former café, to take the next step in realizing his dream.

“I think Thunder Bay’s ready for that, and I’m really excited to bring it.”

The announcement comes less than a week after the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction released new alcohol consumption guidelines, stating more than six drinks per week puts someone’s health at risk.

A dozen years ago, up to 11 drinks for women, and 15 for men, was considered safe.

One to two drinks are considered low risk. Three to six

standard drinks are considered moderate risk, while seven or more put people at higher risk for seven types of cancer, most types of cardiovascular disease, liver disease and violence.

For Loos, it’s more personal.

“I’ve lost friends and family to addiction. I want to give people a safe space to come, and relax and have a great time,” he said. “They don’t have to worry about triggers, and they can focus on healing. We’re also going to have a resource centre in the back, where people who are newly into their healing journey can have access to resources that might not otherwise have access to.”

That could include information on treatment centres, in other cases elders who might be willing to counsel.

The one thing they won’t find at

the Howl at the Moon Dry Saloon and Late Night Coffee Bar is judgment.

Loos said as a bartender, he understands why some might find his stance a bit hypocritical, but over the years he’s done his best to find help for those who come to him seeking it. But they have to be ready to start the sobriety journey, he said. Otherwise, it might not stick.

“I’ve made a lot of friends over the years and a lot of them are still living in active addiction. Zero judgment, because I love those people so much. But they’re hurting and Thunder Bay really needs a place when they are ready to heal, where they can go and feel safe and have the ability to do that healing. I think this project is going to help with that.”



Jody Loos plans to open the Howl at the Moon Dry Saloon and Late Night Coffee Bar on March 31.

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## Musher Cross excels

Twenty-year old Julia Cross has been involved with sled dogs since 2007, but in 2014 she and her dogs entered their first race. Since then, Cross has participated in over two-dozen race events.

One particularly special race was the 2020 Junior Iditarod in Alaska. Julia had drawn the first bib number, meaning she was the first team to leave the starting line in the 150-mile race. She was alone off the front almost the entire time and didn’t see another team until she was finally passed in the last 20 miles.

In that event, racers were expecting a few inches of snow, but instead they received over 16 inches of it in a matter of a few hours. Cross recalls that “being the first team out meant that we were ‘breaking trail’ and making a path for all the teams behind me. My team was having to work harder to make a trail through the fresh snow.

Despite breaking trail for almost 100 miles, we ended up coming in second place.” For their supreme effort, Cross’ lead dogs were presented the Blue Harness Award, for showing exemplary skill in the extreme conditions.

Excitement, along with success, are common themes in the racing adventures of Cross and her dogs. In the 2019 Beargrease Mid Distance Race, her team came from behind and swept the Junior field. They had left the first checkpoint buried deep behind the pack of other race teams, probably only 5 or so spots from last place. As they neared checkpoint two, Cross’ squad had already moved up five or 6 positions. They continued to apply pressure and steadily pushed forward. By the time they left

the last checkpoint, they had moved into 12th place. “We had a smoking fast last leg” says Cross, referring to a monumental final stretch where they passed five more teams to secure an 8th place overall finish as well as 1st place in the Junior Race. The accomplishment did not go unnoticed, and Cross was awarded the Beargrease Rookie of the Year Award as well as the Vets’ Choice Award,

given by the veterinarians in the race to the team with the best dog care.

Sled dogs like Julia’s can run upwards of 100 miles a day. In most distance races, 100 miles in a 24-hour period is fairly typically.

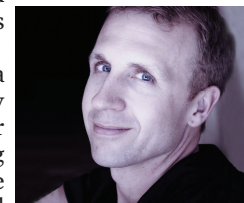
The races are broken up into multiple legs to give the dogs time to rest and recover between each massive effort. There are different types of sled dogs that are bred and trained for different distances.

Sprint sled dogs are bred for shorter distances, usually up to 30-40 miles.

Mid-distance dogs like Julia’s are bred for 100 miles or so, and distance sled dogs are bred to run 300 to 1000-mile races.

Having a dog that likes to pull, I asked Cross if she could recommend an activity for us and she suggested skijoring or bikejoring, where just one or two dogs can assist their human with the help of a harness and a towline.

Julia says “they are great ways to mush with your dogs without having a full team. One or two dogs and you are set. You can spend countless hours outside with your dog on dog-powered adventures!”



**Keith Ailey**  
the GOOD LIFE



# Winter sun awakens over region

## Warm weather may be coming to an end soon

Ah, the sun. At last. The skies have been grey for so long I'd almost forgotten what it is like to be outside in the sun.

Saturday morning was overcast - nothing unusual in that given what the previous week or so had been like. At least it has been warm for this time of year, quite unusually so.

### Hot and cold

Usually in January we get the two-week spell of -30 C, -35 C freeze and then in the middle of February, a chinook wherein we sport t-shirts amid the snow. Not this year so far.

Most of the serious snow and frigid temperatures blessed us in December. For the past three weeks we've experienced single-

digit lows with only one exception. Very strange.

But most of those January days of single-digit temps have also had overcast skies. Until this past Saturday.

I have written that I try to go out on the snowshoe trails once per day. Hah! Another New Year's resolution shot.

Come Saturday afternoon my wife, Laura, suggested that we strap on the snowshoes and go for a trek with the pooches which we did. We had established a network of trails across the field behind Casa Jones and on into the bush.

After several such tromps the trail was hard enough for our aged dog, Baxter, who is big and heavy, to join us without constantly falling through the snow surface.

But I hadn't been out on the trail for a week and in that time we had received some snow.

The trail seemed in many places to have been obliterated. One of our missions this past Saturday afternoon was to re-establish the trails.

When we started out on the trek, the sky was grey. When we reached the beginning of the bush in what I call "the back 40", the sun came out.

Wow! Suddenly light was streaming through pine branches and reflecting off snow. As we moved through the bush on the trail we'd be threading our way through shadow and then into patches of bright light. Laura was

so taken with the contrast that she would stop and take pictures with the 'phone trying to capture the dogs (and me) in that brilliant winter light. Then I would do the same for her.

The bush was gorgeous. The sun lit up the tops of the pine trees and shafts of light would strike the

lower branches, the tree trunks, and the ground. Magic!

Laura switched from still photos to filming videos on her phone as me and the pooches walked through the sunlit areas amid the soaring red pines (planted back in the 1960s).

"I'm filming our walk because I want to show this to the participants in the municipal conference I'm attending this coming week in Toronto. I want to tell them that this is our backyard. Yup. Sure is.

Sunday the sun again blazed bright in a cloudless sky. I strapped on the snowshoes and retraced our steps with the dogs. Laura had flown to Toronto in the morning so our son, Doug, accompanied me. Again, brilliance in the bush.

I would like to expand the snowshoe trails but I have to keep Baxter at home.

He's a senior citizen and slogging through deep snow isn't for him. Once I get the extensions to the trodden trails sufficiently

hard, then he can join me and the other two pups. A week ago coming back from our regular walk, I saw that Baxter had reached the house.

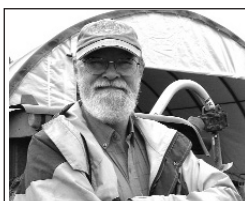
### Another route

I changed direction and walked the laneway that leads to the beaver pond. I was worried Baxter would try to follow but when I retraced my steps, I saw him sitting on the ridge by the house calmly watching me. Good boy! Smart pooch he is.

It amazes me how relieved we were - Laura, Doug, and me - when the sun was allowed to shine forth.

Too much grey ain't healthy. How do our fellow citizens living in the very far north with nonstop dark do it?

It wasn't to last. Awoke Monday morning to cloud, an impressive sunrise (Red sky in morning, sailor take warning), and then later, snow. Well, we are still in Winter.



**Fred Jones**  
RURAL ROOTS

## Ornge will fly blood

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

The agency that coordinates the province's air ambulance system is partnering with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre to launch what it calls the first "Blood on Board" program in Northern Ontario.

Starting in April, aircraft operated by Ornge will be equipped with products from the hospital's blood bank, thereby allowing paramedics to quickly administer potentially lifesaving transfusions to patients who are hours away from the closest hospital.

Blood products from the hospital will be stored in specialized coolers designed for their storage and transport, and their temperatures will be monitored constantly up to the time of transfusion.

Ornge CEO Homer Tien travelled to Thunder Bay to make the announcement at the Ornge base at Thunder Bay Airport.

Tien said the arrangement will save the lives of residents living in remote communities across the North.

"In some, they have nursing stations with no ability to transfuse blood ... For

us to get there with full capability is very important."

Hemorrhage is a leading cause of death in traumatically-injured individuals, and research shows that early blood transfusions can improve the chances of survival.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation officials welcomed the announcement of the new initiative.

"We have lost too many members to preventable deaths as a result of inequitable health services in the remote North, but acknowledge that medevacs are a lifeline," deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater said.

Linklater expressed gratitude to Ornge, the hospital, and everyone else involved in the program.

Alvin Fiddler, the health transformation lead for NAN, said it "means a lot for people in our remote areas to have access to this type of treatment when they need it. It's so critical."

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre CEO and President Rhonda Crocker Ellacott said the hospital is happy to collaborate with Ornge and with northern communities.

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# Caesars with imagination

A few years ago in our fair city, it seemed like Thunder Bay Chefs, Bartenders and Restaurateurs unknowingly embarked on a competition.

Creativity abounded while the absurd became generic. Oneupmanship was the name of the game. By now you're probably racking your brain trying to figure out what I'm remotely talking about.

From 2013 to about 2018 it seemed like every business with a liquor license in Thunder Bay was doing their best to create the most ridiculous variation on the classic Caesar.

Whether you enjoy a Caesar now and again or not, everyone knows what goes into one. Clamato juice, Worcestershire, Tabasco, vodka, and a celery salt rim.

Fairly basic, sometimes you'll get a stalk of celery in there. Not much to

it, but in Canada especially, a good Caesar can warm you on the coldest night.

Now everyone took these basics and went off and started going ridiculous. Chefs were making their own "clam juice cocktail", pickling their own vegetables, Candying bacon for garnishes, things got kind of awesome. I even saw some chefs flavouring up some bocconcini or dicing cheddar cubes and getting it ready for caesars for the bar.

Many shows on television will scoff at the chefs getting prep together for the bartenders, but usually you will find the opposite true, chefs are eager to impose their creative will on some of the bartenders.

The hot sauce and the worcestershire also found themselves being modded. Deeply flavourful Maggi Sauce would serve as the heir



**Derek Lankinen**

Here's Cooking at You Kid



Local bartenders started getting creative in making Caesars a few years ago. (iStock)

apparent to the British condiment.

The classic tabasco found itself replaced by Frank's Red Hot and eventually, Thunder Bay born flavour juggernaut, Heartbeat Hot Sauce. With good reason, tabasco is only red vinegar water anyway. *Find the lie.*

Celery salt was being replaced with smoked sea salt and other flavoured salts.

Caesars were becoming meals unto themselves, with skewers filled with pickles, olives, and other vegetables would be shooting eight inches above your glass.

Meat components were added, pepperettes, chicken wings the aforementioned candied bacon, and even slider burgers or chicken nuggets would be hanging out of glasses.

Were you ever at a bar in 2017 and ordered a \$20 Caesar with a giant steamed shrimp hanging off your glass? You weren't the only one.

I say all this to say, as a fan of the carny side of this business, sometimes its fun to get to go as off the wall as you possibly can.

My love of screwing with classic flavours and dishes has been well documented in HCAYK and theres always room for a creative person to infuse some personality into familiar dishes (or drinks).

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory with two locations in Westfort and Current River and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Brick and Mortar Food Co. and Eat Loco Tacos.

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# To be or not to be is finally decided

By Linda Maehans – TB Source

Take heed Sire, there are tides in the affairs of men. And nay, gentle lady, this is not much ado about nothing. For should there be something rotten in the state of Denmark, certainly not here. 'Tis truly I speak. Ne'er finer panache nor merriment be found but in the Lakehead.

During three weeks in February, Badanai Theatre presents a most illustrious musical, a clever satire of rivalries when Shakespeare's prowess first claimed his stage at The Globe-on-Thames.

*Something Rotten* was nominated on Broadway for no less than 10 Tony's (2015); now, 2023 in Thunder Bay, no less than two dozen spectacular talents, all local, will sing-dance-charm you until your every midwinter night's dream comes true. Dear Reader, prepare thyself anon for time-travel to the late 16th century. 1595 to be precise. We arrive at the lodgings of the brothers Bottom, Nick and Nigel. One a hopeful-of-wealth; the other a



*Something Rotten* launches at Paramount-on-Court on Feb. 1 and closes on Feb. 18.

poet-hapless romantic.

Here's what was seen and overheard in the courtyard.

She's a lithe little wisp, yet to my

appreciative eyes this Portia has much to behold. Soft hair, soft eyes, soft voice. In a word, lovely. And clearly smitten beyond redemption.

"It's true. I love theatre," sighs actor Caitlin DesRochers, "but my father is dead set against it. And yes, I've met this guy. He's amazing. Pulled me into the world-of-theatre; I even have Sonnet XOX, signed.

"He touches my soul. He touches me in places I never knew I could be touched." She blushes like the darling bud-of-May that she is. "It's really hard to hide this from my family. My dreams? I long to be happy. And to see him. Someday," another sigh, "women might even be in theatre."

I want to hear more about such a forward proposal when, rather suddenly, someone barges forth with too many flash-bulbs going off around him. Not that, in 1595, anything of that device had yet been invented. Merely a figure-of-speech; you get the idea. This guy moved as a greyhound amongst mongrels. An introduction hardly necessary; I knew instantly I was in the company of The Bard. Was almost blinded by his swaggering confidence. 'Nuff said here.

Inside, a solemn young man sits at a bureau but he doesn't write. Nigel Bottom is a man-in-the-clouds; gaze distracted, motionless quill. Asked about his own big dreams, Nigel's focus seems, briefly, to return. "I want to reach people. Be able to touch them. In special, and private, ways. In the light and, yes, in the dark moments as well."

Hmm, surely actor Ken Horton is referring to theatrical-lighting? "Oh, absolutely. I consider William Shakespeare as my inspirational guiding-light," states a sincere Nigel. "Such reach, with his words. He's also really good with the girls.

Portia?" Nigel nearly swoons. "She's everything. My muse; my purest heart. I dream of touching the deepest part of her."

Direction by Lawrence Badanai, Spencer Hari; choreography by Candi Badanai, *Something Rotten* frolics at Paramount-on-Court on the following dates: Feb.1,2,3; 8,9,10,11; 15,16,17,18.

All shows 7:30 p.m. Tickets @ Eventbrite. Don't miss this!

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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>**  
WESTERN MUSTANGS

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# Otto: Bland, but pleasing remake

The 2015 original did not need a second telling for American film audiences

Remakes are inevitable in Hollywood, so carping about *A Man Called Otto* (SilverCity) a remake of the 2015 Swedish film, *A Man Called Ove* would seem beside the point.

For the record, *Otto* IS unnecessary. But given the popularity of both the Oscar-nominated Swedish film which enjoyed a packed house during NOSFA's 24th annual the Northwest Film Fest and Frederick Backman's book as source material, Hollywood can't resist cashing in.

The story focuses on the crusty, enforced retiree Otto (Tom Hanks) whose life has been tempered by tragedy, including losing his parents as a youth and more recently his wife to cancer. There is also his own skewed world view, unyielding adherence to rules no one cares about and strict personal habits. (Shades of OCD?).

He visits his wife's gravesite regularly, promising to join her soon. He polices his neighbourhood for litter, traffic violators, misplaced bikes. People are idiots.

Though Mr. Hanks' portrayal as Otto is not as convincingly gruff as that of Rolf Lassgård in the Swedish version, he at least avoids turning Otto into an easy laugh, misanthropic cartoon.

It should be noted that what eludes both films is Ove's thought process illuminated by Backman's prose, which provided ineluctable logic to Ove's oddball way of thinking, making his antics and attitude amusing and empathetic, embellished by Scandinavian black humour.

Something gets lost in translation. Saab is the only car to drive; drivers of Volvos and BMWs are idiots. Here, it's Chevy vs Ford and Toyota, just not as convincing or amusing.

Otto ultimately finds enough meaning late in life to discontinue his maladroit suicide attempts which are repeatedly upended by the intrusion of well-meaning neighbours and faulty equipment.

His persistent, tolerant new neighbour, Marisol (engaging Mariana Treviño) prompts Otto into rejoining the human race, albeit grudgingly, cajoling him into giving her driving lessons, babysitting her kids, consuming her Mexican cuisine and helping others—even a Trans youth—whom he would normally dismiss as “idiots.”

The results are mixed but Mr. Hanks is on



Tom Hanks stars as the title character in *A Man Called Otto*.

firmer ground after his weirdly accented interpretation of Colonel Parker in “Elvis” and his awkward Gepetto in the humdrum, “Pinocchio.”

Otto comes across as “A Man called Ove Lite.”

Two sequences are crucially underserved: Otto's wife in flashbacks is not as well drawn here and his fight with slimy developers threatening to displace his stroke-ridden friend and his wife is under-written.

Also missing is backstory surrounding Otto's challenging upbringing that gives a greater sense of what the protagonist is all about.

What still works: the indifferent street cat that refuses to leave.

“Who cares?” rightfully asks those unacquainted with “Ove.” Well, this version is a bland, easily digestible crowd-pleaser that simply shortchanges the original story. Though miscast, Hanks, and especially Ms. Treviño, make “Otto” more palatable than it has any right to be.

For the uninitiated, *A Man called Otto* is a comforting if somewhat diluted mid-winter tonic.



**Marty Mascarin**  
MOVIE TALK



# Hawks stall Wolves

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The playoff clinch will have to wait for another day.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves had a chance to sew up their first postseason berth since 2021 on Saturday night, but couldn't hold onto an early 2-0 lead and fell 5-2 to the Laurier Golden Hawks in front of 2,373 fans at Fort William Gardens.

Laurier forward Matthew Zedebee, who had a goal and two helpers on the night, completed the comeback midway through the third, making a nifty move on a Thunderwolves defender before slamming it past goaltender Max Wright.

Lakehead would have clinched a spot in the playoffs with a win.

It was a disappointing result, said T-Wolves captain Tyler Jette, the team failing to pick up at least a point for the first time in nine games.

"I think in this league, anybody can beat anybody. You've got to play a full 60 minutes if you want to win games. You can't play 20 minutes and coast from there and I thought that's what we did," Jette said. "They moved their feet faster than we did in the last 40 and that's what caught us."

## Missed opportunity

The big momentum shift came early in the second, when Keighan Gerrie, stationed behind the Laurier net, fed a pass to Stephen Fox, who buried behind Golden Hawks goaltender Christian Propp. Unfortunately for the home side, Propp's mask came off during the scramble in front, wiping out the goal. That made a big difference, said Thunderwolves blue-liner Noah Massie.

"Yeah, I think it did. You're exactly right. I thought that was a goal. I didn't see the helmet come off, but we've got to be better at taking it back when we lose



Laurier goaltender Christian Propp smotheres the puck, with Colin Campbell draped over him. (Leith Dunick)

it and it's something we'll work on this week."

With the T-Wolves trailing 3-2 in the third, Massie had what was probably the best chance to even the score, but Propp managed to slide his skate toe just far enough to prevent Massie from stuffing in around the goal post.

"He just got it with his skate. I was just trying to get one back because I think I owed the boys, but I didn't get it done," said Massie, who blamed himself for Zedebee's third-period go-ahead goal.

Once again it looked like the Thunderwolves might be on their way to another rout, when Greg Smith and Olivier Pouliot connected 3:37 apart in the opening period, a night after a seven-goal outburst in the first put the Guelph Gryphons away early.

But the third goal never came.

Grayden Gottschalk cut the Laurier deficit to one at the 14:15 mark of the

middle stanza. Less than four minutes later Tyler Davis knotted the score, taking a pass off the draw and wiring it through traffic behind a partially screened Wright.

Still down a goal, with under three minutes to play, Lakehead was handed a four-minute power play, but instead of capitalizing, they gave up a second short-handed goal to Sam Rhodes. Rhodes added a second short-hander marker into the empty net.

## Has their number

Laurier has won all three meetings between the two teams this season.

"Give them credit," said Lakehead coach Andrew Wilkins. "They're good and they've played us really well. I thought they got better today as the game went on."

Lakehead (14-6-3) hosts Western on Saturday.

## ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotation: and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "A" = "P"

"WMX SNMJHX WT AYHNXMBX, HXM  
RXYQL WT AXYBX."

— PQXXF AQWDXQU

	2	6			7		5	9
		4		9				
	8				1			
4		8		2				
		5						
2	7				5			
6	4					8	9	
	1				6			4
		9	8					7

## ACROSS

- 1 Explosive letters
- 4 Mayan year
- 8 Captain (abbr.)
- 12 Cheer
- 13 Geological epoch
- 14 Two-toed sloth
- 15 Sayings (suf.)
- 16 Bait fish
- 17 Fahrenheit (abbr.)
- 18 Musical composition
- 20 Friends (Fr.)
- 22 Chances
- 25 Nest-building fish
- 28 Table scraps
- 31 Hindu queen
- 33 John brown's dog
- 34 Vehicle
- 35 Rom. poet
- 36 Public vehicle
- 37 Railroad timber
- 38 Air (pref.)
- 39 Art movement
- 40 Almost
- 42 Zone
- 44 Hilltop
- 46 Gum resin
- 50 Bright-colored fish
- 52 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
- 55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 56 Musette
- 57 Israelite tribe
- 58 Argentina (abbr.)
- 59 Star (pref.)
- 60 Hem
- 61 Yarn measure

## DOWN

- 1 Trolley
- 2 Billionth (pref.)
- 3 Relative pronoun
- 4 Hundred (pref.)

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

LAT ELBA ACDC  
ABE PAID BORA  
CIMBALOM BINA  
PACO MEROM  
TROUT GLOS  
HERD CLASSIFY  
UNA GIANT NAE  
GOLCONDA TILL  
ALEE NATAL  
DERMA KALI  
ELOI ETIOLATE  
AMOS POEM TAB  
DOSE ATLI EBB

- 5 Alas (Ger.)
- 6 Pointed (pref.)
- 7 Polish rum cake
- 8 Angular Arabic script
- 9 Dropsy
- 10 Exclamation
- 11 Caucasian wild goat
- 19 Loop trains
- 21 Principal
- 23 Not false
- 24 Vertebral bones
- 26 S Afr. Boer assembly
- 27 Eastern bishop's title
- 28 Eight (pref.)
- 29 Teem
- 30 Burl (2 words)
- 32 Common Indian otter
- 35 Byron poem
- 39 Burmese knife
- 41 Ire
- 43 Borden cow
- 45 Wan
- 47 Semitic deity
- 48 Rhine tributary
- 49 Indo-Chin. language
- 50 Poly. beefwood
- 51 Absolute (abbr.)
- 53 Garden plot
- 54 Average (abbr.)

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# Chill seeking new coach

## Petraglia steps down after 10 years on job

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Thunder Bay Chill are on the hunt for a new coach.

After 10 years, the United Soccer League 2 team announced Gio Petraglia is stepping down after 10 years behind the bench, having taken the Chill to the league championship game in 2013 and 2017.

Petraglia, who hinted after last summer's regular-season finale that he might not be back, said it was time to move on, both for his own future and that of the team's.

"Ten years is a very long time and I feel privileged to have spent those with this outstanding organization. The memories are countless and impossible to collect. Our runs of 2013 and 2017 are

certainly among them, despite the unfortunate outcome in Austin and Charlotte," Petraglia said, in a release issued by the team on Monday night.

Longtime assistant coach Stefano Cristalli will also not return, choosing to pursue a coaching career in Italy.

Petraglia joined the Chill in 2012 as a youth coach and took over for Tony Colistro as coach of the men's team, leading them to 43 regular season wins.

"I'd like to thank the board, the kids, the parents, the players, the fans and the entire community for welcoming me from day one and for making me feel part of this special family. A particular thank you

to all my colleagues, with whom I was very lucky to share the field throughout those years. I will treasure everything I learned from each one of them," he said.

The Chill expect to have a new coaching staff in place by mid-February.



GIO PETRAGLIA



Brian Adams Jr. scored three in the second and three more in the third to vanquish Trevor Bonot in the Major League final 8-1.

# Adams wins Major League

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Brian Adams Jr. made quick and easy work of Trevor Bonot to capture his first Tbaytel Major League of Curling crown as a skip.

Adams, lead Joel Adams, second Colin Koivula and third Mark Koivula, dispatched the former Canadian Mixed Curling champion Bonot in just five ends, scoring three in the second and three in the fourth before stealing a pair and shaking hands on Sunday afternoon at the Port Arthur Curling Club.

The veteran skip, who returned to Major League this year after living away from Thunder Bay for more than a decade, said Sunday's 8-1 triumph capped off a fantastic season for the foursome, who look to carry the momentum into this week's Northern Ontario men's play-downs in Kenora.

"It feels great," he said. "It's my first Major League title as a skip, so it's awesome."

Adams Jr. was the third on John Salo's 2005-06 championship team, and lost the 2007-08 final as a skip to Jeff Currie's winning side.

He said they started strong against Bonot and never really looked back.

"We got the hammer to start the game, we got our feet under us with a blank in the first end and we just set up the ends in two and four pretty well. There were lots of rocks in play, and we like that kind of play, and had an opportunity in each one of those ends to make a good score and we capitalized," said Adams, who knocked off Gary Weiss 5-3 in the semi-final earlier in the afternoon.

Adams got a bit of good fortune on his final shot of

the second, going for a tricky double. The shot didn't quite do what he'd hoped, missing the double, but the veteran curler still managed to hold on for three, going up 3-0 on Bonot.

The Bonot foursome, which includes lead Kurtis Byrd, second Jordan Potts and third Mike McCarville, made a few too many mistakes on championship Sunday, despite an impressive run after defeating Denis Malette and Al Hackner to reach the finale.

Bonot flashed on his first throw of the third, then his draw just stopped in time to claim a single and cut Adams' lead to 3-1.

Lying two with hammer, Adams Jr. found his draw weight in the fourth, adding another three to his total to jump in front 6-1 at the break.

"The ice was tricky and straight in some spots, so if you could hide a rock in the right place, you were good. In the fourth end we made a really good freeze and he didn't have much of shot at all," Adams said. "Rock placement was big today."

Bonot missed again with hammer in the fifth, giving up the steal of two and the two teams decided to shake hands and get set for the long drive to Kenora, both teams in the 11-team field.

It's a pretty good confidence boost, Adams said.

"I wish we could go right back out on the ice tomorrow in Kenora, because we're feeling good and we're playing well. A win like this in Major League is a great confidence boost, so we're going to roll with that into Kenora, for sure."

Bryan Burgess took the consolation final, downing Krista McCarville 7-2.

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS**  
In the Estate of

**ANNE BEVERLEY GURBA**

All Persons having claims against the Estate of ANNE BEVERLEY GURBA, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about August 4, 2022, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before February 9, 2023, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice.

Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 12th day of January, 2023.

**ANDREW GURBA,**  
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