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Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 20 No. 6

Thursday, February 9, 2023

United Way needs help

Organization has seen a significant drop in donations over past 6 years /5

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United Way of Thunder Bay CEO Albert Brulé says his organization fell \$230,000 short of its annual goal in 2022, a downward trend that's been showing itself for the past six years.

Steep turn caused fatal 2021 crash at Thunder Bay Airport

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada says a steep turn on takeoff was likely the cause of an Aug. 16, 2021 plane crash that took the life of pilot Peter Balodis.

A report, issued on Thursday, says the 30-year-old pilot's decision to conduct a low-level, climbing steep turn that led to an accelerated stall and resulted in a loss of control of the aircraft, a Rockwell International Aero Commander, that led to the plane crashing into Runway 07 at Thunder Bay International Airport.

The pilot was likely encouraged to make the maneuver based on an altered perception of risk from previous similar takeoffs that did not result in any adverse consequences, the report continues.

The report also issued a warning that if air traffic controllers engage in communications that may be perceived by pilots as condoning certain maneuvers, they are more likely to continue to conduct them and could lead to an accident occurring.

Pre-crash communications between the tower and the pilot seems to indicate one of the air traffic controllers told the pilot "That was fantastic" following the take off

and then moments later, "Thanks for the little show."

Balodis then responded, "I can get a little closer if you'd like?"

The controller responded with, "Sure."

NAV Canada reporting procedures were also questioned, with the report noting if they don't include steps to indicate pilots conducted unsafe flight maneuvers, there is a risk the maneuvers will continue and it could result in a crash.

Balodis was conducting a visual flight rules, or bird-dog, flight from Thunder Bay to the Dryden Regional Airport, and was the only person on board the flight, which began its takeoff at 9:09 p.m. on Aug. 16, 2021.

He was fatally injured in the crash and the airplane was destroyed by the impact and the subsequent fire. It was Balodis' third flight of the day and he'd stopped in Thunder Bay for refueling before heading to Dryden.

According to the report, the plane began a rapid roll to the left when it was 45 feet above ground, and 33 seconds later it burst into flames upon impact with Runway 07, and slid about 840 feet before coming to rest, facing a north-northeast direction.



Pilot Peter Balodis, 30, was killed when his plane crashed at Thunder Bay Airport in 2021.

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Tax-levy hike set

City plans to spend 5 per cent more after growth

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's city council has approved the 2023 budget after a month of debate, voting for a five per cent tax levy increase, a large expansion for police, and over two million in cuts to other city services – most of which remain a mystery for city administration to resolve later this year.

While the tax levy hike is around double the average approved under the last council, the city will cut staff and take millions out of its reserves, thanks largely to increased police spending and a year of historically high inflation.

The tax hike will translate to an increase of roughly \$71 per \$100,000 of assessed value for the owner of a single-family home, staff estimated.

That figure would have been around \$88 under the proposed budget brought forward by administration, which envisioned a 6.2 per cent increase that would have avoided significant service cuts.

Council reduced the hike to 5.01 per cent, or 4.41 per cent after accounting for assessment growth, and restored over a million in infrastructure spending, over the course of eight budget meetings held in recent weeks.

The levy hike came down just slightly on Monday as council held the last of those meetings, after starting the night at 5.1 per cent.

Changes approved Monday include cutting a proposed third yearly leaf and yard waste pickup day, reducing evening hours at city pools, and trimming back a large proposed pay hike for members of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board.

Impact still to come

While council officially approved the budget Monday, much of how it will impact city services remains unknown, with administration directed to find over \$2 million in staffing and service cuts later this year.

That includes \$500,000 in “service level reductions,” and \$700,000 in savings through a “city manager organizational review” that will include staffing reductions – essentially offsetting some planned expansions in the budget this year.

The budget also sets the stage for further cuts in 2024.

After voting to reduce this year's tax levy by \$1 million by drawing from the rarely-used vested property reserve fund, council directed administration to cut that amount in 2024.

Coun. Mark Bentz, who had opposed the plan to draw on reserves, said it would plug a hole council had blown in next year's budget.

“When you draw from reserves without a plan for reduction in spending, you're basically adding a million to next year's budget,” he said. “If you want to reduce the budget by a million dollars, we have to find those savings, and the best people to find those savings are the people that oversee the organization.”

Coun. Andrew Foulds reiterated his concern over



Council debate the tax-levy increase on Monday. (Ian Kaufman)

how the cuts will impact public services, and opposed approving them without specifics.

Coun. Rajni Agarwal was one of several colleagues to push back, arguing containing the tax burden is equally important.

“We need to look for cuts,” she said. “We need to look for ways to improve our business, because at the end of the day, we do have a duty to every taxpayer, every business, and every new prospective business and industry coming to Thunder Bay.”

“With higher taxes, we're not going to bring them here... If we don't have a good plate to serve them, they're not coming.”

Gale has suggested the cuts won't target emergency services or provincially-mandated operations like long-term care or childcare.





This reflects a growing trend of cutting from community services to fund unsustainable increases for police, as well as fire and EMS, councillors and staff alike, he warned on Monday.

The city's police spending will rise to nearly \$60 million in 2023, up by seven per cent, or nearly \$4 million this year. That figure has risen by nearly 50 per cent over the past five years, now making up roughly a quarter of the budget.

The main drivers of the increase were a staffing expansion of more than 20 full-time equivalent employees at the Thunder Bay Police Service, and rising wages and benefits.

Local leaders have said they see no way to rein in police costs in the near term without provincial or federal help, which several councillors said Monday could set the stage for further service cuts to fund increases for police and other emergency services in future years.

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
Snow	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Precipitation: 40% HIGH 2 LOW -8	Precipitation: 20% HIGH -5 LOW -14	Precipitation: 30% HIGH 1 LOW -3	Precipitation: 30% HIGH 2 LOW -5

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Tracy Lee Nails	Thrifted Fashions	Gott cupcakes
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Mister J's Men's Fashion	Friends of the TBPL bookstore	Pie.ology
Bella Curves and Pleasure Zone	PARO Presents	Up shot Coffee
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		Monty's Joint

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Notice of Canadian Navigable Waters Act Application

Detail Design and Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of Thunder Creek Bridge (Site No. 41S-0060/B0), on Highway 17, Geographic Township of Zealand, District of Kenora, GWP 6105-17-00

McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd. (McIntosh Perry) hereby gives notice on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Northwest Region that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, McIntosh Perry has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the on-line Navigable Waters Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>) and under NPP File Number **2016-400329** a description of the following work, its site and plans:

The Thunder Creek Bridge has experienced deterioration and required rehabilitation to extend its service life.

The bridge will be rehabilitated using staged construction. In Stage 1, traffic will be shifted to the south side of the bridge, while in Stage 2 traffic will be shifted to the north side of the bridge. Temporary closure of the westbound passing lane, located east of the structure is proposed during construction to improve traffic flow through site and enhance safety during construction.

The rehabilitation work will be undertaken across Thunder Creek located on Highway 17, approximately 13.9 km West of the Junction of Highway 17 and Highway 72, near Dryden, near Lot 10, Concession 3 and 4 at 49.756359 N 92.651667 W within the Geographic Township of Zealand, District of Kenora.

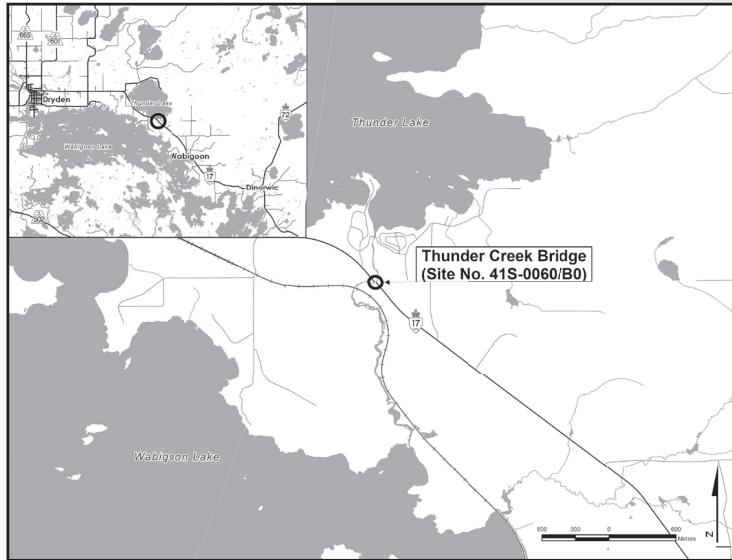
Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced file number) or, by sending your comments directly by email at NPPONT-PPNONT@tc.gc.ca or by mail to Transport Canada, Navigation Protection Program, 100 South Front Street, 1st Floor, Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 2M4.

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project available to the public on the online public registry. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified public record and could be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive information. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

Comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of the last notice. Although all comments conforming to the above will be considered, no individual response will be sent.

Posted at Dryden and Wabigoon, Ontario this **9th day of February 2023**

Ministry of Transportation – Project Delivery Northwest Office



Baxter named to Police Board

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's city council has appointed its citizen representative to the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, tapping Denise Baxter for the role.

Baxter is the vice-provost of Indigenous initiatives at Lakehead University, where she's also a senior lecturer with the faculties of education and social sciences and humanities.

City council voted unanimously to appoint Baxter on Monday, after appointing Mayor Ken Boshcoff and Coun. Shelby Ch'ng as its two councillor representatives on the board last year.

The five-member board is rounded out by two provincially-appointed seats, one of which was recently filled by Karen Machado. The other remains vacant.



DENISE BAXTER

None of the board members currently hold any decision-making power, after the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) appointed administrator Malcolm Mercer to oversee the board, finding its level of internal dysfunction constituted an "emergency."

Mercer's term is tentatively set to expire on March 30, when the board could re-assume authority, though the OCPC has extended his term once before and could do so again before it does expire.

A member of Marten Falls First Nation and an educator in Northwestern Ontario for over 30 years, Baxter has served as co-chair of the Ministry of Education Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat's First Nations, Metis and Inuit Provincial Committee.

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United Way facing tough calls

Organization has seen contributions dip by \$1 million over past six years

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The United Way of Thunder Bay is making an urgent plea, after it's latest campaign collected only \$1.6 million, about \$230,000 short of last year's goal.

Over the past six years, the total shortfall has added up to \$1 million.

United Way of Thunder Bay CEO Albert Brulé on Thursday said without the additional money, tough decisions impacting organizations throughout the community will have to be made.

Brulé has extended the deadline for donations to the 2022 campaign until Feb. 28, when the board of directors will have to decide whether to cut out donor organizations from this year's funding pot, or give a pro-rated amount to the organizations it currently supports.

"Hard choices will have to be made," he said, making a last-ditch plea to the community for help.

Brulé said it's a combination of circumstances that have led to the slowdown in donations. Employee campaigns, which have been the heart and soul of the annual campaign effort, have slowed down, with more employees working remotely, downsizing and fewer events, in part because of the impact

of the recent pandemic.

The local United Way has also stopped publicizing its annual target in recent years and making repeated appeals through the media during the campaign time-frame, which Brulé admitted could also be having an impact.

"We are not alone. United Ways across the country have been seeing a decline in certain kinds of donations, particularly employee campaigns," Brulé said. "For larger organizations, some of them have actually moved away from the United Way and gone to third-party platforms like Benevity and Canada Helps. So, employees can choose from 85,000 charities across Canada.



ALBERT BULÉ

"COVID had an impact, the ability to be able to go in and rally employees to do team-building, to do events in the workplace, to host a breakfast. That was completely shut down and even now, just coming out of COVID, we're finding it challenging to go into those workplaces."

Brulé said it won't be easy to pick and choose who gets money and how much, but a number of factors will be considered before any decisions are made, including the impact and the kind of impact giving or not giving would have on the community.

Programs the United Way of Thunder Bay services provide food hampers to seniors, emergency child care for low-income families and counselling for at-risk youth, to name just a few.

"Asking for help takes courage,"

Brulé said. "We want to be there."

Michael Quibell, the executive director at the Dew Drop Inn, a Thunder Bay soup kitchen, said having their funding cut, or worse, eliminated, would be devastating to his organization.

"With an organization that depends so much on community support, any disruption in that support would be noticed," he said. "It would affect us. How much, I'm not sure, but it would definitely be noticeable."

Formally, the annual campaign ends on Dec. 31 of a given year, but because the United Way of Thunder Bay is coming up short, Brulé said he asked the board for permission to extend the deadline.

"We want them to know it's not too late. You can still make a difference."

Donations can be made at www.uwaytbay.ca/donate.

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EDITORIAL

City needs help

Without senior levels of government stepping in to help, at some point in the very near future the city may be forced to cut services, whether it wants to or not.

Adding another five per cent tax-levy increase to the books, largely because of increased police funding, means taxpayers on average can expect to pay another \$71 a year, per \$100,000 of assessment in property taxes.

At some point the increase becomes too unbearable for homeowners, especially those living on fixed incomes.

Ottawa and Queen's Park must find a way to help Thunder Bay with its policing problem, which are dealing with more drug-related crimes imported from southern Ontario.

Robbing the city's reserves to limit increases is both short-sighted and short-term. At some point, the cash runs out.

The city needs millions a year in transfer payments to get back on even ground and find a way to cut an infrastructure gap that's going to continue to grow as projects, like the Conservatory, are shelved, adding more to next year's budget.

Fix Conservatory now
To the editor:

It's shocking to me that once again, renewal of our beloved Centennial Botanical Conservatory is being pushed back.

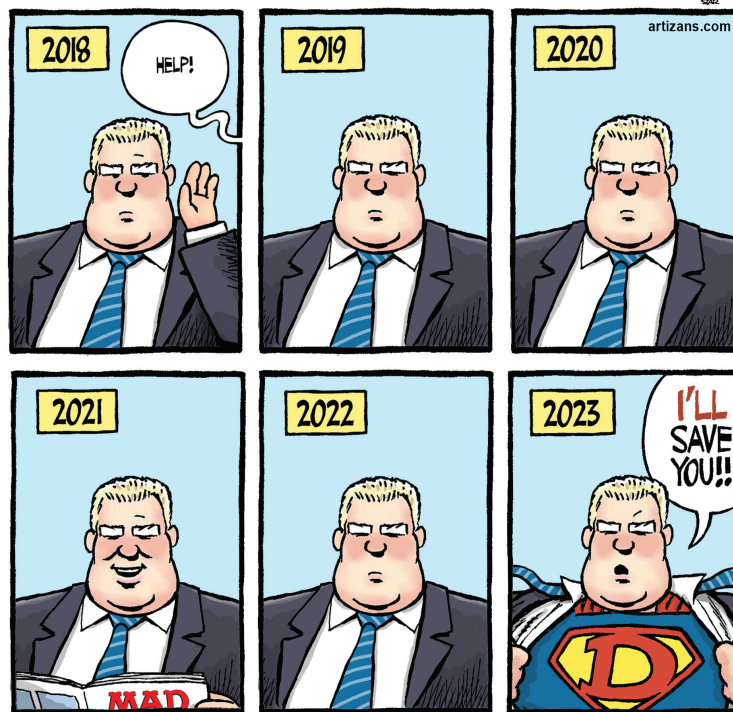
A 2008 analysis done for the City determined that replacement of the boiler would generate annual savings of \$20,929 and pay for itself in 11.2 years. Replacement of the glazing with 10mm Lexan would save \$82,514 in annual operating costs, and pay for itself in 5.9 years. So, in the 15 years since the City requested this analysis, but did not act, an unnecessary \$1.5 million (in 2008 dollars) was spent to operate this facility.

This is just one example of necessary infrastructure work being delayed, that makes up the "infrastructure deficit" we hear about. That infrastructure gap is over \$20 million, meaning our city is spending \$20 million less annually than we should be just to maintain existing infrastructure, like our Conservatory, like our roads, and bridges.

Meanwhile, we commit money to new projects such as indoor turf, art gallery or winter tennis that, while

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEALTH CARE ACTIONMAN!



nice perhaps, means existing infrastructure remains neglected. That costs taxpayers more in the long run, when bridges are unusable, or giant sinkholes open, and the cost

to fix is far greater than what it would have been if the work was done when it should have been.

Perhaps Council will ask for that list of delayed infrastructure

projects, and see how many times have various necessary renewal projects been moved forward to a future budget, so we can instead put money into another new project we can ill afford.

The cost of the Conservatory renewal planned for this year was partially funded by two government sources.

Where was the balance coming from? Where funds allocated in the 2023 budget that will be held in reserve for 2024?

How is it known that materials won't be available, even before tenders were put out? Perhaps that was investigated, and the re-opening instead of starting a project that couldn't be completed was a prudent move. Meanwhile, an additional \$100,000 will be spent to operate the Conservatory, and the infrastructure gap continues to grow.

Council needs to ensure that Administration focuses on closing this infrastructure gap, as was directed by the previous Council. And that means putting a halt to funding new projects, while we maintain what we already have.

Patty Bates,
Thunder Bay

Lawrence's *Il Duro* captures Italian lifestyles

Il Duro by D.H. Lawrence is a short collection of extracts from *Twilight in Italy* (1916) and *Etruscan Places* (1932) that perfectly capture the essence of these places and their people.

The Spinner and the Monks describes the Italian village which Lawrence visited with his wife, Frieda, when they were exiled from England:

'I ran up the broken stairway, and came out suddenly, as by a miracle, clean on the platform of my San Tommaso, in the tremendous sunshine'

Lawrence goes into the church which is a cool dark refuge from the fierce bright sun. When he emerges back into the light he notices a

woman in the square below:

'She was like a fragment of earth, she was a living stone of the terrace, sun-bleached. Her head was tied in a dark-red kerchief. And she was spinning.'

Lawrence goes in search of snowdrops and sees 'two monks walking in their wintry garden of bony vines and olive trees, their brown cassocks passing between the brown vine-stocks, their heads bare to the sunshine, some-times a glint of light as their feet strode from under their skirts'.

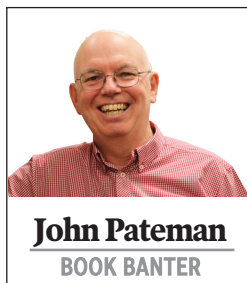
Lawrence describes this in such a way that you feel you are there with

him. You can feel the sun. You can smell the snow drops, you can see the old woman and the monks. That is his gift.

Il Duro is about a larger-than-life character who Lawrence meets on a sunny day when a party of pleasure-makers comes to San Gaudenzio:

'He was very handsome, beautiful rather, a man of thirty-two or -three, with a clear golden skin, and perfectly turned face, something godlike.

But the expression was strange. His hair was jet black and fine and



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

to make his fortune but finds only hatred and racism.

Yet he is drawn back to it, like a moth to a flame.

'The Florence Museum describes Lawrence's visit to the Archaeological Museum in Florence to look at the Etruscan collection and learn more about Etruscan culture:

'The Etruscans were not a race, that is obvious. And they were not a nation. What makes a civilised people is not blood, but some dominant culture-principle'

I know what he means. When I first came to Canada in 2012 I experienced culture shock. Over time I came to understand that I was English, not British.

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Shoppers have brand new bag

By JR Shermack

If things go according to plan Canada's carbon footprint will eventually be reduced in size and we just took another footstep in that direction.

We all knew this day would come and now that it has, Canadian consumers are adjusting to the inconvenience of living without single-use plastic.

On December 20, 2022 the Government of Canada banned the manufacture and import of some harmful single-use plastics countrywide.

Any sale of these items in Canada will be prohibited altogether in December, 2023 allowing businesses enough time to deplete their existing stocks.

After that it will be cold turkey - Canadians will have to do without plastic cutlery, service ware, beverage ring carriers, stir sticks, straws and last but not least, plastic grocery bags.

Those wispy, white plastic bags whimsically dancing and swirling

on the breeze will soon be a thing of the past, gone with the wind, never to be seen again.

We've known for years that these bags were trouble but they were so useful and so abundant that they invaded our culture and soon they were everywhere.

I felt a little nostalgic when I heard that my supply of plastic shopping bags was running out - they may be problematic but they were also useful problem-solvers in many ways.

You could use them to line garbage cans, store wet clothing when returning from the beach, pack shoes in suitcases, or even reuse them on future shopping trips,

They were useful for gardening chores, for kitchen prep, for last minute luggage and of course plastic bags were great for storing all those extra plastic bags.

But as useful and reusable as they could be, they have to go - environmental degradation outweighs any creative uses for disposable bags and other single

use plastic.

Single use bags were very convenient and easy to use - they were light, durable, surprisingly strong, and when doubled up they could carry a good-sized watermelon.

All things considered, if it weren't for the environmental degradation and the merciless strangling of turtles and sea mammals, we might still consider using the things.

Unfortunately humans cannot be trusted to properly dispose of single use plastics which quickly invade the natural environment including waterways and entire oceans.

Consumers are being encouraged to buy and use a variety of reusable bags and bins for grocery transport but they present challenges of their own.

Paper bags seem like a good alternative but they are also single use and it takes four times as much energy to manufacture paper instead of plastic.

Reusable bags are another



Reusable bags are here to stay. (FILE)

suggested substitute but E. coli, salmonella, fecal coliform and who knows what other pathogens are lurking at the bottom of these bags.

This problem can be remedied with regular washing but studies revealed that 97% of grocery shoppers admitted that they never washed their reusable bags.

I wish I could say I was among the other 3%.

Reusable bags also have a higher carbon footprint than plastic and they must be re-used from 10 times (polypropylene) to 7100 times (cotton) to benefit the environment.

Choose your poison, paper or reusable.

As for me, I had a hundred ways to reuse plastic bags but I know they are a menace - I don't have the heart to strangle any more turtles.

I've switched to reusable bins and bags but these too are being stored away and forgotten in basements, back seats and they're even starting to get underfoot.

Is the solution worse than the original problem - what do we do now?

Any way you look at it, we're gonna need a brand new bag.

*what's happening
in and around...*

The Bay

To submit an event, email ldunick@dougallmedia.com.
Please include details about the event, including any cost

February 9

Thunderwolves Hockey

The Lakehead Thunderwolves have a chance to clinch a first-round bye, and with a win, set themselves up for a possible OUA division crown.

The first-place Windsor Lancers are headed to Fort William Gardens for LU's regular-season finale.

The T-Wolves are up three points on Brock and two points behind Windsor in the standings.

Game time is 7 p.m. and tickets are available at the door.

February 10

Thunder Bay Symphony

Yin meets Yang in a program of juxtaposition. Brahms' exuberant Second Symphony demonstrates the peak of 19th century romanticism in Europe.

Kelly Marie Murphy's double concerto for piano and percussion and Laura Sgroi's "We're Not Done Drumming" represent the future of

classical music, incorporating interdisciplinary mediums, and innovative scoring.

Join the TBSO at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium on Friday at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of harmony where the old and new live together on the same stage.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.

February 10-12

Disrupt it Weekend

Disrupt It Weekend will bring together bright, passionate, entrepreneurial-minded individuals to launch an idea in 54 hours.

Individuals can pitch their ideas, and cross functional teams are formed in order to develop the idea and validate a business model. On Sunday the teams present a final pitch to a panel of judges in hopes of winning the grand prize. More than \$6,000 in prizes are up for grabs.

Full event details can be found at

www.disruptit.ca.

Tickets are \$50 for general admission, which includes all catered meals, snacks and are available at eventbrite.ca.

Hosted by the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre, located at 2400 Nipigon Rd.

February 10-11

SIJHL Hockey

The Red Lake Miners will hit up Fort William Gardens on Friday and Saturday night as both Superior International Junior Hockey League teams get set to battle it out for positioning in the standings down the stretch.

The North Stars will be looking to rebound after dropping a pair at home last weekend to the visiting Dryden Ice Dogs.

Game time both nights is 7:30 p.m. and tickets are available at the door. The North Stars remind fans that it's cash only.

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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VISIT www.tbnewswatch.com
TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS
AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR
WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Has city council done enough to trim this year's municipal budget?

TOTAL VOTES: 2,466

YES 13.42%
 NO 76.32%
 DON'T KNOW 10.26%

Partial service dining is fine

The transition in my career that happened about five years ago now (which drastically changed my life forever I may add) was the moment I became cool with being “The Burger Guy.” Let me elaborate.

My entire career up to that point has been focused on full-service food operations.

Your standard restaurant is one of these operations, you sit down, and a server brings everything to you, your only responsibility as a guest is to enjoy the experience (and pay the bill). When I transitioned and opened Beefcakes I was in a world I wasn't overly familiar with.

Partial service restaurants can sometimes be confused with fast food as they have many similar characteristics from the guest's POV.

Typically, partial service restaurants usually won't use “real” dishes

or cutlery opting for the ease and speed of disposable products. You usually need to order and pay at a central location within the restaurant to allow for speed and ease of organization.

However, the differences lie in the back of house of the restaurant. Fast-food restaurants typically mass produce large amounts of their main ingredients and keep them warm for when they are ordered.

An example would be cooking 25 burger patties, leaving them in a holding pan and then just building each burger to order in an assembly line.

It can be a bit of culture shock for

some people when they get their food expecting more of a fast-food product and getting something special.

The opposite can also happen, though. More than a few times we can be confronted with the prospect of people expecting cutlery or dishes and getting disposable containers and being offended. Sometimes being very vocal about their displeasure.

Its because of this I have been very careful to market Beefcakes as a burger shop and not a restaurant. It can only mitigate, and not eliminate any confusion about what we are.

The prospect of disappointing a guest is not something that sits well



Derek Lankinen
Here's Cooking at You Kid



Full-service dining is still big, but partial service dining took off during the pandemic, with me (or any chef) on any given day.

Overall, during the COVID-19 pandemic many restaurant guests got accustomed to the partial service experience. Single use options for drinks and condiments became very

much the norm.

This is why I think that many partial service operations saw meteoric rises in sales and business during the pandemic. Partial service operations were very much already in line with many of the restrictions given to all food service operations during partial and full lockdowns across Canada.

The partial service system isn't flawless, supply chain issues can be devastating, as well as the single use plastic ban that is being enforced, making costs rise significantly again. With all of this being said, I'm still cool being “The Burger Guy” 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

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Cold returns

Well, this month began with an Arctic face, didn't it? Here we are in February, the Heart Month, sporting the colour red (all those cinnamon hearts candies after all), the month of love, Valentine's Day and, of course, chocolates in red, heart-shaped boxes. It is also the month for healthy heart awareness.

As I wrote in last week's column, traditionally we get the deep freeze in the middle of January. Not this year as all of you know. The deep freeze was slightly delayed by two weeks.

But we got through it. Friday morning was sunny and the coldest morning thus far with minus 35 temperature and a windchill of minus 40. Ain't letting the horses outside until the thermometer showed less than minus 26 and very little wind. That took place at twelve noon.

I suited up in warm togs and trudged over to the barn to 'kick' the horses outside and get them into their 'winter' paddock where they have a large, round, hay bale and a big tub full of water. The water didn't freeze because we have a heater floating on the water's surface.

Good. Then I set about cleaning the horse stalls. Since we had brought the equines inside the barn a lot earlier than usual, there were a lot more stall leavings to muck out.

And while the wind was still letting exposed flesh know of its presence, with the main barn door open and the noon sun steaming in, the hay area was nice and warm for dogs to 'hang out'.

I feed the birds. We have a feeder suspended from a branch on our crabapple tree. There is also a picnic table near the fire ring. I put black sunflower seeds on the table and in the feeder.

Then I watch as a flock of pine grosbeaks contend with blue jays, chickadees, one Hairy woodpecker, and two bothersome red squirrels. Then there is my raven.

I have written about her and her mate seeking nourishment from me. I used to deposit the feed (cheap dog food, meat scraps, etc.) on the tarp covering the wood pile.

But our new pup-on-the-block, Sophie is very dexterous at climbing and soon was on top of the wood pile gorging on the raven's repast. So, I found another spot higher up and that is where I put the

ravens' food.

What I especially like is when I peer out the kitchen window to observe Ma Raven sitting on the banister of our front stoop or even perched in front of the door.

Then I make sure puppies are secure in Casa Jones and slowly I exit the 'hoosie' talking soothingly to my feathered friend. She hops off of the stoop and waits for me to pass by, deposit the food, and the flies begin feeding. Often her husband is perched on top of the hydro pole and soon he, too, flies to join in the meal.

During these very cold few days, Lenore (named by daughter Beth) is waiting in the afternoon for more grub. Ah well, soon this pair will be nesting. These are the earliest nesters in the bird family in this neck of the woods.

Ravens mate for life and once the eggs are laid, they take turns sitting on them while the mate brings food to share. We began feeding the ravens years ago after a particularly vicious ice storm wherein the pair lost their young who froze to death. I decided to help out.

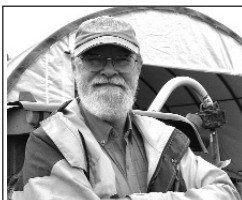
Sunday we received flurries. After feeding equines their grain, we decided that since the week of frigid temperatures really prevented us from strapping on the snowshoes and tromping over our trails, that we should strap on our snowshoes and tromp the trails that had all but disappeared under fresh fallings of snow.

Not only did we need the exercise, but so did the pooches who had not had a good 'tomp' for a long time.

Any visible trail was gone. During the week-of-freeze, it also snowed just enough to cover the snowshoe trail. No matter, we knew where it was. Unfortunately for our old, big dog, Baxter, in two places he didn't and sunk in the snow.

With some effort, the old guy managed to get back onto solid snow. Didn't matter for the two lighter pooches who would plough through the snow whether or not they were on the hard-packed surface.

Again, we had to stop while trekking to drink in the magic of the forest. "We have entered faerie land," I enthused. Gorgeous and just requiring a bit of imagination.



Fred Jones
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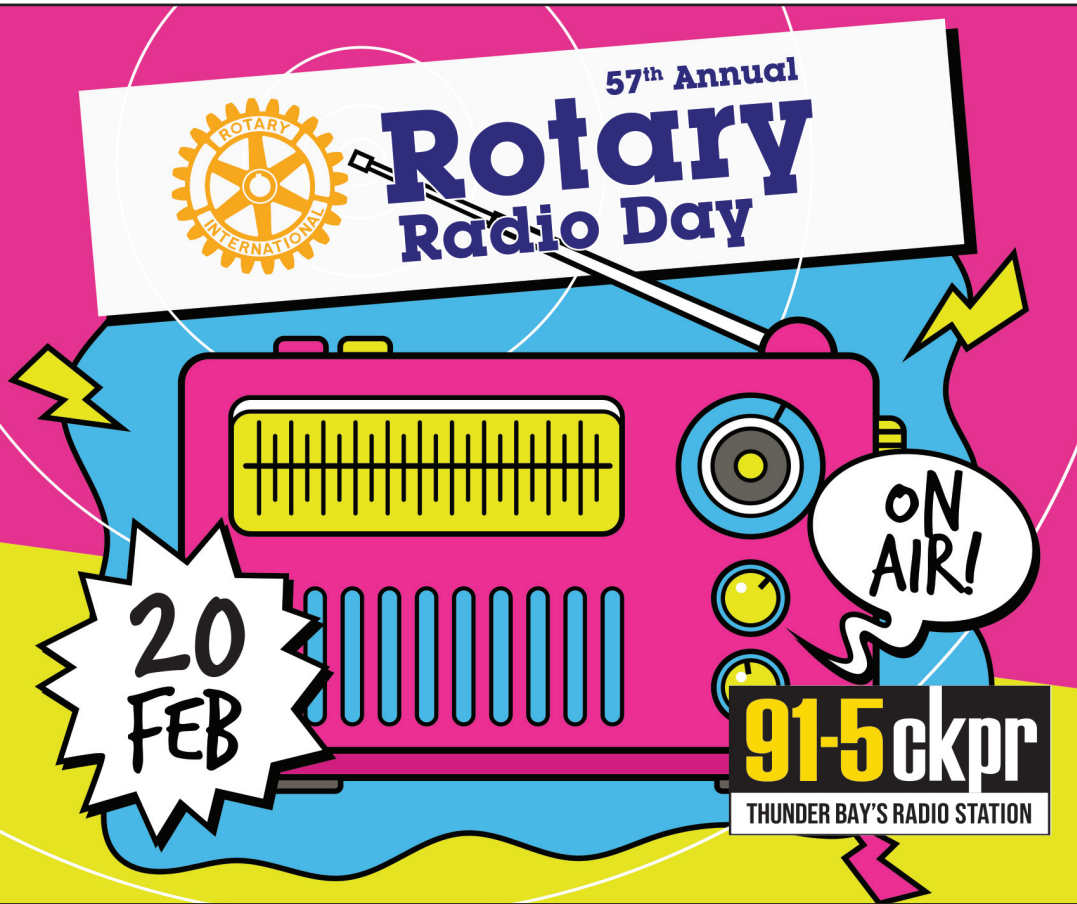
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This year is no different and on Monday, February 20, 91.5 CKPR will donate all of its commercial time to raise money to allow the Rotarians to continue to make significant contributions to many worthwhile projects right here in our own community.

Sled dogs need lots of care

A couple weeks ago, I wrote about the dogsled racing adventures of Julia Cross. It has been interesting to hear from many readers how fascinated they are with the young musher and her dogs. So, I have decided to follow up the story about Julia's biggest races with a bit of a prequel about how it all began, and everything involved in keeping her dogs healthy and happy.

Twenty-year old Julia Cross has always been obsessed with dogs. To illustrate the point, she shares the fact that, as a baby, the second word out of her mouth was "woof". Her love of canines continued to grow and by the time her fourth birthday party rolled around, she only invited

the neighbourhood dogs.

It was the following year, when she was five, that her true passion was born. Her family attended the Fort William Historical Park Winter Carnival.

It was at this event that she had her first opportunity to try a dogsled ride.

Having found a sport that involved her two favourite things, dogs and the outdoors, she was immediately hooked.

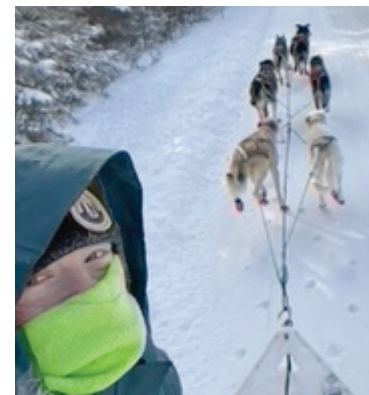
She started helping out the kennel owner with his dogs and was determined to learn everything she could.

At 10, she attended her first race to watch, and then participated the following year. She got her first sled

dogs at age 12 and it has been one big joy ride ever since.

Julia currently owns five sled dogs, two retired sled dogs, a puppy, and two prime age race dogs. They are all Alaskan Huskies, bred for hundreds of years specifically for dogsledding. Keeping all these dogs healthy requires a strict daily routine and a lot of work.

Training the huskies often starts in early September, when temperatures start to drop below 10 degrees Celsius. Because sled dogs have thick coats, they are unable to run in warmer weather. This means their summer is spent relaxing, raising puppies, and going on adventures. But once the cooler temperatures of autumn arrive, the dogs will start up again with short runs pulling an ATV. Milage steadily increases as temperatures continue to drop.



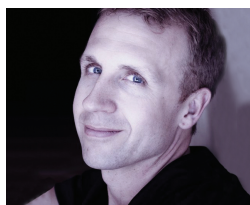
Julia Cross and her dogs. (Submitted)

Mornings through the colder months involve feeding the dogs a meat and water mixture to ensure they are hydrated. If she is not working or in class, Julia follows this up with a training run that lasts a

couple hours. On work and school days, she will train them at night instead. They get an evening meal of meat, high protein kibble, and plenty of water to ensure they are getting enough calories and hydration. On days the dogs don't have training, they get free run time in a fenced area.

When she is not training her dogs, Julia stays busy with work and school. As you might expect, her passion for canines has inspired her career path. She works at Thunder Bay Veterinary Hospital as a Veterinary Assistant. At school, she is in the final year of her undergrad and has her sights set on becoming a veterinarian.

When she finishes school, Julia plans to get back into racing more heavily with the ultimate goal of running the famous Iditarod race.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE



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An impassioned abuse debate

Women Talking, (SilverCity) directed by Sarah Polley, focuses on women living in an isolated religious community attempting to decide their future upon the horrific discovery that they're being sexually victimized by their menfolk.

For years, the men have been gaslighting the women, brazenly convincing them that assault and sexual abuse they've sustained while sleeping is punishment exacted by ghosts and Satan, exploiting the women's blind faith and enforced illiteracy.

The men have been drugging the women with cattle tranquilizer. One abuser is found out, coughing up other names, resulting in virtually all the men going to town to deal with the charges. The women have 48 hours to decide their fate before

the men return.

Meeting in a barn, eight of the women are delegated by their peers to discuss their options: "do nothing," "stay and fight," or "leave." There are complex ramifications behind each choice: escalating mistreatment or ultimately breaking free for an uncertain future.

Women Talking is a fable, reflecting the experience faced universally by all victims of abuse. The cast compellingly conveys their characters' trauma.

The film points to the dark side of patriarchal structures, and the challenges in leaving abusive relationships regardless of circum-

stances to seek a better life.

Despite appearances, the colony is never identified as Mennonite, a departure from Miriam Toews' acclaimed 2018 novel, inspired by real incidents occurring within a Bolivian Mennonite community from 2005 to 2009.



Marty Mascarin
MOVIE TALK

Toews grew up in a Mennonite community. The film contends, though, that such atrocities can occur anywhere. It's simply more shocking in cloistered societies where religion of any stripe prevails.

There are generational clashes over faith, philosophy, moral obligations. The impassioned debate within a contained space recalls "Inherit the Wind" and "12

Angry Men," sidestepping (generally) didactic speechifying.

Judith Ivey and Sheila McCarthy espouse wisdom from the elder perspective. Younger Claire Foy and Jessie Buckley seethe with vengeance. Scarred Frances McDormand wishes to forgive.

The youngest characters, partly through the narration, also have their moment, mercifully minus self-conscious staginess.

Carrying a rapist's child, Rooney Mara's serene Ona is compromised, fearing the baby will be raised by the rapist's family.

Ben Wishaw's August, hopelessly in love with Ona, is the troubled, male school teacher recording their minutes to instruct future generations.

The temporal setting feels like 19th century until a 2010 census

taker shows up, his vehicle blaring with the Monkee's *Daydream Believer*. Otherwise, technology takes the form of horse-drawn wagons.

There is some leavening humour. Polley does a nice job with cutaways of everyday life, showing the children at play, innocent, genuine.

Cinematographer Luc Montpellier's hues create a bucolic timelessness. Hildur Guðnadóttir's score underlines the emotional undercurrents surrounding the women's plight.

Women Talking is Oscar nominated for best picture and best adapted screenplay. Ms. Polley is not nominated for best director, nor several of her directorial peers, nor any of her cast. Someone should have a "talk" with the Academy.

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Comeback falls short

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Comebacks are crowd-pleasers when they're completed.

They're not so entertaining when they fall short.

A night after rallying from 25 down to edge the Toronto Metropolitan Bold by six, the Lakehead Thunderwolves were at it again on Saturday night, finding themselves down by 13 points at the half, only to be back on even ground by the time the fourth quarter rolled around.

This time, however, it was the Bold who came out on top, thanks in large part to a fantastic finish by guard Aaron Rhooms, who put up 10 of his 25 points on the night in the final frame, leading TMU to an 84-75 win at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse, just the second time the Thunderwolves have gone down to defeat on home court in 2022-23.

"It was my teammates, having faith in my teammates, having faith in the system, as a unit. We dug in, we remembered our principles and we got it done," said Rhooms, a second-year budding star from Mississauga.

Tied 59-59 after three, Rhooms opened with a bucket to give the Bold the lead back, then orchestrated a steal and completed the bucket, TMU taking a 63-59 lead.

He'd hit a pair of threes later in the frame, but even down by 12, the Thunderwolves didn't relent, Michael Okafor nailing a three and completing an and-one at the free-throw line to cut the double-digit TMU lead in half, needing just 40 seconds to do so.

But LU couldn't take advantage of a turnover of Toronto Metropolitan's next possession and David Walker put up a quick four point to extend the lead back to nine with less than two minutes to play and time ran out.

Okafor, who finished with 29, said he and his teammates didn't get the job



Lakehead's Michael Okafor (left) and TMU's David Walker chase down a ball last Saturday. (Leith Dunick)

done in the defensive zone. "It was hard. We'd get a bucket and then we couldn't get a defensive stop. It's hard with a talented team like that, not getting a defensive stop."

The former NCAA wing was the only Lakehead shooter to find much of a groove on the night, the sole player to hit double digits. Tyler Sagl and Dylan Morrison came close, with eight apiece, but the shots didn't fall, other than in the third, when the Thunderwolves outscored TMU 26-13, even taking a 59-57 lead late in the period.

After trailing by 16 after one on Friday night, Lakehead was down 25-12 after one in Saturday's rematch, a deficit that would hold until halftime.

One area that Lakehead will need to improve in is at the free-throw line.

Down 14 at the buzzer, Laoui Msambya

was fouled taking a shot from half-court, but only hit one of three free throws. So instead of cutting the lead to 11, it was 13. On the night Lakehead made just 17 of 26 from the charity stripe, a momentum killer at times.

"If we're able to generate free throw attempts, that's good offence. But when we get there, we have to be focused and ready to take advantage. That, and maybe settling for some really difficult threes, didn't help us," said LU coach Ryan Thomson.

That said, falling behind to a team like the Bold was not part of the playbook.

"It was just a disappointing start," Thomson said. "At halftime they were shooting 60 per cent from the field. It's tough to be in a game, let alone still in striking distance at halftime, but really we just didn't execute at the start."

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"CLCXJ XCLUBYZNUQ CLMIUXMZCB MQT
 ECMLCB RCGNQ T UQEJ ZGC BENHC UV M
 QCF RYXCMYOXMOJ."

— VXMQP DMVDM

8										3
3	5									
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5	9			8	4	7				1
		4		1	5	2				8
9	2									5
				4						
1		7								2

ACROSS

- 1 Guido's low note
- 6 Limited (abbr.)
- 9 Cotillon attendee
- 12 Nest-building fish
- 13 One hundred square meters
- 14 Feminine (suf.)
- 15 Cudgel
- 16 Evil
- 17 Fishing line
- 18 Dayak short sword
- 20 Doctor in "The Faerie Queene"
- 22 Ant
- 24 Amazon tributary
- 27 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 28 Tribe symbol
- 32 Building (abbr.)

- 34 Chafe
- 36 Heb. patriarch's title
- 37 Like muscle
- 39 Beak
- 41 Boy Scouts of America (abbr.)
- 42 Mex. spiny tree
- 44 Embrace
- 47 Polish general
- 52 Pasture
- 53 Bean
- 55 At the age of (Lat.)
- 56 Babism founder
- 57 Sheep disease
- 58 Pac. island
- 59 "Fables in Stang" author
- 60 Guido's note (2 words)
- 61 Extraneous

DOWN

- 1 Breathe rapidly

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	P	A	C	S	T	A	P	B		
B	E	E	F		O	L	E	E	L	A
A	R	A	B		T	A	P	A	C	O
N	B	C		K	E	V	E	L	D	E
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R	E	F	R	A	I	N		O	C	C
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J	A	L	A	P		L	A	B	R	O
				L	A	N		M	A	A
O	M	A		H	E	L	O	T	L	I
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L	A	R	A		E	D	E		A	C
D	E	B		L	E	D		R	H	E

- 2 Things done
- 3 Volcano crater
- 4 Crab-eating mongoose
- 5 Tapeworm
- 6 Science class
- 7 Traffic
- 8 Subtract
- 9 Grape syrup
- 10 Grandson of Adam
- 11 Slavic nurse
- 19 Growl
- 21 Jacket
- 23 Finnish steam bath
- 24 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)
- 25 Work at steadily
- 26 Bother
- 29 Price
- 30 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 31 Missing in action (abbr.)
- 33 Tour or drive (Ital.)
- 35 Pulpit
- 38 Infer
- 40 Fruit
- 43 Alps
- 44 Isle of Napoleon
- 45 Hoover Dam lake
- 46 Endearment
- 48 Bargain
- 49 Needle case
- 50 Uncommon
- 51 Shock
- 54 Goddess (Lat.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
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59					60			61		

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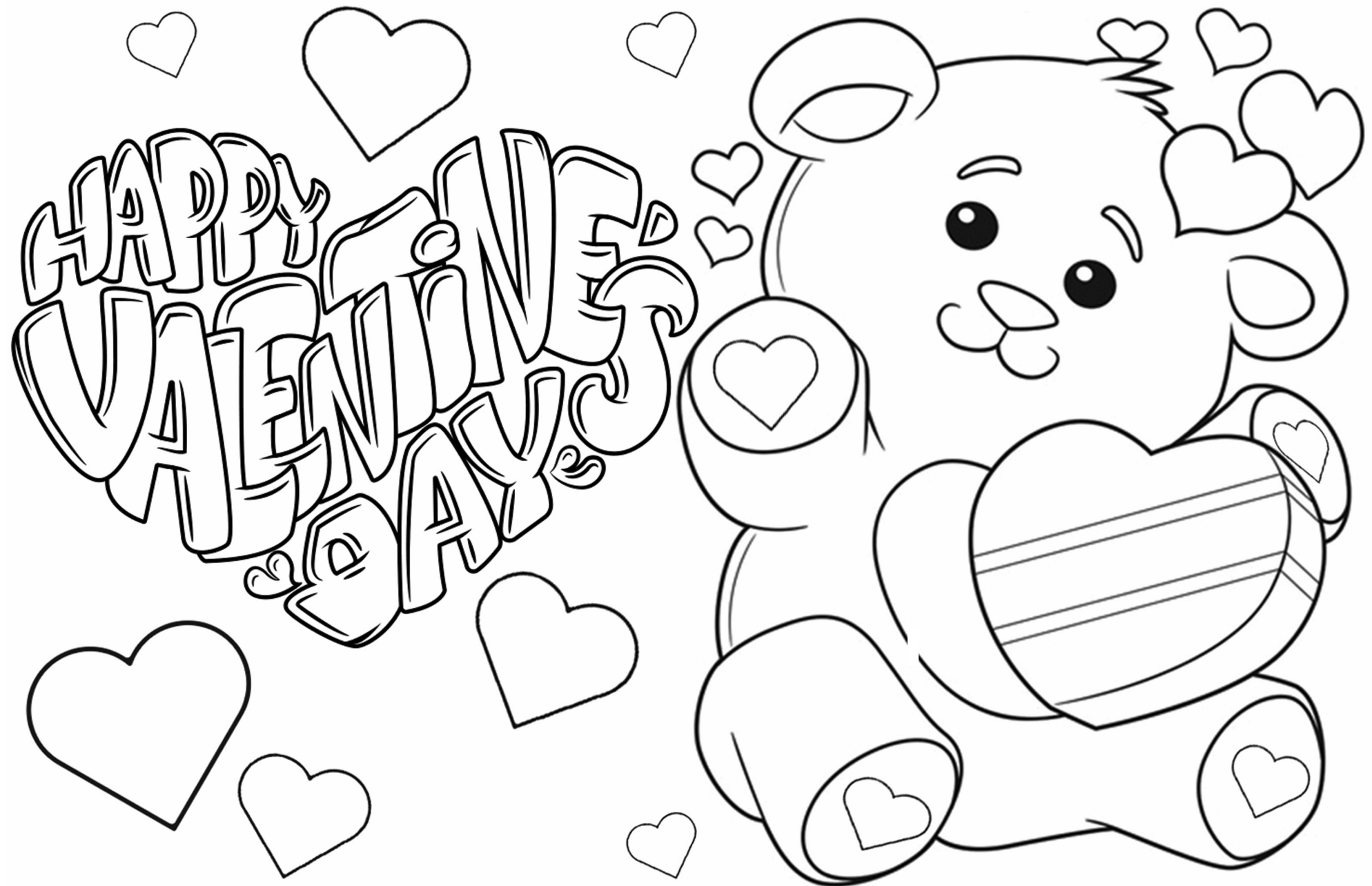
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38. Snowmobiles
 39. Parts & Repairs
YARD SALES
 40. Current River
 41. Northward
 42. South
 43. Westfort
 44. Rural

FOR RENT
 11. Houses
 12. Apartments
 13. Rooms
 14. Room & Board
 15. Shared Accommodations
 16. Cottages
 17. Commercial
 18. Storage/Space
 19. Wanted
 20. Condos
 21. Miscellaneous

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 46. Health
 47. Travel
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 51. Notices
 52. Tenders

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 23. Misc.
 24. Antiques
 25. Music
 26. Office Equip.
 27. Machinery
 28. Pets & Livestock
 29. Food
 30. Misc. Wanted

BUSINESS & SERVICES
 53. General Services
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 56. Training Courses

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 31. Cars | 32. Trucks
 33. Vans
 34. Motorcycles/ATV's
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 Seasoned mixed firewood ready to burn. \$100 per Cord - pick up Intercity. Call 345-4363

SEWING BEE - alterations like hemming, new zippers, dresses, or any kind of project. Reasonable rate and quick service 807-631-5101.

30. MISC. WANTED
 Canadian and US silver and gold coins and paper money. Call Alex 627-4533. A Szczomak auction since '95

45. AUCTIONS
 Online auto auction. Opens February 11th 9:06 am. Closing February 16th, 7:06pm. Selling Dodge 5-2011-2012 Crew cab 4x4 Long box with 70-150K, Chevy half tons and International with dump, used 8x20 storage container, coins/paper money, other miscellaneous. Preview Saturday Feb 11th, 10-3pm @ 294 North Cumberland St. Further Info call Alex 627-4533. To bid go to ontariorealestateauction.hibid.com. Usual auction terms.

51. NOTICES
 West End Bruins Hockey Club License M835751 Draw: Jan 26th, 2023, 7:00pm Ticket #5826 - 1st prize - \$3245.40 - - - - Kobi-Lynne Perry Ticket #0804 - 2nd prize - \$1622.70 - Nicole Sherman Ticket #0909 - 3rd prize - \$540.90 - Joshua Swerda

53. GENERAL SERVICES
 #1 dump runs. Snowblowing services. Junk clean ups, inside/outside. General maintenance repairs. Handyman services. Frank 628-5919 or 767-0995.

Book Now - RustBlock vehicle corrosion protection, drip-less. 127 Algoma St. S, 344-2886. Call for an appointment and drop-ins welcome

Full Car clean-up + detailing - Smoke odor control, bio-hazard cleaning, liquid glass paint protection & scratch removal. Hands on Car Wash, 127 Algoma St. S. Drop-ins always welcome! 344-2886

Revenue Canada Certified - Income Tax Prep/E-file Service, personal and small business. Pick-up, delivery and Senior's discount available. Call 344-2886 or 623-7467

TREE REMOVAL SERVICES. In town/rural, ++experience, Man-lift, insured, and seniors' discounts! Very reasonable rates, free estimates. Call Jacques (Jack) 345-4363

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8	1	2	4	5	9	6	3	7
3	5	6	1	7	8	9	2	4
4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1	5
2	8	1	9	6	7	5	4	3
5	9	3	2	8	4	7	6	1
7	6	4	3	1	5	2	9	8
9	2	8	7	3	1	4	5	6
6	3	5	8	4	2	1	7	9
1	4	7	5	9	6	3	8	2

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ACARA	ARE	INA
STAVE	BAD	BOB
PARANG	DUESA	
	INSECT	
APA	AAA	TOTEM
BLDG	RUB	NASI
MYOID	NEB	BISA
	RETAMA	
EMBODY	ANDERS	
LEA	URD	AETAT
BAB	COE	NAURU
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public' about depression and
taking control of their health.*

