



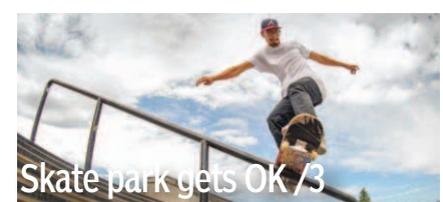
Earthquake aftermath /4



Mustang up for grabs /14



House lottery launches /15



Skate park gets OK /3

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Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 20 No. 7

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Snowarama returns after a two-year absence in support of Easter Seals



Riders started last Saturday's Snowarama at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino and spent the day riding along the trails of northern Minnesota. (Leith Dunick, tbnewswatch.com)

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Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin?

“Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is the Tikinagan service model. In Ojibway/Oji-Cree, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin means, **“Everyone working together to raise our children.”** It is a system of protecting and caring for children and supporting families that has been designed and is delivered by First Nations people in our 30 communities.”

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A skateboard park at Marina Park is one of the best used recreational facilities in the city. (Rob Fournier)

Park plan OKed

By Ian Kaufman –TB Source

A plan to build a skate park where the Dease Pool once stood has cleared one of its last remaining obstacles, rolling on to a final round of public consultation before becoming a reality as soon as next year.

Thunder Bay's city council gave a draft plan for the skate park its approval on Monday, setting the stage for consultations that will help hone its design.

The plan, developed in collaboration with the Thunder Bay Skateboard Coalition and released last week, envisions a park catering to beginner and intermediate skateboarders.

Councillors voiced general support for the plan, but raised some concerns over noise, inclusivity, and a proposed outdoor pizza oven.

Skateboard coalition chair John Kelly looked to dispel concerns as more myth than reality.

"You might remember me from such projects as the Marina skateboard plaza – that big, scary project with all the graffiti and the punks who'd be down there destroying our city," he began a presentation to council.

"That hasn't quite happened, has it? It's probably one of the highest-used recreation facilities in the entire city."

Public feedback on the plan will be collected through an online survey and consultations with neighbourhood residents and the local skateboard community.

Council approved the skate park concept in 2021, but hasn't yet assigned funding or a timeline.

The idea was recommended following consultations indicating strong support among area residents.

"The most comments we got were that because it was a pool before, you really should be focusing on something for the youth to do," parks supervisor Werner Schwar told council.

Kelly called building those opportunities crucial in a neighbourhood he described as beset with poverty and addictions.

"I grew up less than one block from the Dease Park site," he said. "That park, that pool is what saved a lot of our lives. That's where we met, that's where we felt safe from the drug trade and everything else surrounding us."

"I can tell you for a fact that we've definitely kept kids out of prison over at the Marina skateboard plaza, and that's just going to continue here at Dease."

Coun. Rajni Agarwal called that inclusivity into question.

"You said this urban plaza is a meeting place for all," she said. "If I want to go there and have a picnic, I'm not necessarily going to skateboard, because I'm not four. I probably would fall down."

The most serious objection appeared to be noise issues raised by Coun. Mark Bentz on Monday.

Bentz supports the skate park, but asked if it could be located across the street to Dease Park – an option staff said cuts too far into the park's limited space.

The plan puts the skate park within 20 feet of some residences, Bentz said.

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Snow Showers
Precipitation: 0% HIGH -11 LOW -22	Precipitation: 30% HIGH -2 LOW -9	Precipitation: 60% HIGH -2 LOW -9	Precipitation: 60% HIGH 0 LOW -11

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Earthquake aftermath tough

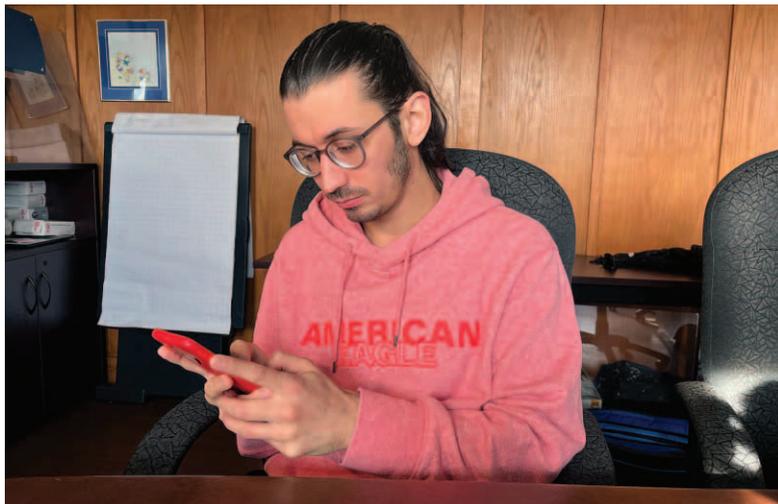
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

In 11 years of living through Syria's civil war, Ahmad Hafez says his family never experienced anything as terrifying as last week's earthquake that flattened parts of Aleppo, his home province, and much of southern Turkey.

Hafez, who recently moved to Thunder Bay from Lebanon, on Tuesday said he was on the phone with a friend in Syria when the earthquake struck.

Moments later, as the magnitude of the disaster started setting in, and hours later as he still couldn't reach his family, panic set in.

Nearly 38,000 people are confirmed dead in the two countries, with large sections of Aleppo left in ruins, leaving tens of thousands homeless.



Ahmad Hafez checks his phone for messages from friends and family in Syria. (Leith Dunick)

Hafez was finally able to reach his family, learning they were safe, though one of his sisters is unable

to return to her apartment to collect her belongings, the Syrian government warning the cracks in

the building's structure make it unsafe to enter.

"My sister took her kid, she has a three-month-old, grabbed it in her hands and just started running," Hafez said, recounting what his sister later told him.

"She started losing her balance and going from one wall to the other because it was a very (strong) earthquake. They live on the fourth floor or the third floor. They felt something they have never felt in 10 years of war, as she explained. That was the hardest feeling they've every felt."

Hafez said he felt helpless, safe in Canada, unable to help his family and friends recover from the disaster, which also left 14,500 people injured in Syria.

"I was really relieved, but at the same time, when you're looking at

the news and all of your friends' houses are cracked, and some of my friends' houses have collapsed and they've been left homeless, it's tough," Hafez said.

"Especially my best friend. She lives in Turkey and had to move her mom from a city that has half collapsed to another city just to make her safe because they lost their house. They lost their belongings. In one minute, they lost everything. So I can't say I was fully relieved because I have other people there who mean something to me. They were very (badly) affected."

Hafez said he's encouraging Canadians to help with donations to provide relief to those impacted by the earthquake. The Red Cross of Canada is accepting donations to provide that emergency help.

Police Act charges against former police chief dropped

Sylvie Hauth retired before the charges could be heard

By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Police Services Act charges against former city police chief Sylvie Hauth have officially been dismissed by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission following her retirement late last month.

Hauth was facing charges of discreditable conduct and deceit and a Police Service Act hearing was scheduled to be held in February 2023.

The OCPC released a ruling on Feb. 1, 2023 stating all charges against Hauth are dismissed due to a lack of jurisdiction because she was no longer employed as a police officer.

No longer a cop

"On January 30, 2023, the applicant brought a written motion to quash the proceedings on the basis the Commission is without jurisdiction in light of the applicant's resignation," the ruling reads.

"The applicant's resignation stopped the investigation process under s. 25(4) of the PSA, including the hearing, immediately and the Commission has

no jurisdiction to conduct the hearing or deliver a decision on its merits."

Hauth originally announced in June 2022 that she intended to retire as chief of police in June 2023. The same day, the OCPC announced Hauth would be subject to misconduct hearings under the Police Services Act but she stated she was unaware of the notice of hearing prior to releasing her plans to retire.

Stepped down

In early January 2023, Hauth announced her retirement would take effect Jan. 27, 2023, less than two weeks from the tentative start date of the Police Service Act hearing scheduled to begin on Feb. 6, 2023.

The charges against Hauth involved her role in an investigation the police service initiated against Thunder Bay Police Services Board member Georjann Morriseau over breach of trust, related to allegations she shared confidential information with a police officer.

According to the OCPC, Hauth was aware of the investigation but stated in a confidential memo on Oct. 12, 2021 that "it would not be appropriate for a police service to investigate any of its members or board members."

Hauth served as chief of the Thunder Bay Police Service since 2018 following 30 years with the service.



SYLVIE HAUTH

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EcoSuperior changes leadership

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

EcoSuperior has announced a change in its leadership structure and the appointment of two people to manage the operations of the non-profit environmental organization.

Erin Moir and Ashley Priem will serve as co-executive directors of the Thunder Bay-based group that provides education and resources to the public to promote environmental stewardship.

They take over from Sue Hamel, who's leaving to pursue a new opportunity in the conservation field after serving as executive director for a little over three years.

Both Moir and Priem have served in management roles with EcoSuperior, and together they have over 20 years of experience with the organization.

"We are privileged to take on this

new leadership role and model. We feel leadership is stronger in partnerships," Moir said in a statement Tuesday.

Priem added that the pair already has extensive experience working well together over a period of many years.

Although co-leadership is new to EcoSuperior, it's been used successfully by other non-profit organizations.

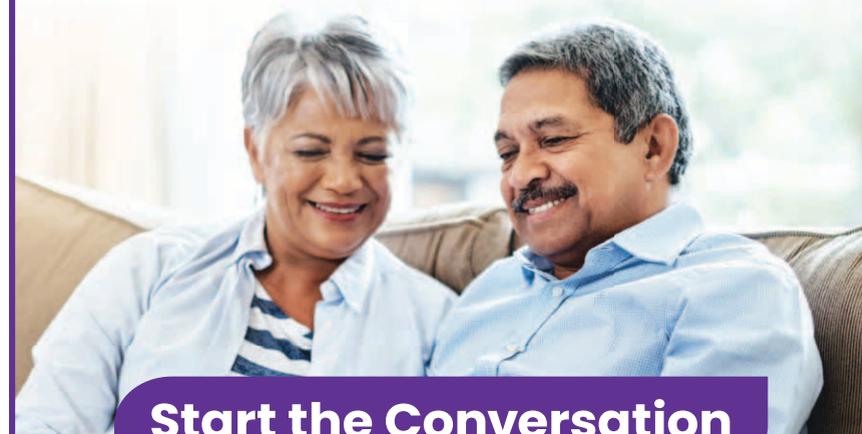
Speaking for the EcoSuperior board of directors, Sara Chow thanked Hamel for her service, saying the organization has seen many positive changes during her tenure.

"We know that we will continue to see positive progress with Erin and Ashley leading together. They are well-known in our community, and have many years of experience in implementing successful programs."



Erin Moir (left) and Ashley Priem have been appointed co-executive directors at EcoSuperior, taking over from Sue Hamel. (Submitted photo)

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Feathers of Hope gets boost

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The Indigenous youth advocacy group Feathers of Hope says a donation of over \$25,000 announced Friday will help ensure its work continues into the future.

The donation will support a new podcast the group is launching, among other initiatives.

Jason Thompson, president of Superior Strategies, an Indigenous-owned health and safety company, presented a cheque for \$25,570 to the organization on Friday.

The company launched the fundraising campaign in 2021, when it began selling Every Child Matters shirts, with five dollars from each going to Feathers of Hope.

The organization arose out of efforts by First Nations leaders and Ontario's child and youth advocate



Jason Thompson, left, of Superior Strategies presented the proceeds of an orange shirt fundraising campaign to Feathers of Hope treasurer Harley Legarde-Beacham. (Ian Kaufman)

to address concerns over Indigenous youth mental health and suicides.

Harley Legarde-Beacham, the

organization's treasurer, called the donation "very exciting," saying it helps the organization find its

footing, after the youth advocate's office was axed by the Ford government.

"Everything we want to accomplish, it makes it that much easier now. When the provincial advocate's office had shut down, none of us really knew what we were going to do. We worked with so many youth across Ontario, [then] it almost felt like we were stranded."

The group is currently planning how to advance work it's done in the past, like holding forums for First Nations youth across the region and advocating for action from policy-makers.

In the shorter term, Legarde-Beacham said, Feathers of Hope will use some of the donation to support plans to launch a podcast it hopes will spark conversations and build

engagement.

"With COVID, there's a lot of depression — we all felt it," he said. "We want to bring our youth back together and have them rise up."

The podcast will focus on issues of health and well-being in Indigenous communities.

"We want to bring in guests, get our name out there, get youth to start opening up and helping themselves live better, be healthier," Legarde-Beacham said.

Thompson said the work is crucial, and aligns with the company's own mission.

The shirts remain on sale, and Thompson said the company has discussed more collaborations with Feathers for Hope in the future.

Those interested in the shirts can call the Superior Strategies office at (807) 623-2004.

Search for new police chief narrowed to two

By TB Source staff

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board apparently has made progress in its search for a new chief of police.

Mayor Ken Boshcoff, who sits on the board, revealed Monday that there are only two candidates still in the running to succeed Sylvie Hauth, who officially retired last month.

"The quality of the candidates that applied were of a very high level, and of a capacity that several of them would be able to do the job. It's making me feel optimistic about the person who will end up being the leader," the mayor said in an interview.

"We know what we need here. We need basically somebody who can bring the community, the region and the representatives of the various social service and protective service agencies to work, understanding that we are a regional centre for a gargantuanly large area."

Boshcoff said he expects the final decision to be made "in the very near future."

Police board secretary John Hannam recently stated that there was "lots of interest" in the job posting, which closed on Dec. 16.

Candidates have been screened by board administrator Malcolm Mercer and the board's governance committee, which includes three board members and three Indigenous representatives.

An expert panel recommended last year that the



Mayor Ken Boshcoff is a member of the police services board.

board give preference in the hiring process to an Indigenous or racialized candidate, provided that the successful applicant meets other essential criteria for the job.

Mercer, who has sole decision-making power on the board, is currently scheduled to step aside at the end of March.

But his term has already been extended once, and the Ontario government has reserved the right to grant further extensions.

Boshcoff said he believes Mercer has been "certainly very helpful in steering the direction" of the board, and that "processes are in place for a long-lived and solid relationship between the board, the police service and the community."

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EDITORIAL

See the light

It's beyond time the city does something about its traffic lights.

It's ridiculous driving around this city, especially at night, sitting and waiting for the right to keep moving.

The intersection at Isabel Street and Memorial Avenue is the worst offender of all.

At midnight, left-turn signals are still activated, and rarely are there any vehicles in need. The traffic at that time of night certainly doesn't warrant it.

Meanwhile, vehicles travelling north and south sit and wait, idling away expensive and polluting fuel, for absolutely no reason.

After 10 p.m., is there really a reason for traffic lights to be functional at all but the busiest of intersections? How about making the lights in the city flash red, indicating a four-way stop? How about sensors during the day that activate lights on 'side' streets only when a vehicle is present?

Thunder Bay city council was proud to enact a net zero emissions strategy in 2021. For a city so concerned with greenhouse gases, fixing the lights would be an easy way for everyone to reduce their carbon footprint.

Libraries help To the editor:

I used to be homeless, addicted and mental illness. I battled for a hard eight years, and I wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for libraries.

They provided me with a safe space where I could go to focus on the things I needed to do to stabilize my life. The library helped me get grounded by providing me access to computers, printers alongside non-judgmental staff. They also helped encourage me to access community self help programs. But, most importantly, on the days where life was too much, the library would let me hide in the corner of a room so I could escape into a book for the day.

When I eventually got help with my issues, I found myself back at the library like many others that are in recovery. You see, recovery from addiction and mental illness needs consistent, healthy, and supportive structure from the community. I would take out books, DVDs, and things that were healthy, to help keep my mind in a good place — these things were vital in reforming my thinking and in developing healthy mental habits.

By being able to access

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



computers, get job interviews, view apartments, and access online mental health support, the library was a lifeline during this time.

I found online education and taught myself high-school math and English so I could take the college mature student test. It took me three tries, but eventually I passed.

Now, as a poor person who has nothing, with all the free support from the library, I find myself in university in my final year of my philosophy degree, and in my third year of my social-work degree. The library helped me find my identity as a student and a scholar, first at college and now at university. I

have the library to thank for this because I couldn't have done it any other way. There were no other supports like this available at that time.

It was said by one of the city councillors during budget deliberations that Thunder Bay is going to be reduced to only roads and health care. But what about the moral potholes? If the city makes cuts to the library and other education and community service agencies, I can only imagine the drain on the city emergency services. People living with low incomes, people who may be battling addiction, homelessness and mental illness need their public libraries. Imagine people with no where to go to learn and grow, with nothing constructive to do — what will they turn to?

Community builds capacity, and if you don't promote a healthy community, all you will ever be doing is responding to the increasing social issues and problems. There are mountains of research on how to strengthen and improve the health and well-being of a community, and public libraries are very high on that list.

Jace Watford,
Thunder Bay

Kingfisher reimagines Poe's House of Usher

What Moves the Dead by T. Kingfisher is an intriguing reworking of the classic Edgar Allan Poe short story *The Fall of the House of Usher*. In many ways these two works should be read together for one builds and feeds off the other.

Poe chillingly set the scene with the opening lines to his 1839 masterpiece: 'During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher.'

The House, along with its occu-

pants - the twin brother and sister Roderick and Madeline Usher - are the main characters. The House, which has a zig zag crack running across its edifice and is surrounded by a deep, dark and sinister tarn, seems to have a life of its own.

But it is another detail about the house, in particular, that Kingfisher builds her narrative upon: 'Minute fungi overspread the whole exterior, hanging in a fine tangled web-work from the eaves.'

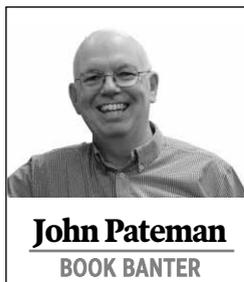
When Alex Easton, a retired soldier, receives word that his child-

hood friend, Madeline Usher, is dying, he races to the ancestral home, just like the narrator of Poe's story.

What he finds there is a nightmare of fungal growths and possessed wildlife, and strange green pulsing lights emanating from the tarn.

Madeline sleepwalks and speaks in strange voices at night, and Roderick is consumed with a mysterious

malady of the nerves. Poe ascribes this to a hereditary condition by which the bodily senses are raised to a height of



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

terrible influence which for centuries had moulded the destinies of the Usher family and made Roderick what he was.

Kingfisher brilliantly picks up and embellishes this detail in Poe's narrative to create an extension of it that is every bit as terrifying as the original.

Aided by a redoubtable British mycologist and a baffled American doctor, Alex must unravel the secret of the House of Usher before it consumes them all.

An important clue lies in the strange behaviour of the hares that inhabit the estate. They stand still, as if inviting to be shot, or move listlessly around, as if they are the living dead.

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Dodo birds may make return

By JR Shermack

A long, long time ago on the island Nation of Mauritius there lived a strange looking bird with a big head, a large, hook-tipped bill and short legs.

It was a heavyset bird (up to 45 pounds) with small wings and weak pectoral muscles which made it a flightless bird as well, foraging a living on the forest floor.

Sailors first encountered this bird in 1598 and it was named Dodo after its appearance and other physical traits that made it easy to capture and cook.

As with other unfortunate species who have encountered us, less than a century later the birds were extinct, largely due to their disastrous involvement with humans.

We seem to have that effect on many of the animals we meet – we eat a few, we introduce predatory species, we destroy their habitat and then they disappear forever.

But now, centuries later, dodo DNA has been fully sequenced and this awkward, ungainly bird has made it to the list of extinct creatures selected for de-extinction.

Technology has given us the tools to correct one of our most tragic mistakes by bringing back the dodo but it will be a difficult, daunting and risky endeavor.

There is a firm in Austin Texas named Colossal Biosciences which has accepted this challenge “on behalf of humanity, the animal kingdom and the universe at large”.

I was intrigued by their very bold acceptance of a challenge that was never issued and I was curious to learn more about their so-called mission for humanity.

Before we find ourselves overrun by waddling dodos it might be nice to know a little about Colossal and why they have chosen to fiddle with resurrection.

They call themselves “the de-extinction company” and have



Dodos were easy catches in 1598.

been in the news lately with plans to restore the long-extinct dodo bird to its former glory.

The Colossal mission is to accept humanity’s duty to restore Earth to a healthier state by using advanced DNA technology to bring back previously lost species.

It is uncertain whether they will be successful – the plan is dependent on huge future advances in genome editing, stem cell biology and animal husbandry.

There is no point in counting their dodos before they hatch.

The dodo’s closest relative, the iridescent Nicobar pigeon will be the surrogate mother that could eventually lay the egg that hatches into something resembling a dodo.

It will be a long, complicated journey from extinction in the 1600’s to de-extinction in the 21st century but in spite of the barriers, it is still a tantalizing idea.

However, there are a number of ethical concerns including the lack of environment for de-extinct species and the possibility of bringing unknown, ancient

pathogens back to life.

Nevertheless, the dodo isn’t the only potential de-extinction candidate – Colossal also plans to return the woolly mammoth to the tundra and the extinct Tasmanian tiger to its home.

Choosing these three for de-extinction seems like a frivolous priority right now especially when millions of other species face extinction on our planet.

We can’t de-extinct them all – there is no get out of jail free card for the human race to atone for the environmental degradation we have already caused.

As for me, I’ve never seen a live dodo bird but I question the wisdom of bringing animals back to the world that caused their extinction in the first place.

Thunder Bay already has Canada goose deposits in our parks and on our pathways – we don’t need to resurrect an extinct species only to find ourselves ankle deep in dodo doo-doo.

And don’t get me started on woolly mammoths.

*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 17-18

Thunderwolves Basketball

The regular season comes to a close this weekend at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse for both the men’s and women’s university basketball teams.

Friday night sees the Algoma Thunderbirds come to town, while Saturday brings the top-ranked Carleton Ravens men’s team, in a battle that could be a sign of things to come in the OUA post-season.

The women will be looking for their third and fourth wins of a trying season.

Saturday night will see the teams’ graduating players honoured between games.

Tip off both nights is 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

February 19

NWO Aviation Centre

The Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Centre, located at 905 E. Victoria Ave., will be open this

Sunday, Feb. 19, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.. The Centre features displays which tell the rich aviation history of their area.

They also have instructors who can help you fly over the city using our state of the art flight simulator! Aviation themed merchandise is also for sale.

Check their Facebook page or website at www.noahc.org for more information about them and times they are open and available.

Coffee is always on.

February 18-20

Voyageur Winter Carnival

Fort William Historical Park will host a three-day Voyageur Winter Carnival this weekend, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be plenty of fun indoor and outdoor activity to enjoy, including sledding and tubing hills, winter games and contests, visiting the farm animals and plenty more.

Tickets are available at the Visitor

Centre and cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, students and youth and children five and under are free.

Other activities include the snow maze and snow fort, snowshoeing, axe throwing, curling and a snow snake.

February 19

NWO Aviation Centre

Head down to the Slovak Legion on Monday for a spaghetti and meatball takeout dinner.

The menu will also feature perogies and the meal is a fundraiser for the Legion.

Pasta and five meatballs are \$14, chicken pot pie is \$6, ravioli and three meatballs are \$14 and perogies are \$7 for a dozen.

Ten meatballs are \$14. You can pre-order before noon on Monday to Friday at 623-3354. Bring your own containers. Takeout times are 12 p.m. to 5 pm., at 801 Atlantic Avenue.

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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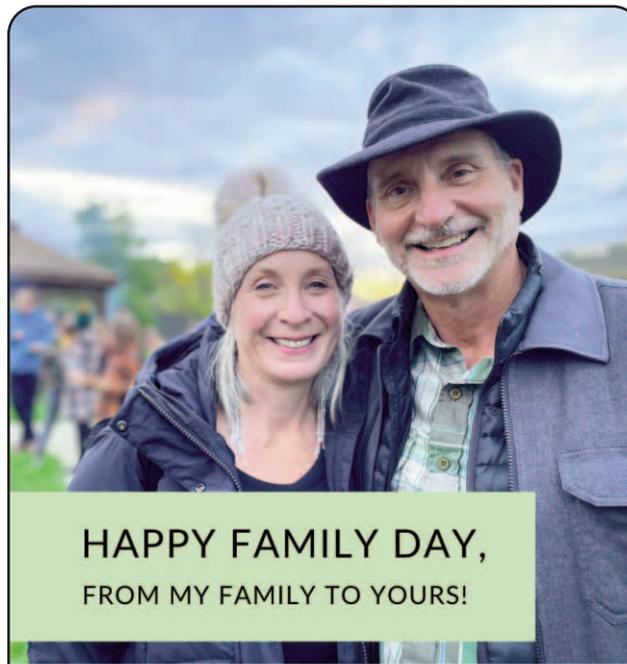


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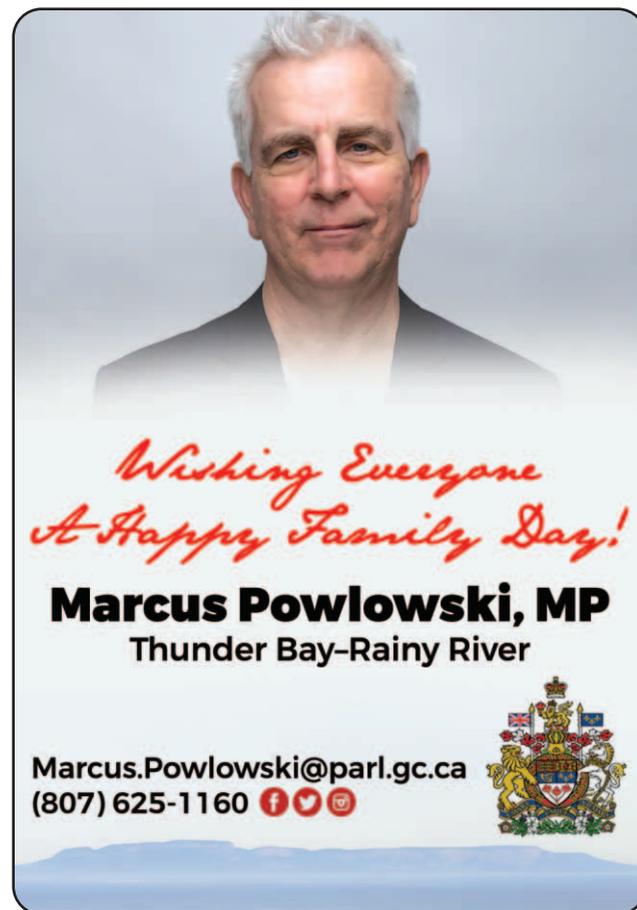
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Sleeping Giant a wintertime oasis

Monday Feb. 20 is Family Day in Ontario, and I can't think of a better place to spend it than at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

The park is just east of Thunder Bay, on the southwestern tip of the Sibley Peninsula, and it is a popular destination year-round.

During the summer, visitors to the park enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, paddling, swimming, and sea kayaking. In the winter months however, there is a whole different list of recreational opportunities on offer. If you haven't been to the park since the snow arrived, then Family Day just might be the opportunity to check it out.

There is no shortage of things to do at the park on this holiday Monday, and the Lake Marie Louise campground will be the base for activities with the Visitor

Centre open from 8:30am until 4pm. Be sure to bring the skates and try out the newest addition to the park's activity list, a 300-meter ice skating oval!

Nordic skiing is the best way to see Sleeping Giant Park in winter, and you can bet the seventy kilometers of ski trails will be groomed to perfection for Family Day.

Beginners can stick to the easy loop around Lake Marie Louise while experienced skiers will prefer the Pickerel Lake and Burma Trails, featuring some really fun twists, climbs and downhills.

For something a little slower, strap on the snowshoes and explore the trails. The 2.3km Sibley Creek Trail is an easy loop close to the Visitor Centre. However, a five minute drive down Hwy 587 brings you to the Kabeyun Trail parking area, which provides several other trail



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE



Whelan McKay skis in the 2020 Sleeping Giant Loppett at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park (FILE)

options including the short hike to the Sea Lion, a longer jaunt to Tee Harbour, and epic treks towards

either Sawyer Bay or Thunder Cape.

Fat tire bikes are officially

allowed on the trails now, and like Nordic skiing, this is a great way to explore the groomed trails. Remember to respect the classic ski tracks and keep the tire pressure low so as to not damage the skate lane on the trails.

Finally, since it is Family Fishing Weekend, there is no license required to fish on Family Day.

Try your luck for perch or bass on Marie Louise Lake next to the Visitor Centre, or stop and drill a few holes on Pass Lake on the way home to see if you can land a splake or two.

There are no fees for any of the Family Day activities so all you need to purchase is a daily parking permit for \$15.50.

Less than an hour from Thunder Bay, the adventures that await you on Sleeping Giant Provincial Park are well worth the drive.

For those seeking family fun and adventure, don't miss the chance to spend Family Day with the Giant, in the Marie Louise Lake Campground on Feb. 20.



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Snowy ditch can be tough escape

Once in a while most drivers experience an unfortunate event of missing the turn and winding up in a ditch. Recently, that happened to me.

I was driving my daughter, Beth, home from her place of employment.

It was dusk. I had been lazy and although we had received a couple of snowfalls – nothing serious – I didn't think that I had to fire up my ancient tractor, Big Red, and do any clearing.

After all, just driving over the driveway surface seemed to compress the newly-fallen snow enough that no one would get stuck. Wrong!

On that evening, just as I was turning off our road onto our driveway, Beth suddenly shouted: "The front door is open!"

You can see our front door from the end of the driveway. I looked at the front door instead of the driveway.

So I wasn't concentrating on negotiating the turn. The snowy surface was slippery. That is when the car slid into the ditch.

The front door was open because son, Doug, had arrived home before us and had opened the front door to allow the pooches outside. Doug was collecting his stuff from his car that I had not been able to see due to a snow bank. So, now what?

Moved ahead

I tried to drive forward and failing that procedure, went into reverse. Neither worked. Dang!

That meant that I would have to get Big Red and a chain and pull the car free of its imprisonment in the soft snow. In the past it has been other folk who have got stuck and me and Red to get them unstuck.

This wasn't the first time I'd got a vehicle stuck in our driveway.

A couple of years ago, a friend got his truck stuck in exactly the same place in which the car was now trapped.

For some reason Big Red was out of commission so I attempted to haul the friend's truck out by attaching a chain to the front of our truck.

It worked but in the process our truck slid across the drive into the ditch on the other side. Oh great.

Now it was the turn of my friend to get our truck unstuck, which he did.

What a rodeo!

Anyhow, son, Doug arrived with shovels

thinking that we could shovel the car free. Nope. No purchase for the drive wheels of the car. So, off I trudged to fetch Red and a chain.

Just as I arrived back at the scene, my wife, Laura, arrived in our other car from her day job. It was getting dark and she was nervous about trying to pass the ditched automobile.

She thought there was enough room as the car isn't wide. So, she tried and succeeded without mishap. Whew!

The next problem was trying to find where we could attach the chain to the car. This is a brand new vehicle and there is still lots to learn about how it works.

Tough to find

Doug was convinced that there wasn't anywhere to attach the chain either in front or in back.

"Why not look in the owner's manual?" I ventured.

Sure enough on page 73 or thereabouts was a section on towing. The car came with a rod that has a hoop through which a chain could be clamped. But the location where the rod was to be screwed into the car was hidden by a panel.

How to remove?

Once again I trudged back to Casa Jones to locate a flat head screwdriver and once I returned, Doug did the deed while I climbed up onto Red. Doug climbed into the ditched car and slowly I backed up Red pulling the car out of the snowy ditch.

Now, normally where the car slid off the driveway into the ditch, there is no ditch. In summer when I am mowing the lawns and mow along the edge of the driveway, at the driveway's end by the road, there is only a slight depression. But the hole revealed once the car had been extracted was three feet deep!

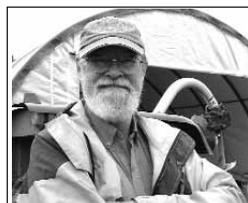
Wow!

That indicated just how much snow was compacted on the surface of the driveway!

Next day I fired up Red and scraped the driveway with the bucket since the snow was very wet due to the warm spell we'd experienced.

Apparently my adventure has been shared by other country folk. Laura told a fellow worker of my dilemma and she said the same thing happened to her the other day.

Slippery snow and a mere moment's inattention is wot done it.



Fred Jones
RURAL ROOTS

Rinks closed for now

By TB Source staff

Record-breaking February temperatures have put a pause on the city's outdoor rinks.

City officials on Tuesday said all outdoor rinks, with the exception of Prince Arthur's Landing, will be temporarily closed.

"The ice is extremely soft and in some areas completely melted," city parks and open spaces manager Cory Halvorsen said in a news release. "The current forecast shows temperatures dropping a bit after Thursday, if that holds true, we hope to have the rinks back open by the weekend."

Lights at the rinks will be turned off and change rooms will be closed.

The waterfront rink, which has a refrigeration plant, remains open for skating between noon and 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and from noon to 9 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.



Outdoor rinks may open by the weekend.



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The art of the tailgate party

Although not as popular in Canada probably mostly due to the weather, Tailgate Parties or "Tailgating" are a huge part of the sports experience in the United States.

The concept is simple. You drop the tailgate of your truck, set up a small grill, smoker, or griddle and some lawn chairs, then cook some food, have some drinks, and have a bit of a party in the parking lot before you head into the stadium for the sporting event.

While primarily associated with American football games. The event of tailgating has been making its way into almost every other well attended spectator sport with dedicated fans.

It has even been known to be a part

of other types of events like weddings, cultural events, car shows, and concerts.

There are a few theories as to how the tradition began, and no one really knows what the true origins are however, people believe that it is a throwback to the fall harvests when people would join together in fellowship to celebrate their bounties.

Another theory points to the U.S. Civil War era where during the first major battle of Bull-Run, voyeurs would travel from D.C. to Virginia

with picnic baskets to cheer on their team either Union of Confederate.

During this time, their baskets would have been filled with plum pudding, minced meat, and apple



Derek Lankinen

Here's Cooking at You Kid



Tailgate parties are synonymous with sporting events in the U.S. (Ben Vardi, Wikipedia)

pies.

It is also during this time in history that we can mark the beginning of wine and aged whiskey production,

meaning some spirits would also be a part of the celebration.

It's believed the term tailgating was first widely known around 1919 when the Green Bay Packers coined the term, and it began to be associated with American football. In the modern era of tailgating, the event before the game is now just as big as the game.

You have copious amounts of beer being consumed, you have ping pong (or beer pong) tables and games going on.

People bring elaborate canopies to shield their truck from the sun or elements. Huge television, generator and satellite set ups are running to take in all the pregame programming, while intoxicated fans toss the pigskin around the parking lot.

The foods typically associated with tailgating are always quick and

easy fare, and barbecue centric. Bratwurst, Burgers, or Hot Dogs lend itself well to the whole stadium vibe. Depending on the area of the country you are visiting, you may find tacos, chips and guac, and many other southwestern style food.

Many people use the tailgate as an excuse to make elaborate BBQ presentations, with pulled pork, ribs, baked beans, coleslaw, and potato salad.

If one would like to see more of these types of food and fellowship celebrations in our neck of the woods.

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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About 125 people took part in last weekend's Snowarama, which was held at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino. (Leith Dunick)

Snowarama still sledding along

Easter Seals event has raised over \$500,000 in 18 years

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

In 18 years, the Easter Seals' Snowarama event has raised more than \$500,000 in support of children with disabilities.

Unfortunately, due the pandemic, it hadn't been held since 2020, just before COVID-19 arrived in the Thunder Bay area.

It's great to be back, said Easter Seals manager of community engagement for Northern Ontario, Rhonda Harrison.

"Everyone's very excited to be back, seeing old faces again and here we are," she said on Saturday.

"The Thunder Bay Snowarama in Grand Portage is our biggest (one) that we have and we haven't had that revenue coming in. It usually kicks off the fundraising season for the whole year, so we're excited to be back."

About 125 riders took part in the 2023 edition of the event, which encourages participants to raise money through pledges, then head out for a day of sledding on the trails on Northern Minnesota - followed by a dinner and dance at

the casino and lodge.

"It's a huge impact on what we're able to provide for the families," Harrison said.

Locally, Easter Seals helps families with children with physical disabilities purchase mobility equipment, communication devices and provides summer camping opportunities.

With the border closed for two years, and various restrictions in place in Ontario, Snowarama simply wasn't possible the past couple of years.

Brett Turner, lodge manager at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino, said the event has once again created a buzz in the rural community, located just 10 kilometres south of the Canadian border.

"We're happy. There's an effect all around the community. The energy is back. We haven't done this in a while, so I'm glad we're all here today. It's been a few years since the world shut down and now we're back from the brink," Turner said.

"You can't go wrong. It's the perfect time."

To donate, visit <https://snowarama.org/locations/thunder-bay/>.

A large vertical poster for the 2023 Sleeping Giant Loppet. The top half shows a scenic view of a frozen lake and forested hills. The text '2023 SLEEPING GIANT LOPPET' is written in a stylized font, with 'THUNDER BAY · ONTARIO · CANADA' below it. The middle section features the text 'Ski the Giant' in large, bold letters. The bottom section contains the event date 'MARCH 4 2023', the website 'SleepingGiantLoppet.ca', and 'Fat Bike Loppet - March 5'. At the bottom, there are logos for Half-Way Motors, Nissan, Mazda, DRP, CARSTAR, Resolute Forest Products, and tbaytel.

2023
SLEEPING GIANT LOPPET
THUNDER BAY · ONTARIO · CANADA

Ski the Giant

MARCH 4 2023
SleepingGiantLoppet.ca
Fat Bike Loppet - March 5

Half-Way Motors
Nissan
Mazda
DRP
CARSTAR
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Boulevard Lake Dam lights not working

Several LED lights have technical difficulties

By TB Source staff

The Boulevard Lake Dam's colourful nightly light display needs a bit of a touch-up.

Several of the LED lights added to the Boulevard Lake Dam during renovations last year are experiencing technical issues, the city has confirmed.

Project engineer Mike Vogrig said a fix for the issue will be fully covered under a two-year warranty on the work.

The city discovered around Christmas there were problems with three of the light fixtures, he said.

"The contractor and their sub-consultants have been made aware of the

issues with the lights," he said. "Whether that's something to do with the installation or whether it's the fixtures themselves and they have to go back to the supplier to get new fixtures, that's being looked at right now."

It's not yet clear exactly when repairs will take place, he said.

"Sometimes a contractor will correct issues as they come up, and sometimes they'll mobilize once and correct all the issues at the end of the warranty period. It's really up to them as to when they do it, we just make them aware of any issues and deficiencies we see during our inspections."

The refurbished dam's new LED light display was activated for the first time in pastel colours to mark Easter last year, generating excitement on social media.



This fully restored 1966 Ford Mustang GT is up for grabs in the Thunder Bay Museum's Classic Car Raffle. (Leith Dunick)

Museum raffles off classic Ford

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

A classic 1966 Mustang GT giveaway may be the perfect grand prize for a museum to put up for grabs.

Both harken back to an earlier era and help create both a sense of nostalgia and understanding of the not-too-distant past, a chance to relive days gone by.

It's one of the main reasons the Thunder Bay Museum chose a Classic Car Raffle as one of its major annual fundraisers, which is especially attractive to potential ticket buyers in a city that loves its cars.

Scott Bradley, executive director of the Thunder Bay Museum Historical Society, said the car, valued at \$46,000, is ready to roll.

"It's had the engine rebuilt. A lot of the interior is original. Some of the paint work has been redone, but it's a beautiful car, with a great engine. It would be great for a daily driver and we're really excited to make it available this year," Bradley said.

The vehicle also has just 43,000 miles on the odometer.

Bradley said the money does a lot each year

for the museum.

"This is a great fundraiser for the museum. It goes to support our operations, capital projects and many other things that help us fill our mandate for Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario," Bradley said.

"We're offering a classic car because it kind of ties into our mandate as a historical museum. We're able to talk about our history and people go back to the history of Thunder Bay and are able to be nostalgic for the experiences in their youth, or are even able to have conversations of what car culture was 60 years ago and what it is today, as we keep seeing the evolution of cars and transportation in our community."

Bradley added they're hoping to have the car on display at a number of events throughout the spring and summer.

Tickets are available online, at www.museum-raffle.com.

Only 14,833 tickets are available and they are going for one for \$15, three for \$40, eight for \$100 and 28 for \$300.

The draw will take place on Aug. 12 at 2 p.m.



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Lottery house worth \$750K

This year's home on Muskrat Drive

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Thirty-seven years ago, when the Fort William Rotary House Lottery entered into its humble beginnings, the grand prize was valued at less than \$100,000.

Organizers had to go door-to-door in the final weeks of the campaign to ensure not only were their costs covered, but they made a little money to give back to the community.

Skip ahead to 2023 and how things have changed.

This year's house, located at 488 Muskrat Drive in the Parkdale subdivision, is worth \$750,000, tickets are being sold online and the draw is just a couple of years removed from selling out in a remarkable five-and-a-half weeks.

Bob Hookham, co-chair of the House Lottery, said the draw just



The lottery home was built by Triad Contracting and benefits several local charities.

keeps getting better and better and more and more popular every year since that first one.

"Every year after that it grew, and

it grew and it grew," he said. "The expansion has gone well. The fact that we can now go up to 20,000 tickets helps offset the increase in

the cost of the houses."

The house itself is a custom bi-level with an attached single-vehicle garage, built by Triad Contracting. It features nine-foot-high ceilings throughout, four bedrooms, two on each level, a master bedroom with an ensuite and walk-in closet, a partially covered backyard deck and a recreation room on the lower level with a built-in fireplace.

The kitchen has custom cabinetry and both it and the bathrooms come equipped with quartz countertops.

"It's an open concept. All the appliances come with the house," Hookham said.

More importantly, the house comes with some fantastic benefits to the community. Last year's draw raised more than \$430,000 for 17 different charities, including Our Kids Count, Camp Quality, the George Jeffrey Children's Foundation and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation.

The money was valuable, said Our

Kids Count executive director Jackie Knough.

"We do a lot at Our Kids Count and we couldn't do it alone," she said. "We really do depend on our community partners and our sponsors. The House Lottery has done a lot for us in the past. Last year we were able to refurbish our fridge and freezer unit."

For an organization that does a lot of food security programs, a working walk-in fridge and freezer unit is invaluable.

"It was really not working well and we were having a lot of trouble. Thanks to the House Lottery we were able to get a new unit and now I don't get calls in the middle of the night."

Tickets, which are available at www.fwrotaryhouselottery.ca, are \$100 each or three for \$250. Open houses will be held on Saturdays, starting on March 4.

The draw will be held on July 1 at Marina Park during Canada Day festivities

57th Annual
Rotary
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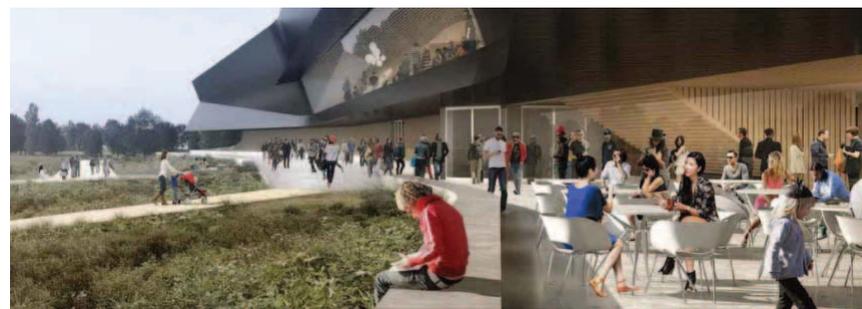
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For the past 56 years 91.5 CKPR and the Port Arthur Rotary Club of Thunder Bay have joined forces in a fundraising effort to make our community a better place to live.

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.



The new Thunder Bay Art Gallery is expected to open as soon as 2026. (Submitted image)

Art gallery work has begun, trail closed

By TB Source staff

A pedestrian trail at the city's waterfront is closed as construction of the new art gallery gets started.

The city issued a news release on Friday afternoon saying the pedestrian trail connecting the boaters' parking area to the Pool 6 site will be closed.

The city said construction of the new waterfront Thunder Bay Art Gallery is underway.

The Pool 6 site can still be accessed by pedestrians by following the roadway, the city said, advising drivers and pedestrians to be cautious while travelling in the area and being aware of the construction.



From Broadway to the Bay is a collaboration between the TBSO and the Best-of-Badanai Theatre's actors. (Submitted photo)

Symphony and stage

By Linda Maehans - Special to TB Source

Can you imagine it?

A whole new universe. Big sound. Big space. With all the kinetic energy of the sun pulling all the creative notes and choreography together; and in one of the finest acoustic venues in North America to boot.

The fortunate audience for TBSO's glitzy next Pops concert at the Community Auditorium is in for a colossal treat. Titled *From Broadway to the Bay*, the concert stage brims with local talent: Thunder Bay's premiere orchestra and, for their first time ever, the best-of-Badanai Theatre's actors, singers and dancers. It's destined to be an unforgettable evening.

Earlier this week the Source met with those making sure all the stars are aligned before the curtain rises next weekend. Candi Badanai is a director and choreographer for this city's gleaming comet-of-a-theatrical troupe playing out of the Paramount-on-Court. Ryleigh Dupuis is the GM and executive director of the TBSO. It was easy to sense, to see and hear, their excitement first-hand.

Candi: we're absolutely thrilled to be joining forces with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra. It is a dream for anyone, any performer in the arts, to do something like this. The symphony! And at the Auditorium. Not everyone gets to perform on a stage such as this.

Ryleigh: it's a natural fit. When you're talkin' Broadway, and theatrical performances, well the word "local" does take centre stage. Our

symphony musicians are all local too. This is a local, local production, and as said, a really natural fit. Where else could we find the calibre of talent needed for a show such as this? No question. It's here. We have it.

Candi: yes, the space is a new dimension for us. Yet, with their big voices (the Badanai cast) I have no doubt in my mind: people will feel the passion vibrate through their bodies and right down into the seats.

We've worked hard these past 22 years, to get to this place. Started off doing little tiny shows; and now, just coming off our latest big show (Something Rotten), but still on the stage we currently have. The next huge thing that could possibly, could ever, happen to us - is this.

Ryleigh: sure, Covid was catastrophic for performing arts and community-based organizations everywhere, including here. It's been really challenging for the TBSO. You lose your heart, your soul, when you lose your community support. For us this entire season has been trying to reconnect with our community, reach out to our partners in performing arts, and come together again. This show is definitely a highlight for us too. We've had many soloists, individuals, joining the orchestra on stage this year, but this time it'll be more like 40 to 50 - and with a big wall-of-sound behind them - well you can just imagine it, can't you.

Yes we can. "From Broadway to the Bay" blasts off at the Auditorium on Saturday Feb. 25: show-time is 7:30.

Tickets online: visit tbsoc.ca and follow the links to all-events.

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Blanchette riveting

With *Women Talking*, we explored the dark side of patriarchal power. This time, we go flipside, referring to female machinations within *Tár* (VOD, now a cheaper rental!)

Cate Blanchett is Lydia Tár, a world renowned music composer/conductor whose life is thrown into turmoil due to abuse allegations surrounding Krista, a former female musician/student.

Blanchett gives a commanding performance as a brilliant, cultured (she also speaks German), dedicated and sophisticated conductor at the height of her career.

Conducting the Berlin Philharmonic, Lydia is feverishly rehearsing the final cycle of Mahler's symphonies which would establish her as the first person to conduct all nine works with the same symphony.

Lydia also has a committed relationship with Sharon, her principal violinist (the ever capable Nina Hoss) in the same orchestra with whom she shares a young daughter, Petra.

But storm clouds are brewing. Pleading, rebuffed emails and mysterious packages from Krista culminate in her suicide. Slowly more ominous subterfuge emerges. 'Disturbed' Krista was a victim of career assassination by Lydia.

An illegally recorded video of one of her lectures has gone viral, edited in such a way to cast Lydia in a bad light.

Lydia is also wielding her authority in symphony politics, veering from cool maneuvering early on to near recklessness as pressure builds.

Lydia cold-bloodedly dumps people. She passes over for promotion her loyal personal assistant, Francesca (Noémie Merlant), with whom



Cate Blanchette has been nominated for an Oscar for her role as composer and conductor Lydia Tár.

Tár has a shared past with Krista, a fateful mistake. Lydia passes a coveted solo over her lead cellist to a new, young female Russian cellist (and potential protégé.)

Director Todd Field unfolds the story in deliberate, sinister fashion as events converge, sending Lydia's professional and personal lives into a spiral.

Field creates an authentic, elitist orchestral world. His dialogue is crammed with symphony-speak. He effectively stages orchestra rehearsals, with Blanchette at the helm, convincing in her dialogue and body language.

The symphony compositions run the gamut from jolting vigor to subtle delicacy. Cinematography Florian Hoffmeister's muted tones complement the mood.

Listen closely to find leavening, sly humour.

This is a film about power, how it

affects those who abuse it and those victimized by it. The film's restrained mood reflects Lydia's attempts to keep her abusive acts at a distance. (The viewer may feel the same.) Victims remain faceless. Anonymous texts with photos observing Tár suggests other vengeful parties.

Do not look for much plot. This is a character study of an anti-heroine, a ruthless narcissist who is not empathetic, traits she shares with other prominent male conductors, past and present. Though protective of her daughter, Lydia does not exude much joy or warmth.

By film's end, whether Lydia learns her lesson is questionable.

No question, Blanchette is reason to see *Tár*. Having already won the Golden Globe, she is the odds-on favourite for the Academy Award. One can admire "Tar" on a cerebral level. Just don't go looking for a heart and soul.



Marty Mascarín
 MOVIE TALK

ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "G" = "W"

"RNO SIFO ADUC NDA OAQDHOC EFIS RNO NIMFBPDAA IE IMF PWEO, RNO QPODFOF GO ANIMPC AOO RNFIMBN WR."

— UWQQIPI SDQNWJOPPW

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ACROSS

- 1 Simpleton
- 4 Wool refuse
- 7 Adherent (suf.)
- 10 Gr. author
- 11 Presidential nickname
- 12 Empty
- 14 Try
- 16 Alberta (abbr.)
- 17 Dead on arrival (abbr.)
- 18 Electromagnet
- 20 Freedom, briefly
- 21 Fix or fixed
- 22 Geological vein angle
- 24 Perturb
- 28 Great Lakes fish
- 31 Air
- 32 Possessive pronoun
- 34 Firstborn of Benjamin
- 35 Plend
- 37 Akin

DOWN

- 39 Object of worship
- 41 Distant
- 42 Eight (pref.)
- 44 Extend
- 46 Where (Lat.)
- 49 Chair
- 51 Cow
- 53 Bone: Gr.
- 54 Sup
- 55 New sugarcane shoot
- 56 Expanse
- 57 River (Sp.)
- 58 Boy Scouts of America (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

G	A	M	U	T	L	T	D	D	E	B		
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A	P	A		A	A		T	O	T	E	M	
B	L	D	G		R	U	B		N	A	S	
M	Y	O	I	D		N	E	B		B	S	
E	M	B	O	D		A	N	D	E	R	S	
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B	A	B		C	O	E		N	A	U	R	
A	D	E		E	L	A		A	L	I	E	N

DOWN

- 6 Father of Abraham
- 7 Marsh elder
- 8 Armored shoe
- 9 S.A. monkey
- 10 "Z", Brit.
- 13 Flounder
- 15 Locality
- 19 Prate

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- 21 Sober
- 23 Exclude
- 24 Amer.
- 25 Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 26 Crude sugar
- 27 Vex
- 28 Europe (abbr.)
- 29 Suggestion
- 30 Possesses
- 33 Vide (2 words)
- 36 Pig
- 38 Bowling alley
- 40 Cubic
- 41 decimeter
- 42 Exclamation
- 43 Tax
- 45 Indian midwife
- 46 Eight days after feast
- 47 Edomite king
- 48 Daughter of Cadmus
- 50 Drug
- 51 Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)
- 52 Vestment

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T-Wolves capture division title

If you'd asked me at the start of the OUA hockey season what I thought fate had in store for the Lakehead Thunderwolves, the optimist in me might have said they'd snag one of the final playoff spots in the OUA West and be one-and-done in the playoffs.

The pessimist would have said there was too big a hill to climb and they'd be once again on the outside looking in when the postseason rolled around.

Boy was I wrong. This may not be the most talented T-Wolves of all time, but I'd venture to say they might be one of the hardest working.

Spencer Blackwell and Griffen Fox go way back and the chemistry has certainly shown this season. Fox led the team with 27 points, and Blackwell was close behind, with 26. They're both sophomores, with three seasons left.

That's great news, considering the trio of rookie forwards who joined the team this season.

Olivier Pouliot finished with 20 points in 24 games, providing plenty of playmaking skills up front. Josh Van Unen also had 20 points and seemed to be key down the stretch.

And Keighan Gerrie came out of nowhere to score a team-high 15 goals.

The blue-line is led by Colin Van Den Hurk, a playmaking defender not seen at the Gardens since the likes of Mike Quesnele, who put up 95 points in 137 games from 2010 to 2015.

Pouliot, Van Den Hurk, Blackwell, Kyle Auger, Tyler Ho, Ben Badalamenti and Joe Mack all come with major junior experience, something that seemed to be missing over the past decade, when the Junior A ranks were culled to bring aboard most of the team's talent.



Leith Dunick
SPORTS SHORTS



Griffen Fox led LU this year with 27 points.

Don't get me wrong, there's plenty of great talent playing Tier 2, but in order to compete with the top programs in the OUA, Lakehead had to get back to what brought it to the top 20 years ago.

Win or lose this year – and there's

nothing I've seen from this team that says they can't earn a spot in the Queen's Cup and compete for a national title in Charlottetown, P.E.I. next month – the future is bright in Thunderwolves land.

An added note, the OUA has three spots this year at nationals, so as long as LU wins their second-round series, after clinching their first division title since 2008 to grab a first-round bye, they'll have a chance to win a third-place game to land a spot in Charlottetown.

It was great to see the LU women's basketball team pick up their second win of the season.

It's been a tough year at the Fieldhouse, but it was the veterans who led the way. Tiffany Reynolds, Lily Gruber-Schulz and August Ricketts, who play their final games this weekend at home against Algoma and Carleton.

And, after giving up a 19-point lead to start the fourth, it was great to see

Thunder Bay's Hana Whalen nail the game-winning three-pointer

I'm not too upset that the Raptors didn't do much at the trade deadline.

Anything they could have done last week will probably still be there in the summer, especially with O.G. Annunoby, who has a year left on his deal.

They also have a pretty tough schedule down the stretch, so worrying about their draft positioning might be a little premature.

Congrats to Team Dubinsky for their playoff showing at last week's national U18 Curling Championship in Timmins.

Claire Dubinsky, Rylie Paul, Bella McCarville and Lily Ariganello did themselves proud at the event and have a bright future in the sport.

So too did Jackson Dubinsky and Adam Wiersema, who also made the playoffs with Team Rajala.

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