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Thursday, March 14, 2024



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# Tikinagan

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“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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# State of the city

Thunder Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff delivered the state of the city address to city council on Monday

By Kevin Jeffrey - TB Source

Mining is real. Population growth and new citizens are real. The economic opportunities that await Thunder Bay are real.

Mayor Ken Boshcoff delivered those words Monday as part of his state of the city address titled "All roads lead to Thunder Bay".

"We are poised to become a mining powerhouse, and are positioned as a rising force in the mining industry," Boshcoff said.

"Our Community Economic Development Commission is actively working with companies to bring them to Thunder Bay. They are also helping existing companies capitalize on opportunities for growth.

"New discoveries of critical minerals, and a strong shift towards a Canadian and Ontario made battery supply chain, have fuelled interest worldwide. We must continue to diversify our economy, growing employment opportunities, and promoting the health and wellness of everyone living in our city. People need to see a future here, and we need to provide them with the right things for them to stay."

The mayor also highlighted the strong 2023 for the Port of Thunder Bay, and added that cargo volumes are expected to increase by over a million tonnes in 2024, which would equate to a 20 per cent rise.

"Last year's cruise season hosted 14 ship visits, nearly double the number of calls compared to the previous year. 2024 is slated to be the best year yet. We plan to welcome more ships and more visits than ever before. Five different ships will visit our port a total of 17 times."

"This means that thousands of passengers will be spending more time and money in our city. Local suppliers will service and re-supply these vessels when they're in port."

Housing was also in the speech -- with Boshcoff highlighting the nearly \$21 million over three years announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

The city had initially lobbied Ottawa for over \$45 million but to their knowledge, all awards to large and medium-sized municipalities were adjusted downwards due to high interest in the funding stream.

"We have an aggressive target of 1,691 housing units in three years which we will meet. It is well underway that we will be including preparing an incentive



**REAL OPPORTUNITIES:** Mayor Ken Boshcoff discussed the real opportunities available to the city.

framework, hiring two Housing Accelerator Coordinators, and establishing the Mayor's Task Force on Building More Homes."

"From updating our zoning bylaw, to expanding our online building permit applications, we have been laying the groundwork for system changes well before this type of funding was even available. Now this funding will allow us to do more faster."

Boshcoff also gave credit to the other area politicians for their "exceptional cooperation, advocacy for programs and financial assistance."

He added "Thunder Bay, like many other municipalities in Canada, faces significant challenges with homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health issues. We invite all orders of government to come to the table to help us find solutions to help alleviate pressure on public health and social services."

"As decision-makers, we must prioritize our collaborative efforts to tackle these crises effectively. We face complex issues, but evidence-based strategy and community collaboration can pave the way to positive change."

Boshcoff plans to give another city update in the Fall of 2024.

## WEATHER FORECAST

| THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY   |
|--|---|--|--|
|  |   |  |  |
| <b>Partly Cloudy</b>                                     | <b>Partly Cloudy</b>                                    | <b>Rain</b>  | <b>Mostly Cloudy</b>                                       |
| Precipitation: <b>30%</b><br>HIGH <b>6</b> LOW <b>-4</b> | Precipitation: <b>40%</b><br>HIGH <b>6</b> LOW <b>2</b> | Precipitation: <b>40%</b><br>HIGH <b>6</b> LOW <b>-5</b> | Precipitation: <b>30%</b><br>HIGH <b>-3</b> LOW <b>-10</b> |

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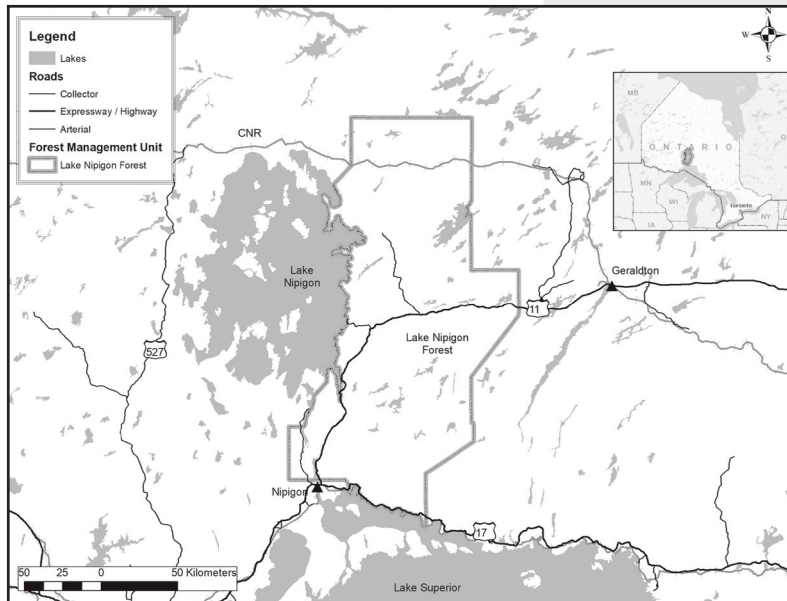
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## INSPECTION

### Inspection of 2024 – 2025 Annual Work Schedule for Lake Nipigon Forest

The April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Lake Nipigon Forest** is available for public viewing by contacting the **Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc.**, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> beginning **March 15, 2024** and for the one-year duration of the AWS.



#### Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

#### Tree Planting and Fuelwood

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. is responsible for tree planting on the Lake Nipigon Forest. Please contact the Forest Company listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the rules for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please see visit: [ontario.ca/CrownLandWood](http://ontario.ca/CrownLandWood). For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below.

#### More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a virtual/in-person meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF staff listed below:

**Raymond Weldon, R.P.F.**  
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e-mail: [ryan.gleeson@newleafforestry.ca](mailto:ryan.gleeson@newleafforestry.ca)

#### Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

[ontario.ca/forestmanagement](http://ontario.ca/forestmanagement)

Renseignements en français : Annie Wheeler au 807 620-3731 ou [annie.wheeler@ontario.ca](mailto:annie.wheeler@ontario.ca)

# Speaking up

## Students speak-up about safety during Seven Youth Inquest update

By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

It's been eight years since the initial inquest into the deaths of seven youths was completed.

At a hotel in Thunder Bay on Thursday, officials and ministers from various levels of government, community partners, and the family members of those who were part of the inquest were in attendance for the yearly update on the progress of the 145 recommendations made in 2016.

The First Nation youth who died in Thunder Bay included Reggie Bushie, Jethro Anderson, Jordan Wabasse, Kyle Morriseau, Curran Strang, Paul Panacheese, and Robyn Harper.

Two students who are currently going to school in Thunder Bay spoke to the group about their experiences and whether they've benefited from any of the report's recommended changes.

Originally from Deer Lake First Nation, Robyn Aysanabee is in Grade 12 at Dennis Franklin Cromarty and said being at the school makes them feel safe.

"[DFC] offers a lot of support, whether it's mentally or physically -- showing the bus routes and having counsellors in the school during all school hours every day, where you can go see them any time you need to talk."

But Aysanabee said not having a stable living situation makes them feel unsafe and often unwanted. The student has bounced around five or six boarding homes in the past two years.

"One time, a lady had a party in her house while I was staying there. I quickly got out of that situation because it wasn't safe or welcoming. Sometimes people just get really busy with their own lives, they don't have the time to care for the student that they have in their home."

They said it's important to feel welcome -- that the hosts care about the students and their success while staying in their homes.

Tessa Harper is also a graduating Grade 12 student at DFC, who hails from Sandy Lake First Nation. She echoed that mental health support has been key to her success at school and in life.

"Throughout my life, even going to school was hard. I stopped going for a while. But I expanded my support system and got accepted into Lakehead.

"Now I feel like there's people who have shown me that 'I am here to guide you and give you advice.' That kind of support is super important, especially if it's someone who's felt so lost before. I've learned that I could take it one day at a time and that, eventually... I would be in a place where I never thought I would be."

When asked if there was something the visiting politicians could take back to Queen's Park and Parliament Hill, Harper said: "Listen. Just listen and look out for it because sometimes people are scared, sometimes people are so accustomed to what is already the norm. So you can't really expect people to advocate so easily because it's hard."

Patty Hajdu, minister of Indigenous services, said the federal government has done a lot to assist students coming to Thunder Bay for school, but there's always more that can be done.

"The reality is these are very young children, and they are away from home at pivotal times of their lives. Oftentimes, it's confusing enough to be an adolescent. On top of that, you're far away from home. You're far away from family -- many students have talked about the experience of loneliness. "If the young people don't feel what's been put into place is actually helping, then it doesn't matter what I think. What really matters is, do the youth feel that they're well enough supported to be able to complete their education, have a good experience here in the city and feel safe while they're learning."



# Child advocate position vacant

## City manager says the inter-governmental affairs committee is best suited to manage the work

By Kevin Jeffrey - TB Source Staff

Thunder Bay is forging ahead with other strategies to serve children and youth.

Recently there have been calls for the city to fill the Thunder Bay child advocate position.

In a letter from President Tisha Duncan of the Regional Multicultural Youth Council (RMYC) written in February 2023 to city council, she said the hiring is long overdue.

“The RMYC believes in your words at the political table on January 26,” the letter stated.

“We are kindly asking you to fill the vacant position and bring together stakeholders to revive the Thunder Bay Children’s Coalition to engage the community in implementing the Seven



**CHILD ADVOCACY:** The child advocate position at city hall will remain vacant.

Youth Inquest Recommendations.”

The 2016 inquest examined the deaths of seven youth who trav-

elled to Thunder Bay from their home First Nations to attend school.

The jury in the coroner’s inquest into the deaths of Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang and Jordan Wabasse issued 145 recommendations eight years ago to a number of agencies – 31 directed actions that could be taken by the city.

In a statement provided on March 7, city manager Norm Gale pointed to a 2017 motion from former councillor Frank Pullia to re-establish the Children’s Coalition that was defeated.

“The needs of children were being addressed in other ways, through administration as well

as community organizations, so the need of the original role was not required,” Gale added.

“The membership of the original coalition no longer had met and had not been operational since its last report in 2010. The original role arose from a community agency program that had concluded, and there was no defined role for the position at that time,” he said.

“Members of our administration work with numerous groups in the city and make connections with organizations serving children and youth on a regular basis. Should there be a need for advocacy of some kind, the inter-governmental affairs committee is best suited to manage that work.”

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# Highway 102 safety survey open

By TB SOURCE STAFF

Area residents are getting a chance to comment on traffic safety issues on Highway 102.

The Ministry of Transportation has initiated a study to identify potential road safety and operational improvements between Dog Lake Road and Sistonen's Corner.

It's hired consulting firm True

North Safety to help gather feedback from users, which TNS says will help it better understand the concerns people may have.

Motorists and residents of the study area are being invited to complete an online, anonymous survey between now and mid-April.

Among other questions, participants are asked if they live or



**SAFETY CONCERNS: A survey is seeking input on the safety of Highway 102.**

work along the corridor, how often they travel on it, the kinds

of concerns they have about driver behaviour, and whether they specifically have concerns about the Highway 102/Highway 11-17 intersection at Sistonen's Corner.

Hundreds of transport trucks are driven daily on the Highway 102/Dawson Road corridor, where there have been numerous serious collisions over the years, including fatalities.

The current speed limit west of the Dog Lake Road intersection, where the MTO has control, is 90 km/h.

East of Dog Lake Road, where the City of Thunder Bay has jurisdiction, the city reduced the speed limit in response to safety concerns, particularly with regard to truck traffic.

The survey is open until April 14.

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EDITORIAL

## A.I. disclaimer

Sometimes what's not in a product is more important than what is. We look for things like fat free food, dolphin friendly fish, fair trade coffee, or hormone free beef. But what about the information we consume and what is or is not used to create it?

With the rise of artificial intelligence, which can write somewhat convincing text, or accurately mimic audio, and even create videos from simple prompts, the ability to produce false information has become frighteningly easy.

Given how common open source A.I. is becoming, it might be time that every source of information, particularly news and advertising, tells us that no A.I. was used in its creation.

And that is the information we should seek out. Just like we are careful with the products we put into our bodies, we should be just as careful when it comes to what we put into our minds. Yes, people will lie and create misinformation for various reasons, but there are others we can and should trust. And that trust is based on our shared experience of being human, not an algorithm, no matter how convincing they might become.

## Library and council To the editor:

Instead of embracing the so called reforms of city council, Thunder Bay Public Library should be distancing itself from them as they are a diversion and distraction from the major issues that are facing this city - racism, homelessness and poverty. Unfortunately these issues have disappeared from the latest TBPL strategic plan. The 'reform' of city council will not impact these issues.

Togman claims that the debate is about local democracy - but that is only valid if you accept the definition of democracy as being the ability to vote every four years. The true definition of democracy is that all sections of the community are constantly engaged in the decision making processes that impact their lives.

If we want to see real democracy in action we have to go back to the traditional indigenous governance systems which were in place for hundreds of years before the arrival of settler colonialism. These systems were replaced by the imposition of the Eurocentric Band and Council

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



artizans.com



MACKAY  
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

model which is far less democratic.

Instead of having a few hand picked individuals take part in the consultation process at the library - as Togman suggests - the whole event should be turned over to

the sharing circle of Indigenous community members who should be at the centre of this process rather than at its periphery.

TBPL used to be committed to the central principle of decolonization which is to decentre

settler colonial perspectives and re-centre indigenous perspectives. TBPL is now part of the problem rather than the solution.

John Pateman  
Thunder Bay

# The People Immortal by Vasily Grossman

By John Pateman

The People Immortal by Vasily Grossman is one of his three great war novels - alongside Life and Fate and Stalingrad.

Set during the chaotic first months of the German invasion of the Soviet Union, The People Immortal follows a Red Army battalion thrown into the path of the brutal German advance.

Despite fierce resistance, they are encircled, but eventually break out and rejoin the rest of the Soviet forces.

Grossman spent most of the war years close to the front line, and his descriptions of a landscape in

wartime are both vivid and unexpected, as are his memorable character sketches.

Eleven year old Lionaya is determined to hang on to his toy revolver as he walks a long distance behind German lines; his defiant grandmother slaps a German officer in the face and is shot; Kotenko, a fiercely anti-Soviet peasant who initially welcomes the Germans, hangs himself in despair when they treat him with contempt; and Semion Ignatiev, a womanizer and gifted storyteller, turns out to be the boldest and most resourceful of the rank and file soldiers.

The most important character is Bogariov, Battalion Commissar

Lieutenant and commander of a machine gun company. Before the war he was a professor in the Faculty of Marxism in one of then main Moscow higher education institutes. The directors of the Marx-Engels Institute were very interested in his work and he had twice been called to the Communist Party's Central Committee to discuss some of his preliminary conclusions.

He rejoiced in his unshakeable political convictions and often said to himself: 'No, it's not for nothing that I studied Marxist philosophy. Revolutionary dialectics has proved a good schooling for this war, which has seen the collapse of Europe's

oldest cultures.'

As deputy head of the Front Political Administration Department he was responsible for work among the enemy troops. He often had to interrogate German prisoners and during these sessions his burning hatred for Fascism yielded to a sense of contempt and disgust.

The Nazis affirmed their faith in the supremacy of the German race and its mission to enslave the rest of the world. They believed that they were the highest of people and thought that this vile, ignorant, lie-based sense of their own superiority gave them the right to shed the blood of children. A librarian in Minsk lost his mind

after watching the Germans pour petrol over his books and set fire to them.

The People Immortal is far from being mere morale boosting propaganda, however. As letters included in this volume make clear, it was read as a textbook, and as a work of military education. Written in June 1942, it was serialized in 18 issues of Red Star, the Red Army newspaper, in July - August 1942. Groups of front line soldiers would gather and listen while one of them read these installments out loud. Viktor Nekrasov remembers how they were 'read and reread by us until they were in tatters.' It was published as a book in 1943.

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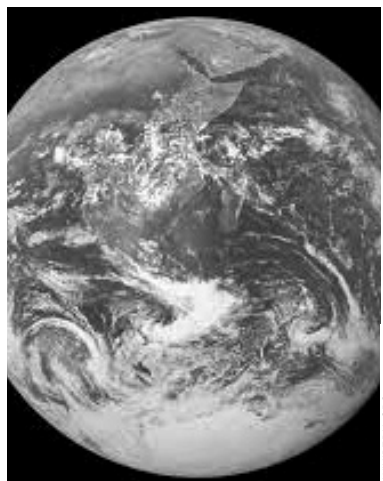


# The fantastic plastic planet earth

By JR Shermack

It is still over a month away but if you haven't done your Earth Day shopping yet or made preparations for Earth Day celebrations, you better get moving. Earth Day 2024 falls on April 22nd this year just like it has every year since 1970 so you can't say it snuck up on you or you forgot all about it like somebody's birthday or anniversary. That date marks the birth of the modern environmental movement and Earth day continues to be the largest secular day of protest in the world, according to some. So if you have gifts to buy or parties to plan or donations to give to worthy organizations or magnanimous eco-gestures to make in support of the planet, what are you waiting for? Over a billion people take part in some sort of Earth Day ritual but maybe you are one of the seven billion others who prefer

not to get involved. That doesn't mean that most of the planet is unaware of environmental challenges, just that not everybody can muster the enthusiasm or motivation to do anything about it. Environmental apathy is widespread. It may be due to a general lack of awareness, a widespread indifference toward environmental issues or an inability to commit the necessary time, effort and resources. Or maybe because it is still easy to ignore the warning signs, continue to exploit the Earth's resources and over-consume without personal consequences. In other words, get as much as you can while you can before everything runs out. According to Oxfam, in 1920 the richest 10% of the population produced 52% of carbon emissions and the top 1% had double the carbon footprint of the bottom 50%.



**EARTH DAY: Earth seen from space.**

Maybe 'celebration' is a poor choice of words to describe Earth Day 2024. The first Earth Day in 1970 was an exuberant affair involving an estimated 20 million Americans - it went global in 1990 with 200 million across 141 countries. It successfully took environ-

mental issues to the world stage, leading to significant developments including several successive, although unsuccessful climate agreements. The theme for the 50th anniversary in 2020 was 'Climate Action' which, after 50 years of climate action, some might consider a little patronizing and too little too late. Earth Day coincided with the covid pandemic that year which forced the event online for a three-day livestream - it was called the largest online mass mobilization ever. That seems like an ecologically and environmentally insignificant accomplishment for a Golden Anniversary. The theme for Earth Day 2024 is 'Planet vs Plastics' which promotes widespread awareness of health risks associated with widespread use of plastics. Again, after fifty years I shudder to think that the planet Earth is just now being made aware of the perils of plastic.

As for me, I have been an advocate for planet Earth ever since it faced the existential threat of nuclear annihilation - the rallying cry in 1982 was, "If You Love This Planet". The existential environmental threat we now face is not quite as dire as mutually assured destruction but it is even more powerful and relentless. It will take more than platitudes like 'Planet vs Plastics' to face this challenge. It is good to know that a billion people support the planet even if there are still over seven billion others who need to be motivated to take action. A billion individual acts of environmental kindness certainly should be able to affect positive change - eight billion would be better. It might not be apparent yet but who knows, in the fullness of space and time maybe Earth Day will ultimately be successful.

*what's happening in and around...* **The Bay** *To submit an event, email [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com). Please include details about the event, including any cost*

**March 16**  
**St. Patrick's Day Party with 5 Man Acoustic Band**

Port Arthur Branch 5 Legion presents" St. Patrick's Day party with 5 Man Acoustic Band Upstairs Clubroom, in house Irish music, green beer, and Irish Stew available from 2-8pm. Free admission. Live music from 8-11pm (\$5 cover at 8pm). Everyone Welcome!

**March 16**  
**Story Time with TBay Drag Queens**

The Thunder Bay Public Library presents Story Time with Thunder Bay Drag Queens. Saturday, March 16th, 2024 at Mary J. L. Black Library on 901 Edward St. S. from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All ages welcome // Family-friendly Free event

Proudly sponsored by Rose N Crantz Roasting Co.

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Story Time with Thunder Bay Drag Queens features local drag artists, Lady Fantasia LaPremiere & Mz. Molly Poppinz as they read stories and do activities while fostering acceptance and appreciation of diversity.

**March 16**  
**Mark Menei - Comedy Tour**

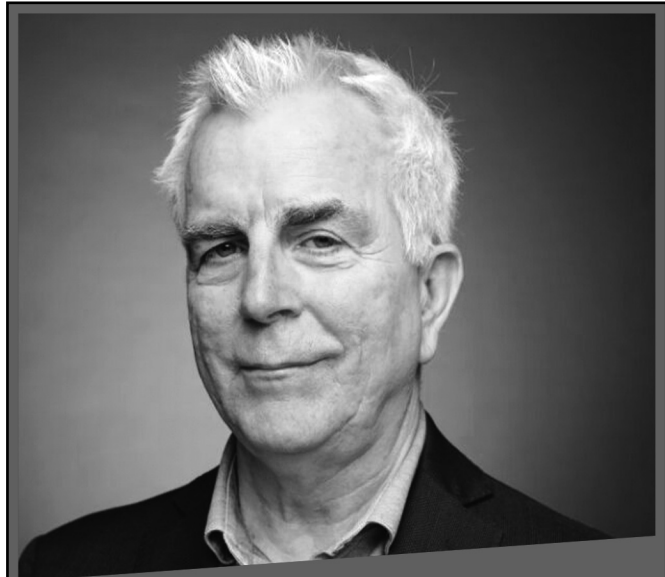
MARK MENEI Sat Mar. 16 7PM & 10PM at The Brew Pub (Prospector). Mark is a high energy comedian who integrates strong crowd work with polished material to bring you one of the freshest acts in Canadian comedy.

Mark has been seen on CTV & CBC,

was named 'Best Comedian' in The Walleye Arts & Culture magazine, and has opened for the likes of Gerry Dee and Darrin Rose among many other prolific acts. Mark has performed at the Thunder Bay Comedy Festival and recently performed a 7-show run at the Hamilton Fringe Festival where he garnered the review "as entertaining a performer as you will see." Mark is currently headlining a Canada wide tour which will see him in venues from theatres to comedy clubs across the country.

Mark is also the owner of Campfire Comedy and continues to grow the brand by bringing top notch entertainment to towns throughout Northwestern Ontario and cultivating a local scene in his hometown of Thunder Bay.

Featuring: Trevor Green, Brandon Cordeiro & Aaron Gee.



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FILE

**EARLY RISER:** Warm weather is forcing bears out of hibernation early this year.

# Rise and shine

## Warm temperatures this spring have bears waking up from winter hibernation a little earlier

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

If you live in a more rural area, don't be surprised if you see a bear hanging around your bird feeder or garbage can in the coming weeks.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry says this winter's mild weather and lack of snow means bears could be coming out of hibernation earlier than usual.

They typically emerge from their dens around April.

According to the MNRF, there have already been reports of bear sightings in some parts of the province, and one Thunder Bay resident is said to have seen one recently.

Ontario Parks states that during hibernation, bears lose at least half their body fat.

From the time they come out of their dens until berry crops are available, they live off their stored fat and the limited energy provided by fresh spring greens.

But at this time of year, the ministry says, there's little natural food, causing them to search for other sources of nutrition such as garbage and bird feed.

It advises taking the following precau-

tions to prevent bears from being attracted to residential properties: store garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids, and preferably indoors, wait until garbage pickup day to put the containers outside, remove bird feeders, clean food residue and grease from outdoor barbecue grills, including grease traps, after each use, and keep pet food indoors. The MNRF and police also recommend keeping dogs leashed because unleashed pets can lead bears back to owners, and potentially cause defensive bear attacks on people.

If a bear is encountered, a report can be made through the non-emergency, toll-free Bear Wise reporting line (1-866-514-2327), which has opened earlier than normal this year.

But if a bear is posing an immediate threat by showing aggressive behaviour, you should call 911 or your local police service.

Bears can remember their last source of food, and are able to return there when hungry, sometimes travelling over 100 kilometres in the process.

More information about preventing or dealing with interactions with nuisance bears is available online.



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# Trail walk & garden inspection

So while the official first day of Spring, the vernal equinox, is but a week away, and while what paltry amount of snow we did receive has pretty much disappeared, so far spring-like conditions aren't roaring into place. That has not stopped my wife, the Gardener in the family from getting the garden going.

I wrote about the shelving unit being brought inside Casa Jones and being set up in the living room in front of the main, large window upon which trays of potted seeds have been placed. Each morning before Laura heads off to her day job, she inspects the trays. Sometime last week she announced that we could bring the trays downstairs and put them in the greenhouse she and son, Doug, built off the basement door. "It is warming up during the day enough that the plants will do very



**Fred Jones**  
RURAL ROOTS

well in there," she said. But before it gets dark and before the temperature drops, she brings the trays into the basement so that they won't freeze.

I helped heft them downstairs of course as they aren't heavy since I have a ban on lifting anything over ten pounds for six weeks due to more stomach surgery. Sunday morning was bright and sunny as we ferried the trays back out to the greenhouse for the day. "What about the shelving unit upstairs? Is it staying up? Are you going to need it some more?" I asked. Oh yes indeed, she answered, this is only the first of several plantings that she will do that must be done indoors while the nights are still cold. Of course, when spring arrives and with it, hopefully, much warmer temperatures sufficient to warm the soil in

the garden, then she will be planting directly in the soil of the raised beds. And eventually, all the plants that have been luxuriating in the greenhouse will be trooped to the garden and planted.

About mid-afternoon Laura suggested we go for a walk on our trails. Great! We haven't been walking together on those trails for a long time: either she has been too busy at home or at her day job, or the amount of daylight has been non-conducive to hikes. I also wrote that walking after the surgery was too difficult for me as the snow was crunchy and with each step, I would crunch down thereby jarring my gut.

But on Friday afternoon I felt the urge to tromp with our dogs. I decided to go on the dirt road in front of our property and head west to where a sideroad heads south forming the western border of our land. The trick with the pooches on the road is to carry dog treats. When said pooches get too far

ahead of lumbering Fred, I whistle and bellow "TREATS!" and they come running. Fortunately, only one truck came by just as I had our black lab, Sophie, right beside me making it easy to grab her collar. When we reached the side road, we turned left and slowly I walked inspecting our land on the left. I like to do white pine tree inventories, trying to spot my favourite tree no matter what size. I found nine running in size from six inches to a couple of feet tall that I hadn't known existed before.

But instead of returning the way we had come, I took a chance and forged onto the entrance of our trails from the road. It worked. The snow was sufficiently hard to support me without my spine (and healing belly) being jarred.

When we returned from our trek, Laura wanted us to go into the garden and inspect it. There are several raised beds covered in old hay some of which were planted last autumn (garlic and even a row of

carrots as an experiment to see if they overwintered and if they would pop their wee heads above ground when the temperatures warmed up. Most of the time Laura lead me around telling me what she was going to plant. and in what beds. Then she headed over to the southeast corner of the garden, pointed at an untilled, overgrown section and announced that she wanted to extend the garden, actually return this section that was gardened years ago but had been allowed to grow in. "How are we going to clear that?" I asked. "Take down the southern fence and bring in the tractor to dig this section up. Then I can get in and turn over the soil and get rid of all the crabgrass. Then we can bring in our great, well-rotted soil from Mt Crumpet," she answered.

Okay, but it ain't happening for a while, not until the ground has warmed up considerably and until I can safely climb on board Big Red (my ancient farm machine) without jarring me tum.

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# The many reasons to get fishing

There are many reasons to head out to your favourite fishing spot and sometimes it's just to take a break

Why do we go fishing? Originally, the pursuit revolved around subsistence, but it has evolved into a sport where we release most of our catch. Today, the modern angler is looking for much more than just a meal.

Optimism and expectations about feeling a strike, setting the hook, battling a fish and ultimately bringing it to the net provide us with the incentive to head out on the water and invest our precious time and hard-earned money.

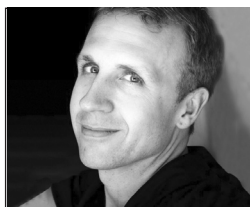
In return, what we get is much more than just the fish we are chasing.

Spring is a time of renewal and being on the river when the ice

breaks up and the water starts flowing is therapeutic in many ways. When we get bogged down by the stories in the news, the rate of inflation, or any other frustration, we can head out on the water to find solace.

For me, it is usually a solo trip to the river, fishing rod in hand, that serves to slow the world down and refresh my perspective on life. I tell myself that I am chasing steelhead, but if I am honest, I am seeking an escape and a renewal. Regardless of what exactly it is

that I am struggling with, it is always the peace and tranquility I find on some remote north shore river that proves to be the best medicine.



**Keith Ailey**  
the GOOD LIFE



**CREATING MEMORIES:** Fishing is a great way to create memories with family.

Not every fishing trip is a solo one. Sometimes the river, and

the fish within it, provide a great excuse to meet up with good friends. Since childhood, the best answer to "what do you want to do today" has always been to go fishing. Sharing a common passion for angling and spending time outdoors serves to bridge gaps in age, background and beliefs better than anything else I can think of. Even today, I always look forward to catching up with old friends on the river each spring and hearing about their latest adventures, what their kids are doing, or how they are enjoying retirement.

Inevitably, the most rewarding fishing trips are those we spend with our loved ones. The home screen on my phone is a photo of my daughter with a beautiful rainbow trout. Every time I look at my phone, that picture brings

me pure joy. I cherish every memory of our past family fishing adventures and I am always eagerly anticipating the next one.

Taking a well-deserved break from some of life's problems, obligations and chores to go fishing can provide us with some much needed time to relax, refresh and rejuvenate.

Whether we choose to head down to the river on a solo journey, to catch up with old friends or to spend time with our beloved family members, a day on the water is surely the most effective therapy we could ask for. In our modern world, it is more essential than ever to get out and enjoy the sound of a rushing river, the sight of a waterfall swollen with spring meltwater, and the feel of a trout on the end of your line.

## Busy cruising season

Cruise ship visits to Thunder Bay will rise to 17 in 2024

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

New records will be established for Thunder Bay's burgeoning cruise ship business this year.

Four different operators will bring five different vessels to the port a total of 17 times between early June and early October.

That's the largest number of individual ships and the largest number of port calls in Thunder Bay - three more than last year - in the modern cruising era.

It's seven fewer than Tourism Thunder Bay was initially hoping for last fall, when the Pool 6 dock was tentatively booked for 24 occasions this year.

But in an interview Tuesday, manager Paul Pepe explained that cruise operators often reserve docks while they are still building their itineraries around the world.

"As they finalize their itineraries, they remove some of those dock holds. So what we've seen is just a slight reduction."

Pepe noted that not only will 2024 be the busiest season on record, but five of the 17 ship stopovers will be turn-arounds.

"We are actually seeing two more turn-arounds than we had originally anticipated," he said.

Turnarounds are particularly important for the local economy because they typically mean hundreds of passengers disembark in Thunder Bay at the end of their journey, while hundreds more take flights to the city to board the same ship.

In addition, Thunder Bay suppliers are contracted to service and re-supply these vessels.

The first ship to tie up in the city this year will be Viking Cruises' Octantis, on June 5.

Its sister ship Polaris, Hapag-Lloyd's Hanseatic Inspiration, Ponant's Le Champlain, and Pearl Seas Cruises' Pearl Mist are the other cruise vessels scheduled to come this year.

Hanseatic Inspiration will close the season with a visit on Oct. 5.

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# Preparing for the solar eclipse

The upcoming total solar eclipse will be visible from many parts of Canada on April 8, 2024

By Gary Boyle

In a few short weeks on April 8th, the long-anticipated total solar eclipse will be upon us. Standing on a specific 185-kilometre-wide path will result in witnessing the moon completely cover the sun. Along the center of this path will result in a maximum of three to four minutes of totality. This path starts in Mexico and then continues over the border through Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Vermont ending in Maine. In Canada, residents in parts of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Newfoundland will also witness this amazing event. For the rest of Canada and the United States, only a partial eclipse will be seen. Although favoured in the east, even Vancouver will see 17% of the sun covered at the maximum.

Never look at the sun without a solar filter. When purchasing certified eclipse glasses, always buy from a reputable telescope dealer but many are selling out of stock. Never use a do-it-yourself hack seen online as this could be a recipe for eye damage if not blindness. Sunglasses are great when driving,



**ENJOYING THE STARS:** Gary Boyle known as the Backyard Astronomer.

walking, etc but should never be used to look directly at the sun. If eclipse glasses cannot be found, a piece of number 14 welder's glass can also be used.

When using a telescope, binoculars or camera always place the filter in front to reduce the sun's glare before it is magnified or imaged. Never place a filter behind the eyepiece as the concentrated solar beam acts as a laser and melts the filter and unfortunately your eye. You will also damage or melt

your camera or smartphone sensor.

If a solar filter or welder's glass is not available you can use a simple spaghetti or vegetable strainer or virtually anything with small round holes. Hold the kitchen tool about a foot off the ground and look at the projection of numerous semi-circles as the moon moves in front of the sun. You can then take a picture of the projection safely as you are not looking directly at the bright solar disk. A pinhole camera made from a cereal box is a great project with

children. Plans can be found online.

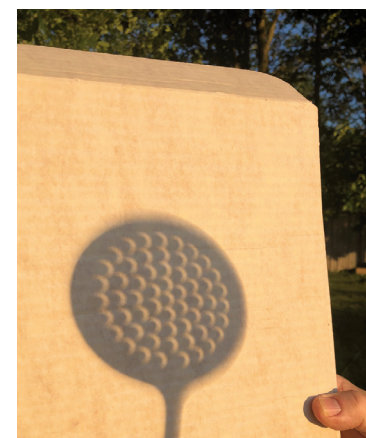
Many public viewing events with dedicated astronomers using solar telescopes will be planned so check your area for these gatherings. This is a great opportunity to look through telescopes and learn about the sun.

Once the moon completely covers the sun along the eclipse path will it be safe to look at. Even though solar filters and solar telescopes are designed to examine the surface of our daytime star, the outer corona is only observed with human eyes during totality. This will appear as a halo around the sun. Look for the bright planet Jupiter up at the eleven o'clock position and Venus down at five o'clock. Be aware of how long the totality is listed for your area to know when to hold up the filter before the bright sun emerges from behind the moon.

With the above-mentioned safety precautions and a little luck in the weather, this will be a moment in time that you will never forget. Feel free to email me your questions via my website.

Clear skies,

Known as "The Backyard Astronomer", Gary Boyle is an



**PLAYING IT SAFE:** Looking directly at a solar eclipse can damage the eyes.

astronomy educator, guest speaker, former monthly columnist for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as well as a STEM educator. He has been interviewed on more than 55 Canadian radio stations as well as various television stations across Canada and the U.S. In recognition of his public outreach in astronomy, the International Astronomical Union has honoured him with the naming of Asteroid (22406) Garyboyle. Follow him on Facebook and his website: [www.wondersofastronomy.com](http://www.wondersofastronomy.com)

## Bringing restaurant drama to the small screen

Restaurant and hospitality based dramas have long since been relegated to the reality TV genre. The restaurant based sitcom and hour long dramas never seeming to gain traction. Years ago, Bradley Cooper led a cast of relative stars (including Xander from Buffy, and Harold from Harold and Kumar) in a half hour sitcom based on Anthony Bourdain's celebrated first book, *Kitchen Confidential*. It emphasized more of the comedic side using characters based on Bourdain's current standing as a recovering addict, his sous chef days as a func-



**Derek Lankinen**

Here's Cooking at You Kid

tioning alcoholic and womanizer and his days as a bumbling young commis.

The show itself was great but didn't get past a single season and is unavailable anywhere legal to stream. Many other shows came and went with little fanfare, until the Emmy award winning Hulu series "The Bear". "The Bear" is an American comedy-drama series about a world-renowned chef who returns home to Chicago to take over his family's sandwich shop after his brother's death. Created by Christopher

Storer, the Hulu show stars Jeremy Allen White as Carmen "Carmy" Berzatto, who works to turn The Beef's ragtag kitchen staff into Michelin-level chefs, all the while dealing with grief and the restaurant's building debt. The ensemble cast are all amazing in their roles. The specific details paid to Carmy's overbearing New York Executive Chef who only appeared for a few moments but was played skillfully by Joel McHale, who doesn't yell or scream but needles Carmy with verbal barbs at a low whispering volume and slow, plodding pace. Something that gave me my own PTSD flashbacks to some of my PTX experiences in kitchens at a young age.

Jon Bernthal of *Walking Dead* and *Punisher* fame plays Carmy's tormented brother and former owner of the restaurant in flashbacks, and his stress is completely evident in some scenes while he's also blissfully carefree in others. "The Bear" returned for Season 2 in June 2023 with a bevy of guest stars, including Jamie Lee Curtis, Bob Odenkirk, John Mulaney, Olivia Colman, Will Poulter and Sarah Paulson.

In a surprising but magnificent casting choice, Canadian Chef Internet personality and now I guess Actor, Matty Matheson plays handyman Neil on the show. He stole the scenes he was in season one and saw his role

expanded in season two. Matheson also works with the culinary producer on the show to add realism and details to the show and its characters. The work he does shows through to the trained chef as more than a few times sounds and visuals of the characters have triggered me and sent me back to less happy times in restaurants and kitchens. I guess, that's the whole point.

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



# Cinematic comfort food

Ordinary Angels, an unabashed tear-jerker, has engaging performances and a solid script that has a way of warming even the coldest of hearts

“Ordinary Angels” (SilverCity) is an unabashed tear jerker that on the surface looks like an easily dismissed triumph-of-the-human-spirit opus. The fact that it’s being released just when the Oscars are distracting everyone also speaks to studio timing.

Except, gosh darn it, doesn’t the film just manage to surpass its Hallmark TV trappings thanks to engaging performances and a script that gets away with clichés because some of them are actually true.

Loosely based on a true story, “Ordinary Angels” tells the tale of hair dresser Sharon Stevens (Hilary Swank) who rouses a whole community in Louisville KY in the 1990s to help a widowed dad (Alan Ritchson) save his critically ill little daughter.

Stevens is motivated by a newspaper article detailing the plight of church-going roofer, Ed Schmitt (Ritchson) having lost his wife to a rare disease a few years previously which is now threatening his 5-year-old daughter Michelle (Emily Mitchell) who desperately needs a liver transplant. Ed’s also saddled with his oldest daughter Ashley (Skywalker Hughes) supported by his mom, Barbara (Nancy Travis).

Instantly, Sharon shows up at their home having raised a modest amount of dough through a “hair-a-thon.” However, Ed’s bills total six figures. He’s without health insurance. Sharon charms his



**ORDINARY ANGELS:** The new film Ordinary Angels stars Hilary Swank and Alan Ritchson and is now playing at SilverCity.

daughters and sets about prioritizing bill payments. From there, she’s distributing flyers and plying folks with homemade muffins and down-home charm. She’s a genial “won’t take no for an answer” type.

Sharon is also a miracle worker. She pleads Ed’s case with hospital administrators to reduce his bills to zero. (Also in the trailer but apparently took longer in real life than depicted.) However, ongoing

medicine fees and emergency hospital visits keep the family buried in debt.

Sharon’s Good Samaritan is motivated by her own dark back story involving alcohol and an alienated adult son. Swank is convincing in one of the film’s “creative departures.”

The script by actress Meg Tilly and Kelly Fremon Craig ratchets up the melodrama, less concerned with nuanced characterization. The theme about caring for others works. Commendably, Sharon and Ed do not fall into a pandering romance.

Much of the last act is the real deal—again in the trailer—a freak snowstorm, roads closed, a life and death crisis etc mostly happened. Sharon works transportation magic. Some other elements are employed to artificially push the suspense factor which director Jon Gunn knits together effectively.

Gunn is also good with his actors, especially the little girls who are quite natural and sweet. Swank exudes much energy, vulnerability and charm. Ritchson’s convincing as a proud, taciturn but loving dad reluctant to accept help.

Archival footage and epilogue verify much of the climax that would otherwise seem preposterous. Perhaps it’s the fact that something like this could only happen in a small town.

“Ordinary Angels” may be trite, but slickly rendered cinematic comfort food about community and selflessness can warm the heart in the dead of winter.



**Marty Mascarin**  
MOVIE TALK

**ENIGMA**™ Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: “D” = “K”

CRYPTOGRAM

“OSQXQ UP CGOSUCT UC K  
VKOQXYUBBKX OSKO OQBBP RGW UO’P  
TGUCT OG HQ K HWOQXJBR.”  
— X. HWVDLUCPOQX JWBBQX

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**ACROSS**

- Intl. Standard Book Number (abbr.)
- Coco
- Saint (Sp.)
- Aeronautical (abbr.)
- Hamitic language
- To be announced (abbr.)
- No (Ger.)
- Aseptic
- One-celled organism
- Great (Ger.)
- Metallic sound
- Hindu month
- Malay gibbon
- King killed by Samuel
- Sulfur (pref.)
- Harem room
- Sea goose
- Aid to Dependent

**DOWN**

- Sayings (suf.)
- Look
- Vivacity
- Music for nine
- Idol (2 words)

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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| A | D | A | K | N | A | B | P | R | O | D |
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6 Eternity  
7 Byron poem  
8 Fault finder  
9 Toyo (2 words)  
10 Presidential nickname  
11 No (Scott.)  
17 Stale  
19 Prejudice

22 Austral. cockatoo  
24 Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (abbr.)  
25 Fit string to an arrow  
26 Sack  
27 Afr. gazelle  
28 Sora (2 words)  
30 Overshoes  
34 Son of Agrippina  
37 Nipple  
41 Triangular topsail  
43 Amend  
45 Last in, last out (abbr.)  
47 Carplike fish  
48 Porch  
49 Cat’s-paw  
50 Sheep’s cry  
51 Warp yarn  
52 Serum (pref.)

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# LU holds 34th annual powwow

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Lakehead students and employees along with the greater Thunder Bay community were invited to the university to celebrate Indigenous culture and dance.

The Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club's 34th annual took place at the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse at Lakehead University from March 8 to 10 featuring Rolling Thunder as the Host Drum.

The powwow started with warm-ups on Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Grand Entry took place at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, followed by a traditional feast. On Sunday, the Grand Entry took place at 12:30 p.m. with the whole powwow wrapping up at around 5 p.m.

ICTC president, Jordan Thompson-Vankoughnett said the powwow is a wonderful step forward in the path to reconciliation.

"To be able to hold this powwow here at Lakehead University, especially going on 34 years now," he said. "It's a wonderful gathering that brings people from all across the world together. We have a lot of international students here today. We have youth all the way up to elders. It's an incredible turnout to see the diversity here at the powwow and we're so thankful that we're able to be a part of bringing this to everyone."

A lot of international students volunteered to help out during the powwow, something that Carmela Moses, the spiritual advisor for the weekend, commendation.

"You know, with our nationality itself, with being Indigenous, we're welcoming people and to see other nations come together to try to help organize and make it run smoothly, it shows a true definition of people in society trying to come together to work together," she said.



**CELEBRATING TRADITION:** The annual Powwow is a signature event that showcases traditional aspects of Indigenous culture.



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# Asking what the heart wants

By Linda Maehans - TB Source

The moment the lights go down, a neon-blue frame glowing around projected famous cityscapes as the live band starts the introduction smooth and low, we are engaged.

The moment The Girl steps onto her stage, small suitcase in tow, and begins to sing, softly yet so intimately to each of us in the audience, well that's when the magic begins. Her love song. It flies straight from the heart, her heart, irresistibly and irrevocably into ours. We don't even notice that arrow until it's too late. Like falling in love, isn't that so.

Tell Me on a Sunday, the Canadian premier, is a whitewater canyon of sparkling, cascading music on Magnus' mainstage. Melodies by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Don Black; and the outstanding voice, talent and undeniable stage-presence of Gabi Epstein.

She is as lovely to behold as are

her emotions, or the heart she so openly wears on her sleeve. No holding back, Gabi's solo journey through a maze of love affairs, heartbreaks, loyalties and landings both hard and soft, propels us along right beside her. Because, I suspect, we are making our own journeys (as memories, perhaps as current thoughts) through similar mazes.

I am sure no one in this life escapes the "pitfalls of love"; or as The Girl sings to us, our "dreams don't run on time".

Yet oh! Those glorious pinnacles, and the view, the panorama, when unexpectedly, wonderfully, we are there. There's not a soul among us, I'm guessing, who wouldn't want true love; or to try again, even if the heart hasn't quite mended. We can all take to heart the title number of this show: Tell Me on a Sunday.

Gabi's musical range? Crystal clear diction; we don't miss a word; she doesn't miss a note. For this audience-member, an added delight



MATTHEW GORRIZ

ON STAGE: Gabi Epstein in Magnus Theatre's latest production, Tell Me on a Sunday.

or qualm, depending on which emotions The Girl is expressing, was her body language, the way she moved, used her hands, legs, arms. Her face (apart from her voice). She puts it all together, seemingly effortlessly, naturally.

It is genuine; every exactly-timed nuance and pause; every swell of anger; or joy, again depending on the particular emotion Gabi is expressing. Nicely done.

We can also "see" the invisible others to whom she sometimes

sings: the men; her girlfriends; her parents. We can see where she travels in her quest for love. No in this sense The Girl is not giving a solo performance.

A special round-of-applause to the live band and musical direction of Paul Rodermond (piano); Mark Soderlind (guitar); Dan Zadkovich (guitar); Nathan Pakka (bass); Anthony Bell (drums). These guys switch the mood and pace of the storyline almost without our noticing, lending balance and support without distracting the slightest beat from The Girl as she sings "that unexpected song only you and I are hearing...". Yes, the heart can and does hold much more than you or I will ever know.

Directed by Thom Currie, assistant director Jeremy Lapalme, Tell Me on a Sunday resounds until March 30. Beautiful music for any day of the week. Even on a Sunday.

## Duck race set to return

Kam River Ultimate Duck Race returning this spring and will be in support of Our Kids Count

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Kaministiquia's rubber duck population will raise by roughly 3,000 on May 4 during the return of the Kam River Ultimate Duck Race.

The annual Our Kids Count fundraiser, still in partnership with the Kam River Fighting Walleye, is returning after being postponed in September due to low water levels. This year the race will occur at Fort William Historical Park.

There are roughly 3,000 ducks to be purchased up until May 4. The ducks will be raced down the Kaministiquia River, with the owner of the lucky duck that crosses the finish line first winning \$10,000. Second through fourth place also receive a cash prize.

Brianna Bernst, promotions coordinator for the Kam River Fighting Walleye, said the team is keeping up the partnership because they believe it's imperative to give back to the community.

"The Kam River Fighting Walleye loves all of our partnerships. It was very important



HOLDEN DOUGALL

READY TO GO: A duck race on the Kam River benefiting Our Kids Count will return in May.

that we work closely with Our Kids Count, they do a lot for our community.

"Community involvement is very important to us as well, getting in there and making our presence known and building those relationships with the community," she said.

Each duck costs \$20 or purchase six ducks for \$100.

They can be purchased at Play it Again Sports, ourkidscount.ca, or at a variety of community events this spring.

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# Skid Row returns to Auditorium

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Skid Row is not afraid to be Skid Row anymore. It was a lesson the band learned after working with producer Nick Raskulinecz on their first album release in 16 years, and they go back even further, returning to their heavy metal roots.

"You get so far from your roots sometimes. Life kind of gets in the way. You get so far from that kid that wrote those songs 35 years ago but Nick was able to bring us back to that," said bassist and founding member Rachel Bolan.

"And that was very important because we were able to put that same energy and angst into what we were doing in that moment in 2022."

Skid Row is returning to Thunder Bay for the first time in nearly 25 years as part of The Gang's All Here international tour alongside Buckcherry.

The tour is in promotion of Skid Row's sixth studio album, *The Gang's All Here*, released in 2022.



**STILL ROCKING:** Skid Row is bringing the *Gang's All Here* tour to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium on March 20.

Being the first studio recording released since *Revolutions per Minute* in 2006, Bolan said the writing process was similar to past releases, with him and Dave 'The Snake' Sabo doing the bulk of the writing and other band members putting their own feel into the songs.

But what sets this latest release apart for the band was working with producer Raskulinecz, who has previously worked with artists

including Foo Fighters, Velvet Revolver, Rush, and Danko Jones.

"The cool thing was Nick was a fan before he was producer. He had that photographic time of our music in his head, which is always different than what we have," Bolan said.

"There is a lot of life from your first album and 35 years into your career. But he brought us back and helped us retrace our steps, which is not an easy task by any means. He

was very honest with us with our ideas and it just turned out to be really important for us."

Bolan added that Raskulinecz brought the band back into focus and helped them create a record he is really proud of and one the fans have said has all the energy and hooks of a true Skid Row record.

"Nick knew what he wanted to hear. He wanted to produce his favourite Skid Row record. He

remembered all the feelings he got as a teen listening to that record and what lit him up as a fan listening to those records," Bolan said.

The band is also working on new material for a potential seventh studio album. Bolan said he loves creating and working on new music, but also connecting with fans, especially live on stage.

"Playing live is really important to us. It's kind of our life's blood to do this," he said.

Skid Row and Buckcherry will bring *The Gang's All Here* tour to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium on March 20 with guest Sierra Pilot.

"You're going to get nostalgia, you are going to get new stuff, you are going to have a good time, throw your arms in the air, yell out really loud," Bolan said.

"There's a lot of energy at a Skid Row show. We just want people to go home singing the songs and with a smile on their face. That's really important to us."

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## Thundercon announces another special guest

Jed Rees has starred in *Galaxy Quest*, *Pretty Little Liars* and *Deadpool* and will be at Thundercon

By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

A Canadian actor from the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been added to the guest list for ThunderCon this year.

Jed Rees has starred in *Galaxy Quest*, *Pretty Little Liars* and *Deadpool* -- to name a few.

A release from ThunderCon said Rees played the Recruiter in the original *Deadpool* film, who enrolled Wade Wilson into the Weapon X program in a delightfully wicked way.

Rees is also an accomplished voice actor. He is the voice of Roland in the *Pup Star* film series, which is part of the *Air Bud* family.

ThunderCon, the popular convention celebrating all things geek will be returning to the CLE grounds on Sept. 21 and 22, 2024.



**SPECIAL GUEST:** Jed Rees will appear at this year's Thundercon on Sept. 21 and 22.





Skip Trevor Bonot, second Mike McCarville, third Jordan Potts, lead Kurtis Byrd and coach Al Hackner (Curling Canada)

# Bonot bows out

## A 5-3 record not enough to advance at Brier

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The end came quickly for Team Northern Ontario.

When all was said and done, the result of their round-robin finale at the 2024 Montana's Brier in Regina was a moot point.

Bonot, third Mike McCarville, second Jordan Potts and lead Kurtis Byrd dropped an 8-7 decision on Thursday night to a one-win Thomas Scoffin, representing Yukon, but win or lose, their magical run at the national men's curling championship had come to a crashing halt a little while earlier.

Needing both to beat Yukon and for Manitoba's Matt Dunstone one sheet over to lose to Andrew Symonds' Newfoundland and Labrador foursome, it became crystal clear early in the latter match that things weren't going to go Bonot's way.

Dunstone scored early and often, building a 5-1 lead through three ends and put it away with a steal of three more in the fourth. He'd go on to beat the Atlantic Canadian squad 12-4.

Dunstone had beaten Bonot 8-3 earlier in the day and both teams entered play at 5-2, chasing down the third and final playoff spot, Dunstone owning the head-to-head tiebreaker and comfortably ahead in the last stone draw standings in the event of a

multiple-team tiebreaker, a new rule introduced in 2024 to emulate the way ties in the standings are solved at the world championship level.

Manitoba's Reid Carruthers was already as was Alberta's Brendan Bottcher, the 2021 Brier champ.

Bonot's only hope was to win and hope that Symonds could find a way to upset Dunstone. Team Northern Ontario struggled mightily against Scoffin, who finished the week at 2-6.

Scoffin scored an easy deuce in the opening end, then, after holding Bonot to a single in the second, added two more in the fourth to take a 4-1 lead.

Bonot fought back with a huge three-ender in the fifth, but promptly gave Scoffin back the lead, giving up two in the sixth.

Twice more Bonot was able to tie the match, sending it to an extra end.

But without hammer, he couldn't manufacture a steal and Scoffin, third Trygg Jensen, second Joseph Wallingham and lead Evan Latos, walked away with the upset win.

The mostly rookie Team Northern Ontario still managed to put in an impressive week at the Brier, opening plenty of eyes with a 5-3 win, including a 6-5 win over Bottcher, and started 5-1.

In the end, the numbers just weren't on their side.

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# Brier tiebreaker a bit messy

Trevor Bonot could have finished 6-2 at the Brier and still missed the playoffs.

Had he won his finale over Yukon's Thomas Scoffin, that's exactly the scenario that would have played out.

As it stands, he was 5-3 and fell short of advancing.

It feels like Curling Canada's solution to a lack of time for tiebreaker games falls short too.

Instead of playing a tiebreaker game, they've decided head-to-head matchups should be the first determining factor - as it should be.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS

But when multiple teams are tied, and records are equal, as was the case at the Scotties Tournament of

Hearts and could have been the case had Bonot emerged victorious against Yukon, the deciding element switches to last-stone draw, the result of two shots to the button by each team prior to each game.



Lead Kurtis Byrd and second Jordan Potts get set to sweep for skip Trevor Bonot at the Brier. (Michael Burns photo)

It's the way it's done at the world championships.

But would it really be that tough to add another day to each championship, to build in time for a tiebreaker round if necessary?

Yes, it's added expense, but it's also added value for ticketholders, a chance to sell more

beer and even more exposure for their sponsors.

Something just doesn't sit right with me, seeing teams battle it out all week on the ice, only to lose out on a pre-game ritual.

Sure, Krista McCarville and her teammates could have played better and, finishing at 4-4

at the Scotties, they probably didn't deserve to advance.

That said, I think they deserved a chance to win their way in through competition, not a cumulative shot to the button.

Bonot, on the other hand, could have made a much stronger argument that he deserved at least one more shot to earn his way into the playoffs.

As it turns out, Team Northern Ontario didn't do their part, losing 8-7 to Yukon in their final round-robin game.

I'm sure I'm not alone in my thinking.



Westgate's run at provincials was short-lived, but competitive. The Tigers dropped a 64-49 decision in their opener against Ascension of our Lord and fell 62-50 in Game 2 to St. Francis CSS, outscoring their opponent 25-10 in the final quarter to close the gap somewhat.



The St. Ignatius Falcons girls volleyball team was also at OFSAA and though they finished 0-4, they had a couple of really close contests, taking Sir Oliver Mowat CI to a third and deciding game in their match, losing 15-17 in the final set.



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