



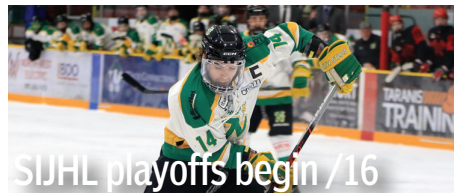
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# THUNDER BAY SOURCE



Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 21 No. 13

Thursday, March 28, 2024

  
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# SHOTS FIRED



Police responded to a weapons call on Sunday and found the victim with serious injuries /3

A man was sent to hospital with serious injuries and police are asking the public for any footage or images they might have of the Trillium Way incident. (Leith Dunick)

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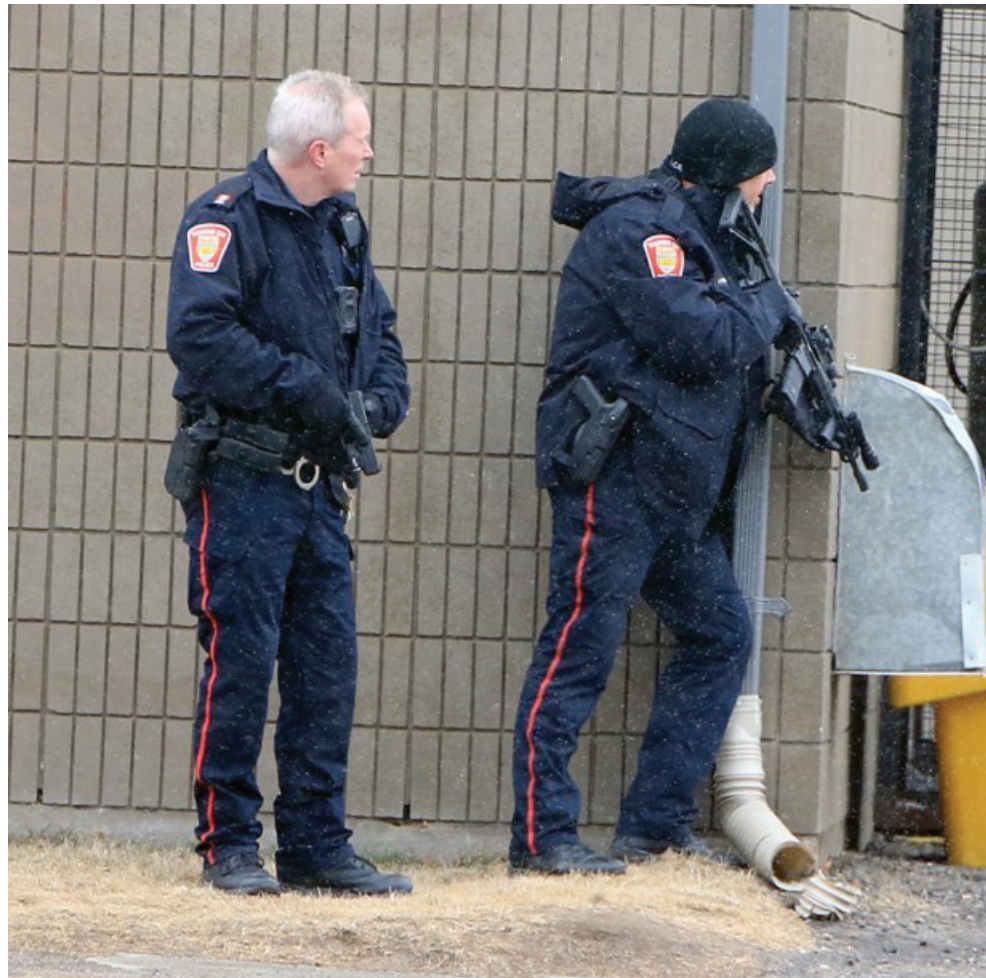
**SUNDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**



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**THUNDER BAY SOURCE**





Thunder Bay Police take cover on Sunday afternoon during a weapons call on the city's north side. (Leith Dunick)

# Man shot near Trillium Way

## Victim sent to hospital with serious injuries

By TB Source staff

A man suffered serious injuries in an incident Sunday that saw Thunder Bay Police respond in force after reports of a shooting.

The victim remained in hospital Monday but his condition was unknown.

He was located by police after they responded to a weapons call around 4 p.m. Sunday to the Trillium Court area off Beverly Street.

TBPS was assisted by Ontario Provincial Police, and multiple officers were observed with their weapons drawn, crouching behind cover.

No one is believed to have been taken

into custody yet in connection with the case.

A police presence remained at the scene Monday morning, but a brief update issued to the news media did not include the announcement of any arrests.

The Thunder Bay Police major crimes unit continues its investigation.

Police are asking any residents with relevant footage captured on home surveillance cameras or dash cameras between 4:15 pm and 4:45 pm Sunday to contact investigators.

Anyone with video or information may contact police at (807) 684-1200, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at [www.p3tips.com](http://www.p3tips.com).

# WEATHER FORECAST

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# Council explores MAT options

By Kevin Jeffrey - Local Journalism Initiative

A September deadline looms for city staff to report back to council with whether an increase in the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) is warranted and what it could look like.

Although there was very little discussion when the motion from At-Large Coun. Kasey Ereni was brought forward, an earlier presentation from the Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) did bring the issue forward.

CEDC CEO Jamie Taylor and manager of Tourism Thunder Bay Paul Pepe made their annual Tourism report presentation to council, which included a more detailed look at the revenues generated from MAT and what the CEDC's portion of those funds were.

## Millions brought in

The revenues in 2023 were just over \$3 million with the CEDC collecting nearly \$1.6 million of that. Earlier numbers from staff indicated that the city has received more than \$12.3 million in revenue since the inception of MAT in 2018.

The revenue received is divided equally between the city and the CEDC.

The topic of short-term rentals and whether to include MAT on those properties was posed to both Pepe and Taylor.

## Adding in properties?

"This issue is one that is being looked at across North America," Pepe answered. "A lot of cities have already brought in regulations and legislation around collected MAT from the short-term rental market, including Toronto and Hamilton."

"That's what we're looking for to level the playing field so to speak. The hotels pay a lot of money in property taxes annually to their communities, and collect the MAT from travellers. If we are bringing in more events to Thunder Bay, and more visitors are utilizing short term rentals that are not collecting the MAT then we are not regenerating the funds into the city that we should be."

At-Large Coun. Shelby Ch'ng reminded council that the issue is being addressed through the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee with a report due back soon.

The MAT was introduced in 2018 at an established rate of four per cent.



Thunder Bay hotels charge a municipal accommodations tax to guests and the money is used by the city and CEDC.

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MV Harvest Spirit Capt. Adam Hagen (right) and first engineer, Gavin Pink arrived in port on Saturday. (Leith Dunick)

# Shipping opens

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

When it comes to sailing the Great Lakes, Adam Hagen is a bit of a traditionalist.

A veteran of 25 years on the water, the captain of the bulker Harvest Spirit said for years he'd look down from his ship's deck when his captain of the day was honoured in early spring, at the helm of the first laker to arrive in Thunder Bay to open the shipping season.

On Sunday, it was Hagen who took the ceremonial top hat from Patrick Bushby, chair of the Port of Thunder Bay's board of directors.

It's quite the honour, the veteran sailor said. "Thunder Bay is definitely our most important port of call and I believe it's one of the most important ports of call in Canada," said Hagen, who expects to make 26 trips to the port before the shipping season shuts down again next winter.

"Putting grain through the Great Lakes not only adds to the tradition of more than 100 years of shipping, but also, it's a great economic engine. Great Lakes shipping is an old industry and, although it's suffered a few pitfalls in the last few years, it's a great employer. It's the most economical and environmentally friendly way to ship anything, and I'm a big proponent."

Hagen, who said this particular journey to Thunder Bay was mostly smooth sailing and uneventful, said it's a bit of a weird feeling being the honouree and not just watching from above.

"For the longest time I was the youngest guy on the vessel and now I'm old hat. I don't know exactly when that happened," he said. "It's great. It's given me a good life."

The MV Harvest Spirit, which arrived on

Saturday evening, was loaded up with mostly canola, a load supplemented with soy beans. It has up to 16 crew members at any given time and was berthed in Windsor, Ont. over the winter.

"That's a typical run for us, canola and soy beans out of Thunder Bay. Every once in a while we'll take wheat, but more often than not, canola."

The grain is expected to be processed in southern Ontario.

Port Authority CEO Chris Heikkinen said the vessel's arrival tied the record for the earliest start to Thunder Bay's shipping season, and noted the expected arrival this week of the first ocean-going vessel will likely set a new record, by four or five days, in that category.

All signs are pointing to a great shipping season ahead, he said.

Honouring the first ship of the season dates back decades, Heikkinen added.

"It's nice to show the community and the city that shipping is under way for another season. Marine shipping is so vital to the global supply chain. Over 80 per cent of all global goods are shipped on a marine vessel," Heikkinen said.

"But it's also important to this city and this community because the port is a huge driver of the economy here in Thunder Bay. So we always like to recognize the first ship that kind of leads the way for opening the season and thanking the captain and chief engineer for leading that charge."

In addition to grain, Heikkinen said plenty of other cargo, including steel pipes and rails, is expected to flow through the port in 2024.

The McKeil Marine's MV Harvest Spirit, built in 2012, was also the first laker to arrive in Thunder Bay in 2023.

# Hospital assaults down

## Police presence on site has helped situation

By Gary Rinne – TB Source

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is in discussions with Thunder Bay Police about extending the arrangement for police to provide security in the emergency department.

TBPS officers were first assigned there in mid-2022, at a significant cost to the hospital, in response to an increase in assaults against staff.

New data released by TBRHSC confirms that a dramatic reduction in violence since then is still being observed.

Between April 2023 and February 2024 there were 16 reported assaults against emergency department personnel, compared with 33 incidents in the same period a year earlier.

The hospital previously reported that from April to June 2022 – prior to the deployment of police at the hospital the following month – there were 80 violent incidents, while in the same three months of 2023 there were only 10.

A statement from TBRHSC on Monday attributed the continuing reduction in assaults "in part" to the police presence.

The hospital said its current contract with TBPS is set to expire soon, and that "continuation of this service is pending discussion with internal parties and the Thunder Bay Police Service."



RHONDA CROCKER-ELLACOTT

TBRHSC, which also uses security guards, implemented a number of internal measures during the COVID-19 pandemic when the rate of assaults against emergency department staff worsened.

The number of violent incidents rose from 138 in 2019 to 213 in 2021, with more than half of that total involving physical violence.

CEO Rhonda Crocker Ellacott said last year: "One is too many . . . We will continue on these efforts to get to zero . . . (we will also work hard

to) change things to have staff feel comfortable and supported at work, and ensure that there is just zero tolerance for any type of violent incident in the department and in the hospital."

She added that staff have indicated strongly that they want police to continue to provide security.

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# Protest seeks to spike the hike

By Clint Fleury - TB Source

The carbon tax is scheduled to go up by 23 per cent on April 1, so the Conservative Party of Canada is pulling out all the stops to campaign to stop the tax increase by pulling in as many votes as possible.

"Last week in Ottawa, our Conservative team gave the NDP-Liberal coalition a number of opportunities to spike that hike to stop that carbon tax hike, which 70 per cent of Canadians have been calling for and the majority of premiers as well have been calling for a pause to that carbon tax increase," said Eric Melillo, member of Parliament for Kenora.

In Ottawa last week, the Conservatives put forward a motion to stop the carbon tax increase, but the motion was defeated.

Melillo says Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives will try again before the week is out.

"Our party has been very clear that we're going to be the only party that will actually completely axe the carbon tax and remove it completely. But it goes up now automatically every year," stated Melillo.

When asked what his response is to Melillo protesting in front of his office, Powlowski said: "The Common Sense Conservatives (Sunday) in a snowstorm drove from Kenora to Thunder Bay in order to make this point. You would have thought maybe Eric could have come and talked to me in the House of Commons because I'm about 20 metres from him. But no, they're the Common Sense Conservatives. So, who am I to question the Common Sense Conservatives?"

Powlowski found the entire demonstration to be rather childish. He said they should stick to debating in the House of Commons.

During the demonstration, Melillo stuck to the party line by attacking the tax as a way to make everything more expensive.

"I found a number of people sharing stories with me and sharing their home heating bills as well. We're seeing a lot of cases now that the carbon tax is actually sometimes even more than the charge for the gas itself and people are really struggling to

be able to get by. It's unfortunate that we've seen record numbers of people now going to food banks here in Northwestern Ontario and right across the country. More and more people are living in energy poverty, meaning they can't afford their heating or electricity," said Melillo.

In response, Powlowski said he sees how people are struggling with the cost of living, but the effects of the carbon tax on the cost of living are small.

"But if you actually look and listen to what the experts are saying as to how much the carbon tax actually costs and results in an increase in the cost of living, it is not very much. So, for example, the governor of the Bank of Canada figured that the carbon tax resulted in 0.15 per cent of the increase in inflation," stated Powlowski.

He also pointed out that the Conservatives have no climate change plan in place if they were successful in axing the tax.

Powlowski said: "So even Conservative economists think that carbon pricing is one of

- if not the most efficient way of dealing with increased greenhouse gases and climate change. If you look and you calculate - and people have done this, the cost of a two per cent rise in temperature globally. They figure the cost of that will be in the trillions of dollars and every year it costs us a lot of money to deal with climate change.

"We had the heat dome in B.C. We had flooding in B.C. - just to rebuild bridges in B.C. was billions of dollars. Forest fires throughout the country. Drought in Alberta," Powlowski said.

"Cyclones hitting the East Coast. Fires across Canada and Ottawa. And in the spring, the smoke was so thick, it was kind of hard to breathe.

"Those things aren't without costs. When you look at the parliamentary budget officer, when they're figuring out the cost of the carbon tax, that's something they don't factor in, which is a substantial cost of climate change. That's a cost that not only we're going to bear but our children are going to bear. Our grandchildren are going to bear," said Powlowski.



ERIC MELILLO



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EDITORIAL  
**MAT tax**

Council is looking at its options for the municipal accommodations tax.

City staff have until September to report back to council to determine what an increase in the tax might look like.

For the uninitiated, the tax is levied on hotel stays, paid for by guests visiting the city, and the money is used by both the city of Thunder Bay and its tourism department.

For example, the CEDC used some of its share to help organizers of the 2025 Scotties Tournament of Hearts pay Curling Canada's required fee to host the event.

According to CEDC CEO Jamie Taylor and manager of tourism Paul Pepe, revenues last year were \$3 million and they've collected more than \$12.3 million since it was instituted in 2018.

Without the tax, that's money taxpaying residents and businesses would have to come up with, or services they might have to do without.

Face it. Thunder Bay residents are paying similar taxes every time they go to Minneapolis or Duluth.

Council should also very much consider adding short-term rentals to

**Coverage appreciated**  
To the editor:

I am writing to express my gratitude for the coverage of the new commercial vehicle inspection station near Shuniah in your recent publication. As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North, I feel compelled to address some of the concerns raised by one of your readers, Gary Kader.

First and foremost, I share Mr. Kader's enthusiasm for the opening of this vital facility. The \$30-million investment represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to enhance road safety in the North. I was pleased to attend the opening ceremony and have been vocal about the significance of this new inspection station in the media and in my communications. However, as Mr. Kader rightly points out, this is just one piece of the puzzle.

Mr. Kader raises important questions about the staffing of inspection stations.

Wages are not competitive with work available in other industries making it very difficult to recruit and retain workers. I would add to this, as well, the vital need for improved regulations for trucking schools, and the implementation of legislation like "Chad's Law" to prevent dangerous passing on our highways. These concerns are not only valid but urgent.

I will continue to advocate for round-the-clock staffing at inspection stations, enhanced regulations for trucking schools, a crack-down on licensing fraud, and comprehensive road safety legislation that prioritizes the well-being of all

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**



Ontarians.

Furthermore, I join the call for equal snow removal standards for Northern Ontario highways. Every driver deserves safe and accessible roadways, regardless of where they live.

In closing, I want to thank Mr. Kader for raising

these important issues and for his continued commitment to road safety in our region.

Lise Vaugeios,  
NDP MPP

Thunder Bay-Superior North

# The Wild Men documents Labour Party's first triumph

*The Wild Men* by David Torrance is the story of the historic occasion 100 years ago when Britain broke free from the Liberal/Conservative stranglehold and elected a new type of political party into power.

The main achievement of the first Labour government of 1924 proved to be demonstrating that they were not "wild men" at all.

The Establishment clearly saw the mixture of working-class representatives, elected in 1923, as a potential revolutionary threat to its existence. The British version of the Bolsheviks in Russia. What David Torrance clearly demonstrates is that they were anything but.

There were the initial niceties of dress, certain suits for different occasions. The prime

minister had personally to fund the furnishing of Downing Street. The lack of trust of the first Labour administration is amusingly illustrated with the story of four splendid silver candlesticks, which reappeared in the Colonial Office, as Labour minister Jimmy Thomas left.

Central to the book is the figure of Ramsay MacDonald. The first Labour prime minister, he also took on the role of foreign secretary as well. It is the weaknesses of MacDonald that chart, to a large degree, the fate of the government.

Torrance sets the scene in the early chapters before moving on to case studies of the main players. So there is the conservatism of characters like MacDonald and chancellor Philip Snowden balanced against the more radical education secretary Charles

Trevelyan, and health and housing minister John Wheatley.

Wheatley's housing reforms, which led to hundreds of thousands of new homes being built over the following years were one of the big successes of the government.

The government only lasted nine months before largely self-destructing due to MacDonald's bad decision-making. The mishandling of a case against John Campbell, editor of the *Workers' Weekly*, effectively saw the government fall. But it didn't have to happen. Then, the infamous Zinoviev letter helped ensure defeat in the 1924 election.

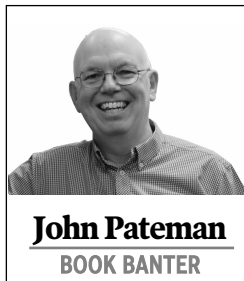
But Torrance offers a shrewd assessment of the government's achievement. It proved that it could govern, without upsetting the monarch, the City or the general populace. That achievement — if it can be called such — set the blueprint for Labour governments of

the future, in thrall to the Establishment, ever keen to please. Labour could be trusted.

MacDonald's preference for the aristocracy and Conservatives began here, and was later consummated by the role he played in forming the national government in 1931.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the first Labour government was that, in electoral terms, it marked the replacement of the Liberals. The decision of the combined Liberals of Herbert Asquith and David Lloyd George to support and, at first, to sustain this Labour administration led in the end to their own demise, and the formation of the two-party system we still have today.

Torrance provides an excellent, accessible analysis, while also disproving the title. These were not wild men at all but easily mouldable future pillars of the Establishment — and, as such, they proved their worthiness to govern.



**John Pateman**  
BOOK BANTER

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# Earth: happiest planet in town

By JR Shermack - For TB Source

The World Happiness Report for 2024 has been released and although it wasn't specifically mentioned in the report, Earth remains the happiest planet in the universe.

It should be noted however that no other planets were surveyed.

However, this dubious distinction doesn't mean that all Earthlings are happy (far from it) and in fact, like so much of life's bounty, happiness is not fairly and equally distributed.

Part of the report is a relatively mundane listing of world countries from the happiest to the saddest including which ones are happier or sadder than they used to be.

The standings reveal a lot about some global perceptions that are changing and some that remain the same.

For the seventh year in a row the happiest people in the world reside in Finland followed by the slightly less happy people of Denmark, Iceland and Sweden.

The rest of the top ten list includes Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Australia.

Any country that claims to have something to fret about should look to Iceland (#2) for inspiration.

That country sits on the boundary of two

tectonic plates atop 33 active volcanic systems and yet the people there are the second happiest in the world.

Many larger, richer and less volcanic countries are considerably less cheerful.

Not surprisingly, for the first time in the survey's 12-year history the United States didn't make the happiest top 20 list, dropping to 23rd place from 15th last year.

Canada replaced the U.S. at 15th, down two spots from last year - our former 13th spot is now occupied by Kuwait.

The World happiness report focused on the perceptions of people at different stages of life and for the first time separate rankings were compiled by age groups.

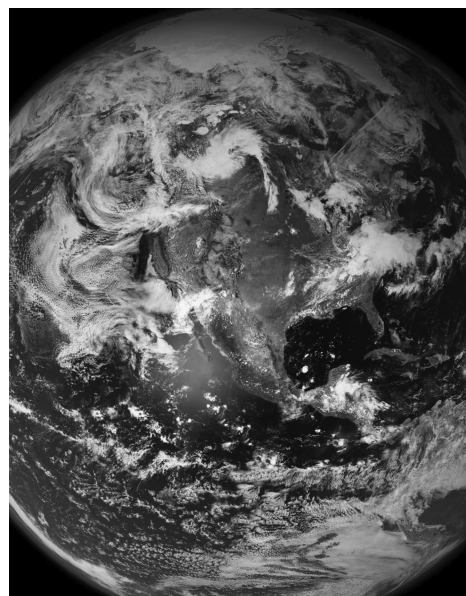
An analysis of the results offers some keen insights into the global state of perceived personal happiness.

Shakespeare portrayed old age as sad and depressing but this report sheds an alternate, more positive light on the later stages of life.

Western nations widely believe that young people are the happiest and that happiness declines in middle age often followed by a cheerful recovery in later life.

And while it is true that in many regions the young are happier than the old there is one notable exception in the developed world.

In contrast to this perceived folklore, happi-



Earth's happiest people live in Finland. (NASA)

is true about youth happiness in Western Europe

Globally there is a lower level of happiness among those born since 1980 although Central and Eastern Europe the young are much happier than the old

This indicates that there is a difference between 'standard of living' and 'quality of life' - in some wealthy countries healthy life expectancy has declined.

Individual countries were ranked according to six key variables - GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and corruption.

Each score is based on the personal assessments of an individual's own life - the sample size is 1000 people from each of 140 countries.

Finland, the happiest, promotes positive well-being, access to nature, trust in social institutions and low stress - it seems to be working.

Coincidentally many people now happily living in Thunder Bay have family connections happily living in Finland.

There are global hotbeds of happiness just as there are societies of sadness (the saddest in the world is Afghanistan) but one title is undisputed.

Earth remains the happiest planet in the Universe.

ness among the young (ages 15-24) has declined sharply in North America to the point where the old are happier than the young.

This gap is largely evident in Canada and the United States and to a lesser extent the same

what's happening  
in and around...

## The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

### March 31

#### Bianca Del Rio Comedy Show

Bianca Del Rio's tour will take the Drag Race icon to 60 different locations across the United States and Canada, including a stop on Sunday night at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

As the seasoned comic's sixth large-scale stand-up tour, "Dead Inside" will cover politics, pop culture, political correctness, current events, cancel culture, and everyday life through the eyes of someone who's "dead inside," finding humor in everything.

Fans can expect their favorite self-proclaimed "clown in a gown" to return to the stage with the same lightning-fast wit and razor-sharp tongue they've grown to love.

Bianca is a pro at entertaining the masses, and audiences can look forward to an abundance of interaction between the comedic icon and her crowd.

After all, when the "Joan Rivers of the Drag World" has a microphone in her hands, no one is safe.

The show takes place at 8 p.m. and tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

### March 31

#### Leveaux Mountain Hike

The Leveaux Mountain trail offers breathtaking views of Lake Superior, the Sawtooth Mountains, and the Onion River valley.

Located near Tofte, Minn., the trail winds through a coniferous forest and passes over the Onion River.

Dress for the weather! Plan to be outside for about three hours. If the snow is light and fluffy, we'll wear snowshoes.

If the trail is packed or icy, we'll opt for ice trekkers.

Trips could be cancelled if temperatures drop below -15 degrees with windchill.

Meet at Bluefin Bay guest services.

Tickets are available at [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca).

### March 29

#### Lagos to Kingston

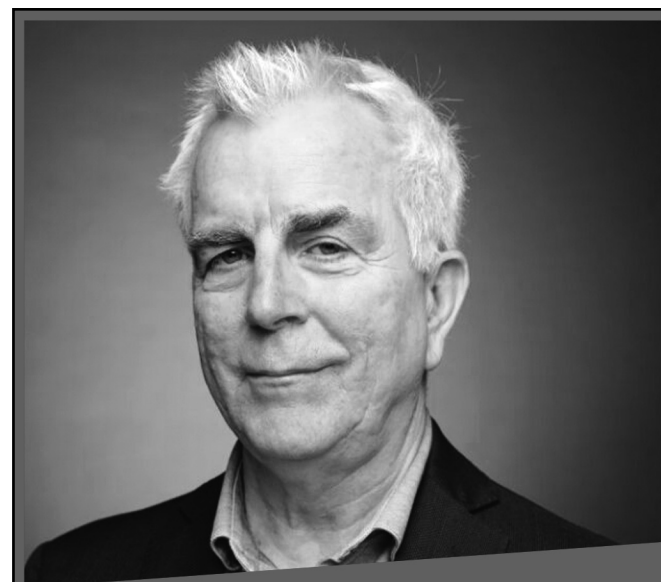
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The event starts at 10 p.m. on Friday and tickets can be purchased at [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca).



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# Councillor puts clerk on hot seat

By Kevin Jeffrey - Local Journalism Initiative

City staff now have a year to report back to council on a potential sale of Hillcourt Estates.

In what turned into a heated discussion at Council on Monday night, the elected members voted to follow the original ask of Realty Services to delay the report from March 18, 2024 to on or before March 31, 2025.

At-Large Couns. Mark Bentz and Trevor Giertuga missed the original vote on March 11th as did Current River coun. Andrew Foulds.

Giertuga provided paperwork to councillors as well as to the media, arguing that proper procedure was not followed with the vote.

"The amendment that was put on the floor by Coun. Johnsen was contrary to the original resolution," Giertuga told council. "In our procedural by-law it states that a motion to amend a motion in possession of the Assembly shall not be contrary to the main motion."

"I called the clerk's office and said that I believe that the vote wasn't in order

whereas I was told it was."

Giertuga added, in the provided document, that outstanding items will be presented at each committee of the whole meeting and provide a list of items passed by resolution and directed by council to return by a designated date. The list of items will pertain to each section of committee of the whole.

"This documentation tells us exactly what we're supposed to do, but we can't just keep doing things wrong," charged Giertuga. "If we've done something wrong, it's not a sign of weakness but rather a sign of strength that we're going to change things and get better."

Bentz was surprised by the March 11th vote and added, "I think that this item, regardless of interpretations of the rules, should go back to the coordinating committee. I have been on council for a while and I didn't think that move was possible."

Giertuga asked the clerk what further steps he could take to make his point, and that's when city clerk Krista Power spoke up.

"It's important to note that city council appoints your city clerk. I am a statutory officer under the legislation and I report to you," Power noted. "Council appoints me

and they can also dismiss me, should they wish to do so."

"I am subject to the employee code of conduct and you can certainly speak to City Manager Norm Gale, who would then manage any sort of matter."

Giertuga added that he was only looking to appeal the decision and not to replace the clerk.

Needing Coun. Greg Johnsen didn't feel that the conversation was appropriate at that time.

"There's a time and place for these conversations. If that's how you feel about our procedures and policies, then you sit with clerks and you work on crafting better wording," Johnsen said, in an interview following the meeting. "I don't believe that the time to have this discussion is during a council meeting. That conversation needs to take place at another time or location."

Current River Coun. Andrew Foulds and others spoke up in support of the clerk's office, stating that "they work day in and day out to provide us with the best knowledge and expertise to help us make better decisions."



Coun. Trevor Giertuga at Monday's council meeting.

## Delta hotel workers will sign on with UFCW union

### About 80 employees impacted by decision

By Brandon Walker - TB Source

More than 80 employees at Thunder Bay's Delta by Marriott hotel will be joining Local 175 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

"Like many people out there, these workers were looking for a way to build a better life," said Kelly Tosato, president of UFCW Local 175, in a media release.

"Joining a union and working together is a great way to harness their collective power to do just that, and I'm pleased to see that these workers won their vote today."

Organizers from UFCW Local 175 met with employees at the Delta by Marriott in Thunder Bay to discuss their concerns and how joining the union could assist them to improve their working conditions.

Workers then signed union cards that enabled the union to apply to the Ontario Labour Relations Board for a vote.

The vote took place online over a 24-hour period, closing at noon on March 21, to determine if UFCW Local 175 would become the certified bargaining representative for the Delta workers.

The OLRB released the results shortly after the vote closed. Representatives assured the 84 workers that they are now members with UFCW Local 175.

"We were happy to speak to these workers about their concerns and our organizing team was impressed by their motivation and strength leading up to the vote," said Tony Nigro, UFCW Local 175 director of organizing.

"They want to create positive changes in their workplace and we are excited to have their backs, stand with them, and help them get started on bargaining their first collective agreement as union members."

UFCW Locals 175 and 633 represent more than 70,000 working people across all sectors of the Ontario economy -- including hospitality and services, health care, retail grocery and pharmacy, food production, meat processing, manufacturing, packaging, and more.



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# Easter egg hunt back

By Katie Nicholls – TB Source

BYOB, Bring Your Own Basket - a message to kids and families attending the Hill City Kinsmen Easter Egg Hunt at the Slovak Legion this year.

Chris Holland, one of the organizers with the Kinsmen, says there will be thousands of eggs for kids to collect in this year's hunt.

"I think we've got about 14,000 eggs for the kids, and we have prizes, so it'll be a good time."

Kids will be divided into age groups of three and under, four to five, six to seven, and eight and up with many opportunities to see and take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Even with the large amount of snow set to accumulate before the big event, Holland says they'll be ready.

"We have the layout of where we're going to put the eggs, so the snow will not deter us from doing what we want."

The free event is happening at the Slovak Legion on Friday, March 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Hundreds of children are expected to attend this year's Hill City Kinsmen Easter Egg Hunt at the Slovak Legion. The event starts at 11 a.m. and runs through 1 p.m. (FILE)



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# Two airlifted after mill fire

By Brandon Walker – TB source

Two people were airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital's burn unit on Friday after a fire broke out at the Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper Mill at approximately 10:40 a.m.

The fire happened in the hog fuel feed system.

Robin Roy, acting platoon chief with Thunder Bay Fire Rescue, saw a video of the incident. He described it as a fireball.

"I was told a bearing overheated. It sounds like the machine started to shake and then all the dust went in the air and it was just the right mixture to ignite it -- very similar to what would happen at a grain elevator."

Roy said a "huge fireball came right out the door" and the workers were "in it probably for two seconds."

Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper issued a statement on Friday about the incident.

"Trained mill emergency responders were on site within minutes, partnering with

local fire and police to secure the area and support those who were working in the immediate vicinity," the statement said.

Four contractors were injured. TBnewswatch has learned that two individuals were airlifted to Sunnybrook to have their burns treated.

"Our thoughts are with these individuals and their families, and TBPP wishes them a speedy recovery," the statement said.

"We thank the mill employees, firefighters, police and emergency medical personnel whose swift response and expertise helped us through this event. A full investigation is underway and we are working with the Ministry of Labour and relevant governmental authorities.

"TBPP remains fully operational at this time. We will issue further updates as required," the statement said.

The Ministry of Labour is investigating the incident. – *With files from Katie Nicholls*

# Second guilty plea in murder

By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

A second person accused in the 2021 death of 33-year-old Jordan Lapointe has pleaded guilty to murder and could be ineligible for parole for as long as 18 years.

Derek Turner, 41, of Thunder Bay, appeared before Justice Danial Newton in a Thunder Bay courtroom on Friday, where he pleaded not guilty to the original charge of first-degree murder but guilty to the lesser included charge of second-degree murder.

Turner was first arrested and charged in May 2022 in connection to an incident on the night of Oct. 3, 2021, at a residence in the 100 block of Frederica Street East.

First responders were called to the residence after receiving reports of a structural fire. After the fire was extinguished, a deceased male was located inside. The man was later identified as Jordan Lapointe, and police determined he died as a result of a homicide.

Michael Gomez of Nepean, Ont. and Shane Cabral of Ottawa were arrested in the Amelia Street area on Oct. 22, 2021, and charged with first-degree murder. Gomez has since pleaded guilty to second-degree

murder and was sentenced to life in prison and is ineligible to seek parole for 18 years.

A third suspect, Ronald Hill of Thunder Bay, was arrested later in October and charged with first-degree murder and arson.

While an agreed statement of facts about what took place the night of Oct. 3, 2021 was shared with the court, the disclosure of specific details is being limited because two co-accused are still to stand trial.

The court also heard several victim impact statements from Jordan Lapointe's family and friends, who said the death of such a loving person has left the family with an immeasurable sense of loss.

"Jordan was known as a kind, caring, and compassionate person. He was also very considerate of his family and neighbours," said Jordan's grandmother, Sharon Labell.

Sharon added that the family no longer has any peace, and they think about Jordan every single day, and she hopes Turner will, too.

"For you, I can only wish one thing, that you spend your time incarcerated in the worst prisons we have in Canada, and I pray you close your eyes every night and see Jordan staring back at you, begging for his life," she said.



Aysanabee performs at the 2022 Wake the Giant Music Festival in Thunder Bay. (Keegan Richards FILE)

# Aysanabee wins 2 Junos

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Sandy Lake First Nation-born musician Aysanabee cleaned up at Sunday night's Juno Awards in Halifax.

The artist was named songwriter of the year for *Here and Now* and *Somebody Else* and captured the alternative album of the year title

for *Here and Now*.

The wins marked the first time an Indigenous artist won in either category.

"I grew up in a trailer in Northern Ontario without electricity and running water and now I'm here," Aysanabee, who was raised in Kaministiquia, said in his acceptance speech for songwriter of the year at the Juno Awards.

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# Cottage cheese adds to recipes

Last week I kind of joked about doing a cottage cheese recipe column, well, I guess here we are.

We discussed how cottage cheese logging is up a whopping 70 per cent on MyFitnessPal.

It means that people interested in calorie counting are definitely scarfing down cottage cheese. Cottage cheese is a curdled milk product with a mild flavor and a creamy, heterogeneous, soupy texture.

It is made from skimmed milk by draining curds but retaining some of the whey and keeping the curds loose.

An essential step in the manufacturing process distinguishing cottage cheese from other fresh cheeses is the addition of a "dressing" to the curd grains, usually cream, which is mainly responsible for the taste of the product.

The funny local anecdote about cottage cheese, or cottahey cheese as Bart Simpson referred to it as is its origins are actually very close to Thunder Bay.

In late 19th century Minnesota, when milk went sour, farmers sometimes made something they called "Dutch cheese", which is said to have been similar to modern industrial cottage cheese, in order not to waste the bad milk.

The term cottage cheese first began to be used for such simple homemade cheese in America in the mid-19th century. In the 20th century, farmers in British Columbia used to create "homesteader's cheese" the predecessor to the modern cottage cheese.

Cottage cheese is popular among dieters and some health food devotees. It is also relatively popular among body-builders and athletes for its high content of long digesting casein protein while being relatively low in fat.

Casein accounts for 80 per cent of its protein content and is slowly absorbed. For this reason, consuming it before bed has been shown to increase metabolism and muscle synthesis overnight without affecting the breakdown of fat. For this reason people doing heavy or medium resistance training will consume cottage cheese at night.

Cottage cheese is also safe to eat during pregnancy, unlike some cheese products that are not recommended.

A popular way to consume cottage cheese



Cottage cheese is getting quite popular these days.

is with fresh fruit, peaches, berries, stewed or fresh apples, all found their ways to use the sweetness to cut the acidity and bitterness from the natural lactic acid.

Shaved dark chocolate can also assist in this if the natural flavour isn't easy for you to get past.

Cottage cheese also easily incorporates into your existing lasagna or mac and cheese or other casseroles by adding low fat protein while adding texture and flavour.

If you really want the benefits but can't stand just mowing down spoonfuls of cottage cheese, another option is just to spoon it into your blender and make a smoothy.

Any unpleasant flavours or textures can be dissipated that way easily.

Hopefully if your fitness goals are utilizing cottage cheese, you found a way here to enjoy it, till next time!

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.



**Derek Lankinen**  
Here's Cooking at You Kid

# Spring fishing soon

After several warm and dry months, the snowfall this week was another reminder that, as the climate continues to change, our winter season will be anything but predictable.

Before this snowstorm, we enjoyed unseasonably warm temperatures throughout the winter, and a mid-March false start to spring. In all likelihood, this new snow will melt quickly and the open-water fishing season will be upon us. To prepare for that, there is much to do in anticipation of a whirlwind of springtime fishing fun.

Trout will be the first open-water target of the season, and then May brings the main event with the walleye season opener. With no break in the action between April and June, right now is the best time to take stock, add a few new weapons to the tackle box, repair damaged equipment, and respool the fishing reels with fresh line.

Before the rivers start flowing and the lakes open up, it is a good idea for anglers to check their Outdoors Card. In Ontario, we require both an Outdoors Card and a fishing licence. Our fishing licences are valid for the calendar year, and not from the date of purchase.

This means many cards expired on New Year's Eve. Because we no longer receive a reminder in the form of a mailed renewal, the responsibility is all ours to make sure we are carrying a valid card and licence.

Since shoreline fishing will be the first order of business in the spring, now is the time to check the waders for leaks. An easy way to do this is by turning them inside out and filling them



This week's storm aside, fishing along the lakeshore will be here sooner, rather than later.

with water.

Mark any leaking spots with a Sharpie marker and use Aquaseal flexible adhesive to fill any rip, tear or hole to make the waders waterproof again.

Once the waders are good to go, it is time to dig out all the tackle boxes and check the supply of essential terminal tackle and secret lures. Whether I need more or not, I will inevitably add a few irresistible new baits.

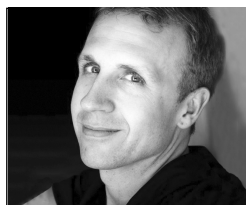
Lately, Grumpas Baits, made right in Thunder Bay, have been my favourite. Grumpa offers everything from jig heads to soft plastic baits in a

variety of creative styles and colours.

With the tackle box refilled, I will next start replacing the old line on my reels, as this is cheap insurance for all those new lures I just bought.

Finally, with all the prep work done, it is time to start looking for open water. For the most eager anglers, the mighty Lake Superior will provide the earliest opportunity to take a few casts.

On a warm winter like this one, wind and waves keep ice off the exposed shorelines of the big lake, so there is often an early opportunity to catch a fish in March. Then, before we know it, this latest snowfall will all be gone and the spring fishing season will hit us at full speed.



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

"VOQ RQQCR ZK VOQ CBT BNQ XQRV  
 GPBIVQC YI VOQ KYNRV OZWN."

— CWWLO GNZAQNX

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	3			1					
	9			3		1			8
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### ACROSS

- 1 Org. or Petroleum Exporting Countries (abbr.)
- 5 Knife
- 9 Harass
- 12 Jap. shrub
- 13 Alpaca
- 14 Mountain on Crete
- 15 Monsignor (abbr.)
- 16 Equal (Fr.)
- 17 Cut edge of coin
- 18 Can. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)
- 20 Cloak
- 22 Revert (2 words)
- 25 Unit
- 26 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)
- 27 Guido's note (2 words)
- 29 Cat
- 33 Discover
- 35 Eastern daylight time (abbr.)
- 37 Rich soil
- 38 Bundle of twigs
- 40 Vehicle compartment
- 42 Civil Rights Commission (abbr.)
- 43 Television band abbr.
- 45 Gum
- 47 Direct
- 50 Caribbean lizard
- 51 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 52 Recline
- 54 Minstrel of India
- 58 Adjusted gross income (abbr.)
- 59 Lower intestine
- 60 Apiece
- 61 Group of seals
- 62 Winglike
- 63 Parasitic insects

### DOWN

- 1 Electric unit
- 2 Dance step
- 3 Ovum
- 4 Around (Lat.)
- 5 Dapple
- 6 Crone
- 7 Fruit
- 8 Flying
- 9 Boy (Sp.)
- 10 Mine entrance
- 11 Pledge
- 19 Before common

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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- era (abbr.)
- 21 Ring
- 22 Hook for fish
- 23 Fetish
- 24 Slam
- 28 Aid to Dependent Children (abbr.)
- 30 Mouth (Sp.)
- 31 Baronet (abbr.)
- 32 Young Men's Christian Organ. (abbr.)
- 34 Bird
- 36 Arranged in columns
- 39 Daughter of Zeus
- 41 Baseball equipment
- 44 Round Table knight
- 46 Tag
- 47 Eucalyptus secretion
- 48 Foe of Othello
- 49 Freshwater worm
- 53 "Brave Bulls" author
- 55 Yellow Sea arm
- 56 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
- 57 Article

# Snowfall and white pines

It snowed.

They said it would, the weather forecasting folk.

Sunday morning a fresh carpet of white covered the ground, the vehicles, the wood pile.

I woke up early (I usually do) and trooped down the hall to make coffee in the kitchen and light a fire in the fireplace; but I still needed more pieces of the wonderful spruce that was stacked near our 'hoosie'.

So out I went accompanied by our two pooches to fetch more pieces from the pile.

There was a line of fresh tracks in the snow, small and forming a straight line coming from the main paddock and crossing in front of the house, disappearing into the dark. Fox? No doubt as neither of my dogs leave tracks in a straight line.

We had not removed the snow tires from any of our vehicles even though increasingly the days were getting warmer even though nights were still freezing.

As Doug remarked while gazing out the

window at the freshly fallen white stuff, "Welcome to second winter." We are told that El Nino has a lot to answer for regarding the weather being unpredictable.

So, we observed the Boy Scout motto: "Be prepared" and left everything alone.

Spring cleaning in the yard can wait.

I have written before that I love trees.

I am very fortunate to live in the country with enough land snaked with trails we had made through our bush when we ran a trail riding business.

Those trails make excellent paths for walking which I try to do regularly.

The dogs love it when we go for walks. I have begun a census

of all the white pine trees growing on our land. I arbitrarily made four categories of size for the white pine that I have found with the tallest falling into category No. 4.

I have only counted the great, thick-trunked behemoths.

Until Friday of last week, I had counted twenty-five reaching up to the clouds. But then my wife, Laura, and I decided to take

pooches for a walk.

We followed a trail we call "White Pine" because it passes by seven such sentinels. When we reached a part that curves back into the property, instead, we headed out onto the sideroad that was dry and made for easy walking.

I wanted to show Laura two more tall trees growing on a ridge that you can barely see from the road. At the end of the road there is another trail entrance that allows us to re-enter the property.

We reached a spot where two of the soaring pines grow and the trail divides.

Laura wondered if these were the two, almost hidden from the road.

"Nope, Hon," I said, "We would have to head off-trail and bushwhack up this incline hopefully heading back to the road."

"Okay, let's do that," she enthused.

So, we did.

The ground was dry with almost no snow remaining. We had to either climb over, go under, or go around deadfalls that we had to pass.

When not watching out for tricky roots and tag alder to trip me, I gaze up at the trees.

Suddenly I saw another tall white pine that I had not known existed before. "Wow! Hon, this discovery makes my count 26!" I shouted.

We continued heading in the westerly direction and suddenly the land began to slope downwards towards the sideroad and there it was - one of the ancient white pine trees we'd seen from the road.

Laura was happy because the route down to the road from this tree was clear and open with almost no obstructions over which we would need to climb.

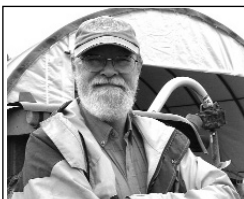
I was "haunted" by the image of this tree all day Saturday and wanted to head back into the bush to visit this tree and perhaps a group of three massive ones growing along a ledge at the northwest of the property.

But the increasingly cloudy sky and the need to make a town shopping trip necessitated a deferral for that trek.

I think that venture will have to wait until Ol' Man Winter's last kick-at-the can.

Oh, and before I forget (as I have been known to do) Happy Easter.

May your eggs all be in one basket this year.



**Fred Jones**  
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# Holocaust film short on info

*One Life* (SilverCity) tells the true story of young British stockbroker Nicholas (Nicky) Winton, credited with evacuating 669 predominantly Jewish children out of Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II. This obscure, smaller scale version of *Schindler's List* certainly deserves attention but ultimately triggers more questions than answers. The end result is mildly affecting.

The movie slips back and forth between two time periods: 1988 and 1938. In 1988, while cleaning up his cluttered study, retired Winton (Anthony Hopkins) digs up a scrapbook filled with photos and detailed information on dozens of refugee children he saved before war broke out. What haunts him is that the last train with 250 children on board didn't get out in time, detained by the Nazis. This prompts a flashback.

1938: Young Winton (Johnny Flynn) is asked to assist a British refugee activist organization in Prague to figure out how to evacuate hundreds of children before the Nazis invade. He has zero experience for the daunting task.

Winton works with activists Doreen Warriner (Romola Garai) and Trevor Chadwick (Alex Sharp). He devises a scheme to find British couples willing to become foster parents, facilitated by sponsorships and Home Office support. A catalogue with photos of hundreds of children is assembled to aid the selection process. The situation is urgent. Spies are everywhere.

The script by Lucinda Coxon and Nick Drake arouses many questions here. We know *what* Winton and company do but we see little of *how* they do it. One sequence shows children hurriedly herded onto a train bound for England where they meet their foster parents. That's the essence of the film's suspense.

One wonders how Winton's team compiled that photo catalogue without arousing suspicion. Unseen is a whole process needed to facilitate extraction. Certainly, the film's running time and dramatic demands preclude showing every detail but many crucial points are overlooked, undermining the enormity of the rescue operation. A few more brush strokes of exposition would help.



Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins stars in *One Life*.

Curiously, Warriner and Chadwick fade from the narrative. They are on the ground in Prague, avoiding the Nazis, while Winton's returned to England. But they wind up as footnotes in the epilogue.

1988: Winton's scrapbook winds up in the hands of a BBC TV current affairs show 'That's Life!' They invite Winton to appear twice where he's greeted by some of the grown children he saved and their grandchildren.

Both TV episodes end without prompting a verbal reaction from Winton. Winton wipes away a tear, gets a hug, a handshake and applause. Though historically accurate, the scenes come off as oddly perfunctory.

Hopkins commands the screen, occasionally sidestepping Winton's reticence with a sobbing episode and mischief with a button. Flynn subtly echoes Hopkins' mannerisms while worrying about the children. Welcome is the presence of screen veterans Lina Olin and Marthe Keller.

It's certainly a fascinating tale. But while commendably a fascinating tale, the movie comes off as aloof as its protagonist.



**Marty Mascarin**  
MOVIE TALK

# Tikinagen helps Hope

By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

Tikinagen Child and Family Services donated \$45,000 to help organize more events at this year's Tournament of Hope.

For a second year, the Tournament of Hope will provide hope for First Nation youth within the NAN territory with a sports tournament, mental health workshops, and a fashion show.

Titus Semple, founder, said the tournament helps regional youth.

"We were approached by some First Nation leaders to do something about the rise in suicides we were experiencing in our traditional territory of NAN, and they wanted us to offer something that was going to provide hope for our First Nation youth in the north."

Representatives from Tikinagen said they were glad to help.

"Our agency is proud to partner with the Tournament of Hope and their week-long on- and off-ice events that involve children and families from our First Nations," said Thelma Morris, executive director of Tikinagen Child and Family Services.

"I want to thank the organizers who are listening to our chiefs, our children, and the needs of our communities. I truly believe

children are our future, and when they are involved in opportunities like this, it promotes a sense of self worth and builds their confidence, resilience, team building, and leadership skills."

Even after only one year, the tournament has already expanded -- and donations such as this help Semple keep the tournament going, he said.

"We decided that we were going to do something more than a hockey tournament, and that's when we decided that we were going to incorporate workshops that take place throughout the week that the youth can participate in.

We had close to 400 youth participate (last year) and this year, we're close to 700 youth that have registered and that will be participating in week-long activities."

Semple noted that this year, there will be hockey, broomball, and volleyball. The youth will also put on a fashion show that requires almost 50 youth volunteers.

"Another thing that we learned last year was that not all kids play sports. We did a survey, and we learned that a lot of kids were interested in the arts."

The Tournament of Hope runs April 8 to April 13.



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# Walleye take series lead

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Kenora Islanders kept it close for most of Game 2.

But in the end, the defending champion Kam River Fighting Walleye weren't about to let a two-win team take them down in the playoffs.

The Fighting Walleye scored four unanswered goals in the third period on Saturday night, including three in the final 2:33 of regulation, and took a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven opening-round Superior International Junior Hockey League playoff series, getting the job done on home ice.

Brydon Bell, Jett Minktenko, Evan Lachimea and Caleb Labelle blew open a 4-3 game with their third-period tallies, earning Kam River an 8-3 win over Kenora, who put up three goals in the second period to keep the contest close.

Carter Nailen and Kaden Goodwin, continuing his hot-handed ways of late, staked the Fighting Walleye to a 2-0 lead after one, but Kenora's Brayden Mackay scored 34 seconds into the second to cut the lead in half.

Carter Poddubny responded with Kam River's third goal of the night, the marker coming at the 3:17 mark, but Chance Traverse got it back at 12:12 and the Kam River lead was just 3-2, coming on the heels of Friday's 8-0



Kam River's Jett Minktenko (right) battles Kenora's Jayden McPherson-Nepinak last Friday. (Leith Dunick)

series-opening triumph.

Nickolas Fagnilli made it 4-2 Kam River with his first of the postseason at 15:28, but Jarod Lemieux once again cut the Fighting Walleye lead to a single goal, scoring with 2:01 left in the middle stanza.

Ashton Sadauskas, playing for the second straight night, made 16 saves to pick up his second win of the playoffs. Matthew Stephens stood tall for most of the night, giving up eight goals on 70 shots faced.

Game 3 was supposed to take place on Monday in Kenora, but SIJHL officials postponed all games due to adverse weather.

# Stars up 2-0

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Thunder Bay North Stars have taken a stranglehold on their best-of-seven first-round playoff series, but the job is only half done.

The Stars knocked off the visiting Wisconsin Lumberjacks 9-0 on Saturday night to claim a 2-0 series lead.

There's still plenty of work left to do to get the other two wins they need to advance, said Stars rookie-of-the-year candidate Easton Mikus, who topped all Superior International Junior Hockey League freshmen with 31 goals, scoring the game's opening goal just 19 seconds after the opening faceoff.

A little over two minutes later Tyler Jordan doubled the Thunder Bay lead, burying a wrist shot from the left circle.

"Last night we knew we didn't give our best effort," said Mikus, who scored twice and added a helper in the shutout win.

"We knew we had more in us. Coach woke us up before the game, for sure, and we gave it all we had. It turned out well."

## Early lead

The quick start was key to helping erase the memories of Friday night's opener, that saw the North Stars jump in front 4-1, only to find themselves in a 4-4 tie when the third period began and in need of some late heroics to pull out a 6-4 win.

"Last night we knew we didn't give our best effort"

North Stars coach Rob DeGagne said his team demonstrated a much better 60-minute effort in Game 2, including a pair of power play goals and a shorthanded effort by Alex Remenda early in the third, his first of two on the night.

"I thought we played more consistent," DeGagne said. "We played a little bit more playoff hockey tonight. We had good stretches yesterday, but then we fell asleep and they capitalized. We probably made it harder on ourselves than we needed to. Tonight, I thought it was a more complete effort."

Unlike Friday, when the North Stars took their foot of the gas, it was pedal to the metal for all three periods in Saturday's rematch.

They took a 2-0 lead into the first intermission then poured on the offence in the second, scoring four times to break open the game and douse any thoughts the outmatched sixth-place Lumberjacks might have had.

Beau Helmeczi upped the lead to 3-0 2:52 into the second, catching Wisconsin goaltender William Forrester going the wrong direction.

Connor Larrett made it 4-0 at the 12:15 mark of the second, and just 24 seconds later Edison Weeks, who led the SIJHL points parade with



North Stars captain Edison Weeks led the SIJHL in scoring, collecting 75 points in the regular season.

75 in the regular season, notched his first of the postseason. Tyler Jordan, who was later ejected for a hit from behind, wrapped up the scoring in the middle stanza.

Mikus and Remenda, with a pair, rounded out the North Stars offence in the third.

## Perfect in net

Goaltender Ben Laurette, who was on the bench on Friday, stopped 37 Lumberjacks shots to earn the shutout, including a flurry of standout saves on a last-minute power play as Wisconsin looked for something to build on for Game 3, which was scheduled for Monday night, but postponed due to the early spring storm.

"Honestly, there was a lot of drama that went on at the end of yesterday's game and there were a lot of frustrated players," Weeks said, his teammate Sam Skillestad forced to sit out with a one-game suspension.

"As an organization we were frustrated coming into the rink today, so I think (Wisconsin) definitely felt the wrath of it. It's not a team you want to (tick) off in the playoffs."



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# Fabulous freshmen abound

Baseball, baseball, baseball. It's all I've been thinking about. As I'm writing this, I've got the Jays/Pirates game on the TV in my office, watching the two teams get the kinks out before it all starts for real on Thursday.

There is so much to be excited about this season, starting with the best rookie crop this side of Mike Trout and Bryce Harper.

Baltimore's embarrassment of riches is about to get even more valuable whenever the Orioles decide to call baseball's No. 1 prospect, Jackson Holliday, up from AAA.

A few more at bats against lefties and some additional reps at second and he'll be back in the Queen City by May.

All Holliday did in spring training was slash .311/.354/.600, with two home runs, two triples and six RBI in 48 plate appearances.

There's no doubt he's ready.

He's hardly the only player ready to make an impact.

Milwaukee outfielder Jackson Chourio, the No. 2 prospect according to MLB Pipeline,

didn't go deep in spring training, but did hit .328 and is a top candidate for rookie of the year in the National League.

In Texas, Evan Carter showed plenty of promise during last year's World Series run, and he might not even be the best rookie outfielder on the Rangers.

That title may belong to left-fielder Wyatt Langford, who smacked six homers in spring training and drove in 20 in 63 plate appearances. Another guy I'm excited to watch progress is Pittsburgh's Henry Davis.

The No. 1 pick in the 2021 draft, Davis was drafted as a catcher, but spent most of his time in the outfield after getting the call from the Pirates last year.

Davis is back behind the plate and set to break camp with Pittsburgh. He hit four homers in spring training, batted .310 and most importantly, has returned to donning the tools of ignorance, where he's showing signs of improved defensive work.

All eyes, of course, are on the Los Angeles Dodgers.

They landed the biggest free-agent fish,

pitcher and masher Shohei Ohtani, and then stunned the baseball world when Japanese hurler Yoshinobu Yamamoto signed, spurring several other high-profile teams hot in pursuit.

They traded for pitcher Tyler Glasnow and also signed former Blue Jay Teoscar Hernandez and have a whopping \$314 million committed (with the competitive balance tax factored in) for 2024.

How can they not win it all?

Well, first and foremost, games are not played on paper.

Their pitching is still suspect. Ohtani won't pitch, coming off Tommy John surgery. Walker Buehler and Clayton Kershaw open on the disabled list, and after one start, Yamamoto has an ERA of 45.00.

Again, just one start, but not the start they were looking for when they inked him for 12 years and \$325 million.



Speaking of Ohtani, how about the bombshell announcement that his interpreter, Ipeei Mizuhara, was \$4.5 million in debt and somehow money from Ohtani's bank account had been wired to the illegal bookie he was using to cover the money he owed.

The bookie, it turns out, is under investigation by the FBI.

While Ohtani is denying knowledge of his close friend's gambling problem, the proliferating of betting, legal and otherwise, is starting to show its seedier side.

Leagues have embraced gambling, and you can't escape gambling if you try to watch just about any sport on TV.

Let's face it, we're all armchair quarterbacks at heart, and most of us think we know better than those in charge. (You hear, me right John Schneider?)

Toronto Raptors centre Jontay Porter is missing time while the NBA investigates prop betting involving him.

The NFL has suspended at least 10 players for gambling activity, the NHL one.

This is going to get really ugly.

I get it, people like the thrill of trying to outsmart the books, and as an avid fantasy football player, it's more interesting to have a stake in the outcome. But when billions of dollars (and organized crime) are involved, it's a recipe for disaster. Maybe it's time to dial back the endless commercials and at least have leagues maintain the appearance of not being in bed with sports betting.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS

## Falcons set to leave nest

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

A handful of St. Ignatius Falcons athletes have their plans set for their post-secondary athletic careers.

The latest to announce their intentions for 2024-25 were volleyball's Maia Peterson and soccer's Matteo Bosch.

Peterson, who helped lead the Falcons to an OFSSA berth, last week announced she plans to take her court skills to Nipissing University next fall.

Bosch, who might be familiar to Thunder Bay Chill fans, is headed to the University of Montana-Billings and helped lead the Falcons last spring to a fourth straight SSSAA championship.

"I'm just very excited about it," said Peterson, who visited with a number of schools before deciding to call North Bay home for the next several years.

"I've really been wanting to go and play post-secondary volleyball and I'm really happy that it's with Nipissing," Peterson said, adding it was her team's success this season that likely drew attention to her game.

"They're a really great team and have a great coaching staff."



St. Ignatius athletes, from left, Dominic Pugliese, Matteo Bosch, Leevi Swearingen, Gunnar White and Maia Peterson have all picked schools to attend next fall.

Bosch, who joined Peterson last week at a signing ceremony in the St. Ignatius gym, is excited about his next step.

"It's always been my goal to go to the next level. I've been playing since I was three years old. To be able to have this opportunity is great for me."

Teammate Leevi Swearingen is headed to Western Illinois and football's Gunnar White is off to Mount Allison to play for the Mounties. Baseball's Dominic Pugliese will play next season at St. Scholastica.

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# Braves, Dodgers are NL locks

By Leith Dunick -TB Source

Baseball season crept up so fast I almost forgot to do our annual predictions this year.

There's so much intrigue heading into the season.

Did the Blue Jays do enough to compete in the always tough American League East? Are the Baltimore Orioles ready to ascend with their plethora of young stars, a group about to be joined by shortstop Jackson Holliday, likely sooner rather than later?

Did the Los Angeles Dodgers do enough to overcome the Atlanta Braves, and how much will the brewing gambling scandal surrounding a close member of newly signed Shohei Ohtani's orbit affect the performance of the best two-way player since Babe Ruth?

Can the Texas Rangers enjoy an encore after capturing their first World Series title, with full seasons out of budding star outfielders Evan Carter and Wyatt Langford?

Personally, I think the Jays will be on the outside looking in, but let's see what our other prognosticators think.

It's time to play ball!



The Toronto Blue Jays will open against Tampa Bay on Thursday, with their home opener scheduled for April 8.

## Leith Dunick

### Director of News, Dougall Media

- **NL East:** Atlanta Braves
- **NL Central:** St. Louis Cardinals
- **NL West:** Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL wild-cards:** New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies, San Francisco Giants
- **AL East:** Baltimore Orioles
- **AL Central:** Detroit Tigers
- **AL West:** Houston Astros
- **AL wild-cards:** Texas Rangers, New York Yankees, Tampa Bay Rays
- **World Series:** Atlanta Braves over Baltimore Orioles
- **NL MVP:** Mookie Betts, Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL Cy Young:** Spencer Strider, Atlanta Braves
- **NL rookie:** Jackson Chourio, Milwaukee Brewers
- **AL MVP:** Juan Soto, New York Yankees
- **AL Cy Young:** Corbin Burnes, Baltimore Orioles
- **AL rookie:** Wyatt Langford, Texas Rangers

## Ryan La Via

### Sales, Dougall Media

- **NL East:** Atlanta Braves
- **NL Central:** Chicago Cubs
- **NL West:** Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL wild-cards:** New York Mets,

Philadelphia Phillies, San Diego Padres

- **AL East:** New York Yankees
- **AL Central:** Minnesota Twins
- **AL West:** Seattle Mariners
- **AL wild-cards:** Baltimore Orioles, Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays
- **World Series:** New York Yankees over Atlanta Braves
- **NL MVP:** Fernando Tatis Jr., San Diego Padres
- **NL Cy Young:** Spencer Strider, Atlanta Braves
- **NL rookie:** Jackson Merrill, San Diego Padres
- **AL MVP:** Juan Soto, New York Yankees
- **AL Cy Young:** Kevin Gausman, Toronto Blue Jays
- **AL rookie:** Jackson Holliday, Baltimore Orioles

## Bryan Wyatt

### News Director, CKPR Radio

- **NL East:** Atlanta Braves
- **NL Central:** Cincinnati Reds
- **NL West:** Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL wild-cards:** Arizona Diamondbacks, Milwaukee Brewers, Philadelphia Phillies
- **AL East:** Baltimore Orioles
- **AL Central:** Minnesota Twins
- **AL West:** Houston Astros
- **AL wild-cards:** Baltimore Orioles,

Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays

- **World Series:** New York Yankees over Atlanta Braves
- **NL MVP:** Ronald Acuna Jr., Atlanta Braves
- **NL Cy Young:** Zach Wheeler, Philadelphia Phillies
- **NL rookie:** Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Los Angeles Dodgers
- **AL MVP:** Juan Soto, New York Yankees
- **AL Cy Young:** Corbin Burnes, Baltimore Orioles
- **AL rookie:** Evan Carter, Texas Rangers

## Jordan Lester

### Legal Eagle

- **NL East:** Atlanta Braves
- **NL Central:** St. Louis Cardinals
- **NL West:** Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL wild-cards:** Arizona Diamondback, Milwaukee Brewers, Philadelphia Phillies
- **AL East:** Baltimore Orioles
- **AL Central:** Minnesota Twins
- **AL West:** Houston Astros
- **AL wild-cards:** Seattle Mariners, Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays
- **World Series:** New York Yankees over Atlanta Braves
- **NL MVP:** Ronald Acuna Jr., Atlanta Braves
- **NL Cy Young:** Spencer Strider, Atlanta

Braves

- **NL rookie:** Jackson Chourio, Milwaukee Brewers
- **AL MVP:** Kyle Tucker, Houston Astros
- **AL Cy Young:** Kevin Gausman, Toronto Blue Jays
- **AL rookie:** Wyatt Langford, Texas Rangers

## Ted Jessop

### Rock 94 Morning Show Host

- **NL East:** Atlanta Braves
- **NL Central:** Cincinnati Reds
- **NL West:** Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL wild-cards:** Arizona Diamondbacks, Philadelphia Phillies, San Francisco Giants
- **AL East:** New York Yankees
- **AL Central:** Minnesota Twins
- **AL West:** Texas Rangers
- **AL wild-cards:** Baltimore Orioles, Houston Astros, Toronto Blue Jays
- **World Series:** Baltimore over Atlanta
- **NL MVP:** Elly de la Cruz, Cincinnati Reds
- **NL Cy Young:** Logan Webb, San Francisco Giants
- **NL rookie:** Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Los Angeles Dodgers
- **AL MVP:** Gunnar Henderson, Baltimore Orioles
- **AL Cy Young:** Shane Bieber, Cleveland Guardians
- **AL rookie:** Wyatt Langford, Texas Rangers

## Ryan Gagnon

### Cleveland Crusader

- **NL East:** Atlanta Braves
- **NL Central:** Milwaukee Brewers
- **NL West:** Los Angeles Dodgers
- **NL wild-cards:** Arizona Diamondbacks, Philadelphia Phillies, San Diego Padres
- **AL East:** Baltimore Orioles
- **AL Central:** Minnesota Twins
- **AL West:** Houston Astros
- **AL wild-cards:** Cleveland Guardians, New York Yankees, Toronto Blue Jays
- **World Series:** Los Angeles Dodgers over Baltimore Orioles
- **NL MVP:** Ronald Acuna Jr., Atlanta Braves
- **NL Cy Young:** Spencer Strider, Atlanta Braves
- **NL rookie:** Jackson Chourio, Milwaukee Brewers
- **AL MVP:** Mike Trout, L.A. Angels
- **AL Cy Young:** Corbin Burnes, Baltimore Orioles
- **AL rookie:** Jackson Holliday, Baltimore Orioles

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

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

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— Dutch Proverb

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