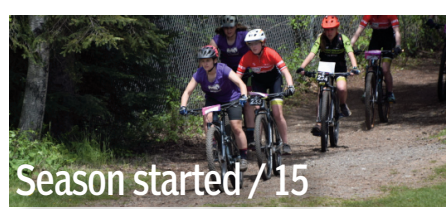
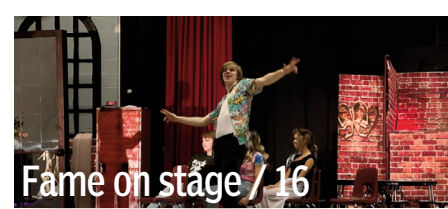




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Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 22 No. 16

Thursday, April 18, 2024

# Charged

Police leadership address charges against former members / 3



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Chantelle Bryson (right), counsel for numerous human rights complaints against the Thunder Bay Police Service, interrupted a the media conference held by police chief Darcy Fleury and police services board chair Karen Machado addressing charges against former members, including chief Sylvie Hauth, saying the service continues to fight complainants.

# Professor on carbon tax rebate

80% of households receive more from the carbon tax than they pay says Lakehead University professor

By Brandon Walker - TB Source

Professor Livio Di Matteo said the carbon tax is benefiting people who have a lower income.

Di Matteo, who teaches economics at Lakehead University, said the carbon tax has two effects on Canadians - fiscally and economically.

"The fiscal impact is revenue neutral. That is, the billions of dollars the federal government is taking in are returned to households - about 80 per cent of households actually get back more than they pay in the tax and that is skewed towards lower incomes," Di Matteo said.

The economic side measures the impact of the carbon tax on employment and income over the longer term.

"Here the impact of the tax will be to slow down growth and employment generation by raising the cost of carbon-using activities and the cost to households has been calculated here



**CARBON REBATE: Professor Livio Di Matteo.**

also," Di Matteo said.  
"You cannot have a policy to reduce

carbon emissions and promote climate-friendly activities without a cost and that will be the cost.

"The net effect - fiscal and economic - will actually be a net cost to households but again lower incomes will still see overall benefits due to the size of the rebate," he said.

As for inflation, there are direct and indirect effects, Di Matteo said.

"The direct effects - an increase in the cost of gas, fuel, etc. - will add about 0.15 of a percentage point to inflation - or about 1/20th or five per cent of the current inflation rate of 2.8 per cent."

There are indirect effects - i.e., the cost of higher transportation costs on groceries, etc. - but the estimates suggest that at most the percentage point share is doubled from 0.15, making the total contribution about 1/10th, he said.

"So rather than 2.8 per cent inflation it

might be at 2.5 per cent. It is, all things given, not a large contributor.

"But again, the question is if there is not to be a carbon tax, what is the alternative? And that alternative will also not be costless. Everything has a price," Di Matteo said.

The carbon tax is currently set at \$65 per tonne. If the carbon tax is still around in 2030-31, it will climb to \$170 per tonne.

Di Matteo said low income earners will still benefit in 2030, "but over time everyone will be paying more for carbon-based activities.

"That is the basis of the carbon tax - to make those activities more expensive so people will find alternatives.

"As the public finance adage goes, if you want more of something, subsidize it. If you want less of something, tax it," he said.

**"The fiscal impact is revenue neutral"**  
**LIVIO DI MATTEO**

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# Police charges

## Three former members of the Thunder Bay Police Service, including ex-chief Sylvie Hauth, have been charged by the OPP

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Following news of charges against former members of the Thunder Bay Police Service, including the former chief of police, the current leadership said they are continuing to move forward to rebuild trust within the community and within the service, but some in attendance who have filed human rights complaints say that is not enough.

Thunder Bay Police Service Chief Darcy Fleury and Police Services Board chair Karen Machado held a joint media conference on Monday to address the recent charges against former chief of police Sylvie Hauth and former in-house lawyer Holly Walbourne.

Hauth was charged last Friday by the Ontario Provincial Police with one count of obstructing a public or peace officer, one count of breach of trust, and two counts of obstruction of justice.

Walbourne was charged earlier in the week as part of the same investigation with obstructing a public or peace officer, breach of trust, and three counts of obstruction of justice.

The OPP's investigation was launched in 2021 at the request of the Ministry of the Attorney General over allegations of misconduct by members of the Thunder Bay Police Service.

Staff Sgt. Michael Dimini was also charged late last year with one count of obstruction of justice, two counts of assault, and one count of breach of trust.

It is alleged that Hauth and Walbourne gave misleading or false statements to the Thunder Bay Police Services Board in October 2021.

"The criminal allegations brought forward by OPP are deeply disturbing. There is a legal and ethical expectation that information provided by Thunder Bay Police Service is truthful and factual, both to the board and the community," Machado said.

"It is critical for our community to have faith in this system that provides oversight to the Thunder Bay Police Service."

Machado said the board has a vision of modernizing the Thunder Bay Police Service, which began with the hiring of Fleury in the role of chief of police last year, as well as the implementation of a governance and labour relation committee on the board and new policies for the police service.

"We are here today to send a strong message that the alleged incidents of the past do not reflect the work being done today," she said. "We will not hesitate to bring in outside

counsel or law enforcement to ensure we execute our duties and roles to the highest standards."

According to Fleury, the police service has also asked outside agencies to review the policies that are in place to ensure the language reflects the needs of the community.

And while the police service has been working to rebuild eroding trust within the community, Fleury was asked how trust within the service itself has been impacted by the charges against former high-ranking members.

"We are talking about cases that happened before we were here," Fleury said.

"I can't ask anyone to have trust, you have to show it. We have to continue down that path and be transparent. We are going to continue that. As we go forward, some of the cases that are remaining, we will have those conversations."

When asked why it took a recommendation by the Ministry of the Attorney General to the OPP to launch an investigation over allegations of misconduct instead of any internal action at the time, Fleury repeated that this happened before his time but it is something the police service takes very seriously.

"We have already on several occasions . . . initiated internal investigations on officers in the service and moving forward on that," he said.

Machado added that the former police services board did bring complaints to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, but at that point, Chantelle Bryson, a lawyer representing members who have filed numerous human rights complainants against the Thunder Bay Police Service, stood up and said that was not true.





"I am legal counsel for severely damaged individuals who brought these complaints forward to the chief, the board, and OCPC in 2021," Bryson said.

"They are still defending them today and the taxpayers of Thunder Bay are paying for it. The OPP are clear it is not done. There are still other accused in the service at a senior level. Shame on all of you."

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board issued a statement following the media conference regarding Bryson's statement.

"The Board forwarded concerns raised by former Board member Georjann Morriseau to OCPC in the spring of 2021, asking them to investigate," the statement reads. "Substantive information was shared with OCPC to assist them, leading to their subsequent investigation."

# WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Sunny</b>
Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>12</b> LOW <b>0</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>7</b> LOW <b>-1</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>6</b> LOW <b>-2</b>	Precipitation: <b>10%</b> HIGH <b>10</b> LOW <b>3</b>



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# Jones Insurance celebrates 40

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

For 40 years, Jones Insurance has been a pillar of trust for thousands of satisfied customers. For this landmark year, the company focused on refreshing its look to reflect its strides in modernization and growth and pay tribute to its continued commitment to its long-time slogan: "We're with you."

Marking their 40th anniversary at Goods and Co. market, an event that brought together three generations of the Jones family, company president and owner Jeff Jones took the opportunity to unveil the new 'Jones Co-Working Corner,' a project highlighting the company's commitment to community collaboration.

The collaborative space, located in the heart of downtown Thunder Bay, is intended for entrepreneurs, students, professionals, and newcomers.

"As a team, we wanted to create an anniversary initiative that best represents our company values. The coworking corner is a safe and welcoming space where people can connect, create, and build relationships locally. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Goods and Co. to create an area that will support more people to succeed." Said Jeff



Jones Family Celebrates 40th Anniversary with t-shirts and an event at the new co-working space. (photo provided)

Jones.

Building on the theme of creating and fostering legacy, Jones Insurance also unveiled a new 40th-anniversary video that nostalgically

looked back at the company's history and the relationships its employees have forged within Thunder Bay and surrounding communities over the past four decades.

At the heart of Jones Insurance's success are the people and relationships that champion our community. "We remain committed to our client and community-first approach and work hard every day to improve the well-being and success of northern communities through partnerships, innovation, and care. Jones Insurance is proud to look back on what we have accomplished over four decades and equally as excited about what the future holds," Jones reflected.

Mike Jones, who founded the company before his son Jeff and daughter Jennifer purchased it in 2015, shared, "When we opened our doors in September of 1984, relationships were built through in-person conversations, phone calls, and handshakes...Today, the company has evolved to meet customers' changing needs, who can reach us from virtually anywhere."

Throughout the year, Jones Insurance will also release its "Behind the Business" series of commercials, created together with Westfort Productions, to commemorate its anniversary. Beginning with J.B. Evans and George's Market, the initiative is intended to showcase and thank the company's partners for their work to keep Thunder Bay's local economy thriving.

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**ACTION NEEDED:** Gwen O'Reilly is the the executive director of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre.

# Words need action

## Words mean nothing without action against intimate partner violence says women's centre

By Kevin Jeffrey - TB Source

Declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic province-wide only works if there are actual solutions to the problem.

The executive director of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre does applaud the unanimous support at Queen's Park on April 10 of Bill 173, named the Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act.

However, Gwen O'Reilly said, "we really need to validate the fact that so many survivors have come forward and have not been able to access justice or have not been believed."

"We need people to understand that they are not at fault, and if they did not get treated well when they disclosed violence, then that was inappropriate. That was wrong."

The provincial government had previously indicated that it would not declare intimate partner violence an epidemic as it is not an infectious or communicable disease.

Locally, city council voted unanimously last September to the epidemic declaration, which was in response to a recommendation from the 2022 Renfrew County coroner's inquest into the deaths of three women - Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam - at the hands of a former partner.

O'Reilly said the statistics from Thunder Bay Police show that the city has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence,

intimate partner violence and sexual assault, sexual violence in all of Canada per capita.

"We have not been asked by the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board or the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee to speak about the issue," O'Reilly added. "That was something that was suggested when we presented to council in September. We're still waiting for that invitation."

"In the meantime, we have done our own information campaign about actions that can be taken municipally to address the issues of gender-based violence. Everybody's ready to go; we just need the powers that be to knock on our door and ask what's next."

In terms of some of those actions, O'Reilly mentioned that a lot of them can be tied to transitional housing for women to get out of abusive relationships.

She also pointed to more collaboration among service providers and funding for advocacy organizations to be able to continue their work.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance regarding intimate partner violence, there are many agencies in Thunder Bay that can help. Beendigen can provide temporary shelter for Indigenous women and their children. As well, Faye Peterson House is a shelter for survivors/women and children who have left or are leaving abusive situations.



# Celebrate Earth Day April 22

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# Scrambling to make up loss

Federal Housing Minister announced that Ontario will not be receiving \$357 million in funding for affordable housing

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board is scrambling to find a solution after losing out on \$4.2 million in funding.

Federal Housing Minister Sean Fraser announced that Ontario will not be receiving \$357 million in funding for affordable housing because the province has not done enough to meet federal targets under the National Housing Strategy Action Plan.

Locally that means the District of Thunder Bay will be losing \$4.2 million in funding, resulting in the inability for TBDSSAB to fund certain capital repair projects and new affordable housing projects.

Bill Bradica, chief administrative officer of TBDSSAB, said the news came as quite a shock to the organization, which is now scrambling to find a solution.

"Especially as we were told at the 12th hour. We were told at the end of March and the fiscal year for the funding starts on



**HOUSING CRISIS:** Spence Court is one of several properties administered by the TBDSSAB.

April 1, so it was a shock," Bradica said.

"Normally when there is some type of removal of funding, or reduction, we're given advance notice, so that we can plan. There was absolutely no opportunity to plan for this."

TBDSSAB covers the entire district and has previously used that funding for multiple projects throughout its coverage

area. Bradica said that cutting this funding will have devastating impacts on the people who rely on affordable housing.

"The vacancy rate is quite low and we have 1,300 people on our waitlist. So, it would be very difficult for them and will result in a financial hardship," he said.

TBDSSAB originally budgeted \$2.2 million for capital repairs for 442 housing

units, \$1.2 million for operational funding to maintain over 270 legacy units first built under the Urban Native Housing Program, and \$800,000 for new builds in the district.

According to Bradica, as many as 115 existing units could be lost this year if another funding source can't be found.

The TBDSSAB board of directors urged Minister Patty Hajdu and MP Marcus Powlowski to call on Fraser to reverse his decision in a letter on March 28.

"TBDSSAB relies heavily on National Housing Strategy funding to both preserve the existing social housing stock and create new supply," the letter read.

"For the 2024/25 fiscal year, TBDSSAB's anticipated allocation under the Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative is \$3.4 million."

One possible solution that Bradica is recommending to the board next week is to dip into reserve funds to cover 2024, though he said that is not sustainable in the long term. The board will decide what its next steps are in one week.



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EDITORIAL

## Police charges

A national media outlet trying to make sense of both past and present issues with the Thunder Bay Police Service called it a big mess. And that is actually a fairly accurate description of the local police service. It is a mess. A huge mess.

There have been numerous reports and investigations exploring systemic racism, dysfunction, allegations of misconduct, and now the most recent news of charges against high-ranking former members, including the chief of police.

Following these revelations, there is always talk about rebuilding trust in the community. And while that is all well and good, and there is no denying that resources within the police service are stretched thin to the point of nearly breaking, at what point is the trust broken beyond the point of repair?

After all, if you invited a guest into your home who continually made a huge mess, intentionally or not, would you keep opening the door to welcome them inside? Likely not. No one likes a mess. And promising to clean it up isn't enough. Just don't make a mess in the first place.

## Trucker safety To the editor:

The recently constructed inspection station and weigh scale just east of Thunder Bay, with a reported investment exceeding \$30 million, holds immense potential for ensuring safer highways.

Truckers for Safer Highways eagerly anticipated its completion, recognizing its capacity to address the alarming prevalence of unsafe vehicles and drivers.

However, taxpayers are yet to reap the full benefits of this investment. Situated strategically where alternative routes are scarce, this location stands as a pivotal checkpoint for truck drivers traversing Northern Ontario. Despite its significance, the facility has remained largely dormant since completion, with Ministry enforcement officers rarely seen in operation. It's imperative that such facilities operate daily to enforce compliance effectively.

We call upon the province to prioritize highway safety measures and ensure the consistent operation of inspection stations across the province. Be safe out there.

Travis McDougall  
Truckers for Safer Highways

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



artisans.com

# An account of post-war British society

A Northern Wind: Britain 1962-65 by David Kynaston is his latest account of post war British Society. Kynaston's trump cards are diaries - dozens of them, able to reach down into mundane thoughts and diurnal lives. To them he adds lashings of television, cinema, novels, brisk summaries of academic literature, memoirs, social surveys and now his own memories: by 1962 he can use television as a click-track for the age, as every day his protagonists are watching soaps, Westerns, football and cricket, proliferating pop programmes, plays and light entertainment.

Some familiar themes thread their

way through the narrative - Beatlemania, the Profumo affair, the rise and fall of satirical TV programmes. Expected characters naturally rear their heads: the Pill, the Post Office Tower, mods and rockers. Some are, perhaps, unexpected, at least this early: David Bowie (still David Jones), the hairdressers Toni and Guy, Gyles Brandreth (from his teenage diary).

Others benefit from hindsight: a beady eye is kept on the antics of Jimmy Savile; racism is on the rise, though not uncontested,

unlike sexism, which contemporaries hardly notice, though Kynaston does. A few are still on stage today: David Hockney, Ken Loach, David Attenborough, John Cleese.

Inevitably in a series with the over-arching title 'Tales of a New Jerusalem', slated to cover 1945 to 1979 - and thus what academic historians like to call nowadays 'the short life of social democracy' - politics provides spine and narrative drive.

The dominant theme is Harold

Wilson's scramble to the top of the slippery pole, which he finally reaches near the end of the book, only to find things unravelling on the economic front when the book closes with, yes, Churchill's funeral in January 1965.

When every now and then Kynaston pulls back from the onrush of the weeks and months to consider some bigger, debatable themes or structures, they are mostly still drawn from politics - the welfare state, the Labour Party, trade union leaders, the General Election of 1964.

Of course, a book devoted to three years can only give so much of the big picture. Britain was on the cusp of huge forces that were trans-

forming it but that require a wider frame to capture. We are midway between an industrial and a service or even 'knowledge' economy.

Three-quarters of the population has a manual working-class background, but half of them are moving into what we can only call the 'middle class', even if they continued to call themselves 'working class'. The baby boom is just about to end (and the first boomers, like Kynaston himself, are growing into adulthood).

Kynaston understands social class and how it was - and still is - the key determinant, which is a refreshing break from current day intersectionality politics.



**John Pateman**  
BOOK BANTER

**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
87 North Hill Street  
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5V6  
Tel: 807-346-2600

Editor: Leith Dunick 346-2650 | [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com)  
Reporter: Doug Diaczuk 346-2622 | [ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com)  
Reporter: Ian Kaufman 346-3558 | [ikaufman@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ikaufman@dougallmedia.com)  
Reporter: Justin Hardy 346-2591 | [jhardy@dougallmedia.com](mailto:jhardy@dougallmedia.com)  
Sales Manager: Kathy Harris 346-2510 | [kharris@dougallmedia.com](mailto:kharris@dougallmedia.com)

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# Exploring the geological world

By JR Shermack

A lot of time and money is being spent on discovering and exploring geographical features that have never been seen before.

Some of them are truly unique and quite remarkable, revealing topographical secrets and answering important questions about planet formation and evolution.

As our scientific capabilities increase we are able to reach and investigate physical features we never imagined or expected to see.

Unfortunately while these discoveries are very compelling and thought-provoking we will never be able to see them or examine them in person.

Because the truth is, many of the new and exciting discoveries we make are inconveniently located millions, billions or even trillions of miles away.

Astrophysicists are actively exploring thousands of exoplanets, some in our own Milky Way Galaxy and some in distant

galaxies with strange names like K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb.

From a scientific perspective these are important discoveries but from a practical standpoint it might be more fruitful to concentrate on the planets where we will ever have a hope of living.

Only one springs to mind - it seems to me there are plenty of remarkable geological features right here on our home planet if anybody cares to look for them.

Well, apparently somebody has noticed that of all the planets in the known universe ours is the easiest to explore and coincidentally, the only one where we can live.

As part of its geoscience program the United Nations has certified a global network of 'geoparks' to recognize landscapes of international geological significance.

Each park serves its surrounding communities by using public outreach and a sustainable approach to promote the conservation of geological heritage.

The geoparks use a region's geological and cultural heritage to



FROZEN IN TIME: Oulmet Canyon.

enhance awareness and understanding of key issues such as sustainability, climate change and natural hazards.

Right now there are 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 countries including five here in Canada.

Canadian Geoparks encourage sustainable tourism, enhance

awareness and understanding of geological heritage and history, protect unique environments and promote research.

The north shore of the Minas Basin in Nova Scotia features hills, mountains, valleys, forest and coastal marshland known as the Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark.

The incoming ocean water rushing through the basin fills the Bay of Fundy with the highest tides on the planet.

Tumbler Ridge in B.C. is notable for its fossils and dinosaur footprints preserved in rock and the most complete skeleton ever found in the province.

The Discovery Geopark in Newfoundland covers 280 km of rugged coastline, Percé, Quebec features a massive limestone stack and Stonehammer, N.B. became Canada's first park in 2010.

UNESCO has recently added eighteen additional sites to its global network which already contains some bizarre examples.

The Ijen Global Geopark in

Indonesia includes volcanic cones, craters and lava flows that have all contributed to the Ijen Crater Lake being the most acidic lake on the planet.

The lake water is volatile from the assimilation of acidic magma vapors to the point where it ignites and glows with an eerie blue fire at night.

It's an alien environment on our own planet.

The Global Geopark network is dynamic and growing - there is notable geographical heritage everywhere on the planet, often in unrecognized sites.

When I look out over the edge of Ouimet Canyon or the North Shore of Lake Superior it is clear that Northwestern Ontario is an internationally significant, undesignated Geopark.

So even if I never get to see the spectacular blue flames of Ijen in person it is nice to know there's plenty of geographical heritage closer to home.

And you won't have to leave the planet to see it.

what's happening  
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## The Bay

To submit an event, email [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com).  
Please include details about the event, including any cost

### April 22 Speech-Language-Hearing Month

Everyone who books a hearing test during the month of May and has a qualifying hearing loss will be entered in a draw to win \$4000 off OR \$2500 off & 0% financing on their purchase of Premiere technology Signia brand hearing aids. Offer expires June 1, 2024.

No purchase necessary, see clinic for further details.

### April 25 Encounters in Bioethics webinar- Reflections in the Rhetoric of COVID Policy

Free webinar: "Reflections on Science, Ethics & Politics in the Rhetoric of COVID Policy."

Presenter:  
Michael Yeo, PhD, Professor

Emeritus, Laurentian University,  
Department of Philosophy;  
Professor in philosophy and  
bioethics, NOSM University

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No registration required. Everyone welcome.

### April 26 THE HAZYTONES (stoner rock from Montreal)

Wiggins Productions presents  
THE HAZYTONES (from Montreal, QC)

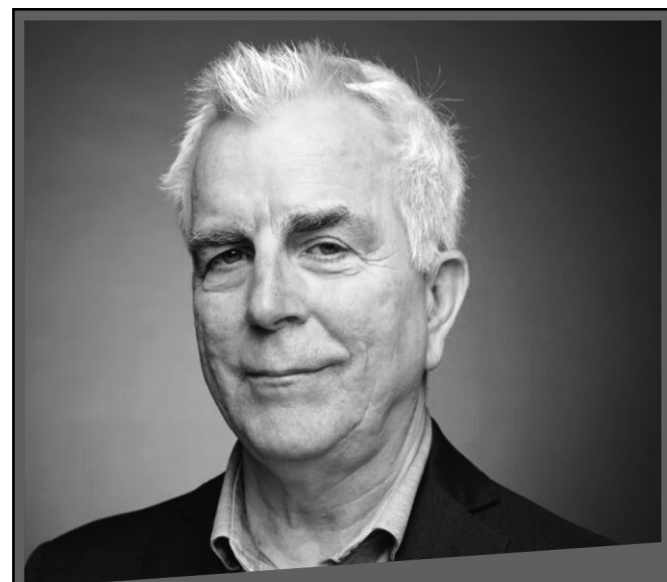
Friday, April 26th, 2024  
Live @ Black Pirates Pub  
Doors 9pm // Show 10pm  
19+ (valid ID required)

FEATURING  
The Hazytones (stoner rock /

groove & doom)  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
The Nexus (as Amaranthe)  
The Shapely (alt-rock)

### April 28 Royal Ball 2024

Hear Ye, Here Ye!! The Fort City Kinettes proudly present the 2nd annual Royal Ball on Sunday, April 28th from 1 to 4 at the DaVinci. This event is for princesses and princes and young teens accompanied by an adult. Dressing up in your "royal finest" is encouraged. There will be a lunch, sundae bar for the children, cash bar for the adults and entertainment such as pampering stations, crafts and dancing with your favourite princesses and princes. Tickets are \$50 each and available from J.B. Evans, Bill Martin's Nurseryland and any Fort City Kinette. Proceeds from this event will go to local charities.



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# \$2.48 million federal contract

## A flight operation management system created by a Thunder Bay company given federal contract

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

A local tech company has been awarded a \$2.48-million federal contract.

Cirro by AirSuite announced on Friday that its flight operation management system was selected for use by the Aircraft Services Directorate, the air operator within Canada.

The directorate is responsible for providing, maintaining, and modifying aircraft and providing services to the Canadian Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Department of National Defence, and other important groups within the federal government.

Cirro will provide a whole host of services including compliance software for tracking flights, weight and balance passenger manifesting, and a fit-to-fly list among other things.

"It's kind of hard for me to sum this up in a very quick way, because it's such an over encompassing product that is not only just for pilots. It's for the actual



JUSTIN HARDY

**NEW CONTRACT: A demonstration of Cirro by AirSuite**

ground users, the staff, the administrative people to really pull all of the flight

operations into a single solution that really increases your productivity," said CEO Michael Kleywegt.

"For the government end of things as well, they receive a lot of FOI requests, and that became a very cumbersome way to work with these requests with their legacy software systems. So, by implementing our solution, they're going to be saving millions of dollars going forward, being able to service requests and really increase their productivity internally."

The \$2.48 million contract is in place for three years with a seven-year option. Kleywegt said that it will allow the company to further expand.

"It marks a phenomenal moment for the company and for our current growth as well. This individual deal has allowed us to hire an additional five more employees," he said.

"So, we're up to 19 employees now, and we're building out a whole new 2,200 square foot expansion space so we'll be able to house an additional 17 employees

here locally in Thunder Bay."

Thunder Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff, said this deal really solidifies the city's position as a technological leader in the region.

"It all reinforces each other, whether it's our technology hub, the university, the college the graduates coming out and the students coming here and seeing how many opportunities there are," he said. "This is the real thing."

Kleywegt said he has been committed to the city since he first moved here 14 years ago, and that's why he intends to keep his business here.

"The community support here has been phenomenal. I wouldn't have been able to achieve this at all without the support this community has fed into this company to bring it here to this day," he said.

"I'm (part of this) community and I'm a family person as well and I fully intend on returning that favour in spades back to the community."

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**IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS:** A conversation panel was held between 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and city police was held this week..

# A community conversation

By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

do.

"We have a lot of work to do with this community to ensure that they're feeling safe and that they feel like they can trust the police and come to the police . . . so we have a little bit of work to do. I think that's the biggest takeaway, is just more and more meetings like these have to happen."

Kauppi, the chair of Thunder Pride and a co-moderator of the event, did have some concerns over a lack of education surrounding the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

"There's also a concern that when we're reported we're not heard, that we're not taken seriously being part of our community."

"The community hasn't really had a chance to be heard, and the police haven't really had the chance to listen with open ears yet."

Chair of Rainbow Collective, Jason Veltri, echoed Kauppi's sentiments.

"A lot of people don't feel safe. We're hearing that across the board - bomb threats, death threats, all of it. It's really hard right now."

"So, I think tonight was the first step in a journey of conversation, listening and learning."

Fleury said he'll be looking at getting a diversity committee established "and start getting some really good input as to some of our programs and our policies."

"This isn't going to be a sprint, but we've got a lot of work to do. This is going to be a long haul."

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KATIE NICHOLLS

**TRICK OF THE TRADE:** Close to 70 high school students tried out possible careers at a Skills Ontario workshop aimed at getting more women into the trades.

# Trying out trades

## High school students try out trades at Skills Ontario event

By Katie Nicholls - TB source

Students from four of the city's high schools participated in a one-day event to promote women in tech and trades.

On Thursday, approximately 70 female students from Westgate, Superior CVI, St. Patrick, and Hammarskjold were rotated through four workstations that showcased heavy machinery, welding, carpentry, and electrical work.

Put on by Skills Ontario, Katie Cameron, the young women's initiatives coordinator, said only five per cent of skilled trades workers are female.

"We just want to introduce young women as young as possible to the skilled trades and make them feel comfortable around tools and feel accepted on the work site.

"Often, our workshops are led by female

mentors, so they get to see real-world opportunities, meet professionals, and learn a little bit about their careers," Cameron said.

Kendall Levesque is a Grade 9 student at Hammarskjold who was looking forward to trying new things.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to try out the different trades and it's a day out of school. My dad's a carpenter, so I wanted to try that out."

Laborer's International Union of North America Local 607 hosted the Thunder Bay event.

The Skilled Trade & Tech Days for Young Women are held across the province in various locations, including Kenora and Dryden.

More details about the events can be found on Skills Ontario's website.

# New Ignace library tech

By Mike Stimpson - TB Source

A new interactive Play Touch Table is a big hit with families visiting the Ignace Public Library, according to the library's chief executive officer.

"The people love it, the kids love it," Sue Gagné said Thursday.

"I know in our library it is a real asset and a real enjoyment for families, and that's what we're here for," she said.

"It's a community thing. It's something different at the library, because we're not only books."

The high-tech addition, purchased with money from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, arrived in March from After-Mouse.com.

Gagné said the table device has a menu of 14 interactive games, including curling and tic tac toe, for its 32-inch screen.

It allows users to engage in educational games and has an anti-glare, anti-viral surface.

"We are so excited to have our library be the recipient of this awesome technology for all ages that engages and interacts up to four players at any given time," said Gagné.

"This new addition is very intuitive and enjoyable as we've seen not only children

playing, but parents and their children playing together, enjoying quality time while continuing to learn and participate in their child's development."

She said the table is "a very valuable asset added to our existing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) devices and toys. We are very fortunate and thankful to all those who played a role in securing this amazing piece of technology equipment for the Ignace Public Library."

Purchase of the table for about \$10,000 including delivery and installation was possible through the Community Well-Being Fund created for Ignace by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, which is considering a site near the township for a proposed underground repository for nuclear waste.

The table was purchased in lieu of a 3D printer, which Gagné said the library hopes to buy this year with Community Well-Being Fund money once an appropriate space is prepared for it.

Open Wednesday through Saturday, the library offers a range of services including internet access, photocopying and seasonal programs for children in addition to book lending.

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# More people want desserts

There is growing demand for desserts and baked goods post-pandemic, which is becoming a major food industry

Since the post-pandemic period, there has been a notable increase in the demand for desserts and baked goods. This surge in popularity not only contributes to a larger spend per consumer during each visit but also accounts for a significant portion of foodservice sales, totalling about 12 billion dollars here in Canada.

What sets desserts apart is their ability to drive higher frequency traffic. Not only are they in high demand, but they also attract customers to visit foodservice establishments more frequently. In fact, desserts had an impressive overall heavy visit frequency of 74.5% in 2023. Recognizing the power of desserts in driving frequency, foodservice operators can strategically leverage this trend to create a loyal customer base. For my business, sometimes our ridiculous desserts really do drive extra traffic to the shops.

The 2020's have seen a resurgence and increasing popularity of cookies among Gen Z and Millennials indicates promising long-term potential for this category. Cookies alone account for 9.7% of the total dessert market, with a significant spike of 15.6% among Gen Z consumers. It makes sense, as they are typically affordable, easily customizable and can be "fun". While different desserts may vary by daypart, cookies are versatile and can be enjoyed on various occasions. They are largely occasion-agnostic, although flavour preferences may influence the choice of cookies during different times of the day.

A recent study conducted by universities in Canada has shown that over half of adults are actively trying to exclude or reduce sugar from their diet. However, it is important to note that there is still a desire for indul-

gence. As a chef, this information highlights the importance of being mindful when creating a dessert menu, ensuring that a reasonable level of indulgence can be incorporated into the patron's day. Including fresh fruits onto indulgent items can help to mitigate some of the sugar a dessert would need. Another approach to address this desire for indulgence while considering sugar control is by offering smaller portions when serving desserts. By providing smaller-sized desserts, establishments can satisfy customers' cravings without compromising their health needs. This allows for a guilt-free indulgence that aligns with their sugar control goals.



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

As we have discussed lately, Canadian consumers are expanding their taste horizons and embracing global flavours in their dessert choices. Flavours like Matcha, Ube, Lychee, Guava, and Cardamom are gaining popularity, reflecting the growing influence of multicultural palates in the dessert category. Among multicultural Canadians, top-ranked and developed desserts include pastries and turnovers, featuring sweet Eastern treats like Japanese pancakes.

Overall, new Canadians play a significant role in introducing new desserts to Canada, which gradually become more popular. As a result, menus in larger centers now feature previously unavailable desserts such as Venezuelan Quesillo, reflecting the diverse and evolving dessert preferences of Canadians.

*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.*

# Bloody revenge saga

Monkey Man playing at Silver City is an intense bloody revenge saga

There is little in actor Dev Patel's cinematic CV to hint at the furious, bloody mayhem his character unleashes in "Monkey Man." (SilverCity) This is a far cry from the love-struck naïf in "Slumdog Millionaire," the long-lost adopted lad seeking his birth family in "Lion," the earnest hotelier in "Exotic Marigold Hotel" and even the would-be kidnapper in "The Wedding Guest."

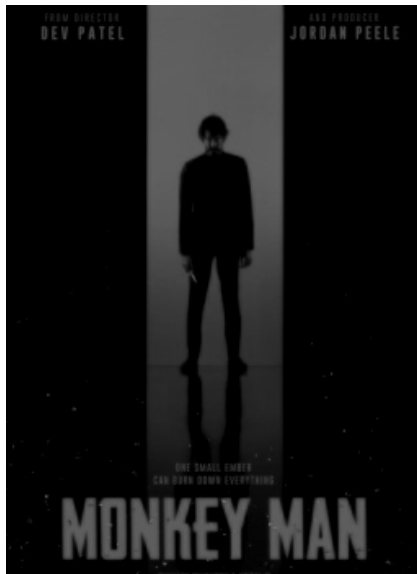
None suggest the acetylene vengeance seeker in "Monkey Man" which recalls John Wick, (who is actually referenced here), Bruce Lee, and sundry revenge Westerns.

For "Monkey Man," Patel ambitiously wears numerous hats, serving as producer, director, co-writer and star. Patel endured broken toes and a broken hand while filming during a COVID-plagued production, suffering for his art.

Given these challenges, it is all the more amazing that, as first-time director, he's turned out a distinctive entry in the vengeance genre.

Mr. Patel plays Kid alias Bobby who's making a living in an underground fight club in a city resembling Mubai, wearing a gorilla mask suggesting "Hanuman," a legendary figure symbolizing strength and courage, regularly taking dives for a slimy promoter. His hands bear burn marks. He's on a mission.

He craftily finesses a job in a



**IN THEATRES: Monkey Man is now playing at Silver City In Thunder Bay**

swanky nightclub where the wealthy elite hang out, quickly moving up from dishwasher to waiter to serving VIPs. Finally his targets show up: a corrupt, cocaine-snorting police chief, Rana (Sikandar Kher) who bullies everybody including beautiful Sita (Sobhita Dhulipal) a potential love interest trapped working as an escort, and a shady guru, Baba Shakti (Makarand Deshpande) who's

further his crooked political ambitions.

Kid's missed vengeance attempt

sparks an intense round of chaotic, vicious hand to hand fighting (Patel has a black belt in Taekwondo) moving through washrooms and kitchens onto the streets segueing to a mad car chase. Cooking accessories are weaponized. The whiz-bang action is in-your-face: sweaty, frenetic, bone-crunching (excellent sound design) and adrenaline fuelled.

In the middle section, a wounded Kid is taken in by a spiritual temple to heal, regain strength through guidance of a Trans Hindu mystic, Alpha (Vipin Sharma). Flashbacks reveal Kid's tragic loss.

In the final act, a renewed Kid unleashes pure unadulterated fury with a little help from his temple friends. The fights are choreographed more clearly, reflecting a more confident warrior. Gunplay is minimal, sidestepping comparisons with John Wick.

Kid is seeing his destiny fulfilled. Will he survive it?

In keeping with the genre, there is bare bones exposition. Some political and class commentary, though a bit fuzzy, underlines the midsection along with Hindu folklore.

Overall, Patel and Co satisfy the basic demands of the revenge movie, generating emotional investment in the good guy/bad guy construct. The film's visual style is gritty, moody, dark. The editing is sharp. The supporting cast is very good. As a newbie director, Patel's bloody indulgences can be forgiven.

Showing directorial promise, we look forward to seeing what Mr. Patel does next.



**Marty Mascarin**  
 MOVIE TALK

## ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

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

"AOG OQHAUJX UZ OVEMK UNQKQUK QH  
 HWMJWGCX MKXAOQKB EUJG AOMK  
 AOG OQHAUJX UZ OVEMK GJJUJH."  
 — LUCAMQJG

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	4					7	5	2	3

### ACROSS

- 1 Eggs
- 4 Mother of Ceres
- 7 Async-Sync interface (abbr.)
- 10 Us dam
- 11 Thus (Lat.)
- 12 Carplike fish
- 14 Top
- 16 Three-banded armadillo
- 17 Gelderland city
- 18 Trouble
- 20 Wield
- 21 Wrong
- 22 Nonsense
- 24 Son of Callisto
- 27 Amend
- 30 Ring
- 31 Sorrowful
- 32 "Dies \_\_\_\_\_"
- 33 Tantalize
- 35 Antiseptic
- 36 FDR's coin
- 37 Pass between peaks
- 38 Male friend (Fr.)
- 40 Meal course
- 42 Delirium tremens (abbr.)
- 45 E. Indian fiber plant
- 47 Afr. desert
- 49 Hillside (Scot.)
- 50 Dutch commune
- 51 Norwegian king
- 52 Axilla
- 53 Confederate soldier
- 54 Turk. governor

### DOWN

- 1 Foray
- 2 Without (Ger.)
- 3 Shak.
- 4 Early lt. language
- 5 Hair (pref.)
- 6 Fragrant
- 7 Ohio college
- town
- 8 Birthstone
- 9 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 10 Unclose (suf.)
- 13 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 15 Embodiment of Ptah

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

T	O	N	E	A	C	T	S	A	A	L	
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- 19 Old-Eng. jurisdiction
- 21 Fr. meat dish
- 23 Calm
- 24 Fit
- 25 Classic car
- 26 Church dignitary
- 27 Tattle
- 28 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
- 29 Desire
- 31 Gym shoe
- 34 Prussian spa site
- 35 Closing measure in music
- 37 Moses's spy in Canaan
- 38 Asbestos (abbr.)
- 39 Jap. rural community
- 41 Dip
- 42 Valley
- 43 Salver
- 44 Wife of Thor
- 46 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
- 48 Fireplace side shelf

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# Conflix celebrates student film work

The second-year college class produced 33 short films, totalling approximately four hours of runtime

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The outgoing class of Confederation College film students got the chance to see their work on the big screen this weekend.

The annual "Film Night" celebration was a short film festival held on Friday evening and all-day Sunday with student films being screened throughout the day in the college's Dibaajimogamig Lecture Theatre.

"It's a very important, very prestigious weekend for our students here," said Eric Weller, Film Production Program coordinator. "Their families fly in from all over the country and it's a real experience. It's a culmination of an awful lot of work."

The second-year class produced 33 short films, totalling roughly 4 hours of runtime, so the program had to divide the showings into separate chunks.

"We basically make the equivalent of 2.5 feature films here every year at the college and these are just the second-year films," said Weller. "I think if you add up all of the movies we make every year it ends up being closer to 250 to 300 films every year."

Beyond giving the students a chance to show their work to their families, the festival also gives them the opportunity to leave their mark on the community.

"That's the most amazing experience I can have right now," said Daniel Cossio. "Because there's nothing such as seeing just reacting live to your film, hearing the people clapping- screaming in my case as it was a scary film."

For those who missed the chance to attend one of the screenings but still wish to watch the films, they will be available in one week at [conflix.ca](http://conflix.ca).



SWOOPING IN: A raven in flight.

## Drama on farm

So, Friday morning I am completing the cleaning and refreshing of a horse stall. I need to bring in a fresh load of wood shavings from the shavings shed that stands beside the barn. I hear repeated and stressed squawking coming from the woods on the other side of the paddock. What gives?

It is our pair of ravens obviously upset, swooping back and forth. As I scan the bush, I see the source of the raven's ennu: a bald eagle. The eagle is also swooping, trying to avoid the harassment of the ravens. Back and forth, up and around the eagle flies with the ravens taking turns dive-bombing this intruder. But now I see a second bald eagle. The ravens are beside themselves having to deal with both predators.

I have never seen a bald eagle on our property that close; this was a 'first'. But why were the eagles here? My first thought was that the eagles were seeking out the raven young who may still be in a nest although both nests the ravens have built over the past few years are uninhabited. Both of these nests are visible from our yard, high up in tall poplar trees. My second thought was that the eagles got lost (impossible!).

Eventually, one of the eagles flew into a poplar opposite to where I was standing, landing on a branch. Soon the second eagle joined the first landing on a branch just above. But then so too did the ravens, squawking the entire time. One of the pairs of eagles got fed up (I guess) and took off to be followed by one of the ravens. Eventually the second eagle

realized that it was now alone and probably that whatever quest the eagles were on wasn't yielding much, so it also took off.

The ravens chased the eagles higher and higher into the sky. However, the eagles easily gained height soaring above, catching the thermals and lazily floating in ever-increasing and wider circles. The ravens gave up.

I stood watching the eagles soar higher until I lost sight of them as they had veered off to the south and the bush now obscured my view. I returned to my barn-cleaning duties.

Later that day when my tribe returned from their day jobs, I recounted the "drama" that had occurred earlier. I had managed to extract my cell phone from my pocket and take a picture of one of the eagles perched in the poplar branch. The resolution ain't great. You must squint to discern it even though as yet there are no leaves to block any view. I guess that I was so amazed to even see eagles swooping above the paddock that I didn't immediately think to get out my phone and video the "drama" unfolding in front of me. Too bad.

We (me and my wife, Laura) have been wondering if the ravens even bred this year. Usually by now we should have been hearing squawking from the young. The pair of ravens come to get food we leave out for them and as in years past, we would hear their youngsters making a fuss especially if they had grown big enough to fly and then persistently harass their parents for food. But not so far.



Fred Jones

RURAL ROOTS

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**HITTING THE ROAD:** Cycling season is already getting underway this season.

# Getting rolling

Since 1975, the Thunder Bay Cycling Club has focused on providing community cycling events to bring people together and share a passion for cycling and healthy living. In recent years, the club has grown into a large and diverse group of cyclists who ride and race on the roads surrounding the city. With this club, hundreds of people have found the motivation to be active and live healthy with the help of a supportive group of peers.

For 2024, TBCC has packed their calendar with a wide range of fun and inclusive events that include group rides, classic road races, epic gravel events, off-road cyclocross racing, as well as time trials, which kick off the new cycling season on May 2nd.

While the club's roots are in racing, much of the recent expansion within the membership base comes from the women's group known as WOW (women on wheels). This growing group of female cyclists rides on Tuesday evenings and now offers three distances, with options that will appeal to everyone. These fun, non-competitive rides are offered to encourage women in our community to come out to ride, socialize and have fun together.

Meanwhile, the club's racing division continues to offer a wide variety of race formats and distances so everyone can set goals and get stronger on the bike. With the races, all ages and abilities are welcome, and participants can find just the right amount of challenge for their current fitness with groups ranging from the speedy category 1 riders to the almost-as-

fast category 2s, the less intense category 3s and a "no-drop" category for those who want to experience racing without the tactics and attacks.

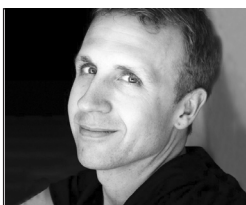
Races start in May and continue until November and this year's line-up includes 30 different events! While all our races include a lot of socializing, the time trial (TT) series is more of a personal challenge where riders depart individually and ride solo, staggered by one-minute intervals. This low-stress format allows every individual plenty of space on the road while they chase a new personal best time against the clock.

Finally, the club offers group touring rides on Sundays starting with a new Sunrise Ride on May 18th.

Last year, the most popular single event on the club's calendar was the Roy Nisula Memorial Gravel Ride. Roy was a popular and beloved member of the endurance sports community

in Thunder Bay. Last year, Thunder Bay's massive endurance sports community came out in full force to ride in his memory, and together they raised over \$2500 to support cardiovascular care in the Northwest. Race organizers have listened to rider feedback and have prioritized offering a clearly marked route, as well as even more coffee and treats this year.

The popularity of cycling continues to grow here in Northwestern Ontario because it is a fun and easy way to stay happy and healthy. Visit [tbaycc.ca](http://tbaycc.ca) to see the full calendar and learn more about becoming part of this amazing road cycling club.



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# TBPL increases Drag Story Time

The increase is in response to an incident last month which had resulted in a cancellation of a Storytime event

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The Thunder Bay Public Library held Story Time with Thunder Bay Drag Queens on Saturday in the first of what will be an increased frequency of events.

The increase comes in response to an incident that occurred last month which had resulted in a cancellation of a story time event.

“Unfortunately, we had a bomb threat during the last event and so we went back, we talked with our performers, saw how they wanted to move forward, and thankfully they weren't scared off. They were emboldened,” said Dr. Richard Togman, CEO of TBPL.

“So, in partnership with the community, we decided to actually increase the pace of having more drag queen story times to really send the message that this is something the library stands behind. We're not going to retreat back into the shadows and fear.”

Mz. Molly Poppinz, host and co-creator of Story Time with Thunder Bay Drag Queens, said that the amount of love, gratitude, and appreciation from the community following



STORY TIME: Story Time with Thunder Bay Drag Queens.

last month's incident has been much more than she and other organizers could have hoped for.

“It was made abundantly clear that not only the overwhelming majority of the city love what we do and are thankful that we are doing it, but that they want to see it continue. So, we were absolutely going to go ahead with this one and all future story times no

matter what,” Poppinz said.

“We definitely tried to pick a couple of stories that just reminded people that there are a lot of different people in the world who are built a lot of different ways, who want to do things a lot of different ways and every single one of them is beautiful and lovely and wonderful and is allowed to do what they are doing as long as they're doing it with love

and acceptance.”

Poppinz also applauded the library's handling of things during and after the threat incident stating the the library did exactly what they needed to do to keep the public safe.

“They absolutely made the right call. But the first thing they did after they made sure that we were all safe was to tell us that they still love us and they still appreciate the show and they still want us to come and do it and that they were not going to back down,” Poppinz said.

“No matter how many misguided, uneducated people were going to make emails or phone calls related to the subject. They have doubled down on their social media presence and made several statements reminding people that Thunder Bay has no place for bigotry and has no place for hatred.”

To find out when the next Story Time with Thunder Bay Drag Queens event is happening, check the group's Facebook page.



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FEELING FAMOUS: Roughly 30 students, along with a live band, are involved in the production.

## Fame coming to school stage

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

St. Ignatius students are gearing up to bring a little fame to Thunder Bay.

“Fame” the musical, based on the 1980 musical film of the same name, is the latest big-name show being brought to the city by local high school students.

Roughly 30 students, along with a live band, are involved in the production. Students and teachers have been hard at work over the last 10 months getting the show ready, including building a 12-foot temporary extension to the school's original stage.

“We started in June when we announced it to the school. We started with our licensing and just getting it ready. In September we started with auditions, then we did call-backs, and then we started the process,” said Caterina Tolone, production director.

“We had over 45 students audition and this is our cast. We have a huge cast, 30 students, cast ensemble dancers, and we now have a male ensemble and we have our live band, which is all students.”

The first showing is running from May 2 to 4, and then again from May 7 to 9. Tickets are available on EventBrite.



# Teams set for the SIJHL final

The Kam River Fighting Walleye and the Sioux Lookout Bombers are all set to tangle in SIJHL final

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Superior International Junior Hockey League championship round is set.

The defending champion Kam River Fighting Walleye punched their ticket to a third straight Bill Salonen Cup final on Thursday night, edging the host Red Lake Miners 4-3 to complete a four-game semifinal sweep.

They'll take on the second-year Sioux Lookout Bombers, who doubled up the Thunder Bay North Stars 4-2 in Game 5 of their semifinal series, taking the set four games to one.

Jett Mintenko and Ryan Doucette scored first-period goals to give the Fighting Walleye a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes.

The two teams traded goals in each of the second and third periods.

Evan Lachimea notched the go-ahead goal with 44 seconds to play in the middle stanza and Doucette doubled the

Kam River lead at 18:28 of the third.

Gabe Danton cut the lead to one for Red Lake with a goal at the 19:16 mark.

Matthew MacPherson and Nathan Dann also scored for Red Lake, who knocked off Dryden in the opening round of the playoffs.

It was the 23rd straight win for Kam River, who have gone a perfect 8-0 in the postseason.

In Sioux Lookout, Nolan Palmer broke a 2-2 with 5:51 to go in regulation.

Owen Cotter added an empty netter to seal the series win.

Connor Burke and Tait Howell also scored for the Bombers. E.J. Paddington and Beau Helmecki scored for the North Stars.

The Stars failed to beat the Bombers on the road all season long.

The SIJHL final is expected to start on Wednesday at the Norwest Arena.

League officials have not officially confirmed the start date.



**MATCHUP SET:** Ryan Doucette scored twice and added two assists for the Kam River Fighting Walleye in a 5-0 win over Sioux Lookout on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022

## Ice Dogs part ways with long-time coach

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Dryden Ice Dogs and longtime head coach Kurt Walsten have parted ways.

The team, eliminated from the first round of the Superior International Junior Hockey League playoffs in five games by the Red Lake Miners, announced Walsten's departure in a post Wednesday to the team's official Facebook page.

Walsten began coaching the Ice Dogs in 2014-15, taking the team to the Bill Salonen Cup final that year, taking the team to the Dudley Hewitt Cup.

The Ice Dogs won back-to-back SIJHL championships in 2017 and 2018, and made it to the Dudley Hewitt Cup championship, falling 7-4 to the Wellington Dukes.

Walsten is a two-time Superior International Junior Hockey League coach of the year, took his team to four straight finals and finished his Ice Dogs career with 399 regular season wins.

The team gave no reason for the departure, but wished Walsten well and said a transition plan is in place, with more details to come.



**PARTING WAYS:** Kurt Walsten coached the Dryden Ice Dogs from 2014 to 2024

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# Kevin Bragnalo heading south

Bragnalo has been selected to work the Centennial Cup, with all of the Junior 'A' league winners and host Oakville Blades

By Kevin Jeffrey - TB Source

Even though his name was put forward for the National Junior 'A' Championship, Kevin Bragnalo didn't think he would get picked to go to Oakville.

"I'm involved in the high-performance group of officials so being picked was possible," Bragnalo said.

"When the director of officiating, Colin Dzijacky, got back to me and said that I was one of the successful candidates for this event, I was completely blown away."

Bragnalo feels his credentials of working the Telus Cup and other regional championships perhaps gave him an advantage on some of the other individuals that were recommended to Hockey Canada by Dzijacky.

"I have worked the high-level events, but I also referee Junior 'A' and 'B' hockey which includes league finals, and I work Lakehead Thunderwolves games," Bragnalo added.

"Playoff games especially add more pressure and intensity to the job, which

means getting the call right and being on our feet. Getting this opportunity is pretty cool."

In addition to doing games in the Superior International Junior Hockey League as well as the Lakehead Junior Hockey League (LJHL), Bragnalo worked as a referee and a linesman during the Border Battle Cup at the Tournament Centre back in February.

He has been tapped to work as a linesman for the national championship.

Bragnalo, who works as a superintendent for Superior North EMS, has been donning the referee stripes for 23 years.

"I used to play Under-14 'AA' hockey and after that season, I had some injuries but wanted to find another way to stay in hockey," Bragnalo reflected.

"As an official, you watch the game a little differently. NHL officials that I watch included Kerry Fraser and these days it's Wes McCauley.

"Locally, when I began as an official, Andrew Dillion was my supervisor and other supervisors helped me along the way. It's not just one particular person that



**HEADING SOUTH:** Bragnalo working a Junior 'A' hockey game at Norwest Arena in Oliver Palpoonge.

helped me to get to where I am at today. My wife and kids support me all the time and my employer helped me get the time off to work the tournament."

The Bill Salonen Cup Champions will

make the trek down to Oakville to join the host Blades of the Ontario Junior Hockey League and the eight other league winners to compete for the National Junior 'A' Championship.

Bragnalo was asked about whether he could still work games involving the SIJHL champions.

"They're not particular about that," he mentioned.

"Being a Hockey Canada official in Thunder Bay and in Northwestern Ontario, I travel to do games in Sioux Lookout, Fort Frances, Red Lake and I also work minor hockey games.

"It's a lot of fun and my wife is not a big fan of it because I'm always out, but she is the most understanding person I have and without her, I can't do any of this."

Since the event was rebranded as the Centennial Cup in 2022, the SIJHL representative has gone winless in eight round robin games, failing to make the quarterfinals.

The event begins on Thursday, May 9.



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**OHL BOUND:** Thunder Bay's Easton Mikus.

## Mikus heading to OHL

The North Stars centre was the SIJHL rookie of the year

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Superior International Junior Hockey League rookie of the year Easton Mikus has gotten the call from the Ontario Hockey League.

Mikus, who scored 31 goals and added 29 assists, his freshman campaign with the Thunder Bay North Stars, on Saturday was

taken 69th overall by the Owen Sound Attack.

The 16-year-old set an SIJHL rookie record earlier this season, scoring six goals in a single game.

He's the highest drafted Thunder Bay player since Kyle Auger was taken 29th overall in 2015.

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Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 18th day of April, 2024.

**JEFFREY JOHN CARLSON,**  
ESTATE TRUSTEE  
c/o ERICKSONS LLP  
**ATTN: RYAN VENN**  
Barristers and Solicitors  
291 South Court Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2Y1

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All Persons having claims against the Estate of EVERT MAKKINGA, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about March 6, 2024, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before May 16, 2024, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice.

Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 11th day of April, 2024.

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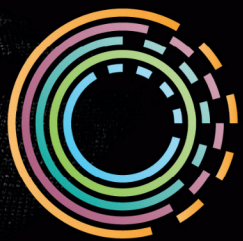


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