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Thursday, May 4, 2023

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Ontario's integrity commissioner says an NDP newsletter was not improperly produced by MPP Lise Vaugois.

# MPP cleared of complaint

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Ontario's integrity commissioner has cleared Thunder Bay–Superior North MPP Lise Vaugois after investigating whether she improperly used constituency office resources in creating a partisan NDP newsletter.

Integrity commissioner J. David Wake absolved Vaugois, even as he found some rules violations by her staff, which he said he accepted had been the result of inexperience, not abuse.

The complaint was filed in January by Whitby PC MPP Lorne Coe, who asked Wake to investigate whether Vaugois had used constituency resources for partisan purposes in the production of a recent newsletter.

In an interview, Vaugois gave a defiant response, calling the complaint itself partisan.

“It really amounts to a pretty frivolous complaint made by somebody from the [Progressive] Conservative Party,” she said. “In my job as an opposition MPP, I’ve clearly ruffled some feathers — that’s my job. The fact they came after me to try and undermine my credibility just tells me I’m doing a good job.”

Specifically, Coe alleged Vaugois’s

office featured contact information for her Queen’s Park and constituency offices, as well as the provincial coat of arms, on a newsletter that also promoted NDP membership and sought donations to the party.

It’s a long-accepted parliamentary convention that constituency and legislative resources are not to be used for partisan activities like the riding association newsletter.

In a report, Wake said the evidence established the newsletter was paid for by the Thunder Bay–Superior North NDP riding association.

He concluded the newsletter was prepared by a member of Vaugois’s constituency office staff, who is also a volunteer with the NDP riding association.

“For the most part, the newsletter was prepared during this individual’s personal time and on a personal computer” in line with the rules, Wake stated.

However, there were “a few instances” in which the staffer admitted to working on the newsletter in the constituency office using an office laptop, during their lunch break — effectively violating parliamentary convention.

# Fleury looks forward

## New police chief plans to look at the service from every angle to make needed improvements

By Matt Vis - TB Source

The city's incoming police chief took the job believing he can make a positive difference.

Darcy Fleury, the first external Thunder Bay police chief hire in 28 years, has been brought in to restore order to a police service that has been rocked by turmoil and turbulence in recent years, culminating with the suspension of their two top senior officers last year.

The chief-designate, who will be formally sworn in as chief next month, sat down for an extensive editorial board meeting with Dougall Media this week, where he outlined his vision and priorities for how he plans to lead the police service.

"I saw what was going on here a few years back, and thought, with my skills and my education and my background and what I've gained over the years and the knowledge I've gathered, I thought I could be of some use," he said.

Fleury, a citizen of the Red River Métis and member of the Manitoba Métis Federation, has 36 years of policing experience, choosing to retire from the RCMP where he had been chief superintendent with the Central Alberta District based in Edmonton, to take the helm in Thunder Bay.

He wanted to be a police officer from the age of 10, drawing inspiration from a Mountie in his hometown that he found to be "very compassionate and outstanding as far as how he related to people."

The chief-designate noted the social issues facing the city, highlighting the need to work with the best-suited community partners and agencies so they can be addressed outside of law enforcement and the justice system. He also spoke about the prevalence of out-of-town suspects being arrested on drug trafficking charges, identifying that as a priority.

Fleury is inheriting a police service that has lost the trust of Indigenous communities, with findings of systemic racism, as well as several cases involving the deaths of Indigenous people that were inadequately investigated.

Rebuilding that fractured relationship is vital, Fleury acknowledged, adding that he is committed to community engagement and gathering input. Fleury noted that he plans to host future townhall meetings, where he can hear firsthand from the grassroots of the community.

"What we're going to do going forward — what we're already doing — is a review of our policies and procedures to make sure if there is wording or guidelines that takes us in a path that could lead to that systemic racism, that we get rid of it," he said.

"Any new policies that we bring forward, that we have consultation with our partners and stakeholders to make sure the wording of that doesn't include something that could take us down the line



Thunder Bay Police Chief Darcy Fleury is on the job.

of systemic racism."

At multiple points in the conversation, Fleury emphasized his desire to create and foster a "learning environment," describing his leadership style as one that promotes inclusivity, while believing in autonomy and creating a feeling of empowerment within the organization.





"Every case that we have that has a discipline situation also has to have a learning situation," he said. "If somebody has done something wrong and there's a learning possibility to deal with it, let's try to go that route. Sometimes people are not bad, they just make bad choices. We need to make sure we're doing that correctly so that we're not just coming down with a hammer all the time."

"We do need to manage if they're doing something wrong all the time — and it's harmful and it's hurtful and it's meant to be — then we have to deal with that in a different way."

Fleury is stepping into a workplace culture that Thunder Bay Police Association leadership had expressed concern about prior to predecessor Sylvie Hauth's suspension and early retirement. A number of current and former frontline officers and civilian staff have filed human rights complaints against the force and the Thunder Bay Police Services Board.

After having his first day on the job last week, he expected he has met and introduced himself to about half of the membership as the leadership transitions.

## WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
<b>Cloudy</b>	<b>Cloudy</b>	<b>Rain</b>	<b>Rain</b>
Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH 8 LOW 4	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH 9 LOW 5	Precipitation: <b>40%</b> HIGH 9 LOW 4	Precipitation: <b>70%</b> HIGH 11 LOW 6



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# Controversial sidewalk OKed

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Thunder Bay's city council awarded a multi-million dollar pedestrian infrastructure contract on Monday, voting narrowly to move ahead with a new sidewalk on a section of Frederica Street West over the vocal objections of area residents.

A group of neighbours presented a petition to council showing 33 of 43 homeowners along the eight blocks of Frederica from Stanley Avenue to James Street opposed the sidewalk.

The city plans to build a sidewalk on the north side of Frederica from Stanley to Home Avenue this year, and complete the stretch to James Street in 2024, work staff called crucial to the city's transportation plans.

Residents said they saw little need for a sidewalk on what they



A new sidewalk will be installed on a section of Frederica Street West, despite objections.

described as a street with modest traffic, arguing the installation would disrupt their yards and could force them to park on side streets.

"This street has existed without a sidewalk for a very long time without any problems, and with the proximity of the property lines to

the narrow city boulevard, it's going to dramatically disrupt many things," homeowner Daniel Jagielowicz told council.

"Residents will lose privacy and are afraid of people walking in such close proximity to their homes and vehicles, along with the increased possibility of theft."

"One resident told me that if the sidewalk gets built, they're going to sell their house and move."

Frederica is classified as "a minor arterial with a significant amount of traffic," based on traffic studies, and as a public transit route should have sidewalks on both sides according to city transportation and accessibility plans, staff said.

In 2018, 68 pedestrians per day were observed crossing the north leg of the intersection of Frederica and James streets, despite the lack of

a sidewalk west of James, noted a staff report.

Council voted Monday to award a \$2.37 million contract to low bidder Thunder Contracting for sidewalk work including Frederica.

Thunder Contracting's bid came in below two competitors, but above the city's \$2.04 million pre-tender estimate.

The contract will see the company replace sidewalk sections on Brescia Court, Centre Avenue, Francis Street East, Francis Street West, Hyde Park, John Street, Red River Road, and Yonge Street.

It will see new sidewalk segments identified in the city's active transportation plan added along Cumberland Street North, Frederica Street West, Inchiquin Street, John Street, East Avenue, and Wardrope Avenue.



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# May promises warmer weather

## Temperatures could hit 19 C this weekend

By TB Source staff

For the second year in a row, Thunder Bay residents had to endure an unusually soggy and snowy April, but there is hope on the horizon.

Long-range forecast models point to May being warmer and drier than normal.

Sunshine and seasonal temperatures will return by Wednesday, and by Sunday temperatures should approach 19 C, which is several degrees above normal.

Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson said current forecast models are indicating that "as we go through the

second, third and fourth week of the month, they are all expected to be somewhat warmer than normal."

"It also looks like a major shift in the precipitation pattern. We had a lot of precipitation in April, but as we go further into May we expect a somewhat drier-than-normal pattern to set in," Coulson said.

At Thunder Bay Airport, 43 millimetres of rain fell in April, compared with the long-term average of 29.5 millimetres.

There was also 53 centimetres of snow, which is way above the normal of 12.4 cm.

Coulson noted that April 2022 saw Thunder Bay receive six more centimetres of snow than last month, and twice the amount of rain at 87 millimetres.



Seagulls could be sunning themselves on the breakwall as early as this weekend, when more seasonable temperatures return. (FILE)

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# Tentative deal ends strike

By Matt Vis - TB Source

Most of the striking federal workers are back to work after a tentative deal that a local union official says presents mixed feelings.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada reached a tentative agreement for the 120,000 Treasury Board workers on Sunday, ending their nearly two-week national strike.

The agreement covers the four Treasury Board of Canada negotiating tables, while those negotiating with the Canada Revenue Agency remain on strike.

"We didn't get exactly what we were out for, but we got a tentative agreement that is quite a bit better than what was initially proposed before the strike," said Aaron Swerdlyk, president of Local 30 for

the Public Service Alliance of Canada, on Monday. "It's definitely far from what we were hoping for, so there's definitely mixed emotions."

The tentative agreement would give workers a compounded wage increase of 12.6 per cent over the course of the four-year deal.

"People were passionate and happy to be on the line because they see how important this is to get a fair deal. We've seen inflation go up much higher than our raises year after year, especially in the time of six, seven per cent inflation, so people have just had enough," Swerdlyk said.

Swerdlyk said another issue involved telework and remote work arrangements. While it wasn't included in the collective bargaining agreement, the two

sides did agree to a memorandum of understanding that provides guidance on working from home procedures.

While not all workers are able to have the option, it's proven to be valuable for many who do, he added.

"We think this is a benefit not only to the workers but to taxpayers. The more people that work remotely, the less the government spends on buildings and infrastructure," he said. "It's actually a win-win. We were actually surprised at the opposition to strong working from home wording. It's not exactly what we wanted but it's better than what we had before."

Swerdlyk said he's waiting for more details about the ratification process.



Public Service Alliance of Canada workers have struck a tentative contract agreement. (FILE)



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EDITORIAL

## Cut the ties?

Is the monarchy on its last legs in Canada?

According to a poll produced last month by Research Co., only 19 per cent of Canadians want their country to remain under the Royal banner.

That marked a significant drop since a similar poll was conducted last September.

This comes as King Charles III is set to be coronated, officially taking over the throne ruled by his mother, Elizabeth II, for more than 70 years.

For Canadians, it's the perfect time to re-examine the country's relationship with the Crown.

The British monarch as the head of state has been Canada's head of state since its 1867 founding, but beyond that tradition, what exactly does the monarchy bring to Canadians?

A sense of belonging? Perhaps.

Some 156 years into its run as a nation, does Canada actually need oversight from King Charles III? Are we not capable of governing ourselves and making our own decisions? It seems so, despite what you might think of the government of the day. Maybe the 81 per cent are on to something.

## SEVERAL GUEST HOSTS WILL BE FILLING IN FOR TUCKER CARLSON



# The Private Life of Spies a storytelling marvel

*The Private Life of Spies*, by Alexander McCall Smith, is a charming book that shows off its author's accomplishment as a storyteller at its very best. Very few people who have read anything by Alexander McCall Smith will need persuading of his qualities as a writer. He has written over a hundred books which have sold in vast numbers, including fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

*The Private Life of Spies* comes over as a whimsical exercise in research and writing by an author who wanted to try something a little different. What you find between the covers are five stories about spies and espionage involving

different people at different times and in different places. The author says in his introduction that 'These stories are part fiction and part non-fiction' and some seem to be based around the lives and deeds of real people, with suitable embroidery for the sake of a good tale.

The book opens with the story of a reluctant German (male) spy who parachuted into England in 1943 disguised as a nun and immediately found refuge in a nearby convent. Then we move to Algiers in 1924 and the profoundly self-serving espionage

activities of two men, members of the opposing Ottoman and Italian secret services.

Then it's a leap to Argyll in 1984 and one man's dealings with Soviet spies. This story covers the years from 1934 to 1947 and has as its central characters Donald Maclean, British diplomat and Soviet spy; and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, an Australian Scot who served as British

ambassador in various places including Moscow and Washington. Kerr developed a friendship with

Stalin to the point that he felt able to ask the Soviet leader to intervene in the case of a Red Army soldier who was facing disciplinary action. Stalin agreed to arrange the discharge of this soldier if Kerr was prepared to take him on as a personal assistant. Kerr thought that this was a strange request but assented to it. When Kerr moved to Washington the Americans inevitably regarded his Russian private secretary as a Soviet spy.

The book concludes with the modern tale of a student at the French Pontifical College in the Vatican who becomes a part of the Pope's very own secret service. This story is quite different to the other

four and reads partly as a spy tale and partly as a theological investigation by the author. It very nicely rounds off this collection.

Picking up and reading the latest book in one of Alexander McCall Smith's long-running series (and he has a number of them) is a little like turning on the car radio and tuning into a CBC program that you may not be familiar with. You know that what you are listening to is of high quality; has proven longevity; and has huge numbers of fans.

*The Private Life of Spies* allows you to appreciate Alexander McCall Smith's writing without requiring prior knowledge to thoroughly enjoy the experience.



**John Pateman**  
BOOK BANTER

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# Is lab-grown meat our future?

By JR Shermack

Now that spring has finally arrived I have noticed robins singing in the trees, daffodils growing in the garden and the days getting longer now.

There is definitely something in the springtime breeze and I don't mean the scent of blossoms, the fragrance of budding trees or the smell of fresh rain.

You may have sniffed it too as it drifts deliciously on the spring breeze through many city neighborhoods - the irresistible, unmistakable aroma of charred mammal flesh.

Some may not appreciate the char of a well-grilled steak and claim that eating meat is environmentally unsustainable (which it is) but many omnivores savor the experience.

The backyard barbecue is a well-established Canadian tradition and millions of steaks, smokies, dogs and burgers are served up every year on patios and decks across the country.

Accommodating grill masters will throw some veggie dogs and soy

burgers on the barbie for the herbivores although seasoned meat and meat eaters usually dominate the grill.

Unfortunately the animals roasting on our barbecues, while they are still alive, belch out a lot of greenhouse gas and the people who kill and eat them are taking a lot of flak.

The search is on for cattle that doesn't burp or fart so we can eat barbecue without guilt for destroying the planet.

Fartless livestock have not yet been invented but in the meantime, food engineers started growing meat in laboratories, inside stainless steel bioreactors.

The resulting biomass has been in search of an appetizing name - it was first called 'vat meat', then 'lab meat', 'cultured meat' and now it goes by 'cultivated meat'.

Cultivated meat is being grown in vats around the world and it is the hope of some environmentalists that one day cows can be eliminated and replaced.

Raising and eating meat in the usual way has been singled out as a



Cows have been labelled as environmentally unfriendly in the past.

global warming villain and eliminating this source of greenhouse gas is driving a new bio-technology.

Using a technique borrowed from human regenerative research, beef cells are harvested from a live animal and then placed in a warm, sterile bath with growth medium and nutrients.

The cells double every 24 hours which means you can grow enough for a steak in four to six weeks.

You can't produce a well-marbled rib-eye this way because fat cells require different conditions to grow than meat - when the lab meat and fat are harvested they are pale, formless paste.

The paste needs to be processed and formed, possibly using a 3-D printer, until it begins to resemble a reasonable facsimile of something looking like a real steak.

The flavors, it is said, are reminis-

cent of real meat with a texture and structure very close to actual muscle fibre, connective tissue and fat (yum).

The first cultivated beef burger was created and fried in 1963 after two years and \$300,000 (cheese extra).

Besides the high cost of production there are many other barriers to overcome before cultivated beef will be growing in a supermarket near you.

But it doesn't end there - in much the same way meat was targeted, scientists are working to replace ordinary milk (liquid beef) with lab milk grown from mammary DNA and yeast.

The teat is being replaced by the test tube - both beef and dairy cattle may one day be put out to pasture for good.

Also be on the lookout for chocolate without cocoa beans, egg whites that don't come from chickens and chickens that don't come from eggs.

In the meantime, as long as the cows are still mooing, I'll have mine medium rare.

what's happening  
in and around...

## The Bay

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

### May 6-7 Folklore Festival

Thunder Bay's No. 1 multicultural event returns to Fort William Gardens this weekend, after taking three years off due to the pandemic.

It's a chance to sample the music, dancing, food and culture from countries around the world, a celebration of everything that makes Thunder Bay such a great city to call home.

Take a trip around the world in 48 hours is the 50th anniversary festival's theme.

The doors open from 12 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and from noon until 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors and \$1 for children aged four to 12. Children three and under are free.

### May 5 Gerry Dee

Comedy Gerry Dee, best known for starring in Mr. D and as the host

of Family Feud Canada, will take to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium stage on Friday night.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster. See our story on Page 16 for more details.

### May 6 Viva l'Italia

Celebrate the golden age of Italian string music, with a concert of vibrant sonatas for one and two violins from the High Baroque era. We will hear works from Venice and the Veneto by Vivaldi and Albinoni, and from other regions represented by Corelli and Locatelli, composers who were also proficient string players.

Violinists Katie Stevens and Christopher Stork, harpsichordist Elizabeth Ganiatsos, and cellist Marc Palmquist will be welcomed back.

Admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Children 11 and younger are free.

The event takes place at St. Paul's

United Church on Waverley Street and tickets are available online at [www.consortiumab.org](http://www.consortiumab.org).

### May 6 Theory of a Deadman

Rock 'n' roll needs to hit all the right spots. With sky-high hooks, riffs as thick as a two-by-four, rumbling grooves, and a razor-sharp sense of humor, Theory Of A Deadman have quietly persisted as an unapologetic, unbreakable, and undeniable hard rock force with major multi-platinum hits and countless sold out shows in each of the past two decades.

Picking up the pace for the next chapter, the award-winning quartet—Tyler Connolly [lead vocals, guitar], Dave Brenner [guitar, backing vocals], Dean Back [bass], and Joey Dandeneau [drums, backing vocals]—once again deliver a barrage of anthems on their eighth full-length offering.

The show takes place Saturday night at the Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.



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Local students are set to open the SSSAA mountain bike race series in Trowbridge Forest, on Tuesdays and Thursdays in May.

# Off to the races

In Northwestern Ontario, we are fortunate to be immersed in a natural landscape that presents us with infinite opportunities for outdoor adventure. Even within the city limits of Thunder Bay, there is a huge amount of greenspace, and most of it features rough-cut trails that are perfect for recreation.

While our geographical advantage offers us many cool and unique opportunities that we typically take for granted, one true highlight is the fact that our high school sports association, the Superior Secondary Schools Athletic Association (SSSAA), can run a mountain bike race series in the Trowbridge Forest each spring.

This is a rare opportunity as most other regions of Ontario do not offer competitive mountain biking as part of their sports lineup.

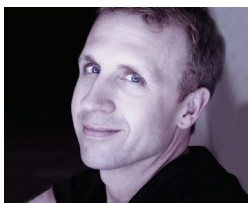
Our 2023 mountain bike series will once again run on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in May. The six races on the calendar this year include a short-track event, an individual time trial, three mass-start races on a variety of trails and a team relay to wrap up the series.

SSSAA cycling is actually older than the modern mountain bike, and it began as a road cycling series. In the 1990s, the growing popularity of mountain biking, especially with young people, necessitated a change to the dirt trails.

In the years since, the series has constantly evolved and incorporated a wide variety of disciplines including BMX, cyclocross, downhill slalom and a track relay. The current iteration features a series of double-header race days, with all events starting from the Centennial Park cabins.

The great thing about high school bike racing is the fact that there are no limits on roster sizes, so

coaches do not need to make cuts. Anyone with a helmet and a safe, functioning mountain bike can try the sport out at no cost. Typically, well over a hundred students from the Thunder Bay schools participate, and because the skill level of these athletes varies greatly, the races only incorporate green-level, beginner-friendly trails. The more advanced riders are challenged by the fierce speeds they carry through the courses, but newer riders can still have fun too without fear of overly-dangerous course features.



**Keith Ailey**  
the GOOD LIFE

The Superior Collegiate Gryphons have been the SSSAA mountain biking champions since 2013 and they have been out on training rides, completing drills and building skills, for the past few weeks.

Leading the Gryphons in the quest for another title is Char Ailey, last year's Novice champion. While Ailey has played many high school sports, including basketball, volleyball, curling, badminton, track, Nordic skiing and XC running, she notes that the mountain biking team offers her something special.

"It's great to practice with the boys too and I'm excited to keep racing in the Blacksheep club events after the high school season ends. Most importantly, this is something I plan to do for the rest of my life," she says.

There are many great reasons for our teenaged children to try a bike race with their school team, but having some good healthy fun with friends ranks right at the top of the list. Regardless of whether they are experienced or brand new to the sport, they are sure to discover that high school mountain biking is incredibly rewarding.

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# Food prices and record profits

In this country we have all recently watched grocery store CEOs dragged all over in Ottawa.

Accused of profiteering and greed while families in Canada struggle through a pandemic and increasing inflation. Companies have been benefiting from favourable demand and strong pricing action measures amid an inflationary cost environment.

Incidentally, food companies have been grappling with the increased cost of ingredients, packaging and transportation, largely stemming from a disrupted supply-chain network.

The increased labour cost has also been a concern for some

companies.

However, players in the market have been raising product prices and commencing strong saving and reorganization measures to combat these challenges. This is likely to have aided companies' performances recently.

Apart from pricing, companies are gaining from relatively better volumes, which result from favourable demand.

As the pandemic has made society even more aware of the importance of consuming healthy and nutritious food by cooking at home, the demand for organic and fresh food products has been high, acting as an upside for players in the food product

industry. Increased at-home consumption has also been working well for many companies offering packaged food and snacks, ready-to-cook meals, meat-based food offerings, and confectionery and bakery items.

The ready to cook meal cycle for families is something Beefcakes enjoys during the shoulder seasons when families are busy with school beginning (and then ending).

So much is the profitability of such companies that Wall Street has taken notice.

Well established brands like Hershey's, Kraft-Heinz, and the Kellogg's Company are all expected to turn record profits in their fiscal 2023 and many other companies also seeing serious money making endeavours bearing financial fruit.

Now a little closer to home, Galen Weston has stepped down as the President of Canada's largest grocer, Loblaw's.

Galen was very recently seen being grilled in front of members of parliament while he described his business as reasonable profitability.

Famously stating that he only makes \$1 worth of profit on \$25 worth of groceries, which even by his own financial statements looks suspect as best.

As well as me, someone who buys food daily and sees pricing from many different places, that statement is pretty ridiculous.

Don't feel so bad for Galen, he made almost \$12 million in compensation for his work as president of his grocery chain that's often accused of price fixing and wage cutting.

In relation, his average worker would have to work at Loblaw's for approximately 340 years to make the wage Galen enjoyed in 2022.

It is a constant reminder that when these CEO's and presidents take home large paychecks and bonuses, it's not from their exhausting hard work, it usually comes down to two things, exploitation of its labour force and abusing its customer base.

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



**Derek Lankinen**

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# Winter keeps giving back

## Snow doesn't seem to want to stop this spring

I was tempted this week to simply refer readers to last week's column in which I lamented the continuing snowfall out our way. Then I wouldn't have to write anything because it has happened again, and again, and again.

We get snow - lots of snow, heavy and wet. Then the sun appears and our hearts are full of hope for the melt and the appearance of green grass. Hah! Such delusory hope because we are back in it again!

Friday night the heavens opened with more of the heavy, wet, white stuff and didn't stop. All day Saturday and all day Sunday it snowed.

I had to drive my son, Doug, to the airport Sunday morning for a 9:45 flight.

Sure, once I got into the lowlands no snow, just a bit of rain. Our road to the highway was a true obstacle course of tricky steering.

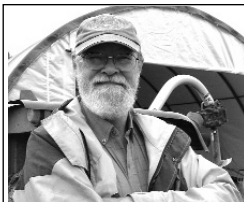
I drove very slowly in the middle of the road praying that the front wheels remained in the grooves some other vehicle had carved earlier in the day.

plough the last bit from the road to where the driveway splits into a large oval.

I backed Red out of the way and watched as Doug's car ploughed snow in front of it until it reached the now-cleared part. An impressive sight.

But I had to do it all over again once I returned from that airport.

The see-saw nature of this so-called spring is frustrating especially for those of us rural rooters living in an obvious snowbelt, at least for this winter. No snow in town; very little on the highway heading south; snow begins as I turn off Highway 61 onto 608 but not a lot. It is as I approach the village of South Gillies that the intensity of the snow increases.



**Fred Jones**  
RURAL ROOTS

And then there is our road that must be driven without mishap. Once or twice the car was almost grabbed by some lurking slush but I managed to get us back into the grooves.

So, I consider us lucky: we have the means to do serious snow clearing. We have a stocked larder should the power fail.

But I feel for the birds. Around the bird feeder and the picnic table that stands close to the feeder I liberally ladle out sunflower seeds.

The willow trees near the feeder are black with redwing blackbirds and grackles and who knows what else.

### Finding food

There are lots of flitting juncos and sparrows all congregating where the seed has fallen.

Sometimes just below the feeder the white snow has disappeared to be replaced with a mass of black feathers. Along the highway in open fields you see lots of geese, ducks, and the occasional pair of Sandhill cranes. Must be a shock for them.

Their clocks are on time based on precedent; Nature's isn't.

Looking out the kitchen window at the moving flock of hungry birds, my wife, Laura, commented that Nature is being silly.

I'll say and then some! If this is December, I'd be doing jigs; but this is May and this winter that just keeps on giving.

# Victoria Inn sold

## Hotel was purchased by Naagaaniyang LP

By TB Source staff

One of Thunder Bay's largest and more prominent hotels is changing hands.

Manitoba-based hotel management company Genesis Hospitality has announced the sale of the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre to Naagaaniyang Limited Partnership.

The Brandon company had operated the Arthur Street property for the past three decades.

In a brief statement Monday, Genesis expressed its gratitude to the community for supporting the hotel since it took it over in December 1993.

"It was a great pleasure to serve as a major partner to Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario ... The hotel

flourished with a very successful banquet department and major catering partner to Fort William Historical Park," said Genesis executive vice-president Kevin Swark, in the release.

"As well, we would like to thank all those guests that supported Chicago Joe's Restaurant and Sports Bar and to the raving fans that continued to vote our chicken wings the best of the city."

Genesis Hospitality owns and operates 11 hotels in Manitoba, Hamilton, the Greater Toronto Area and Alberta.

A representative of Naagaaniyang Limited Partnership could not immediately be reached for comment on its plans for the hotel.

No reason was given for the decision to sell the property.



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# Royal Ball for CF

By TB Source staff

The Fort City Kinettes hosted an enchanting event for families, that allowed them to enjoy a magical afternoon dressed up in their best royal garb, all while supporting a good cause: Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

The event was held in support of Cystic Fibrosis Canada and the Fort City Kinettes. Event Chair Barbara Thomson says Cystic Fibrosis is the most common fatal genetic disease affecting Canadian children and young adults, and it currently has no cure.

"There is a new treatment out, a new drug and unfortunately, the price of the drug is \$300,000 per patient," she said.

So, you can understand that fundraising is going on right across Canada. Kin Canada is a service club and we've been doing service work for a lot of charities, but our specific one is Cystic Fibrosis Canada, that's our main

charity in Canada."

Over 200 princesses and princes showed up with their parents and grandparents to this year's Royal Ball fundraiser at the Davinci Centre and with so much to do, many of the princes and princesses found it hard to pick a favourite activity.

The afternoon was packed with various activities to make attendees feel like royalty, including a luncheon, a bracelet and crown making station, a pampering station, and dancing. Kids also got the chance to meet and take pictures with some of their favourite princesses, princes, and fairies.

Thomson says many Kinsmen and Kinettes clubs and Cystic Fibrosis chapters across Canada have been hosting royal balls for the disease for years. She says this is the fifth year Thunder Bay has held the event, but it was the first time the Fort City Kinettes have hosted it.



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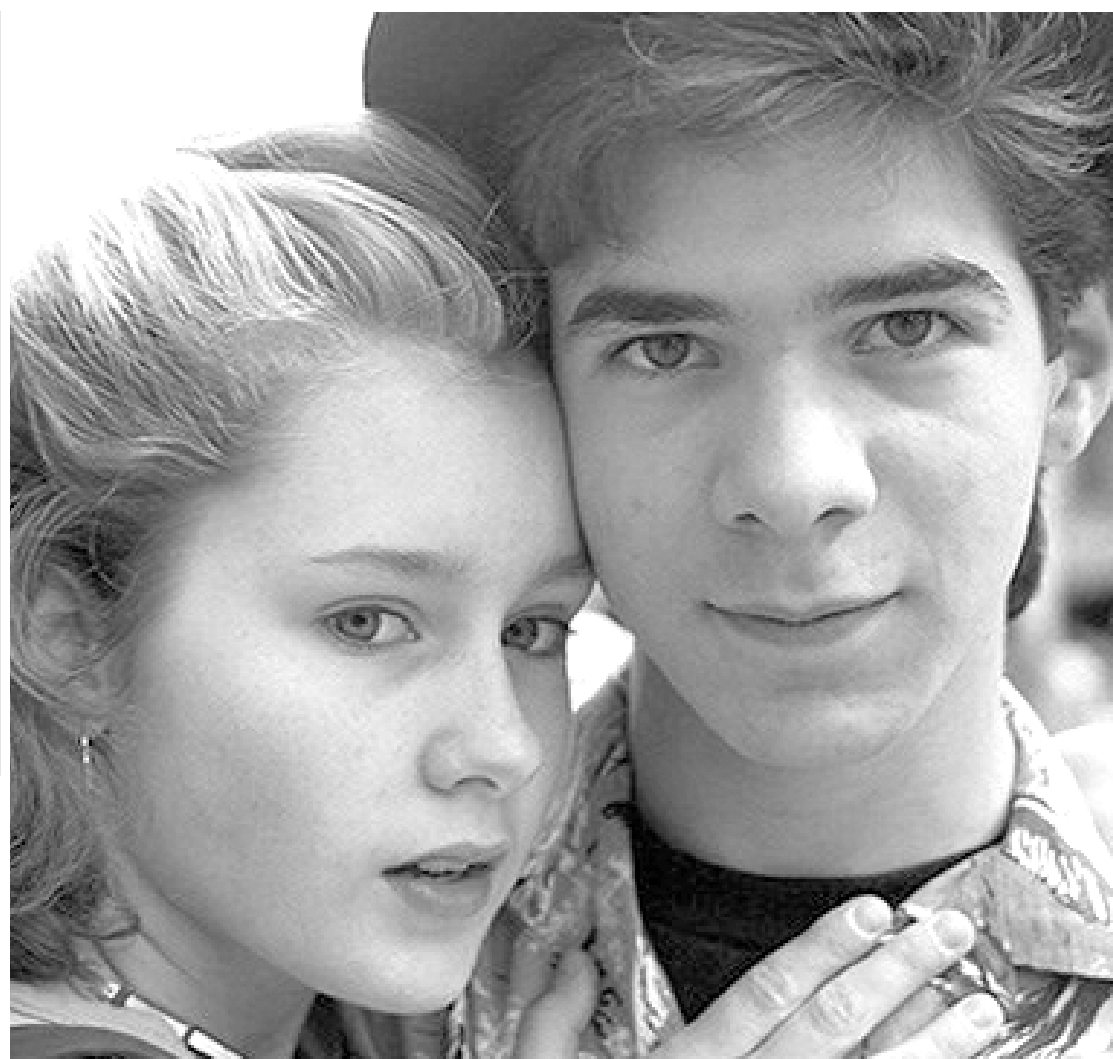
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Actors Stacie Mistysyn and Pat Mastroianni will be guests at this year's ThunderCon, scheduled for Sept. 9 and 10 in Thunder Bay.

# Joey and Caitlyn reuniting in TBay

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Joey Jeremiah and Caitlin Ryan are coming to ThunderCon 2023.

Known in real life as Pat Mastroianni and Stacie Mistysyn, the duo were part of the iconic Degrassi Junior High - later Degrassi High - cast that took Canada by storm in the 1980s, the original power couple on a show that broke new ground about teenage storytelling.

"I'm excited to bring 2 of Canadian TV's Icons," says guest lead Toller Madsen. "When you think of 80's Degrassi, you instantly think of Pat and Stacie."

It's long been a dream of organizers to have the pair as featured guests.

"We've been talking with Pat for years," says ThunderCon media director, Heather Dickson. "But the schedules never worked out. This year, we moved our dates to earlier in September, so we were able to make it work with both Pat and Stacie."

Degrassi Junior High, and its sequel, Degrassi High, began airing in 1987 and won eight Gemini Awards over the course of its run, including trophies to both Mastroianni and Mistysyn.

"Stacie and I are super excited to be appearing at ThunderCon this year," Mastroianni said in a release. "Can't wait to see all the Narbos and Broomheads. Trust me, ThunderCon is going to be a blast."

ThunderCon will be held Sept. 9 and Sept. 10.



Frank Deleo (left) is presented a cheque for \$899,510 from Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation president Glenn Craig.

# Deleo wins \$899K in hospital's 50/50

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Frank Deleo is the winner of the fifth-largest Thunder Bay 50/50 jackpot, taking home \$899,510 in Friday's draw.

His luck, it turns out, was better than his favourite hockey team's.

Deleo, a big Toronto Maple Leafs fan, bought the winning ticket last Thursday night, the final day of sales for the April draw, during the Leafs Game 5 loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

He initially thought the call from Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation president and CEO Glenn Craig was a prank by friends related to the Leafs failure to close out their best-of-seven playoff series, but was quickly convinced otherwise.

Now he's hoping to see them win in person, Toronto advancing to the second round for the first time since 2004.

"I'm going to watch the Leafs," he told Craig. The foundation has awarded more than \$22 million in prizes since launching in 2021.

"The Thunder Bay 50/50 makes a huge difference in the winner's lives," Craig said.

"It also makes a huge difference in patients' lives as it has allowed us to fund many pieces of equipment for our hospital which we may not have been able to do otherwise."

May's draw is already live, with \$25,000 in early-bird prizes up for grabs.

Tickets are available to anyone in Ontario at the time of purchase, at [www.thunderbay5050.ca](http://www.thunderbay5050.ca).

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# Gerry Dee a laugh maker

## Family Feud star plays TBCA on Friday

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Gerry Dee has always liked making people laugh.

The star of CBC's long-running comedy Mr. D, currently the host of the wildly popular Family Feud Canada, and one of the top stand-up comedians the country has ever produced, the former hockey player and school teacher finds the spotlight thrilling, a chance to put a smile on people's faces, but also a challenge to himself, knowing not every joke is going to draw laughs, not every routine is going to resonate with the crowd.

"I love having the floor," said Dee, who takes to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium Stage on Friday, May 5, the latest stop on his Best Medicine Tour, promising plenty of laughter as part of his time-tested cure to keep up the spirits of Canadians from coast to coast.

"I love doing something and people responding in a good way. I love seeing people laugh. I love seeing the physical look of that, knowing that I caused that. So once I transitioned into a professional, it was like, now I can get paid doing it."

### Grounded in comedy

Though he began his professional career in the classroom, the 54-year-old says teaching was really just a stepping stone to a life in comedy, a road he was partially pushed down by his students and colleagues at De La Salle College, where he was a physical education teacher and hockey coach.

"When I left teaching, I knew financially where the risk was," says Dee, recalling the decision to move into the entertainment sphere.

"I was already doing stand-up for about five years, so I was kind of moonlighting as a comic, starting to make some money at corporate (gigs) and clubs and that's when I left. It wasn't like I left it for nothing. I already had a bit of an established business going in the stand-up world."

It led to a Comedy Network special in

Canada and a third-place finish on the fifth season of Last Comic Standing, along with roles in The Trailer Park Boys: The Movie and as Wayne Cashman in the CBC miniseries Canada Russia '72 to follow.

Not surprisingly, Dee's comedy focuses on things he knows best.

"Things that are just relatable," he says. "To me, I'm not a dirty comic. I curse a couple of times, really, just out being in the moment or the bit. But other than that, it's mostly family, kids, wife, work. Teaching is still a little bit of that. It's really just my world, as they say."

### Game show surprise

While Dee's career has evolved, in many ways, how he'd envisioned, with stand-up leading to a Canadian comedy show — and now a role as Commissioner Templeton Rudge on Fox's Animal Control — landing the host role in 2019 on Family Feud Canada came out of the blue.

"It was a quick yes," Dee says. "It's been a lot of fun to do the show. It's a very different scenario. I miss acting. I'm on a new Fox sitcom now, called Animal Control, so I am getting a taste of that world again and I always want more of that."

"But the sitcom was from Day 1, that was always my goal — Ray Romano, Tim Allen, Brent Butt — it was always do what they did, take the stand-up and make it a show. That's what I did."

Dee also isn't ruling out a return to Xavier Academy and his Mr. D role of Gerry Duncan, and if it ever happens, thank social media.

"The clips started taking off on TikTok and it's starting to blow up again. It ended in 2018 and here we are, people are starting to share the clips. I realize how many clips we had. It was a lot of sharable, funny moments. It would have to be the right who, but it's something we always chat about. So, we'll see."

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show are available through Ticketmaster.



GERRY DEE



# Pre-teen angst Blumes

*Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, (SilverCity) is an engaging, sweet-spirited, amusing story about one girl's personal navigation through the shoals of preteen angst.

This corner is not familiar with the revered 1970 novel by Judy Blume on which the movie is based but the adaptation by writer-director Kelly Fremon Craig (*The Edge of Seventeen*) is brimming with warmth, empathy, authenticity, thoughtfulness, and humour, elements that made the novel a cherished bestseller.

Set in 1970, the movie centres on 11-year-old Margaret Simon, (Abby Ryder Fortson) fresh from happy summer camp, returning home to learn that her family is re-locating from their cozy New York apartment to the wilds of New Jersey thanks to dad's promotion.

This means a new school, new classmates, new sixth grade, new social dictates and greater distance from her widowed grandmother (Kathy Bates). Argghh!

Her cumulative concerns have Margaret beseeching God for help except the Almighty is not listening too closely, failing to prevent her family from re-locating and ignoring her other comically desperate pleas.

Barely moved in, Margaret is immediately accosted by assertive next door neighbour Nancy (Elle Graham) who recruits Margaret to be a member of her small secret club where the quartet of girls choose not to wear socks.

Initially delighted at finding acceptance, Margaret's angst amps up due to the girls' preoccupation with bodily development which becomes amusingly competitive, that is, who gets what first (breasts, periods).



Abby Ryder Fortson plays the title character in Judy Blume's iconic, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*.

The girls chant to stimulate their bust development with vociferous determination.

Ready to burst from anxious embarrassment, Margaret endearingly hints to her understanding mom, Barbara, (Rachel McAdams) that bra shopping might be in order. Then there are other requisite rites of passage for Margaret to endure.

The God conversations go beyond a droll gimmick. Margaret questions whether religion even has a place in her life, seeing the strife it causes. Her dad Herb (Benny Safdie) being Jewish and mom being Christian created a chasm involving Barbara's parents years ago. Thus, no religion is observed in their household. This comes to a head when all parents come to visit.

The film also embraces the adults who

have their own challenges. McAdams tries to fit in as a new suburban mom, giving up teaching art. Bates' grandmother deals with lonely widowhood. Nancy has a vulnerable moment, caught in a little fib. Margaret extends herself to the tall, prematurely developed outcast, Laura (Isol Young).

The movie is totally winning thanks to the script, Forston's empathetic performance, growing beyond her self-absorption to empathize with others. Director Fremon Craig has the characters ring true, not sitcom slick or silly.

The supporting cast provides just enough texture. Look for author Blume in a cameo as a dog-walker.

The production design is first-rate. Recalling *Being Red*, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* handles young female sexuality with matter-of-fact frankness, sensitivity, and humour. This is one of the best movies of the year so far.



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– VZMUDHUV EUVZMZQWH

					4				
1				3	6				2
			9		2	6			
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			6						1

### ACROSS

- 1 Bundle
- 5 Rail bird
- 9 P.I. food
- 12 Trolley
- 13 Hindu month
- 14 Annex
- 15 Endless
- 17 Bitter herb
- 18 Lesser civet
- 19 Leaning Tower city
- 20 Girlfriend (Sp.)
- 23 Man's name: abbr.
- 24 Nemesis
- 25 File
- 30 Cool
- 31 Moses's spy in Canaan
- 32 Exclamation
- 33 Sure
- 35 Entice
- 36 Vestment
- 37 U.S. national bird
- 38 Beerlike Arab drink

- 40 Edging
- 43 Amer. Ballet Theatre (abbr.)
- 44 Skill
- 48 Portuguese coin
- 49 Cheese
- 50 Us dam
- 51 Big apple (abbr.)
- 52 Spare
- 53 Negatives

### DOWN

- 1 British thermal unit (abbr.)
- 2 Scot. alder tree
- 3 Exudate plant
- 4 Arise
- 5 Impudence
- 6 Condition (suf.)
- 7 Ditch
- 8 Angola (abbr.)
- 9 Apache (2 words)
- 10 Animal teeth (suf.)

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SLAV ENAM BAA  
 AERI NERA ABD  
 IDAS CONCERTO  
 CALICO DADO  
 TOME WINCE  
 TEA WINO TEAM  
 ES LUFFA SRI  
 NATL MILE SET  
 DURAL NARE  
 AGAG YONDER  
 SAGOPALM AIDA  
 ELA ILEA CLEF  
 AAL SEAN TILT

- 11 Thought
- 16 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 19 Dance step
- 20 Indian red powder
- 21 Medieval warclub
- 22 Limp
- 23 Triangular sai
- 25 Mortar mixer
- 26 Building wing
- 27 Curved letter
- 28 Male noble
- 29 Former Korean president
- 31 Public vehicle
- 34 Bantu language
- 35 Brigand
- 37 Equal opportunity employer (abbr.)
- 38 Storage place
- 39 Adhere
- 40 Father (Fr.)
- 41 Corn lily
- 42 Scales (pref.)
- 44 Double (abbr.)
- 45 Honey-eater bird
- 46 Article
- 47 Favorable vote

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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51				52					53		

# SIJHL has delivered epic final

If you weren't at the Superior International Junior Hockey League final this past week, it's tough to call yourself a hockey fan.

This series, which was headed to Game 7 at press time, has had just about everything a hockey series could ask for, and then some.

Man, have the Kam River Fighting Walleye and Thunder Bay North Stars given us a show, none more thrilling than the Walleye's thrill ride of a Game 4 win.

They were up 4-2, only to give up three third period goals and trailed 5-4, when Jack Cook, the odds on favourite to win the playoff MVP title if the Fish pull it out, score with just over a minute to go and Euan

Morrison win it in double overtime.

Thunder Bay won the first two games of the series on the road, only to drop three straight before sending it to a one-game showdown on Monday night with a decisive 6-2 win.

Speaking of hockey, how about those Toronto Maple Leafs?

I know a lot of fans have been critical of John Tavares, more particularly of how much cap space he takes up - despite still being an 80-point player - but I'm sure they wouldn't trade him for the world now, given his Game 6 overtime heroics that sent the Buds to the second round for the first time since the Mario Lemieux

era.

□□□

The first-round results guarantee a Thunder Bay player will be on the roster of a team in the Stanley Cup final, representing the Eastern Conference.

Mackenzie Blackwood, who is working his way back from injury and the current No. 3 on the New Jersey Devils, injured Toronto goaltender Matt Murray, Carolina captain Jordan Staal, and Eric and Marc Staal of the Florida Panthers, all advanced to the second round.

For sentimental sakes, it'd be nice if Marc Staal finally got his Cup, just don't tell the Leafs fans in the office I said so. Or Jordan Lester.

□□□

The Toronto Raptors have handed Nick Nurse his walking papers.

They've got a lot more decision-making to do in the off-season. Some of it, like Fred VanVleet, will be made for them.

The one thing we know for sure, the roster, as currently built, isn't good enough to win.

The Raps need a superstar, a Kevin Durant-type player to put them over the top. Trouble is, they're few and far between, cost a lot of money when they are available, and rarely want to call north of the border home.

Might be time to blow it up and build around Scotty Barnes.

□□□

How much of a chip on his shoulder will Aaron Rodgers play with this season with the New York Jets?

Hopefully he has a little better

success than his predecessor, Brett Favre, who was famously dealt to the Jets in 2008, only to finish 9-7 and miss the playoffs before exiting for a two-season run with the Minnesota Vikings.

I think Rodgers has better talent around him to throw to than Favre did, with superstar-in-the-making Garrett Wilson and former Packers teammate Allan Lazard leading up the receiving corps.

The Jets are going to be tough in the AFC East, with the Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins getting better in the offseason.

But he gives a team that hasn't tasted true success since before the moon landing a chance.

If nothing else, his presence with the Jets gives the team a little swagger. And if Rodgers fails, there's always Zach Wilson to fall back on.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS

87th Annual

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START FINISH

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Early Bird Registration - Closes April 30th  
Final Day for Registration - May 15th

[www.10mileroadrace.org](http://www.10mileroadrace.org)

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**+INSTANTLY WIN \$25 FROM WAKEFIELD OIL CHANGE PLUS, UNIFORM PROS OR TONY ROMA'S.**

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**ADDITIONAL INSERTIONS 1/2 PRICE\*** Up to 20 words  
 Additional words 25¢.  
 \*Must be run in consecutive weeks. No additions to ads.  
 Does not apply to Bargain Corner ads.

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 15 words max. for items under \$500.  
 Must contain price.

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 Classified Word Ads:  
**MONDAY @ 4:00p.m.**  
 Display & Photo Ads:  
**MONDAY @ Noon**

**SHOP ON-LINE** at  
<https://shop.dougallmedia.com/>  
**CALL US AT 346-2600**  
 Or email:  
**classifieds@dougallmedia.com**

(Leave us a message if we do not answer, and we will return your call)  
 Our office is temporarily closed to the public due to COVID-19.  
**Telephone Hours:**  
**Mon.- Fri. 8:30a.m.- 5:00p.m.**

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**  
 01. City  
 02. Rural Homes  
 03. Mobile Homes  
 04. Lots / Acreage  
 05. Condos  
 06. Cottages  
 07. Commercial  
 08. Investment Property  
 09. Out of Town  
 10. Real Estate Wanted

38. Snowmobiles  
 39. Parts & Repairs  
**YARD SALES**  
 40. Current River  
 41. Northward  
 42. South  
 43. Westfort  
 44. Rural  
**MISC.,NOTICES, TENDERS**  
 45. Auctions  
 46. Health  
 47. Travel  
 48. Financial  
 49. Lost & Found  
 50. Personal  
 51. Notices  
 52. Tenders

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

**BUSINESS & SERVICES**  
 53. General Services  
 54. Home Improvements  
 55. Bus. Opportunities  
 56. Training Courses

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**  
 22. Bargain corner  
 23. Misc.  
 24. Antiques  
 25. Music  
 26. Office Equip.  
 27. Machinery  
 28. Pets & Livestock  
 29. Food  
 30. Misc. Wanted

**EMPLOYMENT**  
 57. Help Wanted  
 58. Careers  
 59. Child  
 60. Health Care  
 61. Employment Wanted  
 62. Students For Hire

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**  
 31. Cars | 32. Trucks  
 33. Vans  
 34. Motorcycles/ATV's  
 35. Campers/Trailers  
 36. Motor Homes  
 37. Marine Equip.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
 63. Coming Events  
 64. Craft & Flea Markets  
 65. Happy Ads  
 66. Cards of Thanks  
 67. In Memoriam  
 68. Death/Funerals

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Thunder Bay's Source reserves the right to revise, edit, classify or reject any advertisement and to retain any answers directed to the Box Reply Service, and to repay the Customer the sum paid for the advertisement and box rental.

Box replies on "Hold" instructions not picked up within 10 days of expiry of an advertisement will be destroyed unless mailing instructions are received. Those answering Box Numbers are requested not to send originals of documents to avoid loss.

All claims of errors in advertisements must be received by the Publisher within 3 days after the first publication. No refund if ad is cancelled before expiry date.

Thunder Bay's Source reserves the right to increase prices with 30 days written notice.

**23. MISC. FOR SALE**  
 Seasoned mixed firewood ready to burn. \$100 per Cord - pick up Intercity. Call 345-4363

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

**24. ANTIQUES**  
 We Buy Used Furniture And Estate Sales! Contact FURNITURE RECYCLE today at 807-622-1022 or visit us at 133 Hardisty North

**45. AUCTIONS**

Soroptimist International Thunder Bay's two bit auction! Looking forward to see you there! Lots of great items!

**53. GENERAL SERVICES**  
 #1 dump runs. Trash/yard clean-up, inside/outside. Tear down/remove sheds, fences, decks. Cut/remove small trees, trim hedges, lawn cutting plus general odd jobs/services. Call Frank 628-5919.

#1 YARD CLEAN-UPS: Grass cutting, garbage dump runs, yard clean up and trees trimmed. Phone Brian 474-8870 or 768-9849

CHRISTINA'S HOME AND GARDEN. Residential & Commercial landscaping, grass cutting, lawn maintenance, sod installation, dethatching, fertilizing, planting, dividing, weeding, edging, container gardening, patio stone/interlocking stone pathways, hedge/tree/shrub trimming and shaping and much more. Call 621-1505

SUNSHINE LAWN MAINTENANCE - yard, garden, odd jobs including eavestrough cleaning, window-washing, experienced, great seniors' rates, references. Call Mark 807-631-6967.

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

**63. COMING EVENTS**  
 ONE STOP and SHOP! FREE ADMISSION! Variety of local vendors. Something for everyone! Ranging from tea, food, art, jewelry, books, for the home & pets, clothes and more. Saturday May 13, 8-1:30pm. CLE Heritage Building (by Silvercity). List of current vendors and information: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/onestopandshop> email: [onestopandshop@yahoo.com](mailto:onestopandshop@yahoo.com)

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B	A	L	E	S	O	R	A	P	O	I													
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 — Napoleon Bonaparte

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**MAY 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**JUNE 10, 17**

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