





#### YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol. 20 No. 23

Thursday, June 8, 2023



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YOU WILL FIND US WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS IN THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL LAKEHEAD WEEKLY FLYER DROP OR HOME SUBSCRIBERS WILL FIND US WITH THEIR FRIDAY CHRONICLE JOURNAL PAPER



**City council will face tough choices surrounding funding for neighbourhood library branches /3** 

Brodie Street Library could be closed, along with the Waverly branch, in favour of a more cost effective central branch in the Intercity area. (Ian Kaufman)



## What is the meaning of

## LL° レヘロークローク ひんしょう Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin?

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

For more information, go to TIKINAGAN.ORG





# **Library options**

#### By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The potential closure of the Thunder Bay Public Library's Brodie branch has generated mixed feedback, with some residents and local organizations expressing alarm over the possibility.

Brodie is one of two branches that could be on the chopping block as the TBPL prepares a new facilities plan that looks to add a central library branch at the Intercity Shopping Centre.

The plan lays out three potential scenarios, all including an Intercity branch.

Scenario 1 would keep all four existing library branches, but scale down operations to one floor only at Brodie and Waverley, renting the remaining space to community groups.

Scenario 2 would close Brodie entirely and downsize at Waverley.

Scenario 3 would close both the Brodie and County Fair branches, leaving only Mary J.L. Black, Intercity, and Waverley.

The first two scenarios would raise the library's budget by an estimated 17 per cent and seven per cent, respectively, while the third would result in a two per cent decrease.

The library has already held discussions with mall management about renting the 75,000 square-foot space formerly occupied by Lowe's.

Library leaders have said that could allow for new services like a children's space, expanded Indigenous knowledge centre, event space, coffee shop, or gaming room, as well as opportunities for community partners to rent space.

They've also noted the location is fully accessible, with public transit access and ample parking.

However, the TBPL says its plans won't be final until it wraps up public consultation, and a decision on which scenario to fund – if any – will ultimately rest with city council.

#### Willingness to pay

At a meeting at Brodie last week, Togman said early results from a survey suggest the community may be willing to bear higher library costs if they see direct benefits.

"Part of the survey... is asking people directly in a very honest way, how much extra would you be willing to pay to have this vision of the library system come to fruition?" he said. "The early answer we've gotten is people are actually willing to pay more than it costs to do Scenario 1."

Deanna Tonkin, one of about 20 people to attend the Brodie meeting, said she's concerned about what would happen under the two other scenarios, which both contemplate closing Brodie.

Tonkin said she had been a student worker there and saw the importance of the library for lowincome residents without access to vehicles, as well as the homeless and other vulnerable people.

"I'm concerned about leaving the vulnerable populations out in the cold," she said. "If it's not there,



Thunder Bay Public Library CEO Richard Togman. (Ian Kaufman)

then where do they go?"

She added the closure of Brodie will leave few welcoming public spaces for the vulnerable in the south core.

"Everything keeps closing around here – you know, they're going to demolish Victoriaville, which I think is absolutely a wrong move."

In response, Togman called serving the vulnerable "a key library mission" though "not the only mission."

#### Other uses

He suggested a large central library emphasizing collections and cultural and children's spaces could leave room for Brodie to focus more on meeting the needs of vulnerable people.

"I think there's a great argument to say the current dynamic at Brodie doesn't best serve that population. We have a lot of space taken up with the local history collection, things that are really not serving their needs."

"I would love for Brodie to be maintained... I'd like to see triple the number of public-access computers, probably double or triple the public meeting spaces, an expanded Indigenous knowledge centre."

Togman added the library had consulted several social service agencies who serve vulnerable populations.

"A lot of them were really keen on this model" and none saw closing Brodie as a deal-breaker, he said.

"I just want to be clear, I'm not advocating for the closure of any of our branches," he said. "I'm rooting for Scenario 1, where we maintain all of our neighbourhood branches."

"But given the reality of the political process and financial constraints, I'm not naïve enough to assume city council will give us all the money we want."

## **WEATHER FORECAST**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
P.O.P: <b>40%</b> High <b>22</b> Low <b>10</b>	P.O.P: <b>60%</b> HIGH <b>23</b> LOW <b>11</b>	P.O.P: <b>30%</b> High <b>17</b> LOW <b>8</b>	P.O.P: <b>20%</b> HiGH <b>18</b> LOW <b>9</b>
Partly Cloudy	Thunder Storm	Partly Cloudy	Sunny



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#### **NEWS**

# **Snowbirds thrill thousands**

#### Air show coincides with Thunder Bay's annual Kite Festival

#### By Matt Vis - TB Source

It had been a decade since the Canadian Forces Snowbirds performed a full show in Thunder Bay.

Judging by the crowd of people gathered at Prince Arthur's Landing on Saturday, they were sorely missed.

Thousands of people flocked to the Thunder Bay waterfront for the Snowbirds noon performance, which coincided with the city's 40th annual Kite Festival.

Louisa Costanzo, the city's cultural development, community programming and events supervisor, said as many as 10,000 were expected to be in attendance.

The real turnout may have been even higher, she said, as she looked around the park following the show.

"I think it's fantastic," she said. "This is such a great opportunity for our community to



It's been more than 10 years since the Snowbirds performed a full show in Thunder Bay, and audiences were thrilled as they looked skyward last Saturday. (Matt Vis) come together. It couldn't be a more beautiful, better day for it. I'm so happy to see everyone out."

The Snowbirds performed for just over half an hour, showing off a mesmerizing array of

formations and maneuvers with pristine blue sky, Lake Superior and the Sleeping Giant as a

backdrop. The Royal Canadian Air Force's aerobatics team last flew over the city in May 2020

during Operation Inspiration, a cross-country tour to recognize essential workers for doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19.



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tbpl.ca (807)345-TBPL





Dillyan Dubray was rescued from the Pigeon River on Sunday after going over Middle Falls after rescuing a dog from being swept away.

**Perilous plunge** A 21-year-old man was swept over Middle Falls on Pigeon River after jumping in to help a dog to safety

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

A man was taken to Thunder Bay hospital Sunday after a frightening experience from which he says he was fortunate to escape with his life.

Twenty-one-year-old Dillyan Dubray went over Middle Falls on Sunday afternoon while rescuing a dog.

The incident happened around 3 p.m. in Pigeon River Provincial Park.

Dubray jumped into action when his girlfriend's family's dog entered the water and started struggling against the current.

He was able to push the 4year-old giant Alaskan malamute toward shore but Dubray himself got carried away by the force of the current, and went over the waterfall.

grab him and push off. My push-off made him able to go to shore, and I took the ride down the rest of the waterfall. I'm lucky to be alive after probably one of the craziest things to happen in my life," he said in an interview Monday.

At one point, he said, his foot got caught between two rocks and he was submerged under the water.

On the way down the 20-foot waterfall, he chipped a bone in his foot, suffered a concussion and lost his shorts from the force of the current.

Dubray ultimately ended up on the American side of the border.

His friend Gavin Russell jumped into the water below the falls, and swam to the other side to help him.

"It definitely looked as if he seconds," he said.

"My intentions were to go had probably a bunch of pain going through him. That waterfall is a lot bigger in person than it looks like in any picture," he said.

Eventually, OPP, members of the Canada Border Services Agency, firefighters and EMS all responded to the emergency.

They worked with U.S. authorities to return him to the Canadian side.

Dubray was then airlifted to the city on an Ornge air ambulance helicopter for treatment in hospital, where he spent the night.

"I'm a little sore, but after the fact everybody's okay, everything is good. It definitely was a life lesson. You've definitely gotta be careful around waterfalls and the currents. They can take you and kill you in

## **10-Digit Dialing IS HERE**



As a result of the CRTC mandate to transition to 10-digit dialing across Canada, all mobility customers must now dial 10 digits (807 + 7 digit phone number) for local calls. Ten-digit dialing for Home Phone and Business Voice services will follow later in the year.

#### To learn more, visit tbaytel tbaytel.net/10digitdialing



The rights of trans people are being trampled upon, say local LGBTQ+ officials. (Ian Kaufman)



# **Trans rights in Pride spotlight**

#### By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

A flag-raising ceremony at Thunder Bay's city hall helped kick off month-long Pride celebrations Friday, but also put the spotlight on rising threats facing the LGBTQ+ community.

Around 100 people attended the ceremony Friday morning, marking one of the opening events in the city's 13th year of Pride events.

Some of the many highlights of the festivities include a glitter ball featuring Canada's Drag Race star Rita Baga, a street festival on Red River Road on June 17, and a pride pool party at Volunteer Pool.

The month will also feature community discussions like a forum on allyship, and a protest march recognizing Pride's activist origins is also planned for June 17.

Full event details are available through the Thunder Pride Association and the Rainbow Collective of Thunder Bay, which are co-organizing this year's Pride.

The local event first launched as Pride week in 2011 before expanding to a month-long celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.

This year's Pride comes as members of the community face growing threats, organizers stressed on Friday, citing widespread government actions to limit the rights of transgender people and crack down on classroom discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the United States.

#### **Upsetting news**

Rainbow Coalition president Jason Veltri pointed to a move by the New Brunswick government to bar teachers from using children's preferred name and pronoun without parental consent, calling that one indication blowback has found purchase north of the border, too.

Veltri highlighted transgender rights as the current focal point of attacks on the LGBTQ+ community, leading the crowd in a chant of "Trans rights are human rights."

"We cannot let trans kids be used as political weapons," he said. "We need our allies now more than ever."

"That's our call to you — stand up and call it out when you see it. Stand up and demand better from your elected leaders."

Thunder Pride treasurer Crystal Caputo said she'll be celebrating important advances for the LGBTQ+ community this month, but also called it crucial to highlight ongoing repression.

"I always like to remember our history — I mean, just 50 years ago, being part of the community was illegal," she underlined. "So it's really important to celebrate how far we've come, but we also can't get complacent."



Crowds came out to city hall for a Pride flag-raising ceremony.

"The pendulum swings both ways. The pendulum really swung for us, and now it's going the other way. It reminds us how important it is to keep on fighting."

Veltri called support from figures like political leaders and curler Krista McCarville, who along with her Northern Ontario women's team serves as community ambassador for Pride, crucial against that backdrop.

"It shows our city is with us," he said. "I said in my speech, there are cities that are restricting access to flying the pride flag, in this province. So to have the city recommit themselves and reaffirm their support for the queer, trans, and two-spirit communities means the world."

#### Encouraged

Newly-elected Fort William First Nation Chief Michele Solomon encouraged all members of the community to get involved in Pride and show their support.

"For a lot of us, we have a lot of learning to do, and that's okay," she said. "That's why we come together, that's why Pride month is so important. We have the opportunity to share and learn with each other in a good way."

Stevens-DeCorte agreed events in the U.S. make this year's Pride feel particularly urgent.

"I've seen a lot about Pride [being] less about 'love is love' this year, and more about trans and queer lives are in danger. That is something that needs to be talked about."

#### **EDITORIAL/LETTERS** 7

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



#### **EDITORIAL Library love**

Thunder Bay's library locations are under the spotlight this month.

Make no mistake, libraries are important.

In fact, city council should do what it takes to maintain its existing sites, which are accessible to so many, and offer so much more than just books and material to borrow.

For many, they are a place where the Internet is accessible, where they can be pointed in the right direction when looking for social programs.

For others, they are an opportunity to expand one's view of the world, reading a variety of authors and ideas from the past and present.

Not everyone can afford to head to Indigo to buy books, and money should never be an obstacle to reading and research.

It won't be inexpensive to maintain the city's current aging neighbourhood libraries, notably the Waverly and Brodie Street locations.

But closing them and setting up shop in the Intercity area is a bad idea.

The idea of going to a mall may turn off some patrons, while others simply won't be able to get their effectively. Sometimes tax money is worth spending.

#### **Riker's memory lives on** To the editor:

The contagious enthusiasm of the young Riker McKelvey touched the hearts of all who met him.

To acknowledge the love he gave to his family, friends and the community, I wonder if an existing or optimistically future bike path might be considered by the city to be named in his honour.

My sympathies to his mother Jessica Muloin, his father Andrew McKelvey stepmother Chantal DeGrace and stepfather Zach Elkie.

The GoFundMe efforts of Krystal Zaporzan and Joe Kolic will help the family. The Memorial at Red River Road and Clarkson marks the site of this tragedy.

The spirit of Riker bicycles on.

Paul Filteau, Thunder Bay

# George's debut novel Maame is stunning

Maame by Jessica George is a stunning debut novel. In the Twi language, 'Maame' means both "mother" and 'woman.' Such a nickname, when given to a daughter, can be playful or loving, but it can also be confining.

That was certainly the case for Maddie, a Londoner of Ghanaian descent, who's often called Maame; the nickname is both astute and ironic as she has largely parented herself. At 25, she's been the primary caretaker for more than a decade for her father, who has Parkinson's disease, while her mother leaves for a year at a time to manage a hotel in Ghana. Maddie's brother, James, is usually off pursuing his own dreams,

leaving his younger sister to take care of everything.

Maame has a Bridget Jones vibe but with richer substance, deepened

by Maddie's intense sensitivity as well as her cultural and racial complexity. In her professional circles in London, she notes she's frequently the only Black person in the room, but when she visits her parents' homeland, her cousins laugh at her inability to balance jugs on her head.

Maddie must also navigate the social and sexual mores of both

Ghana and England. She's been sequestered for so long, she has virtually no experience with men and relies on Google's interpreta-

tions of modern dating protocols.

In many ways, Maddie's quest is one of love and connection. She's had little help in this regard - her father is remote, her mother absent and her brother checked out. What's arguably most striking about her dilemma is

that in her search for answers and identity, she doesn't elevate either her ancestral or present-day culture over the other: There is no one true 'home', no simple solutions for a young woman raised between nations and social expectations.

One of the pleasures of this novel is being taken on this journey of discovery. Her fresh, vulnerable voice speaks directly to readers, without hiding behind glibness or easy self-assurance. George writes with a natural cadence that keeps the story engaging and her characters multidimensional, each of them deeply believable.

Maddie's struggles grow and intensify, and there comes a point when things seem to be on the verge of collapse. But readers are drawn into the peaks and troughs with this intrepid protagonist, feeling a sense of connection and trust in her.

Maame isn't always an easy story to read, but is always told with grace and compassion. As Maddie breaks through layers of family secrecy, it's a pleasure to watch her navigate the challenges of growth and growing up, to address what it means to be an adult and to live a full life.

Over time and with some assistance, Maddie realizes that to become the person she wants to be she must let go, in many ways, of the person she was. Instead of always being the strong caretaker and mother figure for the world around her, Maame discovers that she can and must take care of herself.

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#### Visit TBnewswatch.com PERSPECTIVE Thursday, June 8, 2023 Going obsolete now built in

By John Shermack

When living organisms reach the end of their time on Earth they go extinct and when human inventions and gadgets outlive their usefulness they become obsolete.

Natural catastrophes notwithstanding, it is regrettable that human activity continually and irreversibly contributes to the extinction of so many living species.

When it comes to our electronic gadgets and gizmos, their obsolescence is built right in and when our devices die there is an improved model readily available.

I'm an old fashioned guy and I understand the relentless drive of technology, but I'm a nostalgic guy too and sometimes it's tough to see faithful, old companions cast aside.

As a former slide photographer I was disappointed when that type of photography and the projectors necessary to view

slides were rendered irrelevant by digital technology.

It is hard to argue with the quality of smartphone cameras but viewing slides projected on to a screen across a darkened room has a certain charm as well.

Whenever I find myself driving in an unfamiliar city I love to hear the calm, reassuring voice of a GPS-supported digital navigator patiently guiding me to my destination.

But when we're out driving on the open road between here and almost anywhere, I like to have a paper map to follow our progress and gain a new perspective as the country rolls by.

And if I have 20 minutes to kill I can use it to fold up the map, ideally without cursing, but the days of paper road maps are folding up too.

And of course I still have an obsolete Sony Discman which I need to listen to all those CDs I collected (also obsolete) which I should probably throw out anyway.



Payphones aren't completely obsolete - yet.

The point is, unintended extinctions and planned obsolescence are making irreversible changes to our natural surroundings and

forcing us buy a new smartphone every year.

Don't get too attached to plants and animals in the natural world and don't form any emotional bonds with your electronic gadgets - they could become extinct or obsolete at any time.

But I couldn't help feeling a little sad and dismayed witnessing the end of an era as Tbaytel decided to get out of the public pay phone business.

The last coin operated payphone in the city, formerly located at 32 N. Court Street, has been decommissioned and donated to the museum along with a newer, credit card model.

Although they are facing an uncertain future there are still 55,000 working pay phones in Canada, including none here in Thunder Bay.

It is worth noting that public pay phones are critical for homeless people, in rural areas and aboriginal communities with spotty or zero coverage and as a last resort in emergencies.

The first pay phone in Canada was installed 141 years ago at the Lancefield Brothers' Stationary store in Hamilton.

There was no coin slot instead, Bell subscribers paid an attendant five cents per call (ten cents for non-subscribers) and were allowed to talk for five minutes.

The payphone began its demise in the 1980's with the advent of cellphones and later, smartphones with texting, Wi-Fi and many other enticing features.

Phones have come a long way over the past two generations from wired telephones with circular rotary dials and the beep beep boop of push button phones.

The two donated pay phones will eventually be on display for posterity at the Thunder Bay Museum but there is no room for old fashioned sentiment.

They will be for viewing only and you won't be able to make a call, even for old time's sake.

Obsolete, just like extinct, is forever.

#### NNAT'S HAPPENINg | in and around.

## The Bay

To submit an event, email ldunick@dougallmedia.com. Please include details about the event, including any cost

#### June 9

**Thunder Bay Chill** 

The Chill will look to change their fortunes on Friday night when St. Croix visits Chapples Park.

The USL2 club has a draw and a loss in two outings this season and have to make up ground quickly in order to get back into the playoff hunt.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

#### June 12-13

**Border Cats Baseball** After wrapping up their first homestand in nearly four years, the Cats

are back at home on Monday and Tuesday night for games against the St. Cloud Rox. Monday's start is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., while Tuesday's will go at 11:05 a.m., part of the annual school day program.

#### June 8

**Ryan Joyce Illusions Live** Ryan Joyce presents a unique show filled with tons of family friendly laughter, magic, and mentalism. His performances have won critical

acclaim with audiences all around the globe including Las Vegas, Hong Kong, South America, Egypt, China, New Zealand, India and the Middle East. This is a show like no other and is in support of Make-A-Wish Canada.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster and the show is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the CLE's Heritage Building.

#### **June 10-11**

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The beginner course costs \$379, takes four to six hours of pre-prep and lasts for two days. It's a 12-plus only event. For more information, visit www.rescue.borealriver.com.

The course takes place on Saturday and Sunday.

#### June 10-11

**Applauze Kids Cavalcade** A musical celebration with the little, rising, bright and shining starz, put on by Applauze productions.

The show takes place on Sunday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Trinity United Church, located at 30 S. Algoma Street

Applauze Productions' main goal is to bring out the best in its students, enhance their strengths and work on their weaknesses.

Tickets are \$15 and are available through eventbrite.ca.



Marcus Powlowski, MP Working For You In Thunder Bay-Rainy River Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca 6 (807) 625-1160

# **Open-air fire ban being flouted**

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

Some area residents are claiming unawareness of the law, while others are knowingly flouting the current ban on open-air fires in Northern Ontario.

In both cases, it's causing frustration for Blair Arthur, the fire chief in the Municipality of Shuniah.

"People are just not really interested in following the restrictions. Others have travelled from a far distance and weren't quite aware that there was a restriction."

Shuniah Fire and Emergency Services, and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry conservation officers, have investigated four open-air burns in the municipality since the province imposed

a restricted fire zone on June 1. Charges are pending in some instances.

In Shuniah, the fine for burning in a restricted fire zone is \$500, and the fine for burning without a permit is \$200.

The Forest Fires Prevention Act also provides for fines up to \$25,000 plus the cost of putting a fire out.

The latest incident occurred Monday evening on Green Bay Road, where firefighters arrived to find a small, supervised campfire and extinguished it.

Further investigation revealed there was no burning permit for the fire, and that the seasonal home had no working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.

Arthur said the limited capacity 310-FIRE (3473).

of the volunteer fire service is stretched whenever a call comes in about smoke caused by someone using their fire pit.

"People call 911 right away. The fire department has to respond with a lot of resources, not knowing necessarily if it's a controlled fire or something else. So it's a heightened sense of alertness for the public. When they see smoke they call 911, and we sometimes have to overreact to an incident to ensure the safety of the public."

Arthur added "We don't have full-time resources to have available night and day to be running around chasing calls. We're available for real emergencies."

Fires may be reported by calling



NEWS

Open-air fire bans are being ignored by several residents, who face a \$500 fine.

## **Games Complex offline**

Closure for renovations expected to take at least 4 months

#### By TB Source staff

For the next four months, swimmers will be absent from the pool, and the exercise equipment will stand idle at the Canada Games Complex.

The City of Thunder Bay has closed the city's largest indoor recreation facility for renovations and maintenance.

When the doors reopen in the fall, users will be able to observe some of the changes but not the significant upgrades to the building infrastructure.

The visible alterations will include accessibility improvements in the locker and washroom areas including a new, gender-neutral, barrier-free washroom and a special-needs change room, the complete renewal of shower areas, and the installation of new accessible washrooms and showers.

There will also be some repairs to exterior walls.

Elsewhere in the building, the boiler plant will be replaced with new natural gas-fired condensing boilers including new pumps and accessories.



Accessibility improvements are among \$3 million in repairs at the Canada Games Complex.

In addition, the air-handling unit in the multi-purpose room will be replaced, and the facility-wide direct-digital control system will be upgraded including with a new web-based operator interface and electronic control devices.

Eighty per cent of the \$3 million cost is covered by the federal government's Green and Inclusive Community Building Fund.

The work is expected to cut net annual greenhouse gas emissions by 276 tonnes, and reduce utility costs by \$128,000 a year.

"We are lessening our environmental footprint with the facility operations, while also making it more modern, inclusive and inviting for patrons," said Kelvin Jankowski, the city's construction services supervisor.

He noted that the project was scheduled for the summer in order to minimize the impact, since there are more outdoor recreation options available including beaches, pools, splash pads and trails.



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#### 12 LIFE

# June bugs welcome summer months

The first sign that June was here was a struggling June bug lying helplessly on our mudroom floor, legs flailing as it sought to roll over. "Must have snuck in with one of the dogs," I mused, "Must be June."

Did it bring the heat? My gawd but has been swelteringly hot out here on the farm. I was in town purchasing stuff and noticed the temperature on a sign reading plus 22. I arrived home and read the thermometer that heralded plus 32! And the daily temperatures have been like that even in the last week of May.

The coolest place in our home is the basement. We close the curtains on the windows that keeps the family room much cooler than upstairs.

Upstairs I close all the living room curtains and position a fan on the cabinet subwoofer that belongs to my digital organ. That helps to keep me from melting.

Doing outside work, especially any vigorous activity like chain sawing the winter wood, has no appeal. Late one morning last week I did cut some logs and then fired up the splitter and split all that I had bucked.

Then I stacked it all.

I practically crawled into the house and desperately needed two, tall glasses of cold water

and then a shower. Ahh-h, relief.

It was also too hot to go for treks with dogs. They lay inside panting. I was tempted to hose them down except only one of the pooches likes water - the black lab. The other two avoid puddles.

One heck of a full moon this past weekend and in the moon's light I saw squadrons of dragonflies weaving about snatching mosquitoes out of the air. Yay dragonflies! Quite the sight watching their ballet.

The rhubarb in the veggie garden

was slow to start. I turn around and it has flushed with some of the stems bolting. Must harvest the tender stalks and freeze until local strawberries become available to allow me to make strawberryrhubarb muffins, pies, et al.

Driving the highways to and from town reveals farmers hard at work in their fields.

> About a month or so ago I was picking up round hay bales from our supplier for our forces.

> He said that he was very concerned about how wet the fields were: "I can't get on them yet

and the clock is ticking so to speak," Well, that condition has sure changed.

The heat without rain dried everything up quickly. Driving some back roads in the Slate River Valley I would see tractors pulling tillers and/ or seed carts.



Hundreds of June bug species exist.

Lots of dust rising too. We had had no significant rain for a long time. How quickly everything dried up. But then this past Sunday, it rained. Don't know if it was enough but the heavens truly opened up. Fortunately, not much thunder and no lightning which is good since the forest had become tinder dry. Hopefully, the rain managed to dampen the ground enough and cool the air such that working outside will not engender heatstroke.

But here we are in gorgeous June with blossoms on bushes and trees in full flush, the leaves of the poplar and birch now darkening from the first yellow-green to a richer hue. The air full of floral and spicy fragrances (I do a lot of deep inhaling as I walk outside).

I walk over to the crab apple trees and the perfume from their blossoms intoxicates. While I love the white of snow on the ground (not in May though!), I'm reveling in the green that has clothed the land.

So, now summer and a June bug announcing June.



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# Red velvet cake has long history

As may come as a total shock to you, my fair reader, I don't know everything about food. As is most of the cases I have a strong base knowledge of a subject, how to make it, the process, the ingredients, etc and I research to fill in the gaps to help make this column more fun and interesting to read. Such is the case with today's subject. Red velvet cake. I will admit it wasn't a staple dessert anywhere I apprenticed or cooked as a young man so my familiarity with it began much later than admittedly it should have really.

Red velvet cake traditionally got its scarlet or crimson color from non dutched cocoa. "Dutching" is a process where an alkalizing agent reduces the bitter taste of natural cocoa and removes its acidity.

These alkalizing agents commonly are sodium or potassium carbonate, however on occasion sodium hydroxide is also used. Higher quantities of these agents produce darker (more brown) forms of cocoa powder.

When this non-dutched cocoa is mixed with acid, say from a buttermilk or a vinegar product, the natural anthocyanin in the cocoa will produce the natural deep red colour.

The availability and cost of non dutched cocoas have made in modern times, a mix of dutched cocoa and red food colouring the norm in which we get our scarlet colour for our Red Velvet Cakes.

During the Second World War, when many luxury items were being rationed, bakers would often use boiled and reduced beet juices to add colours to their baking.

The cake itself usually contains but a few ingredients, including buttermilk, butter, cocoa, vinegar, and flour and the aforementioned red food colouring.

If you've read last weeks column you'll remember that often times red velvet cake finds its way as part of the soul food realm and can be found on many Juneteenth barbecue menus.

The symbolism of the red being the bloodshed in the fight against slavery.

Traditionally, red velvet cake is frosted with ermine frosting which is a lighter, less sweet form of the buttercream family resembling whipped cream in texture.

A stark contrast to the admittedly usually more dense cake. However, modern fat kids like myself prefer to go with cream cheese frosting. For obviously fat kid reasons.

In Canada, the cake was a well-known dessert in the restaurants and bakeries

of the Eaton's department store chain in the 1940s and 1950s.

Promoted as an exclusive Eaton's recipe, with



Red velvet cakes are often frosted with cream cheese icing.

employees who knew the recipe sworn to silence, many mistakenly believed the cake was the invention of the department store matriarch, Lady Eaton.

Modern times have seen the resurgence in popularity, partially due to the 1989 film *Steel Magnolias*, where the grooms cake was red velvet in the shape of an armadillo.

You will find many bakers doing specials on red velvet around Christmas and Valentine's Day holidays.

L did difference of the second second

Factory with two locations in Westfort and Current River and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Brick and Mortar Food Co. and Eat Loco Tacos.

#### United Way gets naval help

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The United Way of Thunder Bay, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Navy's *HMCS Griffon*, is recreating a long-standing fundraiser event with a twist.

The Great Lighthouse Rescue will see thirteen groups of castaways, representing agencies supported by United Way, find themselves stranded out at the breakwater Lighthouse on Lake Superior on June 28 and in order for each of the crews to be rescued and brought back safely to Prince Arthur's Landing, they must send out an S.O.S. for donations.

"There's no limit to how much we can raise," said Albert Brule, CEO of United Way Thunder Bay "The more that we raise, the more good we can do in the Community."

Lieutenant Commander Farley Farn said that the idea for the lighthouse rescue came from the Naval Reserve Division located in the city which was looking to get back out into the community and promote the reserves.

"Most of our Members have civilian jobs in the Community and only work part time for the Navy, so we wanted to increase our community presence as everyone knows in the news, the Canadian forces is hurting for personnel," he said.

LIFE 13

There's job shortages, we need more people, so we said how can we get out in the community and let people know what we do, so when we heard the United Way. Were looking at possibly reinvigorating their billboard rescue, we got the idea, we're like, why don't we strand somebody on the water?"

Long-time United Way supporter Cliff Friesen has agreed to serve as honourary commander of Operation Lighthouse Rescue and is challenging business and community leaders to join in as and help raise funds to undertake one of the 13 rescue operations.

Friesen will match all funds donated up to \$25,000 and all funds will go to support community programming.



Derek Lankinen

Here's Cooking at You Kid

## It's time for rides and splash pads

#### By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

14 LIFE

The city is officially embracing the summer weather by opening campgrounds and more across the city.

Chippewa Park opened its rides for the season last weekend. For the month of June, rides will be open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays only. Beginning in July, rides will operate Wednesday to Sunday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. until Labour Day. Camping is also now available at Chippewa.

The Muskeg Express will be operational as of June 10 at Centennial Park. For the month of June, the small locomotive will only be running on weekends from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., then Wednesday to Sunday for July and

August.

Last year the train shut down shortly before the season ended for mechanical work. This year will see some track maintenance completed before the train's expected return.

When it comes to the city's splash pads, they will have staggered opening weekends.

At Prince Arthur's Landing, the marina splash pad will be opening on June 15, along with the County Park and Northwood Playfield splash pads.

Water features at Franklin Park and the North End Community Centre will be turned on the following weekend, on Friday, June 23.

Each location will have opening maintenance completed before the water is officially turned on for the summer.



Brook trout have long been a species of fish that tops the list of anglers throughout Northwestern Ontario, including Keith Ailey.

# **Fascinating fish**

**Keith Ailey** 

the GOOD LIFE

Here in Northwestern Ontario, we are fortunate to have two distinct brook trout fisheries. First, we have the incredible wild brook trout that are native to Lake Superior, its tributaries, and some pristine inland lakes. These fish are a true treasure and, luckily for us, strict fishing regulations are in place to ensure they are protected.

In addition to the wild fish, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) stocks

hatchery-raised brookies in a large number of lakes where there is no wild population and no natural reproduction. In these stocked lakes, anglers can enjoy a year-round extended fishing season where they can harvest some fish for dinner.

In Fisheries Management Zone 6, the Thunder Bay region, the fishing season for wild brook trout runs from the fourth Saturday in April until Labour Day in September. In most rivers, only one harvested fish can be over 30cm and

on the Nipigon system, the limit is a single fish that must be over 56cm. Obvious to anyone who fishes brook trout is the fact that a 56cm (22-inch) catch is extremely rare. These regulations mean most angling for wild brook trout in any of our rivers will be catch-and-release. Consequently, the chances of hooking a majestic wild trout is now pretty good for anyone fishing the tributaries of Lake Superior.

For those who enjoy a meal of fresh fish, there are some really good options that do not involve killing a wild fish. We have dozens and dozens of stocked lakes where anglers can fish throughout the year and keep up to five stocked trout of any size. Stocked lakes, full of hatchery-raised trout, provide additional recreational angling opportunities while simultaneously alleviating fishing pressure from waters holding precious wild populations of trout. With so many stocked lake fishing opportunities and many exceptions to the brook trout regulations

> in our region, anglers should always check the most recent fishing regulations summary online and know the specifics for any body of water they intend to fish.

> We have been experiencing a heat wave here lately and since Brook trout prefer very cool water temperatures, they will typically move to sections of a river with cold springs as water temperatures rise. It is a similar situation in lakes, where brook trout will also seek out cold upwellings or go deep to find

cooler water in the summer.

Young brook trout feed heavily on insects, both aquatic and terrestrial. As they grow to trophy size, their preferences change to larger fare like minnows, leeches and even amphibians and mice. A healthy appetite for these interesting menu items, along with their unbeatable photogenic qualities, make the brook trout a favourite for anglers. It is no wonder that this gorgeous fish continues to fascinate and inspire so many of us.



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# Classic Hitchcock goes zany young

#### THEATRE By Linda Maehans

Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps is as twisty-suspenseful a spy thriller as they come...except this time the surge of dark drama blooms not through the guise of a black-and-white reel of film. Nor introduced by the iconic low voice droning out his "good eeevening" without hint of expression. No sir.

This time The 39 Steps, adapted for stage, and yes, with shades of Monty Python hilarity thrown in for good measure comes to us via the talents of young thespians here in the Lakehead.

The cast is appearing on Magnus' stage for a mere three performances; perhaps imagine 39 instead.

The Source met with the two

leads, in character and as themselves. Here's what they had to say.

Kara Coates is no stranger to the theatre. Thunder Bay audiences will remember her as Amy in Cambrian Players' classic production of Little Women. Now, she's become Hitchcock's Pamela. How does she rise to the occasion?

"I'm similar, I think, to the characters I play: complicated, proud personalities. I can imagine how hard it might be, though, for the 'clowns' (in this production) who have multiple characters, many quick changes to navigate."

Kara's advice to peers considering live-theatre: just do it.

"You can give all the excuses to yourself. Maybe try a theatrecamp, or your school if they're doing any plays. See if that's



CLASSIC TALE: The 39 Steps is the latest on the Magnus Theatre stage.

something you'd like. Talk it over with your parents. There are organizations offering theatre education for free. So yeah, you can find it."

Her own plans? "Oh, I want to do a bunch of things in life; acting is definitely on that list."

As Pamela: "I don't know who Hannay is! I know he's wanted for things, possibly could be dangerous...but...I don't know what he wants from me. I don't know if it is something good or bad..." She trails off with a sigh.

Kael Napper first appeared on a Magnus stage in Miracle on 34th Street (2017). Now he is Richard Hannay, fugitive-on-the-run and in the relentless limelight of that role.

"I imagine what my life would be like if I was in their situation (Richard and Pamela's), play through it as best I can; try to put myself in their mindset.

Acting? Um, well, where I live I have a lot of responsibility; I take care of the animals on our farm. It's rather stressful; so when I get on stage it helps me become someone

else, let go of things for a little bit. It helps."

As Richard Hannay: "I know I was not the murderer. I am going to do everything I can to prove otherwise; try to escape this predicament."

Gee. Chased all over the Scottish Hebrides by two unknown men in trench-coats-and-fedoras, police with tracker dogs...aren't you scared?

"Yes. I am. I don't want to end up in jail." A long pause. "Seems to me the best course of action would be to figure out what these men want. Stop them. Get them to confess. To what they did."

Directed by Jordan Blaxill, The 39 Steps romps June 16-17 at Magnus in The Park; both evenings at 7:30 p.m., with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.



**ON THE SCENE** 15

#### **16 ON THE SCENE/REVIEW**

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## **Residential school horror stories told**

The abusive treatment of Indigenous children through Canada's residential school system is given a dramatic rendering in the Canadian-produced *Bones of Crows* (SilverCity.)

Previously screened earlier this spring at Magnus Theatre, "Bones" is told through the eyes of Aline Spears, (collectively played by Summer Testawich, Grace Dove, and Carla Rae) a Cree woman. The story jumps back and forth through five generations of Aline's family as they grapple with the shattering impact the residential school system has upon their lives.

In 1920s Manitoba, Aline and her siblings are unceremoniously ripped away from their happy family, tossed into a residential school. Their joy and innocence gives way to fear.

Aline is a uniquely talented little girl, demonstrating prodigy-like promise with the piano before cruel treatment by abusive Sister Ruth (Karine Vanesse) dashes those dreams. The nun is brutally chastised by Father Jacobs (Remy Girard) not out of good conscience but as a ruthless opportunist who sees a blown chance to exploit talented Spears for political purposes.

Systemic mental, verbal, sexual and physical abuse is clearly evident. There is starvation and racism. There is death. The children are left with permanent psychological scars. Alcoholism, poverty, and suicide ensue.

The cast makes the pain palpable and properly

uncomfortable, complemented by Vince Arvidson's cinematography and editing by Maxime Lahaie. Grace Dove and Alyssa Wapanatâhk as adult versions of Aline and her sister Perseverance are standouts.

Amazingly, Aline survives the trauma to serve with the Canadian Air Force. Her fluency in Cree is ironically wellsuited to providing unbreakable codes, despite the school's attempt to wipe out her cultural influences. She eventually marries and raises a loving family but haunting memories prevail.

The movie's narrative momentum is blunted somewhat by the sprawling crisscrossing structure. It is difficult to get an emotional fix on the characters when played by different actors at



Bones of Crows is playing at SilverCity.

different life stages. The narrative would benefit from a stronger connective thread.

The format may be better served as a multi-part TV series which evidently is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happening this fall on CBC.

This approach undercuts the film's pinnacle moment when Aline joins a delegation to the Vatican. There is no build up to this historic occasion. It simply happens. A serious charge is leveled. The perpetrator is present. Then the

Marty Mascarin MOVIE TALK trator is present. Then ceremony abruptly ends. Afterwards, there is a pr

Afterwards, there is a private conversation involving the

guilty cleric that is more wish fulfillment than realistic, providing writer/director Marie Clement opportunity to tack on more messaging, however relevant and necessary but perhaps calling for a more nuanced approach.

The movie closes powerfully in the final act with documentary footage featuring real life Indigenous individuals sharing their experiences, coupled with the images of the deplorable conditions within the schools. The Catholic Church and Canadian government have much to answer for.

Despite stylistic quibbles, *Bones of Crows* has impactful moments. It is a story about resilience, resistance, selfdetermination, survival and healing. It's a must-see for Thunder Bay.

# **Rochester edges Chill**

By Matt Vis – TB Source

This Thunder Bay Chill season remains very much a work in progress. Despite earning the lion's share of goalscoring opportunities, the Chill fell 2-1 to visiting Rochester FC in their USL League 2 home opener at Tbaytel Field at Chapples Park on Friday.

The loss leaves the Chill with a single point through their first two games, following a road draw last weekend against FC Manitoba.

"We had a lot of opportunities," Chill head coach Tony Colistro said. "We're still finding our way as a team. We couldn't find the back of the net [Friday night] and it's similar to last week as well.

"We just need to be patient. Nothing to panic about right now. If we keep working hard, balls are going to fall for us."

After the Chill came up empty through multiple chances in the opening stages of the match, the visitors capitalized on a costly miscue. Chill defender Pierre Lurot surrendered the ball under intense pressure, which led to Rochester striker Mate Kanyeres finishing the sequence by beating goalkeeper Nathanael Sallah.

The lead was doubled in the 28th minute, when Rochester's Jake Parish hit a left-footed strike from distance into the bottom far corner that got past a diving Sallah for his third goal of the campaign.

Those two goals were the only shots Rochester registered on target.

"Just a couple of lapses in the first half," Chill midfielder Bradley Sample said. "I think we played a pretty good game overall, but that's the game. They put their two chances away. We had a lot of chances, we didn't capitalize on those."

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Thunder Bay's Mugsy Umar (left) is chased down by Rochester FC's Gabriel Herrera. (James Mirabelli)

Throughout the second half, the Chill pressed to make up ground. The home side came heartbreakingly close when a Brian Ananias free kick from long range found the crossbar.

Just like their previous match, it wasn't until second half stoppage time that Thunder Bay finally ruined the clean sheet. Substitute winger Mugsy Umar was hauled down in the penalty area, which led to Sample stepping up and converting from the spot, tucking his shot into the bottom corner.

The Chill pressed for an unlikely

equalizer, earning a pair of corner kicks, but their set piece efforts remained unsuccessful. Thunder Bay finished with 12 corners, unable to turn any of them into goals.

"That was something we worked on before, and that's something I think is definitely a strength of ours that we can play into," Sample said. "We had a lot of chances, we didn't put the ball into the net."

The Chill return to action on Friday, when they welcome the St. Croix Legends to Thunder Bay.

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#### **GAMES/SPORTS** 17

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"WMX SNMJHX WT AYHNXMBX, HXM RXYQL WT AXYBX."

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#### **SPORTS**

# **Invitational set**

By Johan Vass – For TB Source

Thunder Bay Truck Centre Wissota Modified class is the fastest class at Thunder City Speedway and the Drivers did not disappoint. Brandon Copp of Brule WI took the feature win. Tanner Williamson of Fort Frances placed second and Joel Cryderman took third on his home track.

The Forks South Sports Lounge Wissota Midwest Modified feature saw Jamie Davis do some spectacular driving to the checkered flag. Cole Chernosky finished second and David Simpson took third spot.

The Mezo Motors & Machine Wissota Super Stock saw Cole Chernosky continue his winning ways, David Simpson placed second and Larry Both finished third.

The Mastrangelo Fuels Street

Stock winner was AJ Kellar, Steven Piilo second and Justin Tougas in third place.

They were unable to complete the Bay Lock and Security Hornets class, but the heat winners were Brendan Makkinga, and Jesse Owen.

We had a delay in the race.

The loval race fans packed the stands and racing will continue weekly on Wednesday nights. The race curfew has been extended until 10:30.

If a race has started they will not have to shut it down, there is a grace period until 11 p.m.

You will want to mark June 23, 24 and 25 down on your race calendar. Those are the days for the Heartbeat Hot Sauce and Half-Wav Motors Group June Invitational.

The total purse payout is \$87,355. Thanks to the sponsors it is a big money weekend.





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