

Students from Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board schools shared their stories to mark Pride Month, culiminating with a flag-raising ceremony at the board office. (Leith Dunick)

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911 pocket dials on rise

By TB Source staff

City police say there has been an apparent increase in 911 pocket dials.

The Thunder Bay Police Service issued a news release last Friday, saying its operators have been getting more of those calls lately, while also asking people who made accidental emergency calls to remain on the line and tell an operator that the call was unintentional.

"It is critical that you stay on the line during an accidental 9-1-1 so the call taker can be made aware that there is no ongoing emergency situation," police said in a news release. "Otherwise, police resources will be used to investigate the dropped call, potentially taking valuable time away from real emergencies."

Police said the rise could be due to newer phone models, including the most recent iPhones, having easier



More unintentional 911 calls are coming in.

to use emergency call functions. People are also asked to familiarize themselves with their phone's emergency SOS features.



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Encampment use has grown by 60%

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

The summer season is barely underway, but Thunder Bay has already seen a 60 per cent increase in the number of people staying in homeless encampments.

Elevate NWO, a key support organization for individuals staying in tents, has counted 88 people living in encampments so far.

By comparison, in late July 2022 there were only 55.

Holly Gauvin, executive director of Elevate NWO, said there are a dozen encampments scattered around the city.

In an interview she called the rising number of people living in tents "phenomenal," and said the trend will likely continue through the summer.

That's despite the fact that, over the longer term, there are prospects for improvement.

"The shelters are largely full ... It's kind of a difficult time. There's also not a lot of movement with respect to any sort of affordable housing in our community. We got the provincial announcement. DSSAB [district social services board] is working really hard with all the community partners. But these things take time, and so unfortunately we continue to see the numbers increase while we sort through how we're going to approach this housing crisis as a community."

Troubled times

Gauvin said she and the Elevate NWO outreach workers have encountered some distressing situations in their efforts to support the homeless.

"Some of the more heart-wrenching ones for me are some of the young women. These are people, including some younger than my own child, who have been forced into sex work," Gauvin said.

"Other ones that are really, really hard to see are some of our senior citizens that are experiencing homelessness, and are experiencing it long-term. And, of course, those people that are just harder to house in general because there may be multiple things occurring with them. There could be some outstanding debts, mental health issues, or behavioural issues, and there's just no place for them to go."

She said that for these individuals, "There's no program, there's no service that can support them beyond what we're doing in the camp right now. I love my staff for their dedication and commitment, but as much as we're doing, it's just not enough."

Elevate NWO is part of a community task force that includes a number of agencies throughout the city working to find housing solutions for residents of encampments.

"The need for affordable housing has never been stronger," Gauvin said.



Homeless encampments are growing in size this year.

This year, the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board has provided support for a "wraparound" effort that includes helping people get to important medical and social services appointments, checking on encampments daily and providing food, resources to cope with inclement weather, and the operation of a warming/cooling centre that now has a shower, thanks in part to additional funding from the City of Thunder Bay.

Treading water

Still, she said "It's very hard to keep up with the needs and the demands, and that's the case for all community partners, the organizations that also do work in this area."

The recent announcement of the near-tripling of provincial funding for homelessness prevention in the Thunder Bay area has been described as a gamechanger.

DSSAB CAO Bill Bradica called the funding increase "historic" and a sign that years of local advocacy had paid off.

The board has put out a call for expressions of interest from local agencies interested in building supportive housing, and hopes the first units will be available as soon as late next year.

Gauvin said she's encouraged to see "there's an appetite to move as quickly as possible on creating really robust solutions to the housing crisis, so our partners at DSSAB have taken it very seriously, and are working with all of us on the ground to get this to move forward."

Dynamite might date to '64 theft

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

A large amount of dynamite that prompted a police response after being found buried in a north side backyard may be linked to a 1960s-era theft, the homeowner reports.

Julie Colquhoun, who lives in the home where the explosives were discovered, said the surreal experience luckily wound up posing little danger, but left her with a tantalizing story.

Workers had been digging post holes for a fence in her backyard when they encountered "a bunch of sticks of dynamite," she said.

"Someone came to the door and said they'd found dynamite in the backyard, and of course, my first reaction was, I was terrified of what that means — and should we get out of the house?"

"They said no, they thought the risk was low and that it was very old dynamite."

The incident led police to tape off a section of Marlborough Street and warn local residents away from the area as crews worked to unearth and examine the material under the supervision of an OPP explosives disposal expert on Wednesday.

Colquhoun's family were told the risk was low enough they could remain in their home.

Authorities were confident enough in that assessment that an elementary school directly across the street was not evacuated or placed under a hold-and-secure.

Found in a box

In what became a day-long assessment that included the use of a backhoe, workers proceeded to unearth a burlap sack and the remnants of a wooden box full of expired dynamite, she said.

"Emotionally, I fluctuated between terrified and laughing so hard, because it's just such a surreal thing to have happened. Once we knew the risk was very low, then I was able to just focus on what a story this is."

According to Colquhoun, responders had reason to believe the discovery could be linked to a box of dynamite that was never recovered after an incident that occurred more than 50 years ago.

"Apparently in the early '60s, there was a truck that a case of dynamite had fallen off of, and they're linking it back to that — it was never fully recovered," she said.

"It's all speculation about whether or not that's what it is, but the age [of the dynamite] sort of aligns."

The large number of sticks found — close to 100, she said — was another factor potentially



Dynamite was discovered in Julie Colquhoun's backyard.

matching with details from the historic theft. "They wondered if maybe children had just buried it to hide what they had taken," she

added. The Thunder Bay Police Service acknowledged the hypothesis as a possible explanation for the discovery, but could not confirm the details.

The force ultimately took possession of the material and reported it has been safely disposed of.

Potentially dangerous

The amount of dynamite could have posed a serious safety risk if it had been live, Colquhoun said.

"My nephew works at a mine and said, that would have flattened your house, and one of the officers said it probably would have taken out a good chunk of the block had it actually been live."

With the dynamite and nearby soil that could have posed a contamination hazard removed, Colquhoun said workers will soon return to finish her fence, installed to allow a new puppy to tear around her backyard.

"I'm hoping they're not frightened to come back," she laughed. "But my Friday deadline has been extended to next week now."

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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

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School allies

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Five years ago, the Rainbow flag was nowhere to be seen around Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board schools.

Today, the flag is flying high at Catholic schools in the city, and as a result of efforts made within the school system, students in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community feel a sense of allyship in the hallways, coming from teachers, students and staff.

It's made a world of difference for many students, including St. Ignatius High School's Via Kembel, who felt comfortable enough to come out to a teacher, while working up the courage to tell her parents that she was part of the rainbow community.

"(My teacher) really was my first supporter when I did come out," Kembel said, after watching the Pride flag raised outside the board's Victoria Street offices on Friday afternoon.

"It wasn't until recently that I came out to my parents and she had always been the first person that I'd told."

Not every Catholic board in Ontario is taking the same approach.

The York Catholic School Board voted 6-4 against flying the Pride flag at its schools, leading to students walking out of the classroom in protest.

Feels good

Kembel said it's refreshing to know her board and its employees are allies.

"I think it is amazing. I'm at a loss for words. Five years ago I would have been in elementary school and this wasn't happening. I didn't know about that, but knowing now what I do know, I think it is something we take for granted and we don't realize how big of a deal this is," she said.

"You can look on the news and see everywhere everything that happens, but I think seeing this at our own school board sets a precedent for other people and other school boards, especially being a Catholic school board and being able to be comfortable in our schools and with our peers and our teachers."

Katie Matthews, the mental health leader at the Catholic board and co-chair of its Pride committee, said with community backlash growing in other cities and south of the border, it was important to give students a voice and a place to be part of Friday's ceremony, but to also ensure teachers and staff hear directly from students about how important it is to them.

There's still a long way to go for society as a whole, she added, but her board has made great headway over the past five years.



More than 100 people took part in Friday's flag raising.

"I'm so proud to work for the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, because we have been such a leader in the province on this. It really comes down to recognizing our gospel values, so all of us belong, all of us are created perfectly and all of us deserve respect and dignity," Matthews said.

"I think that in Thunder Bay, being a smaller city, maybe sometimes it's easier to create that community around we are everybody's friends and neighbours and hockey coaches, so it really is difficult to leave us out of any of the conversations."

Come a long way

Jason Veltri, president of the Rainbow Collective, said the students who spoke on Friday are the future leaders of Thunder Bay and beyond, and the school community has helped lead the way.

"It has come light years from where we were in 2018, when there was no flag being flown," Veltri said. "Then, when we got involved in 2019, we raised the flag at the board office, and it started this domino effect, this groundswell that students were finally starting to feel comfortable at a Catholic school being gay or lesbian or gender fluid or gender queer. Now we're here where there are hundreds of students and every school has a progress Pride flag flying for the first year, with the inclusion of trans and racialized communities."



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NEWS

Visit **TBnewswatch.com** Thursday, June 15, 2023

Murder trial will proceed

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

The man accused in the 2021 death of 16-year-old Kody Furioso will stand trial for murder at the end of the year.

Dustin Moffatt, 32, is expected to stand trial on Dec. 18, 2023 on charges of second-degree murder and aggravated assault. The trial, which will be by a judge alone, is scheduled for four days.

The charges date back to an incident that took place in the early morning hours of June 29, 2021 near the CN overpass on James Street South.

Police were called to the area just after 12:30 a.m. for reports of a disturbance. Officers learned an altercation had taken place between an adult man and two male teenagers.

A 16-year-old and 17-year-old were located in the area with injuries and transported to the Thunder Bay

Regional Health Sciences Centre.

The 16-year-old, later identified as Furioso, died from his injuries. The 17year-old male was treated for serious injuries and later released from hospital.

Moffatt was located in the area a short time later and taken into police

custody on unrelated outstanding warrants. Following an investigation, Moffatt was believed to be the adult male involved in the altercation with the two teens and



Kody Furioso was memorialized at the James Street overpass, after the 16-year-old was killed. Dustin Moffatt is charged with murder in the case.

subsequently charged with seconddegree murder, aggravated assault, and breach of probation.

A preliminary hearing for the

matter was held in November 2022 with a judge ruling there was enough evidence to proceed to trial. Moffatt was released on bail following a second hearing in March 2023. He was previously denied bail during a hearing in February 2022.



EDITORIAL Live and let love

Last week, the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, for the fifth straight year, raised the Rainbow Flag outside its board office.

Given what's happening in other parts of Ontario, it was a significant gesture.

The York Catholic District School Board voted not to allow the Pride flag to fly at its schools, resulting in walkouts by students in protest of the decision.

The Thunder Bay Catholic board is on the right side of history.

Raising the flag is a sign of allyship, a sign of acceptance. It's a sign of being a good Christian, loving thy neighbour, regardless of who they are or who they love.

One of the key tenets of the Bible is about passing judgment.

"Do not judge, or else you too will be judged."

Too often, these days, it seems there is far too much judgment being passed, outrage disguised as living a righteous life.

The LGBTQIA2S+ community deserves our support, not our scorn, to live and love like anyone else. They don't need persecution and prosecution for being who they are.

Say no to mall setting To the editor:

The location of public libraries in mall settings is problematic for a number of reasons. By associating the public library with the retail sector it can create the impression that it is just another store where customers can purchase goods and services.

Public libraries are not a transactional service and do not have customers. The people who use libraries are stakeholders and communal owners as taxpayers. They have a stake in where and how the library operates. But some of them are not welcome or comfortable in mall settings.

Another problem with associating libraries and retail is that it perpetuates the myth that you need money to use libraries.

Under my leadership TBPL was the first public library in Canada to abolish fees and charges.

This was in keeping with the strategic plan commitment to mitigate homelessness and poverty, which are enduring and increasing challenges in Thunder Bay.

Ultimately, where public libraries are located should be



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



governed by the objectives and values of the strategic plan. Anti-racism and supporting those with the greatest needs must continue to be at the heart of TBPL.

Iohn Pateman. Thunder Bay

Atwood's short story collection hit and miss

Old Babes in the Wood by Margaret Attwood is her ninth short story collection. It comprises three sections: Tig and Nell, My Evil Mother and Nell and Tig.

The first and last, seven stories in total, give us episodes from the marriage of a couple with grown children, taking us more or less chronologically up to Tig's death and Nell's life alone, which she likens to 'being a student again ... the same formless anxiety, the same bare-bones meals.'

Even before Tig's departure, loss suffuses these stories - the loss of a neighbour, of a beloved cat, of Tig's father. They're stories that look backward.

to Atwood's husband, Graeme Gibson, who died in 2019. While Tig's and Nell's lives bear the glaze

of invented details. stories like Widows, a short piece that's simply a letter from Nell describing life after Tig's death, feel immensely personal.

Widows is addressed to a friend who's 'much younger, although you don't think so now.' But there's a subtle sense in

quite a few of these stories that they're directed at a younger self someone flummoxed by and unpre-

The collection is dedicated in part pared for the changes of later life, someone who can only liken widowhood to student aimlessness.

These stories represent the passing

on of wisdom from the advance guard, missives not from a speculative future, but from one we're all headed for, if we're lucky enough to survive, a new kind of futurism from Atwood: calling back from up the road, letting us know what lies in store. The eight middle

section pieces are disconnected from the rest but contain some of the strongest and most original stories.

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A mother believes herself to be a witch; a snail's soul fuses with that of a customer service representative; Hypatia of Alexandria tells a modern audience about her murder via clamshell; an alien, hired to entertain quarantined Earthlings during a pandemic, turns the legend of Patient Griselda into a hilarious story of vengeance.

Some of these middle stories refer to COVID.

In Bad Teeth two women have tea in the backyard because 'at their age you have to be careful. In The Dead Interview Atwood interrogates George Orwell through a psychic medium, and when he asks what she means by "anti-vaxxers" she answers, 'It's complicated'.

An ambiguous 'plague' has led to quarantine in Impatient Griselda. There is a disease in Freeforall that is 'communicable through any sort of moist contact, including kissing' that has forced humans into isolated groups where marriage is arranged.

The characters in Airborne: A Symposium struggle with the changing culture in academia.

The COVID invocations feel tacked on, and it's in their somewhat unconvincing attempts at timeliness that these middle stories miss as often as they hit.

They don't feel carefully curated so much as collected from the disparate corners of Atwood's mind.

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PERSPECTIVE

Visit TBnewswatch.com Thursday, June 15, 2023

Exploring Superior's shores

By JR Shermack

The official logo for the City of Thunder Bay is a sophisticated graphic design intended to portray the action and excitement of living with our natural environment.

It features a stylized thunderbird called Animikii which acknowledges the traditional territory of the Anishinabek, including the Fort William First Nation.

It also includes a multi-faceted credo which I have always considered the best, most clever bit of wordplay ever used to complement our city and the surrounding region.

Anybody who ever stood on the shore of Superior and witnessed the natural beauty, magnificence and power of the lake will understand the meaning of Superior by Nature.

The lake has a dominant role in the history and culture of this region, it is only fitting that the big lake they call Gitche Gumee should be an inspiration to everyone who looks out from the shore.

There are many places between here and Sault Ste. Marie to enjoy the view and many Canadians are familiar with the vista from anywhere along the north shore.

We have often enjoyed picnics and skipping stones over Superior at many rest stops and scenic outlooks during our periodic family adventures to the east.

I look forward to our next drive, especially the stops along the north shore, but until then I will be content with the view from the many scenic lookouts in the city.

I have been wandering Superior's shore since I used to catch a bus at the loop with mom and my siblings for a day at Chippewa Park - I am very familiar with the view from there.

Chippewa beckons to me still hope springs eternal when I hear about a waterfront trail leading right to the park and the sheltered beach and the magnificent merrygo-round.



The shores of Superior at Chippewa Park.

There are many spots here in the city, including some lakeside condos, that look out over Superior when it is calm, or

frozen or even angry (remember the Edmund Fitzgerald).

And if one local group of citizens is able to achieve its vision, the number and extent of Superior viewing locations will make our local shoreline a tourist attraction.

The Waterfront Trail Rotary Community Action Team is pursuing a vision of an all-season recreational trail along the Thunder Bay shore of Lake Superior.

That vision includes a multi-use, fully accessible and inclusive trail for walkers, runners, roller skates, skateboards, bicycles and mobility devices such as wheelchairs.

It will stretch from Fisherman's Park at the mouth of the current River, across Thunder Bay's waterfront all the way to Chippewa Park and Fort William First Nation.

Then, why not continue on to Fort William Historical Park which is the beginning point of a water-based, 1,000 km section of the Trans Canada Trail.

The waterfront trail is a bold and ambitious undertaking for our community but it could be a stepping stone or a catalyst for more regeneration and revitalization.

An extensive impact study indicates that a waterfront trail connecting the north and south ends of the city would create significant benefits, both direct and indirect.

It is predicted to be a boon for local tourism and provide an economic boost for the regional economy, expected to be near a million dollars.

Anybody with a kiosk or a food wagon would do well on a 13 km trail full of hungry and thirsty hikers

As for me, I would love to spend some time walking Gitche Gumee, maybe grab a coffee, something to eat, and find a seat to enjoy the best view in the world.

Just close your eyes and imagine the possibilities on the shore of Superior by Nature.

what'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 17-21

Border Cats Baseball

The Border Cats are holding their own this season and will host the Eau Claire Express for a pair on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, and the Waterloo Bucks for four, including a doubleheader on Tuesday. All games are at Port Arthur Stadium. Game times do vary, depending on the day.

June 15

Allyship Townhall

Join Rainbow Collective and Community Allies as they discuss important topics and challenges facing the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and how allyship is needed and important.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at Roots to Harvest.

Following the panel discussion, questions from the attendees will be taken in a open forum for conversation. The evening will conclude with

community time to meet panelists and have a snack and social time. Admisssion is free.

June 16-18

Oliver Paipoonge Heritage Park Oliver Paipoonge Heritage Park presents Richrd Veurink, a local artist who plays acoustic guitar and sings a variety of soft classic rock music. We are located at 3190 Hwy 61, Slate River.

Visit Duke Hunt Museum, The Village and Russ's Garage. Make a day of it and pack a picnic lunch.

Open Friday to Sunday 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$5 and 12 and under are free. Phone 807-475-7424 or email opmuse2@tbaytel.net

June 16

Rock Logger Patio Concert

Enjoy live music on the Sleeping Giant Brewing Company patio, with \$5 pints and \$20 pitchers all night long. The concert series takes place every Friday night through July 7, with Cole Myronuk on tap this Friday night.

Patio performances are weather permitting. Performers will be moved to the taproom if the weather's too temperamental. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. and goes until 9:30 p.m.

June 17

Thunder Bay Pride March

This year's Pride march will start at our historical starting point of Waverly Park at the bandstand. They will then head down Red River Road, turn on Algoma, Camelot, to Cumberland and end at the street festival at the Red River intersection. Everyone is welcome to join the march that will remain on the sidewalks for safety. No cars or floats will be permitted.

Meet at 9 a.m. and the march will begin at 10 a.m., ending at 11 a.m.



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

Groundhog shuffle

It began with Lily, our terrier-mix pooch suddenly going bananas around one of our cars just after I let her out. She started running around our elderly Honda. She tried to get under it; she tried to get at something through the wheel well. What was causing this frenzy?

Our son, Doug, arrived home shortly after Lily's release from Casa Jones. "Something's got her all upset under the car," I shouted to him. Doug walked to the car, dropped to the ground, and tried to see what was lurking underneath that so absorbed Lily's attention. Nothing. Nada. He then opened the engine hood.

"There's some kind of animal hiding in the engine," he shouted, "maybe a raccoon." A racoon? Very odd to have one here. But it was getting dark and Doug was hungry after a long day at his job.

That night we went back to the car with a flashlight. We peered inside the engine. At the back was a furry animal too big for a squirrel.

groundhog," Doug said. Oh.

Well now: how to get rid of the thing. "Let's leave it for the night, get the dogs inside, and hope it leaves before morning," Doug offered.

Looked again

The next morning we checked the car engine.

The beastie was still there.

Doug had to go to work; our daughter, Beth had to go to work; and my wife Laura, their mother, had to go to work, so they couldn't deal with the groundhog.

Meanwhile, both Lily and now Sophie, our black lab pup, began tearing around the car, then tried to get under it, then at the furry thing through the wheel well.

This mayhem got serious as Lily began clawing at the wheel well and managed to rip a plastic seal out and several other plastic parts, the purpose of which I knew not.

Saturday, Doug opened the hood of the car to inspect. "It's still there but it has moved to a spot behind the engine that I can't reach with a broom. Maybe we are going to have to kill it to get it out."

Yes, that is one solution.

Certainly if it tried to escape while

Lily is loose, it would be game over for the furry. "I'll bet it is very thirsty and starving," Laura suggested. "Well," I put in, "don't want the thing to die trapped in the engine of the car. Be hell trying to get it out."

"We could leave a whole bunch of veggies and some grain under the car with a path leading away," Laura then said. True, we'd have to do it when the dogs are inside and pray that the groundhog leaves never to return to the safety of the car.

Trouble is that Laura suspects the groundhog has been the culprit eating her veggies in the garden so eliminating the beast would be advantageous to us.

We kept opening the engine hood to see what was going on regarding our furry interloper.

We would close it after taking a look-see. Why?

Our black lab pup, Sophie, was jumping up onto the engine and I didn't want either her or the engine damaged. Sunday morning, I ventured out and opened the

engine hood only to discover it was covered in stuffing.

Apparently, the groundhog had ripped the insulation from the inside of the "bonnet' as the English call it.

Now what? Is our critter a female and making a nest prior to giving birth? Groundhogs may be cute, but they can be very destructive especially to vegetable gardens let along the inside of a car.

So what is the solution? We have not been successful in convincing it to leave its sanctuary. We even started the car and backed it up in the hopes that the critter would make good its exit. Nope.

Shuffled about

And it kept moving from the engine to hide in a wheel well and when I tried poking at it, it would make this desperate squeaking noise. So, it was shuffling between the back of the engine and elsewhere under the car. Great.

Over the course of the weekend, we tried a couple of tactics for groundhog removal none of which worked.

At any rate, by Monday, the problem had not been solved and I had to leave off regaling you with this tale since Monday is my deadline.

So, I'm afraid I must leave you with this B-movie cliffhanger.

Tune in next week for the thrilling conclusion to the Case of the Groundhog Shuffle.

A double dose of cruise ships

By Justin Hardy - Source

The city's cruise industry is seeing sure growth as the city had two cruise ships dock at the same time in the city for the first time.

Paul Pepe, manager of Tourism Thunder Bay, said that it was an exciting day for the city's tourism industry and cruise industry in particular as both the Viking Octantis and the Ocean Navigator made port in the city this weekend.

"In 2022 we had two vessels in on the same day but one left at 5:00 a.m. and the other one, the Ocean Navigator, arrived at 11:00 a.m. that day, so we were able to fit it at Pool 6 but today, this year we have two vessels alongside at the docks at the same time and that's exciting and that's great," he said.

LIFE 9

"It's a nice problem to have as you're building the cruising industry and we're very fortunate to have a great port partner in the Thunder Bay Port Authority that can accept the Ocean Navigator today at Keefer Terminal so that we can make sure all of our crews and guests are happy and their needs are met."

Pepe said the city coordinates with cruise lines that tour the Great Lakes to ensure one ship docks at a time, but with five different cruise lines planning to make stops in Thunder Bay this year, it is a scenario that may present itself again.



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RURAL ROOTS

"It's a

Vickers Park overhaul

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

10 LIFE

Vickers Park is set to become Thunder Bay's second inclusive play hub when its playgrounds are replaced later this year.

The new design will emphasize accessibility and will be built around both a trees and treehouse theme and an Edwardian theme recognizing the morethan-century-old park's history.

When the playground is completed later this year, it will realize a vision the city set out several years ago to build fully accessible playgrounds in the city's north and south ends, said parks and open spaces supervisor Werner Schwar.

"I think the key is the ability for kids to interact with kids, not segregation of [play]," he said. "That's a very important part of the focus, that everyone feels like they can belong and participate at whatever level they're at, whether that's cognitive [or] physical abilities."

The city took its first step in that direction with the opening of new equipment at Boulevard Lake last year that focuses heavily on supporting participation by residents of all ages and abilities.

That was accomplished with features like a poured rubber surface, doublewide ramps, accessible swings, and zones for sensory play.

The positive public reaction to the park affirmed that approach is appreciated by all, not just those with disabilities, said Schwar.

"When you go there on an early Saturday morning ... and there's hundreds of people there, whether they're on the structure or are doing other things, that's so good to see," he said.

The Vickers Park playground won't achieve quite the same scale as the one at Boulevard, which got a boost from a \$750,000 sponsorship, Schwar said.

Still, with a budget of up to \$1.1 million, he expects it to similarly impress local users with new features and approaches.

"That is the hope," he said.



The Trash to Treasure garden at Pope John Paul II School was built in conjunction with Youth Fusion. (Leith Dunick)

Pollinator garden built at Pope John Paul II School

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Students at Pope John Paul II School have made treasure out of trash, while helping the environment around them too.

Grade 7 students at the Franklin Street school have spent the past eight months designing a pollinator garden, building benches out of recycled pallets, choosing bee-friendly plants and taking throwaway material and repurposing it as art.

It's all in the name of science, said teacher Sylvia Dziurda, who encouraged the class to build the Trash to Treasure in conjunction with Youth Fusion as a way to spark their imaginations.

"This idea is one that really gives students freedom and choice," she said. "We definitely had the heading of environmental project, and from there I asked the students what they wanted to do, what can we do to make our school a better place?

"They all really wanted the building part, so we started thinking about what we could build at our school, how we could make it a better place for everybody."

From there, the idea continued to grow.

"Benches were what we wanted to build, and then we wanted to build a garden, and then we talked about who would need the garden. From there we really did a lot of work on the importance of species and a diverse ecosystem."

Students kept adding ideas as the project evolved, including birdhouses hanging on trees lining the Pope John Paul II property.

Sofie Franklin, one of the students taking part in the project, said it felt great to celebrate the completion of their Trash to Treasure effort.

"Everything we tried to use are recyclable," the teenager said.

"It's really important for our flowers to grow and fresh air and for us too."

Sofie said she liked the hands-on work the best.

"Probably the painting and the benches. It was really hands on and we got to help out and build a lot of things," she said, adding it's great to leave a legacy for future generations.

"It's pretty interesting and cool to have a nice spot here. For new people to come, it's like 'Oh, in past years they've done this and I'd like to do it too," she said.

Sazia Barogawala, a project coordinator at Youth Fusion, said students worked hard to get the pollinator garden to this stage.

"We are making this community and school a better place to live and, as well, attracting a few pollinators as well. The students did really well, the teachers were really cooperative and we worked really, really hard."



Staff shortages having impact

We have often heard the saying, "good help is hard to find". This has never been more true about the hospitality business. In 20 years I don't think I have ever worked for a kitchen that has ever been fully staffed, it always seems like we

were always dancing on a razorblade and if one of us got sick, we would be in the weeds.

Recent media reporting about the hospitality industry has been dominated by stories about mass resignations and workers leaving for white-collar jobs.

Many sources cite a combination of low wages, instability and the lack of a decent working environment as factors pushing workers out of restaurants and into better paying, more secure jobs.

While repeated pandemic lockdowns and closures have pushed workers to find jobs in different sectors, this version of the story ignores that one in four restaurant

workers are immigrants and that border closures during the pandemic have meant that many potential immigrants were not able to enter Canada. New Canadians

New Canadians working in restaurants has never been new. Jobs are often "easy to learn,

hard to master" which makes it very attractive to workers who are new to our country.

Although the pandemic was an accelerant, labour shortages have

plagued the hospitality industry for some time.

According to Restaurants Canada's senior economist, Chris Elliott, numbers from Statistics Canada were signaling the trend for years. There were red flags all over our industry and now, those chickens have come home to roost. I remember when I heard about the self ordering kiosks at McDonalds and feeling a cold chill run down my spine. Another entry level "teenager" job gone the way of technology.

Young people generally account for about 40 per cent of all food service workers. In the late 70s and early 80s, 15- to 24-year-olds accounted for about 20 per cent of the overall population in Canada.

That number has declined to just 12 per cent. Before the pandemic,

immigration was an important source for filling job vacancies. In contrast, 2020 saw a decrease from 2019 of 145,687 international students alone.

Thunder Bay, being one of the bright spots in this situation, seeing a marginal increase in its international student enrollments.

As of December 2021, employment in accommodation and food services remained (reportedly) 206,000 workers short (16.9 per cent) of its pre-COVID level, even though there are more people working now than there were in February 2020.

Accommodation and food services is a broad category, including everything from quick service chains to high-end full-service restaurants.

Under this large umbrella, the types of jobs and corresponding pay vary widely. While quick service restaurant jobs tend to be minimum wage, wages in full-service restaurants are supplemented by tips.

LIFE 11

Tipped jobs can be deceiving, as the standard hourly wage may be slightly lower but your tips can supplement quite a bit and admittedly to no ones surprise are easier to hide from the government.

The solution to the staffing issue isn't easy to fix industry wide, but with some more competitive wages and fostering a good working environment, individual operations can keep their employment levels up.

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restauranteur. 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.





12 LIFE

Walleye hunt can be frustrating

As walleye anglers, we are always This is when successful anglers can looking for a new lure or secret colour that will revolutionize our fishing game and bring us constant action and full stringers. We want to believe that, once we uncover that magical lure, a sure-fire gamechanger, we will be guaranteed success on the water.

Unfortunately, that secret colour or magic lure does not really exist. Instead, we must change the way we play the game if we want to consistently catch fish each time we head out on the water. If we go walleye fishing regularly enough, we are sure to discover some great

fishing spots and to figure out a pattern for catching a lot of fish.

Inevitably, we will encounter a day when the fish will not be biting in our favourite spots. For a variety of reasons, they may not even be present in these usual haunts at all.

catch a few fish and save the day. It is always wise to start at a known and proven location on the lake, a place where we have often caught

Keith Ailey

the GOOD LIFE

fish before. However, when our favourite spots fail to produce the bites we were expecting, this is when a willingness to

quickly make some adjustments to

move around can pay off.

For example, perhaps you last tried for walleve on opening weekend in Mav.

Your focus was probably on a river or perhaps the shoreline and structure closest to a major inflow. Now, if

vou were to return to that spot in mid-June, after the water has warmed and the levels have dropped, there is a good chance that river or inflow is no longer drawing in the fish.

At this point in the season, walleve



Finding the right spot or the right colour lure is not as simple as it might sound.

hotspots to look for might include wind-blown shorelines, rocky points, or maybe some narrows or bottleneck areas that create a current.

As summer progresses, shallow rocky humps or reefs surrounded by deep water could be the structure walleye will favour in July and August. The key to consistent

success very often comes from a willingness to go exploring.

When you move away from the popular spots, there can sometimes be a bonus big fish as the reward too. This is because many of the largest walleye are able to survive and grow big because they simply avoid being caught. The easiest way for them to do this is to live in seclusion, away from the busiest fishing spots. This is why exploring some new water, away from the crowds, can lead to some great action and potentially, a big fish bonus.

Walleye are typically very predictable and we can often find them in the same spots year after year. However, when they are not where we expect them to be, we need to change our game plan. Chances are, it is not just a matter of changing the colour of our jig. Instead, knowing where to look, and having the willingness to move around, can be the game-changing tactics that pay off when other anglers would typically strike out.



Spider spectacular

Marty Mascarin

MOVIE TALK

Animated Spider-Man movie sends fans home with smiles on faces

As animated Spider-Man, Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) is finding that being a superhero has serious repercussions in *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (SilverCity), the sequel to the well-received 2018 *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.*

He's grappling with adolescence and superhero status, still perceived as a renegade by the cops, having to conceal his secret identity from his caring parents.

A year has passed from the first chapter. There's carry-over from the first film involving the 'collider,' a super machine capable of cataclysmic cross-universe effects which Miles nullified assisted by his Spider-mates. The villain here is Dr. Jonathan Ohnn (Jason Schwartzman) a scientist who was transformed by a reactor explosion in the previous film, now going by the mundane moniker, The Spot.

Like Spider-Man, The Spot goes through a learning curve with his new-found powers, including a hilarious misadventure robbing an ATM. Eventually, he's reviving the supercollider, thereby threatening the multi-worlds while also nursing a grudge against Miles who once mocked him.

Miles' pal Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld) pops up from the previous film, also dealing with keeping her Spider-identity secret from her dad (Shea Whigam). She falls in with Spider-Man 2099 (Oscar Isaac) and pregnant Spider-Woman

(Issa Rae) who also show up representing an alliance of Spider-people bent on capturing villains across the multi-verses and dispatching them back to their respective dimensions.

Miles and Gwen also have to deal with feelings for each other. Gwen is particularly gun-shy of friendships, feeling guilty over the death of Peter Parker in the previous film. Meanwhile, Miles has to accept that 'you can't save everybody' while yearning to prove himself with more experienced Spiderfolk.

Spider-Verse amplifies the engaging satirical tone, lightning pacing and heart of its predecessor, setting the bar even higher with more ambitious, trippy, eye-popping visuals garnished by smart, quick-silver quips.

The filmmakers impressively integrate the additional Spidey-folk into the whiz-bang narrative with visual palettes reflecting their respective cultures for humorous effect, knitting together its dizzying elements with clarity, while generating character empathy.



Spider-Man: Across the Universe is in theatres now.

The filmmakers maintain the vital human element as a through-line, touching on themes

including family, loyalty, loss, betrayal, sacrifice, and difficult life choices. Effective voice-casting lends depth to the characters, especially with Miles and his Latino mom (Luna Lauren Valez) and Black cop dad (Brian Tyree Henry).

One quibble is that the third act drags on, bloating the film's near two and a half hour running time. However, some relationship mending adds emotional punch to the conclusion. The cliffhanger is

set up intriguingly, whetting the appetite for the next chapter.

For live-action purists or those who have little time for Marvel, an animated Spider-Man seems like excess baggage. However, the movie coaxes us to set aside Marvel cynicism and its annoying dominance in the multiplex.

Grudgingly, we acknowledge how Marvel is helping to prop up the post-pandemic global box-office while smaller films struggle for profile. That's showbiz.

Marvel fans, meanwhile, are going home happy.

Footage colourized

By TB Source staff

A Red Rock filmmaker with a passion for history is breathing new life into historic footage of what is now Thunder Bay.

Dee McCullay, who's behind Thunderstryker Films, started by colourizing a more than century-old video that brings viewers into the heart of downtown Port Arthur.

The archival footage, believed to be from the early 1900s, follows a street car journey up what is now Red River Road towards Central School, currently home to Magnus Theatre.

Viewers will encounter cyclists, horsedrawn buggies, and an early automobile, along with other slices of turn-of-thecentury life in the Lakehead.

McCullay sourced the footage from the Thunder Bay Vignettes videos produced by Dougall Media in the 1990s.

He added sound effects of trolleys and

horses in an effort to immerse viewers in the scene.

ON THE SCENE 13

McCullay used an AI-based process for the colourization, saying the technology has emerged only in the past two years.

Otherwise, he reported making minimal enhancements like light sharpening and grain removal.

In an interview, the filmmaker said he plans to continue colourizing more vintage film clips from the area, which will be shared on Thunderstryker's Facebook page.

"I thought, you know, no one's done this in our area with our old archival footage so I decided to do it, and it really took off," he said.

He's currently working on a 1923 video from the Nipigon area depicting a boat taking tourists out fishing. The streetcar scene held a personal connection for McCullay, whose great-uncle was involved in getting the Port Arthur Street Railway up and running.



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Racing furiously

By Johan Vass – For TB Source

Halfway Motors Group and Heart Beat Hot Sauce have teamed up to sponsor an Invitational.

The race purse is over 85 thousand dollars. Dirt Track racing takes place June 23, 24 and 25 at Thunder City Speedway.

There is no regular Wednesday night June 21 racing as cars prepare for the Invitational.

Race fans have been treated to some of the best racing we have seen.

The cars look like scenes out of the fast and furious.

Rob Rantallo's car hit air and rolled three times. Rantallo is sore but okay thanks to a sturdy roll cage and safety equipment that works.

Fans saw lead changes, three-

wide racing and some spectacular crashes. Experienced drivers mix with those just starting out which leads to challenging racing.

In the Super Stock class Rick Simpson picked up his first checkered flag in 11 years after a racing pause. It was nice to see a hug and and hand shake from his nephew David Simpson who placed second.

Cole Chernosky battled it out with David Simpson to place third.

They put on a show to the delight of the crowd.

Here are the June 7 Tractor Trailer Service results.

Thunder Bay Truck Centre Wissota Modified

1.T23-John Toppozini; 2. 22-Brandon Copp 3. 27-Scott McKinnon 4. 51-Joel Cryderman 5. 9-Riley Matthews

Forks South Sports Lounge Wissota Midwest Modified

1. 70-David Simpson 2. 33C-Cole Chernosky; 3. 86EH-Tanner Ulakovic; 4. 3D-Kevin Monteith 5. 00-Trenton Woodbeck

Mezo Motors and Machine Wissota Super Stock

1. 77-Rick Simpson 2. 70-David Simpson 3. 33C-Cole Chernosky 4. 61-Tom Smart 5. 81B-Doug Bolt

Mastrangelo Fuels Street Stocks

1. 77-Kyle Bolt 2. 23-Steven Piilo 3. 96W-Darren Wolframe 4. 54X-AJ Kellar 5. 24-Andrew Piilo

Bay Lock and Security Hornets

1. 426-Brendan Makkinga 2. 21-James Cuthbertson 3. 35-Nathan Henny 4. 11-Carrie Allen 5. 66-Sydney Chaschuk



Rob Rantallo was OK after his car flipped during racings last Wednesday. (Dennis Orr)



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Cats drop series opener

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Three batters in and Robert Spencer was already scrambling from the Border Cats dugout to the right-field bullpen.

It didn't bode well for starter Sam Peterson, making his Northwoods League debut on Monday night against the St. Cloud Rox, a team the Border Cats had beaten on the road the two previous nights.

Peterson lasted four more batters, failed to retire any of them, and departed after one out and a 4-0 deficit.

By the time the first was over the Rox had sent a dozen men to the plate, the Border Cats trailed 7-0 and the game all but out of reach before the Port Arthur Stadium crowd had fully settled in its seats. Thunder Bay scored single runs in the first and fourth, but only managed three hits on the night and fell 10-2 to snap a two-game winning streak.

"We were playing a great team and we knew we were going to have to come with our best stuff," said St. Cloud second baseman Kyle Jackson, who went 3-for-5 with a double, a solo home run and four RBI on the night.

"We knew all the hitters were going to have to command the zone, figure it out early, how to really get on top of the baseball and shoot it the other way. Props to their pitchers, they were really making us work hard, getting us to deep counts and making us earn everything we got. But we were able to put up a good seven-spot in the first and pretty much run with hit from there."

It just wasn't Peterson's night.

After retiring the leadoff hitter, he faced six more St. Cloud, walking four of them. Jackson had the big blow, a bases-loaded double that plated a pair, a third run coming home on a throwing error by right-fielder Brayden Kuriger, also making his Border Cats debut.

Thunder Bay manager J.M. Kelly said Peterson has been with the team for about a week and hadn't had a proper chance to show his stuff.

"It is what it is. He went and got the first out and we kind of knew coming in he was going to have some command issues. There's nothing we can do about it now, but he can continue to grow from that, or he can look at it an continue down the path he's on," Kelly said.

"I think if you're a competitor like he is, he's going to look at that and say, 'Hey, I've got to improve and get better.""

Despite trailing by seven before their first hitter stepped up to the plate, the Border Cats (6-7) did get off to a good start offensively, rattling three straight hits off St. Cloud southpaw Cade Lommel.

Unfortunately for the 705 on hand to witness it, the home side didn't get another hit until there were two out in the ninth, No. 9 hitter Jonah Sutton punching one through, a classic case of too little, too late by that point in the contest.

Cole Ketzner plated the first Thunder Bay run, singling off Lommel to score Lewis. Logan Johnstone and Ketzner completed a double steal to put two Border Cats runners in scoring position, with one out, but Peter Fusek struck out and Tyler Griggs grounded out to second to end the threat.

Play Smart



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Chill win

By Matt Vis - TB Source

It's probably a stretch to describe the third match of a 10game season as a must-win.

But for the Thunder Bay Chill, after having only secured a single point through their first two games, that very well could have been the case.

Weathering howling winds, the threat of lightning, and a team above them in the USL League 2 Deep North Division standings, the Chill scored an emphatic 3-0 win over the St. Croix Legends at Tbaytel Field at Chapples Park on Friday night.

Those three points are hugely important, said Chill attacking midfielder Jordan Alonge, who struck in the first half to give Thunder Bay their first lead of the league campaign.

"There's not many games in the season, so every game counts," he said. "The first win, it feels good and it's a relief."

Thunder Bay head coach Tony Colistro said the win positions the squad for their next stage of the season, which features a two-game road trip next week.

"We're going in confident with a win and we know we can get the job done," Colistro said. "That was one part of our game that we needed to improve. We did a lot of that in practice — finishing. Being patient, we know we have a good team out there. We kept possession for most of the game again. That's what we've been doing.

"We have a lot of talent on the team."

The Chill's opening goal, their first of the regular season to come before second half stoppage time, could very well have never happened.

Just a few minutes later, the continuation of play after a Chill corner kick ultimately led to the ball finding winger Karim Pare with space in the penalty area. Staying composed, Pare played a pass to Alonge, who was able to direct the ball into the goal to pull the home side ahead in the 42nd minute.

"Super important, vital in fact," Alonge said of being able to get the goal before the halftime break. "Sometimes you just need to get that first goal to break into the game and then more will come."

The Chill doubled their advantage in the 56th minute, after heralded striker Brandon Bermingham won a penalty kick and then converted from the spot for his second goal of the season.

The lead later grew to three, when pressing from second-half substitutes Sullivan Silva and Jamie Wynn forced a St. Croix turnover, which led to Pare having an opportunity. Although Legends goalkeeper Wesley Sanders stopped the initial shot, Pare followed up and scored on the second chance to notch his first goal of the regular season.

Without having had the luxury of playing with a lead to defend yet this season, Colistro was encouraged that his side was able to hold it and expand the advantage in the second half.

"That's what we wanted to see. If we get a lead, that tends to open teams up," he said. "I think we saw that St. Croix opened up after that first goal. That's going to work to our advantage, with the speed we have and the skill we have."

Colistro is optimistic those goals could boost a Chill attack that had struggled to put away their chances during their first two league contests.

"It's going to help us a lot," he said. "From a confidence perspective, it does a lot for the players. They're finding the net, they know they can score."

For more information, call City Dispatch at 807-625-2195 or visit thunderbay.ca/treasuredays

Visit TBnewswatch.com Thursday, June 15, 2023

Taylor made history

Way to go Nick Taylor.

What an incredible finish on Sunday at the Canadian Open, the 35-year-old becoming the first Canadian in 69 years to capture the national golf championship, edging Britain's Tommy Fleetwood on the fourth playoff hole with a dramatic 72-foot eagle putt to clinch the title.

Taylor, who hails from British Columbia, is a Canadian Tour grad who now has three PGA Tour victories, one of a record four Canadians to win on tour this season.

It was a great week all around for Canucks.

Adam Hadwin, who became an instant meme after being tackled by security on the 18th green trying to rush to Taylor with a bottle of champagne, finished in 12th place, while Corey Conners, a twotime top-three finisher at the Staal Foundation Open, was tied for 20th.

Roger Sloan, Mike Weir, Taylor Pendrith, Will Bateman and Stuart Macdonald all found themselves inside the cutline.



Taylor gave golf fans in Canada something other than the stunning announcement last week that LIV Golf, the PGA Tour and the DP World Tour were merging.

The news came out of nowhere, and I'm not sure any golf analyst has got it figured out just vet. Was listening on PGA Tour Radio the day it happened and the confusion

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was delightful. It's not too often, in this world of insiders fed scoops by league and team sources, that an organization like the PGA Tour is able to keep news this big silent.

What does it mean? I have no idea at this point, other than it's a path back to



Border Cats centrefielder Logan Johnstone last Sunday hit the team's first home run of the season.

the tour for the likes of Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau (and Phil

Mickelson), who left for the riches of Saudi-backed LIV Golf.

Speaking of golf, it's U.S.

Open week. This year's event is being contested at the Los Angeles Country Club, the first major to be played in the L.A. area in 28 years. Scottie Scheffler

is the favourite in an event that has had 19 different winners in the

past 20 years. The only repeat amongst the bunch is Koepka, who won back-toback titles in 2017 and 2018. Matt Fitzpatrick is the defending champion. My crystal ball says Tyrrell Hatton comes out on top.

I watched Sunday's Border Cats game online and I have to admit, the broadcast quality is fantastic. Multiple angles, dynamic graphics and plenty of great commentary. It was nice to see Logan Johnstone go deep in the 7-4 win, the Cats the last team in the Northwoods League to hit a home run in 2023. The best part? It's free.

I've been told there's a good chance Eric and Marc Staal both plan to announce their retirements following the Stanley Cup final. They may have already done so by the time you're reading this, the Vegas Golden Knights up 3-1 in the series at press time. If this is it, both can hold their heads high as they walk away from the game of hockey at its highest level.

WEBSITE: debtsolutions-thunderbay.ca



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CHANGE IN DATE FOR JUNE 21 THUNDER BAY OPEN HOUSE

Due to scheduling, there has been a date change for the open house planned in Thunder Bay. While initially scheduled for June 21, we will now be hosting it on June 22.

June 15, 2023

On May 17, 2023, Hydro One released the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Waasigan Transmission Line project, for public comment and review. The EA captures the process to identify a preferred route, predicts and assesses potential natural environment and socio-economic effects and identifies the actions Hydro One will take to minimize and avoid them.

The draft EA Report is available for public review and comment until July 7, 2023 at 4 p.m. (EDT). We invite you to review the Report and attend our community open houses where we will share information and gather feedback to ensure the transmission line is built with local community interests in mind.

The Waasigan project is a proposed new transmission line between Shuniah, Atikokan and Dryden that, once built, will bring enough energy to power a city twice the size of Thunder Bay.

HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

The draft EA Report is available at HydroOne.com/Waasigan and several locations, as listed on the website.

Comments on the draft EA must be submitted by **July 7, 2023 at 4:00 pm** to Sarah Cohanim, Senior Environmental Specialist, Hydro One at **1-877-345-6799** or **Community.Relations@HydroOne.com**.

Following the review period, the report will be revised to address comments received and a final EA will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for final review and decision.



WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

Map Legend

- Existing Transformer Station (TS)
 Preferred Route
 Existing Transmission Line
 Highway
 International Border
 Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office
 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Council Office
 Treaty Boundary
 - First Nation Reserve



Scan the QR code or visit HydroOne.com/Waasigan to view a more detailed and interactive map.





PLEASE JOIN US:

JUNE 13, 2023 Dryden 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63 34 Queen Street, Dryden

JUNE 14, 2023

Atikokan 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time Royal Canadian Legion Branch 145 115 O'Brien Street, Atikokan

JUNE 20, 2023

Kaministiquia 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time Kaministiquia Community Centre 6197 Dawson Road, Kaministiquia

JUNE 22, 2023

Thunder Bay 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. local time Oliver Road Community Centre 563 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay

Si vous souhaitez une copie de cette notification en français, veuillez visiter le site Internet du projet ou envoyer un courriel au projet pour en demander une copie.

Giishpin andawendaman naabibii'igan owe gaaanishinaabewibii'igaateg wiindamaadiwin, owidi eyaag anokaachigan giiwitaakamisab inaabin maagizhaa gaye gidaa-izhinizha'aan aazhawebii'igan owidi anokaachiganing ji-andodaman iwe naabibii'igan. Visit **TBnewswatch.com** Thursday, June 15, 2023



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